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SEC. BAKER DEFENDS THE WAR DEPARTMENT

In a Public Hearing Before the Senate Military Committee the Secretary Replies to Senator Chamberlain

Senator Baker Monday replied to Senator Chamberlain's charges of inefficiency in the war department at a public hearing before Senate military committee. At 10:35 o'clock the secretary began making a verbal statement without manuscript.

Mr. Baker said his statement was not exactly supplementary to his recent one to the committee, but a comprehensive statement on all the army activities in war, especially replying to the charge that the war department had "fallen down."

At the outset the secretary said he thought much criticism came from impatience of the American people "to do this great thing quickly."

He concluded freely that in so great an enterprise it was impossible that there should not be "delays and shortcomings." The confidence of the country, however, he said, was necessary to the tremendous effort.

Million Men Under Arms
That there are more than a million men under arms in this country was stated by Secretary Baker in reference to the cases of alleged neglect of the dead in camp cited by Senator Chamberlain.

The mistakes cited in Senator Chamberlain's speech, Secretary Baker declared, gave a disproportionate aspect. Without intent, he said, the effect of the Senator's speech was to give the country the impression that the deficiencies were characteristic rather than occasional.

He said he was not there to defend individuals or deny delays and false starts. "But I think I can say in confidence that in them we have sought the remedy."

Every soldier who needs a rifle has one, Mr. Baker said, and of a better type than if the British Enfield rifle had been adopted.

Defending the lack of Lewis machine guns, Secretary Baker reiterated that Gen. Pershing does not want Lewis guns for the ground forces, but only for aviation.

Maj.-Gen. Wood, Mr. Baker said, recommended calling out a large army, although the men could not be provided at once with rifles and clothing.

Declaring that by securing artillery from France, Mr. Baker said, it also would save ships.

"I'm telling no secret when I say that this is the crux of our problem," he said.

Secretary Baker said all foreign representatives and also the war council participants headed by Col. House declare that securing ordnance from England and France will not take supplies they need but will help them.

"For one reason or another the impression has gone out into the country to some extent that the war department has fallen down in the conduct of the war," said Secretary Baker. "I want to address myself to that question."

"There are several reasons why I should ask the committee to hear me. First, the country is entitled to know if that is a fact. The country is entitled to know what this war is and what the problems are and how we are to meet them. Second, I have a deep sense of duty to the officers and the civilians that are laboring with devotion, sacrifice and zeal, and are spending sleepless nights to bring this army up to its greatest efficiency and success.

Describing the spirit of army officers, Secretary Baker said he had seen "strong, grizzled men turn away from my desk in tears" when they had found they could not go to France, "where the glory of their profession lay," but must remain in Washington. There was no case, he added, of any officer who had not accepted his duty with his whole heart.

Men of high places in civil life, throughout the country, he said, had come to Washington to accept salaries of office boys; many no salary at all, to place their experience at the disposal of the nation.

"Gentlemen," said the secretary, speaking with great earnestness, "it would be a 'tragic' thing if this momentous effort were to 'deserve the comment that it has fallen down.'"

(Continued on page two)

WILL LOOK AFTER EXCESSIVE PURCHASER OF FOOD

County Food Administrator Moore Has Such Instructions From State Administrator Henry Page

County Food Administrator W. C. Moore, Jr., has been instructed by State Food Administrator Henry A. Page to take prompt and vigorous action to the end that all purchasers of excessive quantities of foodstuffs, particularly flour, in this county shall return their surplus above one barrel to the dealers without delay.

Mr. Page evidently means business, and Mr. Moore means business, too, for he announces that the State food administrator's instructions will be carried out to the letter. Mr. Page's letter is of the straight-from-the-shoulder type that is characteristic of the man. He demands action, and action right away. In writing to the county food administrator Mr. Page instructs him as follows:

"(1) That you demand of each retailer in your county a complete list of consumers who have purchased flour in excess of one barrel during the past three months.

"(2) That you immediately notify the purchasers whose names are submitted to you or whose names you can secure that they must return all flour in their possession in excess of one barrel to the dealers from whom they purchased, those dealers being required to take it back at the price they received for it.

"(3) That you take every means within your command to remedy this situation just as promptly as possible.

"(4) That you submit to us promptly for indictment and prosecution the names of any merchants who, withhold information and any consumers who retain in their possession more than one barrel of flour after they have been given an opportunity to return it to dealers."

N. CAROLINA MERCHANTS AND JOBBERS ARE GOOD

Notwithstanding the fact that the food administration has frankly and readily granted a few merchants permission to sell flour on hand at more than \$12.50 per barrel and sugar at more than 10 cents a pound where they have shown that the delivered cost of the product has approached the figures set, a further reduction in sugar is announced as a certainty and a still further cut in the maximum price of flour is intimated as a possibility.

As a result of complaints from merchants who have paid very nearly the maximum retail price for their flour and sugar the food administration has taken up with the Washington authorities the matter of prices charged by a number of flour mills outside of North Carolina and is also investigating what appears to be unreasonable charges for sugar by a number of dealers outside the state.

A food administration official has stated that in only one instance has a North Carolina jobber been found who recently charged more than the margin allowed him on sugar. In this instance the case was due to a delay in the invoice and was altogether excusable, especially as the merchant very promptly refunded to retailers his profit in excess of the margin allowed. In very few instances have North Carolina jobbers been found to have exceeded the margin of 50 cents a barrel allowed them for the handling of flour.

SHORTAGE OF SEED CORN

On account of the late spring and early fall last year there was very little seed corn that matured sufficiently for good germination. It will not do for the farmers to overlook their seed until just a few days before planting. If they do it will be sure to mean a bad stand and poor yield. This year the government is not only expecting the farmers to do their bit, but to do their best, and if we do not have good seed we cannot do our best. If you have no good seed see if your neighbor cannot spare some. If he has none see me and I will try to get some. Selecting your seed for planting is the biggest help you will have in selecting your corn exhibit for the Caldwell county fair next year.

G. M. GOFORTH, Jr., Caldwell Co. Agricultural Agent.

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NUMBER AND DATE FOR NEXT DRAFT UNCERTAIN

Baker Says Much Depends on Ships and Events Abroad—As to the 21 and 31-Year Birthdays This Year

Expansion of America's fighting forces beyond their present strength depends upon such factors as events abroad and the shipping situation, Secretary Baker says in disclosing that the war department has not fixed a date for another draft nor even determined how many new men shall be called.

When Mr. Baker told the Senate military committee Monday that the United States would have half a million men in France early this year and that in all a million and a half could go across if ships could be found to carry them, he referred to the divisions now in training camps and those already in Europe. Future developments will decide what additional forces will be sent.

The secretary made clear his opinion that if events made it necessary to call out more than another increment of half a million men the executive's authority to draft men for fighting units other than reserves would be exhausted and further legislation by Congress would be necessary.

He said, however, that under the authority to call two increments of line soldiers of 500,000 each and such additional numbers for recruit battalions special units "as the President may deem necessary," the second draft might bring out in all as many as a million men.

The Senate committee tentatively approved legislation proposed by the war department to provide for the registration of youths attaining the age of 21 years since June 5, authorizing the fixing of quotas on the basis of class one of the new classification and empowering the President to call men needed for special industrial or other work. Provost Marshal General Crowder, appearing to explain the bills, told the committee it was proposed to hold a new drawing to establish the order of liability of the new registrants. When the new men have been given their serial numbers their names will be inserted in the classes to which they may be assigned according to a plan now being worked out.

It is assumed, Gen. Crowder said, that most of the new registrants will fall into class one, giving that class this year a total of some two million men. From class one it is proposed to take the next and any future drafts.

In a formal memorandum presenting his views the general also disapproved suggestions that the registration be extended to men beyond the age 31, saying the effort of classification is so great and so expensive and the number of persons past 31 years who would fall in class one so small that the task would not be worth while.

Although Secretary Baker reiterated his desire to have exempted registered men who reach the age of 31 without being called into the military service, the committee refused to include such a provision in the legislation. Gen. Crowder disapproved of the suggestion.

The bills probably will be introduced in the Senate very soon, and Senator Chamberlain said they would be pressed for early passage.

BOLSHEVIK BREAKS WITH THE ROUMANIANS

Petrograd, Jan. 28.—The Bolsheviki government, says an announcement from the semi-official news agency decided to break diplomatic relations with Roumania when the temporary detention of the Roumanian minister here had failed to stop "the Roumanian offensive." The council of peoples commissaries has issued the following orders:

"First, that diplomatic relations be broken and that Roumanian representatives be expelled from Russia. "Second, that the Roumanian gold reserve in Moscow be seized, the council being responsible for holding it and to return it to the Roumanian people.

"Third, that the former commander-in-chief of the Roumanian front, Lieut.-Gen. Stcherbacheff, be declared a rebel against the revolution and an enemy of the people, and is hereby outlawed."

DOUGHTON WANTS THE SEED FUND INCREASED

Washington, Jan. 29.—Representative Doughton today made a fight to have the old seed appropriation increased 50 per cent, and finally was sustained by the House, says the Washington correspondent of the Greensboro Daily News. Mr. Doughton takes the position that this is no time to economize on seed furnished farmers. He said in a brief speech that the seed furnished by the agricultural department and distributed by congressmen will be most helpful to the farmers of the agricultural districts this year. Mr. Doughton declared so far as he is personally concerned he did not play favorites in sending out his allowance of seed. He said that he sent the seed to every taxpayer in his district, including both white and negroes and all brands of politics.

Mr. Doughton renewed his fight for increased pay for the star rural route carriers. He has proposed that the present star route contracts be cancelled and new bids asked for. He contends that many of these carriers are unable to live on the amount they receive from the government and that their bondsmen are being compelled to fill the contracts. When the contracts were let the war was not on us, Mr. Doughton declares. He contends that everything now is 50 per cent higher than it was when the contracts were taken and therefore it is only fair that the government should reconsider the matter.

The committee on postoffices and postroads appointed a sub-committee to investigate the question after Mr. Doughton appeared before the committee.

"TANKS" PROVE WORTH AS A WEAPON OF OFFENSE

With the French Armies in the Field.—The future of the "tank" as an offensive weapon in battle is assured.

French troops who have followed the chariots of assault into the most recent battles on this front have ceased to speak of them in elephantine terms or to compare them with the lumbering, wallowing landships. The tank today is the armored hound of the chase. In packs, like the fox hunt, they dash ahead of the poilu hunters, keeping to the trail, exploring the ground ahead and when necessary digging the fox from his lair.

When an official communique dealing with a French victory told of the capture of an entire German regimental staff it was a pack of armored hounds that dashed up a crest and collared the staff before the arrival of the troops. When the same communique announced the capture of dozens of German guns it was again the hounds that took the major part. German gunners, like foxes, knowing the hounds of old, abandoned their weapons and scurried off through the brush.

Again a pack of "tanks," not satisfied to have led the infantry to its fixed objective, loped ahead among the bewildered enemy and, after showing their teeth over a area of several hundred square yards, loped back again in conformity with orders which had fixed the advance to go so far and no farther. Another pack, this time behind the infantry, arrived to find the poilus held up by several machine guns. The armored hounds dashed on and, literally digging the machine guns from their well-concealed lairs, also literally obliterated the "foxes" who served them and the attacking wave swept on with the "hounds" in the lead.

A GERMAN NEWSPAPER TELLS PEOPLE TO REVOLT

A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph. London, from Amsterdam says the Deutsche Tages Zeitung openly calls on the German people to revolt against the present regime.

"We, too," says this pan-German organ, "have a Judas among us today. He appears in the red coat and mantle of Germany's hangman. Who will save Germany from these traitors but the German people? It is now 'Germans, help yourselves, and God will help you.'"

Although Emperor William is not named in the article, the expression "Germany's hangman" is meant for the kaiser, says the correspondent.

SWANSON PLUMBING SHOP MOVED TO NEW QUARTERS

Mr. I. A. Swanson has moved his plumbing shop from the old Earnhardt row on West Trade street to the Bernhard building on West Harper avenue.

INTEREST IS GROWING IN MAPLE SUGAR MAKING

Mr. J. B. Horton of Elkin Is Asking Names of Parties Who Can Make Sugar—May Overcome Shortage

Consumers of sugar in Watauga county will begin to make their own sugar if the plans of Mr. J. B. Horton of Elkin pan out. Mr. Horton is making a canvass to learn the names of all parties in that section who can make maple sugar, and if he can get the proper co-operation he probably will be able to make up a good supply of the pure maple sugar before the season is over. Mr. W. L. Winkler of Shull's Mills is stirring up the people of his county and they plan a meeting next Monday at Boone. They will probably work out a co-operative plan.

There are a great number of sugar maple orchards in this section, especially in the section across the Ridge. Up until a few years ago these orchards were worked and maple sugar was made in quantities in this entire section. In late years cheap sugar has caused this industry to almost die out. But now the prevailing price of sugar, coupled with its scarcity, is causing interest in local sugar making to grow.

There are many townships in our mountain counties where sugar maple trees grow in abundance and where maple sugar has been made from early times, says a statement from the North Carolina geological and economic survey. For various reasons, but chiefly on account of the abundance and low price of cane sugar, this industry has greatly declined until during the last few years maple sugar has been made in only a few townships in North Carolina.

The present emergency, however, makes one wonder if we are not carelessly neglecting this valuable source of sugar which nature has put ready to our hands. If only enough can be made to supply the needs of the farmers themselves who can make it the sugar shortage would at once be relieved locally and at the same time the farmers themselves would be placed in easy circumstances as far as sugar is concerned.

It is not necessary to have a large grove of maples available in order to start sugar making; a few good trees will do. A family in the middle part of the state has been making sugar for years from a few sugar maple trees growing on a bluff overlooking Haw river, and it can be much more easily made in the mountains. An average yield for a 100-tree "camp" is forty gallons of syrup or 300 pounds of sugar—that is, an orchard of fifty trees should furnish sufficient sugar to carry a family of four through the year, basing consumption on the Hoover allowance.

It may be no cheaper to make syrup from maple trees than it is from sorghum, but the product sells for more money, and, what is of equal advantage, the work is done in the late winter before the rush of the spring farm work commences, leaving the season clear for the production of other crops.

There are many farmers in western North Carolina who have been making maple sugar or maple syrup for years. The scarcity of sugar will induce them to redouble their efforts this winter and it is to be hoped it will cause their neighbors to give the industry a trial. The state department of agriculture at Raleigh and the state geological and economic at Chapel Hill are trying to secure the services of an expert to demonstrate improved methods in sugar making in some of the mountain townships. With better methods and improved appliances there seems to be no reason why a record crop of maple sugar should not be saved during this coming spring.

REV. LOCKE WHITE WILL NOT BE HERE SUNDAY

On account of the prevalence of spinal meningitis at Camp Greene, Charlotte, where Rev. Locke White has been stationed during the past few weeks, and on account of his exposure to this disease, it has been decided to cancel his preaching dates here Sunday.

The union service will be held at the Reformed church, as announced. One of the local ministers will officiate.

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WHAT SUBMARINES HAVE DONE TO UNITED STATES

White 69 American Vessels Have Been Lost We Seized 107 From the Enemy—Our Net Gain 515,433 Gross Tons

In the twelve months of unrestricted warfare launched against American and allied shipping by Germany one year ago last Friday there have been sunk by submarines, mines and raiders 69 American vessels totaling 171,061 gross tons, according to a careful compilation of records of sinkings which have been made during the period.

Offsetting this loss of American vessels, most of which were sailing ships, the United States since Feb. 1 has added to her merchant marine by the seizure of former German and Austrian owned ships a total of 107 vessels having a gross tonnage of 686,494, leaving on the credit side of the American ledger in the account with the central powers a net gain of 515,433 gross tons. The loss of life caused by the sinking of the 69 vessels was more than 300 persons, however.

The percentage of sinkings of American ships compared with the number of vessels which have sailed through the war zone successfully is small. Records of the department of commerce show that for the period beginning Feb. 1, 1917, and ending Dec. 1, there were cleared from American ports in the foreign trade ships aggregating 17,730,900 net, or approximately 24,834,460 gross tons. The number of ships making up the total of tons was not made public by the department.

Further offsetting the loss of tonnage occasioned by the submarine warfare the United States, through the shipping board, requisitioned in American ship yards 426 vessels totaling more than 2,000,000 gross tons, and contracts have been awarded for 884 ships, a large number of which are now under way and are being rushed to completion. In addition the shipping board on Oct. 15 last placed under government requisition 393 American vessels of over 2,500 tons deadweight capacity which were already afloat and immediately assigned them to the task of carrying supplies for the allies and the American forces abroad.

Included in these requisitioned vessels were 21 ships in Great Lakes trade and in addition there were commandeered 24 steamers building on the lakes for foreign account and ready for launching. Virtually all of these were brought to Atlantic coast ports and immediately put into service. Almost one-half of them had to be cut in two to get them through the Welland canal, but the task was accomplished and the ships rejoined in less than three months from the time the contract was awarded.

Another difficulty which faced the United States in the task of putting to sea vessels to offset the ravages of the U-boats was the repairing of the "willful damage" done to the former German ships by their officers and crews before the ships were seized. This cost millions of dollars, and in many instances called for the highest engineering skill to make and replace parts of foreign-built engines and boilers removed or broken.

Indicating that the task has been attended by success, the statement was made by a prominent official connected with the shipping board that every vessel seized was now completely repaired and in service. Many of them have made as many as three and four round trips through the war zone.

Three of the former German vessels have been the objects of successful attack by the submarines. Several others have been attacked but escaped.

The announced sinkings of British ships for the year up to and including the week ending Jan. 23 have been 1,033 vessels, of which 762 were over 1,600 tons and 170 were under that figure. The joint losses of France and Italy have been averaged three to four large vessels weekly.

The issuance of coal cards to manufacturers and priority orders in behalf of apartment houses are being considered by local fuel administrators to provide an equal distribution of the meager daily coal supply that reaches New York.