

**PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFS**

George Carter, of Hazleton, chief coal inspector for the G. B. Markle company, has been appointed a federal inspector for the lower portion of Luzerne county at \$100 a month.

The public service commission has directed the Northumberland Water company to establish a new source of supply to provide sufficient water for domestic and fire service.

After forty-eight years, Lloyd C. Clemson, veteran road foreman of engines on the middle division of the Pennsylvania railroad, has been transferred to special duties at Harrisburg.

Engaged in making chemical tests in the laboratory of the Shamokin High school, Misses Anna, daughter of ex-Assemblyman William D. Culton, and Rhoda Golden were seriously burned by sulphuric acid.

More than 500 delegates representing the Allentown Lutheran conference attended the twenty-fifth annual convention at Bethlehem.

In the first day of the war drive of the local Knights of Columbus to raise \$35,000, the sum of \$22,829.85 was pledged in Bethlehem.

With "Confucianism" as his subject, Hsiao Tsai, a Chinese student at Lehigh University, captured first prize in the junior class oratorical contest at Bethlehem. The second prize was awarded to William A. Krollinger.

Clarence Sechrist, thirty-seven, a Pennsylvania railroad employe, died in the Pottstown Hospital from injuries sustained when he was caught between the cars that were being shifted. He is survived by a wife and a son.

Herman Stein, Lancaster, has been notified that his son, Clarence J., a coxswain in the navy, had his skull fractured by a fall, and his condition is serious.

Dorothy, the three-year-old daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Holman, of Shenandoah, was burned to death when her clothing took fire when she went too close to a red-hot stove.

The twenty-fourth annual district convention of the Luther League of Montgomery, Bucks and Chester counties was held in Pottstown. Professor Luther F. Waldelich, of Sellersville, the president, presided. An address was made by Professor Ora B. Morning, of the Pottstown High school.

A gas main burst in South Scranton and eight members of the family of Cesare Bartoli were overcome before they were rescued. All will recover.

Amos K. Kline, probably the oldest business man in Reading, member of the department store firm of Kline, Eppheimer & Co., died in his eighty-seventh year. He was in active business for over sixty years.

West Pittston's Vulcan Iron Works will be doubled to fill government contracts.

Hunters' licenses were issued to 215,474 residents and 588 non-residents of Pennsylvania last year.

For reconstruction, maintenance and oiling of public roads in four years, Blair county has expended \$164,770.

Muster in units of the Pennsylvania reserve militia will be pushed in Philadelphia and the eastern counties this week.

Altoona gave a great send-off to thirty-seven county "honor men" inducted into the federal service who left in a body for Vancouver to enter the spruce division, national army.

Mary Belan, seven, of McKees Rock, Allegheny county, sacrificed her life when she plunged into Chartiers creek in an effort to save her young brother from drowning, but he was revived.

Thomas Kennedy, district president of the United Mine Workers, was the principal speaker at a flag-raising held at Shepton in honor of thirty-two boys from that town and Oneida who are in war service.

William Henry Mann, seventy-six, of Phillipsburg, N. J., walked into an Easton drug store, and asking for something to relieve a sudden attack of acute indigestion, fell dead.

It is estimated that 15 per cent of the Berks county potatoes that were held in bins, ready to be moved to market as soon as roads were fit for travel, were frozen.

Held up by three thieves, Harry Bush, Reading railway station agent at Isabelle, was robbed of a small amount of cash, and then his sister, Miss Evelyn Bush, who hastily concealed \$200 of the company's cash in her room upstairs, drove the robbers away at the point of a revolver.

Knocked into the river by a huge block of ice while she was standing along the shore drinking, a cow belonging to the Alpha farms swam the Delaware below Easton, and succeeded in getting across through masses of floating ice.

Sixteen Reading young men, who volunteered for the work, left for the Vancouver barracks at Tacoma, Wash., to fell timber in the big spruce forests of the northwest for making propellers for airplanes to be used by the aviation section in France.

Greensburg parents voted overwhelmingly in favor of military training in the high school.

Children of the Centralia and Conyngham schools give one hour each day after school hours to making ambulance robes.

The Westmoreland County Historical society plans to erect a monument to Colonel Henry Boquet, on the Bushy Run battlefield.

The recently organized Hugenot Society of Pennsylvania will hold its first convention in Reading April 13, the anniversary of the issue of the Edict of Nantes, 1598.

**NEXT DRAFT FOR 800,000 MEN**

**No New Divisions Will Be Created Under Plans.**

**PROCESS TO START IN APRIL**

**Crowder Soon Expected To Make Announcement Of Rules Covering Selection Of Men Who Will Be Taken On This Call.**

Washington.—While a large number of men will be called out during the present year to fill up the army and complete its organization, the War Department plans do not call for the creation of any additional divisions in 1918. The announcement concerning the second draft expected soon from Provost Marshal General Crowder may outline the manner in which less than 1,000,000 men—probably not much in excess of 800,000—are to be summoned gradually during the year to complete the existing organizations.

Delay in the announcement as to the next draft is understood to be due to uncertainty as to which method of allotting quotas to the states is to be followed. The Senate has passed and the House Military Committee has favorably reported an amendment to the law to base the quota in the number of men in class one, instead of upon the total registration of a state. This change is regarded as certain to be made, but to avoid further delay schedules of allotments under both systems have been prepared at Provost Marshal General's office ready to go out as soon as final action is taken.

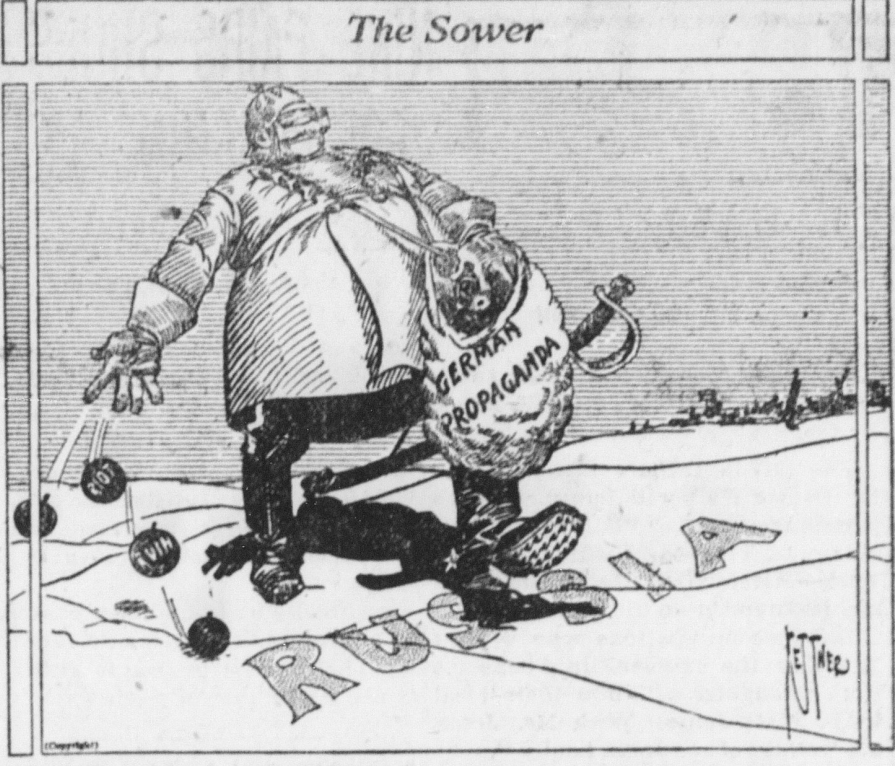
As to the date of the second draft, members of Congress from agricultural sections have been practically assured that no withdrawal of men from civil life was contemplated which would embarrass harvesting. It has been indicated, however, that a relatively small number of men must be called to the colors prior to June 1, and that process may start in April, when equipment, clothing and quarters will be available. The men are needed to fill up to full strength divisions, slated for early departure to Europe, and also for field army and corps troops not attached to divisions. The replacement of detachments also must go forward at an accelerating rate, since American troops are now actually holding a sector of the French front and men are being killed or wounded in action every day.

The completion of the full program of the War Department without creating any additional divisions probably will absorb in the neighborhood of 600,000 men. The extent to which it has been necessary to increase artillery quotas throughout the army, and to add special units of all sorts has surprised every officer and accounts for the existing shortages to a large extent.

The number of replacement troops necessary is worked out in a scientific way, based on experience at the front. A fixed percentage for each arm of the service is established. Among the non-combatant arms, this is very small, but it is quite high among front line troops. While official figures are not available it is estimated that something more than 200,000 will be necessary for the 1918 program, making 800,000 necessary to call out during this year.

The last increments of the first draft now in process of mobilization, totaling about 80,000 men, are being used to fill regular and National Guard divisions shown by their efficiency reports to be available for early duty abroad. Some of the men are being used also to fill up the special forces, although an additional source of supply for highly specialized technical units is being used continuously. This is by special drafts of particularly qualified men of the trades necessary. Orders were issued today to local boards calling for 528 artisans of various sorts for noncombatant units.

Even with all of the first draft men mobilized there are considerable deficiencies among the National Army and some of the National Guard divisions. The first purpose of the second draft will be to make up this shortage.



**AMERICAN TROOPS ON WIDE FRONT**

**Pershing's Men Holding Eight Miles of Trenches.**

**MAY USE FRENCH SYSTEM**

**Commanding Officer Hasn't Been Named—American Artillery Fires On Town In Lines Of Enemy.**

Washington.—American troops are now holding something over eight miles of trenches on the battle front in France, although in the air line their frontage is only about four and a half miles. This frontage is liable to extension at any time to the regular trench allotment for an army corps.

Irregularity of the trench lines is responsible for their eight miles of length. They are laid out so that flanking fire may be obtained along every part of the front. Strong points containing machine guns just out for this purpose. The trenches also follow closely a protective slope of the country and wander up and down hill.

The American sector is understood to be a divisional frontage, which means that at least three divisions of American troops are there to give the necessary support in depth for the front lines. This fact has aroused speculation here as to who will be selected by General Pershing to command the first corps of his army. Maj.-Gen. Hunter Liggett is known to have acted in that capacity, but as yet the expeditionary commander has not made any recommendation.

It is possible that the French system will be followed in the American army, so far as the appointment of corps commanders goes. It is the custom in France to select any one of the division commanders in a corps and to place him at the head of the corps. He retains his rank as division commander, however, and in the case of the American army that would be a major-general. If the French practice is adopted, therefore, the grade of lieutenant-general may be employed only for field army commanders.

**Huns Repulsed With Losses.**  
American Army in France.—American troops on still another place on the French front have been repulsed by Germans who were repulsed with losses.

**ANNAPOLIS WILL BE DRY.**  
Secretary Daniels Issues Order Abolishing Saloons.  
Washington.—The entire city of Annapolis was legislated into the dry column by a drastic order of Secretary of the Navy Daniels, providing that no intoxicating liquors should be sold during the "present emergency" within five miles of the Naval Academy, the training stations at Newport, R. I.; Norfolk, Va.; Great Lakes, Ill.; operating base, Hampton Roads; Mare Island, Cal.; Paris Island, S. C., and Quantico, Va.

This action was taken by the Navy Department under the authority granted in the Selective Draft act to both the army and the navy to create dry zones around any training camp of either service. The War Department on February 8 issued regulations along this line and those just signed by Mr. Daniels are similar to those of the army, except, as Mr. Daniels explains, the width of the navy dry zone "is uniformly five miles, irrespective of whether or not an incorporated city or town lies within such distance."

**WASHINGTON.**  
President Wilson, by executive proclamation, made it necessary for any person flying in the vicinity of military works or any part of the country designated as a zone of war-like operation or war-like preparation to secure a license.

Reorganization of the United States Employment Service into a permanent bureau of the Department of Labor, with John B. Denmore as its director, was announced by Secretary Wilson.

**NEW CRISIS IN THE WORLD WAR**

**Bolshevik Surrender Brings New Troubles.**

**MAY MAKE ENEMY OF RUSSIA**

**Japs, On Other Hand, If Restrained, May Withdraw From Active Participation In War—Future With Russian People.**

Washington.—It is recognized in all official circles of Washington that a new crisis has been reached in the world war and that the surrender of the Bolshevik delegates at Brest Litovsk has forced issues of greater moment than any that has been faced since the United States entered the war.

The two most important questions in the world today are whether or not Japan should be encouraged to launch a campaign against Germany in Eastern Siberia and whether or not there is a dormant spirit in the Russian people which, threatened with bondage, will demand that the Russian nation stand erect once more, defy its enemies and prepare to fight to the death for its life.

The attitude of this Government upon the first of these questions is contingent to a large degree upon the answer which the Russian people make to the second. In other words, if Russia, in spite of weak and whining plaint of the Bolsheviks, shows that it means to repudiate the peace now ordered, the United States very likely will use whatever influence it has to restrain the Japanese.

But if the Russians meekly lay down and invite slavery, as have the irresponsible group of adventurers who have acted as their spokesmen, and if it appears that Germany is about to appropriate whatever there may be in Russia of military value, it seems morally certain that the United States will offer no objection whatever to the plans of Japan, but, on the contrary, might unite with the Japanese in the Siberian campaign.

Meantime, it can be stated upon authority that the United States at the present time has no working agreement with Japan upon the Far Eastern question, and that it is still free to oppose Japan's proposals or to consent to them in the exchanges of views now going on between Washington, London, Paris and Tokio. In view of this circumstance, it is now doubted whether or not the British Government has championed the bold plans which the Japs have laid before the Entente.

The result of Russia's second peace conference did not come with a shock to Washington officials. Nothing that could come from that turbulent country can now surprise this Government. It is equally prepared for good or evil report. There would be no greater sensation felt in this city if all Russia were to rise up to fight the Hun than if all Russia rose up to welcome the invader and volunteered to support Germany's enemies Official Washington is shock-proof against all Russian news, just as it was a few years ago against all Mexican news.

This does not mean that there is indifference here as to events in Russia or lack of appreciation as to the momentous bearing of them upon the future of the world. As a matter of fact, the deepest concern, in fact, anxiety is felt here over the whole business.

**NEEDS \$450,000,000.**  
Aviation Program Has Exhausted More Than \$64,000,000 Already.  
Washington.—Further appropriations of \$450,000,000 for the army aircraft program in addition to the \$640,000,000 already authorized was asked of Congress by the War Department.

The War Department informed the Senate Military Committee that more than \$640,000,000 has already been spent and \$200,000,000 more is immediately needed. General Pershing frequently makes requests in connection with aviation work, for which no funds are immediately available.

**SINKING U-BOATS AS FAST AS BUILT**

**Loss of Shipping is Steadily Decreasing.**

**PRODUCTION IS LAGGING**

**Despite Glowing Reports in American Press, He Says, Desired Output is Not in Sight.**

London.—"Our Allies are making every effort to increase their production of ships," Sir Eric Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, said, "but, despite glowing reports in the American press and great as the effort of that country doubtless is, there is no doubt a considerable time must elapse before the desired output is obtained."

The trend of the figures of loss of shipping by enemy action was steadily improving, Sir Eric stated. The loss to the world's tonnage during February was little more than a half the loss during February of last year, he said.

Sir Eric, whose address was delivered in the House of Commons, said the naval forces of the Allies in European waters would be augmented shortly by a force of Brazilian warships.

In the waters around the British Isles, which had been the enemy's chief field for submarine operations, the greatest successes against the U-boats had been obtained so far, latterly with the help of American naval forces, said Sir Eric. On the other hand, conditions in the Mediterranean had been more difficult. Losses there accounted for some 30 per cent of merchant ships sunk. The resources for combating the submarines in those waters were less adequate and the successes obtained less satisfactory.

"For some months," said Sir Eric, "we believe that we and the Americans have been sinking submarines as fast as they are built."

It became increasingly evident, the first Lord went on, that as the resources for combating the submarines improved, it would be possible to turn attention more to the Mediterranean. He continued:

"I recently went to Rome for a meeting of the Allied naval committee and also inspected naval establishments in the Mediterranean, including those of the Greek Navy. British naval officers are assisting the Greeks in reorganization of their navy, which already is co-operating in the Mediterranean and rendering valuable service."

It was perhaps natural, Sir Eric continued, that co-operation between Great Britain and the United States should be extremely close.

On behalf of himself and his colleagues he wished publicly to pay tribute to the whole-hearted and generous devotion to the prosecution of the war which governed the action of every representative of the United States Navy with whom they came into contact. The personnel of all ranks, he said, had the respect and esteem of the officers of the British Navy.

Concerning shipbuilding, he said there was no lack of materials at the present time and that there were more men in the yards, but the output reached only 58,000 tons in January, although it should have been much larger. It was true the weather was exceptionally bad and also that January, owing to the holidays, always was a bad month for the output of ships. One week or one month could not be taken by itself. He expressed the opinion that February would be shown to have made nearly twice as good a record as January, although only about two-thirds of what the same yards had done previously with fewer men.

Submarines were being destroyed in increasing numbers, he continued, and as the methods employed against them were developed the numbers would be enlarged still further. There was a growing reluctance on the part of German crews to put to sea. The chances that a submarine would return from a voyage in the water around England were one in four or one in five.

**BELGIAN PLANTS DYNAMITED.**  
Huns Continue Industrial Destruction And Deportations.  
Washington.—The destruction of Belgian industry and deportation of civilians by the Germans continues. An official dispatch said refugees from Belgium report that dynamite is being used to destroy machines and equipment in factories in the Mons district. Rails of tramways are being taken up, and in some cities the lines have been entirely destroyed.

**AMERICAN SKIPPER HONORED.**  
Captain Thirlair Gets Silver Cup For Rescuing British Crew.  
Washington.—In recognition of his bravery in rescuing a part of the crew of the British ship *Malda* off the coast of Scotland, August 29, 1917, a silver cup was presented to Captain Emil Thirlair, of the American steamship *Atlantic Sun*, by the British Government.

**Armies in Great Battle**

**Germans Striking Against Finland And Austrians In The South.**

Although the military operations along the Western front in France and Belgium daily are growing in magnitude until it seems apparent that fierce battles cannot much longer be delayed, the situation in Russia continues to hold an absorbing place in public interest throughout the world.

Scant advices from Petrograd are coming through, but those that are finding their way out of the turmoil-ridden capital at Petrograd indicate that while the Germans have ceased operations in Great Russia, following the signing of the peace compact with the Bolsheviks, they now are striking against Finland, and that in the south the Austro-Hungarians are making inroads into Podolia in an endeavor to drive out the Bolsheviks and thus secure an untrammelled hold on the country in which so much dependence has been placed for the feeding of the Teutonic allies.

While ostensibly the German operations in Finland, which are being carried out from bases in the Aland Islands, have as their purpose driving of the Finnish revolutionists and Bolshevik Red Guards from Southern Finland, it is probable Germany's ambitions in this region have in view the securing of Southwestern Finland to as far as Helsinki.

This stretch of territory along the northern shores of the Gulf of Finland, taken in conjunction with the holdings of the Germans on the southern shore to the region of Revel, would give the invaders mastery over the western approaches to the gulf, and paralyze completely the movement of Russian ships of war or commerce into the Baltic.

The contents of the peace treaty between the Germans and the Bolsheviks have not yet been made public, but there is no room for doubt that the Teuton representatives exacted from the Russians a price in keeping with their full desires. The treaty is to be ratified next Thursday.

In Podolia the Austro-Hungarian forces evidently are meeting with slight resistance as they over-run Little Russia. A strong indication of this is the Vienna statement that they already have captured more than 770 guns and 1,000 machine guns.

In Eastern Siberia the Bolshevik elements evidently are placing obstacles in the way of a possible Japanese invasion of that territory. Already they have destroyed bridges along the Trans-Siberian railway, between Lake Balkal and the Chinese frontier, in addition to having mined for eventual destruction, if necessary, other portions of the railway line.

Since Sunday the Germans have left the Americans in comparative peace on their sector near Toul. Probably finding that their attempted forays were too costly, they have failed to launch further attacks and even have cut down materially their artillery fire and gas shell bombardments. Again the American gunners have worked havoc among the Germans by heavily shelling a large cantonment where troops were assembled.

Near Warneeton, southeast of Ypres, the Australians have carried out a big raid against enemy positions, killing at least 50 of the German defenders, destroying dugouts and bringing back prisoners. Around Lens the Germans have begun a rather intensive bombardment against the British troops besieging the great coal center.

The nearest approach to a big battle on the Western front has occurred between the French and the Germans in the Verdun sector. Here the French troops carried out a brilliant attack against the Calonne trenches and penetrated the German positions as far as their fourth line. The point of penetration was over a front of 1,200 meters and to a depth of 600 meters, and 150 prisoners were taken in the operation. Attempted attacks by the Germans north of the Chemin des Dames, near the Malincourt Wood, and in Lorraine went for naught owing to the accuracy of the French fire.

In Palestine General Allenby's force again have dealt the Turks a hard blow, driving forward their front along 12 miles to a maximum depth of three thousand yards. Little opposition was encountered by the British commander against the Ottomans, whose morale seems to be deteriorating with each fresh attack.

The Americans manned and sent up an observation balloon along the Toul sector. There was comparative quiet along the front, although several German airplanes were driven away.

Field Marshal Haig reported that the British reached the second German line at Warminster and reported two counter-attacks.

English troops raided the enemy's trenches east of Bullecourt and captured a few prisoners and two machine guns.

Successful raids also were carried out by the British north of the Scrape and in the neighborhood of Lens.

Berlin claims that storming detachments penetrated French trenches in the neighborhood of Ornes (Northeast of Verdun), and brought back 28 prisoners.