

NO ACTION YET TAKEN ON THREE APPLICATIONS

Baker Waits to Query Signal Corps Officers Until Military Court Is Held

FRIERSON BEGINS WORK

Chamberlain Introduces Resolution Formally Authorizing Investigation

WASHINGTON, May 9.—With the department of justice investigation of aircraft production under way and another inquiry by the senate military committee about to begin, Secretary Baker announced tonight that he was withholding action upon applications of three signal corps officers for examination by a military court of their connection with the aviation program.

The secretary's statement disclosed the fact that in addition to Major General Squier, chief signal officer, Colonel Montgomery, in charge of contracts, and Colonel Deeds, executive officer for production, have asked that the mention of their names in connection with sweeping charges of graft and disloyalty be made the subject of inquiry by military tribunals. As head of the signal corps, General Squier until recently had direct control of army aviation, and he and the two colonels represent the war department on the aircraft board.

Army officers generally have urged strongly that a military court should deal with the charges and intimations of disloyalty and dishonesty. They draw a sharp distinction between this phase of the agitation in the senate and elsewhere over the aircraft program and the charges of incompetence.

Assistant Attorney General Frierson, appointed to conduct the department of justice inquiry, ordered by the president, began work today by assembly of all available data, including the report of the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, the preliminary report of the president's special investigating committee, headed by H. Snowden Marshall, and a mass of information turned over by the war department.

In the senate, Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee, introduced a resolution to authorize formally the investigating committee to launch probably next week. The resolution will be called up for action in a few days.

U. S. Steel Corporation To Manufacture Guns

NEW YORK, May 9.—The United States Steel corporation, at the request of the government, will enter into the manufacture of heavy artillery and projectiles in great quantities. In an announcement of the

undertaking, Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the corporation, said that a manufacturing plant for the purpose would be constructed as speedily as practicable at the expense of the government on a site located in the interior of the country.

The work will be in charge of a committee of steel corporation officials who will receive no compensation for their services.

Seniors Give Program at High School Assembly

Entirely the production of the seniors was the assembly program given yesterday afternoon at the high school. This was the second of a series being given by each class. One of the features was three original addresses, as follows: "The Value of School Activities," by Paul Richardson; "A Senior's Viewpoint," by Madison Nichols, and "Is Salem High Spirit Dead?" by Leslie Springer. Other numbers were Ruth Redford's piano solo, "The Pompadour Fan," a vocal solo, "The Kiss," by Agnes Hallzell, and an original poem which Opal Robertson recited.

Another accomplishment of the class was the publication of the senior edition of The Clarion, off the press yesterday afternoon. John Lucker, an editor, with a staff of eleven assistants prepared the special paper.

LORD ABERDEEN IS QUESTIONED

Arrangements for Benefit Entertainment Cause of Official Inquiry

NEW YORK, May 9.—Lord Aberdeen, formerly governor general of Canada, and lord lieutenant of Ireland, was questioned today by District Attorney Swann relative to the arrangements for yesterday's benefit entertainment at Carnegie hall under the auspices of the Child Welfare association, of which Lady Aberdeen is president.

When it was announced from the stage yesterday that the French "Blue Devils," Pershing's veterans, Miss Amelia Bingham and Charlie Chaplin, would be unable to appear, as advertised, several hundred persons in the audience left after demanding and receiving the money they had paid for admittance.

Lord Aberdeen acted as chairman for the benefit and E. H. Sothorn as master of ceremonies.

Lord Aberdeen went to the district attorney's office today in response to the subpoena.

British Mission Visits With Brazilian President

RIO JANEIRO, May 9.—President Rodrigues Alves received today the credentials of the British mission which is visiting South America. The mission is headed by Sir Maurice De Bunsen, who was assured by President Alves that Brazil was resolved to strengthen the political and economic relations between this country and Great Britain. The desire of both countries to raise their legations to the rank of embassies was discussed and it is probable this action may be taken in the near future.

NO FRUITS TO BE CONTRACTED BEFORE JUNE 1

Commercial Packers of Dried Products Make Agreement

PRICES ARE IMPORTANT

Food Administration Deeply Concerned in Increasing Cost of Commodities

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9.—Commercial packers of licensed dried fruits, including prunes, raisins, apples and peaches voluntarily agreed not to purchase or contract for any of these commodities prior to June 1, at the request of the United States food administration of California, it was announced tonight.

Three big growers' organizations also agreed that until that date they would not solicit or accept new members into their organizations.

This action was taken at a meeting today between Ralph P. Merritt, federal food commissioner for California, and a committee representing the packers and organized growers. Merritt announced that an agreement between the packers not to buy until the date specified was necessary in order to allow the food administration sufficient time to promulgate a definite policy for the marketing of this season's dried fruit output.

Under the rules of the food administration packers are prohibited from selling the licensed dried fruits until June 1.

The question of licensing dried apricots, figs, black grapes and pears was discussed without any conclusion being reached.

On this subject, in reply to many inquiries, Merritt said:

"The food administration is deeply concerned with the increasing prices of food commodities in general. Because certain foods are not under license some dealers have thought the sky was the limit in the prices they charged.

"Our people must be protected from profiteering and we must show the public that when it buys an article of food, whether licensed or unlicensed, the price represents only a fair margin of profit based on cost."

OFFICIAL WAR SUMMARY

The Lloyd George ministry has won vindication in the British parliament at a time when defeat would have meant a government crisis. A motion by former Premier Asquith asking for the appointment of a special committee to investigate sensational charges made by General Frederick B. Maurice, published earlier in the week, was defeated by a vote of 293 to 106.

While Mr. Asquith disavowed any intent to put the present government to a crucial test, it was felt that with

an adverse vote the Lloyd George cabinet would have resigned. The Maurice incident, involving charges of misrepresentation by the premier in his reports to the house of commons, has stirred all England and the section of the press hostile to Mr. Lloyd George did not hesitate to say that if the present government fell there would be an alternative cabinet ready to step into office.

The allied defense on the Flanders front to the southwest of Ypres has again been tested by the Germans and has been found adequate. Two divisions of Teutonic troops were employed on a relatively short front and were sent into the fight under cover of a terrific artillery fire. The front chosen for the attack extended from the village of Voormezele, but the center of the assault seems to have been at Vierstraat, a hamlet northeast of Kemmel hill.

The flanks of the German attacking line were stopped short by a fire from the French and British artillery posted on high ground and which was able to enfilade the German regiments as they tried to advance. In the center, however, the Germans made quite a serious dent in the allied line. Wednesday night, however, the allies drove forward in a counter-attack, and the latest reports from Field Marshall Haig are to the effect that the line has been re-established. The Germans are reported to have lost very heavily during the fighting.

There is a constant rumble of heavy artillery fire along the Somme front, but here the British have again improved their position by local attacks. The Canadian forces from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have been engaged in a successful local attack south of Arras.

On the southern sector of the Somme salient, as well as in Lorraine and other sectors farther south there have been no noteworthy combats.

The artillery of the contending armies continues very active in the Asiatic basin region on the Italian front. The official reports from Rome tell of enemy troops being "hampered" by the allied fire. The Brenta and Maserada sectors also have been centers of heavy bombardments.

The city of Amiens is being systematically destroyed by German artillery fire, in spite of the fact that there are no allied troops in that place and it is of no military value since the allies have constructed new lines of communications on the south side of the city. The venerable cathedral, one of the finest in Europe, is reported to have been struck by shells and to be in peril of destruction.

COURTS WEEDING OUT SLACKERS

Cases of Desertion Given More Severe Penalties Than in Past

CAMP KEARNY, San Diego, Cal., May 9.—"The courts are viewing desertion with much more severity than in the past," said Major General Frederick S. Strong commander of the 40th division today in connection with the publication of 23 court-martial sentences, many of them for desertion and carrying penalties of as much as thirty years imprisonment.

"Desertion, in time of war, is a capital offense you know," the general continued, "I suppose that, in peace times, where the case arises during a man's first enlistment, the courts would not impose more than two or three years imprisonment for these offenses. But now they want to weed out the slackers. If a man could evade service by desertion and get only a light sentence, evasion of the duty of military service would be more common. As it is, when a man gets a sentence of twenty or thirty years for desertion, why, the best part of his whole life is gone. Of course, the federal statutes provide for a reduction of these sentences if the prisoner's behavior is good."

Aviator Loses Life in Accident to Machine

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, May 9.—In an airplane accident six miles from this city at 8 o'clock tonight, one man was killed and another seriously injured. Authorities at the base hospital at Fort Sam Houston, where the injured man and the body of the dead aviator were taken, refused to make public their names.

Premier Sends Message of Thanks to Red Cross

WASHINGTON, May 9.—The prominence with which the American Red Cross commission in France complied with a request for food for 50,000 refugees gathered at St. Omer during the recent German drive, has elicited a message of thanks from Premier Clemenceau.

Premier Clemenceau's secretary, one afternoon, called on the Red Cross commission and asked whether it could supply milk, cheese, beef and flour to feed 50,000 refugees at St. Omer when the French relief train left at 7 o'clock that evening it carried five tons of condensed milk, two and a half tons of cheese and the same amount of beef and flour.

ARMY SURGEONS LEARN TACTICS

Members of Medical Corps Acquainted With Trench Fighting and Drills

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Persons accustomed to think of the Medical Corps of the army as a non-combatant unit will be astonished by suggestions prepared for the conduct of military surgeons newly arrived in the war zone. A bulletin from the office of the Surgeon General sums up the technical military knowledge which an army surgeon must have to do his duty competently and incidentally shows the exposure to which he is subjected.

"As soon as the battalion or regimental surgeon arrives in a new sector and has supervised the installment of his material," the bulletin says, "he should rapidly gain an intimate personal knowledge of the first line trenches, dugouts, listening posts, evacuation trenches, and means of transportation to the rear. This knowledge should be gained on the day of arrival, if possible, because enemy surprise attacks are frequent coincident with the arrival of troops in a new sector. It should be acquired through day and night inspections in order that he may be able to describe the topography of the terrain to his personnel. The latter should also be given an early opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the system of trenches and evacuation routes, so that when called upon to pick up wounded, at least one man of each squad is familiar with the general contour and direction of the trenches.

"The surgeon should also acquaint himself, through his commanding officer, with the location of the enemy trenches, batteries, trench mortars and mitrailleuse redoubts, together with the habits of the enemy in that particular sector. By 'habits' is meant the routine firing of the day or night during periods of normal activity. Certain open spaces, cross roads, gulleys, etc., are regularly under fire at certain hours of the day or night and the sanitary personnel must learn to avoid these exposed places during these periods.

"In the preparation of an attack, the battalion had regimental surgeons are invariably appraised of the probable objectives to be attained. They must study the general topography of the country to be traversed, its enemy trenches, dugouts and aid stations, in order to be able to utilize them during the engagement.

"The battalion surgeon must often, perhaps usually, extemporize the first aid station within enemy lines. As soon as he has done this, he must indicate to his personnel the proper evacuation routes for the wounded. When an advance is contemplated or a severe attack is being repulsed, and reserve stretcher bearers are being sent to the aid stations, the surgeon should immediately instruct the new personnel, and especially see to it that the men understand the use of gas masks, portable oxygen tanks, etc.

"At no time must the surgeon lose sight of the fact that he must try and keep his personnel intact. In trench warfare, especially, there are innumerable opportunities for useless wastage of personnel. Lack of familiarity with the terrain, an unguarded raising of the head, etc., will often suffice to reduce the personnel of the Medical Corps."

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INSURANCE TO BE CONTINUED

Camp Lewis Soldiers Will Have Benefits Kept in Force

CAMP LEWIS, TACOMA, Wash., May 9.—Camp Lewis soldiers were informed today that the government will keep in force any life insurance and fraternal benefit membership they may have as long as they are in the army or until the end of the war. Provision is made for this in the soldiers' and sailors' civil relief act recently passed by congress.

Upon application from the soldier the government will guarantee payment of any defaulted premiums on the insurance and any premium accruing while the soldier remains in the army during the war and the soldier is given one year from the date of his discharge to reimburse the government. Soldiers are entitled to benefits on their insurance up to \$5,000 provided one year's premiums have been paid. The camp war risk insurance officer has charge of the relief work and will assist those who desire relief and supply blank forms. It is explained that the new law has application to the government insurance but is an additional privilege.

Camp Lewis soldiers are to give their assistance to the campaign for Red Cross funds in the same manner they helped in the third liberty loan campaign. A memorandum issued today at headquarters said:

"The period from May 20 to 27 has been announced as a week's drive for the American Red Cross second war fund and it has been suggested that members of this command write relatives and friends exhorting them to contribute liberally to this worthy object. Your comrades in arms overseas are already benefitting largely by efforts of the Red Cross and you may be sharing in the same in the near future.

"A word from you on this matter is liable to carry considerable weight."

Dried cod fish is to be one of the delicacies for the mess halls of Camp Lewis soldiers. Cod fish balls and cod fish gray soup may be given a regular place on the weekly menu as the result of an order issued today placing dried cod fish on the compulsory issue of subsistence stores. They will be issued pro rata to all organizations not to exceed forty pounds, the order reads.

A demonstration in the new Browning automatic rifle will be given tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock at the extreme end of the target range. It will be in charge of Captain C. G. Howe, who is here giving instruction in the use of the rifle. All field and general officers will attend and such others as can be spared from their regular duties.

Delegates to the state convention of the Parent-Teachers' association in session at Tacoma will visit Camp Lewis tomorrow afternoon and after a tour of inspection will be entertained at a luncheon at the Y. W. C. A. hostess house.

Plans for the Y. W. C. A. callisthenics home to be erected near the

base hospital were received at camp today and approved and work will be started in about two weeks. It was announced by A. M. Grilley, acting general secretary. The building will be constructed directly in the rear of the center of the hospital and will be connected with the hospital by protected board walks or ambulators. The building and furnishings will cost \$75,000. J. S. Long of Seattle drew the plans and will have charge of the construction during the work at actual cost. Work will be started as soon as a small building can be moved from the site.

Farmers Urged Not To Hold Wheat for Seed

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Increased demands for flour overseas caused the food administration today to urge farmers not to hold wheat for seed except in a few states where the period of harvesting winter wheat overlaps the period of planting. In a statement it declared that while it had been the practice of farmers to save seed it is now deemed unwise, say as the outlook for this year's crop apparently assures all seed requirements for next year.

"Every carload, every bushel and every grain that can possibly leave the farm," the statement added, "within the next few months play an important part in our war program."

House to Take Up Overman Bill for Debate Monday

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Agreement to take up the Overman bill, giving the president authority to reorganize departments next Monday, was reached today in the house. There will be opposition and probably an extended debate, but the house leaders expect no such fight as that which held the measure up in the senate for many weeks.

Willamette Glee Club Praised at Woodburn

The Woodburn Independent says of the Willamette University Glee Club:

"The glee club consisted of seventeen young men whose voices blended very harmoniously, the 'Bugle Song' giving them an especial opportunity to show their splendid voices and club work. They were gracious in responding to the demand for encores. The excellent accompanist was Miss Allene Booth Dunbar, who also gave a vocal selection in a very sweet voice. The quartette's work was good, as was Harry Bowers' reading and the dialogue, 'Squirrel Food,' between Rosevelt Waits and Hefald Emmel. Archie H. Smith's solo was one of the best numbers on the program. Gus Anderson pleased the hearers with 'Impersonations.'"

Frank G. Goble Arrested on Charge of Non-Support

Frank G. Goble was arrested in Portland Wednesday night and brought here yesterday to answer to a non-support charge brought by his wife, Myrtle Goble, of Pratum. Goble was arrested on a non-support charge in 1913 on complaint of a former wife. Before the case came to trial Goble went to Montana where he was later convicted on a forgery charge and served sixteen months in the penitentiary. Upon being discharged from the Montana prison he returned to Oregon and married his second wife, who is now suing on allegation of non-support of herself and their 2-year-old child.

SALESGIRL NEXT VICTIM

STOCKTON, March 30.—Protests against the ineivility of salespeople in Berlin, which began to be heard two years ago, have multiplied so that organizations representing various branches of trade have issued a statement expressing regret and calling upon offenders to treat customers with courtesy.

A jest in a Berlin comic paper gives point to the situation. Several persons are discussing what they intend to do as soon as peace is declared. The last to tell how he intends to celebrate says:

"The minute I hear the war is over I'm going across to the shop where I buy my butter and wallop the salesgirl in the face."

TO CONFER IN ENGLAND

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, March 20.—The Prime Minister of New Zealand, William F. Massey, and the Minister for Finance Sir Joseph Ward are expected to leave the Dominion for England within a few weeks to participate in imperial deliberations in London concerning the war. It is probable that the New Zealanders will travel via Canada or the United States.

MISS WILSON'S BODY IS FOUND

Salem Woman Believed to Have Committed Suicide While in Portland

The body of Miss Nan Wilson, daughter of Mrs. Mary Wilson who lives near Salem, was found floating in the Willamette river in Portland yesterday forenoon. Mrs. Wilson was 35 years old. She disappeared several days ago and it is believed she ended her life purposely. She had been ill for some time.

Miss Wilson was staying at the home of George C. Gaston in Portland and started out to take a walk on the morning of her disappearance. Her mother was hopeful for several days that she would be found unharmed. Salem relatives left for Portland yesterday upon receiving news of the finding of the body. The funeral will be held at Dallas from the Chapman undertaking chapel this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

RODENTS HARM MANY SUPPLIES

Rats in England Injure Grain and Other Foodstuffs in Large Quantities

LONDON, April 14.—The yearly damage to food by rats in England alone, is estimated at \$200,000,000, according to a cautionary notice just issued to farmers by a government committee. The latter urges a ruthless offensive against the rat. It says in part:

"If your buildings, granaries, and barns, you have an underground enemy who destroys our food supplies almost as much as the submarine. The nation cannot afford to keep rats at a moment when every sack of wheat is urgently needed.

"In the rush of work on the farm, rats have been neglected and have multiplied. They breed faster than any other vermin. The rat will breed when four months old and have from three to five litters in a year. The average litter is ten, but as many as twenty-three have been found. At that rate of increase, you cannot go on feeding them. But unless you are prepared to feed them, it is an unneighborly act to keep them in all, for the moment you stint them of food, they will swarm over your neighbor's farm.

"At a moderate estimate, the English countryside is feeding one rat per head of the total population of these islands, and ten rats will eat apart from what they spoil, as much grain as you and your wife consume. Save the English harvest of 1918 for yourselves and don't waste it on rats.

"What are you to do? Keep your grain protected and make the fullest use of traps, snares, ferrets and dogs. Barn owls are among the best friends. Close rat holes with concrete and glass. Organize rat hunts and encourage rat-catching on your farms by giving some small reward. Hunt your hedge-rows with dogs and ferrets. Get your neighbors to do the same.

"We cannot afford to feed the rats. We cannot raise too much grain, in fact we can hardly hope to have enough to feed ourselves."

HAIRPIN SUPPLY SHORT

LONDON, April 15.—Only a three month's supply of hairpins remains in this country, and the ministry of munitions announces that no more wire will be allotted to the manufacturers for this purpose. The wire hairpin must go, and after the three months' supply is exhausted a substitute will have to be found.

WILL NOT FINISH COLLEGE

ROME, April 30.—The Methodist college for the education of Italian young men, to be located on Monte Mario, a hill on the outskirts of Rome overlooking the Vatican Palace and St. Peter's Church, will not be finished until after the war, according to Bishop William F. Anderson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who has been here inspecting the work of the Methodist college at Jerusalem would be extended after the war, now that it was no longer in the hands of the Turks.

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