

BILLS TO FORCE WAR DUTY ON MILLION ALIENS

Congress Grappling With Difficult Problem of Forcing Aliens to Assist in Work of National Defense—Treaties Being Drafted to Cover Situation and Bills Introduced.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—What of the alien? While we are drafting native and naturalized Americans for our armies are over 1,300,000 aliens of draft age, enjoying all the liberties and privileges of this country, to go scot-free of war duties?

This question, among the knottiest of the war, is constantly being fired at the president, the war and state departments and the congress, and is still far from solution.

When it tackles the subject, the government has to recognize that international law protects this alien from military duty and also that there are three kinds of aliens:

- 1. Natives of countries at war with Germany.
- 2. Natives of Germany or allied countries.
- 3. Natives of neutral countries.

So far only one affirmative action has been taken. A resolution by Senator McCumber of North Dakota, has been adopted directing the president to negotiate with European nations at war against the central powers, to draft their alien citizens in this country for our armies.

The president and state department both favored this resolution, applying to natives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia, Serbia, Belgium, Rumania, and Portugal.

It would affect the French-Canadians and Portuguese, so numerous in New England, and about 40,000 able-bodied Italians. It would apply to Poles, Bohemians, Croats, Jugoslavs, etc., numerous in Ohio, Pennsylvania and the middle west. They are subjects of Austria-Hungary. If drafted in our armies and captured they might be subjected to the death penalty as traitors.

Scandinavians Exempt. Similarly the McCumber resolution does not apply to aliens from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Spain and Switzerland. The Scandinavians are especially numerous in the northwest. Their countries are neutral, and it violates international law to force them out of their neutrality.

Senator Chamberlain, military affairs chairman, intends to push his own joint resolution, aimed to reach a far larger class than the McCumber resolution. Chamberlain proposes to take citizens of our allies and of the neutrals, and even to use aliens from enemy countries.

His resolution flatly provides that all aliens resident in this country more than a year shall be subject to draft provided they are not subjects of an enemy country, or unless their native land has a specific treaty exempting them. But if the diplomatic representative of the country waives the exemption, the alien cannot claim it unless he leaves the country within 90 days.

Difference Shown. To show the difference between the McCumber and Chamberlain resolutions, Italy has a treaty exempting its natives from compulsory military service here. Under the McCumber resolution the state department is seeking Italy's consent to draft unnaturalized Italians. Under the Chamberlain resolution these Italians would be exempt unless the Italian ambassador told us to go ahead.

Furthermore the Chamberlain measure would affect all the Scandinavians and Dutch because their countries have no specific exemption treaties. It also provides subjects of any enemy country shall be classified, and specific classes, not deemed suitable for military service, may, under order of the president, be used for other purposes during the war.

This would open the way, for instance, to draft races like the Bohemians, Croats, etc., subjects of Austria-Hungary but hating the rulers of their native land. Races not thus drafted could be utilized in farming, manufacturing, etc.

Congressman Henry Burnett of Alabama, has introduced a bill providing that any alien, native of a country at war with Germany, who but for his alienage would be subject to draft and claims exemption on that account, shall forever be denied the right to become an American citizen and shall be deported to his native country as soon as practicable.

It also authorizes the president to draft any alien in this country, no matter what his native land, to per-

SOCIETY

Miss Eileen Reddy entertained at dinner for a few friends Thursday evening at her home. After enjoying the "movies", the party motored to the home of Billy Preston on the Applegate. The guests were: Miss Cross, Miss Elizabeth Hill, Vilas and Brainard Beckwith, Roy Hill and Billy Preston.

A very enjoyable affair of yesterday afternoon was the tea given by the Misses Carlton at the home of Mrs. S. Vilas Beckwith, complimenting Miss Clementine W. Kellogg, of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Miss Kellogg is an accomplished musician and delighted the guests with her playing.

Mrs. O. O. Alenderfer entertained with a 1 o'clock luncheon Friday for the pleasure of Miss Schonnerburger, Mrs. A. B. Cunningham and Mrs. E. C. Jerome. Miss Schonnerburger is a sister of Mrs. Jerome.

Mrs. Charles Snow, of Mount Vernon, Wash., left for her home Thursday evening accompanied by her mother, Mrs. John Felch, who will enjoy an extended visit in Washington.

Miss Marian Jackson, of California has been the guest of Mrs. Frank G. Owen for the past two weeks. She left Wednesday for a visit with friends in Portland.

Miss Lucile Messner has been the guest of Miss Ruth Warner at Ashland. Mrs. Warner and Miss Ruth Warner are spending several weeks in Ashland.

Miss Philena King of Portland, is the guest of Miss Marie Gates. Miss King and Miss Gates are sorority sisters at the State University at Eugene.

R. M. Cross, of Salt Lake City is visiting in Medford the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hill. Mr. Cross is a brother of Mrs. Hill.

Miss Clementine W. Kellogg, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, who has been the guest of Misses Carlton, will return home Saturday.

Miss Julia Booth who has been visiting relatives and friends here, left Thursday evening for her home in St. Paul, Minn.

The Girls' Knitting club met on Thursday afternoon with Miss Mercedes Barber at her home on East Main street.

Wednesday evening a merry group of twelve enjoyed a picnic given by Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln McCormack on Rogue River.

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Mr. and Mrs. Newton Tinker and Miss Mary Tinker returned this week from a motor trip to Crescent City.

Miss Frances Bacon leaves Sunday for Berkeley, where she will re-enter the University of California.

Mr. and Mrs. George Roberts returned home Friday from a visit of several days in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Pike of Eugene are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Gressley this week.

Miss Hattie Rundlett has returned to Portland after a visit with her sister, Mrs. R. Gray.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Kroschel and children left today for a trip to Crater lake.

Harvey Bell of Everett, Wash., is visiting friends in Medford.

INCENDIARY FIRE MUNITION PLANT

GARY, Ind., Aug. 11.—Fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin, destroyed about half the million dollar plant of the Aetna Explosives company near here early today. Two employes named Holt and Choisse were arrested. The plant was working on government contract. It had a capacity of 46,000 pounds of powder a day. It was estimated that it will take 60 days to put the plant in working order again. The antecedents of Holt and Choisse are being closely investigated.

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