

# The Watauga Democrat.

VOL. XXVIII.

BOONE WATAUGA COUNTY, THURSDAY MARCH 1, 1917.

NO. 23.

## WELL PREPARED TO SUPPLY ARMY

United States Ready as Never Before to Make War Materials.

SHOWN BY EXPORT FIGURES

Plants Created by Demand From Abroad Now Capable of Turning Out Vast Quantities of Munitions.

The United States is equipped in private industry as never before for the furnishing to the army and navy of almost everything that might be needed in time of war. In certain finishing processes, notably with reference to airplanes, the resources of this country are still far behind those of Great Britain and France, but the gap is being lessened gradually.

The data regarding the exports of the United States during the past year, as issued by the department of commerce, give a comprehensive idea of the vast resources of the United States.

The significant part of these figures, aside from their overwhelming size, is that the exports are obviously our output in excess of our domestic consumption requirements.

Thus it is more or less interesting to know that whereas in 1914 we sold boots and shoes worth \$18,000,000, in 1916 we sent, mainly to Europe, \$47,000,000 worth. It is even more interesting, from the viewpoint of industrial preparedness, to know that in 1916 we sold abroad footwear for 23,000,000 pairs of feet.

But we are prepared for the turning out of rifles and hand grenades as well. The federal government arsenals are actually negligible when the resources of the private munition plants are taken into consideration.

**Filling Huge Arms Contracts.**  
A merger was effected of the old Remington Arms company and the United Metallic Cartridge company, the consolidation carrying through the completion the construction of the vast plant at Bridgeport, which alone is able to put out more small arms than formerly all the American plants combined could make. It is now working on a \$6,000,000 contract for Russia.

The Du Pont Powder company enlarged its plants in Wilmington, Del., and at Haskell, Wayne and Pompton Lake, near Patterson, N. J. It took a little plant south of the Potomac, which had been employing 250 men, and transformed it into an industrial city with 30,000 on the pay roll.

At New Britain, Conn., the American Hardware company's plant, which had been turning out household and shop utensils and fixtures, suddenly opened an important side line of special parts in military equipment. The "side line" has become the dominant part of the business.

The Westinghouse company employs 8,000 in its Springfield and Chicopee factories in the manufacture of small arms alone.

**More Submarines Being Built.**  
The Lake Torpedo Boat company has grown so swiftly under its European contracts that it is now building seven submarines for the United States navy. The Submarine Boat corporation, successor to the old Electric Boat company, is an important addition to the shipyards.

There has been no development more thrilling than that of the Bethlehem Steel company, which now has a capacity far greater than that of the Krupp works at Essen, in Germany, the great ordnance factories of the world.

The department of commerce has issued its detailed figures of the growth through eleven months of 1916. In comparison with 1914, they show an almost incredible advance in our export output of munitions. Here are some of the more striking advances:

Firearms	\$ 4,900,000	\$ 25,465,000
Explosives	7,700,000	60,432,000
Copper	110,000,000	28,464,000
Brass	82,000,000	28,144,000
Acids	65,000,000	42,085,000
Steel bars (billets)	6,437,000	125,587,000
Airplanes	245,000	3,672,000
Automobiles	29,329,000	11,491,000
Wire	5,617,000	49,428,000

**Ready to Supply Own Needs.**

The figures are suggestive of what has taken place in other industries which could not be so closely identified with the actual movement of the troops. The fact that five times as many railway cars have been shipped abroad had, for example, no distant relation; that cotton manufacturers nearly tripled, that wool manufacturers quadrupled, that leather far more than doubled, that steel manufacturers as a whole rose from \$184,000,000 to \$777,000,000—all these show what the war has done to put this country in a position to supply its own needs should they arise.

## Arizona Mightiest of All Fighting Vessels.

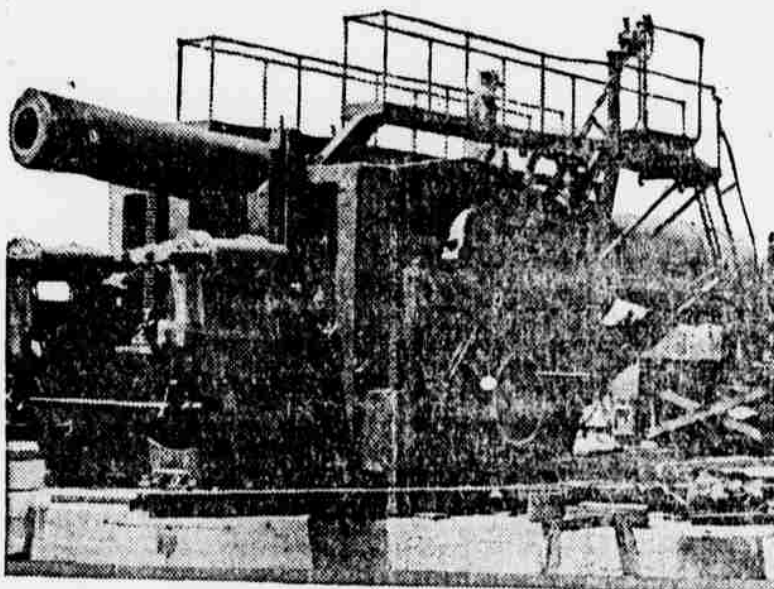
The Arizona, the newest addition to the United States battleship division, not only is the biggest of Uncle Sam's sea fighters, but no other naval power has a fighting vessel that can reach it in size.

It is larger by 200 tons than the Pennsylvania, the flagship of Admiral Mayo, of which it is a sister ship.

It will be a damaging foe for an enemy to meet. Its twelve 14-inch guns fire a broadside of 20,000 pounds of steel, which can be directed accurately at a mark 15 miles distant. The broadside is 6,000 pounds more than the combined broadsides of the Kansas, Vermont and New Hampshire, ships that have been placed in the reserve fleet.

The displacement of the Arizona is 31,900 tons. It is propelled by oil-burning engines, which drive it at a speed averaging 20 knots an hour.

## TYPE OF BIG GUNS THAT GUARD NEW YORK



One of the great disappearing guns at Sandy Hook, which form part of the defenses at the entrance to the port of New York. The picture shows the gun just before being raised and fired.

## MILITARY SCHOOLS TO GIVE OFFICERS

Many Cadets in Private Institutions Available for War.

## CIVILIAN AID IS IMPORTANT

Engineering, Signal and Aviation Corps of United States Army Could Be Quickly Recruited in Emergency.

By KENNETH MACDOUGALL.

New York.—In the event of the calling out of militia and volunteer troops, there are many cadets in the various private military institutions in the United States who could speedily be made available for second lieutenancies and some higher ranks in the volunteer forces.

One of the most prominent institutions in the country from a military standpoint is Norwich university, at Norwich, Vt., which has graduated numerous men into the army as second lieutenants. The graduating class is between eighty and one hundred and twenty men every year, and the institution has kept fairly good track of its available sons after they have left college. At a conservative estimate, Norwich could furnish a thousand men who have passed an examination required as entrance to the regular army as second lieutenant of infantry, five hundred second lieutenants of cavalry and about three hundred artillery second lieutenants.

Many of the men have kept well informed in military matters, while others, of course, would need considerable brushing up in modern tactics. Norwich has maintained the same standards of study and execution of military drill that the cadets at West Point are held to, and fully a sixth of its graduating classes have followed an army career.

In training, the graduates are probably superior in knowledge and executive ability to two-thirds of the militia captains and some majors in the National Guard.

They have served under military officers of the highest type for a four-year course, and during that time have had to work hard and faithfully in order to graduate.

**7,000 Men Available.**

A like condition is true of perhaps twenty-five other private military schools in the United States designated by the war department as "distinguished institutions." These schools could bring to the colors, about 7,000 fully or partially-trained lieutenants. Besides these there are some ten thousand college men who have attended training camps like Plattsburg, and who in a short time could be whipped into good enough shape to take command of volunteer infantry.

The Culver school at Culver, Ind., is perhaps a close second to Norwich university as regards cavalry material. The showing made by Culver boys while stationed on the border in the recent mobilization attracted widespread attention among army men.

The Engineering corps of the regular army could be readily recruited in officers and men from the civil population engaged in similar pursuits as a daily occupation. The supremacy of concrete construction in this country would indicate there would be no trouble in securing enough capable engineers and non-commissioned officers to erect or construct necessary gun emplacements and additional defenses.

The European war has shown that it does not take long to instruct military aerial observers and these could be trained in a short time.

**Transport Difficulties Small.**

As for transport and quartermaster corps there would be little or no difficulty in finding plenty of business men who would be capable of handling

these branches of service in fitting manner. The system of supply and transportation might be slow at first, but when one is acquainted with the fact that in New York state alone there are 310,457 automobiles, fully half of which could be utilized as light or heavy transport trucks, and the remainder converted into cars for officers and for courier service, it will be understood that there are no very great obstacles in the way of supply trains.

Railroad transportation on account of the length of our coast line would present some difficulties at first, but without doubt could be remedied with great speed.

The mobilization of the manufacturing industries of the nation has already been worked out by the authorities at Washington.

Of men we have plenty. Materials in the crude state we have sufficient, but rifles, heavy artillery and ammunition enough, let alone uniforms, blankets, equipment, medical supplies, etc., are a different story.

The Red Cross has plenty of nurses to put on the field for the first line hospitals. Ambulance corps such as were formed in France could be quickly put into commission and would undoubtedly do good service.

The militia of the country is probably in better shape from a military standpoint than it ever was in the history of its organization. If enough regular army officers were available to distribute among the various commands, it would be a fairly efficient fighting force. Unfortunately there are many officers in the militia of the country who have no right from military or mental qualifications to wear shoulder straps.

**American Legion Intact.**

The American Legion, while officially disbanded, is still intact. On the books of the organization, which have been preserved, are the names of some 18,000 men who have seen active service in various parts of the world, either as officers or enlisted men. Catalogued under proper headings are about 33,000 men or boys who are experts at some trade necessary to the army. There are telegraph operators, miners, high explosive men, railroad engineers, civil engineers, ammunition makers, draughtsmen, wagon makers, automobile mechanics and drivers, cowboys, hotel stewards, men in all branches of life suitable for the commissary department, electricians, etc. This list should be of decided value to the war department.

These are but few of the ways, manners, men and materials which can be called into play if the country finds it necessary.

In conclusion, I would call attention to the Boy Scouts of America, who could help in the event of war in any number of ways, and who, I am sure, would rise to the emergency in the same plucky manner as their little brother scouts have done in every country in Europe.

That the women of America would shoulder their share of the burden, no true American for a minute doubts; they have done it in the past and can do it in the future.

To mobilize all the industries, men, organizations, etc., would of course require more time than it has in the countries of Europe, but it would be done. The American people have a habit of taking a lot for granted, but when an emergency arises they generally are able to meet it.

**Banks Are Prepared.**

"There is no reason to expect any crisis in our own affairs," declared Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City bank of New York, in discussing the possibility of war. The money market is in the best possible shape. We could not have been better prepared for such an emergency than we are at the present time. We have every reason to feel easy.

The banks are prepared to absorb the proposed \$500,000,000 government treasury note issue without a murmur, and more if needed.

## PLAN MOBILIZATION OF CIVILIAN ARMY

War College Heads Prepare for Handling of Great Volunteer Force.

RAPID TRAINING PROPOSED

Special Attention Given to Selection of Officers Qualified by Experience to Lead Men Properly.

Washington.—The war college division of the general staff of the United States army has complete plans prepared for the mobilization of a citizen's army. These plans were completed some time ago in anticipation of the time when the United States might be called upon to enter into hostilities against a first-class power. These plans were based, it is said, upon the possibility that the first call for volunteers might be for 1,000,000 men. The war college recently prepared an official paper dealing with the raising of a volunteer army.

"Under existing laws and under contemporaneous conditions therewith," says the war college, "it has heretofore been assumed that in the event of a war with a first-class power the United States would require not less than half a million of men for the first line, behind which could be prepared the greater army of citizen soldiers upon whom our main reliance for national defense is conditionally placed."

**Subject to President's Call.**

The organization of volunteer armies can only be undertaken following the presidential proclamation stating the number needed, and on this subject the war college says:

"Volunteer forces may be raised, organized and maintained only during the existence or imminence of war, and only after congress shall have authorized the president to raise such forces. Congress could, however, by legislative enactment, authorize the president to raise such forces in time of peace."

"When so authorized, the president will issue his proclamation, stating the number of men desired for each arm, corps, or department, within such limits as may be fixed by law. It is probable that the proclamation will also recite the causes that make the call necessary and will state that the enlisted men shall be taken, as far as practicable, from the several states, territories and District of Columbia in proportion to the respective populations thereof."

"Following the call of the president for volunteers, the secretary of war notifies the governors, etc., as in a call for militia, informing them of the quota for their respective states, the existing militia organizations that will be received into the volunteers, the new organizations that it is desired to raise, and the maximum and minimum strength of organizations."

All terms of enlistments, it is pointed out, "will be the same as that for the regular army, exclusive of reserve periods," and no person can be enlisted for the volunteer forces "who is not effective and able-bodied," and who is not within the ages stipulated for that service under the law as it exists at the time of the president's call. Neither can any man be enlisted who does not speak the English language, while persons under eighteen years of age can be accepted only with the signed approval and consent of the parent or guardian of that person.

**Recruiting, Rendezvous and Depots.**

The war college continues: "With a view to recruiting and maintaining all organizations of the land forces as near their prescribed strength as practicable, the necessary rendezvous and depots will be established by the secretary of war and will be directly controlled by him. Here the recruits will be enlisted and trained. For the purposes of instruction and discipline, the troops at the recruit depots may be organized into companies and battalions, at the discretion of the secretary of war. The non-commissioned officers and privates will be of such grades and numbers as the president may prescribe."

"It is apparent that the recruits at the rendezvous and depots are intended to form a reserve battalion for each regiment or equivalent thereof of regulars and volunteers only; for the act also provides that in order to maintain the land militia organization at their maximum strength the recruit rendezvous and depots in any state or territory may, at the request of the governor thereof, enlist and train recruits for land militia in the service of the United States from such state or territory. All the officers required for such recruit rendezvous and depots will be volunteers of the proper arm of the service."

**Appointment of Officers.**  
"All volunteer officers are appointed

by the president, but the number and grade of such officers shall not exceed the number and grade of like officers provided for a like force of the regular army, and they will be subject to such assignment to duty and transfers as the president may direct.

"In order that the lives of those patriotic citizens who may volunteer for service may be safeguarded and conserved, and not risked under persons lacking in experience in the care of soldiers in camp and in battle, the war department has decided and announced that the appointment of volunteer commissions will be made from those classes of our citizens who have had such experience, and that from those classes the selections will be made in the following order:

(A)—Persons who have had experience as commissioned officers in the regular army of the United States and ex-officers of volunteers of proved experience and efficiency.  
(B)—Non-commissioned officers of experience in the regular army.  
(C)—Persons who have had experience as officers in the militia.  
(D)—Persons who have qualified according to law under prescribed examinations to test their fitness to command and control men in the field.  
(E)—Graduates of educational institutions of military standing to which regular army officers are detailed as professors of military science under the law.  
(F)—Should the necessary number of volunteer officers required not be furnished from the above classes, the war department will give civilians lacking in actual military experience an opportunity to appear for examination to test their fitness for commissions, before boards which the war department proposes to create in the several states.

**Begin Training at Once.**  
Under the caption "Training of Volunteers" the war college pamphlet reads:

"The training of volunteer troops must begin without delay after their induction into the service. No time must be lost. It should begin at the company rendezvous, without waiting for complete mobilization. Under our traditional policy of relying principally for defense upon citizen soldiers, the larger part of our land forces will not be fully trained on the outbreak of war. It is more than probable that we shall have to employ some of them with little or no training as soon as they can be assembled in suitable units."

"The amount and character of the training will at first be directly proportional to the time consumed, provided a rational scheme be followed. How much time will be available it is impossible to predict. It is reasonable to assume, however, that in the event of a war with an overseas enemy it will be the time required for our enemy to establish at least a partial control of the sea sufficient to open the way for landing of expeditionary forces."

"Any system of training, however, good in itself, will fail to bring the desired results unless there are available a sufficient number of trained instructors, officers and non-commissioned officers. The blind cannot lead the blind."

Referring to the mobilization of the volunteer armies, the war college points out that all points of mobilization have been selected, one in each state of the Union, and that these preliminary arrangements have been approved by both the federal and state authorities. These plans provide for the necessary buildings, for water supply, and all other essential needs which will arise.

**SHIPBUILDERS TO RUSH WORK ON U. S. WARSHIPS**

**Big Firms Double Their Forces and Put Contracts for Navy Ahead of All Others.**

Washington.—Construction of navy craft by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock company, the Fore River Shipbuilding company and the Electric Boat company will be speeded up to the limit of the plants. Work on two battleships at the plant of the Newport News company, at Secretary Daniels' suggestion, already is proceeding under doubled crews, and the offers of the other two companies to take similar steps met with the secretary's hearty approval.

At the Newport News plant it is estimated that the battleship Mississippi, recently launched, can be completed by midsummer instead of January 1, 1918, as called for in the contract. The keel of one of the four new battleships recently contracted for will be laid on the slip vacated by the Mississippi instead of a merchant vessel, as had been intended.

Representatives of the Fore River and Electric Boat companies called on Mr. Daniels, offering to rush work on destroyers and submarines for which they have contracts, setting aside other private work to that end. They were told to get ahead at full speed. The plan is to get the vessels launched as soon as possible, freeing stocks for the new set of destroyers and submarines to be authorized in the pending navy bill.

COLEY KIDNEY PILLS

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