

CHARGES GIVEN LONG REPLY BY WAR SECRETARY

America to Have Half Million in France Early This Year, He Says

MISTAKES ARE NOT RULE

Big Question Is Ships to Carry Forces Abroad; Many Facts Told

(Continued from page 1)

submitted documents to prove that France and Great Britain were supplying artillery and machine guns for the first forces at their own urgent request in order that ships might be used for other purposes.

In all that was done prior to the departure of the first troops, General Pershing shared in the deliberations and approved the decisions reached. Mr. Baker declared; and now surrounded with a staff of trained regular officers, Pershing is in France as the "eyes of the army."

Every step taken has been founded on his long daily cabled reports of what is going on at the fighting fronts.

Tables were cited to show that overcrowding in the camps and cantonments had not been general and that the sickness had come mostly in the camps where medical opinion had agreed it was least to be expected. The history of the development and building of the cantonments was given in detail to show that every precaution possible had been taken.

Analyzing the efforts of the ordnance bureau, the secretary said that General Crozier had urged for years general artillery preparation; that he at least had realized the time gun-making required. But even France herself "with the enemy at her throat," he added, "had not been able to see what vast gun programs the war would lead into."

During his general statement of the war plan and how it was developed, Mr. Baker was rarely interrupted. He said:

"Now, gentlemen, about the plan of the war. It will be remembered that this war broke out in August, 1914. We went into it in April, 1917, so that for two and one half years, or more than a two and one half years the war had been going on. It was not as though war had broken out between the United States and some country, each of them prior to that time having been at peace with one another and with everybody else, so that an immediate plan should be made in the United States for conducting war against its adversary, but we were coming into a war which had been going on for two and one half years, in which the greatest military experts, all the inventive genius, all of the industrial capacity of those greatest countries in the world had for two and one half years been solving the problem of what kind of war it was to be and where it was to be waged."

Circumstances Face U. S.

"It was nothing for us to decide where our theater of war should be. The theater of war was France. It was not for us to decide our line of communications. Our line of communications was across the thousand miles of ocean, one end of it infested with submarines. It was not for us to decide whether we would have the maneuvering of large bodies of troops in the open. There lay the antagonists on opposite sides of No Man's Land in the trenches at a death grapple with one another. Our antagonists were on the other side of that line and our problem was and is to get over there and get him."

It was not the problem of doing it our way and letting everybody else take care of himself. In the first place, we were going to fight in France, not on our own soil and not on our adversaries' soil, and therefore at the very beginning, it was obvious that the thing we had to do was not to map out an ideal plan of campaign, not to have the war college with its speculative studies of Napoleon and everybody else, map out the theoretically best way to get at some other country, but it was the problem of studying the then existing situation and bringing the financial, industrial and the military strength of the United States into cooperation with that of Great Britain and France in the most immediate and effective way. That problem could not be decided here. I fancy in this audience there are men who have been in the trenches. The altogether unprecedented character of that problem is the thing which every returning visitor tells us cannot be described in words, cannot be put down in reports; it is a thing so different from anything else that ever went on in the world, so vast in its desolation, so extraordinary in its uniqueness that it must be seen and studied on the ground in order to be comprehended at all.

Study Held Essential.

"It is easily imagined that we might have perfected an army over here and carried it across the ocean and found it wholly unadapted to its task, and it might well have been that the army that we sent over was just one thing that they did not need, and that some other thing which we might have supplied would have been the thing essential to their success."

"So that from the very beginning it was not a question of abstract speculation here, but a question of study there to find out where our shoulder to the wheel could be put."

"They realized that. And so Great Britain sent over to us Mr. Balfour and General Bridges and a staff of experts. They came over here and you saw Mr. Balfour in the White House congress and at public meetings and in public meetings at one place and another, but the group of experts whom they brought over with them you did not see much of, and yet they distributed themselves through the war department, and their ordnance experts sat down with General Crozier, their supply experts with General Sharpe and his assistants, their strategists sat down with the army war college, and all over this city there were these confidential groups exchanging information, telling how the thing was over there, what we could do, what they advised us to do, what experience they had had in developing this, and that and the other implement or supply; how certain plans which one might naturally have evolved out of the past experience of the world had been tried there and found not to work at all."

Joffre's Visit Recalled.

"They were exchanging information, giving us all that they thought was helpful. And then came Joffre, with his wonderful reputation and his great and charming personality, and he made a great figure here and we welcomed him. It was a tremendous inspiration to see the hero of the Marne; but with him came this unobscured staff of fifteen or twenty or twenty-five young men, the most brilliant men in the French army—strategists, mechanical experts, experts in arms, experts in supplies, experts in industry and manufacture, and they told us not merely the formal and military problems, but they brought over with them men who were in from the beginning, in their reorganization of their industrial plants, and we sat down with them in little groups until finally we collated and collected and extracted all the information which they could give us from their respective countries. And every country which has been brought into the war has brought us that sort of staff of experts, and it has been necessary to compare notes and with this as a basis, to form such an idea as might be formed of what was the thing for us to do over there."

War Not Static Thing.

"But that was not enough. They admitted that it was impossible to draw that picture. They could describe to us and bring the specifications and drawings for a piece of artillery, but they could not tell us why the British theory of the use of artillery was by the British preferred to that of the French. They could not picture to us a barrage of heavy howitzers as compared to a barrage of 75 mm. guns. They could not picture to us the association of aircraft, balloons and mobile aircraft with artillery uses. They could tell us about it, but even while they told us the story grew old."

"The one thing they told us from the very beginning to the end was that this war, of all other, was not a static thing; that our adversary was a versatile and agile adversary; that every day he revamped and changed his weapons of attack and his methods of defense; that the tactics they were telling us were true when they left England and France, but an entirely different thing was probably taking place there now, and they told us of large supplies of weapons of one kind and another which they had developed in France and England, and which, even before they got them in sufficient quantity manufactured to take them from the industrial plants to the fronts, were superseded by new ideas and had to be thrown into the scrap heap."

They said to us, this is a moving picture; it is something that nobody can paint and give you an idea of. It is not a static thing.

Observation Is Purpose.

"Therefore, it became necessary for us to have eyes there, to have an immediate communication with us and we sent over to France General Pershing, and we sent with him not merely a division of troops—but to that I shall refer in a moment—but we sent with him, perhaps I can say safely, the major part of the trained, expert personnel of the army. You know the size of the official corps of the regular army in this country when the war broke out. It was a pitiful handful of trained men, and it was necessary to divide them up and send over to France officers of the highest quality so that they would be at the front and see in the workshops and in the factories and in the war offices and in the armies, where consultations would take place immediately back of the front—so that they could see the things with their own eyes, and send us back the details by cable every day of the changing character of this war."

General Pershing's staff of experts and officers over there runs into the thousands and they are busy every minute and every day that the sun rises I get cablegrams from General Pershing from ten to sixteen pages long, filled with measurements and formulas and changes of a millimeter in size, great long specifications of changes in details of things which were agreed on last week and changed this week, and need to be

changed again next week, so that what we are doing at this end is attempting by using the eyes of the army there to keep up to what they want us to do.

"Already you will find in your further examination into some of the bureau work of the department, some of the divisions, when they come down, you will find that schedules which were agreed upon, weapons which were selected and which we had started to manufacture, have been so far discarded, that people have forgotten the names of them almost, and new things substituted in their place, and those forgotten and new things in the places."

Double Duty Faced.

"So that if one gets the idea that this is the sort of war we used to have, or if he gets the idea that this is a static thing it is an entirely erroneous idea, and when you remember that we had to divide this little handful of officers that we had and send so large a part to France, and then think of those who remained at home, you will realize, I am sure, that those who remained here had the double duty, insufficient for either aspect of it, in numbers—and they still have this double duty—they had to go forward with manufactures, work out industry and industrial relations; they had to see about supplies of raw materials and manufacture finished products, and make from day to day alterations and changes that had to be made, and they had to be ingenious with these suggestions, to see whether they could devise on this side something which had not been thought of over there."

"They had to be hospitable to suggestions which came from the other side; they had to confer with the foreign officers who were here and were constantly being changed, so that men fresh from the front could be here to advise with us, and in addition to that every one of them had to be a university professor, going out into the life of the community and selecting men who had mechanical experience and knowledge and training, but not military mechanical experience and knowledge and training, and adding to his original equipment his scientific training, and finishing touch which made him available for use as a military scientist."

Little Group Does Much.

"As a consequence, this little group which stayed here have built the great special departments of the army. The ordnance department, starting, I think with 93 or 94 officers, has now, I recall the figures, something like 300 officers. They have had to be trained; they had to be specialized, and that has had to go on contemporaneously with this tremendous response to the changing conditions on the other side."

In the meantime, when we started into this war, I think it was commonly thought throughout the country that our contribution to the outfit might well be financial and industrial. The industries of this country were largely devoted at that time to the appropriate industries, and many converted industries were largely devoted to the manufacture of war materials for our allies.

"As I suggested this morning, when we went into that market we found it largely occupied, so that we might as well go to a shoe factory and say 'make shoes for us,' but it was going to a factory which never made shoes because all the shoe factories were busy making shoes for our people from whom we could not take them, and saying 'learn how to make shoes in order that you may make them for us.'

"Now, of course, that is not true of shoes, but it is true of machine tools, of munitions, of the production of forging capacity, which was the greatest defect in the country and all of this time we had not merely to disturb the program of allied manufacture in this country, but we had not to cut off the supplies of raw material to our allies, and we had not to disturb industry of this country, such as it existed, and the products which they depended for the success of their military operations would be interfered with both agricultural and commercial and industrial products."

Early Idea Financial.

"At the outset the idea was that we would be a financial and industrial assistance to our allies during the year 1918, and I think you probably can read from the Metropolitan Magazine for August a suggestion which will show what the current expectation of this country was. The editor of the Metropolitan Magazine was protesting against what he believed to be the intention of the government at that time."

Here Senator Weeks interrupted to ask if that was the magazine of which Theodore Roosevelt is assistant editor. Secretary Baker replied that Mr. Roosevelt was a contributing editor, and continued:

"This magazine came out in August, 1917, and this editorial says: 'Since it is our war, we want to put everything into it so as to finish it in the shortest possible time, so that the world may be restored. To our mind the whole plan of the war is a failure, and we are flattered with a desire to hold off until the allies finish the war for us.'

"You see, the editor was dealing with what he supposed to be the intention of the war department at that time, that we were holding off so far as actual military operations were concerned and letting the allies do the fighting."

"What he says we should have done, and I think your particular attention to it, is that the editor was a military idealist surprised."

"We should have strained every energy to have gotten from 50,000 to 100,000 men to France this year."

"That is, the year 1917. I tell you no secret but it is perfectly well known to everybody in this group that we have far exceeded what in August, 1917, was regarded as a program so ideal that the editor of this magazine refers to it as a thing which we ought to have strained every nerve in a vain but hopeless effort to accomplish."

In response to a question by Chairman Chamberlain the secretary said the United States did not have more than the minimum number of men in



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France in August, 1917. He continued:

"By next year, 1918, we could have 500,000 men to send over, or any part of 500,000 men which we could ship."

Half Million Soon in France.

"Now, instead of having 50,000 or 100,000 men in France in 1917, we have many more men than that in France, and instead of having a half million men who we could ship to do it in 1918, we will have more than one half million in France early in 1918, and we have available, if the transportation facilities are available to us, and the prospects is not unpromising, one and one half million who in 1918 can be shipped to France."

Senator Weeks asked whether the secretary knew who wrote the editorial in Mr. Baker said he thought it was attributed to Mr. Wiggin, the editor in chief.

"Why," asked Senator Chamberlain, "have you not felt it proper to let the public into your confidence with reference to these things that you are telling now?"

Hindenburg Is Quoted.

"Senator, I confess I have hesitated and I still hesitate," replied the secretary. "I have here a statement from Field Marshal von Hindenburg, in which he is quoted as saying in a German newspaper, in contemptuous fashion of us, that we have advertised our preparations for this war in an unworthy manner."

"Do you think for a moment, Secretary Baker," said the chairman, "that there has been any time within the last year that the German secret service has not been fully advised as to everything we have done?"

"Yes, I knew. If I may rely upon the confidential information which I get from confidential sources, the German government is still mystified as to the number of men we have in France, or have had there at any time."

The chairman said he doubted this. After some discussion as to the policy of governments in announcing military secrets, Mr. Baker said it was not the policy of the American or other governments to do so and added:

"I am saying this now, because you have asked me why I have held back these facts until now. I am referring to you that you could not get from Great Britain or France the number of soldiers Great Britain has in France or at home, I could get an approximation; I could get what ever information might be deemed helpful to the immediate military object to be accomplished, but I could not get from Great Britain or France either one, the actual number of troops they have at the front."

"It may be that that precaution is unnecessary, and yet that is the precaution which military men have observed, and I have no further point to make in the matter of the number of troops there than to show, as I was showing, when I read that extract, that our original intention was to make our military effort in 1917; and in August of 1917, a zealous advocate of immediate military activity laid down as the maximum obtainable program, a thing which has since been multiplied exceeded."

Joffre Tells Situation.

"Why did we decide to send some troops to France in 1917? It is no secret. When Marshal Joffre came to this country from France, when the British mission came from France, they told us of a situation which we had not up to that time fully appreciated. There had been in France recently conducted before that an unsuccessful major offensive. "The French people had suffered, oh, suffered in a way that not only our language is not adapted to describe, but our imagination cannot conceive. The war is in their country. The wolf has not only been at their door, but he has been gnawing for two years and a half at their vitals, and when this unsuccessful offensive in France had gone on three weeks, a spirit not of sympathy but of fate, about the French

people, and this mighty military engine which they had seen prepared to overcome them for forty years was at them, and their attitude was that no matter whether every Frenchman died in his tracks, as they were willing to do, or not, that it was an irresistible thing, and so they said to us 'frankly, it will cheer us; it will cheer our people if you send over some of your troops.'

"We did send some troops."

British Example Unwise.

"At that place we had a choice. We could have sent over, as Great Britain, our regular army and in a very short preparation have put it into action and suffered exactly what Great Britain suffered with her 'hoped-for' little army, as it was called by their adversaries. Our army would have given as good an account of itself as the British army did, but it would have been destroyed like the British army, and there would have been no nucleus on which to build this new army that was to come over a little later, and it was deemed wiser to send over a regular division, but not to send over our whole regular army at that time."

"Then what happened was that that regular division went over and the people of France kissed the hem of their garments as they marched up the streets of Paris; the old veterans, wounded in this war, legless or armless, stumbling along on crutches, as they went up the streets of Paris with their arms around the neck of American soldiers. Not a single man in that division was unaccompanied by a veteran. America had gone to France and the French people rose with a sense of gratitude and hopefulness that had never been in them before."

French Morale Rises.

"Of course they welcomed the British, but their need was not so great when the British went. Of course they welcomed the British, but there were ties between them and us which there had not been between them and the British and so when our troops went there was an instant and spontaneous rise in the morale of the French, but an equally instant and spontaneous insistence that these soldiers who came from America should continue to come in an unbroken stream."

And so we made the election. We decided not to send the regular army as a whole, but to send regular divisions and national guard divisions, selected according to the state of their preparation and keep back here some part of our trained force in order that it might inculcate with its spirit and its training these raw levies which we were training and have gone another. These divisions have gone over until in France there is a fighting army, an army trained in the essentials and in the beginnings of military discipline and practice, and trained, seasoned fighters in this kind of a war on the actual battle fields where it is taking place."

U. S. Engineers Work Heroically.

"Early in this war, when Joffre was here and when Balfour was here they said to us 'it may take you some time to get over to us as a fighting army, but you are a great industrial country; our man power is fully engaged in our industries and in our military enterprises, send over artisans, special engineering regiments, and troops of a technical character' although it was not contemplated at the outset, and only a phrase in the emergency military legislation shows that this thing was thought of as a possibility, yet, in a very short time we had organized engineering regiments of railroad men and sent them over there and were rebuilding behind the lines of the British and French the railroads which were being carried forward with their advance, reconstructing their broken engines and cars, building new railroads, both back of the French and British lines, and those regiments were of such quality that at Cambrai were carried on by General Byns, when the Germans made their counter-attack our engineer regiments threw down their picks and spades and carried their rifles into the bat-

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and distinguished themselves by gallant action in the war itself.

"Very early in this war Great Britain, through Balfour and his assistants, and France, through Joffre, said to us 'send us nurses and doctors.' Why before we were scarcely in the war American units organized in advance and anticipation by the Red Cross, which was taken over into the service of the United States through the surgeon general, were on the battle field and there are tens of thousands of men in England and in France now who bless the mission of mercy upon which the first Americans appeared in France."

Great Task Is Realized.

"Our surgeons have set up hospitals immediately behind the lines. They have been military in every sense of the word. They have not been especially fortunate in escaping attack from the air and our early losses in this war were the losses of Red Cross nurses and doctors and orderlies and attendants in hospitals and ambulance drivers who were sent over to assist our allies in these necessary services, thus not only rendering assistance, but acquiring skill and knowledge of the circumstances and surroundings, so that when our own troops came in large numbers they could render like services to our own forces. But that was not enough. It was suggested that further groups of mechanics might be needed. Nay, we began to see that we were going to be over there in large force, and the question that they had to answer was, how will we maintain an army in France? Special studies had to be made of that problem and this is what they showed. They showed that the railroads and the facilities of France had in this war been kept in an excellent condition; far better than any other supposed possible under war conditions. And yet, that those railroads were used to the maximum to take care of the needs of the French and the British themselves and that when our army became a great army, it would be necessary for us to build back of our own line an independent line of communication."

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CHIPS FORM BLOCKHEADS.

"Is Mabel still devoted to that young man who owns the twelve-cylinder car?" "No. She passed him up for an army aviator."—Detroit Free Press.

"As a politician that man was a disgrace to the city." "Well, he has risen in the political world since then. Now he's a disgrace to the State."—Puck.

"That man," said Sherlock Holmes, Jr., "has no daughters, and his wife doesn't dance." "How do you know all that?" asked Dr. Watson. "Have you ever seen him before?" "Never. I just overheard him say that he could see no harm in the tango or the truckey trot."—Houston Chronicle.

Plans are under discussion for an appropriate observance next year of the centennial anniversary of the birth of Mrs. E. D. N. Southworth, the popular novelist.

NEW FOOD RULES TO BE ENFORCED

Steusloff Lays Down Law to Gathering of Grocers Last Night

At a meeting of Salem grocers last night, President F. W. Steusloff of the Salem Commercial club and who is also Marion county food administrator, declared that he is going to enforce to the letter the new food regulations of the government and that an example would be made of anyone, dealer or consumer, who fails to comply with the rules.

"This is no time for profiteering," said Mr. Steusloff. He declared that the profiteer is either a pro-German or a tightwad.

The new rules are effective in Salem today. On cards furnished by the commercial club, the dealers are to keep records of sales of the affected foods and turn in the names of purchasers and the amounts purchased once each week. This is to serve as a protection of the merchants against purchasers who might attempt to violate the rules.

Queries are constantly being made at the office of the federal food administration in Salem as to why the price of cornmeal, despite the big corn crop, is so high; many persons also want to know why there is such a difference in the market price of corn, as quoted in the press, and the figure at which cornmeal is to be had from the retailer.

Assistant Federal Food Administrator W. K. Newell, who has just returned from Washington, looked into the corn situation thoroughly while in the east and reports that while the corn crop throughout the corn belt was very large peculiar weather conditions caused a very heavy percentage of "soft" corn, which is unfit for milling.

"Only the first grade corn, entirely free from moisture and known to the trade as No. 1, can be milled," said Mr. Newell. "That is one reason why cornmeal remains at such a high figure throughout the country. The still higher price of cornmeal in the Northwest is due to a distance from the producing point and the transportation difficulties. As to the apparently excessive difference between the quotations of corn in the market and the price of cornmeal, it should be understood that the corn quotations are based on feeding corn, rather than on the milling grades."

"A new and very valuable food product, however, has been discovered through the necessity of finding a way to use the great quantities of soft corn that was produced this year. This new product is corn oil, which is proving to be one of the best cooking oils yet discovered, and which is given high rank among the different cottonseed, olive and other vegetable oils, by experts. Corn syrup is also being produced in greater quantities."

AN INDEFINITE LIABILITY.

A true story about a citizen whose daughter is about to be married and who has been trying to get a line on what the expense of the rather elaborate ceremony will be. He approached a friend of his, seeking information.

"Morris," he said, "your oldest daughter was married about five years ago, wasn't she? Would you mind telling me about how much the wedding cost you?"

"Not at all, Sam," was the answer. "Altogether about \$5000 a year."—Cleveland Plaindealer.

If each of the 10,000 bottlers of "soft drinks" in the United States can find a way to save just one ounce of sugar a day, it would mean a saving of nearly 200,000 pounds a year.

The recent election in Stockholm resulted in the choice of two women to become members of the town council.

BLIGHT THEATRE

NOTE

KIDDIES 5c

MATINEES 10c

EVENINGS 15c

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