

**2,000 RIFLES EACH DAY FROM ARMS FACTORIES**

**Government Will Have Plenty of Guns for Armies That Go to Europe.**

Washington, Oct. 13.—That part of America's preparation for war which has to do with supplying rifles to its soldiers is now practically an accomplished fact. By the last of the current month rifles of two types, the Springfield and the Enfield, will be forthcoming from the factories at the rate of 2,000 per day. This means that by the time the national army and the national guard troops now in training in this country are landed in France early next year they will be fully equipped with rifles.

Much criticism has been heaped upon the war department for its failure to have these rifles ready by the time the guardsmen and the drafted men were sent to camp. Some of this criticism was justified but most of it was not. In justice to the war department and General Crozier, chief of the bureau of ordnance, it must be said that, after consultation with the military members of the French and English commissions which visited America last spring, our military experts decided upon a wise course, although it did mean about three months' delay in getting the rifles ready.

The immediate need for rifles lies, of course, with General Pershing's men in France. Those men, according to an official statement of the war department, are amply supplied. In fact, there are in France today five rifles per man. The regular troops in America today are amply equipped with rifles. The shortage lies with the national guard and the drafted men.

At present the combined output of the various factories engaged in making rifles is about 1400 per day. Most of these are going to the national guard because the national guard is further advanced in training than the drafted men will be for two or three months to come, and consequently will see service in France before the drafted men.

At the cantonments for drafted men there are 5,000 rifles per camp. The enrollment at each camp is supposed to be approximately 40,000. This leaves eight men to the rifle. Critics of the war department have laid special stress on this point as indicating the failure of the department to meet the required situation.

As a matter of fact the discrepancy between the number of rifles and the number of men at the cantonments means nothing, according to military experts. The raw recruits at the cantonments will not need rifles for two months. The great army that Kitchener trained and put into the field was trained entirely in the early stages with broomsticks.

A modern rifle is a fairly complicated weapon. It requires careful study and if our cantonments were equipped with 10 rifles to the man those rifles would remain stacked for some time before the drafted men would be allowed to handle them. Nor when they began to use rifles would they use them all day long. Consequently by the time they are ready to handle rifles there will be plenty to go around.

**Members of Congress On The Way to Europe**

Washington, Oct. 16.—Ten members of Congress, traveling in unofficial capacity, but carrying special passports, arranged for by the state department, are on the way to Europe to visit the war fronts and fraternize with the parliamentary representatives of the allies. In the party are Representatives Dale, Vermont; Taylor and Timberlake, Colorado; Hicks, New York; Johnson, Dill and Miller, of Washington; Goodwin, Arkansas; Stephen, Nebraska, and Parker, New Jersey, former Representative Stout, of Montana, and Ross L. Hammond, a Fremont, Neb., editor, and others.

The visit is a development of the recent cabled and personal invitations of representative members of the British and French parliaments for closer affiliation of the parliamentary bones of the allied governments through personal conferences at the British, French and Italian capitals. President Wilson did not favor Congress officially accepting the invitation at this time and neither house took action, but the 10 members arranged their trip, informally. Other representatives are expected to follow soon.

**Banks Must Cooperate**

St. Paul, Minn.—Banks in Minnesota showing a disloyal or indifferent attitude toward the sale of Liberty bonds are to lose any deposits of state funds which they have. An order to State Treasurer Henry Rines from the State Board of Deposit, following a meeting on Friday, reads:

"Realization that the flotation of the Liberty Loan is essential to winning the war, this board hereby directs that the funds of the state be deposited only in such banks as participate actively in the sale of bonds, and which subscribe freely to their own accounts. The treasurer is directed to withdraw immediately all state funds from banks that assume an indifferent or disloyal attitude."

**WILL CUT OFF NEWS FOR THE ENEMY.**

**Most Rigid Censorship Ever Invoked Is Now Planned.**

Washington, Oct. 16.—In order to cut off every avenue of news by wire, cable and by mail from reaching Germany, the United States government is about to put into operation the most rigid censorship of means of communication to foreign countries that has ever been undertaken by any of the powers.

Under the terms of the President's proclamation, putting into effect the provisions of the trading with the enemy act, a censorship board, consisting of representatives of the postmaster-general, the secretary of war and navy, the war trade board and the bureau of public information, has been appointed and its members are expected to hold the first meeting tomorrow or Thursday.

At today's cabinet meeting the censorship matter was given a good deal of attention. It was the consensus of opinion among the members that the mail censorship should be put into effect immediately against such countries as Spain, Mexico and one or more of the northern European divisions which have been suspected of furnishing means of communication to Germany. All mail matter having to do with the movement of exports and imports to and from countries will be subjected to the most careful scrutiny by members of the censorship board. It is the intention of this government to put an end to any further "leaks" which have occurred in the past and which have resulted in Germany securing valuable information that has been of untold benefit to her in her campaign against the allies.

The censorship of cablegrams, radiograms and telegrams will be most painstaking, and every bit of information conveyed to foreign governments which is under the slightest suspicion will be withheld by this government. There is to be no repetition of the mistakes which occurred during the early part of the war which enabled the Kaiser's government to learn of the whereabouts of our battle fleets and the movement of our troops. Shipments of food supplies and ammunition to the American troops abroad and to our allies will thus be guarded from possible attack from enemy submarines, for they will be transported without the knowledge of German agents or members of propagandas working in this country in the interest of the Kaiser.

The lid is to be closed down tight from now on upon all channels of information whether by wire, wireless or mail which may by any possible calculation fall into the hands of the German government.

**Guns Hurl 2,000,000 shells at Germany Daily.**

It's a war of the big guns now. No other branch of the armies in France is playing as great a part as the artillery these days, and it is for this reason that America's attention is being centered upon the big guns.

Estimates that are reliable figure upon the use of from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 shells a day in artillery preparation for the assaults of soldiers engaged in paving the way for attacks on the German trenches these days often exceeds the number who actually go over the top to take them. Already the massing of artillery in position against the Germans, as carried out by the French, exceeds the wildest imagination of three years ago. In the April offensive along the Aisne the French day after day fired more than 1,900,000 shells and had it been possible to keep the Allies supplied with that many shells a day indefinitely, the war might have been over by now.

Just to show how great has been the artillery development during the last few months, it might be mentioned that when the Germans made their savage, but fruitless, assault on Verdun last year they fired an average of only 200,000 shells a day, and later this number was increased by the French to 400,000 daily. Allies generally have decided it is useless to sacrifice the lives of great numbers of men by sending them out to take trenches against heavy fire, so the artillery preparation now is resorted to in order to make the actual attack by infantry twice as certain of success.

Then, too, there is no announced intention of trying to force the Germans back beyond the Rhine at this stage of the game. Rather it is preferred to keep hammering at them with big guns until human flesh and blood can stand it no longer, and thus undermine the spirit and moral of the Huns until the time is ripe for the "big push" that will drive them back as far as the Allies may desire.

Getting the big guns to the front is, therefore, a matter of extreme importance, and no method of doing this is passed up. By motor trucks, by railroad train, horses, and even on the back of the humble mule, the material for keeping up an incessant bombardment of the German lines is kept moving steadily forward.

The question of wastage of material is a serious one, too. Of all war paraphernalia the big guns wear out

the quickest. For their repair is a regular system of "hospitals" exists. Let a gun become worn on the firing line and it is removed and another takes its place. The damaged weapon goes to the rear to be made over. If only a small amount of work needs to be made upon it workmen are at hand in one of the moving repair hospitals only a short distance away.

**Third of Austrian Isonzo Army Lost**

Washington, Oct. 10.—Austria's losses in killed, wounded and prisoners during the recent Italian offensive on the Isonzo front amounted to one-third of the force engaged, according to semi-official dispatches from Rome today, says:

"A great Austrian war council has taken place on the Isonzo front. The commanders of the different sectors and Gen. Conrad were present.

"According to advices reaching Italy there was discussed at the council the question of how to face the Italian offensive, and what forces might be brought up to reinforce the Austrian lines, especially along the threatened road to Lubiano.

"It was ascertained that the Austrian losses on the Isonzo front amounted to one-third of the whole Austro-Hungarian Army there. The machine guns which Austria had at the beginning of the war, and which Austria has built since the war and used on the Isonzo front, have practically all fallen into the hands of the Italians.

"It is not known what decisions were taken at the council, but it is ascertained that the German and Austro-Hungarian commands now consider the Italian front the most dangerous."

The situation on the Isonzo front has become so serious that Austria is not able to cope with it alone and is urging Germany to send additional troops to supplement those already furnished by the Berlin war office, an Italian military critic said today:

"Our front," he continued, "is decidedly the most important in the respect that it offers an opportunity to reach an earlier military decision. But this claim does not in the least diminish the importance of the Anglo-French efforts, because the Italian front could not be what it is today without the Anglo-French offensives.

"The greatest effort, however, will eventually, in our belief, be directed on the Italian front, where the war can soonest be brought to a successful end."

**Oklahoma Feeding Wheat to Cattle**

Oklahoma City, Okla., Oct. 8.—Half a million bushels of wheat will be fed to live stock in Oklahoma this fall, it is indicated by reports received from by the State council of defense, from twenty-three western counties. In most of the counties an increased acreage of wheat planted is indicated but no hope is held out that a planting will be further stimulated by an increase of a few cents a bushel possibly under new marketing arrangements. In Grant county alone, it is estimated that 1,500 bushels of wheat is being fed to live stock daily.

"I have had more or less stomach trouble for eight or ten years," writes Mrs. G. H. Smith, Brewerton, N. Y. "When suffering from attacks of indigestion and heaviness after eating, one or two of Chamberlain's Tablets have always relieved me. I have also found them pleasant laxative." These tablets tone up the stomach and enable it to perform its functions naturally. If you are troubled with indigestion give them a trial, get well and stay well.

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**And Invigorates Old People**

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Those who have puny, ailing or run-down children or aged parents may prove this at our expense.

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Try it. If you are not entirely satisfied, we will return your money without question; that proves our fairness and your protection. Millions of people have been convinced this way.

I. W. WEST DRUG CO.

**Notice of Dissolution of Co-partnership.**

The firm of Prather-Fulton Insurance Agency, doing a General Insurance business is this day dissolved, Winston Fulton and G. H. Fulton, as liquidating partners, will settle all obligations of the late firm and are authorized to collect all claims. They will be found at the old office of Prather-Fulton Insurance Agency. Dated at Mount Airy, N. C., this August 21st, 1917.

Chas. D. Prather, G. H. Fulton, Winston Fulton. Witness: G. E. Preddy.

**Statement of Ownership and Management of The Mount Airy News**

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Signed, W. M. Johnson, Manager.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 18th, day of October 1917.  
T. G. Fawcett, Notary Public.

**40,000 Germans Ask for Peace**

Copenhagen, Denmark, Oct. 4.—A great demonstration in favor of peace without annexation was held on Sunday at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Germany.

Leaders in the clerical, radius and socialist parties sponsored the demonstration.

The crowd numbered forty or fifty thousand, and addresses were made from six different platforms simultaneously.

**Soldier can Keep own cow.**

Washington, D. C., Oct. 4.—Soldiers in the American Army not only may keep a cow, but they can feed it at Government expense, provided they consume the milk, says a ruling of the advocate general.

**Wood's Seeds**

**Rosen Rye**

The most vigorous growing and productive of Seed Ryes. Stools out better, superior quality of grain, and destined, in our opinion, to take the place of all other Rye.

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Gives full description and information, and also tells about the best

**SEED WHEAT, OATS, RYE, and Other Seeds for Fall Sowing . . .**

Write for Catalog and prices of any Seeds required.

T. W. WOOD & SONS, SEEDSMEN, - Richmond, Va.

# Great Fall Sale Now On!

We are in a hurry to close out all our Fall and Winter Goods. We want to close out all our Ladies and Misses Coats and Suits, ladies skirts and waists, ladies shoes, also a big line of high top shoes which are worth \$4.50 but we will let them go for \$3.48.

We also have a big line of ladies, Misses and children's every day shoes cheaper than you can buy them anywhere else. Buy them while you can save money.

Our line of Men's and Boys' Clothing, Pants and Overcoats is cheaper than you can find anywhere. See our W. L. Douglas Shoes, they are solid leather and will give perfect satisfaction.

Don't fail to visit Raiff's before you buy your winter goods. We will save you money in every bill you buy from us and we will give a nice little Christmas present to all customers who buy their winter supplies from us.

Raiffs, Schafér Block, Mount Airy, is the store you buy your goods cheaper.

## RAIFF'S

### NOTICE!

We will receive no more of the 1917 season Bark at our sheds after Dec. 1st, 1917.

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