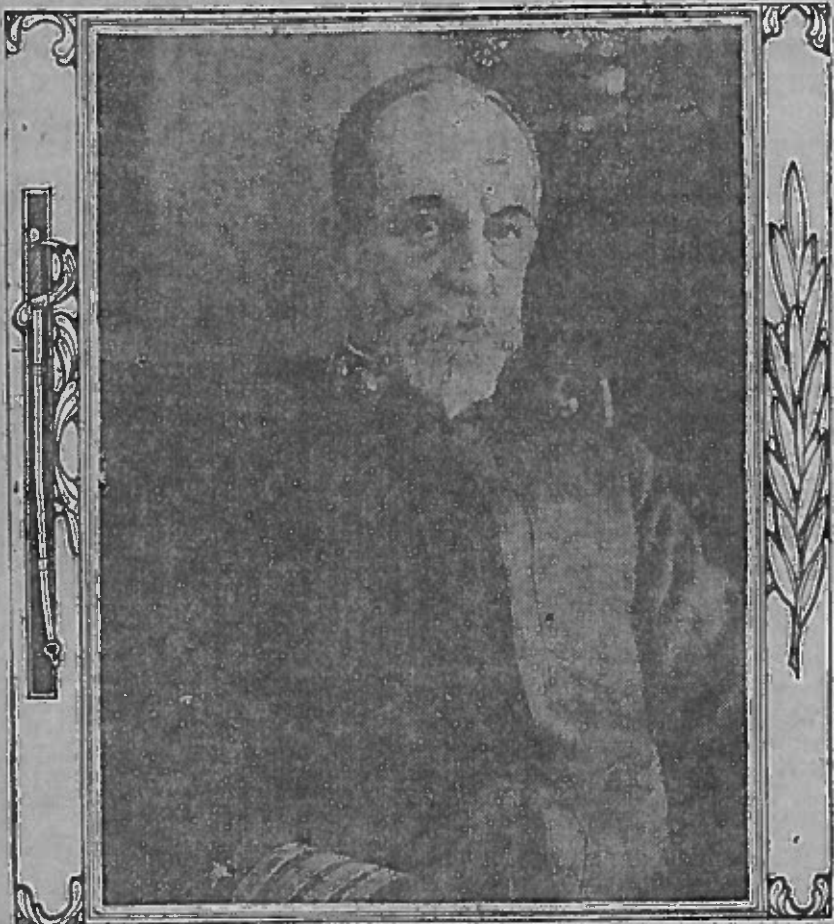


# Submarines Cause of Row Over Naval Appropriation

One of our country's grandest pictures in the book. Thank you Vol. II.



Rear Admiral George A. Converse.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb 14.—Un-  
less all signs fail, there is going to be  
a lot more excitement about naval af-  
fairs before the big battleship fleet  
reaches the western coast of the United  
States. The intimation that improper  
influences were brought to bear upon  
members of the committee on naval af-  
fairs of the House has created a sen-  
sation, and angry protests are being  
made by various committee men.

Not only do certain representatives  
announce that they will clear their  
own skirts by showing that there is no  
foundation for the slur, but they threat-  
en to retaliate and to show good rea-  
sons why they have not agreed to a  
considerable increase in the navy at  
the present juncture.

They assert that the specific pleas  
that have been made in behalf of the  
navy recently have been unconvincing  
and that there must be an entire reor-  
ganization before much more is done.

The covert attack upon the commit-  
tee on naval affairs is alleged by cer-  
tain of those directly affected to have  
originated in the Navy Department.  
The cause of the present row is that  
the committee failed to recommend the  
large increase in the navy which Pres-  
ident Roosevelt advocated, and while it  
cut down the number of new battle-  
ships from four to two, it increased the  
programme for building submarines.

The defeat of the battleship pro-  
gramme is now laid at the doors of the  
officials of the submarine companies,  
and it is alleged that naval officers  
favor a searching investigation of all  
the facts covering the purchase of  
submarines for several years.

It was only after learning that many  
of the recommendations for a naval in-  
crease would be out by Republican  
committeemen that the President in-  
vited the Democratic members to a  
conference in the White House within  
the last fortnight.

While some of the Democrats were  
as enthusiastic as the President Him-  
self for a large increase in the navy,  
others had been convinced that the  
submarine was the best method of de-  
fence, and the attempt to circumvent

the plans of the Republican commit-  
teemen failed.

Meetings of the committee were se-  
cret, and all that is known of the pro-  
ceedings is that 13 of the committee  
are said to have voted against the  
President's plan and only five for it. A  
member of the committee said today  
that he was not anxious to go to the  
front personally until after he had con-  
sulted with the others concerned, but  
that he knew that the unpleasant inti-  
mations would not be permitted to  
pass without retaliation.

He said he personally had favored  
the increase in submarines and that  
he had been particularly impressed by  
the petition made by committees on  
the Pacific coast for protection of this  
kind. Almost every city on the coast  
pleaded for submarines the moment  
certain complications resulted in war  
talk.

Rear Admiral George Converse, pres-  
ident of the Board of Construction, has  
sent to President Roosevelt a document  
containing 100 type-written pages in  
reply to criticism of the battleships.  
Many representatives are curious to  
see this document, especially in view  
of the fact that some of the more seri-  
ous allegations have been confirmed  
by various naval officers who have  
been questioned before the committee.