

## NEED WAR HORSES FROM THIS STATE

Six Hundred Tilters of Pennsylvania Soil Are Told of Market for 250,000.

### A NAG TO EACH FOUR MEN.

Rural Regions Must Supply One-fifth of the Equine Motive Power for Army—Sees Half Billion in Gains of State.

—Harrisburg.

As a direct result of the effort the State College is making to bring Pennsylvania farming to that stage of production that will guarantee an assault on the high cost of foodstuffs, lectures in the farmers' week course were so well attended that doors were thrown open and aisles crowded in some instances to accommodate the overflow. It is estimated that more than 700 agriculturists were on the college grounds, although the registration at headquarters has reached only slightly above 600. These figures surpass all previous records.

The vast army of horses and mules needed to mount United States cavalry and to pull American artillery, both heavy and light, was impressed upon the farmers by Col. John S. Fair, U. S. A., who came from Washington to tell of the army's demands when horses are bought. According to Colonel Fair, one animal is required for every four men under arms. When this nation has finally transported 1,000,000 troops to France, he said, there will be with them 250,000 horses and mules.

American farmers are expected to supply a fifth of this number, and the remainder will be procured from dealers. All of them, however, will be purchased in the open market. There will be none bought on the contract basis. The farm horses are preferred, said Colonel Fair, and a larger percentage would be obtained from rural sections if the government was able to form a larger purchasing organization. Few competent buyers, he said, could be found, and comparatively few horses examined meet the requirements.

Prof. John R. Bechtel, the State College vegetable growing expert, announced that \$50,000,000 worth of garden truck was grown last season by home gardeners in this country, and he estimated at \$500,000,000 the backyard garden crop next season, predicting great activity during the coming spring.

### Grange Asks Co-operation.

The co-operative feature was discussed by John McSparran, master of the Pennsylvania State Grange. He declared that organized farmers were not pleading for millions of profit or release from taxes, but for help to till the necessary acres to grow foodstuffs for civilians, the army and our allies.

Mr. McSparran said organizations and systems, which, he alleged, were reaping undue profits from the farmers. He said: "The farmers are asking that our transportation systems be relieved of the stealings of inside holding companies, such as the express, Pullman, Union News and inside freight companies, together with unremunerable salaries that prevent the transportation companies from giving services at prices the shippers can afford to pay. They are demanding a more intelligent scrutiny of the selection of public officials, to the end that the laws may be made and administered in the interest of the people instead of the interest of special privilege."

### Pennsylvania to Get Eddystone Line.

The Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington railroad has applied to the Public Service Commission for permission to acquire the stock of the Eddystone and Delaware River Railroad Company, the Eddystone Manufacturing Company, owner of the stock, having agreed to sell it at \$150,000. The par value is \$50,000.

### To Rid State of Crows.

State game authorities directed game wardens to rid the countryside of crows, which have been reported as numerous and destructive in many parts of the state. Poisoned corn will be placed so that it will not be dangerous to domestic animals, and bodies of crows will be examined to demonstrate that they are destructive of bird life.

### State Begins to Value Islands.

Secretary of Internal Affairs Paul W. Houck has ordered an investigation to ascertain whether there are any valuable islands which are vacant and still the property of the state in the Delaware river between League Island and the Pennsylvania-Delaware lines.

### Capital Salaries Go Up.

A general boost in salaries of virtually every man employed by the city of Harrisburg was endorsed when council passed on first reading the 1918 budget, carrying an increase in appropriation of \$119,445. The measure calls for an expenditure of \$875,453 and increases the tax rate from 3 to 10 mills and the water tax 50 per cent. on minimum charges.

### One of the Biggest Items of Expense

was the increase in the salaries of policemen. Each patrolman will get \$100 instead of \$85 a month.

## PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFS

Thomas A. Appleby of Mount Union, after 50 years of business, has placed the management of his store in the hands of his son, John C. Appleby, Mt. Appleby is a civil war veteran, a Presbyterian elder, a Republican and an editor and ex-postmaster.

Subscriptions to the New Castle Hospital building fund have now reached more than the \$80,000 which was announced some time ago as the expected figure. The subscriptions are now in excess of \$82,000.

Francis B. Harvey of Renovo and Harold B. Hunt of North Bend have been appointed sergeants and have been sent to camp at Charlotte, N. C., for training. They were at Camp Meade.

Realizing the great need of additional comfortable houses for its mechanics and laborers, the General Electric Company of Erie has awarded another contract to J. A. Maahs for the construction of 470 homes. These homes will be rented to the employees. They are to be ready next August.

Wilbur S. Leiby of Mossyville, Lehigh county, recently an honorably discharged soldier from Camp Meade, has had his discharge recorded in the recorder's office, the first document of the kind thus officially preserved in the history of Lehigh county.

Coal burned on Lehigh Valley railroad engines will be reduced nearly 35 per cent. by mixing bituminous with anthracite silt or slush.

An increase in the pay of policemen and firemen to \$100 a month is the feature of the Allentown city budget for next year, presented at a meeting of the retiring council.

Accused of arson in burning out 12 families at Pleasant Unity and causing \$65,000 loss, Morris Norris is under arrest.

Within a few minutes after he had remarked to his "buddy" that he was feeling dizzy Andrew Shukomas toppled down a breast at the Gilberton colliery. He died several hours later at the Fountain Springs Hospital.

Blair county public officials announce that there have been 911 marriages and 92 divorces in the county this year, and 10 per cent. of these marriages have been failures.

Charged with having set fire to a dwelling at Millford, Mrs. Fannie O'Brien has been found guilty and fined \$1,000 and will spend from 18 months to three years in prison.

Fire of mysterious origin on the second floor of the home of Andrew Sifko, at Edwardsville, killed Mrs. Andrew Sifko and her three sons. One of them, John, twenty-one years old, was a member of the Three Hundred and eleventh Machine Gun Battalion at Camp Meade. The soldier son had returned to spend the holidays with his parents.

The entire business section of North Girard was burned. A call for help was sent to Erie, fourteen miles distant. The loss is estimated at \$25,000.

Two men in a motor truck drove to the farm of Marcus P. Dean, a mile from Yardley, after breaking the lock on a barn door, stole three steers. The cattle were marched up a plank into the machine and driven away. The case was reported to the local police.

Two-thirds of the 63 prisoners in Greensburg jail have paid for Red Cross memberships.

Five paupers of the Lauraytown almshouse have chipped in \$1 each and joined the Red Cross.

The Lackawanna Coal Company, Scranton, has a mine weighmaster and will employ several women as office clerks.

Ten thousand Hazletonians gave Godspeed to 11 draftees of the fourth quota, off for Camp Meade.

Caught in the belt of a gasoline engine, Henry Kramer was whirled to death at Lancaster. His wife and child were watching him work and witnessed his terrible death.

An appeal was made by Mayor Keisler to residents of Harrisburg to use less water, because of a shortage due to failure of councilmen in years gone by to make provision. Increase in population and expansion of industry have caused new demands and the equipment is that of a dozen years ago. Munition plants may be affected.

O. Christie, refused a new trial for wife murder at Harrisburg, declared to the court that when he committed the crime he was mentally irresponsible. He was sentenced to death.

Joseph Carlos, twenty-five years old, raised a ripple at Hawtson when he burned ten perfectly good \$20 bills. Carlos was celebrating, and said a man was worse off with money and no place to spend it than without the money. He used a revolver to keep the crowd from interfering while the money burned. It was the savings from his wages for a year.

John Farrell, for many years a famous mine foreman, died at the State Hospital, Fountain Springs, aged seventy-four.

The State Department of Agriculture has issued a warning against unlicensed salesmen for nurseries. "Hero letters" and \$5 each were sent to James Steel and William and Richard Ritter, Lewistown boys, for discovering a broken rail on the Pennsylvania railroad.

By a strange coincidence, Private Robert Gaugler of the National Army, sailed from "an Atlantic port" at the identical hour his mother passed away at the Shamokin Hospital.

Howard Horn, electrician, was electrocuted while at work in a Scranton mine.

## SINGLE MEN ONLY FOR NEW ARMIES

Those With Dependents Will Not Be Taken.

### DRAFT LAW TO BE CHANGED

Provost Marshal General, in Exhaustive Report Says Class 1 Should Provide Men For All Military Needs Of Country.

Washington.—All men for the war armies still to be raised by the United States will come from Class 1 under the new selective service plan. That means the nation's fighting is to be done by young men without families dependent upon their labor support and unskilled in necessary industrial or agricultural work.

Provost Marshal General Crowder announces the new policy in an exhaustive report upon the operation of the selective draft law submitted to Secretary Baker and sent to Congress. He says Class 1 should provide men for all military needs of the country, and to accomplish that object he urges amendment of the draft law so as to provide that all men who have reached their twenty-first birthday since June 5, 1917, shall be required to register for classification. Also, in the interest of fair distribution of the military burden, he proposes that the quotas of states or districts be determined hereafter on the basis of the number of men in Class 1 and not upon population.

### 1,000,000 IN CLASS 1.

Available figures indicate, the report says, that there are 1,000,000 physically and otherwise qualified men under the present registration who will be found in Class 1 when all questionnaires have been returned and the classification period ends February 15. To this the extension of registration to men turning 21 since June 5 of last year and thereafter will add 700,000 effective men a year.

### CLASS 1 COMPRISES:

"Single men without dependent relatives, married men who have habitually failed to support their families, who are dependent upon wives for support or not usefully engaged and whose families are supported by incomes independent of their labor; unskilled farm laborers; unskilled industrial laborers, registrants by or in respect of whom no deferred classification is claimed or made, registrants who fail to submit questionnaire and in respect of whom no deferred classification is claimed or made, and all registrants not included in any other division of the schedule."

### CROWDER PRAISES PLAN.

"Arrowed down under the analysis of the first draft made in the report the plan places upon unattached single men and married men with independent incomes most of the weight of military duty, for the aggregate number of men in the other division of Class 1 is very small.

General Crowder finds that the first draft surpassed the highest expectations of the friends of the selective service idea. He pays high tribute, not only to the thousands of civilians who gave ungrudging service to making the plan a success, but also to the high patriotism of the American people as a whole.

"At the President's call," he says, "all ranks of the nation, reluctantly entering the war, nevertheless instantly responded to the first call of the nation with a vigorous and unselfish co-operation that, submerged all individual interest in a single endeavor toward the consummation of the national task. I take it that no great national project was ever attempted with so complete a reliance upon the voluntary co-operation of citizens for its execution. Certainly no such burden and sacrificial statute ever had before been executed without a great hierarchy of officials.

"This law has been administered by civilians whose official relations to only in necessary powers with which they are vested by the President's designation of them to perform the duties that are laid upon them. They have accomplished the task. The system offers room for improvement.

### ARGENTINE DIPLOMAT OUT.

Luxburg Affair Leads To Ambassador's Retirement.

Buenos Aires, Argentine.—It is reported, without confirmation, that Dr. R. S. Neon, the ambassador at Washington, has resigned in consequence of friction arising from the publication of the secret telegrams sent by Count Von Luxburg before his dismissal as German minister to Argentina, to Berlin, through the medium of the Swedish legation.

### NAVY THANKS RED CROSS.

Sailors Send Message Of Appreciation For Christmas Parcels.

Washington.—The Red Cross announced receipt of this message from the men of the Atlantic fleet: "The men of the fleet send New Year's greetings to the Red Cross and thank for Christmas gifts received."

## Somewhere in the U. S. A.



## NORFOLK FIRE LOSS \$2,000,000

Nearly Two Blocks in Heart of Business District.

### FIVE SUSPECTS CAUGHT

Big Hotel Among Buildings Burned—Monticello Victim Of What Is Believed To Be An Enemy Plot.

Norfolk, Va.—Supposed German spies brought home to Norfolk the horrors of war, when what the authorities say was a well-planned plot resulted in the destruction of more than \$2,000,000 worth of property and the loss of at least three lives. The human toll may reach six or seven before another sun sets. A score have been injured.

Nearly two blocks in the heart of the business district, including the Monticello Hotel, were destroyed in the series of explosions and fires. The flames had been checked tonight, but were still burning fiercely in the ruins.

Three distinct explosions in as many buildings, one after the fire one virtually had been brought under control, led to the general belief that enemy agents were at work. Mayor Mayo practically placed the city under martial law by turning the situation over to naval officers and some 2,500 marines and bluejackets from nearby naval stations, who assisted the police and home guards in maintaining order and preventing vandalism.

Naval patrols rounded up suspicious persons while a number of men were arrested as suspects. Two of these, Hugo Schmidt and H. K. Lessing, said to be Germans, were turned over to the Department of Justice agents. There were reports that two Germans had been shot by sailors during the day, but neither the police nor naval authorities would confirm them.

The fire started at 3 o'clock A. M. in the old Granby Theatre building on Granby street occupied by the Norfolk Stationery Company. Flames shot out of the building almost immediately. This fire consumed three other stores, one of which was Nunnally's.

When this fire was practically out there was an explosion in the Monticello Hotel, followed by a burst of flames. There were over 400 guests, and many of them were still asleep when the fire started. Smoke spread so rapidly that when people started out of their rooms they could not find their way through the hallways.

While this building was a mass of flames, a third fire, also preceded by an explosion, started in the Lenox Building, over a block away from the Monticello. It proved as serious as the others and before the already wearied firemen could get a stream on the flames the fire spread to the building occupied by D. Carpenter Furniture Company. This building burned like kindling wood and Norfolk sent out a call for assistance.

Suffolk, Newport News and Portsmouth sent firemen and fire-fighting apparatus. Special trains were operated by the Norfolk and Western Railroad to bring the extra firemen to Norfolk.

With the firemen came the mayors and a large number of citizens. The Navy Yard sent over 300 men and its fire-fighting equipment. Five hundred men were sent from the Naval Base, 200 marines from the St. Helena Station, and 1,000 sailors from warships. All of them were trained fire-fighters and to them more than to any other one cause Norfolk owes a debt of gratitude.

### FIRE NEAR CAMP STUART.

Soldiers Help Fight Blaze On Outskirts Of Newport News.

Newport News, Va.—Three dwellings near Camp Stuart, on the outskirts of the city, where 15,000 soldiers are quartered, were destroyed by fire. Soldiers and firemen prevented the flames reaching the camp buildings.

## RAILROAD STAFF NAMED BY M'ADOO

Steps Taken to Pool All Equipment in Country

### U. S. OWNERSHIP FORECAST

Roads Deny Wage Increase, Passing Question Up To Government—Willard On Committee To Pool Facilities.

Washington.—Definite steps toward national unification of railroads and improvement of congested conditions were taken by Director General McAdoo in the appointment of a temporary staff and the issuing of his first formal order directing absolute pooling of all traffic, common utilization of terminals, rolling stock and other facilities, hauling of freight by the shortest routes, and retention of all present officers and employees.

Special instructions were issued for the clearing of congestion in New York and Chicago through pooling of terminals and other traffic facilities, and Alfred H. Smith, president of the New York Central, was named temporary special assistant to supervise transportation in the trunk line territory east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio River, where congestion is the greatest.

Walker D. Hines, of New York, a railroad lawyer and for many years a special student of government operation, was appointed assistant director general, pending the formation of a permanent staff. The Interstate Commerce Commission was drafted for an immediate investigation by its inspectors of general freight conditions on Eastern trunk lines.

While the director general was conferring with a number of railroad heads, Interstate Commerce Commissioners and members of Congress and planning immediate action to remedy faults of transportation, it became known that the demands of the four brotherhoods for a 40 per cent. wage increase had been denied by the railroads and that consequently the labor men had decided to postpone for probably 60 days the presentation of their case to the government. It was thought probable that President Wilson would take up the labor situation in his address to Congress this week.

### FOUR OVERCOME BY HEAT.

Pasadena, Cal., Sees This Wonder At A Football Game.

Pasadena, Cal.—Four persons were overcome by heat in the crowd of 42,000 which witnessed the football team of marines, stationed at the Mare Island Navy Yard, defeat the army team from Camp Lewis, Washington, one of the features of the annual Tournament of Roses here. The score was 19 to 2. Profits from the game will go to the Red Cross.

### THE COUNTRY AT LARGE

Forty-three public schools in Philadelphia failed to open after the Christmas recess as a result of the continued severe cold weather. About 25,000 pupils are affected.

P. J. Sheridan, Irish political leader, who figured prominently in the trial of Charles Stewart Parnell for treason in England, in 1890, died at his ranch home near Monte Vista, Col.

While residents of Huntingdon and other Central Pennsylvania towns are suffering for lack of coal, the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad has more than 800 cars loaded with bituminous coal for the South Broad Top region standing on its sidings.

The time for fixing the date of the trial of Paul Henning, a naturalized American of German birth, charged with treason for his alleged tampering with gyroscopes used in torpedoes made for the United States Government in the factory where he was employed, was postponed until January 14, when he was arraigned in Federal Court in Brooklyn.

## PEACE PLAN TURNED DOWN

Teuton Emissaries Not to Be Trusted.

### PREPARATIONS FOR DEFENSE

An Interruption To The Peace Proceedings While The Delegates Report Upon The Block That Has Occurred.

Petrograd.—The chances of a separate peace between Russia and the Central Powers being effected seemed remote, because of what are regarded as Germany's unreasonable demands. Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, and his associates take the stand that the Baltic provinces are in reality under military pressure while they continue to be occupied by Germany, and that their votes with respect to peace must be ignored.

The Russian delegation upon its return from Brest-Litovsk laid before the Council of Commissioners at Petrograd Germany's demands, which caused amazement and the declaration that the council was not favorable to acceptance. An elaboration of the German position in letters and statements which followed the general statement of terms showed that the Germans hold that Poland, Lithuania, Courland, Livonia and Estonia already have defined themselves nationally within the meaning of the peace terms proposed and insist that they shall not vote again.

The Germans also explained, through General Hoffman, that Germany cannot evacuate Riga, Libau and other occupied points until certain that all Russia sanctions peace; otherwise Germany's enemies might assist Ukraine or other disaffected sections in opposition to the Central Powers.

The Russian peace delegation returned to Petrograd and reported to a joint session of the central executive committee of Soldiers and Workmen's Delegates and the Petrograd Council of Soldiers and Workmen's Deputies the progress of the negotiations with the Austro-Germans at Brest-Litovsk.

M. Kamenoff, a member of the Russian delegation, read the German terms, which he characterized as showing the positive annexation plans of the Central Powers, and he declared they were unacceptable in their present form. He added that the terms had not been discussed.

"If after the resumption of negotiations," the delegate said, "the Germans insist upon these terms Russia will conclude peace not with the German imperialists, but with the representatives of the people, the Socialists of Germany."

### TREATY PROVISIONS.

Included in the treaty provisions are the following:

Article 8—Russia agrees that the administration of the mouth of the Danube be entrusted to a European Danube commission with a membership from the countries bordering upon the Danube and the Black Sea. Above Braila the administration is to be in the hands of the countries bordering the river.

Article 9—Military laws limiting the private rights of Germans in Russia and of Russians in Germany are abolished.

Article 10—The contracting parties are not to demand payment of war expenditures, nor for damages suffered during the war, this provision including requisitions.

Article 11—Each party is to pay for damage done within its own limits during the war by acts against international law with regard to the subjects of other parties, in particular their diplomatic and consular representatives, as affecting their life, health or property. The amount is to be fixed by mixed commissions with neutral chairmen.

Article 12—Prisoners of war who are invalids are to be immediately repatriated. The exchange of other prisoners is to be made as soon as possible, the times to be fixed by a German-Russian commission.

Article 13—Civilian subjects interned or exiled are to be immediately released and sent home without cost to them.

Article 14—Russian subjects of German descent, particularly German colonists, may within 10 years emigrate to Germany, with the right to liquidate or transfer their property.

Article 15—Merchantmen of any of the contracting parties which were in ports of any other party at the beginning of the war, and also vessels taken as prizes which have not yet been adjudged, are to be returned or, if that be impossible, to be paid for.

### SPRING-RICE MAY RETIRE.

British Ambassador To Leave U. S., Says London Paper.

London.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice and Lord Bertie, according to the Daily Chronicle, will shortly retire from the British Embassies at Washington and Paris. The newspaper adds that it is rumored that Sir George Buchanan is about to resign his post as Ambassador at Petrograd.