

U. S. Takes Big Risk at Meeting On Disarmament

If Powers Decide to Stop Naval Building Britain Will Have Navy Twice Size Of U. S. Fleets.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The United States will take a long naval chance when it enters the forthcoming disarmament conference, according to statistics of naval strength compiled by naval experts for use by the American delegation to the parity. If the conference should agree to abandon all present building program and to maintain the navies of the leading nations as they now stand the United States will lose out, for on January 1 the United States navy was but half the size of Great Britain's battle fleets and but twice as large as Japan's navy. These comparisons are based on tonnage figures and might be altered by a comparison of fighting efficiency.

The present authorizations of the navies of the world would make the navy of the United States equal to that of Great Britain by 1924 and almost double the size of the Japanese navy. Japan's naval program does not begin to approach that of the United States, and even its projected but unauthorized program would not make its navy equal to that of the United States by 1927.

U. S. Has Not Advantage.

All of these figures, however, are based on tonnage, and the naval intelligence service has compiled some interesting statistics as to the relative efficiency of the three great navies of the world which do not give the navy of the United States the advantage in fighting efficiency.

At the present time the British navy has supremacy over the American navy in every style of fighting craft, while the United States has supremacy over Japan in battleships and destroyers. By 1924, when the American building program is completed, this condition will have been changed, for the American building program will have been completed, but the American navy, though equal in tonnage strength, will still be outclassed in some of the modern fighting vessels.

If the present programs go through, the year 1924 will still find the United States greatly outclassed by Great Britain in light cruisers, battle cruisers, submarines and aircraft carriers. At that time Japan will also outclass the United States in light cruisers and battle cruisers. Inasmuch as there is a great difference of opinion among naval experts as to the relative value of the battleship and the light cruiser and battlecruisers, it appears from present statistics that the United States stands to be outclassed in major naval weapons by 1924 unless the forthcoming conference decides to put a check upon the present building program.

Will Ships Be Junked?

Japan's naval program is at the present time largely projected, and it would appear from bare statistics that the Oriental nation stands to lose more than any other nation as the result of the disarmament conference unless there is an agreement to junk some of the vessels that are already in commission.

If there is to be any destruction of vessels by order of the conference, then the United States may again be the loser, for this nation has fewer vessels which it can afford to give up than Great Britain. Naval experts are bewildered as they attempt to forecast the chances of the American navy at the hands of the disarmament conference and admit that it is going to be a game of chance all around.

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Man Drops Hand Mirror and Old Man Bad Luck Arrives

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 17.—Do you believe in the ancient bit of superstition concerning seven years of bad luck? James Eshelby, president of a local tobacco manufacturing company, does. Here's why: He dropped a hand mirror, breaking it, recently. His new auto was stolen that night. Then, a few days later, a thief stole accessories from his other machine. Next burglars cleaned out his attic, taking bourbon, rye, champagne, gin and burgundy, valued at \$4,000.

"Cheer up. The first five years are the hardest," reads a note which accompanied a rabbit's foot, a horseshoe, a buckeye and a four-leaf clover which friends sent to Eshelby.

Judge at Kaber Trial Accused Of "Leniency"

Letters and Phone Messages Protest Confinement in Reformatory Instead of Pen; Jurist Not Responsible.

Cleveland, Sept. 17.—It isn't all beer and skittles—this thing of being a judge. In fact, it isn't half or even one-third, if you should ask Judge Maurice Bernon, judge of the court of common pleas who presided at the trial of Mrs. Katherine Eva Kaber, "murder queen," now spending her life at the reformatory in Marysville,

O., for having been the head of a conspiracy which resulted in the death of her husband, Daniel F. Kaber, wealthy publisher, at his suburban home two years ago.

Judge Bernon, who delayed his vacation three weeks to hasten the trial of the "murder queen," has been attempting to rest up for the duties of the fall term at his home in Cleveland Heights, but persons dissatisfied with the verdict rendered and the punishment imposed have been telling the judge, by letter and telephone, just what they think of him for sending such a person to a "pleasure resort," as the reformatory has been called, instead of incarcerating her in the Ohio penitentiary.

"Don't Blame Me." "Don't blame me. Talk to the Ohio legislature," the judge tells those—and their name is legion—who call him over the telephone.

When a representative of the International News service called the other day he found the judge im-

mersed in reading a tremendous pile of mail.

"Look at this stuff," said his honor. "This is a fair day's sample of what I get, although I believe, as the days pass and distant letter writers are heard from, there is a slight increase," and the judicial hand waved toward a pile of perhaps 200 letters postmarked from nearly every state in the union. Yes, and even Canada and Mexico.

Letter Brigade Uninformed.

"And that's not all. The telephone—"

His honor was called away by the insistent ringing of the bell of his telephone even as he spoke.

"My dear madam," he explained, through Mr. Bell's invention, "no strings were pulled to permit Mrs. Kaber to go to the reformatory. The state legislature passed a law in 1915 ordering all female offenders confined in the Marysville reformatory. "Yes, they're all sent there. "No, I do not know that it is a

"pleasure resort." I have never been there. What's that? A shame? Perhaps it is, but get after the legislators. I can only enforce the laws they write."

The judge came back to the porch and continued:

"It's surprising how people blame me for what they call a 'miscarriage of justice.' Mrs. Bernon and I thought to spend a quiet vacation here, but I wish we had gone to the wilds, far away from the telephone and farther away from the mails. "I do not attempt to answer the letters. There are too many. A few express sympathy for the woman but the majority feel that 'leniency was shown.'"

Here the telephone rang once more.

Tale of Telephone Kisses Win Man's Divorce Suit

Chicago, Sept. 17.—Something new in the line of divorce trial testimony was heard and proved a winner at a trial here. Peter N. Weber, a coal dealer, was granted a divorce on the testimony of one Mrs. Sophie A. Miner, that Weber's wife had an affair and that she frequently kissed him "over the phone."

"Here's a kiss for you," the wife, Mrs. Pearl B. Weber, would say, the witness testified, and then Mrs. Weber would smack her lips in the telephone mouthpiece.

After hearing the story, Judge Thomas J. Lynch decided that Weber's request for a divorce was a just one.

Baby Drowns in 10-Gallon Jar While Playing in House

Connersville, Wis., Sept. 17.—What is said to be the most unusual drowning case on record in this state occurred here when Baby Sheldon Hammon, aged 2, lost his life. The child, while playing about the kitchen, fell into a 10-gallon jar of water and was drowned before his predicament was discovered.

In Philadelphia the bricklayers are the only building workers still opposing the wage cut. They are holding out for \$1.30 an hour, while the employers are offering \$1.

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We have used your medicine since for coughs, colds and grip with good results. We will always keep it on hand. I weigh twenty-five pounds more than I ever did, and sleep well and can do a good day's work. Everybody says I look fine. Even the doctors are surprised. I cannot thank you enough and will always recommend Pe-ru-na to sufferers from catarrh.

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