

TRAINING THE OFFICERS WHO WILL COMMAND UNCLE SAM'S NEW ARMIES

Thirty-Five Thousand Bright, Earnest Young Americans Assemble at Fourteen Camps Scattered About the Country to Be Drilled in the Science of War—Picked for Mental and Physical Qualities.

Washington.—Thirty-five thousand bright, energetic, earnest young Americans are assembling at 14 camps, scattered throughout the country, to form the nucleus of Uncle Sam's new armies.

From them will be chosen three months hence the 10,000 subalterns needed for the first army increment of 500,000, who will begin training about the first of August.

The war department called for the "most experienced natural leaders the country possesses" to fill the officers' training camps, and high military officials here agreed as to the fine caliber of the material obtained.

Every one of the 35,000, besides passing a rigid physical examination, is either a college graduate or has had a business career indicating his special intelligence, personality and capacity for organization and inspiring leadership.

The 35,000 themselves are picked men. Even of those who passed the requirements only a part, those deemed most promising, can be accommodated in the camps. And when it is considered that only two out of every seven men attending the camps will be assigned a post in the new armies at the close of the three months' grueling study and drill, it is obvious no drones, so "boneheads" and no weaklings physically, mentally or morally, should get the coveted assignments.

But those who failed to obtain entrance to a camp, or who are not chosen at the end of the first three months need not give up hope of serving their country as officers. Another set of camps, probably larger than the first, will immediately follow these, and the facilities for turning out leaders for the new troops will be expanded as America gradually develops the full force of her power.

Have an Advantage.

Many of the young fellows now at the mobilization points already have commissions in the officers' reserve corps, others have had good records in the National Guard or other military organizations, or school training for war work. These men have an advantage over the rest, for no one is barred from the camps by entire lack of direct military experience. The more experienced, however, are most likely to get their commissions first. The rest may attend a second or even a third camp and then be drafted into the new armies.

Training in the camps will be intensive as possible, but will be severely handicapped by a lack of suitable instructors. Officers of the British and French armies, some of them wounded, have been coming back from the western battle front in the last few weeks and it is expected the small corps of regular army instructors at each camp will be materially assisted by these veterans, who are fresh from the most awful struggle in history.

The eyes of the whole nation will be on these camps, a unique establishment in American history. Every town and almost every village has furnished a camp member, and his career will be closely watched by his friends and relatives.

The best account of how the camps will be conducted is given in an order issued by the adjutant general, at Washington, brigadier general H. B. McCain. The details will have to be worked out at each camp and it will be a strenuous business, for minutes count. General McCain says:

"During the first month of the camp those in attendance will be divided into 15 companies, regardless of the arm of the service for which the individuals are destined. During this month the qualifications of each man will be studied, with a view to assigning the necessary numbers for further instruction in the separate arms of the service.

"At the end of the first month men will be reassigned in due proportion so as to form nine infantry companies, three batteries of artillery, two troops of cavalry and one company of engineers. Other men who will have been selected for the coast artillery will proceed to Fort Monroe, Va., or Fort Winfield Scott, Cal., for the remainder of their training. Those who remain at the division camps will receive two months' training after the reassignment mentioned above.

"At the end of the whole period the regular army officer in charge will select from each company, troop and battery the officers for one regiment of the corresponding arm. Thus we shall have carefully selected officers for sixteen infantry divisions and two cavalry divisions by the time that the supply departments can furnish equipment for these troops and by the time the necessary machinery can be put in motion for procuring the enlisted men.

"Each company, troop and battery must furnish approximately 45 officers. Those who are not selected for immediate use will nevertheless be commissioned in the officers' reserve corps, if found to be competent, and will be available for use in connection with any additional force that may be authorized.

"The total number of officers required for the 16 infantry divisions and the two cavalry divisions is approximately 10,000. These should be preferably mature men and the most experienced natural leaders that the country possesses. It is recognized that there are thousands of men throughout the country between the ages of twenty-one and forty-four who have had more or less military experience, either in the regular army or National Guard or at military schools. With the basic experience supplemented by natural aptitude for handling men as demonstrated in business or otherwise, a splendid corps of 10,000 reserve officers should be available by the middle of July.

"It is necessary that 'the first ten thousand' should be the best that the country has. In planning our military forces we must assume that the war is by no means drawing to a close, and that the country must expand its military forces as rapidly and effectively as the resources of the country permit. The 16 infantry divisions and two cavalry divisions aggregate approximately half a million men. The officers of these forces must receive substantial promotion to meet the demands of forces to be raised later. It is conceivable that many men who are appointed in 'the first ten thousand' must be promoted one grade with each successive addition to our military force. For this reason the war department hopes that mature men will seek appointment in 'the first ten thousand'.

"Other similar camps must follow this first camp. Young men must be admitted to the first camp, but not to the exclusion of maturer men. In the second and following camps young men will predominate.

"In making provision for instructors

at these training camps the resources of the war department have been taxed to the utmost. The number of instructors is not nearly as great as it should be, but it is hoped and believed that many reserve officers and candidates for appointment as such who would be in attendance at those camps will have special qualifications to teach certain subjects and in this way will be of material assistance to the regular army officers. This depends so much upon the personnel of each instruction company that the matter must be regulated by the regular army officers in charge of each company.

Book Will Be Furnished.

"The outline of the entire course of instruction will be prepared in the war department and furnished to the commanding officers of the camps.

"Books, maps and printed matter in general will be furnished by the government. Those who attend the camps should bring whatever books they possess, but the authorized and necessary books for individuals will be furnished on arrival in camp.

"The minimum age of those who attend is twenty years and nine months. This enables the war department to appoint suitable young men who are twenty-one years of age at the end of the training period. The maximum age is forty-four years. It is expected that students at colleges who are members of the Reserve Officers' Training corps and who are especially fitted to become members of the 'first ten thousand' will be selected by the regular army officer on duty at the college and admitted to these camps. Such students should preferably go to the camp that pertains to their home states. It is believed that colleges in general will graduate seniors who attend these camps."

SPEAKS GERMAN ONLY, GIVES SON TO NAVY

Yoakum, Tex.—Naval recruiting officers here were forced to look for an interpreter when G. Holmeg of Shiner personally brought in his seventeen-year-old son, Otto, for enlistment in the navy.

Holmeg, a farmer, was born in Germany and cannot speak the English language. Through the interpreter he said: "Please accept my son. It is my offering to America."

TESTS RECRUITS WITH FISTS

Tom Riley Made Sure That the Men He Recommended Were Real Fighters.

Chicago.—Tom Riley of West Fifteenth street was told at the recruiting station that he was too old to fight, although he begged for an opportunity to enlist.

"I guess I'm too old to fight," he said as he twisted his gnarled and bony hands, "but mayhap I can send ye some likely lads. When they come in, cap, and tell ye they're from Tom Riley, take me word they'll be all right."

This was one day last week. Since then more than 25 huskies have come in, saying they were "recruited" by Tom Riley. Barring black eyes and bruised faces, they were ideal recruits and were gladly accepted.

Old Tom himself appeared again at the station, and was informed that all of his recruits had been accepted. The sergeant in charge desired to know why all of them bore marks of having been thoroughly manhandled. Old Tom chuckled and rubbed his hands.

"Tis a little way of me own," he confided. "I knew ye wanted good, two-handed scrappers, and I went about the streets lookin' for them. I engaged in a thrille of an argument wid every wan of them, to make sure they was scrappers. Afther it was over I sint them in."

ICE CREAM MAKERS RAP LAW

Protest Against Provision Requiring 14 Per Cent Butterfat.

Ice cream makers of the Northwest at a conference at Spokane with E. F. Benson, commissioner of agriculture, entered a vigorous protest against enforcing the law passed by the last legislature regarding butter fat content for ice cream.

The law provides that the commissioner shall enforce a standard not below that of the Federal department of Agriculture's regulations regarding foods. It was contended that the state law reads that the state authorities shall follow the Federal standard.

The Federal standard calls for 14 per cent butter fat. The ice cream men contend that the government never has enforced the 14 per cent standard, because it was found unwise to do so. It was said by several speakers that 8 to 10 per cent butter fat gave a better quality of ice cream than the higher standard.

Farmer Operates Tractor He Invented.

Winlock—A tractor designed especially for use on the Pacific Coast, where the excessive rains make all other types useless except in dry weather and dry ground, has just been completed and a patent obtained for it by Henry Korevaar. Mr. Korevaar, who is a prominent farmer living on Cowlitz Prairie, has a full sized working model in operation on his farm. The motive power is supplied by an eight-horsepower gasoline engine. It has a harrow attachment behind, which cuts out the necessity of a second operation for harrowing, and will plow a 17-inch furrow eight to nine inches deep. The tractor can be manufactured in normal times for about \$350 and weighs about 1400 pounds.

Hog Cholera Found On Tieton.

North Yakima—A case of hog cholera was discovered on the Tieton recently and steps are being taken by R. P. Bean, agriculturist for the project, to check the spread of the disease. The stock belongs to M. U. Brady, who is a tenant on the Thomas Fear place on the north end of the project. Two shoats out of a herd of 20 have died. There was cholera on the same place two years ago. Vaccine has been ordered and will be administered as soon as it arrives.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Coos Bay again is threatened with an invasion by I. W. W. and prompt measures are being taken to prevent the organization obtaining a foothold there.

The referendum petition directed against the Gill bill of the last legislative session has been filed with Secretary of State Olcott by the Clackamas Fishermen's union. The petition contains 16,160 names.

E. B. MacNaughton, an architect of Portland, has been named by Governor Withycombe as a member of the Industrial Welfare Commission to succeed Father E. V. O'Hara, of Portland, who has submitted his resignation. The appointment becomes effective June 1.

The State Highway commission will hold a joint session on June 1 at Fossil with the Wheeler County court and award a contract for six miles of improvements between Fossil and the Wheeler County line on the John Day highway. It is expected the improvement will cost about \$10,000.

The past week has seen several mad dogs in Lakeview, and it is feared that an epidemic is about to break out. A dog belonging to F. M. Duke went mad a short time ago and had to be killed. It is feared that this dog ran at large during one night and infected a number of dogs throughout the town.

Bids for contracts for paving the Siskiyou Highway from the summit of the mountain to the California line are to be advertised for at Ashland, according to State Highway Engineer Nunn, who is in the valley to attend the tri-state good roads meeting. Work is to be started immediately and finished this summer if the money holds out, according to Mr. Nunn.

Governor Withycombe has appointed the men who will serve on the State Lime board under the provisions of chapter 397, enacted at the last session of the legislature. The appointees are: Benton Bowers, Ashland, recommended by the Taxpayers' League; B. G. Leedy, Corvallis, recommended by the State Grange; John Simanek, Crabtree, recommended by the Farmers' union.

With the business streets of Roseburg gaily decorated with carnival colors and patriotic emblems, the citizens entertained several thousand people at the festivities attendant on the opening of the Ninth Annual Strawberry Festival Thursday. Although a "strawberryless" Strawberry Festival, there was no lack of enthusiasm on the part of the visitors, and the first day's program was pronounced the best ever witnessed in Roseburg.

A number of farmers are making application to come under the Workmen's Compensation act, since the recent ruling of the Supreme court, which declared farm hands were protected under the Employers' Liability act when engaged in hazardous occupations. At the present time, a statement issued by the commission recently says, an average of 11 employers are daily bringing their operations under the act, and during the last 20 days 215 additional employers have been listed.

Jacob Trott, of Echo, who was seriously burned Wednesday while starting a gasoline engine, died from the burns at a Pendleton hospital.

Damage from the cloudburst at Heppner probably will reach \$100,000. Crops, roads, bridges and fences are ruined, and wires are down. Some stock was killed.

Though the weather has been showery, the majority of the farmers of the Gaston section have taken advantage of every available moment to get their plowing done and get their grain crops in. There is no scarcity of help so far, and plans for a larger acreage than usual are going forward.

The stigma of "deserter" will be removed from the National Guard records of Carl von der Ahe and Arthur Lofts, the Hood River young men who recently were posted as deserters when they left the Twelfth company, Oregon Coast Artillery, and enlisted in the navy without first having obtained their discharges from the Twelfth company.

Crumbling like tinder when the abutments gave way, the county bridge at Island City, three miles from La Grande, dropped into the Grand Ronde river Monday, and now rests on the bottom of the turbulent stream. Some estimates place the total land under water in the Grand Ronde valley following the recent high floods and present inundation at 20,000 acres.

A box factory and sawmill located on Neil creek, seven miles south of Ashland, formerly operated by the Ashland Manufacturing company, but which have been in the hands of the First National Bank of Ashland for the past year, have been sold to a group of Los Angeles capitalists, who expect to have 100 men at work in the woods and at the mills inside of 30 days.

SPEEDING UP NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITING



Officers of a National Guard regiment enrolling new members as the regiment mobilizes in response to the president's call.