

FURLOUGHS ARE TO HELP FARM WORK

WAR DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO LET ENLISTED MEN GO HOME TO SOW AND HARVEST.

HOW TO MAKE APPLICATION

Many Drafted Men Have Been Excused Under Vocation Provisions—Trade Tests Used to Secure Skilled Workers for Army.

(From Committee on Public Information.)

Washington.—For the purpose of augmenting agricultural production it is the intention of the war department to grant furloughs to enlisted men to enable them to engage in farming during the present season.

Furloughs may be given by commanding officers of posts, camps, cantonments, divisions, and departments. They will be for short periods, largely for seeding and harvesting time.

Furloughs granted for farm work will be without pay and allowances, except that enough pay will be retained in each case to meet allotments in force on the day of the order.

For specially qualified experts in agriculture furloughs may be granted by the secretary of war upon application by the secretary of agriculture.

Individual applications for furloughs submitted by relatives will be on a form to be furnished by local draft boards.

If the furlough is granted the application will be filed by the commanding officer and a certificate furnished the soldier.

If the soldier initiated the application he will give the name of the person for whom he desires to work.

Furloughs may be granted en bloc to men who are willing to accept them, upon requests of farmers, when time consumed in traveling from the post to the place of labor will not exceed 24 hours.

Under provisions of the selective-service law making specified vocations a ground for exemption or discharge, apart from the "necessary industries" dealt with by the district boards, 67,716 men were excused from military duty.

Of the men exempted, 1,695 were federal or state officers; ministers, 3,976; divinity students, 3,144; in the military and naval service, 47,822.

County and municipal officials numbering 889 were discharged; custom-house clerks, 171; mail employees, 1,476; arsenal workmen, 2,358; federal employees designated by the president, 1,777; pilots, 1,772; mariners, 2,660.

The alien property custodian has been given power to sell, at private sale without advertisement, enemy-owned live stock, feed or food stuffs, hides and other animal products, agricultural products, fertilizers, chemicals, drugs, essential oils, lumber, cotton, tobacco, furniture, books, glass and china ware, wearing apparel, jewelry, precious stones, pictures, ornaments, bric-a-brac, objects of art, raw or finished textile materials, trunks, boxes, partially or completely manufactured metals, fabrics, rubber and rubber products, and all kinds of merchandise, in lots having a market value of not more than \$10,000.

Such sales may be held at places and under conditions prescribed by the alien property custodian.

Federal reserve banks are to rediscunt notes secured by farm tractors, according to the department of agriculture. Instructions have been issued to all federal reserve banks authorizing them to rediscunt tractor paper presented by any member bank, provided it has maturity not exceeding six months and the tractors are purchased for agricultural purposes.

In Oklahoma, county councils of defense are securing pledges from automobile owners to furnish transportation to speakers for community councils. The pledge provides that the chairman of the county council may hire a car at the expense of any signer who fails to furnish transportation at the time promised.

Investigations by the department of agriculture in 15 states show that of a total of 8,836,492 sheep, 34,683 were killed by dogs in one year and were paid for by the counties.

All airplanes manufactured in the United States for the army and navy will bear a red, white, and blue bull's-eye of three concentric circles, similar to the insignia of allied planes, on the wings, and vertical red, white, and blue stripes on the rudders. These markings were adopted by the joint army and navy technical aircraft board and approved by the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy.

The state council of defense in Maine has set aside \$250,000 to be loaned to farmers.

To increase the accuracy of selecting skilled workers among the enlisted men a system of trade tests has been developed. Exact and comprehensive definitions of the more than 600 different trades represented in the military organization have been brought together in a 300-page book, "Trade Specifications." Tables have been prepared showing the detailed needs of each unit for skilled and semiskilled workers. Work has been done in refining methods of selecting and training men for special duties in the navy, special service regarding selection of aviators, assistance to provost marshal general on the questionnaire, and assistance rendered the surgeon general for general intelligence tests for enlisted men and officers.

The war-service exchange of the committee on classification of personnel answers inquiries of persons desiring to serve the army. It informs the department of labor of the needs which the war department has for men.

The committee on public information has made public editorial comment in the German press on the revelations in the Reichstag main committee in connection with investigations of the Daimler Motor Works. It was shown that the Daimler company was earning 173 per cent profit per annum, the company's sworn statement placing the profits at 11 per cent, and while the company was earning 400,000,000 marks monthly in excess of its peace-time profits it had threatened to reduce output unless higher prices were paid. The Berliner Tageblatt (Liberal), said:

"Energetic action of the authorities and the Reichstag is demanded. Such enterprises as the Daimler firm are not compelled to submit books for inspection, while every little trader selling vegetables must show his profits. We demand government confiscation of illegal profits and, if necessary, state control."

Attention of fertilizer manufacturers and dealers has again been called to the necessity of taking out federal licenses.

All fertilizer manufacturers, including mixers, even though their output may be small, are required to take out licenses. Agents and dealers doing exclusively a retail business, whose gross sales do not amount to more than \$100,000 a year, are not required to take out licenses or to make applications for blanks.

Application for license should be made to the law department, license division, United States food administration, Washington, D. C.

American soldiers and sailors in German prison camps prior to April 12, 1918, will not be deprived of their rights to war-risk insurance because of inability to make personal application, provided such application is made in their behalf.

According to a statement by the secretary of the treasury, applications for insurance may be made in behalf of such prisoners by persons within the permitted class of beneficiaries under the military and naval insurance law. This class includes wife, child, parent, brother, or sister.

The health of troops in the United States continues very good, according to a recent report to the surgeon general of the army by the division of field sanitation. Admission, non-effective and death rates are somewhat higher than last report, due chiefly to prevalence of influenza and bronchitis with complicating pneumonia, in many of our northern camps.

National Guard camps, as a group, continue with remarkably low rates. Very few new cases of measles and meningitis have occurred.

National army camps continue to have high sick rates as compared with camps of other groups, though the rates are lower than last report. Scattered cases of measles are reported from all camps.

Field and garden seed are unconditionally exempted from all embargoes, according to the department of agriculture. Instructions are issued to all railroads to do everything possible to expedite the movement of seed.

Over 200,000 applications for insurance by officers and enlisted men of the naval service had been filed by March 31. The average amount of insurance on each policy was about \$7,300, making a total of more than \$1,500,000,000. Payments on war-risk allotments are now about \$1,000,000 a month.

Wednesday, April 2, was a peak day in sales of war savings stamps, when \$4,129,932 was recorded at the treasury for the day's receipts from stamp sales.

The order prohibiting the sale of flour in lots of less than 12 pounds has been suspended. Licensed dealers have been advised that they may market several sizes of packages weighing less than 12 pounds, with a two-pound minimum.

The shipping board plans construction of three launching ways for three 3,500-ton concrete vessels. This type of vessel is still in an experimental stage, and if found successful the board may build 7,500-ton concrete ships.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 AS LIBERTY DAY

Wilson Calls on People to Renew Pledge.

LOAN RALLIES ARE PLANNED

With \$1,089,734,900 Subscribed and Campaign Almost Half Over, Districts Are Urged to Make Extraordinary Efforts.

Washington.—Friday, April 26 will be Liberty Day throughout the United States under a proclamation just issued by President Wilson calling on citizens of every community to hold Liberty Loan rallies and liberally pledge anew their financial support to sustain the nation's cause.

Patriotic demonstrations similar to those on the opening day of the campaign will be held on April 26 and the day devoted to giving the race toward the \$2,000,000,000 war credit goal a new impetus for the final week.

Now, with the loan campaign almost half over, \$1,089,734,900 subscriptions have been reported to the Treasury. THE PROCLAMATION. President Wilson's Liberty Day proclamation follows:

By the President of the United States of America. A proclamation: An enemy who has grossly abused the power of organized government and who seeks to dominate the world by the might of the sword, challenges the rights of America and the liberty and life of all the free nations of the earth.

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do appoint Friday, the twenty-sixth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, as Liberty Day. On the afternoon of that day I request the people of the United States to assemble in their respective communities and liberally pledge anew their financial support to sustain the nation's cause.

"The American soldier has made good in France." Secretary of War Baker brought that message back to the country in an interview, in which he said: "The big thing for America to do is to support the war financially, in sentiment, in belief and in courage."

While refusing to comment on the present drive, Secretary Baker pointed out that the three armies in France are "filled with the most tremendous spirit," while the civil population are "quite determined and confident."

Guarded in all his comments, the Secretary indulged mainly in generalities. "The impression one gets from France," he said, "is one of tremendous, earnest, confident enthusiasm. The whole spirit is one of almost inspired—and certainly inspiring—determination. Anyone who goes there must have an increasing sense of admiration for the magnitude and speed with which we have gone about our task of building communication lines and structures of various kinds in organizing the task as the whole."

"France is a beehive full of the most energetic people, who know no hours and no limitations on their labors. The condition of our soldiers in France is a thing I am glad to tell. Our boys are well, physically strong and robust, and well in every other way. Their behavior is good and their relations with the British and French cordial and sympathetic."

"They give you the sense of meeting buoyant, well, human beings, and their wholesomeness is perfectly splendid. All who have seen service at the front want more."

"The American soldier has made good in France. Allied critics uniformly praise the endurance and soldierly qualities of Americans. "The only sad Americans in France are those who fear they may have to come home before the job is done. They want to come home when it is over, but it makes them gloomy if anyone suggests that a man with special knowledge needed here must return."

The soldiers received "with very great enthusiasm," the news that they were going to the front. The Secretary said he could hear over the telephone some of this cheering when the word came. He added that his trip had shown him much as to co-operation between the army and the department. The nation, he continued, "must support and invigorate" the men over there, and must do everything possible to make the aid substantial by buying Liberty Bonds and otherwise.

Officer on Merchantman Reports Severe Weather Along Path. Norfolk, Va.—W. J. Riley, third officer of the steamship Amolco, said here he believed the missing naval collier Cyclops went down in a heavy storm which the Amolco encountered off the coast last March 9. The Amolco left a West Indian port three days ahead of the collier. Riley said his vessel, which was bound to Boston, was badly damaged, and that her radio room was flooded, the wireless being put out of commission.

CHILEAN AMBASSADOR DEAD. Senor Don Santiago Aldunate Stricken Suddenly. Washington.—Senor Don Santiago Aldunate, Chilean ambassador to the United States, died at a hospital here following a stroke of apoplexy, suffered while walking on the street. Arrangements for the funeral have not been made, but the American government, according to precedent, will offer to convey the body to Chile on a warship.

On the Lorraine sector American troops have penetrated to the third German line and are in unmolesed possession of No Man's Land. The French reinforcements have swung heavily into action on the northern battle line. Belgians repulsed a heavy German attack upon their positions nearer the coast. British commanders have highly praised the work of three companies of American engineers in aiding the British to resist the Germans.

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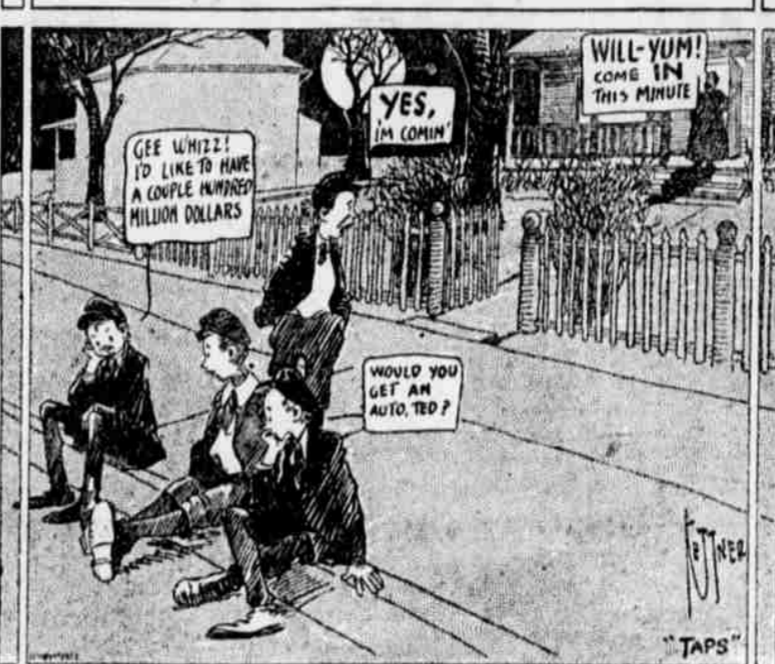
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BAKER REPORTS ON TRIP ABROAD

Confers With President and Department Chiefs.

SAMMIES ARE DOING WELL

He Found The American Soldiers Healthful And Happy And Eager To Get Into The Fighting.

Washington.—Secretary Baker outlined to President Wilson and heads of the government's war-making agencies the war situation in Europe. "The American soldier has made good in France."

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CHAS. M. SCHWAB TO BOSS SHIPBUILDING

Given Unlimited Powers to Put Through Vast Program.

PIEZ WILLINGLY STEPS ASIDE

Generally Believed That The Great Steel Magnate Will Solve Problems That Have Proved Too Difficult For His Predecessors.

Washington.—The building of the great merchant marine which will transport America's men and resources to the battlefield has been entrusted by the Shipping Board to Charles M. Schwab, steelmaker and shipbuilder, who became director general of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, with unlimited powers to put through the vast building program already under way.

"Mr. Schwab will have complete supervision and direction of the work of shipbuilding," said an official announcement issued from the White House after Mr. Schwab had been there to confer with President Wilson in company with Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board; Charles Piez, vice-president and general manager of the Fleet Corporation, and Bainbridge Colby, a member of the board.

Control of policies, which includes decisions as to the number, size and character of ships to be built with the millions appropriated by Congress still will rest with the Shipping Board, Mr. Piez, at his own suggestion, relinquishes the position of general manager of the Fleet Corporation, which is abolished, to give Mr. Schwab a free hand. Mr. Hurley remains chairman of the board and president of the Fleet Corporation in charge of policies. Mr. Piez continues as vice-president of the board, attending to administrative details of construction, including the placing of contracts, and Mr. Schwab will organize and carry forward the work of putting the ships into the water.

Mr. Schwab is the fifth man to be put in charge of the Shipping Board's building program, but his appointment was attended by none of the friction which marked some of the previous changes in management. The suggestion for the appointment of a practical builder of national prominence came this time from the Shipping Board itself, and Mr. Hurley chose Mr. Schwab. First of all was wanted a man who could inspire the yard owners and workers with the supreme importance of building ships as fast as they can be turned out. Mr. Schwab's genius for getting the best out of the men with whom he is associated—and in this connection a Fleet Corporation official recalled the story that Schwab never employed a man he could not praise—together with his record of achievement in developing the Bethlehem steel property, brought unanimous approval in the board of his selection as the man for the place.

WASHINGTON. — Failure of farmers to release by May 15 approximately 50,000,000 bushels of wheat—the surplus from the 1917 crop—will result in the Government requisitioning it. Wheat is now flowing into the markets from the farms at only about half the rate it moved in January. State Food Administration have been given full power to seize wheat held with unpatented intent. Broad construction is already being placed on this by many State officials and in many cases where farmers are refusing to sell wheat at the Government price the grain is being seized and paid for at the \$2.20 price.

WASHINGTON. — President Wilson has signed the Woman Spy Bill, it was announced, designed to cope with the activities of female agents of Germany. It applies to all enemy aliens and the wives of interned German subjects. To put the law into effect the President at the same time signed a proclamation. It is intimated that this will exclude female subjects of Germany from the District of Columbia and the various military zones into which unneutralized Germans must not go.

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The statement warned, however, that "the Germans have scored a distinct advantage, which it would be very unwise to endeavor to belittle." The summary revelations were supported by other official information which indicated the struggle is likely to be long and bitter, but showed that General Foch has his troops so disposed that probably the Germans will make little, if any, more real progress. And German news reports contained the warning that another war winter may be in prospect—a virtual notice that the Teuton has not achieved his aims.

Meantime, American feeding of troops "over there" proceeds vigorously, and a new call for 50,000 the first part of May was made today. At the same time it developed that more men will be called in May than in any previous month.

This was taken as proof of the efficacy of accelerated transport plans. Meantime the battle will go on furiously. It is held, but with the Germans gradually losing the advantage. "As time passes it becomes evident that the enemy is striking with renewed vigor at the weakest point he can find opposite him," said the War Department summary.

"In the offensive in Picardy the Germans sought for a rift in the line where the French and British forces joined. Failing to achieve any definite far-reaching results from this operation, they promptly returned to the assault elsewhere and plunged forward hoping that by driving a wedge into the sector along the front held by the Portuguese and British units they may be able to roll the British toward the sea and effect a break through."

The statement points out that the enemy can muster the driving vantage-points northwest of Bethune and that he is now within 40 miles of Calais, with the main lines of communication radiating vertically from this battlefield to his advantage. "We must bear in mind that the enemy is waging a battle of annihilation to achieve victory," continued the summary. "He is fighting today with the sole aim of annihilating the British armies. Thus, Terrain conquered counts for little. If the enemy can muster the diving power he will in all probability continue his assaults, hoping that by an enveloping attack on an oblique front" he may score a complete annihilating victory.

"While it must be admitted that German operations since the beginning of the present offensive have resulted in more than a mere plowing up of part of the Allied trench system and the capture of local objectives along a wide front, nevertheless the aim of the German higher command to obtain a decisive strategic success by these assaults has not been obtained. The statement pointed out that the French hold firm along the important Montdidier-Noyon sector. "In the sectors where our forces are fighting, considerable activity prevailed," said the statement, reviewing the engagements and pointing out that American casualties have been relatively slight. Officers here are gratified at the snap our men have shown, and say they will continue to give Fritz all he wants.

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TURNING POINT IN WEST IS REACHED

U. S. Review Says Boches Have Failed to Achieve Victory.

GERMANS HAVE ADVANTAGE

Huns To Go Back To Tactics Of Seeking To Gain Limited Objectives French Holding Firm.

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RHEIMS IN RUINS FROM HUN SHELLS

City Completely Wrecked By 100,000 Enemy Missiles.

ONLY 3 M