TAFT AGAIN SERVES ON U. S. LABOR BOARD

Walsh and Hutcheson Also Renamed for Permanent Body by Wilson

APPEAL TO LOYALTY

President Outlines Mediation as Means to Settle Industrial Disputes

Washington, April 10.

The final step on the part of the Government to prevent strikes and lockouts during the war was taken by President Wilson when by proclamation he approved the report of the war labor conference board, submitted last week, and reappointed William Howard Taft and Frank P. Walsh to serve as permanent members.

The President's proclamation contained an appeal to both capital and labor to utilize the means provided for in the report in all industrial disputes which cannot be settled through existing channels, so there may be no disturbances in the industrial world to hamper the conduct of the war on the part of the United States.

An indication that the end of the feud between President Wilson and William L. Hutcheson, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, which started during the carpenters' strike in the shipyards, had been reached, was seen in the reappointment of the union leader as a member of the board.

Duties of Board Outlined

Hutcheson was placed on the board by Secretary of Labor Wilson just before the President's famous telegram in which he asked Hutcheson whether he intended to "co-operate or obstruct," and declared until he had shown some disposition to assist the Government he would not be received at the White House.

The duty which the President expects the board to fulfill is set out as follows in the proclamation:

"The powers, functions and duties of the national war labor board shall be: To settle by mediation and conciliation controversies arising between employers and workers in fields of production necessary for the effective conduct of the war, or in other fields of national activity, delays and obstructions in which might, in the opinion of the national board, affect such production; to provide for by direct appointment or otherwise for committees or boards to sit in various parts of the country where controversies occur and secure settlement by mediation and conciliation and to summon the parties to controversies for hearing and action by the national board in the event of failure to secure settlement by mediation and conciliation.

"The principles to be observed and the methods to be followed by the national board in exercising such powers and functions and performing such duties shall be those specified in the war labor conference board dated March 29, 1918, a complete copy of which is hereunto appended.

Powers Are Limited

The national board shall refuse to take cognizance of a controversy between employers and workers in any field of industrial or other activity where there is an agreement or Federal law or a means of settlement which has not been involved.

"And I do hereby urge upon all employers and employes within the United States the necessity of utilizing the means and methods thus provided for the adjustment of all industrial disputes and request that during the pendency of mediation or arbitration through the said means and methods there shall be no discontinuance of industrial operations which would result in curtailment of the production of war necessities."

The members of the permanent board follow:

William Howard Taft and Frank P. Walsh, representatives of the general public of the United States; Loyal A. Osborne, L. F. Loree, W. H. Vanderpoort, C. L. Michael and B. L. Worden, representatives of the employers of the United States, and Frank J. Hayes, William L. Hutcheson, William H. Johnston, Victor A. Olander and T. A. Rickert, representatives of the employes of the United States.

ALLEN P. PERLEY
Chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee for the Williamsport District.

O'NEIL AWARDS CONTRACTS

Road Work Between Pittsburgh and Erie Given Out

Harrisburg, April 10.—State Highway Commissioner O'Neil awarded contracts today for the improvement of two sections of the main highway connecting Pittsburgh and Erie. Both are in Lawrence County and the road when completed will be used for military and industrial transport.

A section in Big Beaver and North Beaver townships was awarded to M. J. Scanlon, Newcastle, at $215,450.25, and the other section in Big Beaver township was awarded to Peter F. Connelly, Elmira, N. Y., at $122,617.62.

Farmers Fix Tomato Prices

Lewes, Del., April 10.—Farmers of this section held a meeting Saturday to agree upon a price for which they would grow tomatoes for the coming season. More than 200 acres were represented and it was unanimously agreed to demand not less than fifty cents a basket. Some of the cannery men were present, but have not yet set their price.

BURSTING SHELLS ROUT U. S. MEN DESTROYING BOCHE WIRE

View From Artillery Observation Post Proves Busy American Soldiers Pay Little Attention to Firing of German Guns

By HENRI BAZIN

Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger with the American Army in France

With the American Army in the Field, March 12.

IN A village back of the line, a village shot to pieces by Boche artillery, I mounted a ladder this afternoon to an American artillery observation post. It was placed in that which is left of a building that in its undamaged condition had something of elevation in architecture, but now in the main was a wreck as the houses around it. It is located somewhere north of Toul.

The ladder was long and steeply laid against grimed stone and camouflaged, despite being toward our lines. Within the observation post I found two American officers of artillery whom I had met months back within the borders of a training camp and before a French proving ground, where in the early mist of an autumn morning we had witnessed the firing of the first projectile in France by an American gunner.

The post was small, hardly large enough for three persons. It was blacklined for purposes of concealment and its furniture consisted of three folding camp stools and the scissors. For the scissors are the thing therein.

In reality they are a double periscope, shaped like an enormous pair of blunt-end scissors, the blunt ends bent outward at right angles. Within their ends are two lenses, and at the handle ends two more. The first two are ordinary field-glass diameter, the last as big as a small saucer. They are attached to the two holes in the post wall made for the purpose, looking eastward. You sit down upon one of the stools and command the landscape before you, with your head well under cover.

"Welcome," said my lieutenant friend. "Sit down and look the Boche over."

Out before my vision and a little to one side I could see Mont Sec, a dominating elevation of a thousand feet within the Boche lines and from whence he commands the American trenches in almost perfect manner, so much so that they were, in original construction by the French, made to zigzag more than any trenches I have ever seen.

Upon Mont Sec the barbarian has an avalanche of batteries, ranged to drop shell about where it suits his evil pleasure. In the distance of a few kilometers I could not place them through their camouflage, and the Mont looked but a hill of gray brown. About it, to each side, and before it, were ruined villages, villages of France ruined by French shell. Directly in front of my view lay our trenches, the first, second and third lines, with communicators between the first, our wire in two spacings, beyond it still "the land of 'No Man' that, unless all signs fail, is destined to become in reality that which Yankees in the line already call it, 'Our Land.' Off at its far end the German wire could be plainly seen, and the first and second lines with communicators.

Our batteries were engaged in the pleasant task of demolishing Boche wire, the first shot being fired as I entered the observation post. The first four fell "over," and in the midst of a ruined village in the first line itself, exactly as in Pont-a-Mousson. Shell No. 3 struck among the ruined steeple of a church, where the bruised stone raised into the air like two jagged teeth. After the smoke and dust had blown away, only one was visible. With the fifth shot we found among the wire, first the inner and then the outer. As its stretched entanglements were cut by each shell's explosion, we [illegible] like so many writhing snakes. And I remembered the same impression under like circumstances at Chemin des Dames.

The difference in smoke and in area of displaced matter was very marked as against the first few among the ruined stone, the moisture in the earth giving the fragments less vicious area and the smoke being brownishly white. We were using 75 and 155 and the accuracy of shot was the subject of conversation over the wire, camouflaged conversation that meant much to those who understood and as so much Volapuk to any other.

Looking off to the right, I could see in the clear atmosphere of an almost springlike day a working party of American soldiers, putting up new wire. There were about twenty-five of them, each clearly outlined. It was like a puppet show, for I imagined I could see them talk. Each gesture was indicative. One stopped to roll a cigarette, strikes a match and puff out smoke. Others shaped or drove stakes, and others still strung wire. They were in plain view and within easy range of the Boche, but worked on, oblivious of something they well knew. As I was looking in intense interest, almost able to make out their features, there was a double boom-boom. Two Boche 77s came over, one immediately following the other, and landed within fifty feet of the "bunch." Immediately they ducked for the cover of a communication trench. For the space of three minutes, three minutes that seemed like forever to me, they stayed there. Then they came out and went back to the job as unconcernedly as if peace reigned everywhere upon the earth.

They were no more at work when the Boche served the same dish, this time triple shots in rapid succession, one of which seemingly landed among the working party. Some had time to take cover, the others to the number of perhaps a dozen falling or throwing themselves flat upon the earth. With the smoke's clearing they jumped up and the man under cover came out, all again going back to the work.

The Boche must have become quite annoyed at thus braving his iron and steel, for hardly had the work begun than three more shells came over. This time only four men had time to take cover at the sound and flash, the rest throwing themselves flat while two shells, as we saw it, burst fair among them. As the smoke cleared, they did not rise and the lieutenant said to me:

"Look at your wrist watch. If they are not up in thirty seconds I shall phone for the ambulance."

As he spoke the men arose, each and every one of them, none injured because God is good or their hour had not arrived. But instead of returning to the job they made for the communicating trench, where we could see them in a group, talking, and evidently endeavoring to decide if or not they should go back to their stakes and wire. As they stood, and I could almost sense their conversation, I saw an officer come down the trench, for the men came to attention, while he put up his hand that they dispense with the formality. One, evidently the "noncom" in charge, saluted and explained. The officer spoke as his attitude displayed. He was saying it would be unwise to continue for the present. One dammee at the end nearest, observing without his knowledge, made a gesture of respectful disgust, and I could hear his unspoken thought, "Ah, I ain't afraid of them Bushes!"

And then he rolled a cigarette as the officer passed on, and the "noncom" carried out his superior's orders. Work on the new wire laying was off for the day. Steel had won over the flesh of man.

TEXT OF PREMIER LLOYD GEORGE'S ADDRESS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

Following is the text of Premier Lloyd George's speech in Parliament on the man-power bill, part of which arrived too late for publication yesterday afternoon:

"We have now entered the most critical phase of this terrible war. There is a lull in the storm, but the hurricane is not over. Doubtless we must expect more fierce outbreaks and ere it is finally exhausted there will be many more.

"The fate of the empire, the fate of Europe and the fate of liberty throughout the world may depend on the success with which the very last of these attacks is resisted and countered.

"The Government, therefore, proposes to submit to Parliament today certain recommendations in order to assist this country and the Allies to weather the storm. They will involve, I regret, sacrifices on the part of large classes of the population, and nothing would justify them but the most extreme necessity and the fact that we are fighting for all that is essential and most sacred in our national life.

Greatest Battle in History

"Before I come to the circumstances which led up to our submitting these proposals to Parliament I ought to say one word as to why Parliament was not immediately summoned since the battle began the Government have been engaged almost every hour in concerting with the Allies in the necessary measures to enable the armies to deal with the emergency.

"The proposals which we intend submitting to Parliament required very close and careful examination, and I think there is this advantage in postponing today, rather than immediately after news of the German attack, that we shall be considering these proposals under conditions which will be far removed from any suggestion of panic.

"I shall now come to the circumstances which have led to the present military position. It is very difficult at this time to present a clear, connected and reliable narrative of what happened. There has been a great battle on a front of fifty miles—the greatest battle ever fought in the history of the world. Enormous forces have been engaged, there was a considerable retirement on the part of the British forces, and under these conditions it is not always easy for some time to ascertain what actually happened.

Cambrai Trivial in Comparison

"The House will recollect the difficulty we experienced with regard to Cambrai. It was difficult to piece together the story of the event for some time, and Cambrai was a very trivial event compared with this gigantic battle.

"The generals and their staffs are naturally engaged and have to concentrate their attention upon the operations of the enemy, and until the strain relaxes it would be very difficult to institute the necessary inquiries to find out exactly what happened and to furnish an adequate explanation of the battle.

"However, there are two or three facts which stand out, and in stating them I should like to call attention to two things which I think above all must be avoided. The first is that nothing should be said which could give information to the enemy; nothing should be said which would give encouragement to the enemy, and nothing should be said which would give discouragement to our own troops, who are fighting so gallantly at this very hour.

"And the second question is that all recrimination at this hour must be shut out.

"What was the position at the beginning of the battle?

Austrians Support Germans

"Notwithstanding the heavy casualties in 1917, the army in France was considerably stronger on the 1st of January, 1918, than on the 1st of January, 1917. Up to the end of 1917—up to, say, about October or November—the German combatant strength in France was as two to the Allies' three. Then came the military collapse of Russia, and the Germans hurried up their released divisions from the eastern front and brought them to the west. They had a certain measure of Austrian support which had been accorded to them.

"Owing to the growth of the strength of our armies in 1917, when this battle began, the combatant strength of the whole of the German army on the western front was only approximately, though not quite equal to, the total combatant strength of the Allies in infantry. They were slightly inferior in artillery. They were inferior in cavalry, they were considerably inferior; and, what is very important, they were undoubtedly inferior in aircraft.

First Advantage With Germans

"The Germans, therefore, organize their troops so as to produce a larger number of divisions out of the slightly smaller muster of infantry and slightly smaller number of guns.

"They had fewer battalions to a division and fewer men in a battalion. That is entirely a question of organization and it yet remains to be seen that their organization is better than ours. It is necessary to explain that, in order that the House should realize why, with approximately the same number of men, the Germans have a larger number of divisions on that front.

"According to all the facts which have come to hand as to the losses of the battle, that roughly represents the relative strength of the combatants on both sides at this moment. The Germans had, however, one of two important advantages. The first, the initial advantage, which is always commanded by the offensive, is that they know where they mean to attack. They choose the ground; they choose the location; they know the width of the attack; they know the dimensions of the attack; they know the time of the attack; they know the method of the attack. All that invariably gives the initial advantage to the offensive.

Troops Moved at Night

"The defense has a general advantage. Owing to air observation concealment is difficult. At the same time, in spite of all that, owing to the power of moving troops at night, which the Germans exercised to a very large extent, there is a large margin for surprise, even in spite of air observation, and of this the enemy took full advantage.

"I should like to say one word here as to the difficulty which the Allied generals were confronted with in this respect. Before the battle the greatest German concentration was in front of our troops. That was no proof that the full weight of the attack would fall on us. There was a very large concentration opposite the French lines. There was a very considerable concentration—I am referring now to the German reserves—on the northern part of our line.

"After the battle began or immediately before the battle, the Germans by night brought their divisions from the northern part to the point where the attack took place. They also took several divisions from opposite the French in the same way and brought them to our front. But it would have been equally easy for them, while concentrating troops opposite our front, to maneuver the men the same way opposite the French.

Allies Predicted Time of Drive

"I am only referring to that in order to show how exceedingly difficult it is for generals on the defensive to decide exactly where, in their judgment, the attack is coming and where they ought to concentrate their reserves.

"I may just say a word here. This problem was considered very closely by the military staff at Versailles and I think it right, in justice to them, to point out that after a very close study of the German position and of the probabilities of the case they came to the conclusion and they stated their conclusion to the military representatives and to the ministers in the month of January, or the beginning of February, that the attack would come south of Arras; that it would be an attack on a very wide front; that it would be an attack on the widest front ever yet assailed; that the Germans would accumulate ninety-five divisions for the purpose of making that attack; that they would throw the whole of their resources and their strength into breaking the British line at that point and that their objective would be the capture of Amiens and the severance of the British and French forces.

"That was the conclusion Sir Henry Wilson, chief of the imperial staff, came to and which was submitted at that time, two or three months ago, and I think that it was one of the most remarkable forecasts of enemy intentions that was ever made.

Events Verify Forecast

"As a matter of fact, the attack was made as I think, by about ninety-seven divisions. It was an attack on the widest front that had ever been engaged. Its object undoubtedly was the capture of Amiens and the severance of the British and French forces. So far, almost in every detail, that very remarkable forecast has been verified in the event.

"Another remarkable prediction was that it might probably succeed to the extent of separating the British line to the extent of half the distance of the front attacked. They came to that conclusion from a close examination of the objective of war.

"There was another advantage. There was first of all the advantage which the Germans had from having the initiative. There was a further advantage in time and this considerable was the greatest advantage from having a united command opposed to a dual one. The Germans undoubtedly relied on this to a large extent for their success. They also made much of the opening of the attack to this.

"They Have No United Command"

"It was reported to me on good authority that the Kaiser informed assembled Constantine, 'I shall beat them, for they have no united command.' Which shows that that was what they were relying in the main upon; that although their numbers were slightly inferior, they knew the importance that was to be attached to the fact that there was no perfectly united command.

"And that is an obvious advantage. If the fighting on one particular part of the line are great and in another part of the line are great, but substantially less than in the former, while one command there is no hesitation in the mind of the commander-in-chief as to which he will make the greatest provision against.

"With two separate commands the problem is a difficult one. It is more difficult to adjust the balance of risk and the general is always naturally inclined to give himself and his army the benefit of any doubt. That may be because if anything goes wrong there he alone is to be held responsible to his own government for the safety of his army.

Weather Aided Enemy

"The enemy had another incidental, but as it turned out, very important advantage—that of weather. Exceptional weather favored his designs. It was both dry and misty. The attack which succeeded was made on that part of the line where under ordinary spring conditions the ground would have been almost impassable.

"A wounded officer told a friend of mine today, a general, that under ordinary conditions no one could walk across the part which was traversed by the Germans at this time of the year. But it just happened to be absolutely dry and firm, and they walked across ground which no one had any right to expect at this time of year would be in that condition.

"Not only that, but the fact that it was warm increased the mist, and the Germans were actually in some parts within a few yards of our front line before any one knew of their approach. It was quite impossible to observe them. This was a special disadvantage to us inasmuch as our scheme of organization in that particular part of the line depended largely upon the cross-fire fire of machine guns and artillery. They had, therefore, a very special advantage, of which they made the fullest use.

Germans Broke Through

"With regard to the battle itself, as I have already stated, it will take some time to ascertain the whole facts. At one time it was undoubtedly very critical. The enemy broke through between our third and fifth armies, and there was a serious gap, and the situation was retrieved owing to the magnificent conduct of our troops. They retired in perfectly good order, re-establishing the junction between the two armies and frustrating the enemy's purpose.

"The public can hardly realize, and certainly cannot sufficiently thank—nor can the country—our troops for their superb valor and the grim tenacity with which they faced overwhelming hordes of the enemy and clung to their positions. They retired, but were never routed, and once more the cool pluck of the British soldier, that refuses to acknowledge defeat, saved Europe.

"I am referring to the whole army, generals, officers and soldiers. I mean the whole army and I draw no distinction. Their conduct has been one of incredible courage and great coolness under the most trying conditions. I do not think that any distinction can be drawn between officers and men. I am referring to the British army and that means all.

"And I specially refer to what one brigadier general did. Some reference has been made in the press already to it, where at one point there was a serious gap, which might have let the enemy into Calais."

General Gough Recalled

"Until the whole circumstances which led to the retirement of the fifth army and its failure to hold the line of he Somme at least till the Germans brought out their guns, and perhaps the failure adequately to destroy the bridges—until all these are explained—it would be unfair to censure the general in command of the army, General Gough. But until those circumstances are cleared up it would be equally unfair to the British army to retain his services in the field. It is necessary to recall him until the facts have been fully ascertained and laid before the Government by their military advisers.

"After the retirement of the Fifth Army, the French reserves came up with remarkable rapidity, when their position before the battle is borne in mind. In fact, the speed with which, when the final decision was taken as to the real designs of the enemy, the French reserves were brought up is one of the most remarkable feats of organization in this war, and between the courage of our troops and the handling of the army—the way the Third Army held, never giving way a hundred yards to the attack of the enemy—I think it right that it should be said about the army commanded by General Byng—what between the efforts of our soldiers and the loyal assistance given in true spirit of comradeship by the French army, the position is for the moment stabilized. But it is clear that the Germans, having gained an initial success, are preparing another, and perhaps an even greater attack on the Allied armies.

German Main Object Falls

"Up to the present the enemy has undoubtedly obtained a great initial success. There is no good in not accepting the facts. It is from that basis we must begin to build. But he has failed so far in his main objects. He failed to capture Amiens. He failed to separate the French and British armies. But we should be guilty of great, it might be fatal, error if we were to underestimate the gravity of the prospect.

"The enemy has captured valuable ground, which is too near Amiens for comfort or security, and he has succeeded for the time being in crippling one of our great armies.

"I will now tell the House something of the measures adopted by the cabinet to meet the emergency. I have already explained what was done about the French reserves. The cabinet took every step to hurry up re-enforcements in order to fill up the gap in our armies. No such large numbers of men ever passed across the channel in so short a time.

"As the emergency was great it was impossible to allow those who were summoned to France the usual leave to visit their relatives. It was with the greatest regret that we found it necessary to cancel this permission, and nothing but the gravity of the position would have justified so harsh a proceeding. But the troops accepted the situation in a manner which is worthy of the fortitude, courage and patriotism they have shown throughout.

Germans Exaggerate Gains

"There was an understanding that boys under nineteen years would be employed in case of emergency. We felt that the emergency had arisen, and in so far as those who were over eighteen were concerned those who had already received six months' training we felt it necessary that they should be sent to France.

"As to the guns and machine guns which were lost, the numbers are grossly exaggerated by the enemy. I am assured that they have also exaggerated their considerably the number of prisoners they have taken. The commander-in-chief assures me last week that it was a gross exaggeration.

"I am very glad to be able to say that the ministry of munitions was able not merely to replace those guns and machine guns, but that they still have got a very substantial reserve. The same thing applies to ammunition. There is an ample reserve of ammunition both in this country and in France.

"Our aircraft strength is greater now than before the battle, and we all know what brilliant service our airmen gave in this battle. Until the whole story of the battle is told it will be almost impossible to estimate the services they gave in retarding the advance of the enemy, in destroying the machinery and in making it difficult for him to bring up his guns and ammunition. We feel confident that our airmen, generals and soldiers will be quite equal to the next encounter whenever it comes.

United States of Great Assistance

"The next step to which I would like to call the attention of the House is the material and dramatic assistance rendered by President Wilson in this emergency—one of the most important decisions in the war. In fact, the issue of the battle might very well be determined by this decision.

"In America there is a very considerable number of men in the course of training and the Allies looked forward to having a large American army in France in the spring. It has taken longer than anticipated to turn those soldiers into the necessary divisional organizations. If America waited to complete those divisional organizations it would not be possible for these fine troops in any large number to take part in this battle in this campaign, although it might be very well the decisive battle of the war.

"This was, of course, one of the most serious disappointments from which the Allies had suffered. It is no use pretending it was not one of our chief causes of anxiety. We depend upon it largely to make up the defection of Russia. For many reasons—reasons perhaps of transport, reasons connected with the time it takes, not merely to train troops and their officers, but to complete the necessary organization—it was quite impossible to put into France the number of divisions every one had confidently expected.

"Under the circumstances we, therefore, submitted to the President of the United States a definite proposal. We had the advantage of having the Secretary of State for War in this country within two or three days after the battle had commenced. Mr. Balfour and I had a long conversation with him upon the whole situation, and we submitted to him certain recommendations which we had been advised to make to Mr. Baker and the American Government.

United States Troops Ready

"On the strength of the conversation we submitted proposals to President Wilson, with the strong support of Premier Clemenceau, to enable the combatant strength of the American army to come into action during this battle, inasmuch as there was no hope of it coming in as a strong separate army. By this decision American battalions will be brigaded with those of the Allies.

"This proposal was submitted by Earl Reading, on behalf of the British Government, to President Wilson, and President Wilson assented to the proposal without any hesitation, with the result that arrangements now are being made for the fighting strength of the American army to be brought immediately to bear in this struggle, a struggle which is only now beginning, to this extent, and it is no mere small extent, that the German attack has been held up. It has stirred up the resolution and energy of America beyond anything which has occurred.

Difficulties Are Explained

"Another important decision taken by the Allied Governments I must also call to the attention of the House. It became more obvious after the battle than ever before that the Allied armies were suffering from the fact that they were fighting as two separate armies and had to negotiate support with each other. Valuable time was thus lost. Some of us had been deeply impressed by this peril for some time and had done our best to avert it.

"But the inherent difficulties to be overcome are tremendous. There are national prejudices, national interests, professional prejudices and traditions. The inherent difficulties of getting two or three separate armies to fight as one are almost insurmountable, and it can only be done if public opinion in all these countries insists upon it as one condition of success. The Versailles conference was an effort at a remedy. How were the Versailles decisions carried out, and the extent to which they were not carried out this is not the time to inquire.

Peril Worth the Price

"I respectfully suggest to the House that no good would come at this stage in discussing this question. But if any one needed conviction as to the wisdom of the policy, this battle must have supplied it. The peril we passed through, by establishing the conviction without challenge, may, I think, be worth the price we paid for it.

"A few days after the battle commenced there was not merely the Government, but the commanders in the field. We had not merely field marshals, but army commanders present. We were so convinced—and the same thing applied to the French—of the importance of more complete strategic unity that they agreed to the appointment of General Foch to the supreme direction of the strategy of all the Allied armies on the western front.

"May I not say just one word about General Foch? It is not merely that he is one of the most brilliant soldiers in Europe, but there is this to be said about him: Foch is the man who, when we were attacked and were in a similar plight at the first battle of Ypres, rushed the French army there by every conceivable expedient—busses, cabs, lorries, anything he could lay his hands upon. He crowded French divisions through and undoubtedly helped to win the great battle.

"There is no doubt about the loyalty and comradeship of General Foch. I have no doubt that this arrangement will be carried out not merely in the letter, but in the spirit. But it is the most important decision that has been taken in reference to the coming battle. This strategic unity is, I submit to the House, the fundamental condition of victory. It can only be maintained by complete cooperation between the Governments and the generals and by something more than that—the unmistakable public opinion behind it.

"Why do I say that. For this reason. A generalissimo in the ordinary and full sense of the term may be impracticable. There are three functions which a general fields, strategical, tactical and administrative. What does administrative mean? It means control of organization, the appointment and dismissal of officers and generals, and that is a power which it is difficult or almost impossible to give to generals of another country with a national army.

Appeals for Unity

"Therefore, in spite of all the arrangements made, unless there be not merely good will, but the knowledge that the public of France, Great Britain and America will assist in co-ordination and in supporting the authority in the supreme strategical plans chosen by the governments and supporting the governments in any action they may take to assert their authority, any arrangements made will be futile and mischievous. I make no apology for dwelling at some length upon the point I have always felt that we were losing unity and efficiency in the Allied armies through lack of co-ordination and concentration.

"We have sustained many disasters already through this, and we shall encounter more unless this defect in our machinery is put right. Hitherto, I regret, every effort at amendment led to rather prolonged and bitter controversy, and these great inherent difficulties were themselves accentuated and aggravated. There were difficulties of carrying out plans and other obstacles and, what is worse, valuable time is lost.

"I entreat the nation as a whole to stand united for the united control of the strategical operations of our armies at the front. We know how much depends upon unity of concentration. We are fighting a very powerful foe, who, so far as he has triumphed, has triumphed mainly because of superior unity and the concentration of his strategic plans.

Not a Division Sent East

"There is another matter to which I should like to refer, and it is the suggestion that our forces have been dissipated on a subsidiary enterprise. Not a single division was sent from France to the east. With regard to Italy, had it not been for the fact that there are battalions of French and British divisions there, the Austrian army would have been free to throw the whole of its strength on the western front. If there were not some there now the Austrian army would be more powerfully represented than it is on the western front.

"With regard to Salonica, the only thing the present Government did was to reduce the forces there by two divisions. In Mesopotamia there is only one white division at all, and in Egypt and Palestine together there are only two white divisions, and the rest are either Indians or mixed, with a very small proportion of British troops. In these divisions, I am referring to infantry divisions.

"I want the House really to consider what that means. There is a menace to our eastern empire through Persia, because through Persia you approach Afghanistan, and through Afghanistan you menace the whole of India. Had it not been for the blows inflicted upon the Turks, what would have happened? Before these attacks there were Turkish divisions helping the Germans in Russia. They would have been there helping the Germans on the west, exactly as they helped on the east. But what has happened?

"It is not the fact that we have got these British divisions in Egypt and Palestine and one in Mesopotamia that has enabled us to hold our own, but it is the fact that we have had these splendid troops from India. Many of them volunteered since the war, and they have become more a match for their Turkish adversaries on many a stricken field.

"It is too early to state with accuracy our losses, because in the case of a battle over such a wide front, fought with such intensity for more than a fortnight, with vast numbers of men engaged, the losses sustained must be considerable. The claims of the enemy as to prisoners have been grossly exaggerated, and Field Marshal Haig has assured me that they were quite impossible from the figures at his disposal, and which he showed me, and the enemy's claims seem preposterous from the statements he made to me.

"But still our losses are very great and our reserves have been called upon to a considerable extent to make up the wastage and refit the units, and if the drain continues on this scale, a drain on the resources of reserves and of manpower, it must cause the deepest anxiety unless we take immediate steps to replenish it.

"The immediate necessity is relieved by the splendid and generous way and promptitude in which America has come to our aid, but they are simply lent to receive their training with a view to their incorporation at the first suitable moment in the American army in France, and even if they remain with the British right through the battle, the time will come when we shall need large re-enforcements if this battle continues.

Decision Sought This Year

"I want the House to consider for a moment what the plans of the enemy may be as they now are revealed. It was never certain he would take this plunge, because he knows what it means if it fails. But he has taken it. The battle proves that the enemy has definitely decided to seek a military decision this year, whatever the consequences to himself.

"There is no doubt he has overwhelming reasons. There is the economic condition of his country and the critical economic condition of his allies. He now is at the height of his power, and Russia is at the lowest, while America has not yet come into its strength. So, this year the enemy may put forth something which approaches his full strength. But soon he will grow feebler and weaker in comparison with the Allied forces.

"Everything, therefore, points to the definite determination of Germany to put the whole of her resources into seeing a military decision this year, and this means a prolonged battle from the North Sea to the Adriatic, with Germany and Austria throwing in the whole of their strength.

"With United States Aid We Can Do It"

"There are still seven or eight months within which the fighting can continue, and everything depends upon keeping our strength right to the end, whatever the strain upon our resources may be.

"With Americans aid we can do it. But even with American help we cannot feel secure unless we are prepared ourselves to make even greater sacrifices than we have hitherto made. I know what the Government wishes. I know also what will happen if the demand which the Government is putting forward is not responded to.

"It is idle to imagine, as some people very light-heartedly seem to think, that you have got an unlimited reservoir of man-power in this or in any belligerent country. We have already raised in this country for military and naval purposes very nearly 6,000,000 men. We cannot raise here the same proportion of men per population as you can in other belligerent countries. I have repeatedly emphasized that in the House of Commons.

"We have the greatest navy in the world. The command of the seas depends not merely for ourselves, but for our allies, upon the efforts we put forward. That is not only a question of building of adding to the numbers of ships and of repairing the ships. Then you have got a mercantile marine without which the Allies could not continue the struggle for a single month.

"All that must be borne in mind, and whatever happens and whatever proposals we put forward today, it would be folly to do anything which would interfere with the one fundamental condition of success to the Allies—that the navy and shipping must be first.

Coal and Steel a Problem

"We have also got to supply coal largely to our allies, as well as steel. But, owing largely to improved organization in the various industries, to the way they are adapting themselves from day to day to new conditions, and to the increased numbers and greatly increased efficiency of woman labor, there is a reserve of men, which, consistent with the discharge of these obligations, may yet be withdrawn in great emergency for our battle line. Not without damage to industry—I do not forget that—and not without, to a certain extent, weakening the economic strength of the country, and not without impairment to the striking power of the country for war.

"Nothing could justify such drastic action except an overwhelming emergency precipitated by a great military crisis.

"I want to point out specially why the steps taken now are steps which will be useful to this battle. First of all, it is a battle which may last for months. The decision may be taken not now or next month, but may be months hence. But, beyond that the Allies at the present moment have the same reserves of man-power to re-enforce their armies as Germany has, without taking into account those great reserves in America.

Germans Calling 1920 Class

"The Germans, however, are calling on another class, which will produce 500,000 efficient young men. These will be prepared to be thrown into the battle line. This is the 1920 class aged eighteen and a half. These can be thrown into the battle line before the fight is over and we must be prepared for their advent in this struggle this year.

"Therefore, I have to submit to Parliament the totals for increasing and increasing very materially the reserves which will be available for re-enforcing our armies in the field during this prolonged battle, upon which we are only just entering. I will now give roughly some of the proposals to make in order to increase the number of men available.

"No one is likely to forget the fine response made by the miners at the beginning of the war or the splendid part they have taken in hundreds of battles since then. They have been loyal in meeting the present demand of 50,000 men, and I am confident they would meet a further call upon them in the same spirit, in view of this great national emergency under which we are making it. The transport services also have been called upon to release the greatest possible number of fit men.

"Further calls are to be made upon the civil service. I do not think it is realized how much the civil service has done already. On one hand it has had to release a large number of men for the army, and, on the other, it has to meet and in meeting the increased strain of work. But even at risk of some dislocation we must call upon it to do more, and a clean cut of young, fit men must be made.

"It is proposed that no men below the age of twenty-five should be retained. That is the clean cut. We comb out beyond that. That is what is called the clean cut. I shall explain it later. It is proposed that it should be applied to other industries as well.

Men Needed Quickly

"When we are adding to the age and when we are extending the military age, it should not be said there are still young men of twenty-five who are employed in the various industries of the country. This will bring the civil service into line, and on a general level, so far as a clean cut is concerned, with the munitions industries.

"Under an act passed in January of this year, we are issuing orders cancelling all occupational exemptions by age blocks in specified occupations. That is the clean cut. The first of these orders is being laid on the table in the House today and other orders of the same power will follow. I know that the House will appreciate that it is not merely necessary to have men, but to have them quickly. It is no use raising them until they are raised in time to take part in the struggle this year, when we shall be short of drafts, if the battle is a prolonged one.

"The Government, therefore, has shortened the length of the calling-up notice from fourteen days to seven and has authorized the sending of notice by whatever method is the most expeditious and convenient.

"It may be necessary even to curtail the rights of appeal on medical grounds, but for the moment it is not proposed to do so. We have had a good many frivolous appeals which have wasted a good deal of time, and if that goes on it will be absolutely necessary, in the interest of the security of the country, that the rights of appeal should be curtailed in this respect.

Age Raised to Fifty

"There is another consideration. The strain upon the medical profession has been great already. We are very short of medical men and we may be driven to do it by the hard necessities of the case.

"I now turn to the new proposal embodied in the bill, which I beg leave to introduce today. Our first proposal is to raise the military age up to fifty, and in certain specified cases we ask for powers to raise it to fifty-five, but that only when a man with special qualifications is needed. For instance, it may be necessary to do it in the case of medical men in order to secure their services. It may be necessary in certain special classes, with special training and special experience, to secure their services for the army.

Intimation of Invasion

"When you come to the question of raising the age to fifty it does not mean that men between forty-two and fifty are necessarily to be taken in order to put them into the fighting line. It may be that there are men of that age who are just as fit as men of twenty-five, but I am sorry to say that that is the exception, and we cannot, therefore, depend upon men of that age altogether to make up the finest fighting material.

"There are a good many services in the army which do not require the very best physical material, and it would be very helpful to get men of this age to fill those services in order to release younger and fitter men to enter the fighting line. There is also to be borne in mind the fact that we have to prepare for home defense, so as to be able to release men from this country and fill their places by men between forty and fifty, who, I have no doubt, will fight very tenaciously for their own homes if there was an invasion.

"The proportion of men from forty-two to fifty years of age whom we expect to be available is not very high—something like 7 per cent. That is, only 7 per cent of from forty-two to fifty years will be available for the army.

"I only want to reassure persons between forty-two and fifty that all the men of that age are not going to be called up to the fighting lines. I gave a sort of rough estimate that it would be only a small percentage of men of this age who will be likely to come under the provisions of the bill.

Tells of Exemptions

"Now I come to the question of exemptions from military service. It is known to every one who has had experience in the difficulty of obtaining manpower that one of the many obstacles to success is the number of exemptions which have been granted, often for reasons which at the time appeared sufficient, but which should no longer be effective at the present time of crisis. The minister of national service already has the power under the act passed this year to cancel certificates granted on occupational grounds, and it is proposed to make free use of this power. There will be several of these exemptions which will be canceled under the power which already has been conferred on the minister of national service by means of proclamations, but when the existing powers have been used to the utmost it may be necessary to go further and deal with exemptions granted on other grounds.

"Accordingly, it is provided by the bill that his Majesty may by proclamation declaring that a national emergency has arisen, direct that a certificate of exemption from the military service of the nature specified in the proclamation shall cease to have effect, and that while any such proclamation remains in force no exemptions shall be granted which would fall within the term of the proclamation.

"It is obvious that under this provision it would be open to the Government to cancel exemptions in respect of men under an age to be specified in the proclamation. This is another means of arriving at a clean cut, so as to secure men of military age, fit young men for the purposes of the army under an age to be specified in the proclamation, and be existing exemptions granted to such men will be superseded and the main will be taken or left on medical grounds only. We have to choose between either submitting to defeat or taking the necessary measures to avert it. We will never submit to accepting defeat.

WILSON WANTS PEACE, IS BELIEF IN VIENNA

Baltimore Speech Moderate, in Opinion of the Austrian Press

Zurich, April 10.—A vienna dispatch says: The tone of President Wilson's speech at Baltimore is deplored in Austria, although in the circumstances it is regarded as exceedingly intelligible. The essential point is considered to be the President's readiness, in the conditions indicated, to make peace even now. The situation, therefore, is looked upon as unchanged.

The Vienna press in general, the dispatch says, regards the speech as exceedingly moderate.

London, April 10.—According to a dispatch from The Hague Count von Lutzow, formerly Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to Italy, writing in the Vienna Neue Freie Presse on President Wilson's latest speech, says:

"If and when conviction gains ground in the United States that the Entente have lost the game President Wilson will come forward with a proposal of peace.

"If the German army should succeed in forcing a way to the coast, it now is certain that Great Britain would consider herself hopelessly beaten and be ready to accept any terms. The alternative for her is to continue the state of war. As far as the United States is concerned she will remain on the side of Great Britain only as long as Germany insists on rejecting peace proposals enumerating from President Wilson."

The correspondent of the daily Mail sees interest in this utterance lies in the admission the object of Austro-German diplomacy is to persuade President Wilson to make peace proposals or to take the initiative in peace discussion over the heads of the rulers of the Entente Governments.

Amsterdam, April 10. — Commenting upon President Wilson's Baltimore speech, the Kolnische Volkszeitung says:

"It is beginning to dawn upon Americans that they have bucked the wrong horse, as withers the raging speech of the President, whose mental equilibrium seems badly upset. All America's achievements in the first war year amount to a casualty list of more than 2000."

A semiofficial telegram from Berlin says:

"We learn from a competent source that Imperial Chancellor von Hertling has no intention, as reported, of soon speaking in the Reichstag. He is rather of the opinion the present is not the time for