

CROWDER ORDERS PROBE OF DRAFT

Seeks Reason for Small Class 1 Percentage in Some Districts

SHARP BATTLE IN HOUSE Raising of Eligible Age to Forty for Bigger Army Proposed

Washington, April 11.—Provost Marshal General Crowder today ordered a thorough investigation of local draft board classifications in districts where the percentage of Class 1 is singularly small.

The inquiries are the result of Congressional opposition to Crowder's plan to base the quotas for future drafts on the number in Class 1, instead of the total number registered or the population.

In some districts, comparatively few, the percentage of Class 1 is only seven, while in other districts it is forty-five or fifty.

Several Congressional members claim that some local boards have deliberately adopted the policy of cutting down the percentage of Class 1 in order to keep the quotas for the future low.

The investigations are being ordered just as rapidly as it is found there is the least cause for one. It was stated at the Provost Marshal General's office.

Battle in House With the Allies appealing for more men, the House plunged into one of the greatest legislative battles to remove the last obstacles to the second draft plan.

The storm center was the draft quota bill, basing the allotments of men on the various districts in proportion to the number of men in Class 1, instead of the population, as was done in the first draft.

Other amendments to give the President power to call skilled workers from any class and to disregard volunteer enlistments in raising quotas. For the present, brought sharp skirmishes.

Representative Julius Kahn, ranking Republican on the Military Committee, who will lead the fight for the amendments, is ready to make the issue an endorsement of the operation of the draft thus far, pointing out that five of the six members of the Military Committee opposing the amendment also opposed conscription. Kahn is determined to push the measure, all of which have passed the Senate, through today.

Opponents of the plan have been working for weeks lining up information to show injustices they claim the new plan will bring, and to attract new members, particularly from the South.

Backers of the plan are confident today because of the declaration of Majority Leader Kitchin last night that the amendments must pass. Kitchin, who opposed conscription, is now one of the most enthusiastic advocates.

Representative Charles McNary, leading the opposition, is prepared to show that in his State some counties have sent three times as many men as others of equal population because boards in those counties have placed three times as many men in Class 1 as the others.

"Basing the quotas on the total number registered would be a gross injustice," he said, "in offering his amendment."

Shallenberger, one of the most vigorous opponents of the draft, originally will urge that the draft age be raised to forty.

"We must have 2,000,000 in France. To do that we must have 10,000,000 under arms," he declared.

Shallenberger's amendment to give credit for volunteer enlistments probably will prevail, as President Wilson is understood to favor it and the Secretary of War advocates it over Provost Marshal General Crowder's protest.

Crowder insists the burdens will be equally distributed in the later years without giving credit now, but many members believe his plan would cause unnecessary distinctions in certain sections.

Big Individual Pledges to Loan Continued from Page One

tion and lends a little cheer to the atmosphere.

A rally was held in front of the Statue of Liberty both at City Hall at 4 o'clock, under the auspices of the Four-Minute Men of the Pennsylvania committee on public safety.

There will be a meeting and luncheon of the professional members of the United Liberty Loan at the Bellevue-Stratford tonight. It is called for 8:15 o'clock.

Another feature of organization for the drive is the work being done in the schools of the city. The boys and girls are constituting an effective selling force. Five of the nine school districts have already sold more than \$100,000 of bonds each since the drive began and more is coming each day from the workers.

The women's organizations are coming forward with a mighty wave of subscription. Their organizations have proved able and effective during the first days of the drive and they are rapidly gaining in strength.

Announcement was made today by Mrs. Barclay Warburton, in charge of the "Second Line of Defense" parade, that more than 1,000 women and girls will participate in the parade a week from Saturday. All the women and girls will be war workers.

Organization work is going forward among the textile trades in this city. They expect to raise more than \$5,000,000.

German towns will have a Liberty Loan parade all its own. All women's organizations will take part in the exercises April 25, which will include community singing in Vernon Park. Subscriptions from women workers in German towns already amount to more than \$123,000.

Peace Talk a Menace, Says Colby Toronto, April 11.—Everett Colby, of New York, a member of the United States food administration, told an audience here that any talk of peace made by a public man is more disastrous to the Allied cause than the destruction of an army of men in France. As a member of a mission appointed to study the food situation in the Allied countries,

U. S. SOLDIERS MARCHING TO FIGHT IN GREAT PICARDY BATTLE



American soldiers have joined the Anglo-French forces on the Picardy front and have already proved themselves as fit as veterans. The photograph shows them hastening toward the Aisne trenches, ready and eager to take their part in the great struggle.

HAIG STRAIGHTENS LINE; ABANDONS ARMENTIERES

Continued from Page One heaviest fighting has passed from the Amiens and Noyon zones to the Franco-Flemish extremity of the line. Prized objectives in the form of the channel ports, Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne, explain the renewed offensive in the La Bassee and Armentieres zones.

Haig's defenses are in the best of shape to withstand the fresh onslaught upon his left.

Present indications point toward concentration against the British, rather than the French. Checked from Arras southward the German took advantage of their exceptional transportation and quickly set up divisions between Armentieres and La Bassee, striking the Portuguese and British. They were stopped by the stiffest hand-to-hand fighting, notably by the Fifty-fifth division, holding Givency hill, which commands the line as far as Armentieres.

Strike at Messines Stripping to one side, the enemy struck again against Messines, where British bayonets are flashing red while Crown Prince Rupprecht's guns thunder.

German prisoners tell of methods of entangling their fighters by promising quickly to relieve troops who advance successfully and threatening those who fail with a long stay in the line.

New arrivals make a total of about 200 divisions (2,100,000 men), with more coming. Divisions which were mauled during March are retreating and being cheered up with tales of big advances and approaching victory.

The entire line now stretches out more than 120 miles.

German Cross the Line In the fighting between Armentieres and La Bassee Canal the Germans took 6,000 prisoners and 100 guns. Berlin reported last night. It is asserted also that the 1st Army has been crossed at several points between Armentieres and Estaires and that north of Armentieres the Germans have penetrated the Belgian lines on both sides of the Waasten-Warrenton line.

On the southern part of the territory, south of the line, the German made further gains. Berlin reports, driving across the line along the canal again in the Polemieu sector. The village of Hangard-en-Santerre in the Armentieres sector was the scene of desperate fighting, during which it was changed hands several times, finally remaining in the hands of the French, who also won possession of the country near by.

West of Estaires and west of Noyon German attempts to advance were checked. Heavy losses were inflicted upon them.

Berlin Claims 6000 Prisoners, 100 Guns; French Regain Town

Berlin, April 11.—The Germans took 6,000 prisoners and 100 guns when they captured the first British and Portuguese lines between Armentieres and La Bassee Canal, an official statement from the general headquarters announced.

According to last night's official report, the Germans have crossed the line at several points between Armentieres and Estaires.

"North of Armentieres," the statement adds, "we penetrated the English lines on both sides of Waasten-Warrenton."

"On the battlefield on both sides of the Somme violent artillery duels and successful infantry engagements developed last night."

"On the southern bank of the Oise we also threw back the enemy across the line between Estaires, Combray and Brancourt."

Paris, April 11.—A heavy German attack on the French lines near Hangard-en-Santerre was met by a French counter-attack, preventing the Germans from gaining any advantage. The following official statement was issued by the French War Office:

The night was marked by a series of local actions begun by the Germans at several points on the front.

In the region of Hangard-en-Santerre the Germans yesterday evening delivered an attack which was repulsed by strong artillery preparation. Violent fighting took place for possession of the village, which several times changed hands. About 3 o'clock

Americans Put New Austria Admits Peace Overture

Continued from Page One Tapani and knew nothing of the secret negotiations.

Charles P. Anderson, formerly assistant of the state department, has been the chief adviser of the department in the last year, but he hasn't been in office for two years. He is now employed by the council of national defense.

The department's position recently on official news organizations had been misunderstood though everybody coming back from Europe had seen talk of one sort or another. This was taken to indicate that some Austrian overture had been received through sources not directly connected with the government, though it perhaps in a position to talk authoritatively.

GERMANY DISSATISFIED WITH DR. VON HERTLING

London, April 11.—There is growing dissatisfaction in Germany with the Chancellor, Count von Hertling and Dr. Von Hertling, the Foreign Secretary, an Austrian Telegram dispatch from Copenhagen reports. Affairs are being made by the place Von Hertling with Dr. Von Hertling, former Vice-Chancellor.

The position of Count Czernin, the Austrian Foreign Minister, is reported much less secure since his recent speech and the publication of a French official statement that Emperor Charles considered the French demand for Alsace-Lorraine just.

The Austrian Embassy in Berlin officially denies the statement attributed to Emperor Charles, but does not insist there was never any talk of an acknowledgment by the Emperor of the justice of the Alsace-Lorraine demands.

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IL MESSAGGIO DEL RE D'ITALIA A WILSON

La Resistenza del Popolo e dei Soldati d'Italia e' Inflessibile

AZIONI DI ARTIGLIERIA

L'Attivita' Combattiva al Fronte Italiano e' piu' Notevole Sulle Linee delle Montagne

Roma, 11 aprile. Sua Maesta' Vittorio Emanuele, in occasione dell'anniversario dell'entrata degli Italiani nella guerra, ha spedito il seguente messaggio telegrafico al Presidente Wilson:

"E' un anno disastri la Repubblica Americana, sotto la vostra illuminata guida, curata nella gigantesca lotta per la liberta' del popolo, unita da comuni ideali di giustizia e di democrazia, sta combattendo contro il minaccioso giogo di autocrasia e militarismo."

"Mentre le valmose truppe Americane combattono al glorioso suolo di Francia, contro nuove armate anno in provincia di guerra, il popolo austriaco, degli Stati Uniti ha reso impossibile la resistenza del popolo e dei soldati d'Italia, pronti ad offrire l'offensiva offensiva. Con essi noi, in questo anno, avremo ancora e nel nostro paese, mandando a voi ed all'Esercito Americano il piu' riconoscente saluto."

Disposti giu' da Parigi, rinvio che, in occasione dell'anniversario dell'entrata degli Stati Uniti in guerra, i giornali tedeschi hanno pubblicato articoli con i quali hanno cercato di liberare il governo dalla responsabilita' della campagna del settembre, dichiarando che questa non ha nulla da vedere con la decisione dell'America. Gli articoli avevano anche per scopo di rievocare il pubblico sentimentale delle presenti operazioni e rassicurare, pure, che l'attacco dell'America e' nel momento di massima importanza e che tale sara' per l'Europa.

Honza, 11 aprile. Il nuovo ufficio militare giu' dal quartier generale italiano recano che l'attivitа' combattiva continua con notevole vigore in tutte le zone delle montagne e specialmente sul fronte di Armentieres.

Le azioni da parte dell'artiglieria italiana sono normali ed hanno raggiunto un certo successo.

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giunto una notevole intensita' solo quando si e' trattato di combattere il fuoco delle batterie avversarie ed ostacolare movimenti di truppe e di convogli, soprattutto dagli aviatori nelle retrovie del nemico.

Il fuoco dei cannoni italiani, specialmente in questi ultimi giorni, ha diventato le linee nemiche provocando, dietro di esse, esplosioni ed incendi. Vari scontri aerei si sono verificati sopra le linee austriache, scontri terminati sempre con esito favorevole per gli aviatori italiani ed alleati.

Un aereo austriaco si e' abbattuto da un aviatore italiano, durante uno scontro verificatosi sopra le posizioni nei pressi di Luce di Piave.

Nel basso corso del Piave e' precipitante di fronte a Fagnano, le batterie italiane, con il loro ben assetato cannone, riuscirono ad affondare varie batterie nemiche, usate nei tentativi per attraversare il fiume.

Il testo del comunicato ufficiale, pubblicato ieri l'altro dal Ministero della Guerra in Roma:

Nel bacino di Asiago il nostro fuoco per controllare l'avanzamento delle esplosioni ed incendi dentro le linee nemiche.

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