

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS THE DRAFT LAW

JUSTICE WHITE HANDS DOWN THE DECISION

JUSTICE WHITE OBJECTS ARE "DEVOID OF MERIT"

RAISING ARMIES BY DRAFT IS NOT SLAVERY

No Violation of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution Shown—Decision Is Unanimous.

(United Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The Supreme Court declared the draft law constitutional. Justice White holding the objectors' arguments were "absolutely devoid of merit. Our mind is unable to conceive that raising armies by draft is slavery and violates the thirteenth amendment." The decision was unanimous.

The decision of the court settles the constitutionality of the selective service law in nine cases. Eight of these were advanced and considered jointly in order to settle the draft question at one blow.

In arguments before the Supreme Court December 13 and 14, the main attack of the objectors was that the constitution did not empower the federal government to make a direct draft on its citizens. This power was never surrendered by the states, it was held, and the draft should have been made through the individual states.

Another favorite angle of attack was that the draft is "slavery or involuntary servitude" and thus violated the Thirteenth Amendment. To this the solicitor general, John W. Davis, effectively showed that a soldier is not a slave.

The exemption of ministers and divinity students was another ground on which the draft was assailed, Emma Goldman's attorney declaring this provision tended to establish a religion, which is unconstitutional.

The government's arguments anticipated the objections of those opposing the draft. The advocates of Germany planned to attack the United States after "cleaning up" the allies in Europe, it was claimed. Therefore, the draft and the expedition of troops to Europe was actually to repel an invasion, a constitutional right, the government argued.

The power to declare war includes the power to compel military service, was the government's contention. Draft also was a normal method of raising American armies at the time the constitution was adopted, historic records show.

Miss Goldman and Alexander Berkman, leaders of the No-Conscription league, were the most prominent plaintiffs in the draft cases. They openly urged young men not to register for the draft. Following are some of Berkman's characterizations, introduced by government attorneys, as a part of his "war dictionary":

"Allies—The fabric of democracy."
"Liberty Bond—A bone from a bonehead."
"Militarism—Christianity in action."
"Patriotism—Hating your neighbor."
"Registration—Funeral march of liberty."

Associated with Goldman and Berkman were Louis Kramer, and Morris Becker, both of New York City, who testified they were members of the No-Conscription league. Kramer tried to induce Joseph J. Finin, a policeman in civilian clothes, not to register.

The case of three Cleveland (Ohio) Socialists, Charles E. Ruthenberg, Alfred Wagenknecht and Charles Baker, who were convicted of inducing young men not to register, were also decided by today's decision. Their claim that the jury was chosen entirely by Republicans and Democrats and that the Socialist party had no representation was overruled. Their arrest was the result of a Socialist peace meeting in the public square at Cleveland, May 20, when Baker said he "would rather be shot here as a man than be shot in the trenches of Europe as a dog."

Four Minnesota young men, who failed to register and are now in the Minnesota state penitentiary under a year's sentence, are also affected by today's decision. They are Joseph F. Ayer, Alfred G. Grahl and Otto and Walter Wangerin.

The case of Albert Jones, negro, of Duffie county, Georgia, was the last case advanced to come under today's ruling. He objected to the draft as "slavery."

Automatic Stokers for O. W. Engines

Here is some good news for the firemen. The O-W. shops have started equipping engines with automatic stokers. The first engine to be so equipped on this division is engine 2162.

The automatic stoker is a very ingenious device. Coal is taken from the tender and fed direct to the boiler. All that the fireman has to do is to work the automatic levers, the stoker does the rest. The stokers are being supplied the engines as well.

The new machine is a coal saver and also a labor saver. As fast as possible the engines on this division will be equipped with this new device.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR SEPARATE PEACE ARE OFF

GERMAN DELEGATES SEND WIRELESS MESSAGE TO THE RUSSIANS

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 7.—Proof that Russian-German negotiations at Brest-Litovsk are ended is shown in a wireless message the German delegates sent the Russians stating the principles Germany enunciated were expressly contingent upon all belligerents unreservedly within ten days binding themselves to observe the conditions, and saying the ten days had elapsed.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 7.—Both the majority and minority Socialists of Germany oppose government deceit in the peace terms offered Russia regarding the "determination of peoples regarding their form of government." Leaders of both sides are protesting. It is reported independent Socialists sent a message to the Bolsheviks urging them not to accept a separate peace with Germany.

Lynn Stringham Writes From France

HOSPITAL BOYS HAVE CLUB ROOMS WITH FIREPLACE

Entertainments at Y. M. C. A. Every Wednesday and Saturday—Interesting Lecture on Bombs—Reading Matter Is Scarce—Observer Arrives in Camp.

(Received by Leah Swalberg from her cousin, who is with the hospital corps in service in France.)

"Somewhere in France,"

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 1917.

Dear Cousin:—Perhaps you will be somewhat interested to hear from a far away country and hear what the "bunch" is doing.

If Vera has received the letter I mailed her, you will perhaps know something of what is going on. I don't remember just what had taken place when I wrote her, but I will try and tell you something different. However, if I should repeat, pardon, Mademoiselle.

At the present time I am seated at a table in our "club room." You see, we have no fire in our quarters, so we have acquired some rooms nearby, where we repair in the evening, build a fire in the fireplace and read, write and do various other things to while away the hours, or else we lie ourselves to the Y. M. C. A. tent, or tents (for there are two now) and write or play the piano. Each Wednesday and Saturday evening they have an entertainment there by some of the fellows here. Last Thursday evening they had an opening night and there was certainly a crowd there. There were speeches by officers, and musical numbers. The manager of the "Y" for this district, a prominent Chicago lawyer, gave a fine address. Also the secretary of this "Y" gave a talk.

Then the town mayor gave a speech, which was translated to us. A French major gave a fine address, which was also translated.

Friday evening a sergeant gave an interesting lecture on bombs and showed us specimens (oh, goodness, no, harmless ones!) and told us many interesting things about the war.

We have had fine weather considering the season, but this evening a mist began to fall.

We have been very busy the past week, as we took over the camp hos-

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PRESIDENT TO STATE ALLIES' WAR AIMS

LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH IS A PRELIMINARY TO NEW STATEMENT

TO BE THE BIG POLITICAL ATTACK OF THE WINTER

Early Conference of Allied Premiers Reported Likely—Lloyd George's Speech Gives Germany Opening for Peace if Kaiser Wants It.

By ED. L. KEEN, (United Press Staff Correspondent.)

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The joint allied statement of war aims will be made by President Wilson.

The Premier's speech was merely preparatory to this which is to be the great attack of the winter's political drive according to highest sources.

PARIS, Jan. 7.—An early conference of allied premiers is reported likely, presumably to decide the exact outline of the joint statement of the allied aims.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The British newspapers regard Lloyd George's speech a definite outline of irreducible war aims, opening the door to peace if Germany will make this entrance move. The newspapers regard the Premier's utterances as steeling allied citizens to their utmost endeavors. They say he proclaimed Britain's message to the world in a message parallel to President Wilson's.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Ambassador Page conveyed President Wilson's "cordial approval" of Lloyd George's speech to the Premier.

Major Graham Spends Day With the Boys

WALKS EIGHT MILES TO JOIN HOSPITAL UNIT

Boys Happy on Thanksgiving Day—Fine Bill of Fare—Gets First-hand Information at Hospital.

(Letter from Major J. F. Graham of the La Grande Hospital Unit to His Wife.)

France, Nov. 30, 1917.

My Dear Wife:—I presume you are just getting over your Thanksgiving dinner, while we are over the agonies of too much turkey and are now wondering what Uncle Sam will do for us at Christmas.

Li. Moore and I walked eight miles Thanksgiving morning in order to have dinner with the boys. They had fourteen turkeys and all they could eat, just as if they were at home. The bill of fare consisted of turkey, chaulerries, mashed potatoes, kidney, asparagus, peas, corn dressing, punch and cream and coffee. The boys were happy for they were all filled up. We had dinner at 3 p. m., and left for school at 6 p. m. in an ambulance.

I am to leave this place Sunday for another school. Am getting lots of first hand information and this change to a better school is in line with instructions that if an officer shows any ability in any line he will be sent on farther. I am the only officer ordered away from here after one week and there are a bunch of them here. The boys are afraid I will not get back to them. They kept asking me yesterday if there was any chance of not returning to them. And said that there would be one entire hospital on some one's back if I did not come back.

I am sitting on my cot leaning up against the side of the building, with a lantern hung on a nail, trying to write. Have not been getting any letters and suppose I will be lucky to get any of them.

When we got outside we literally swam in mud. We have had a little snow several times.

I am feeling fine and you must not worry for when we hear the gun roar we do not think any more of it than if it was a fire-cracker in our back yard at home.

I must close now for lights go out early. Have not had much opportunity to write but am hoping that soon I can write to all of our good friends. With best wishes for a happy Christmas, I am as ever,

Yours,

JAMIE.

THE WEATHER

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—The United States weather forecast: "Rain."

BLIZZARD HALTS TRAFFIC IN CHICAGO

HEAVIEST SNOWFALL IN HISTORY—DRIFTS TWELVE TO FIFTEEN FEET DEEP

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—Snow ceased this afternoon after the heaviest snowfall recorded which swept the midwest, paralyzing traffic and business. Drifts are twelve to fifteen feet deep in the local streets. Trains are cancelled.

ARMY CONTRACTS ARE LET TO U. S. OFFICIALS

EVIDENCE GATHERED BY SENATE MAY RESULT IN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Criminal prosecutions may follow the senate military investigation.

Senator McKellar is to ask that testimony be laid before the department of Justice.

Other committee members are reported as unanimously favoring the move, following testimony showing contracts totalling \$128,000,000 to firms composed of persons officially serving the government.

Federal statutes prohibit this. These orders were chiefly for woolen goods clothing.

J. E. Reynolds Vice Pres. of State Fair

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—J. E. Reynolds of La Grande was elected vice-president of the state fair today. A. C. Marsters, of Roseburg, was elected president.

American Aviators Are Killed In France

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Lieutenant Ely and Sergeant Houdek, American aviators, were killed in aeroplane accidents in France. No details are available.

Bomb Explodes In Rochester School

ROCHESTER, Pa., Jan. 7.—A Rochester school was partially wrecked by a bomb exploding in a teacher's desk. One boy who was feeding the furnace was injured. No others were inside.

Finland Recognized As Independent

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 7.—Chancellor von Hertling has officially announced Germany's recognition of Finland's independence to the Finnish deputation representing the new republic.

Conductor and Brakeman are Killed

FALLBRIDGE, Wash., Jan. 7.—Conductor Farley and brakeman Roy Foster were killed when an eastbound freight extra crashed into their train in the local yards, demolishing two cabooses and two boxcars. They were asleep in the cabooses. An investigation has been started.

WAR VETERANS TO GIVE MESSAGE

CANADIAN OFFICERS FOUGHT AT BATTLE OF YPRES—TO SPEAK HERE

BATTLE SCENES AT THE FRONT TO BE DESCRIBED

Men Who Bear Battle Scars Are to Speak in Enterprise, January 24, Joseph, January 24, and in La Grande, January 25.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. MacMillan, Major F. B. Edwards and Captain E. J. Cook, officers of the Canadian overseas contingent will speak in Enterprise the night of January 24, in Joseph the afternoon of January 24, and in La Grande the night of January 25. The meetings will be held under the auspices of the State Council of Defense. The local meeting will be under the auspices of the Union County Patriotic League, of which T. J. Scroggin is chairman.

Here are the records of the three Canadian officers, records that are guaranty of the vital interest of the story they will tell to the people of Union and Wallowa counties.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. MacMillan served with the Seventh Battalion, First British Columbia Regiment, enlisting on August 4, 1914, the date of the declaration of war. He went overseas with the first Canadian division. Among the great engagements in which he participated are Neuve Chapelle, the second battle of Ypres, Festubert, Ginchy, the operations before Messines and the Somme.

Major Edwards Wounded.

He was recalled to England as assistant director of transport, and promoted to Major, later receiving appointments as assistant director of supply and transport, overseas Canadian, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He is now on furlough.

Major Edwards was a Lieutenant in the Canadian militia regiment, 30th British Columbia Horse, at the outbreak of the war. When the regiment arrived in Flanders it went into the trenches in the Ploegsteert sector, then the Diekebusch sector, followed by service at Hill 63.

When the regiment was reorganized to an infantry regiment, it was transferred to the Ypres salient. Major Edwards, then a Captain, was wounded for the first time during the Sanctuary Wood action, being shot in the hip. Upon his return to his regiment it was moved to the Somme. At Regina trench the gallant officer was wounded for the last time and permanently retired from active service. The price he paid was the loss of both arms, torn off by high explosives.

He has now been returned to Canada for duty at Resthaven Military Convalescent Hospital. He was recommended for the military cross in October, 1916, and received special mention in the dispatches by Sir Douglas Haig.

Captain E. J. Cook, the huge, irrepressible boy of the party, entered service with the Western Canadian Cavalry, enlisting in August, 1914. Ypres, the Somme and Festubert are but three of the many engagements through which he passed.

At Festubert, in an assault on German third-line trenches, Captain Cook stopped two soft-nosed machine gun bullets, which entered his right side and traversed the stomach. Contrary to all the predictions, he recovered. It was also his fortune to be "gassed" at the second battle of Ypres. The full complement of his wounds includes one in the left elbow.

Following recovery from his wounds Captain Cook served as an instructor in military training schools in France and England. He was also Provost-Marshal in London for some months, and air raids are by no means novelties to him.

FIGHTING ON WEST FRONT MOSTLY ARTILLERY

LONDON, Jan. 7.—General Haig reported West front fighting was confined mainly to artillery, especially southeast of Messines.

No Operation Necessary.

UNION, Jan. 7. (Special.)—Word has been received to the effect that an operation was found unnecessary by the Mayo Brothers, of Rochester, Minn., as to Mrs. J. T. Mulvehill, who recently went east for consultation with these noted surgeons. Mrs. Mulvehill with her daughter, Mrs. H. F. White, after a visit in Iowa, will return to Oregon, probably in two or three weeks.

National Certificates Pay Four Percent

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, has authorized the local banks to receive subscriptions to the national certificates of indebtedness issued by the U. S. Treasury Department. These certificates pay four per cent interest, are dated January 2, and come due June 25. They are good investments for persons who have idle funds and who wish to keep their money employed for short periods. They may also be turned into the government in payment of income taxes or other Federal taxes. Subscriptions may be made at either of the local banks or any other national bank in the county.

FIGHT IS BEGUN ON OWNERSHIP OF RAILROADS

SENATORS PRESENT BILLS—MADDOO ASKS FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—In an effort to block Federal ownership of railroads Senators Watson and Gallinger have presented measures preventing an indefinite Federal control after the war. A. P. Thom, the railroad's general counsel told the Interstate Commerce Commission the railroads were not in favor of the government control of their finances and said they insist on getting their profits instead of a guaranteed income.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Secretary McAdoo has asked the railroad for estimates of their money requirements this year. The President has asked for the report by Wednesday of the amount and plans for raising it. He also asked for detailed information on operating revenues, expenses, etc., for the last fiscal year in order to arrive at a basis for financing the national operation of the railroads.

Moose to Hold Big Field Day at Eugene

A State Moose Field Day Association was organized in Portland last week.

Rev. Orin F. Jones, of Baker, was chosen chairman; George M. Orton of Portland, vice chairman; George Young, of La Grande, treasurer; A. K. Meek, of Eugene, secretary; C. E. Gloss, of Corvallis, chairman of the committee of arrangements. It was decided to hold the first field day at Eugene at a date to be fixed later.

All the Moose in the state will be invited to attend. There will be varied and patriotic program.

WALSH LAND LEASING BILL PASSES SENATE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The Senate this afternoon, by a vote of 33 to 32 passed the Walsh land leasing bill, providing for the leasing of oil lands in the West. Senator Borah bitterly opposed the bill.

BRITISH PATROLS ARE HELPING THE ITALIANS

ROME, Jan. 7.—British patrols have crossed the Piave and raided the Teuton positions. Artillery is general over the front.

Union's Fine Record.

UNION, Jan. 7. (Special.)—Chairman L. A. Wright, of the Union district Red Cross committee, informs the Republican that the total amount raised in this district is \$750, not in cluding about \$20 that went from this county to the Baker district, and belonged here. This will bring Union's total close to the \$800 mark.

Death of Henry Fisher.

Henry K. Fisher, one of the most prominent ranchers of the Powder River Valley, and one of the best known men of Baker county, died Sunday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock at the home of his daughter, Mrs. F. L. Hubbard, Clifford street, this city of heart trouble, after only a few days' illness.—Baker Democrat.

TRIBUTES PAID TO MEMORY OF BERT ANDREWS

SERVICES HELD AT METHODIST CHURCH LARGELY ATTENDED BY LA GRANDE CITIZENS

FLORAL TRIBUTES AND FLAGS DECORATE THE ALTAR

Methodist Choir Sings Selections, Mrs. Gambell, Solo, Rev. M. B. Paroungian Gives the Prayer, and Rev. Geo. H. Feesee, Eulogy.

Memorial services for the late Bert Andrews, member of the La Grande hospital unit, who died in France about December 26, were held yesterday afternoon at the Methodist Episcopal church.

Before the services the O-W. shopmen gathered at the O-W. club house and marched with the beautiful American flag which flies over the O-W. shops, to the church.

At the church the altar was decorated with beautiful floral tributes, American flags and the Epworth League service flag.

The attendance was large and representative. Civic, fraternal and military organizations were present, men and women from every walk of life, including some of the railroad's Japanese workers, and all bore testimony to the respect in which the young man was held who so willingly gave his life for his country.

The Methodist church choir sang two numbers during the services, the first, "More About Jesus Would I Know," and the second, "Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown." Mrs. W. A. Winters playing the organ. Mrs. B. F. Campbell sang a beautiful solo, "The City Four Square," or "There Will Be No Night There." These songs were selected by Mrs. Andrews.

Rev. M. B. Paroungian, Sunday school missionary of the Oregon M. E. conference gave the opening prayer, a very eloquent and beautiful effort, and he was followed by Rev. George H. Feesee, who read the tribute paid in the Observer Saturday evening and read the selections from the scriptures, "The Lord is My Shepherd," and others which have been consoling to the father and mother of the soldier boy. Mr. Feesee commented upon the nobility of character of Bert Andrews, his devotion to his father and mother, his quickness to answer his country's call and the place he held in the esteem of the community and his fellow-workers.

On every hand genuine and sincere grief was apparent and the occasion was full of solemnity.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews wish to thank their many friends for their sympathy in their bereavement, and especially the O-W. shopmen for their participation in the memorial services.

The shopmen formed their procession at the club house at 2:30 and there were over 100 in line. They carried the beautiful American flag that Bert Andrews had contributed to and draped the vacant chair with it that stood at the altar. The flag over the O-W. shops was at half mast during the services. The shopmen sent a beautiful bouquet of carnations and the Japanese workers a beautiful wreath.

Boys Union Business.

UNION, Or., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—George I. Clark last week bought the Bieder plumbing stock and business and has moved his stock into the corner formerly occupied by the McIntosh store. Mr. Clark is a hustler and will give his entire time to the plumbing business.

GERMAN RAIDS ON LEFT BANK OF MEUSE REPELLED

PARIS, Jan. 7.—German raids on the left bank of the Meuse and north of Hill 204 were repelled. Artillery is active in the Champagne district today.

Mr. and Mrs. Dyle Have Twin Girls

BORN—January 6, at the Grande Ronde Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. Forest Dyle, twin girls.