THE WEATHER
Washington, April 25.—Fair; cool tonight. Friday, partly cloudy.
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
41	41	43	45	48					

Evening Public Ledger

POSTSCRIPT

VOL. IV.—NO. 191 PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1918 PRICE TWO CENTS

COPYRIGHT, 1918, BY THE PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

DRAFT OFFICIALS FACE ACCUSATION OF LAX METHODS

District Board Members Called to Explain Alleged Irregularities

PROBE TO COVER STATE

"Political Influence" and "Money" as Exemption Factors to Be Investigated

Announcement that the United States Government plans an investigation in Pennsylvania of alleged irregularities in drafting men for the National Army was followed today by Major W. G. Murdock, in charge of the draft in Philadelphia, requesting Draft Board No. 40, located at the Fourth street and Snyder avenue station, to explain charges made in an anonymous letter to the War Department.

Major Warren, of the National Army, is expected here from Washington to begin a State-wide probe of certain alleged "slipshod" methods of different boards throughout Pennsylvania.

The charges against Draft Board No. 40 were first made to the War Department. Later, the charges, which allege "political influence" and "money" were factors for obtaining exemptions were sent to the Adjutant General at Harrisburg, with a request from the department that they be investigated.

Samuel J. Buck, chairman of the board, emphatically denied the charges. He said he welcomed an investigation and defied the person who wrote the anonymous letter to come forward and make these charges in public.

The letter which caused the War Department to ask the board for an explanation was mailed from this city. It was dated April 8, and reads as follows:

U. S. War Department,
Washington, D. C.:

There are a few young men among whom are the Gables, at Seventh street and Snyder avenue, who are perfectly fit to fight for our country, but have been rejected on account of a great deal of political pull in the Thirty-ninth Ward and at the Fourth street and Snyder avenue station house. Some of our boys who have good claims for exemption have been passed because they had no political pull whatever, and these lusky Wilkers get exempted and let others fight for them.

Citizen of United States,
Thirty-ninth Ward, Phila., Pa.

Chairman Denies Charges

Mr. Buck today said that he had received a copy of the anonymous letter from Major Murdock. He made the following statement:

"This is a disgrace. Politics and politicians have no say in my ward when it comes to considering whether a man should go to camp or not. On several occasions I have found it necessary to actually throw out of my office many politicians and lawyers who have come to influence me one way or the other.

"My work here at the board has always been free from stain, and I defy any man or politician or lawyer to prove that he has had any influence in the placing of draftees in the army or kept them from becoming soldiers."

The letter from Major Murdock to Mr. Buck inclosing the anonymous letter contained the following:

"We forward for your information this letter—that such appropriate action as may be necessary will be taken."

The "Gable" referred to in the letter is said to be B. Gable, who conducts a saloon at Seventh street and Snyder avenue. His son, Jacob Gable, is in the draft and leaves tomorrow for Camp Lee, Va. He is the only Gable in the jurisdiction of Draft Board No. 40.

"I never sought an exemption," said the younger Gable today; "in fact, I leave tomorrow for Camp Lee and I am glad to go. I am glad that I am going in camp and also glad because I will have a chance to fight the Germans."

Buck's Reply to Murdock

Mr. Buck today replied to Major Murdock as follows:

"We are in receipt of your letter of April 22, 1918, and in reply desire to say that the above Jacob Gable was classified and placed in Class A. He was called for physical examination February 14 and qualified for general military services. Jacob Gable has been inducted in the military service and is to be entrained for Camp Lee, Va., April 26."

TOWN MEETING HEADS "O. K." SPROUL TONIGHT

City Committee Will Also Indorse Other Penrose Candidates to Defeat Vares

Indorsement of Senator Sproul for Governor and other Penrose candidates for State offices will be given tonight by the city committee of the Town Meeting party at a meeting in the Transportation Building. This will mark the opening of the drive against the Vares and will bring thousands of votes to the Penrose candidates. Many believe that the re-inforcements from the Town Meeting supporters will offset the Vare lead in the Organization and it is predicted that it will swing the balance of power in the direction of the anti-Vare forces.

In addition to Senator Sproul, the meeting will indorse Senator E. E. Beilman for Lieutenant Governor and James F. Woodward, of Allegheny County, for Secretary of Internal Affairs.

The recent vice investigation and the lingering echoes of the Fifth Ward tragedy, many believe will swing the votes of conscientious Republicans into line with the Town Meeting men. It is also predicted by the Town Meeting followers that the church vote will line up behind Senator Sproul in view of the revelations of the last two weeks.

NEW GERMAN SHELL HINTED

House of Commons Starts Inquiry About Chemical Weapon

London, April 25.—Hint of a new German shell was given in the House of Commons when Under Secretary for War Macpherson was asked whether he could state that the enemy was using any new kind of explosive or chemical shell or bomb, and if he could make any statement as to the nature of the wounds inflicted by it.

Mr. Macpherson said he was having further inquiries made.

CADET EDWIN D. DRYER
Formerly of 1224 South Millick street, Philadelphia, who was burned to death yesterday with another army aviator at Wichita Falls, Tex., when his airplane burst into flames fifty feet in the air and crashed to the ground.

ARMY QUARTERMASTER'S BRANCHES TO NEW YORK

Manufacturing, Woolen and Cotton Divisions Transferred, Goethals Announces

Washington, April 25.—The manufacturing, woolen and cotton branches of the supply and equipment division of the quartermaster corps will be moved from Washington to New York "as quickly as new quarters can be secured," Acting Quartermaster General Goethals announced today.

The purpose of the change is to bring the three branches closer to the big industrial and manufacturing centers where commodities required for the army are turned out. The executive as well as the operating officials will be transferred to New York. About 150 persons are affected by the change.

FEARING PNEUMONIA, JUROR SAID GUILTY

New York Election Clerk Convicted by Zephyrs, Rather Than Evidence, Affidavit Avers

New York, April 25.—Pneumonia-bearing zephyrs that swept through the jury room, not the evidence presented, caused the conviction of Joseph Lilymeld, one of the election clerks sentenced a few days ago by Justice Goff to six months in jail for primary frauds.

This assertion is made in an affidavit filed by George W. Goddard, a juror in the case, who said, "At the time I was in the jury room I was suffering from a severe cold, and in spite of all the threats and promises of the jurors I would have held out were it not for the fact that the jury room was cold and I was afraid I would develop pneumonia if I stayed there any longer."

GERMAN CHANCELLOR SUES PRESS FOR LIBEL

Czernin and Von Kuehlmann Involved in Legal Action Against Newspaper

Copenhagen, April 25.—Chancellor Hertling has taken action against the Deutsche Zeitung because of an article published by that paper charging that German Foreign Minister von Kuehlmann and former Austrian Foreign Minister Czernin during the Rumanian peace negotiations at Bucharest "abused" the courtesies extended to them.

The article declared that Von Kuehlmann often was seen with a well-known demimonde, while Czernin frequently visited questionable shows. It was further charged that Czernin insulted a certain high-born lady.

Other newspapers excused the alleged actions of the two Foreign Ministers, saying they were no worse than those of the peasants holding their annual meeting in Berlin.

AUSTRIAN PLANTS BLOWN UP

Two Large Powder Factories Are Destroyed With Heavy Loss of Life

London, April 25.—Two large powder factories at Glasenbach, near Salzburg, 156 miles southwest of Vienna, have been destroyed, according to German papers received at Zurich.

The explosions, which are believed to have been caused by incendiaries, are said to have resulted in heavy casualties.

ACROBATIC DODGER HELD

Youthful Alleged Burglar's Bail Is Fixed at $1000

Dodging around is said to be Anthony Kasik's favorite pastime, but he utterly failed to dodge an order from Magistrate Beaton today holding him under $1000 bail on three burglary charges.

Police say he is the most acrobatic burglar of the "matinee" circuit, excelling in climbing up second-story buildings, leaping from roof to roof and sliding down gutter pipes. He is seventeen years old and lives in East Allen street.

DEMAND SUFFRAGE REFORM

100,000 Budapest Workmen Conduct Three-Hour Demonstration

Amsterdam, April 25.—A hundred thousand workers in Budapest conducted a three-hour strike yesterday as a demonstration for suffrage reforms, according to a dispatch from that city today. The strike was conducted calmly.

Similar demonstrations occurred in various industrial centers.

PARIS AGAIN SHELLED

Cannonading of German Long-Range Guns Reported Resumed

London, April 25.—The bombardment of Paris by long-range German cannonading has been resumed, said an Exchange Telegraph dispatch today.

Fire Loss at Baldwin Plant

Chester, Pa., April 25.—Fire of unknown origin destroyed seven carloads of wooden material used for roofing at the erecting department of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Eddystone.

BRITISH HURL BACK FOE IN THREE ATTACKS EAST OF AMIENS OBJECTIVE

Demands of Germany Resisted by Holland

Right to secure gravel, sand and other war material from their territory and also to be transported through Holland.

Guarantee of ships' tonnage now and after war.

Conditions which would force Entente Allies to occupy Dutch colonies formally.

Assaults Centered to North of Villers-Bretonneux-St. Quentin Highway

Haig Gains Ground in Sector—Fighting, Developed in Night, Continues

Americans in Thick of Battle to Save Great Base From the Germans

London, April 25.

Three German attacks delivered in the sector of Villers-Bretonneux (east of Amiens) were repulsed by the British, the War Office announced today.

The assaults centered north of the Villers-Bretonneux-St. Quentin road, in the same district in which the Germans renewed their offensive on Wednesday.

(Villers-Bretonneux is about two miles south of the Somme River and was the scene of hard fighting on Wednesday, when the Germans, after a desperate struggle, broke into the place.)

The British also gained ground in the Villers-Bretonneux district, capturing some prisoners. The fighting there continues.

Northeast of Bailleul the Germans resumed their assaults, but were repulsed.

Heavy fighting that developed around Villers-Bretonneux throughout the night continued today, Haig said. British artillery and tanks have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The British made gains in ground.

Haig's Report

Field Marshal Haig reported as follows:

North of Villers-Bretonneux, on the St. Quentin road, the enemy attacked three times, but was repulsed with loss. The enemy used a few tanks.

The fighting yesterday on the whole Villers-Bretonneux front was extremely severe.

Heavy enemy casualties were inflicted by our artillery and tanks.

There was heavy fighting throughout the night also in and around Villers-Bretonneux.

The fighting continues. We regained ground by counter-attacks and took a number of prisoners.

An attempted enemy raid in the neighborhood of Beuchy last night was repulsed.

Hostile artillery was active last night in the Festubert and Robecq sectors.

Americans in Fight

American troops are aiding in the defense of Amiens. These units, the French night communique disclosed, are holding positions south of the Somme and along the Avre, in conjunction with the French.

It was against these positions that the Germans directed their heaviest attacks in the resumption of their offensive yesterday morning. The fighting is continuing along a wide front there, according to the latest official reports.

The German grand offensive is again on. Renewing attacks on the Picardy battlefront the Teutons are concentrating their heaviest pressure at the point where the British and French armies join. The Germans are using their old-time tactics of assaulting in dense formation.

The Americans on this front are evidently holding positions between the Somme and Avre Rivers south of Amiens. This is a vital part of the front and it was a high compliment to the traditions of the American army that its troops were put on the fron at such a crucial position.

There has been a bloody struggle in the sector of Hangard-en-Santerre (south of Villers-Bretonneux). The Germans succeeded at the cost of tremendous sacrifices in gaining a foothold is the wood north of Hangard as well as in the outskirts of the village.

The Germans' violent attack at Amiens is on a thirteen-mile front east. The enemy has captured Villers-Bretonneux from the British, Field Marshal Haig's night report announced. The town is about a mile west of the former front and eleven miles east of Amiens. The Germans also gained a footing in the woods held by the French northwest of Hangard and in the eastern outskirts of this village. Everywhere else the attacks were shattered with heavy German losses.

The sector selected for attack covers the junction of the British and Franco-American armies.

The Allies hold a rather sharp salient in the German lines on the high ground around Hangard. This the enemy seems to be trying to straighten out.

Continued on Page Six, Column Two

'CAPITALIZATION' CONTRACT BINDS

City Cannot Get Around Terms of Transit Pact of 1907

BEASLEY GIVES OPINION

The City of Philadelphia is bound by the contract of 1907 in regard to the capitalization of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, Transit Director Twining testified this morning at the third session of the hearing on the lease of the city's high speed lines to the traction company.

The answer came in reply to questions by C. Oscar Beasley, counsel for several business men associations, in regard to "watered stock" in the P. R. T.

Mr. Beasley argued that the word "capitalization" does not appear in the paragraph of the 1907 contract referred to by Director Twining. The director explained that the "legal interpretation" of the paragraph was the ground for his opinion.

Further effort was made to show that Boston has a better contract on a five-cent fare than the lease now proposed in Philadelphia. Mr. Beasley pointed out that while in Boston the fixed charges amount to one cent out of every five-cent fare, in Philadelphia it is two cents out of every five-cent fare.

To Increase Fare

Director Twining declared that Boston's transit system cannot be maintained on a five-cent fare and that steps are now being taken in the Massachusetts Legislature to have the fare increased.

Interested spectators at the session today were members of the transit committee of the Civic Club. They were Mrs. John C. Trautwine, chairman; Miss Ella Robb, Miss Eleanor Goepp, Miss Lydia Lowry and Mrs. E. H. McCall.

At the opening of the hearing Mr. Beasley presented a protest against the lease made by W. A. Dunlap, a taxpayer, of No. 1837 Fairmount avenue. This is done to lay the ground work for an appeal to the courts should the Public Service Commission approve the lease. Heretofore, Mr. Beasley has represented only associations. These are not taxpayers and cannot appeal to the courts from decisions of the commission. Mr. Dunlap appeared to identify his protest.

William Draper Lewis, special counsel for the city, continued to produce evidence that the lease will be beneficial to the public and at the same time fair to the P. R. T. Mr. Lewis in former hearings has endeavored to show that the lines can be operated by the city as an independent system only at a large annual loss. This has been brought out in the testimony of Transit Director Twining and others.

The city's lack of borrowing power has been dwelt upon as one of the principal reasons why the city cannot handle the proposition adequately.

Another reason advanced against operating the city's lines as an independent system was the necessity occasioned thereby of the construction of the Chestnut street subway. This would mean an immediate expenditure on the city's part of $12,000,000. It was contended further that an excessive rate of fare would have to be charged on an independent system.

When Mr. Lewis has finished putting in his evidence favoring the lease the opposition will have its inning. C. Oscar Beasley, representing several business men's associations, will handle that end of the case. He has already outlined his course, which is based principally on an argument that this is not the time for making a lease.

GOVERNMENT SEIZES FAST STEAMER CLYDE

Will Be Used to Transport Workers From Gloucester to Hog Island

The steamship Thomas Clyde, which formerly plied on excursions between Philadelphia and Woodland Beach and was long known as the fastest boat on the river, was commandeered today and placed in the service of the Emergency Fleet Corporation transporting employes from Gloucester to Hog Island.

The Clyde is the oldest steamboat in active service on the Delaware. It made its first trip as a Government boat at 7:40 o'clock today, carrying 500 men and women employes of the American International Shipbuilding Company to the new offices at Hog Island. In the contingent were office employes who formerly occupied a building at the rear of the New York Shipbuilding Company's plant at Gloucester.

The Thomas Clyde will make no stops in Camden or South Camden for the transportation of workers, and will make only one trip a day each way. It was commandeered in order to preclude the necessity for finding homes for the 600 employes of the company in Philadelphia, most of whom had found homes in Gloucester and Camden. It will be necessary for them to go from Camden and South Camden to the wharf at Gloucester to take the boat. The steamer will return from Hog Island every day at 5:40 o'clock in the afternoon.

No statement as to the conditions under which it was taken over by the Government has been issued by officials of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

HOLLAND'S RULER
Queen Wilhelmina's country is menaced by German forces that are being massed on the Dutch border.

TAFT VISITS CITY AS LOAN BOOSTER

Former President Enters Upon Busy Day in Philadelphia

DRIVES TACK IN STATUE

Former President William Howard Taft arrived at Broad Street Station at 11 o'clock. He was received by a reception committee composed of Liberty Loan representatives and was accompanied to the Bellevue-Stratford, where Mr. Taft was the guest at a luncheon given him by the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

A particularly active program has been arranged for the former President who is primarily in the city to help boost the third issue of the Liberty Loan. At 7:15 o'clock this evening he will address an assemblage of industrial workers of Kensington, at the Stetson auditorium, Fourth street and Montgomery avenue. He will then proceed to the Liberty Statue, in which he will drive a gold tack, bearing the initials "W. H. T."

The former President will also address a Liberty Loan mass-meeting in the Academy of Music.

Announcement is made of the following large subscriptions today:

Atlantic Refining Company employes	$425,000
Emanuel Drefus & Co., Inc.	50,000
Stephen Whitman & Sons (firm and employes)	35,450
H. O. Wilbur & Son employes	29,000
Charles Frelhofer	25,000
Colonial Dames of America, Chapter No. 2	17,000
Kugler's Restaurant (additional)	15,000
G. A. Knoblaugh & Son (firm and employes)	10,100

Clearing House Busy

The Liberty Loan Clearing House has handled up to date more than 50 per cent of all the bond subscriptions in the loan. It has been calculated by the officials of this clearing house, which has its offices in the Metzger Building, 134 North Thirteenth street, that 20,000 subscriptions, aggregating at least $3,000,000, have passed through its hands daily.

Joseph C. Wickham, head of this organization, said that 1200 subscriptions are being made every day upon banks outside of Philadelphia. He is confident, with the increased number of clerks to assist him, there will be no hindrance in the Liberty Loan Clearing House output. There were but twenty clerks originally, which have been increased until there is almost a hundred employed at the clearing house now.

The clearing house receives all the subscriptions taken in at the booths throughout the city and in turn assigns them to the individual banks on which the subscriptions have been made.

A spirited contest is being waged by the different councils of the Knights of Columbus. Up to date this organization has turned in $630,000 in subscriptions. The headquarters of the Knights of Columbus is situated at 1523 Chestnut street.

City Striking Its Stride

With subscriptions to the third Liberty Loan of $12,651,700 during the last twenty-four hours, workers in the Philadelphia district believe that they have at last struck their stride and that from now on the city and surrounding territory will continue to roll up an impressive total each day until the full quota for the district shall be subscribed.

The Philadelphia district has now subscribed a total of $135,880,000, divided as follows: Philadelphia, $68,761,500; Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia, $51,643,150; New Jersey, $9,885,700; Delaware, $5,570,450. This brings the district well over the half-way mark and places the city of Philadelphia at about 59 per cent of the quota allotted to it.

Appeal for Extra Efforts

On the eve of "Liberty Day," which will be observed throughout the United States, Lewis H. Parsons, director of the campaign in the Third district, issued a stirring appeal to all Philadelphians to put forth extra efforts in behalf of the loan. Mr. Parsons says:

"There is apparently no reason for optimism in the figures thus far officially recorded. No doubt Philadelphia's showing would be much more satisfactory if every person who has signed a Liberty Loan subscription at once make an initial payment, so that his scription might be reported officially.

"To accomplish this, the banks of Philadelphia have arranged to remain open Friday afternoon, while many factories and business places will give their employes a half holiday.

"It is earnestly requested that the people of Philadelphia take advantage of this occasion to place their subscriptions for bonds. If they have

Continued on Page Six, Column Eight

KAISER MASSES TROOPS ON HOLLAND LINE; SENDS DRASTIC NOTE TO HAGUE

LIBERTY LOAN TOTAL NOW $1,837,868,350

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Subscriptions to the third Liberty Loan today were approaching close to the two-billion mark. Actual subscriptions reported by the twelve Federal Reserve districts total $1,837,868,350, according to the latest figures compiled at the Treasury Department.

GENERAL ALARM SOUNDED IN BOSTON FIRE

BOSTON, April 25.—A general alarm has been sounded for a fire which started in the A. A. Parsons box factory at Chelsea. Help has been summoned from Boston, Revere and Lynn.

TAFT CONFIDENT LOAN WILL BE OVERSUBSCRIBED

"The fact that the small towns and rural districts are oversubscribing their quota to the third Liberty Loan shows clearly that the farmers of the country are giving their unqualified support to the war," was the statement of former President Taft as he stepped from the train at Broad Street Station today. "The large cities are slow, but they can be depended upon to do their part, and I am confident that the loan will be oversubscribed."

RUSSIAN RED GUARDS MISTREAT TRAVELERS

LONDON, April 25.—Red Guard troops (Russian Bolsheviki) are marauding along the Amur Railroad, mistreating travelers, according to an agency dispatch from Pekin today. The marauders are also active along the Amur River, dismantling steamships.

SCHWAB'S DUTIES MADE MORE VAST

Ship Construction Chief Arrives as U. S. Augments Big Program

RECEIVES FREE HAND

Charles M. Schwab given a "free hand" in directing the world's greatest shipbuilding project, arrived in Philadelphia yesterday with an announcement at Washington that the shipbuilding program of the United States for 1919 and 1920 had been increased to proportions never before undertaken by any nation.

The new director general of the Emergency Fleet Corporation left this morning for Newark to inspect the plant of the Submarine Boat Company, one of the many that have been placed under his direction. He was accompanied by Charles Piez, vice president of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and Rear Admiral Bowles.

Mr. Schwab was met at the West Philadelphia station by Mrs. Schwab and Mrs. M. R. Ward, his sister-in-law, at whose home, at Wayne, he spent the night. His greeting to the newspaper men gathered to interview him was cordial and hearty, but he told nothing of his plans beyond saying they are progressing nicely. He added that as soon as his headquarters are established in Philadelphia he will give out "all permissible information" to the press.

Inspects Submarine Plant

After finishing his inspection of the Newark plant Mr. Schwab will go to New York and probably will return to Philadelphia tomorrow. He will spend several days inspecting the various shipyards on the Delaware River.

The magnitude of the undertaking which Mr. Schwab has before him may be gathered from the fact that at a conference which he attended in Washington just before coming to Philadelphia it was decided to increase the output of ships for 1919 to more than 10,000,000 tons and to make a still further increase in the program for 1920. No nation in the history of the world has ever turned out such an amount of shipping in a single year. And Director General Schwab has been given a "free hand" in the great shipping program, which he will direct from this city.

The conference was attended by Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the shipping board; Mr. Piez, P. A. S. Franklin, of the international ship control committee; Sir Cunnop Guthrie, British member of the committee; Major General Goethals and other officials.

Thirty New Yards Built

Of the total tonnage next year, approximately 8,000,000 tons will be steel. There were thirty-seven yards building steel ships when the United States entered the war. They had 162 ways, which were increased to 195 by the shipping board. Thirty new yards have been established, with a total of 262 ways. Thirty-five of the yards building steel ships and 258 of the ways are on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, nineteen yards and sixty-six ways are on the Pacific and thirteen yards and seventy-four ways on the Great Lakes.

It is expected that 2,500,000 tons of wooden ships will be turned out next year, virtually all on the Gulf and Pacific coasts. There now are 282 ways for wooden ships.

Continuation of the navy building program may be expected, but on completion of emergency work ways for another 650,000 tons of merchant shipping will be reached.

Most Important Conference

It was said that the conference was the most important in its bearings on the shipping situation since the shipping board was organized. While details were not disclosed, it was said that the board was prepared to construct a large number of passenger-carrying ships of high speed for the army's use.

2000 SHIPMEN'S HOMES TO GO UP

Land Title Will Ask Hog Island Bids in a Week

COST ABOUT $6,000,000

Competitive bids for the erection of 2000 new houses for the Emergency Fleet Corporation will be let within seven days by the Land Title and Trust Company and work will begin at once, according to a statement today by William R. Nicholson, president of the company.

Plans and specifications for the houses are almost ready for the contractors. The bids are not to be public, but will be awarded only to those firms invited by the Land Title and Trust Company to compete.

About $6,000,000 is involved. Each house is to cost approximately $3000.

The exact site of the homes intended for Hog Island shipbuilders was not made public because all the land necessary to completion of plans for the "little city" has not yet been acquired, although most of it has been definitely closed for.

The houses are to be built in West Philadelphia and South Philadelphia convenient to the new trolley line to Hog Island. The original plan to build 2500 houses in Elmwood has been definitely dropped and will be replaced with the 2000 new houses to be constructed immediately and the 500 houses recently bought by the Land Title and Trust Company for the Government.

Builders Condemn Seizure

Commandeering of the 500 South and West Philadelphia homes by the fleet corporation for Hog Island shipbuilders was condemned by the Philadelphia Operative Builders' Association, composed of prominent builders of the city, who protested the action at a special meeting in the Hotel Adelphia last night.

After full discussion of the summary action of the fleet corporation, the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved, That this association officially condemn the alleged action of Admiral Bowles in dispossessing people from their homes."

Officers of the association are Daniel Crawford, Jr., president; Harrison N. Diesel, Harry H. Helst, Alexander Ferguson and George H. Detweiler.

Admiral Bowles promised that none of the families living in the requisitioned houses would lose through the necessity of moving elsewhere and that no more houses would be commandeered.

Bowles Blames Profiteers

"I shall personally see to it that not a soul is 'stung' by my action," Admiral Bowles promised. He pointed out that only houses where owners had sought to profit from the stringency of housing facilities by raising rents and other and more devious ways had been taken over by the corporation and that in no case would the families of men in the national service be placed in a position of hardship through the action.

Failure of the original housing program was explained by Mr. Nicholson, in pointing out the saving in time and money both to the fleet corporation and to the city through rejection of the Elmwood plans.

"From what I have heard," he said, "the contracts for the proposed 2000 homes in Elmwood were sent to the housing committee of the fleet corporation at the sum of about $4000 each. This did not include electrical work, plumbing and other incidental expenses, and it was found that no provision had been made for the ground. When the contractors were asked to complete their estimates they ran about $6000, which would have made the Hog Island housing program cost the Government not $6,000,000, but about $11,000,000.

Some Houses for Elmwood

"It is planned to construct the 2000 new homes convenient to improvements. This course will save valuable time and a great deal of money to Philadelphia. Some of the houses will be constructed

Continued on Page Two, Column Six

Virtual Ultimatum Demands Immediate Reply

FREE PASSAGE OF MUNITIONS ASKED

Landsturm on Westphalian Frontier Replaced by Mounted Troops

ENVOYS GO HOME

Both Netherlands and Teuton Diplomats Return to Respective Capitals

THE HAGUE, April 25.

German cavalry has appeared along the Westphalian border, hitherto guarded only by landsturm.

A strong German note, demanding a quick reply has arived. The main demand is for free transportation of materials through Holland to Belgium.

It is now declared that, while the German note to Holland is not exactly an aultimatum, it is couched in the strongest terms known to diplomacy.

The text has not yet been made public here, but it is generally supposed that Germany is demanding not only the transportation rights on Dutch railways and canals, but also supplies of various kinds.

(Westphalia is a Prussian province extending along the greater part of the Dutch frontier. It contains the Rhine Valley.)

AMSTERDAM, April 25.

The Minister of Defense declares the situation renders necessary the maintenance of the maximum force of landsturmers. (The cable may refer to some agitation for reduction in the age limit of members of the landsturm, the last military reserve.)

The German minister to the Netherlands has left The Hague for Berlin and the Dutch minister to Germany is on his way from Berlin to The Hague, according to the Hetvolk.

The Berlin correspondent of Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant is informed by a person in authority that difficulties have arisen in the negotiations between Germany and Holland, and the negotiations are not making headway.

The Hague correspondent of the Handelsblad says that the question of the transport of sand and gravel and the use of the railway line through Limbourg depends entirely on the intentions of Germany. The correspondent adds that the Dutch Government will firmly observe neutrality, whatever happens.

It is suggested in certain quarters that the Germans expect to be able to force Holland to accept such conditions as would virtually compel the Entente Allies to formally occupy the Dutch colonies, which would throw Holland completely into German hands. There are no special indications of nervousness noticeable in The Hague and reports such as are forgoing seem to emanate solely from German sources.

London, April 25.

Discussing relations between Germany and Holland special dispatches suggest that the situation is extremely serious, but none is able to give authentic details of the alleged German demands.

A correspondent at The Hague mentions among other things the reported demand that Holland shall guarantee to Germany a supply of raw materials immediately after the war, while a certain quantity of Dutch tonnage is demanded for the same period.

Washington, April 25.

Official Washington was surprised by the news that the German ambassador to Holland had been recalled.

While it has been known that the situation between the two countries has been tense in consequence of the action of the Allies in seizing Dutch tonnage and the refusal of Holland to permit German supplies to go through Dutch territory, officials of the State Department declared that they could not believe an actual break had come. No official advices, it was positively stated, had been received.

At the Dutch legation, where official confirmation was also lacking, the opinion was expressed that the German ambassador had simply returned to Berlin for instructions.

It frequently happens, legation officials explained, that the Dutch and

Continued on Page Eight, Column Three

LANCASTER BOY WOUNDED

Benjamin Kimmel, of Marine Corps, Hurt, Parents Advised

Lancaster, Pa., April 25.—Benjamin Kimmel, of 423 Green street, was notified this morning that his son, Private Harry Kimmel, a member of the Marine Corps, was wounded in action on April 13. Details were not given.

Kimmel is in the same company as Myer Cohn, former newspaperman of this city, who enlisted in the marines while serving on the reporters' staff of the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER.