

BILLION DOLLAR NAVY IN 1919 IS HOUSE PLAN

Appropriation Bill Provides Everything Asked by Secretary Daniels

Washington, March 8.—A naval strength of 300,000 officers and men is provided for in the naval appropriation bill authorizing the expenditure of approximately \$1,040,000,000 during the next fiscal year, completed by the House Committee on Naval Affairs and to be reported early next week.

The committee grants to the Navy Department virtually all funds requested of Congress by Secretary Daniels last December, the total estimates submitted having been \$1,047,914,027. The bill as it now stands carries less than the total appropriations for naval purposes

during the current year, but the 1918 appropriations were supplemented materially by urgent deficiency bills.

Secretary Daniels is authorized by the bill to increase the enlisted strength of the Navy from 87,000 to 180,000 men; the number of apprentice seamen from 6000 to 24,000 men; the enlisted flying corps from 350 to 10,000 and the marine enlisted men from 30,000 to 50,000. The increased marine corps will bring that body of the navy beyond the strength of one division and the appointment of an additional major general is authorized by the committee.

Major General George Barnett at present is the only major general of marines.

The committee provides \$184,397,000 for increases in the navy, this sum to be expended in the construction of torpedobats, destroyers, armor and ordnance and ammunition. This is an increase of \$10,000,000 over the big appropriations of last year.

New batteries for ships are provided \$48,309,523, against only \$2,201,000 carried for 1918; funds for ammunition for vessels aggregating \$39,259,180, a purpose for which nothing was carried in the 1918 bill, and the ordnance and ordnance stores appropriations total \$24,194,045, an increase of \$16,000,000 over last year.

An appropriation of \$50,000,000 is carried for reserve ordnance supplies, an increase of \$44,000,000.

FROM BASEBALL TO BUCHES

By H. C. WITWER

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH COLLIER'S WEEKLY

On Board S. S.—
Dear Joe: Where did I leave off? Oh, yeh? Well, I went around five the navy office, which was only five nights up because that's as high as the buildin' was. A guy in uniform behind a desk looks up at me as friendly as if I was double pneumonia.

"I have come out to fight for Uncle Sam!" I pants, all outa breath from their stairs.

"The war is in Europe just now," he says. "Anyhow, we have filled our quota and are not taking any more men. Try the marines."

The marines was in the next block and only one more flight up in a buildin' that had no use for elevators. There is also a guy in uniform there, and he glares at me like I was one of his wife's relations.

"I tried to force my way into the navy," I says, "and they was full up. The manager told me to tell it to the marines, so I come here. When do I leave for France?"

"The Marine Corps is recruited to full strength!" growls this guy. "You had better try the army."

"They ain't no chance of anybody bein' laid off, is they?" I asks him. His answer was nothin'.

By this time I was satisfied that they was a plot on foot to keep me outa Berlin, and I made up my mind I was gonna join the U. S. Army if I hadda break in with a cold chisel.

I found the army recruiting station without much trouble, because they was a soldier outside and a big picture of what the doughboys wishes life in the army really was.

I nailed the soldier. "Where's the guy that hires the volunteers?" I asks him. He gimme a grin. "Wanna join up, eh?" he says.

"Well, that's fine! Army life is the greatest life in the world!" He takes a short wind-up and lets go. "The food is somethin' marvelous," he says.

"The livin' is elegant, the clothes is knockouts, the experience is worth money in after years, there is a great chance to save, and—"

"Hey!" I butts in. "What are you a capper for the army? Lay off that stuff and show me the guy that does the hirin' and firin'."

"Every young man should do his bit for his country," he goes on without battin' an eye. "We gotta

make the world safe for the Democrats, and then look what Belgium has went through!" We—

I grabbed him by the arm. "Listen!" I says, shuttin' him off. "Will you kindly cease that patter of yours and show me where your master is? I wanna get in this brawl in Europe before they play out the schedule!"

"—and last of all, remember the Lusitania!" he says. "You'll find the office four flights up to your left."

"Where's the elevator?" I says.

"It ain't!" he tells me. "You get a chance to advance yourself mentally and physically. A willin' young feller can rise himself to be an officer if—"

I rose up to the fourth floor, three steps at a time.

There's a bunch of guys sittin' in a room with a soldier guardin' 'em, and they look like a gang in a dentist's office waitin' their turns whilst a hysterical soprano has ten teeth pulled. The soldier gimme one look and points to a room past that.

I breezed in, and there's the young feller that poses for the male lingerie ads in the magazines sittin' at a table. He's dressed like the recruitin' posters.

"Slip me a gun, general!" I says. "I wanna get in this quarrel."

"Sit down," he says. "Take off yer hat!" hisses the soldier.

I did both.

"No, it ain't that," I says. "I wanna go over to Germany as quick as possible because—"

"Is it France?" I says. "Excuse me, I thought we was fightin' Germany. Well, that's neither here or there. He's dressed like a soldier. No difference to me; gimme a gun and—"

"Fill this out first," he interrupts, handin' me a sheet of paper, "and then we'll see."

"I don't even need a uniform," I says. "Just gimme a gun and a couple handfuls of bullets and—"

He waves me off and points to the paper.

I give this thing the once over. It didn't want to know nothin' but the history of your life from the nursery to the undertakers. The U. S. is also interested in your parents, and they was a lot of personal questions on it like how long since you laid off the booze and did you ever have diphtheria and why. I finally filled it out, and the officer looked over like he liked to learn it by heart.

No doubt I had most of the answers right, for I'm passed into another room that looked enough like a doctor's office to be one. It was.

A little guy in his shirt sleeves or—

"Wait a minute!" I says. "No one else have got into the wrong joint. I got all the insurance a sane man can carry, and—"

"Strip!" bellers the little guy, who I guess he's a doctor. He's got the idea that you're doin' Uncle Sam a favor by enlistin', eh? I suppose I ought to be a doctor, too, and everybody. Well, we don't understand that! You gotta be pretty fit to get a chance to do your bit in this man's army!

Before this bird got through with me I was satisfied that a guy has not only got to be fit to get in the U. S. Army, he's got to be lucky! This medicine has me right. Like a lot of other guys I really did feel I was doin' the country a favor by enlistin', but when they got through with me, I was proud they took me in.

I felt just a little better than these birds that can't get in or won't go off to the man. I commenced to study the guys that couldn't get a uniform. I threw out my little old chest at the slight expense of two buttons, but they might be good enough for big league baseball, but I was good enough for Uncle Sam, and that's good enough for me! And when the doctor slipped me on the back and says I'm healthier than livin' in the mountains, it didn't do me any harm either!

The doctor outside must of got a wireless that I was Three-Star stuff, because when I come out he also grabbed me by the hand and made me a present of a pleasant smile. He says I must of been brought up on nothin' but horseshoes and four-leaf clovers, because I'm the luckiest feller this side of the doctor's office.

I heard tell of, outside of Jess Willard, I guess there's not twenty guys to fill out a regiment that's goin' to the front right away.

He come along just in time to make up the camp, which was under nineteen, which could probly have fell over Niagara Falls without gettin' damp on account of bein' so lucky to leave for the camp on an hour. While he's tellin me this the phone rings.

"Humph!" says the officer. "Some one 'speak to' me."

"I suppose the Kaiser has heard I enlisted," I says, feelin' in a kiddin' humor, "and he's callin' up to ask for me."

He laughed like it was a new one. Well Joe, the guy on the phone was no less than Mac himself. Can you imagine him phoinin' me? Honest, you could of knocked me over with a six-inch shell!

"Here!" he says, "I just been talkin' to Higgins, and he says you have crashed off the ship, and you're gone. Don't do nothin' foolish. I might of been a little hasty when I give you your unconditional release, and I think I'll start you against the Reds Thursday if—"

"Don't make me laugh!" I cuts in. "You can't start me against no Reds; I'm pitchin' for Uncle Sam now!"

"You wanna stop readin' them dime novels!" he sneers. "Quit handin' the telephone operator a laugh, and come up to the hotel. I wanna talk to you."

"Mac," I says, "all bets is off. I have not two minutes ago signed up in the army!"

"What?" he howls. "You in the army? Then this here war's nothin' but a frame-up!"

"Why, you big stiff!" he yells. "If the Alleys was really tryin', would they of took you?"

I hung up on him.

I'm writin' this letter on the ship, Joe, and we are allowed to mail 'em, but they won't be delivered till the boat reaches the other side or the bottom, whichever it turns out. Then it's got to go through a set of glooms called censors. They let 'em all that because they take all the sense outa everything a guy writes.

If you don't get this, lemme know. Yours truly,

ED. HARMON.
(Formerly the famous southpaw.)

FINNS ASK OSCAR TO BE THEIR KING

[Continued from First Page.]

Bolsheviki, who captured it more than a month ago from the Ukrainian Rada, which later made peace with the Teutons, Berlin's announcement of the capture of Kiev was made just as Russia and Germany agreed to peace terms and since then there have been no reports of military activity in the region. In five days Germany has forced peace terms on three different governments—Russia, Rumania and Finland. The Finnish government apparently submitted to the German terms in order to gain military aid against the revolutionists, who hold much of southern Finland along the Finnish gulf.

With Finland under German suzerainty, the Gulf of Finland is taken from Russian control and Great Russia has less than 150 miles of coastline along the gulf.

Humiliating Terms Imposed.

Although the Germans apparently will permit King Ferdinand to continue to rule Rumania, the victorious enemy has cornered the victor into agreeing to humiliating terms. Important wheat, oil and salt concessions are to be given Germany, which is to control the Rumanian railroads for fifteen years and is to have a most favorable trade agreement with Rumania, which loses the Dobruja and control of the Danube.

American Consul at Helsingfors Leaves the Finnish Capital

By Associated Press.

Stockholm, Thursday, March 7.—The American consul at Helsingfors, Thorneil Haynes, has advised the American legation here that he is leaving the Finnish capital Friday with about twenty American residents.

Some 200 refugees of different nationalities, including many Americans, are at Abo and Bjorneborg and Minister Morris has asked the Swedish government to send an ice-breaker to bring them across the Gulf of Bothnia to Gette.

A Stockholm resident has received a letter from a friend in Helsingfors, dated February 25, in which it is said that instead of a regular ration of grain flour and a half ration of potato flour that was to have been issued that week, only fish was distributed to the people, which was sent by courier, expressed the hope that the United States for humanitarian motives would send grain to be kept at Narvik or Haparanda and rationed out only on condition that the Finns stop fighting among themselves.

Tar and Feather an Alleged Pro-German

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 8.—Stripped of his clothing as he stood on a hill near the Hollywood Cemetery at midnight, then given a lecture on the impropriety of prospering in America and at the same time making unpatriotic remarks, John Frysmussala, a building contractor of West Park was treated to a heavy coat of tar and feathers.

A quiet crowd of 100 persons whose leaders had lured the contractor to the scene of the tarring and feathering on the pretense of taking him to inspect a building site, attended to the job, according to reports which the police are investigating.

The only evidence left by the crowd was some tar and feathers and parts of a man's suit. The contractor could not be found to-day. It is said he was warned not to exercise too

much haste in reporting the affair.

According to the story in the hands of the police, the contractor, considered wealthy, had made several unpatriotic utterances and had expressed implicit faith in German righteousness. He is married and has a family. He has been a resident of West Park for fifteen years.

TEACHERS MAY STRIKE

Reading, Pa., March 8.—A committee of teachers of the Boys' High school served an ultimatum yesterday on City Superintendent Fosco that unless the pay of the faculty is immediately raised they will quit to-day. At least ten of the professors will walk out, it is asserted. The boys of the senior and junior classes held a meeting yesterday afternoon and decided to stay from school if the teachers quit.

The teachers' demand has been referred to the school board. Crepe was pinned on the door of the board president, J. Edward Warner, late last night. It bore a card, "Compliments of the Boys' High School."

Boys in sympathy with the teachers demand for more pay are blamed for the joke.

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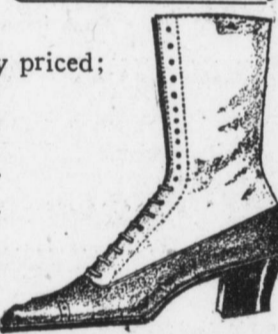
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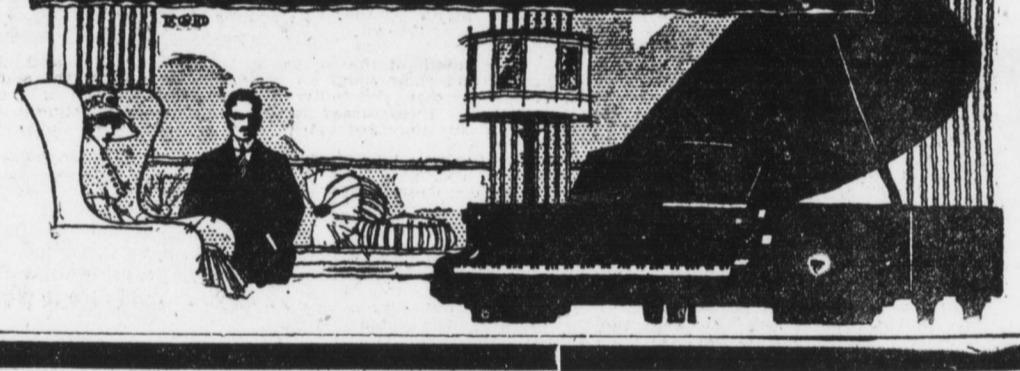
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