

Our Army and What it Costs

Most People Figure Expansion Much Less and Cost Much Greater Than Facts Warrant

Most people understand that the United States army has been tremendously expanded in the year America has been at war. All have seen the army grow, in one sense—they have watched the men go away, have written letters and sent packages to the boys.

Few realize, however, that the army has increased 700 per cent, in round numbers, in that one year. Official figures from Washington show that it has.

When America entered the war on April 6, 1917, the total strength of all branches of the service (Regular army, National Guard and reserves) was 212,034—9,524 officers and 202,510 men.

On April 6, 1918, the grand total strength of the American army (all branches) was 1,652,725—123,801 officers and 1,528,924 men.

The detailed figures of the old and the new armies, which are worth preserving, are as follows:

	April, 1917		April, 1918	
	Officers	Men	Officers	Men
Regular army	5,971	121,797	10,698	503,142
National Guard	3,733	76,713	16,893	431,583
Reserve corps (in service)	0	4,000	96,210	77,360
National army	0	0	0	516,839

Total 9,524 202,510 123,801 1,528,924

The cost of the army during the first year of the war is a thing that is generally overestimated. People are prone to think of the billions that have been appropriated instead of the actual amounts that have been expended.

Official figures from Washington show that the total expenditures on the army for the year America has been in the war—including everything from new cantonments to shoe laces and a good many things not properly chargeable to the war—were \$3,006,761,907.15.

That sum does not include, of course, the obligations of the war department—contracts made for the billions of dollars' worth of supplies that will be furnished this year; it is the sum actually paid out for materials already delivered and pay for the time they have already served. There are included river and harbor and civil establishment expenditures that would have been made had there been no war. The detailed official figures of war department appropriations and expenditures for the year are as follows:

Civil establishment	\$ 16,295,143.00
Military establishment	7,413,835,463.48
Rivers and harbors	34,731,150.00

Total \$7,464,771,756.48

Withdrawals from the treasury have been made under these appropriations during the period from June 15, 1917, to March 9, 1918, as follows:

Civil establishment	\$ 6,517,918.70
Military establishment	2,891,606,885.85
Rivers and harbors	18,637,102.60

\$3,006,761,907.15

Manager George Stallings Is in the Game Heart and Soul on the Ball Diamond

Fred Mitchell, manager of the Chicago Cubs, delights to tell stories of his former boss, Miracle Man Stallings.



George T. Stallings.

of the Braves. When Mitch was Stallings' assistant in Boston he had many a run-in with the manager, and he admits now that Stallings thinks more of a man who will answer him back on occasion.

Stallings is a firebrand in baseball; never laughs, rarely smiles, doesn't jest, and roasts the daylight out of a man who makes a slip. He is also a nervous person, and becomes enraptured on the bench while he is watching a game, and plays the whole contest over, solo, as he sits on the players' coop.

Stallings is merciless in calling down a player and criticizing his work.

"A fellow made a bobble once while Stallings was watching from the bench," said Mitchell. "Look at that boob," said Stallings. "What a bonehead! No, he isn't a bonehead; his head is made of Krupp steel."

Six Thousand Words a Minute By New High-Speed Telegraphy

A seven-league stride has recently been made in high-speed telegraphy. An apparatus which in actual tests has proved its ability to transmit over a single grounded wire 6,000 words a minute has been evolved. The real significance of this escapes one

until it is realized that 6,000 words set in type will fill seven and a half standard magazine pages. Details of what appears to be an epoch-making achievement must be withheld for military reasons. It is a war invention and has for its chief purpose the liberation of hundreds of expert operators for the signal corps without disturbing our much-needed commercial lines. No secret is divulged, however, when the apparatus is described as a printing telegraph system, depending upon a universally used recording instrument that has never before been associated with telegraphy. Messages are handled in any language or cipher with equal facility and rapidity.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

England to Grow Sunflowers.

The production of sunflowers is being encouraged in England. The ministry of food and production department has issued instructions on how to grow sunflowers and advises all persons to grow them, explaining that the seed is rich in oil and makes an excellent chicken food.

HAVE A LAUGH

His Temptation.

"I hope my husband won't get involved into any games with those card sharks."

"Oh, he'll know when they are trying to cheat him."

"I'm not afraid of that, but you know, he's a sharpshooter."

A Victim of Fate.

"When I began business," said plutocrat wearily. "I made a solemn vow that when I had made an even million I would quit."

"But you've made that many times over," said the other man, "and still you are accumulating."

"That's the curse of it. Whenever I think I've made an even million I find on figuring it up it's either a little more or a little less, and I've got to renew the heart-breaking struggle."

And the unfortunate man sighed heavily.

Of Course Not.

"Why am I rejected?" asked the applicant for military service.

"Weak heart," replied the examining surgeon.

"Weak heart?" retorted the youth.

No Established Wheatless Days, but Pound and Half Should Be the Very Limit

The United States food administration has made wheatless days and wheatless meals optional in private homes. But that does not mean the lid has been taken off. It only means that the question of which day or meal shall be wheatless is left to the individual household.

In other words, the food administration has made the reduction of wheat consumption a test of good citizenship. Each citizen in the land is asked, as a good American, to cut his individual wheat consumption to a pound and a half a week. That means to cut the ordinary, peace-time consumption in two. It doesn't matter on what day or what meals that is done, just so it is done. In that regard the food administration says:

"In making optional the observance of wheatless days in private homes the food administration lifted no restrictions upon the consumption of wheat products. It is merely asking the American people to reduce their per capita consumption to not more than 1½ pounds per week."

"This is an absolute military necessity. The method of saving is being left entirely to the individual. If it can be done without foregoing the use of wheat at any specified meal or on any day, the food administration's urgent plea for further conservation will be carried out to the letter."

PLAN AHEAD FOR BETTER POULTRY

One must plan ahead in order to be successful in any line of endeavor. Poultry keeping is no exception, writes an authority. If you do not have the breeding birds you need for the season of 1918, now is a good time to get them. There is a country-wide scarcity of good birds for breeding purposes, and one must expect to pay somewhat higher prices than in past years. It will not pay to get inferior birds in order to save a little of the purchase price.

If you are just starting, or if you want new blood, you can buy either stock or eggs for hatching. Men are more likely to buy stock because they do not usually handle eggs so carefully as women and also because usually they have more money to spend. To buy stock is the safer plan, of course, and on the whole is better, but it costs more money. For both stock and eggs prices are high and will continue so. One cannot expect to buy eggs for hatching in 1918 in quantities, at \$5 per hundred. Such low prices are now absurd for eggs from stock of any decent quality at all.

Most poultry breeders, except those who have a large number of birds of superior quality, are compelled to replenish their flock with new blood almost every year. Our flocks either go up or go down. Just because prices are higher than normal we must be careful to get good quality in what we buy. This is a time when poor stuff will not pay. There never was a time when it was so true that "the best is none too good." It does not pay to keep inferior fowls now.

"If I had a weak heart do you think I'd want to go into this kind of a war?"

Early Crop.

"So you own a good many suburban houses and small farms. Live on any of them?"

"No."

"Then you don't raise anything yourself."

"Oh, yes; every spring I raise rents."

Mental Industry.

"It's wrong to say I don't work, mister," said Plodding Pete.

"What work do you do?"

"Brain work. I have to think up a terrible lot of excuses for not acceptin' jobs."

A Patriot.

"He's a real patriot, anyhow."

"What makes you think so?"

"He's taken a big government contract for the same profit he'd charge, a private corporation."

An Excusing Spirit.

"Didn't I see the grocer's boy kiss you this morning, Susan?"

"Yes'm. But he ain't to blame, ma'am. 'Twas the iceman set him the bad example."

Up-to-Date.

"Has your cook anything deleterious in your daily diet, Mrs. Comeup?"

"Sure, she has. We have everything now that's the style."



FARM POULTRY

COMFORTABLE COOP FOR HEN
Need Not Be Expensive, but Should Be Dry and Roomy—Fresh Air Is Essential.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In order to be more successful in raising chickens the poultrymen should provide a house which meets certain requirements. It need not be an expensive structure but it is essential that the hens have a comfortable house which is dry, roomy, and abundantly supplied with fresh air and sunlight. It never pays to overcrowd the fowls.

No particular style of house is peculiarly adapted to any section of this country. A house which gives satisfaction in Maine will also give good results in Texas or California, but it



Chickens Do Better When Made Comfortable in a Well-Constructed House.

is preferable to build more open, and consequently less expensive, houses in the South than in the North. The best site for the poultry house depends principally on the local conditions. The location should have good water and air drainage, so that the floor and yards will be dry, while the house should not occupy a low pocket or hollow in which cold air settles, and it should be situated for convenience in management and adapted to the available land. Wherever possible a southern or southeastern exposure should be selected, although this is not essential if there is any good reason for facing the house in a different direction.

Poultry can be raised successfully on any well-drained soil. A light loam which will grow good grass is well adapted for this purpose, while a very light sandy soil through which the water leaches freely will stand more intensive poultry conditions, but most of the green feed for the fowls kept on such a soil will have to be purchased. A heavy clay or adobe soil is not as well adapted to poultry raising, as such land does not drain readily, and it is much more difficult to keep the stock healthy. Long stationary houses, or the intensive system, saves steps, but it is easier to keep the birds healthy and to reproduce the stock under the colony system, where the birds are allowed free range. Breeding stock, and especially growing chickens, should have an abundance of range, while hens used solely for the production of market eggs may be kept on a very small area with good results. The colony house system necessitates placing the houses, holding about 100 hens, from 200 to 250 feet apart, so that the stock will not kill the grass. The colony system may be adapted to severe winter conditions by drawing the colony houses together in a convenient place at the beginning of winter, thus reducing the labor during these months.

FAVOR SPREAD OF DISEASES

Damp, Poor Ventilated Quarters Encourage Such Ailments as Roup.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Cold, damp, poorly lighted and ventilated poultry quarters favor the spread of such diseases as roup. Such contagious diseases as these are difficult and sometimes impossible to control unless given attention in the early stages. Whenever preventative measures fail, separate sick birds from the flock as soon as there is evidence of disease, and then consult expert advice to effect a cure.



GOOD ROADS

GOOD ROADS IN NEW ZEALAND

Concrete Declared Most Satisfactory in Land of Heavy Rains—Cheaper in Long Run.

The New Zealand authorities, both local and national, are carefully studying the subject of good roads, realizing that this is the best way to open up the hinterland of the dominion. The roads of the country, in the main, are not in very good condition. There are some good stone roads, about the larger centers, but few of them extend out more than 25 or 30 miles. Their upkeep has been found very expensive, especially in the northern part of the country, since the rainfall is heavy and washouts are numerous because the stone used is soft and grinds up rapidly, the Scientific American states.

Of late much has been said in regard to the construction of concrete highways, and it is thought that this will be far cheaper in the long run than the stone roads as they are now constructed, for the reason that the upkeep will be so very greatly reduced. It is estimated that a mile of 12-foot concrete road four inches thick could be built in New Zealand for \$2,000 more than a mile of ordinary stone road, on which there would be a saving in upkeep for the first five years of at least \$1,200, while at the end of ten years there would be a saving of \$7,000 or \$8,000.

FEDERAL AID FOR HIGHWAYS

Organization Arranged by Secretary of Agriculture Described in Recent Publication.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The organization that has been arranged by the secretary of agriculture to administer the provisions of the federal-aid road act of 1916 is described in a recent publication of the department.

Ten district offices, each directed by a district engineer, reporting to the director of the office of public roads, have been established. The district offices are located in Portland, Ore.; San Francisco, Cal.; Denver, Colo.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Omaha, Neb.; Fort Worth, Tex.; Chicago, Ill.; Montgomery, Ala.; Troy, N. Y., and Washington, D. C.

The procedure adopted calls for the submission of an application, known



Sand-Clay Road, If Well Kept, Is Satisfactory for Moderate Traffic.

as a project statement, by the state highway department to the district engineer, who examines the road it is proposed to improve, and transmits the project statement with his recommendations to the headquarters office in Washington. If the secretary of agriculture approves the project statement, the plans, specifications and estimates are then submitted by the state highway department to the district engineer, who transmits them with his recommendation to the Washington office, and when they are found to be suitable for approval, a formal certificate to that effect is issued by the secretary of agriculture to the secretary of the treasury and the state highway department, and a formal project agreement is entered into between the secretary of agriculture and the state highway department. As the work progresses or upon its completion, payment on a special voucher approved by the comptroller of the treasury is made of the federal funds apportioned to the state.