

# GARDNER INSISTS ON FIRST-RANK NAVY

**Tells Security League We Will  
Ultimately Need a Sea  
Force Second to None.**

## BETTER HARBOR DEFENSES

**Thinks Coast Guns Unable to Cope  
with Foreign Fleets—Choate Advo-  
cates Quick Action in Congress.**

Congressman Augustus P. Gardner of Massachusetts, in the course of a speech to members of the National Security League at the Hotel Astor yesterday said that while it was probably all right for the present to increase our navy so it would stand second in the world, he thought that ultimately it would be necessary to put it on a footing with any other power. He spoke of President Wilson's grit in abandoning his old opinions and taking up the cudgels in behalf of the national defense. He said he had such a high opinion of Secretary Garrison that he had refrained from dropping "any monkey wrenches" in the Secretary's plan for the increase of the military establishment.

The meeting was, in point of attendance, the largest the league had ever held in New York. Joseph H. Choate, the honorary President of the organization, presided.

Mr. Choate said that he was glad to note that the people generally were awakening to the importance of the question of national defense, but he added he was equally disappointed to note what seemed a spirit of apathy on the part of Congress regarding "the very precarious condition in which the United States is as regards national defense."

### Choate Calls for Action.

"It appears to be very evident," said Mr. Choate, "that Congress has not taken the interest in this important matter that it should. Nothing has been done, no step has been taken to carry into effect what seems to me to be the universal wish of the people to get ready. The history of the present great war in Europe has shown how utterly useless is the untrained soldier. Everybody knows now that it takes from six months to a year to train a man so that he will be fit to fight."

"Some people think that the President on his recommendation for the defense of the country has gone too far, while others think that he has not gone far enough. Be this as it may, I may say, for heaven's sake let Congress do something, at least in the way of getting ready."

Mr. Gardner said that he had come to New York to tell the members of the league a few facts concerning the legislative situation as regards national defense. He said that scores of bills would be introduced dealing with the subject and that there seemed to be great confusion of thought about it. His own view, he said, was that we should build a navy that would rank second among navies, no matter what it cost to build it. In the future, he said, it would probably be necessary to make it the equal of any other navy.

He then compared the recommendations of Secretary Daniels and those of the General Board of the Navy. Mr. Daniels, he pointed out, recommended an expenditure for new construction of \$67,000,000 for the coming year, while the General Board had submitted two recommendations, one calling for an outlay of \$130,000,000 and the second for \$98,000,000, the first year. The opinion of the General Board, he added, was that the navy should be made as strong as any in the world. The first recommendation of the General Board, said Mr. Gardner, represented the uninstructed views of the members of the board. The second recommendation was made as a result of instructions issued by the Secretary of the Navy, who had informed the board not to figure for an expenditure in excess of \$100,000,000 for the first year or more than \$500,000,000 for a five years' program.

The people should demand of the Navy Department, said Mr. Gardner, that it make public whether or not the present United States Navy stood second, third, or fourth among the navies of the world. That question, he said, could be and should be authoritatively answered.

### Really an Eight-Year Plan.

"Mr. Daniels," continued the speaker, "calls his plan to increase the navy a five-year program. As a matter of fact it is a seven or eight year plan. There is a great difference between authorizing a navy and building a navy. To prove this I need only call your attention to the fact that the dreadnoughts Oklahoma and Nevada have not yet been commissioned, and yet both of those ships were authorized five years ago. In March of last year Congress authorized the building of two other dreadnoughts and the keel of neither has been laid. It will be next year before they are. They are to be built in Government yards, one in Mare Island and the other in New York. The evidence before Congress shows there is no money available for the construction of ways, the dredging of the basin, and other work that will have to be done before Mare Island can begin building. In New York there is a ship already on the ways and that must be out of the way before work can start there. These are some of the reasons why I say Mr. Daniels's plan is not a five-year, but a seven or eight year proposition."

Referring to the "little navy" men in Congress Mr. Gardner expressed the opinion that the opposition to national preparedness is not a "pork barrel," but rather an "idealistic" opposition.

"The nucleus of the opposition to the navy," he said, "is an idealism. All through the country there are many who are just awakening to the real situation. Last year the fashion in Congress was to laugh at the proposition for a big navy. And I want to say that it takes a big man to change his mind, and I think that President Wilson showed grit when he changed his mind in regard to this matter, but in changing his own the President did not change the opinions of his followers."

### Favors War College Program.

"As for Secretary Garrison, he is a patriot and I do not propose to drop any monkey wrenches in his plans. What I have had to say in criticism of Mr. Garrison's plans I have, as a rule, said to Mr. Garrison himself. The actual number of fighting men in our army at the present time is about 98,000. Mr. Garrison proposes to increase the total to about 121,000. I don't think that is anywhere near enough; it is just a drop in the bucket. The War College proposes a total of 251,000 fighting men. The big problem, Mr. Gardner admitted, would be the enlistment of such an army as the War College proposed and the only way to

solve it would be to go out into the labor market and bid for them. Fifteen dollars a month, he said, would not get them. Likewise the problem would be simplified, he added, by giving to enlisted men greater opportunities of promotion."

Answering questions from the audience, Mr. Gardner said he favored military training and not military service. The training of the men of the country, he declared, would be the greatest thing that could happen to the country. In the event of war, he said, he feared that conscription or some form of it would have to be resorted to.

No National Guard officer, said Mr. Gardner, should expect in time of war to enter the active service of the country with a rank higher than that of Major. The great fundamental truth behind Secretary Garrison's plan, he added, was that it made the military service a national and not a State service. The harmonizing of the National Guard and the proposal to create a national civilian force, he said, was one of the big things that Mr. Garrison has to work out.

"I assure you," said Mr. Gardner, "that Secretary Garrison does not care one whit what you call his plan, so long as he gets something through that will help."

### New York Unprotected.

In answer to a question asked by Mr. Choate, Mr. Gardner said he was of the opinion that the guns in the fortifications guarding New York would be greatly outranged by the giant guns in the main batteries of an attacking fleet.

In regard to the National Security Congress, to convene in Washington next week, it was announced that among those who had accepted invitations to speak or read papers on national defense were:

Frederic R. Coudert, Robert Bacon, Dr. David Jayne Hill, James M. Beck, President A. Lawrence Lowell, Henry L. Stimson, Miss Maud Wetmore, J. Bernard Walker, Charles G. Curtis, A. B. Lambert, P. H. W. Ross, George von L. Meyer, Henry A. Wise Wood, Howard E. Coffin, Henry H. Ward, Theodore Roosevelt, Senator George E. Chamberlain, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, F. L. Huidekoper, Captain Mathew E. Hanna, Colonel W. C. Church, General John F. O'Ryan, General Orlando Holway, George W. Perkins, William Barclay Parsons, Frederick Hoffman, Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, Walter E. Ives, Martin J. Gillen, George W. Wickersham, Luke E. Wright, Captain Granville Fortescue, John B. Stanchfield, J. Hampton Moore, Mrs. A. J. George, and General E. W. Nichols.

## INTERLOCKING BOARDS END.

### Stockholders Will Today Vote Changes Ordered by Law.

Changes of far-reaching importance will be effected today, when under the provisions of the law, all of the national banks will hold their annual meetings for the election of Directors. The changes will be made to anticipate the prohibition against interlocking directorates contained in the Clayton law. The law went into effect on Oct. 15, 1914, but to allow the banks more time to readjust the personnel of their management, two years were allowed to eliminate Directors serving more than one bank.

In many cases the readjustments made necessary will not take place for some months although today's meetings are the last regular stockholders' meeting before the Clayton law's requirements must be met. Some of the bankers who will have to relinquish important memberships on boards of the big institutions will not resign until Oct. 15. Others will retire today.

The Bank of Commerce will lose at least four of its Directors at today's meeting, and others later in the year. Those who are expected to leave the board now, to comply with the law, are Francis L. Hine, President of the First National; Albert H. Wiggin, President of the Chase National, and W. Simonson, Vice President, and Frank A. Vanderlip, President, of the National City Bank. James S. Alexander, President of the Bank of Commerce, will shortly withdraw from State banks of which he is a Director.

The First National Bank's board has sustained the loss of several prominent bankers who complied with the Clayton law before its prohibition became effective, but other changes will have to be made. A. Barton Hepburn, Chairman of the Chase National, will retire at today's meeting. James J. Hill must withdraw soon if he retains his position in the First National Bank of St. Paul. Mr. Hill is also on the boards of the First National Bank of Chicago and of the Chase National, and he is expected to relinquish those positions.

Four changes will be made in the board of the Chase at today's meeting. One Director will resign, and three new members will be added to the board. No changes are looked for in the management of the Mechanics and Metals.

The effect of the election today and of the special election which will have to be held by many banks in October will be to eliminate much of the banking talent from the boards of the big institutions. Most of the Wall Street banks have had several representatives of other institutions on their directorates, but under the Clayton law the only practical bankers on each board will be the officers of the institution.

The law provides, in substance, that no man who is a Director in a bank having total resources of \$5,000,000 or more, whether it is a State or national bank, can serve on the board of another bank in the Federal Reserve system.

The law also forbids Directors of corporations which supply a railroad or other interstate public utility company with more than \$50,000 worth of supplies from serving as Directors of the railroad.