

SKILLED FARMERS IN DEFERRED CLASS

THEY ARE TO BE LISTED WITH THOSE NECESSARY IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS.

BUILDING WORK IS CHECKED

Government Acts to Stop All Needless Construction at Once—Naval Lieutenant Shirk Is Commended for a Daring Rescue.

(From Committee on Public Information.) Washington.—Agreement has been reached by the war labor policies board, Provost Marshal General Crowder, the secretary of war, the secretary of agriculture and the secretary of labor on a plan to put into deferred classification such persons in the new draft as are necessary in agriculture, industry and other occupations. Three advisers are to be associated with each district draft board to present facts respecting the supply of necessary workers in these three occupational groups. The agriculture advisers will be nominated by the secretary of agriculture. They will gather accurate facts concerning the requirements of agriculture for the various classes of workers in their own districts. They should have information also as to the needs of such classes in other districts that workers not sufficiently necessary in one district to entitle them to deferred classification may have opportunity to go to other districts in which they are needed.

The department of agriculture has sent a questionnaire to each county agent asking him to furnish reliable information regarding the farm labor needs in his county. The facts are required to assist the district draft boards in keeping in agriculture the (a) "necessary skilled farm laborer in necessary agricultural enterprise" (deferred class 2); (b) "necessary assistant, associate, or hired manager of necessary agricultural enterprise" (deferred class 3); (c) "necessary sole managing, controlling or directing head of necessary agricultural enterprise" (deferred class 4).

What the draft boards desire are facts as to necessary skilled workers. The unskilled workers apparently are not to be considered for deferred classification; they are regarded as more important for the army than for agricultural enterprises and general industry. The department of agriculture points out that necessary skilled farm labor should not be confused with inexperienced help that, with a little training, can do very well some kinds of farm work.

The commander of the United States naval aviation forces, foreign service, reports the heroic action of Lieut. Elbert Walker Shirk, United States naval reserve force, in rescuing a Belgian soldier who had fallen overboard from the U. S. S. Lorraine on June 23, 1918.

On hearing the cry, "man overboard," Lieutenant Shirk dived from the promenade deck of the vessel, 30 feet, and supported the soldier, who had been stunned by his fall into the water. A swift tide carried both men a third of a mile from the Lorraine by the time a lifeboat reached them. During this time the soldier twice released his hold upon the life preserver and sank, but Lieutenant Shirk dived and brought the man back to the surface.

Secretary Daniels has officially commended Lieutenant Shirk for his daring action, and has recommended to the secretary of the treasury that a gold life-saving medal be awarded him.

The recent creation of motor transport corps to take over from all other corps complete control of all motor vehicles in the army will entail the execution of plans of great magnitude and scope.

The personnel and equipment of this corps with each American army will comprise almost as many men and officers as were engaged on both sides in the battle of Waterloo, enough motortrucks to stretch in an unbroken line across the state of Ohio, if they were parked end to end with five-foot spaces between them, and enough motorcycles and other vehicles to stagger by their numbers the great masters of warfare in other times than these.

The actual number of men and officers provided by the motor transport corps to each American army is to be 154,747. The army motortrucks with this unit will number 40,803. There will be 24,250 motorcycles, 7,905 passenger carrying motorcars and 6,598 ambulances, with a total of approximately 100,000 drivers and riders. The officers will number 4,298 and the noncommissioned officers 30,000.

Following a call issued by the national council of defense, applications for enrollment in the volunteer medical service corps are growing rapidly in number. A total of 19,225 letters were received in less than a week.

Information received from nearly 20,000 physicians who responded to the appeal and that which, it is expected, will continue to be received, will be at the disposal of the government authorities for their consideration and use, especially so far as the doctors under forty-six years are concerned.

In addition to barring a long list of industries from the use of various materials, the war industries board has asked 48 state councils of national defense and the 5,000 county councils throughout the country to act for the board in order that all building and construction which is not absolutely necessary may be stopped at once.

In future permits will be required for all building, except in certain government work. In cases where permits are requisite, the local contractor may first obtain the approval of his county council of defense before the permit may be issued.

The United States employment service has also appealed to the bankers of the country to refuse loans which would result in the employment of labor for unnecessary construction, and has requested all states and cities to scrutinize their pay rolls in order to release unnecessary employees in parks, public buildings and elsewhere, so that they may engage in war work.

The procedure approved by the national council of defense and the war industries board contemplates that any person interested in a construction project must apply, with a full statement of the facts under oath, to the appropriate local representatives of the state council of defense having jurisdiction. The state council will investigate and transmit its recommendations to the non-war construction section of the priorities division of the war industries board. The non-war construction section will grant or withhold the permit and so notify the state council of defense and the individual concerned.

Pigeon training has become an interesting as well as valuable activity in the new army of the United States. Pigeon lofts are maintained at many of the army camps and aviation fields throughout the country. Each loft is numbered just as every air squadron and every regiment of infantry, cavalry and artillery is numbered. The birds are taken over by the government before they are old enough for raw recruits; are fed and conditioned to make them strong, and then are given a course of training just as are human recruits in the regular establishment.

When the training of these young pigeons is completed they go overseas, the same as the soldiers. The birds play their part on the battle line, are killed and wounded, and some are taken prisoner, but like the horses and dogs with which they serve in the great war, they are never decorated, never cited for bravery in action and never appear in the reports of casualties.

Two of the flying centers where pigeons are specially trained are Kelly and Carruthers fields in Texas. Not fewer than 75 pigeons are sent overseas from Kelly field every six weeks. They come to Kelly lofts when about three months old and are trained by experts over a period of six to eight weeks before they are considered fit for duty. The lofts are mobile, corresponding to those in use in France, and when the training of the birds is finished at Kelly field they are ready to go directly to the trenches.

The first period of advanced training of these pigeons comes with flock tossing, after they have learned to return to their lofts when liberated at distances of from two to twenty miles from the field. That is, they are set free in groups to prevent their being confused and consequently separated and lost. As soon as they have been liberated several times in this manner and have found their way home again they are taken out and tossed individually. Each pigeon has a number, and by bell devices at the entrance of the coop, their arrivals and the time of their flights are kept on record. As soon as a bird shows unfailing ability to return home quickly he is ready for service overseas.

A white flag is the signal most commonly used for training these messenger birds. They soon learn that when this white flag is raised over their lofts they are to stay away from exercise, and when the flag comes down they may return for their food. On some fields, when the birds stray a considerable distance from their loft, they are called back by the rattling of a tin pan.

To help the pigeons recognize their cotes the latter are painted in yellow and white stripes. No matter where a pigeon from Carruthers field is taken thereafter or in what direction, it will not alight on any building except its own loft, which means, of course, that wherever the pigeons go, the loft from which they were trained goes with them. It is only recently that the use of pigeons as messengers has been attempted from airplanes. The birds when used for this purpose are carried in baskets in the fuselage and great care must be exercised in releasing them to prevent the propeller blades from striking them. The aviators or balloonists who handle them also have to be instructed in the manner in which they release the birds for flight. Dropping the birds at high altitudes also requires special forms of training for the birds and instruction for the aviator.

The war trade board has authorized the importation of fresh tomatoes from the Bahamas to New York when they are moved as deck cargo on Cuba-New York mail steamers. Fruits and vegetables are on the restricted import list, but in this, as in other similar cases, it is explained, the war trade board has found it possible to aid vital West Indian industries by permitting tomatoes to be carried as deck load without excluding other more essential cargo and without imposing any further demands upon tonnage.



1—General Haan of the American army reviewing French and American troops in Alsace. 2—One of the large German guns captured by the Canadians. 3—King George of Great Britain decorating an American soldier on French soil for distinguished conduct on the firing line.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

Reorganized Serbian Army Starts an Important Offensive on the Saloniki Front.

BULGARIANS ARE IN FLIGHT

Franco-British Forces Closing Down on St. Quentin Despite Strong Resistance—Americans Shelling Metz—Austria's Peace Suggestion Promptly Rejected.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

With a regenerated and reorganized army, Serbia took the lead last week in smashing the Hun and his allies. Aided by French and Greek contingents, the hard-fighting Serbians struck at the Saloniki front held by the Bulgarians and certain German units. They struck hard, too, and within three days had advanced 12 miles on a 20-mile front, taking 50 towns, including the strongest of the enemy positions. At first the resistance was stubborn, but by Thursday the Bulgarians were reported in full retreat and the Serbians pursuing them day and night. The enemy threw in fresh divisions, but in vain, for they too were completely defeated. So swift were the flight and the pursuit that the Serbians had not had time to count the great number of prisoners taken or to estimate the quantities of material that fell into their hands.

This Serbian advance by the end of the week was seriously menacing the city of Prilip, one of the chief bases of the central powers in Macedonia. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that it may later be connected up with the operations of the allies in Albania, of which little has been heard lately. A good many authorities long have held the opinion that the war can be brought to a successful end soonest by a great offensive in the Balkan region, cutting off Turkey and Bulgaria from their allies and threatening Austria from the south.

With the Franco-British pincers slowly but surely closing down on St. Quentin, the French and Americans in possession of the western end of the Chemin-des-Dames and steadily pushing toward Laon and the Yankees firmly established on their new lines in Lorraine, shelling Metz and threatening the great iron and coal fields of the Briey basin, the German high command last week was still clinging to the Hindenburg line through most of its length. The Huns had massed vast numbers of long-range guns and were resisting desperately, but their increasing dearth of man power was becoming more evident daily, and the prisoners taken, though well fed and clothed, were despondent and tired.

After several days of preparatory operations Field Marshal Haig on Wednesday attacked on a 16-mile front northwest of St. Quentin, from Gouzenourt south of Holnon Wood. Before nightfall the British had smashed ahead to a depth of three miles, taking Felzere, La Verguere, Epely, Ronssoy, Villere and other towns and bagging more than 6,000 prisoners. The primary object of the drive, which was made in a hard rainstorm, was to gain possession of the old British trench system of last March, running along an important ridge. Many of the best fighting units in the German army were opposed to Haig's men, but the latter attained their object in the main and at some points went further than had been expected. The artillery work of the Germans, especially with high velocity guns massed behind the St. Quentin canal, was more severe than for a long time before.

Simultaneously with Haig's attack, the French hit the Boches on a ten-mile front south of St. Quentin, advancing more than a mile and taking four villages and hundreds of prisoners. Military critics express no doubt of the ultimate fall of St. Quentin, but the enemy is sure to put up a long,

hard fight before he evacuates that keystone position.

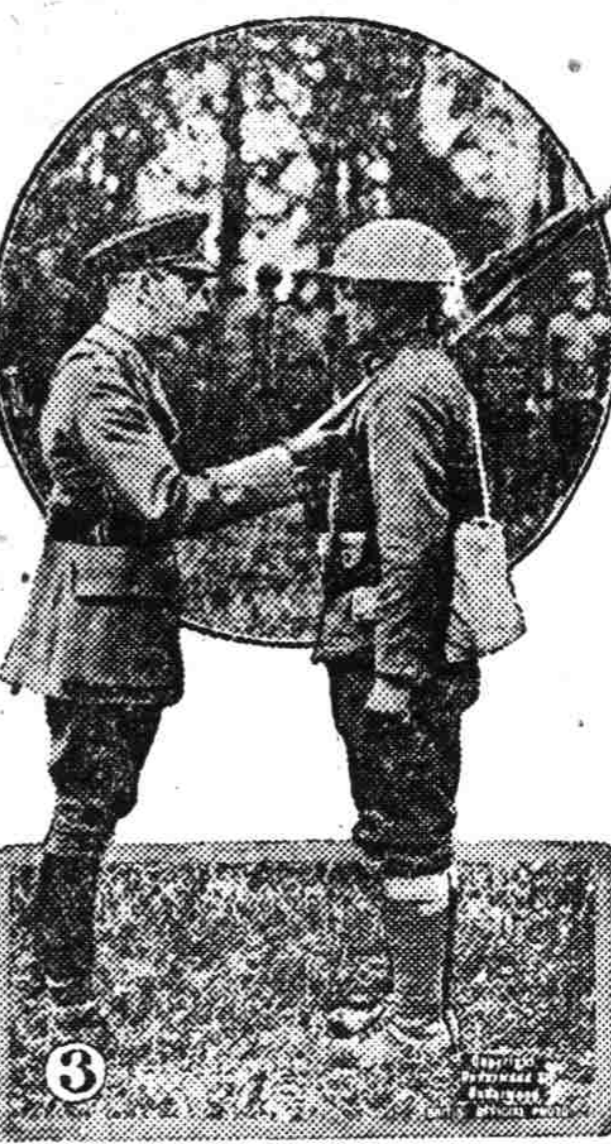
Stubbornly hanging on to the west end of the Chemin-des-Dames and improving their positions there, the French repulsed many fierce attacks last week and advanced toward Laon along the southern edge of the St. Gobain forest. The entire plateau southwest of Laon is under the fire of their artillery, and though they were moving forward with due caution, they showed no intentions of stopping.

On the new American front in French Lorraine the infantry activity during the week was confined mostly to operations for the solidifying of positions, though the Yankees did push forward along the Meuse for a considerable gain. This brought Metz under the fire of their artillery and the bombardment of that great fortress city began at once and vigorously. It seems that the allies are now in a position to keep up the shelling of Metz during the fall and winter, if necessary, and thus its reduction, virtually impossible by direct attack, may be accomplished. The Germans now admit the importance of the American drive on the St. Mihiel salient, but the deception of their people through the official reports continues, as exemplified by the statement, one day last week, that American attacks on Haumont had been repulsed and the Yankees also had been beaten at Thiaumont. At that time Haumont had been safely held by the Americans for three days and Thiaumont was already five miles behind Pershing's lines. Fresnes, an important city, also was taken by the Yankees last week, and the line built by them now runs parallel with the Hindenburg line at an average distance of a mile and a half. Every day the German artillery has been deluging the old salient with explosive and gas shells, and the American gunners have replied most effectively, battering the towns held by the Huns and several times breaking up attempted infantry attacks, with severe loss to the enemy. The airmen on both sides were extraordinarily active and the Americans carried out a number of highly successful bombing expeditions over enemy territory. In one of these, however, a superior force was encountered and five of our planes were lost. Incidentally, the British reported that in the St. Quentin sector the Germans were using a new type of plane that carries eight men and bombs 13 feet long and weighing 2,000 pounds.

All along the west front the air fighting was most intense. In one day the British brought down 66 enemy planes and lost 16, which indicates the fierceness of the struggle for the mastery of the air. The Independent British air squadrons kept up their fine work in the bombing of German cities, notably Mannheim, Metz-Sablons, Treves and Frankfurt. This brings howls from the Huns which are music to the allied ear.

The bolshevik forces in Russia, for which some victories were claimed early in the week, later were reported to be retreating on both the northern and southern fronts. The Czechoslovaks along the Volga continued their advance, and the fact that they captured Perm, capital of the government of that name, indicated they were in a fair way to effect the junction of the forces which are fighting in western Siberia with those which have been engaged in southeastern Russia. As was predicted, the Japanese censors do not permit much news to come from the allied expedition in Siberia, but what does come is satisfactory.

In Russia the reign of terror instituted by the bolsheviks to suppress the counter-revolution continues and unknown numbers of the opponents of Lenin and Trotzky have been massacred. The American government last week issued a series of articles exposing those two precious rascals as the paid agents of Germany, giving the text of many secret documents obtained by an agent of the committee on public information. All this made intensely interesting reading, but no one in America except a few highbrow "intellectuals" is surprised by the facts revealed, and there doesn't seem any way to get those facts before the Russian people whom Lenin and Trotzky and their crew have tricked and betrayed.



3—King George of Great Britain decorating an American soldier on French soil for distinguished conduct on the firing line.

All the allied ministers who formerly were at Jassy, Roumania, including Charles Vopicka of America, have been arrested in Petrograd, according to a report reaching The Hague.

Austria's suggestion of a "nonbinding" conference of all the belligerents to make clear their war aims and peace demands met with the prompt kind of rejection by the allies, President Wilson taking the lead in refusing to consider the idea. In two sentences he replied that America's terms had been repeatedly and clearly stated and therefore no proposal for such a conference would be entertained by it. In this Mr. Wilson was heartily supported by the entire nation, and his position was also thoroughly approved by the allies of the United States. Austria's suggestion, made with the consent of Berlin, admittedly was merely a "peace flyer," and there was little expectation in Hunland that it would receive favorable consideration.

No better reception was accorded the German offer of peace to Belgium. With unblinking effrontery Berlin asked the nation the Huns have ravished to drop out of the conflict, not even suggesting that they would make reparation for the horrible crimes they have committed there, and making the insidious proposal that the "Flemish question" should be considered and the Flemish minority that aided the German invaders should not be penalized. Belgium, of course, said "No" to all this claptrap.

The political situation in Hungary is becoming extremely critical and the opposition to the government is growing bolder. Its leader, Count Karolyi, is quoted in dispatches as declaring that the central powers should accept President Wilson's 14 peace points as a basis for negotiations and that the treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest should be abrogated. The pope seems to have scented chances of peace once again, for it was stated at the Vatican that if a diplomatic representation should be received by him from one of the parties, he would ask the other party if it desired to receive such a representation.

Substantial support for President Wilson's peace plans was received from the labor conference of the allied nations in London when the international relations committee recommended that the conference subscribe to the 14 points formulated by Wilson, "thus adopting a policy of clearness and moderation as opposed to a policy dictated exclusively by changes on the war map."

According to figures received up to date, the total registration of the country under the new draft law was at least 12,800,000, or 100,000 above the estimated total. Of these the government proposes to call to the colors 2,700,000, to be added to the 3,200,000 men already under arms. It is planned to have 80 divisions in France before next summer, and to finance so great an undertaking the war department has asked congress to provide it immediately with an additional \$7,000,000,000 in cash. Granting this, the administration and congress has the choice of increasing the amount of taxes provided by the revenue bill from \$8,000,000,000 to \$10,000,000,000, or raising all the additional \$7,000,000,000 from the sale of bonds and abandoning the plan of raising one-third of the cost of the war by taxation.

The various features of the revenue bill were swiftly approved by the house of representatives, one after another. Representative Moore of Pennsylvania proposed a tax of \$3 a bale on cotton, but the Southern members rose in a body to the defense of the main crop of their part of the country.

That there is no abatement in the stream of American soldiers being sent over to France is shown by the statement that 313,000 embarked for Europe last month. Of these, 180,000 were carried on British ships. One big success by the U-boats—from the viewpoint of the unvalorous Hun—was reported last week. The British steamer Galway Castle, carrying disabled soldiers returning to South Africa and many women and children, was torpedoed. One hundred and eighty-nine persons were lost, of whom 120 were civilian passengers.

CAPTURE OF 13,000 TURKS BY BRITISH

NAZARETH IN GALILEE IS ACQUIRED IN CHRISTIAN HANDS AND CONTROL.

THE ADVANCE IS IRRESISTIBLE

Airmen Play Important Part in Sweeping Up Enemy in Sack—British Losses Slight.

Our transcendent interest in the moment at least are the operations of the British General Allenby's forces in Palestine. Here in more than four days the British have swept forward in the center between the River Jordan and taken the famous Nazareth, while their wings closed round in a swift enveloping movement and nipped within the jaws of the great pincer all the Ottoman forces in the coastal sector, the plain of Sharon, the hill region in the rear and also the western Jordan valley.

More than 13,000 Turks had been made prisoner by the British and more in excess of 120 had been captured when the last reports from General Allenby were received. In addition great quantities of war stores had been captured, and still others had not been counted owing to the rapidity of the movement.

Although the Turks at some points offered considerable resistance to the British, at no point were they able to stay the advance, even on the famous field of Armageddon, which the British cavalry swept across and occupied Nazareth to the north. In the operation of sewing the enemy with the sack, airmen played an important role, vigorously bombarding the retreating Turks, inflicting enormous casualties on them. The losses of General Allenby are described as slight, in comparison with the importance of the movement carried out.

ITALIANS HAVE JOINED THE FRAY IN MACEDONIA

In Macedonia, the Italians have joined the fray with the British, French, Serbian and Greek troops and are hard after the Bulgarians and their allies, who are being driven northward through southern Serbia. Between the Cerna and Vardar rivers, although the Bulgarians and Germans are sending up reinforcements, the allied troops have continued their pressure. The Serbians west of the Vardar river have crossed the Pribina Ishtib road at Vavardar, which constitutes an advance of more than 25 miles into their one-held territory. To the east of Monastir the Italians have begun operations in the famous Cerna bend and have taken several positions.

PLANS TO SECURE ALLOTMENT OF MEN NEEDED IN NAVY

Washington.—The program under which the navy and the marine corps will secure the men hereafter needed was announced by Secretary Daniels after conferences with representatives of his department, the marine corps and the provost marshal general's office. The navy is to have an average of 15,000 men monthly, while the marine corps will get 5,000 monthly for four months and 1,500 each month thereafter.

Of the navy's allotment of 15,000 it may enlist or enroll men who have special qualifications for certain navy work, but the remainder will come from "the run of the draft," navy officials culling out skilled men to meet as far as possible the special needs of the service.

Men desiring to enter either the marine or marine corps will be required to make application at the proper recruiting office. When they are accepted for the navy, the mobilization officers will apply for them through their draft boards, but in case of men qualified to enter the marine corps the recruiting officer will send a request to the provost marshal general for their enrollment.

HAIG SMASHES HUN LINES AT FOUR DISTINCT POINTS

London.—Field Marshal Haig's troops smashed into the German lines at four distinct points on the battle front. English troops, near Gavrelle north of the River Scarpe, advanced on a two-mile front. East of Epheury the British captured several organized points of resistance.

North of Epheury, Haig's men pushed forward in the sector south of Villers Guislain. They also repulsed a German attack on Mouvres.

TWO AVIATORS ARE KILLED AT INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY

Indianapolis, Ind.—Captain Hammond, of the British royal flying corps, and C. Kinder, of Greenfield, Ind., were instantly killed, and Lieut. Roy Pickett of the speedway aviation field, Indianapolis, was seriously injured when an airplane in which they were returning to the field from a Liberty loan trip to Greenfield went into a nose-dive and fell 400 feet, while they were preparing to make a landing at the speedway field.