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## STAFF ARMY BILL PASSED FRANCE AND ITALY'S TURN

### ADMINISTRATION WINS FIGHT FOR SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION BY BIG VOTE.

Washington, April 28.—By overwhelming majorities, both the senate and house passed late tonight the administration bill to raise a war army by selective draft.

The final roll calls brought into line behind the bill many senators and representatives who had fought for the volunteer system until routed by decisive defeats of volunteer amendments earlier in the day in both houses.

The senate, which has voted down the volunteer plan 69 to 18, passed the bill by a vote of 81 to 8. In the house, the vote against the volunteer plan was 313 to 109, and that by which the bill itself was passed was 397 to 24.

As passed by the senate, the measure provides for the draft of men between the ages of 21 and 27 years, while in the house measure the age limits are fixed at 21 and 40. This and lesser discrepancies will be thrashed out in conference early next week so that the bill may be in the hands of the president as quickly as possible. The war department already has completed plans for carrying it into effect.

Senators who voted against the bill were: Democrats—Gore, Hardwick, Kirby, Thomas and Trammell. Republicans—Borah, Gronna and LaFollette. Senator Vardaman, of Mississippi, Democrat, was excused from voting, at his own request. He did not give a reason.

The representatives voting in the negative were: Republicans—Bacon, King, Hay, Hayes, LaFollette, Lenden, Minnesota; Mason, Nolan, Powers. Democrats—Burnett, Church, Clark, of Florida; Claypool, Crosser, Dill, Dominick, Gordon, Hillard, Huddleston, Keating, Sears, Sherwood, Sisson. Prohibitionists—Randall. Socialist—London.

### Raises Pay of Enlisted Men.

Washington, April 28.—Both senate and house adopted an amendment today just before the final roll calls which would greatly increase the pay of enlisted men during the war. The house provision would make their pay \$30 a month and that approved by the senate would fix it at \$29 a month. The present pay is only \$15.

Among the amendments adopted in the senate was one which would permit Colonel Roosevelt to recruit a volunteer force for service in France. A similar proposal had been rejected by the house. Speaker Clark, Democratic Leader Kitchin and Chairman Dent, of the military committee, who had favored the volunteer system, all voted for the draft bill on the final roll call. Republican Leader Mann also was recorded in the affirmative, as was Miss Rankin, who previously had voted with the volunteer advocates.

### Farmers Exempt.

Among more important amendments adopted in the house was one empowering the president to exempt from the draft, in his discretion, persons engaged in agricultural work. Another would require each state to furnish a quota of men apportioned according to population, and still another provides that "no bounty shall be paid to induce any person to enlist," and that "no person liable to military service shall hereafter be permitted or allowed to furnish a substitute for such service."

### ASKS IF NITRATE OF SODA HELPS CROPS.

Washington, April 27.—Senator Ellison D. Smith, of South Carolina, is making an appeal to the farmers to inform him at once if nitrate of soda will be of value to them. In conferences with administration leaders he announced tonight that the chances are good to get a good supply at reasonable rates. Senator Smith tonight asked for information on the feeling of the farmers regarding their needs of the product. He made public this statement: "Senator E. D. Smith asks the farmers of the state to wire or write him immediately what in their opinion would be the effect upon the crops in the state, if an adequate supply of nitrate of soda at reasonable price could be obtained. Replies by Monday or Tuesday at the latest would be greatly appreciated."

### WILL RECEIVE HUGE LOANS WITHIN A FEW DAYS FROM AMERICA.

Washington, April 27.—President Wilson has approved requests from France and Italy for immediate financial aid, and from \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000 will be loaned them by the United States within the next few days.

In the case of Italy arrangements already have been made for the transfer of the money and the loan may be announced tomorrow. While the amount has not been divulged, it is understood to be between \$50,000,000 and \$100,000,000.

France will receive between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000. Before the end of next week the loan should be in Ambassador Jusserand's hands.

With the completion of these transactions the total of the government's loans to the allies will approximate \$500,000,000. There is every indication that at least \$500,000,000 more will be loaned the allies before the end of the fiscal year, June 30, and the amount may run to \$1,000,000,000 more, bringing the grand total of America's loans during the first three months of war up to \$1,500,000,000. At this rate \$6,000,000,000 a year would be put out, or double the sum provided for in the war finance law.

### Issue Treasury Certificates.

The administration has definitely decided to continue its loans to entente governments pending the issue of bonds, the money being raised by the issuance of treasury certificates of indebtedness. It is likely that Secretary McAdoo will issue another block of \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 before the end of next week through the federal reserve banks.

Revised estimates of entente needs indicate that the amount they will require prior to June 30—the date tentatively set for the receipt of proceeds for the first bond issue—will be nearer \$1,500,000,000 than the \$1,000,000,000 originally estimated. To meet these requirements certificates of indebtedness may be issued by the treasury department in blocks of \$250,000,000 every two weeks instead of every three weeks. The program as to this and other details, however, is still in a tentative stage.

Seven nations have applied directly for loans or indicated they would appreciate them, Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia, Belgium, Cuba and to the surprise of many administration officials, Haiti. In addition, it is reported that Brazil, contemplating war with Germany has sounded informally the sentiment of officials with a view of determining whether her application for a loan would be favorably received in case of war.

Russia's needs probably will be the next taken up by the administration with a view to advancing such financial aid as may be immediately imperative. The financial program with respect to Russia, however, may remain in tentative form until the American commission soon to go abroad shall have made at least a preliminary report as to her requirements.

In the case of Italy, the government is preparing to go further than to lend money. Italy needs both food and coal urgently, and, just as urgently needs ships to transport them. Officials are hopeful of finding means to get sufficient ships to supply her most pressing wants.

### HOPE ABANDONED FOR 120 ENTOMBED MEN.

Trinidad, Col., April 27.—Hope that any of the 120 men thought to be entombed in the Hastings mine, near here today, may be rescued was abandoned by rescue crews tonight. The men were caught behind a wall of fire which followed an explosion in the main stope early this morning and cannot be reached.

The helmet squads, which re-entered the mine after the first group of unprotected rescuers had been forced to retreat, had penetrated the main stope a distance of 1,200 feet. Evidence of a gas explosion was found at this point, but there was no trace of the men; all of whom were believed to be nearly 2,500 feet farther in.

Rumors current that the explosion was the result of a plot were discounted by company officials.

### GERMAN CABINET TRYING TO FIND SAFE GROUND BETWEEN TWO FACTIONS.

The Hague, April 28, via London.—The German cabinet is facing the most difficult situation of its war-time existence in its efforts to find a safe middle ground between the Socialists and Conservatives. Both parties are becoming more and more insistent and vociferous, the Socialists demanding the democratization of the government and peace without conquest or indemnity, while the conservatives are demanding with equal urgency reforms in exactly the opposite direction.

Dr. Diederich Hahn, leader of the agrarian junker party and member of the Reichstag, yesterday delivered a speech in Berlin in which he declared that Germany's submarine success now insured the unconditional surrender of her enemies.

"Has monarchial Germany failed?" he asked. "No," he added, "it stands brilliantly before the world as conqueror. We are today within sight of peace. May it be a real German peace. We hope those who govern us will realize our strength, will keep their nerve and continue to face the enemy as conquerors, not as cowards. Let us keep to Bismarck's policy. Germany's future is a future of battle and conquest."

"Some people are demanding a new order of things in Germany. Let me tell you what new order we Conservatives desire.

"We must have the coal fields of Longwy and Briey. We must have fresh territories for emigration in the east. We must not return any lands we have conquered.

"Already we have foolishly bestowed a kingdom upon Poland without securing Germany's rights therein.

"There also must be changes in the army where there is too much young and irresponsible blood. The government must cease conferring with the Socialists.

"There is only one way to deal with our Anglo-Saxon enemies and that is to be as brutal as they. Look at what our government has done in the case of the United States. Long after we knew on what footing America stood, we allowed Ambassador Gerard to live among us and to mix in our politics."

### HICKORY SOLDIER DEAD, SUICIDE SUSPECTED.

Asheville, April 27.—With his head split wide open from a high powered bullet, Robert Jones, of Hickory, a private in company F, second North Carolina infantry, was found lying dead on the west side of the concrete bridge at Murphy Junction here this morning at 5 o'clock.

A stick about fifteen inches long, which remained in the trigger guard of his rifle, apparently points to suicide on the part of the young man, although no reason for such action can be learned.

The bullet which caused his death was fired from his own rifle, it is believed. A train crew coming in over the Murphy branch of the Southern found the body.

Jones had just been to his home at Hickory, leaving without leave of absence, but no action had been taken against him for this act.

No powder marks are visible on the young man's face, but this is explained by the high power of the bullet and the fact that smokeless powder is used. No inquest will be held and the body will be given military burial.

### GERMANS CAN'T CONCENTRATE NEAR BORDER.

Washington, April 27.—Official advice to the state department today said the Mexican government had warned Germans in Mexico that any concentration of Germans near the American border will be followed immediately by their arrest.

In conveying this notice, the Mexican authorities explained that they could do no less in view of the fact that a state of war exists between Germany and the United States.

Officials of the American government were gratified by this first practical manifestation of Mexico's proclaimed neutrality.

### HIGHEST PRICE EVER KNOWN ON THE CHICAGO MARKET.

Chicago, April 27.—A car of No. 2 red winter wheat was sold by President Joseph P. Griffin, of the board of trade today at the highest price ever known here, \$3.04, which was 28 cents over the May future with destination billing. Wheat at St. Louis commanded even a higher price than that at Chicago as a car of No. 2 red sold at \$3.10.

These prices for sample wheat in car lots reflect not only the urgency of demand, but it reflects the legitimate situation. The sales of cash wheat were small as the offerings were confined to a few cars in the larger markets of the country.

There was a 17 cent spread for May wheat today, the range of sales being from \$2.53 to \$2.70, compared with a resting spot on Thursday at \$2.54 3-4 and \$2.54 1-4; closings today were at 1 1-2 cents below the highest levels for the various futures as there were heavy sales in the way of securing profits. The more deferred wheat futures sold at new high prices, the July between 2.16 and \$2.25 and September between \$1.87 and \$1.95. Resting spots for the two latter months were quite ragged, ranging at \$2.23 1-2 to \$2.24 1-2 and \$1.91 1-2 and \$1.92, respectively. Net gains for the day were 3 3-4 to 4 1-4 cents.

The bullish pit conditions and the small offerings of wheat ruled during the entire day.

Advances were shown of 4 1-2 to 5 3-4 for corn and 1 3-4 to 2 1-2 cents for oats. Cash sales of 20,000 bushels of corn and 365,000 bushels of oats were reported.

### DANIELS AND KITCHIN ENTER ARMED SERVICE.

Washington, April 28.—North Carolina set the first good, honest-to-goodness examples to gain recruits for the army and navy today when Joseph Daniels, Jr., son of secretary of the Navy Daniels, walked into a recruiting station and enlisted in the marine corps and at the same time Mills Kitchin, of Scotland Neck, son of Majority Leader Claude Kitchin, went to Fort Myer, Va., and signed up as an enlisted man in the army. This action on the part of the two North Carolina patriots probably sets a precedent for young men enlisting who could have commanded influence to secure a commission as an officer.

Nearly every senator and congressman of Washington who have sons of military age have secured commissions for their offspring. But Kitchin and Daniels have set a most excellent example and one that will do more to secure real sailors and soldiers than any other one thing since the war started by casting aside the most powerful political influence in Washington and taking their chances along with those who have no influence.

### SAYS MEXICO WILL BE STRICTLY NEUTRAL.

Mexico City, April 27.—General Obregon, minister of war, today issued a statement in which he declared that Mexico would maintain neutrality in the world war and that overt acts by foreigners to violate neutrality would be punished. The statement says: "My sole interest lies in the rehabilitation of Mexico. I have no interest or intention of furthering the interests of any power engaged in the world war and neither has Mexico.

"Mexico will maintain absolute and strict neutrality. No foreigners by any overt act will be allowed to violate that neutrality and the Mexican government is amply able to prevent and punish any such overt act."

### North Carolina's Quota 10,000 Men.

Washington, April 29.—Under the new draft act North Carolina's quota will be about 10,000 men. Her quota for the regular army is about 4,400.

Governor Bickett will be asked to help enroll the men of the state under the draft law.

The number of men enrolled in the nation will be 7,000,000 but only 500,000 will be enlisted in the army.

### GERMANY'S U-BOAT BLOCKADE

Washington, April 27.—Evidence of growing success of the ruthless German submarine blockade has forced the problem of supplying the entente quickly with food and other necessities sharply into the forefront of the American government's war program.

Aroused by information brought to this country by the British and French war missions, President Wilson and his cabinet set about today to launch with its full force as speedily as possible their campaign to break down the blockade, planned by the administration as the nation's first physical stroke against Germany. The food problem occupied the cabinet meeting almost to the exclusion of all the other important war questions before the government. Afterward, it was indicated that the recent German submarine ravages were considered so successful that the United States must marshal its resources immediately to put more merchant ships in commission, to help devise some means of fighting submarines, and to insure a greater yield of food stuffs to offset the increasing destruction of food cargoes in the war zone.

Members of the cabinet took to the meeting a great quantity of information given by the visiting missions, including a plea by some members of the French commission that America must act quickly if the world is to be saved from famine. Recent declarations in the British parliament were reviewed as supplementing this evidence. There was no attempt to conceal the impression that the food problem had taken on an aspect making it incomparably the most pressing question facing the United States in its efforts to stem the progress of its enemy.

There were indications tonight that more energetic measures might be expected to speed up the work of relieving the food shortage in the entente countries. These measures, it was predicted, would be the first to take form as a result of the international war conferences here.

Acceleration of the shipping board's program for a great fleet of wooden ships to carry foodstuffs is regarded as certain.

To increase the transatlantic tonnage, the board is striving to put the German and Austrian ships into service as quickly as possible, and the transfer to foreign trade of as many as practicable of the coastwise and Great Lakes steamers.

Early action on food control legislation is forecast. What the navy will do directly to combat the submarine menace has not been fully developed, but it is known that Secretary Daniels is planning further conferences with shipbuilders to speed up the construction of destroyers, the type of naval vessel generally regarded as most effective against undersea craft. It is known also that American naval experts in their conference with the visiting officers of the British and French navies, are considering various proposals for American co-operation in developing means to fight the submarine.

### POSTAL SAVINGS MADE READY FOR FARM LOANS.

Washington, April 27.—Part of the \$125,000,000 deposited in postal savings banks will be made available for farm loans by a decision of trustees of the postal savings system, announced today, to accept at par farm loan bonds which will be issued soon to secure savings deposits. Application for loans already received by the farm loan board indicate that farmers will borrow more than \$100,000,000 this year through the land bank system to help solve problems of shortage of labor and high prices of seeds. From a single county in Montana, the farm loan board was notified, the planting of 300,000 acres of spring wheat depends on loan of money to buy seeds.

### Asks Men to Work.

Amsterdam, April 27.—Berlin papers publish an appeal made by General Groener, director of munition supplies, which has been placarded, asking that they refrain from participating in any strikes and continue their work to supply the men in the field with the necessities for carrying on the war.

### HALF MILLION STATE BONDS

#### ALL THE BIDDERS WERE FROM NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

Raleigh, April 27.—Ben Lacy asked bids on \$500,000 in bonds today and after tearing open the sealed offers he found \$1,451,500 wanting North Carolina fours.

This was the first installment of the \$3,000,000 authorized by the late legislature for state institutions and primary schools. The sale was an immense success. Every bid came from North Carolina, not a dollar being offered from without.

While nearly all the proposals were par at 4 per cent several were willing to put up a premium—either in principal or in the rate of interest. The Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, of Winston-Salem, wanted the entire half million. It perhaps has best bid for it offered \$500,000 plus \$1,250. But the combined bids of the Citizens National Bank, of Raleigh, which took \$150,000 with a premium of \$602, and those of several smaller denominations, ran the aggregate to \$170 more than the Wachovia's offer.

Here a controversy arose. The bid presented by W. H. Willis, of the Winston-Salem bank, was accepted on its face as the best. But figuring by several mathematicians showed it differently. Nevertheless, it is estimated that the additional plates which will be necessary for the bids of those individuals and corporations which propose to pay \$3.75 and \$3.98 for the thousand dollars, each, will cost \$400, thus leaving the advantage with the Wachovia by \$230.

It was thereupon agreed that the state do not announce the bidder until the government returns. That will be Saturday night, it is supposed. The only question before the treasurer is the method of counting the cost. If the state figures on the expense of preparing the plates it is claimed that the Wachovia is winner. If it does not then the Raleigh bank and several individual bidders are awarded the money.

The contest for North Carolina bonds pleased the treasurer. The war times do not appear to have lessened the amount of money to be spent in good investments. The buyers do not believe times should be any less flush a year hence. The fact that everybody wants them makes the above par sale certain.

### Some of the Bidders.

The bonds sold today run in short years. The first hundred thousand matures July 1, 1923; the second a year later, 1924, the third 1925, the fourth 1926 and the last 1927.

The treasurer will advertise the second sale in a few days and of course new bids will be offered. It will be seen from what has been done today that the bonds will hardly be sold at simple par. There were several bidders who wished to take them at \$3.75 and several others who put up cash premiums. This indicated that they will be in the next bidding and the second doubtless will sell just as well. The longest run is for a period of 41 years.

The Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, of Greensboro, was a bidder in the sum of \$100,000 today. It chose the bonds maturing in 1924, '25, '26 and '27. George W. Watts, of Durham, asked for \$50,000 at 4 per cent, no premium.

W. B. Venters, of Richland, a farmer, asked for \$10,000 and desired those maturing in 1927. The Citizens bank, of Henderson, subscribed for \$25,000 at a premium of \$125. The Wilmington Savings and Trust Company wanted 90 of the 1,000 denomination and \$20,000 of the 500 variety, making \$110,000 on which it offered \$112 as a premium.

The Citizen's National Bank, of Raleigh, making the highest individual bid worked to the finish for this offer. It paid \$602 to get its bid. It wanted \$100,000 for 1927 and \$50,000 for 1926. The Savings Bank and Trust Company, of Elizabeth City, wanted \$100,000 at 4 per cent.

Proximity, of Greensboro, offered to take \$50,000 of the 1927 bonds and Mrs. W. L. Banks, of Wilson, agreed to take \$25,000 with a rate of \$3.75. T. W. Wade, of Charlotte, asked for \$50,000 at \$3.98. That made the accountants sore. The Murchison National, of Wilmington, asked for \$50,000 at 4. R. M. Miller, Jr., of Charlotte, asked for \$100,000 at par and 4. The Wachovia, of Winston-Salem, was the last opened with its \$1,250 premium.