

THE EVENING NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1917.

ORGANIZING OUR MAN-POWER

Representative Kahn, of Califor-
nia, ranking member of the house
military committee, has announced
that when Congress meets in Decem-
ber he will submit an amendment to
the draft law to make it include all
men between 18 and 34. The ad-
ministration is said to be opposed to
raising the maximum age limit. The
proposal, however, raises some inter-
esting questions.

The author of the measure frankly
declares that his purpose is to pro-
vide an ample supply of men for
what may be a long war. He is
afraid that not enough men can be
obtained from the remaining regis-
tered under the present law.

Nobody knows how long the war
will last, and therefore nobody can
tell how many soldiers we shall need.
But experts on the other side seem
agreed that the possibilities are not
met by the preparations we have
made. The conscription of eligible
men between 21 and 34 is expected
to provide 2,000,000 men. It is re-
garded as unlikely that more than
that number of Americans can be
used to advantage in Europe—that
aliens say they need food and mili-
tary equipment more than fighters.
Machinery is depended on now to win
battle. Our chief role is to provide
of a broad nature will help in
training crews for our seafarers or new
machines.

Convincing evidence that a large
proportion of the supplies from
America to the European neutrals
have reached Germany has not been
making fighters more nervous about
the safety of the embankments of the
Rhine frontier.

The government war insurance
board has reduced by one third the
insurance rates on ships traversing
the submarine zone. This practical
proof of a broad nature will help in
training crews for our seafarers or new
machines.

And yet, it might be worth while
to follow the main lines of Congress
man Kahn's proposal, and register
all the men from 18 to 34, not
necessarily for actual military ser-
vice, but for the sake of having great
organized bodies of men who could
be used for home defense or for any
other great national purpose. The
lads under 21 and the mature men
over 34 would never be called to the
colors unless all the eligible men of
prime military age were exhausted.
But work could always be found for
them in war time, and perhaps in
time of peace, too.

Suppose the government enrolled
the 2,000,000 male Americans in-
cluded within the proposed age limits.
It would possess invaluable data
concerning the major part of our
eligible and effective manpower. It
would know the capabilities of all
these millions, and how and where
to get them when wanted. It could
assign them in case of need to any
vital national task, leaving each man
the work best suited to him.

We have as yet hardly begun to
appreciate the possibilities of an
operative effort on a gigantic scale.
The war is teaching us. We're begin-
ning to work together and organize
a new sense of public spirit and ser-
vice. It might be a good idea to go
ahead in some such way as this,
while the organizing is good, before
finishing off with a registration.

There are a lot of Americans who
are willing to come forward
and advise Mr. Bryan as to the
recommendations for a bill of
rights to be drafted. And when
the government sends out a
list of some eligible men, it would
be well to make the recommendations
through those for the proper job
will be assigned.

There's one respect in which
French soldiers have the advantage
of the Americans. They get varia-
tions. Every soldier has three weeks
in a year. The variations are taken
home in special trains, and their
leave doesn't begin until they're with
their relatives and friends. But here
the handicap. The French soldier hasn't much money to spend
in his vacation. The American
soldier can give half their wages to
their families, and still have left
more than three times as much in
the French case.

Here comes another handicap.
They have to ride paid to represent
the people and not the demo-
cratic republican socialist party
of some other political party
the country would like better. For
such times as these it gives the
French keepers of citizen patrols a
lot of peasant soldiers who are
easier to handle than trying to hold
political fences when they should
be trying to solve the problems of the
people.

Nicholas Hulmanell is said to have
used persuasion to move his
family from Toledo to the Adirondack
mountain resort in the summer, be-
cause he wanted to work in the moun-
tains. It may be so. But if French
soldiers do the same, a reducing fac-
tor of the cost of a vacation is
one of three information about the
French climate.

Our corps are not only wonder-
fully fit, but of unusually good
quality. The experience of our wheat
crop just about compensates for
its comparative weakness. The de-
partment of agriculture estimates
that if we eat up the quality of last
year's wheat at 21 per cent, this
year's is 22 per cent.

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STATE LIBRARIAN
WILL ARRIVE TODAY

Mr. Alexander Atkinson, state
librarian of Oregon, will arrive
on Saturday morning, November 11,
from Portland to inspect the
library of the Roseburg High School.

Not one of the children can ill-
iterate, but the average reading
knowledge of the boys is poor.

When we became a nation of
farmers, library building funds
were the first to go.

Now we are a nation of
children, library building funds
are the first to go.

Mr. Atkinson will be here
until Saturday afternoon, and
will inspect the school library
and the public library.

He will also inspect the
public library of the city of

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