

GENERAL PERSHING TO TAKE REGULARS TO THE TRENCHES.

Pershing and His Staff Will Precede the Troops Which Will Be Sent Abroad.

Washington, May 18.—President Wilson tonight ordered that a division of regular troops commanded by Major-General John J. Pershing, be sent to France at the earliest practicable date.

This is the answer of America to France's plea that the stars and stripes be carried to the fighting front without delay to hearten the soldiers battling there with concrete evidence that a powerful ally has come to their support against German aggression.

Announcement of the order followed signing of the selective draft war army bill by the President, and the issuance of a statement that under advice of military experts on both sides of the water, the President could not employ volunteers nor avail himself of the "fine vigor and enthusiasm" of former President Roosevelt for the expedition.

The army law provides for an ultimate force of approximately 2,000,000 men to back up the first troops to go to the front. When the bill had been signed the President affixed his name to a proclamation calling upon all men in the country between the ages of 21 and 30 inclusive, to register themselves for military service on June 5 next. The proclamation sets in motion immediately machinery that will enroll and sift 10,000,000 men and pave the way for the selection of the first 500,000 young, efficient soldiers without crippling the industries or commerce of the nation or bringing hardship to those at home.

Even before the bill was signed, the war department announced that the full strength of the national guard would be drafted into the United States army beginning July 15 and concluding August 5. Orders to bring the regiments to full war strength immediately accompanied the notification sent to all governors. A minimum of 329,000 fighting men will be brought to the colors under those orders, supplementing the 293,000 regulars who will be under arms June 15.

The Virginia, the North Carolina, and Tennessee guards will be mobilized July 25.

It is from these forces that the first armies to join General Pershing at the front will be drawn to be followed within a few months by recruiting waves from the selective draft armies the first 500,000 of whom will be mobilized September 1.

Following is the text of the terse announcement of the war department as to General Pershing's expedition:

"The President has directed an expeditionary force of approximately one division of regular troops, under command and General John J. Pershing to proceed to France at as early date as practicable. General Pershing and staff will precede the troops abroad.

"It is requested that no details or speculators with regard to the mobilization of this command, dates of departure, or other items, be carried by the press, other than the official bulletins given out by the war department relating thereto."

General Pershing has been in Washington some days. He was personally summoned by Secretary Baker from the southern department which was under his command until tonight's order was issued.

The man who led the expedition into Mexico and handled his difficult task with such judgement and skill as to win for him the complete confidence of the President and his advisors, has worked hard on plans for the expedition to France. He has been in daily conference with Secretary Baker, Major-General Bliss, acting chief of staff, with department officials co-

operating in the preparation of the forces he will lead against the Germans and also with Lieutenant-General Briggs, head of the military section of the British mission and a veteran of the battlefields of France.

Nothing that either French or British officers have seen able to furnish in the way of information has been lacking and there is every indication that regular forces which will compose the expeditionary division are being selected with the greatest care.

No inkling of the plans for that division have been allowed to leak out. It is known, however, that orders have already gone forward to officers of tried judgement and long experience potifying them to prepare for foreign service.

The war in Europe has developed many new phases of battle not heretofore known in military science. Artillery has decided the fate of many battles, and for this reason it was thought likely that the expeditionary forces would include a disproportionate number of artillery troops. The number of men in the expeditionary force has not been disclosed. A division at war strength, however, totals more than 25,000 men of all arms and the "approximate" division of the war department's statement probably will exceed that figure.

In his explanation of his reasons for not availing himself of the so-called Roosevelt amendment to the army bill Mr. Wilson has brought out sharply the points made against that amendment by army officers. Many officers who are warm admirers of Colonel Roosevelt have unhesitatingly condemned his proposal to raise a volunteer army corps or division on the ground that it would drain the regular service of men vitally needed to train the millions that must be whipped into fighting trim in all too brief a time.

The list of regular officers Mr. Roosevelt desired to take with him has been the subject of much speculation and comment. Because of the old association in Spanish war days between Major General Leonard Wood and Mr. Roosevelt it has been regarded as virtually certain that General Wood was the former President's selection for supreme command of the force.

Under the plans of the war department, General Wood, by reason of his great experience in mobilization problems and his unflinching energy has been assigned the hardest task of any general officer. He will direct, as commander of the southern department, the mobilization and training of 12 divisions or more than 300,000 men among whom without question will be those who will be first selected to follow General Pershing's forces to France.

Life Expectancy.

According to the public health service, life expectancy during infancy and childhood has increased because of the more intelligent care of babies and young children, but life expectancy after the age of 40 is less now than it was 30 years ago, because those who have arrived at years of discretion do not exercise discretion for themselves and take sufficient exercise to overcome modern conditions. Many more people are engaged in sedentary occupations than formerly which deprives them of natural assistance afforded by physical exercise in eliminating through the skin and lungs the waste products of the body.—Collier's Weekly.

A careful estimate of the wealth of the United States at the beginning of 1917 places it a little over \$200,000,000,000.

J. P. Morgan's life is insured for \$2,500,000. Yearly premium \$112,000.

EDUCATE 5,000 TO 6,000 AVIATORS IN ONE YEAR.

Production of a Minimum of 3,500 Training and Battle Planes Decided Upon.

Washington, May 20.—Formal announcement of the governor's policy as to all types of aircraft except Zeppelins was made today by the council of national defense, through Howard E. Coffin, member of the council's advisory commission and head of the aircraft production board, recently created.

The object aimed at for the first year, according to Mr. Coffin, is the production of a minimum of 3,500 training and battle aeroplanes; the education of from 5,000 to 6,000 aviators, and the doubling or more of the producing capacity during the second year.

The development of the big rigid dirigibles or Zeppelins is in the hands of a special army-navy board headed by Admiral Taylor.

Maj. D. B. Foulis, of the army aviation corps, is head of the specifications board.

Other plans include the establishment of nine aviation training fields, three of which already have been selected by the war department and construction work on which will begin at once. Each will provide for two aero squadrons of 150 men each and have hangars and shop equipment for 72 machines. It will cost approximately \$1,000,000 to equip each field. Six American colleges are to give cadet courses by July 1. The first classes opened May 10, and Prof. Hiram Bingham of Yale, is assigned at the war department, in charge of this instruction. The cadets are entering the classes at a rate of 25 a week.

The cadet course will take approximately four months, to be followed by six weeks or more of practical training at the aviation fields. The six institutions giving the courses are the universities of California, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cornell university.

American engineers will have to develop engines for battle craft, Mr. Coffin said, as French and British concerns have all they can do to supply their own armies.

Arrangements have been made to standardize training machines in Great Britain, Canada and the United States so that American-made machines of this type can be distributed in all three countries. This will liberate additional facilities abroad for construction of much-needed fighting craft.

A five pointed white star with a red center and it on a circular field of blue will designate all aircraft of the American navy under orders issued today by Secretary Daniels.

Won't Permit Roosevelt To Take Men to France.

Washington, May 18.—Colonel Roosevelt will not be permitted to raise his volunteer expedition to carry the American flag against Germany in France. On signing the war army bill tonight, President Wilson issued a statement saying that acting under expert advice from both sides of the water, he would be unable to avail himself at the present stage of the war of the authorization to organize volunteered divisions.

There was talk in army circles tonight of the possibility that a way would be found to use the former President's services in another way, but official comment on the subject was lacking.

Too Presumptive.

He—"Does your mother object to kissing?"

She—"Now, just because I allow you to kiss me, you needn't think you can kiss the whole family."—Philadelphia Ledger.

FOREIGN VISITOR IN THE SOUTH.

Mr. Balfour Rejoices That American Navy is Fighting Beside the English.

Richmond, Va., May 19.—Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, and rich in traditions of the old English cavalier days, today gave British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour and the British mission, in the name of the whole south, a reception which for warmth and spontaneity has not been surpassed during the long stay of the British in America.

The eminent visitors, who had come both to pay a call of courtesy on the south and to honor the Confederacy's famous leaders, Robert E. Lee, T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson, and Gen. J. E. B. Stewart, uncle of the present governor, were showered with every honor that the hospitable city could give.

The mission was received by a salute of 19 guns, escorted by the Virginia Military institute cadets in full dress uniform through cheering crowds riotous with flags, lunched as guests of Governor Stuart at the executive mansion, and were cheered to the echo at a packed mass-meeting at the city auditorium. A big southern audience, looking back to the days of the revolution and the war between the states in which Virginia played such a large part, sang "God Save the King," and the "Star Spangled Banner" with fervor.

Wreaths on Graves of Confederates.

The first address which Mr. Balfour ever made from the rear end of a train took place during a brief stop at Fredericksburg. Mr. Balfour, breaking another record during his stay in this country, told a small group of hearers that he feared he had failed utterly to express the deep emotions he had felt at his reception in Richmond and that he hoped some of the gratitude which he felt might be conveyed back to his friends there.

The British army took the occasion today to express through Lieutenant-General Bridges their tribute to the military heroes of the south by placing wreaths on the statues of Lee, Jackson, and Stuart. General Bridges spoke feelingly of the lessons of character, leadership and endurance taught by these men and of his hope that those engaged in the present struggle, both here and abroad, would be worthy of their memories.

Mr. Balfour, speaking at the auditorium, brought forth cheer after cheer when he said he rejoiced to "think that the gallant American navy is working hand-in-hand in the closest co-operation with those on the other side who are defending our homes and yours. And now we read of your government's decision to send troops to France. The moment when that force, the first fruit of our military cooperation, shall land in Europe, will be a moment memorable in the history of mankind.

Best Fighting Material in World.

"Out of the manhood of America," Mr. Balfour went on, "there will flow the best fighting material in the world, and the only limit to that flow will be the limit imposed by the material difficulties of transport and equipment. The United States has greater resources for modern warfare than any other nation in the world. I do not refer to numbers alone; I refer rather to that courage, resolution and inventiveness, which alone makes numbers efficient. Though unprepared, as we were unprepared, you are filled with that spirit which will bring results as encouraging to your friends as it will be dismaying to your enemies.

"Germany cannot succeed in this war. Success does not lie along the paths of frightfulness and ruthlessness. That nation which has known no law, either of charity or love, which has cast all scruples to the winds, which has allowed no consider-

ation to stand in her way, that nation has raised up outraged civilization to make certain its own defeat."

The mission, which regretted that time did not allow a full tour of the south, left Washington on a special train at 10 o'clock today, arriving here at a quarter of one. There immediately followed the march through the crowded city streets to the executive mansion, where Governor Stuart gave a lunch for a large party. The governor proposed a toast to the king of England, and Mr. Balfour responded with a toast to the President, "Always dear to the hearts of all Englishmen, but never more so than now."

Lieutenant General Bridges then visited the statues of the three southern military leaders and placed on them the tribute of the British army. The whole party then proceeded, still under escort of the cadets, to the auditorium, where an ovation and a perfect medley of British flags greeted them. Mayor Ainslie, the only other speaker besides Mr. Balfour, welcomed the mission on behalf of the city.

The party left Richmond at 6 o'clock and had a pleasant trip back to Washington, stopping only at Fredericksburg.

Rural Cemeteries to Be Improved in State.

One of the public laws of North Carolina enacted by the general assembly this year provides for the improvement of the "cities of the dead," throughout the state. All rural cemeteries, except those which are private burying grounds, are entitled under this law to claim one-third of the cost of beautification and enclosing the grounds, from the county authorities. The law makes it incumbent upon county commissioners to appropriate the money when it is shown that the other two-thirds is raised by the body or institution in control of the cemetery.

The object of the law is for the "proper care and beautifying of rural cemeteries." It requires county commissioners to prepare and keep a record in the office of the register of deeds a list of all public cemeteries of the county outside the limits of incorporated towns and cities, which are not established and maintained for the use of an incorporated town or city.

Section 2 of the law reads as follows:

"That in order to encourage the persons in possession and control of the public cemeteries referred to in section 1 of this act to take proper care of and beautify such cemeteries, to distinctly mark their boundary line with evergreen hedges or rows of suitable trees and to otherwise lay out the grounds in an orderly manner, the board of county commissioners of any county, upon being notified that two-thirds of the expense necessary for so marking and beautifying any cemetery has been raised by the local governing body of the institution which owns the cemetery and is actually in hand, be and is hereby required to appropriate from the general fund of the county, one-third of the expense necessary to pay for such work the amount appropriated by the board of commissioners in no case to exceed \$15 for each cemetery."

In the Fishing Season.

The boy's fishing pole was fastened under the root of a tree on the river bank yesterday, and he was sitting in the sun playing with a dog. "Fishing?" inquired a man passing along the road. "Yep," answered the boy as briefly. "Nice dog you've got there. What's his name?" "Fish." "Fish? That's a queer name for a dog. What did you call him that for?" "Cause he won't bite." The man proceeded on his way.—Washington Star.

MIDDLEMEN TO BOOST PRICES IS UNEARTHED.

Written Evidence of Conspiracy in Department's Hands.

Washington, May 17.—Astounding charges of the existence of a nationwide trust of middlemen whose operations are said to extend to almost every state in the union, were laid before the department of agriculture here today.

The charges made by a nationally known food producer official said they are supported by "exceptionally positive information," and apparently establish "beyond doubt" the existence of a conspiracy to boost prices.

The department of justice at once was notified and summoned the informant for immediate conference.

Written evidence in the form of letters and documents, it is said, are now in the hands of the two departments.

At the same time appeals reached the department for help from various sections where food speculation and price boosting is charged.

Baltimore charges say speculators have cornered 15,000 bags of potatoes. Speculators, it is claimed, are preparing to evade food control legislation.

Minneapolis charges told of agreements between commission men and producers to manipulate food supplies so as to create artificial shortages in certain sections with accompanying rises in price. Widespread destruction of fruit to maintain prices was charged.

Vegetables for Hogs.

Danforth, Maine, reported general dabbling in potatoes with \$200,000 worth involved. Farmers, it is said, are forced to sell for \$2 a barrel. Commission men in "caboots" with wholesale stores, from which the farmers must obtain supplies, it is said, are raking off 400 per cent profit.

Central Illinois cities charged commission men are selling large quantities of vegetables for hogs rather than lower prices. Thousands of bushels of potatoes are said to be going to the animals. Definite charges against a New Orleans speculator say he has cornered 500 tons of rice at 1 cent a pound and is doling it out for 8 cents a pound.

At the same time, the president of the Georgia chamber of commerce and others told the agricultural department that speculators throughout the south are hindering food production. They threaten farmers with not purchasing their cotton if they start also to raise food. This, it is said, forces the farmers to purchase their food imported from the north at exorbitant prices. This practice is alleged to be of starting proportions and preventing adequate food production in the south.

The council of national defense also was immediately notified.

Alaska.

The 600,000 square miles of territory bought in 1876 for about two cents an acre at \$7,200,000 have brought more than \$750,000,000 into the channels of American trade, and the profits are just beginning to come in. "A scant 65,000 people are living in that vast country, one-fifth as large as the United States," said Secretary Lane. "One hundred million dollars formed their contribution for 1916. What it will be in 2016 no man can predict."

Life Insurance.

Pat was starting for work. He was employed in a quarry. As he was leaving the house his wife said: "Do mind yez don't get hurt, Pat. It's so dangerous in that quarry." "That's ahl roight, Biddy," replied Pat. "Borr'ed \$2 from th' foreman, and he don't let me do any dangerous work anymore."—Pittsburg Dispatch.