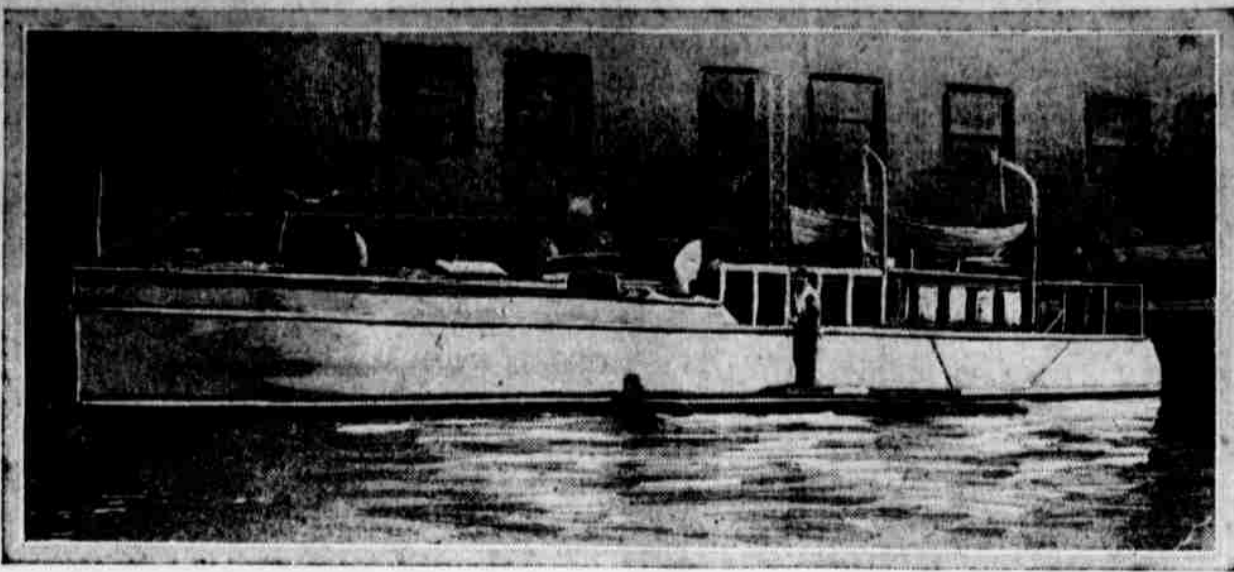


CROMWELL YACHT BEING FITTED AS U-BOAT CHASER



The speedy motorboat, Nedeva II, owned by Lieutenant J. H. R. Cromwell, manned by a picked crew and equipped with a three-pounder, a one-pounder and a wharf, Delaware, preliminary to a dash to the sea to become a U-boat chaser and dispatch bearer in the United States Naval Reserve force.

TO CHASE U-BOATS

Stotesbury's Stespon, With Daring Crew, Arms Fast Motor Vessel

BANKER HURRYING HOME

Manned by a crew of "hustlers" and equipped with a three-pounder, a one-pounder and a machine gun, the Nedeva II, commanded by Lieutenant J. H. R. Cromwell, stepson of E. T. Stotesbury, banker and financier, is being made ready today for a dash to the sea, where the fast motor craft will become a submarine chaser and dispatch bearer in the United States Naval Reserve force.

Mr. and Mrs. Stotesbury are hurrying home from Florida, where they have been on a pleasure trip. Saturday morning, the Nedeva will sail Saturday from Wharf 23, foot of Pine street, for a trial trip down the Delaware and along the Atlantic coast.

CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT It is considered significant that the Stotesburys are cutting short their stay in Florida. Mr. Stotesbury is known to be in close touch with the financial situation, and financiers here today expressed the opinion that the banker is in possession of advance information that convinces him the craft commanded by his stepson may speedily go into real service.

Mr. Stotesbury has taken a personal interest in the building and equipping of the Nedeva II, and has spared no expense in making the craft the best and speediest of its kind in the service. It was estimated today that the boat and its equipment cost \$75,000.

It was reported today that the Nedeva II would receive orders from the Government to shoot at submarines on sight. German submarines have been reported lurking in southern waters, and it is certain that something will happen in any of these craft are sighted by Lieutenant Cromwell's boat. A three-pounder has been mounted in the bow, a one-pounder in the stern and a machine-gun on the roof of the cabin.

The Nedeva is equipped with two 200-horsepower engines and has a maximum speed of twenty-five knots. It will have a wireless with a sending radius of from 150 to 200 miles, and a receiving radius much greater.

The personnel of the crew was completed today with the enlistment at the United States Naval Home, Twenty-fourth street and Gray's Ferry road, of R. F. Bailey, an expert wireless operator.

Bailey is an all-round man and a trained fighter of years of experience. He was formerly employed in the auxiliary service of the United States Government, served in the United States Cavalry and was a soldier in the Philippines. Nearly all the men of the Nedeva are of the soldier of fortune type, men of nerve and daring with the germ of the adventurer in their veins. Upon Bailey will depend much of the success of the Nedeva's mission. If submarines are sighted, he will flash the news all along the coast to war and merchant ships.

Another husky is the Nedeva's chief boatswain, Frank Thur. This is a seaman of many years' service. He has sailed upon every sea and is a hardy Yankee skipper of the old school.

Another member of the crew is Walter Williams, a wealthy ranchman, of Douglas, Wyo. Williams was a schoolmate of Lieutenant Cromwell. He is described as a young westerner of "pep and nerve and a love for adventure." Ensign Richard Warren, a senior of the University of Pennsylvania, will have charge of the guns of the Nedeva. He participated in the business man's cruise of the Atlantic fleet last summer and obtained considerable experience in gunnery. The Nedeva will carry a real Filipino cook in the person of George Hansmole, of Manila.

The Nedeva is very warlike in appearance, having been painted battleship gray. It is sixty feet long and eleven feet wide. The vessel would have been ready for service several days ago but for several mistakes in its construction, which were described to the EVENING LEDGER by Lieutenant Cromwell.

"The boat was too heavy in the stern and had a decided list to starboard. The machine tanks were too small, having a capacity of only 400 gallons. I have replaced them with tanks of 800 gallons. The craft will be ready for its trial trip Saturday and after that we will enter actual service."

COMMERCE CHAMBER TO FEED BELGIANS

Will Organize Systematic Relief Machine Among Industries of City

The Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is taking active steps to put food into the mouths of starving Belgian children. Co-operating with the new plan of general ration clubs devised by Mrs. Bayard Taylor, chairman of the Belgian Relief Fund, for the purpose of taking over the feeding of 100,000 children abroad, it will act as a general clearing house for the adoption of "townfuls" of Belgian children by industrial and commercial firms.

Mr. Ernest T. Trigg outlined the plan as follows: "We come under the General Belgian Children's Relief Committee, of which Mr. William A. Law is chairman. We represent the industrial and commercial branches of activity and will endeavor to systematically see that these branches do their share of the ration club plan. Committees on banking and professional fields will probably work along similar lines.

"At present a committee is working on the division of Philadelphia into commercial and industrial companies into twenty general divisions. These are just generic classifications. For instance, the leather goods will cover every variety of that business. After these classifications have been made, a man representing that particular line of business will be put at the head of a band. "He, in turn, will enter more specifically into the work and appoint sub-committees in factories, mills, etc. The whole object, of course, is to make companies adopt a town or part of a town and pledge themselves to feed the children there. It means of course committees representing the workers in the plants we expect to work quickly and effectively."

The committee appointed by Mr. Trigg to classify the city's industries is composed of W. H. Folwell, ex-Sheriff Wilson H. Brown, David B. Frouan, S. P. Vaughan, Frank B. Evans, Thomas Shalcross, Leo J. Blacman, L. H. Kinnard, J. W. Lucas, Charles B. Kirshberg, Charles G. Tryon, A. J. County, Daniel Whitney, William J. Garbo and Frank S. Evans.

COLOMBIAN TREATY CLASSED AS BLACKMAIL

Minority of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Denounces It as "Degradation to U. S."

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Minority members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee submitting their views to the Senate today on the Colombian treaty denounced the proposed pact as "a blackmail demand" involving "a degradation to which the United States should never submit."

The majority report, also made public today as the Senate resumed consideration of the treaty, urged prompt ratification of the convention in the interest of stronger Pan-Americanism. It made no reference, however, to the argument put forth by the Administration that the treaty was necessary to guarantee the Panama Canal against the danger of German plots hatched on adjacent Colombian soil.

Philander C. Knox, former Secretary of State, newly elected Senator from Pennsylvania, rebuffed his Republican colleagues and allied himself with the Democrats. His views, given out for publication today, hold that the United States was justified in taking the Canal Zone, but insist that the need of immediately restoring friendly relations with Colombia demands ratification of the treaty.

"My idea of the powers of the United States and prestige it ought to have, as well as my conception of pan-American relations, impel me to remark that I do not consider that the exceedingly grave crisis impending is seriously germane or appropriately to be invoked in connection with the ratification of a treaty with Colombia," he said.

Mr. Knox favored the treaty, however, because "it will end a grievance which, whether fancied or real, has grown so traditional as to be unsusceptible of obliteration in any other way."

The majority urged burying the old controversy over "Roosevelt's methods of acquiring the Canal Zone," but insist that the treaty "it would be bootless to revive a partisan issue here or elsewhere with respect to past events," said the majority report.

"The paramount idea which has been to adjust this unfortunate international difference. It is to be hoped that the Senate will now consider this treaty from that broad standpoint."

Gas Believed Cause of Boy's Death Gas fumes, it is believed, caused the death of a crippled boy whose body was found today in the rear of a moving picture theatre at 707 Christian street. The body was discovered by Policeman Bozarth, of the second and Christian streets station. It is believed to be that of a boy who disappeared from his home yesterday at Seventh and Carpenter streets.

GERMAN INTRIGUES HOLD GRIP IN CUBA

Rebel Outbreaks Far From Quelled and Growing in Some Sections

U. S. WARSHIPS ON GUARD

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Cuban situation is far from settled, according to this Government's officials. While there has been no definite talk of intervention, it is positively known such a step is within the bounds of possibilities.

German plotting and sinister German influence in the Island Republic are not broken. Capture of Jose Miguel Gomez, insurgent leader, heralded at first as an smashing the German-conceived insurrection, has failed to quell the trouble.

Official reports to Washington from this Government's diplomatic consular and naval officials in Cuba have convinced Washington officials that chances of a return to peace there still are remote. Guerrilla warfare continues. In some sections it is spreading faster than it is being stamped out. Accompanying it is more destruction of property than Government officials here will admit.

Officials frankly say that they are helpless to a great extent in the matter of running down German plotters against the United States who have made their headquarters in Cuba. Such plotters, it has been reported here, have a double purpose. One is to give the United States trouble—to draw this Government's attention away as far as possible from Europe; the other is use of Cuba as the most strategic point for secret wireless stations—perhaps, and as the best stamping ground for any of the many moves German spies and German military workers might desire to make in the event of hostilities between the United States and Germany.

Germany's plottings as regards Mexico—revealed in the notorious Zimmermann-Japanese-Mexican letter—officials admit, are a criterion of what could be expected in Cuba and in South and Central American countries that afford submarine bases possibilities in the vicinity not only of the United States, but the Panama Canal.

This Government just now is particularly interested in what is going on aboard the interned German and Austrian liners at Havana and other Cuban ports. This interest recently has become so keen that the United States transport Dixie has moved toward the Havana harbor entrance and anchored between the entrance and the Austrian and German boats, with her six-inch rifles trained "where they will do most good."

WILL SUE TAX TAKERS' BONDS

POTTSVILLE, Pa., March 15.—Unless upwards of fifteen tax collectors make satisfactory payments upon their county tax duplicates by the first of April, their bonds will be certified to the Court of Common Pleas for collection. A hint of this was given by the County Commissioners Monday, causing several of the sureties companies to interview the collectors to ascertain their delinquencies. Some of the collectors are already spending sleepless nights.

There is upwards of \$25,000 outstanding upon the duplicates of the collectors whom the Commissioners have selected to proceed against.

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BRITISH ATTACK LAST BAPAUME LINES IN STORM

Haig's Troops Only Few Hundred Yards From Foe's Positions

TEUTONS STIFFEN FRONT

LONDON, March 15.—British troops are making their advance to the very gates of Bapaume in the face of a blinding downpour of rain and in a sea of mud. Today military experts estimated they must be fighting before the last line of German defenses of the city. Field Marshal Haig's report last night placed them within a few hundred yards of these positions, after a further advance on a front of approximately one and one-half miles immediately west of the city.

Dispatches from the front insisted the German retirement was stiffening and that, for the most part, what was started as a pursuit by the British has now developed into a British offensive, the enemy only leaving his positions under the terrific fire of British guns, instead of voluntarily evacuating, as has been the rule recently. "The British advance," says a Ruter dispatch from British headquarters, "which was resumed on a front of nearly four miles directly west of Bapaume on Monday, resulted in developing a further stage of that open warfare which the British troops so welcome after the wearisome monotony of trench life."

"The Germans covered their retreat with a strong screen of rear guards, and although the British patrols came into contact with these at many places, their object apparently was to avoid action as far as possible. This confirms the idea that the

Germans are doing their utmost to husband their strength for the future." Other dispatches from the front emphasize, beyond the width and depth of the advance, the fact that the Germans have now surrendered the ridge overlooking Bapaume from the northwest, the highest ground in the region, giving the British command of Bapaume itself and a great extent of country beyond. The Leupart Wood in this ridge was the German artillery observation post through much of the battle of the Somme, besides masking many of the German batteries themselves. Military writers in Paris also attach great importance to the renewed German retreat. The Matin says the German retreat, at first intentional and deliberate, has become almost a rout at some points, due to the tactics of General Gough, commanding the British troops in this sector, who, instead of bringing forward his cavalry, hurried forward his artillery with great rapidity and pursued the Germans with a tremendously destructive fire.

180 Chickens Burn in Barn

NORRISTOWN, Pa., March 15.—One hundred and eighty chickens were burned in a fire which destroyed a large barn on the Eugene Johnson farm, on Morris road, in Whitpain township, owned by Ralph B. Straubinger. The loss is estimated at about \$10,000.

Chicago Lawyer Jumps to Death NEW YORK, March 15.—It is reported that a Chicago lawyer, ended his life here today by leaping from the window of his room on the eighteenth floor of the Hotel Belmont. His body was crushed almost to a pulp.

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