

U. S. HAS 2 MILLION MEN UNDER ARMS

1316 Airplanes Now on Battle Front—Many at Home.

TROOPS POUR ACROSS

Over 200,000 Will Arrive in France in Course of Present Month—Huge Army Budget is Reported.

Washington, D. C. — The full strength of the army, including National Army, National Guard and regulars, is now 2,000,000 men, chairman Dent, of the house military committee, announced Monday in his report on the army appropriation bill.

The total number of officers in the army was given in the report at 140,133, while the total of men before the April draft was 1,506,152. The drafts since that time carry the total of enlisted men slightly above 2,000,000. There are 504,667 men in the regular army, the report said, 510,963 in the National Army; 411,952 in the National Guard, and 78,560 in the Reserve Corps.

"While some mistakes and delays have occurred," the report said, "on the whole we think the country is to be congratulated that after a little more than a year from the date of the declaration of war our country has constructed a wonderful military establishment."

"While it has been generally rumored that we had no airships with our army in France, the fact is that we have between 1300 and 1400 of them, at least 200 of which are fighting machines," the report says.

The report of the committee disclosed that the exact number of American airplanes in France is 1316, of which 325 are combat planes. There are 3760 planes in the United States, the report said.

More than 200,000 Americans will be sent abroad during May, and that number probably will be much exceeded next month, members of the senate military committee were told that at their weekly conference with Secretary Baker and his assistants.

RAISE VOLUNTEER AGE LIMIT

Secretary Drafts Bill Which Will Open Army to Men of 55.

Washington, D. C. — Another move toward full utilization of the country's man power was made Saturday when Secretary Baker sent to congress the draft of a bill proposing to raise the maximum age limit for voluntary enlistment in the army from 40 to 55 years. All men over 40 so enlisted would be assigned to non-combatant service.

In a letter to Speaker Clark asking that the bill be pushed, Secretary Baker said:

"Every man above the age of 40 years who is enlisted in non-combatant branches of the service will make available for duty with the line troops a man within the prescribed age limit for all troops.

"Many men whose long experience as mechanics and artisans will make them particularly valuable to the various staff corps and departments may be thus secured instead of younger men without such experience and the efficiency of the staff corps and the departments thus will be increased."

There are probably 7,500,000 men between the ages of 40 and 55 and many thousands of them have already attested desire to serve by bombarding the department with applications.

While the great majority of the men in this class undoubtedly will be restrained from enlisting by family and business ties, the number at liberty to join the colors is expected to be more than sufficient to meet the purpose in view.

Staff corps positions include many duties behind the front. Every headquarters unit includes a number of positions for which the older men would be just as well suited as the present occupants, who, under the new plan, would be released for line duty.

Drafter's Father in Jail.

Salem, Or.—Charged with offering a bribe to Sheriff Needham, of this county, to arrange matters so that his son might have his draft call delayed, L. P. Laidon, a farmer of Pratum, is in the county jail awaiting arrival of a federal officer. Sheriff Needham asserts Laidon said he would give him \$50 to arrange the matter. Needham took Laidon before District Attorney Gehlar, to whom he is said to have admitted the attempt to bribe the sheriff.

56 U. S. BOYS ARE MISSING

British Transport Moldavia Sunk by Enemy Submarine.

The British mercantile cruiser Moldavia, carrying American troops from America to Europe, has been torpedoed and 56 American soldiers are reported missing. The liner was sunk Thursday morning, according to an official statement by the British admiralty.

The Moldavia is the third transport carrying American troops to be torpedoed and the 15th troop ship sunk by the Germans.

That German submarines are operating off the South coast of Ireland is evidenced by the sinking of the steamer Inniscarra of Cork, with loss of life.

David Lloyd George, speaking at Edinburgh, said that the submarine is still unconquered, but that it is no longer a vital menace to the entente allies. He said that the U-boats are being destroyed faster than they can be built by Germany, while the allies are building ships faster than the submarines are sinking them.

London — The British armed merchant troop ship Moldavia, with American troops on board, has been torpedoed and sunk, according to an official bulletin issued by the admiralty.

The text of the admiralty statement follows:

"The armed mercantile cruiser Moldavia was torpedoed and sunk Saturday morning.

"There were no casualties among the crew, but of the American troops on board 56 up to the present have not been accounted for. It is feared they were killed in one compartment by the explosion."

MEXICO AND CUBA SEVER RELATIONS

Ministers Are Recalled From Various Posts—Washington Sees Indirect Aggression Towards U. S.

Mexico City — Mexico has severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.

This was learned officially late Saturday after a report that Mexican Charge d'Affaires at Havana and the Cuban minister here had been recalled from their respective posts had been confirmed at the foreign office.

Washington, D. C. — In Mexico's sudden breaking off of diplomatic relations with Cuba is seen an indirect action against the United States.

Those here most familiar with Latin-American affairs profess to see in it the forerunner of more direct action, possibly an interruption of intercourse between the United States and Mexico.

Although without official information of a detailed character, it is understood here that Mexico's real grievance against Cuba is the recent incident in which the Mexican minister to Argentina, Senor Ysidor Fabela, was delayed in Havana while some official, ostensibly a Cuban customs inspector, searched his baggage and probably removed some papers said to be of an international character.

This incident is believed here to be the real cause of the break and those who entertain this belief are firm in the conviction that Mexico was convinced that the United States was responsible for the incident.

When Senor Fabela's luggage was searched it was maintained by some that the person who did it was not a Cuban official at all, but some other agent in disguise of a Cuban inspector or gendarme. Later, however, it is seemed to have been satisfactorily established that the man really was a Cuban inspector.

A break between Cuba and Mexico, it is felt, disrupts practically nothing but a long-standing friendly relation.

In the opinion of those in close touch with the subject it may actually give Cuba a free hand, as the Mexican foreign minister says in its announcement, but perhaps not in the manner suggested.

American agents for some time have been reporting German agents operating in Cuba, some of them crossing frequently to the United States as Cuban citizens or Mexican citizens. A severance of diplomatic relations probably would leave the Cuban government feeling more at liberty to investigate their activities.

Noted Tenor Passes Away.

Akron, Ohio. — Evan H. Williams, noted tenor, died Saturday morning at the city hospital after an illness of one week. The death of Mr. Williams means the passing of a national figure in the musical world. Recently his work has been among the soldiers, who will remember him for the way he sang "Tim Rooney's at the Fightin'." Mr. Williams was born September 7, 1867, at Mission Ridge, and lived in Akron most of his life.

ROADS GET BIG SUMS

Money Will Be Spent This Year for Additions, Equipment and Betterment on All Lines.

Washington, D. C. — Railroads under government operation this year will spend nearly \$1,000,000,000 for additions, betterments and equipment, or approximately three times as much as in any one of the last three years.

Total capital expenditures approved by the railroad administration as announced Wednesday are \$937,961,318. Of this big sum \$440,071,000 will be spent for additions and betterments, such as stations and other property improvements; \$479,686,000 for equipment — cars and locomotives already ordered through the railroad administration; and \$18,203,000 for track extensions.

The figures disclose Director General McAdoo's determination to let the railroads make many improvements which they had neglected during the last three years, and postponing all possible projects requiring big expenditures. It also is shown that the railroad administration is not encouraging many extensions of lines during the war emergency, and in some cases projects already under way have been discontinued.

The railroad administration eliminated \$349,247,000, or nearly one-fourth of the proposals. In paring down the budget to this extent the administration made it plain that most of its decisions are tentative.

In general, the eastern trunk lines were given generous sums for improvements and equipment, to enable them better to handle the great flood of traffic to the Atlantic seaboard for movement to Europe. Part of the capital necessary will be supplied by the government, from the \$500,000,000 revolving fund of the railroad administration, although advances will be repaid eventually by the individual railroads. Wherever possible, railroads will finance their own enterprises, but the railroad administration may buy the bonds or other securities issued.

Examination of the roads' budgets had been directed by Robert S. Lovett, chief of the railroad administration's division of capital expenditures, and John Skelton Williams, director of finance and purchases.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Wheat—Bulk basis for No. 1 grade: Hard white, \$2.05. Soft white, \$2.03. White club, \$2.01. Red Walla, \$1.98. No. 2 grade, 3c less; No. 3 grade, 6c less. Other grades handled by sample.

Flour—Patents, \$10 per barrel; whole wheat, \$9.60; graham, \$9.20; barley flour, \$14.50@15.00; rye flour, \$10.75@12.75; corn meal, white, \$6.50; yellow, \$6.25 per barrel.

Millfeed—Net mill prices, car lots: Bran, \$30.00 per ton; shorts, \$32; middlings, \$39; mixed cars and less than carloads, 50c more; rolled barley, \$75@76; rolled oats, \$73.

Corn—Whole, \$77 per ton; cracked, \$78.

Hay—Buying prices, delivered: Eastern Oregon timothy, \$29@30 per ton; valley timothy, \$25@26; alfalfa, \$24@24.50; valley grain hay, \$22; clover, \$19@20.00; straw, \$9.00@10.

Butter—Cubes, extras, 37c; prime firsts, 37c; prints, extras, 42c; cartons, 1c extra; butterfat, No. 1, 41c delivered.

Eggs—Ranch, current receipts, 34c; candled, 35c; select, 36c per dozen. Poultry—Hens, 27c; broilers, 40c; ducks, 32c; geese, 20c; turkeys, live, 26@27c; dressed, 37c per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 18½@19c.

Pork—Fancy, 23@23½c per pound. Sack Vegetables—Carrots, \$1.15 per sack; turnips, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1.25; beets, \$2.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 75c@ \$1 per hundred; new California, 10c per pound; sweet potatoes, 10c per pound.

Onions—Jobbing prices, 1@1½c per pound.

Cattle— May 25, 1918. Prime steers, \$13.00@14.00. Good to choice steers, 11.50@12.50. Medium to good steers, 10.00@11.00. Fair to medium steers, 8.50@9.50. Common to fair steers, 8.00@9.00. Choice cows and heifers, 10.00@11.00. Com. to good cows and hfs, 6.50@8.00. Canners, 3.00@5.00. Bulls, 6.50@10.00. Calves, 8.50@12.00. Stockers and feeders, 8.00@10.00.

Hogs— Prime mixed, \$17.40@17.50. Medium mixed, 17.15@17.35. Rough heavies, 16.15@16.35. Pigs, 15.00@16.00. Bulk, 17.35.

Sheep— Prime spring lambs, \$17.00@17.50. Heavy lambs, 16.50@17.00. Yearlings, 12.50@13.00. Wethers, 11.50@12.00. Ewes, 10.00@10.50.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

The two alleged slackers who were arrested recently on board the motor schooner Evelyn, at Astoria, have been released and allowed to rejoin the vessel on signing their questionnaires.

John Adams, former student at the Chemawa Indian school, who was reported as killed in a recent casualty list from France, is alive. A letter from him has been received by friends.

L. P. Branstetter, of Coquille, is expected home from California soon with two trainloads of Hereford cattle to stock a large ranch on the Coquille river, within a few miles of the county seat.

At a meeting of the city council Friday night Dr. Clara Dunn was named city health officer for Medford. This is the first time a woman physician has held the position since it was created many years ago.

The Intercollegiate Prohibition association of Willamette university elected officers Tuesday noon for the coming year. The newly elected officers are: Fred McGrew, president; Faye Bolin, vice president; Myrtle Mason, secretary; Ralph Thomas, treasurer, and Evadne McCully, reporter.

Arthur S. Benson, clerk of the Supreme court, announced Friday that the case of the city of Portland against the Oregon public service commission, known as the 6-cent fare case, has been set for hearing June 18. The city's brief has been filed and the brief of the state will be filed in a few days.

Dwight Wilson, of The Dalles, who was recently elected president of the student body at the University of Oregon, was drafted Saturday at Eugene. Wilson is a prominent member of the junior class. He played end on the football team last fall and guard on the basketball five during the past season.

Mrs. Lillie R. Trumbull, of Portland, was this week reappointed by Governor Withycombe to membership on the state board of child labor inspectors to serve five years. The other members of the board are Stephen G. Smith, Portland; Mrs. Sarah A. Evans, Portland, and Miss Pauline Kline, Corvallis.

Deschutes county remains as a valid political entity of the state, and the opinion to that effect is affirmed in an opinion of the Supreme court Wednesday, written by Justice Burnett. Alleged irregularities in the election held in Crook county in November, 1916, to determine whether Deschutes county should be carved out of Crook resulted in the proceeding decided.

The department of Labor, United States employment service, has opened an employment office in Medford, under the supervision of M. S. Jaynes, a local rancher. The business of this bureau will be to assist in every way possible local orchardists, ranchmen and stockraisers. All able-bodied persons, male and female, not usefully employed, are requested to register at this bureau.

The case of State vs. Jess Fox, Harry Martin and Elmer D. Paine has been set for trial in the Lane county circuit court during the term beginning June 3. The defendants are charged with burning a warehouse at Coburg belonging to the Eugene Mill & Elevator company for the purpose of defrauding insurance companies. The building was destroyed together with 4000 sacks of potatoes last February.

Lawrence Middleton, aged 20, was instantly killed when the work truck he was driving was struck by a passenger train at a crossing about a mile west of Merlin. Jack Beears, aged 9, who was riding with Middleton, was badly hurt, but it is believed he will recover.

A man named Coon, said to live at The Dalles, was drowned a few days ago in Snake river, below Huntington. With his brother, E. R. Coon, a rancher, with whom he was visiting, and John Tucker, he was fishing, their boat being tied to a cable running across the river. The boat was overturned by the swift current. The other two men managed to reach a small island whence they were rescued by witnesses of the drowning, but the victim's body was carried down the river and has not been recovered.

According to farmers near Brownsville, grain suffers more from aphids than ever before. Not content with having half ruined many a likely-looking war garden, the little green crawlers have also been busily devouring the fields of vetch, and several farmers in that community report that their vetch crop is a total loss. What is more serious, they are now said to be attacking the grain itself in widely separated localities. In Brownsville every gardener is busy with spray pump and lime cup trying to save his peas and beans. Even the grass in the streets and alleys is covered with aphids.

WORK OR FIGHT, IS LATEST WAR EDICT

All Men Within Draft Age Must Serve Somehow.

NEW CALL IS ISSUED

July 1 Date of Enforcement of New Order—Many Lines of Non-Useful Occupations Are Affected.

Washington, D. C. — Every man of draft age must work or fight after July 1, under a drastic amendment to the selective service regulations announced Friday by Provost Marshal General Crowder. Not only idlers but all draft registrants engaged in what are held to be non-useful occupations are to be haled before local boards and given the choice of a new job or the army.

Gamblers, race track and bucket shop attendants and fortune telling head the list, but those who will be reached by the new regulations also include waiters and bartenders, theater ushers and attendants, passenger elevator operators and other attendants of clubs, hotels, stores, etc., domestics and clerks in stores.

Deferred classification granted on account of dependents will be disregarded entirely in applying the rule.

A man may be at the bottom of class 1 or even in class 4, but if he falls within the regulations and refuse to take useful employment he will be given a new number in class 1 that will send him into the military service forthwith. Local boards are authorized to use discretion only where they find that enforced change of employment would result in disproportionate hardship upon his dependents.

It has been known for some time that some form of "work or fight" plan had been submitted to President Wilson, but there had been no intimation that it was so far-reaching in scope. Both military authorities and department of labor officials believe that it will go a long way toward solving the labor problem for farmers, shipbuilders and munition makers and will end for the present at least talk of conscription of labor. The announcement today gives notice significantly that the list of non-useful occupations will be extended from time to time as necessity requires.

Provost Marshal General Crowder's new regulations may require professional baseball players either to engage in some useful occupation or to join the army.

Baseball players, as well as jockeys, professional golfers and other professional sportsmen, General Crowder said, will be affected by the regulations if strictly enforced. General Crowder said he did not desire to make specific rulings at this time and would make rulings only when cases come to him from local boards after July 1.

Theatrical performers were exempted from the regulations at the direction of Secretary of War Baker, who is said to feel that the people cannot do without all amusement in war time.

WORKERS WAIVE HOLIDAYS

Portland Shipbuilders Offer Recreation Hours to Government.

Washington, D. C. — The customary Saturday half-holiday during the months of June, July and August has been waived by unanimous vote of the Portland, Or., Metal Trades Council in order to speed the work of building ships. The men agreed to take straight pay instead of time and a half for holiday work if necessary.

Notification of the council's action, telegraphed Friday to the shipping board, resulted in the adoption of a resolution thanking the representatives of organized labor for their patriotic and co-operative spirit.

If labor councils in other cities should follow the example set in Portland, the result would mean the addition of many ships to the board's building program. As more than 300,000 men are now employed in American shipyards, the total result of their labor for even half a day is enormous.

Woman to Rush Campaign.

Reno, Nev. — Miss Anne Martin, candidate for the United States senate from Nevada, has resigned as chairman of the National Woman's party in order to center her attention on her campaign, it was announced here Saturday.

Two thousand names have been secured for Miss Martin's nomination petition. Three thousand, three hundred names are necessary for her nomination.