

PRESIDENT GIVEN GREATER POWER THAN KINGS.

He is Virtually Dictator of the United States—First One Measure and Then Another Passed by Congress Adds to Authority.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Legislation enacted by a war session of Congress that has almost completed its work makes Woodrow Wilson virtual dictator of the United States.

Dictatorship is a word strange to democracies, but the powers conferred upon the President because of war times amount to little less. No king or ruler of a foreign government today possesses the power and authority of the President of this country; no crowned head is so heavily weighted with responsibility.

The authority has been gradually bestowed. Law after law has been enacted with the President's name written into fundamental provisions. The public has read from time to time that "the President is given authority" to do this or that. In the stress and excitement of war conditions these things have been read hurriedly by the man and woman at the breakfast or dinner table and caused only passing comment.

Holds Destinies of Nation.

Few persons appreciate how these powers weave into one another; how the President today has dominion over practically every inhabitant and every industry of the United States; how his authority in the aggregate surpasses anything in the history of republics. It is only by a resume of the session's legislation that one grasps the meaning of it all and realizes how the destinies of the nation and all there is in it are in the hands of the man in the White House.

It is no wonder then, that the isolation of the President has become more noticeable than ever during the past four months, that he can see no one save the most important personages, and that he is working in practical seclusion at a job bigger than ever entrusted to any human.

Within the week a conference committee has been agreed upon, and one body of Congress has approved the food control bill. The same statement applies to the "priority shipment" bill. Conference reports on both of these measures went through the house and doubtless will be approved by the senate this week. With the senate approval the major legislation of the session except the war revenue bill will have been put on the statute books and the last links forged in President Wilson's chain of power.

Power Given President.

And now, what power has the President received? Take the laws, one by one, passed in the closing days of the last session and the four months a war session.

The food control bill empowers the President "by reason of the existence of a state of war" to issue rules and regulations that will prevent the manipulation of food prices, the hoarding of foodstuffs and injurious speculation therein. He is empowered to regulate also the distribution and sale of fuel, farming implements, fertilizer and other things entering into the production of food. The President may license the important manufacture, storage and distribution of necessities and to force a discontinuance of evil practices and unjust rates and prices.

The President may fix the price of coal and coke and take over mines and operate them. He may limit the amount of foodstuffs entering into the manufacture of malt or vinous liquors or prohibit their brewing. He may enter the business of purchasing and selling foodstuffs and guarantee a reasonable profit and price to the producer and the consumer.

The priority shipment bill empowers President Wilson to direct, in the name of the nation's security and

defense, shipments of railroads and common carriers by water. He is empowered to demand the preferential shipment by the common carriers of certain classes of freight. Other freight must wait. If a man has a carload of household furniture enroute to his new home the President may sidetrack that car and compel the railroad to handle the freight in which the government is interested. The ordinary traveler is of secondary consideration in war times.

To Officer Aviation Corps.

President Wilson is also empowered to use the armed forces of the United States to prevent the retardation of the passage of the mails or of freight in interstate commerce.

The aviation bill carrying an appropriation of \$640,000,000 for the sending of a great aerial fleet to the battlefields of Europe, clothes the President with authority to "provide the additional commissioned personnel required by this act;" he is to officer the aviation corps and may use the draft in obtaining aviators and the United States will train thousands of aviators.

The espionage bill authorizes the president in war time to govern the movement of any vessel, foreign or domestic, in industrial waters of the United States. He may take full control and possession of any vessel to preserve the rights and obligations of the United States.

Furthermore, the President may withhold clearance from any vessel believed to be carrying fuel, arms or ammunition to any enemy of the United States. He may seize any munitions of war believed to be ready for shipment to an enemy.

The same bill gives President Wilson power to put an embargo on certain exports. If the public safety shall so require, the President may issue a proclamation immediately forbidding exports from this country of "any article or articles mentioned in such proclamation" and thereupon it shall be unlawful to export them.

The great general deficiency bill, appropriating more than \$3,000,000,000 for army and navy needs, empowers the President to enforce these broad powers:

To requisition any ship under construction in this country for a private purchaser or a foreign government.

To take over shipyards, in whole or in part, and commandeer their output for the United States.

To direct the expenditure of a fund of \$750,000,000 for the construction of a merchant fleet to be used by this country during the war.

Authority to Raise Army.

Amendments to the law creating the war risk insurance bureau, authorize the President to issue a proclamation suspending the judgement no further necessity for such insurance exists.

The army conscription law gave to President Wilson Authority to raise an army for service in Europe, the selections to be made by draft and not volunteer enlistments. This legislation represented the first departure is concerned, from the volunteer system. Under its provisions the commander-in-chief is today raising an army of 1,000,000 men to go to France.

The President also may make regulations governing the sale of liquors about training camps and the sale of liquors to officers and enlisted men. The army is now "bone dry," so is the navy.

Previously there was legislation which enabled the President to draft into the federal service officers and men of the national guard. The greatest bond issue bill in the world's history gave Secretary McAdoo "with the approval of the President," the right to issue \$5,000,000,000 in bonds and \$2,000,000,000 in short term certificates of indebtedness and to make loans aggregating \$3,000,000,000 to foreign governments with whom the United States is now allied.

The act of May 12 authorized the President to take immediate possession

of and title to any vessel within the waters of the United States belonging to Germany or any nation with which this country is at war. The President was empowered to operate, lease, charter and equip such vessels for service of the United States. The naval appropriation bill gave the President an emergency fund of \$115,000,000 to be expended at his direction, to expedite construction of naval vessels. In addition the President was empowered to commandeer any establishment capable of making ships or war material for the navy. Establishment of harbor defense zones and of defensive sea zones by the President was provided for in this bill. Legislation forbidding "trading with the enemy" gives the President authority to make regulations which will prohibit commercial intercourse between citizens of the United States and her enemies. This bill is one of sweeping authority.

Specific and General Powers.

Early in the war the President was given a lump sum appropriation of \$100,000,000 to be used for purposes of national defense and prosecution of the war. No strings were tied to this sum and the President may use it in any way he sees fit.

The war declaration against Germany proves that the President "be, and is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government to carry on war against the imperial German government; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States." This pledge is so generous that the President may take almost any action which he deems necessary to win the war.

Specified and general war powers bestowed upon President Wilson enable him to seize all wireless stations and maintain them for government use, to censor all cable and telegraph messages, to commandeer any of the industries of the United States need for the prosecution of the war, and to requisition land and factories that may be needed in the training of an army or in supplying clothing, food, fuel, and ammunition for the army and navy.

No establishment is so large that the President cannot commandeer it in the name of the national defense and none is so small that it does not come within the war powers of the executive.

War legislation of the session centralizes power in the White House and under it the President may take action affecting the industries of the nation and every man, woman and child in it. A complete resume would require columns of space.

Other nations conduct the war largely through war cabinets and ministers change with politics and vice versa, things may be done in the name of the king of England or France, for instance, but the war board is the directing spirit. The Congress of the United States and its constitution has delegated practically all war power to the President of the United States and the entire cabinet and the council of nation defense might quit tomorrow and yet the President could continue the war and designate other agencies to carry out his wishes. The power centered in him is so great and the end probably is not yet, that only the word dictatorship describes what Congress in its confidence has created in this greatest of all democracies.

Russian Slackers Marked

Petrograd, Aug. 4.—The commanding general of the twelfth Russian army, has decided that all soldiers belonging to units which disbanded owing to mutiny or refusal to take part in an offensive shall wear on their arms a distinctive emblem which shall be black in color.

When their conduct under fire shall have rehabilitated them they will be permitted to discard the emblem.

BRITISH TANKS PROVE WORTH IN CONFLICTS.

In Battle of Flanders These Monsters Fighting Machines Terrorized Germans.

British Headquarters in France and Belgium, Aug. 4.—(By the Associated Press.)—The great squadron of tanks which went into action with the British infantry at dawn Tuesday proved their right to a place among the modern engines of war. The battle of Flanders furnished the most comprehensive test of the worth of the monsters as fighting machines which has yet been given and they came through the ordeal with flying colors notwithstanding the fact that they were operating under the most trying conditions of terrain.

The opening of the conflict saw a considerable concentration of tanks. Fewer tanks proportionately were knocked out by a direct hit than in any previous engagement. The total of the casualties among the tank crews was remarkably low and most of these were among men who deliberately left off the cover of their iron fort and worked in the opening under machine gun fire.

The material damage by the tanks to the enemy defenses was enormous and prisoners state that very heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans.

That the enemy is extremely afraid of the tanks is without question and in numerous instances the Germans surrendered freely on the appearance of one of these engines, which truly are of terror-inspiring appearance. At one place eight German officers surrendered when a tank crawled up and threatened to open fire and 60 soldiers were captured by a single tank near Saint Julien.

There were accidents which though regrettable, were not without touches of humor. One tank which was trundling in the dark toward the front sometime before the battle, encountered railway wagons standing at a crossing. The operator of the tank did not see the obstacle and the engineer of the train could not hear the approach of the tank because of the noise made by his machinery. The tank went through the train as if it were made of pasteboard and continued its lumbering but ruthless way, leaving one of the railway wagons much the worse for wear.

The tanks did much fighting in the difficult country about Saint Julien and Frezenberg and in the territory lying directly east of Zillebeke. At the defenses near Frezenberg a spectacular battle occurred. These consisted of two strong redoubts, one of which was known as the "castle." In front of them flows the Hanebeck and the surrounding ground was marsh-like and difficult for heavy bodies to move across. The attacking tanks advanced over the stream and sodden ground under heavy fire from the machine guns in the redoubts and the anti-tank guns hidden behind the fortifications.

One tank worked its way around the castle and, open fire, drove all the defenders into the other redoubt. It then forced its way to the rear of the occupied redoubt, and compelled all the enemy to flee back to the castle, where, in a frenzy of fear, the Germans took refuge. At this point other tanks joined in the fray and after surrounding the castle delivered a concerted assault, clearing the castle for the second time, as well as all the outlying defenses.

Another tank attacked Saint Julien with the infantry. It drew the fire of a small fort to the west of the village and turned aside to deal with this. One shot only it fired at the fortification and the Germans to a man ran out with hands raised, crying "kamerade," and gave themselves up. This was a capture totalling 60 prisoners.

MR. ROOT TO ENTER WILSON'S CABINET?

It is Claimed This War Cannot Be Fought as Democratic or Republican Proposition and All Parties Should Be Represented.

Washington, Aug. 7.—There is a strong belief in congressional circles that President Wilson will re-organize his cabinet within a short time and that Elihu Root, now returning from his Russian mission, is certain to be one of those whom the President will select as a member of his official family. Many claim that Mr. Wilson has the weakest cabinet in years. No one cared much about this during ordinary times, but now that the country is at war it is contended that the President should surround himself not only with big men, but men of all political faiths.

The President at this time has the biggest job of any man in the world. He has more power and more responsibility. Fear is expressed that Mr. Wilson may break down under this heavy burden unless he has men around him to share his troubles who can think with a non-partisan mind. It is being urged, therefore, that he select the biggest men possible from all three of the big parties, Democrat, Republican and Progressive, and that capital and labor both be represented in the men whom he shall select.

Elihu Root is without doubt one of the brainiest men in the country and therefore he is being talked of as a possible selection to head the state department. It is not even known that Root would have the place, but many of his friends declare that he would accept the portfolio simply on patriotic grounds should the President select him. The President himself is talked of as head of either the navy or war department, but so far this is merely gossip. There is real reason, however, to believe that the President is seriously considering Root as a member of his official family and should he take this step he is certain to make a number of changes in his cabinet.

This war cannot be fought either as a Democratic or Republican proposition. It is too big for any one man or any one or all political parties unless such parties work together. Those who are advocating the non-political cabinet feel that all parties should be allowed to put their shoulders to the wheel and work together. James H. Poy, of Raleigh, one of the strongest supporters the President has, and incidentally one man who is doing a great work in North Carolina to help fight the war, many months ago suggested that changes as above outlined, might be made in the interest of greater efficiency.

Had not the war been forced upon this country it is known that President Wilson would have re-organized his cabinet soon after March 4. of this year. The President, his friends believe, did not think it wise to make any changes when the war situation was so serious, because of the effect it might have had in Berlin. Such a condition does not exist now, because in making these changes the President would be doing nothing less than bringing all factions in the country more closely together and thereby bringing the war to a close that much sooner.

The President has no ill feeling towards any members of his cabinet so far as it is known here in Washington. Such changes as he may make would be in the interest of the country's welfare without regard to political alignments. He would pick the biggest men he can find, wherever he finds them and assign them to the places which they can best fill. He would give them a certain work to do and hold them responsible for that part of the national defense.

If such changes are made there would be little, if any use for the so-

called council of national defense. This board has accomplished little and there seems no prospect of its ever accomplishing much more. There appears to be no head to the council and no one knows just what the duties are.

Let some responsible head do the buying and letting of contracts for the government and allow these hundreds of business men who compose the national defense council go back home and help manufacture goods for the government needs, in the way one man puts it. These men can serve the country better at home in their particular line of business than they can here in Washington where everybody seems to be trying to get into the same "duck pond." That pond is to see how much business can be obtained for their particular lines, in many instances.

MYSTERIOUS FACTORY OUT AFTER EMPLOYEES

Greensboro Mechanics Offered Fancy Pay For 18 Months of Virtual Imprisonment.

Greensboro News.

Greensboro has been visited by an agent looking for expert mechanics for a factory which will be employed in the manufacture of a new invention. The secret of the device is to be carefully guarded and one of the requirements to which the mechanics have to subscribe is that for 18 months they shall be segregated from their fellow men of the outside. In other words, those chosen and who accept the offers being made will be virtually prisoners for the next 18 months.

It is stated that the agent here tendered positions in the factory to several young men who are good automobile mechanics, and the offers were said to be \$500 a month. That a man with a family might carry his family along and live together in the segregated town which will be constructed for the employes in the mysterious factory.

The work of the man who was here in the interest of this endeavor was done quietly, but it is not yet apparent that he will get recruits from Greensboro.

It is understood that the advisory board of mechanical experts which is co-operating with the government has produced some instrument or improvement on an old instrument for use in warfare which is expected to have a distinct bearing upon the struggle in which the country is engaged and this factory with its secluded employes is to make this article. Whether this is true, or the persons concerned are merely desirous of getting expert mechanics for the development of various ideas which are to be kept secret is not known.

NEW LIBERTY LOAN DATE NOT YET SET

Issue Likely to Be \$3,000,000,000, to Carry at Least Four Per Cent.

Washington, Aug. 2.—When Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo left Washington this afternoon for his summer home in Pennsylvania he had not determined upon the date for floating the next Liberty Loan. Neither had any of the details of his loan been agreed upon, either as to the amount or the rate of the interest the bonds will carry.

It is generally conceded, however, that bonds to the value of \$3,000,000,000 will be issued and that the rate of interest is likely to be higher than the initial loan, which carried three and a half per cent. The big bankers throughout the country, and especially in New York City, are demanding that the rate of interest on the next loan be fixed at either four or four and a half per cent.

The second loan will be floated in the same manner as the first one.