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ARMY BILL FIGHT NOW ON

It Looks as if President Wilson's Conscription Bill Will Have to be Modified in Order to Allow Room For Volunteer Forces.

Washington, April 18.—The lines were drawn today for a great fight between the administration and opponents in the house of the plan to raise the war army by selective draft.

While President Wilson was at the Capitol telling senators and representatives that no compromise between the volunteer and draft systems could be accepted with safety to the nation, the house military committee by a vote of 12 to 8 adopted amendments to the administration bill authorizing calls for volunteers in increments of 500,000, and providing that the draft shall be applied only in the event the President decides that the force needed cannot be raised and maintained under the volunteer plan.

Chairman Dent headed the anti-draft forces and will introduce the amended bill in the house tomorrow with a view to pressing it for passage Monday. Representative Kahn, of California, ranking Republican member of the committee, is preparing a report to be signed by the minority, and will join in leading the fight on the floor for the administration.

The war department holds that every weakness of the volunteer system would be perpetuated under the house committee's scheme. A feature of the amendments providing for the selection of officers from local units, is regarded by officials as particularly obnoxious to sound military principles.

The President thinks that full opportunity for volunteers is offered under the Staff bill, since there will be room for 724,000 voluntary enlistments in the regular army and National Guard for the duration of the war. In addition, the door is thrown wide open to men who are qualified to become officers.

The chief amendment of the house committee follows:

"That the President be and he is hereby authorized to call for 500,000 volunteers under and in accordance with the act of congress, approved April 25, 1914, (the army reorganization act.)"

"That in the event it becomes necessary to raise an additional force of 500,000 men * * * the President be, and he is hereby authorized to call such additional force by volunteers in the same manner. Such volunteer army shall be apportioned among the various states and territories and the District of Columbia, according to population, raised in regimental units or parts thereof"

"Provided that such volunteer forces shall be recruited in local units as far as practicable, and company officers may be appointed from such units, upon passing such reasonable and practicable examinations as to fitness as the President may direct."

"And provided further that upon the completion of the enrollment as provided in this act, and in the event the President decides that such additional force or forces cannot be effectually raised and maintained under the call for volunteers as herein provided, the President be, and he is hereby authorized to raise and organize the same by the selective draft as herein provided."

In the Senate committee, a proposal to insert authority for the President to call 500,000 volunteers under existing law was defeated. It was offered by Senator McKellar, who was among those who conferred later with President Wilson and heard the fixed resolve of the Chief Executive to accept no compromise on the Army plan he has proposed.

While Congress is struggling with the framing of the law, the War Department is going steadily ahead with its plans to carry out the program mapped out in the Administration bill. Every step that can be taken in the absence of authority conferred by Congress will be carried out. Most of the preliminary problems already have been worked out, regulations prepared, blanks of all kinds made ready for the presses, and the framework perfected for the decentralized machinery under which it is proposed the Army shall be raised and trained. It will be only a matter of days to get it into full operation when the bill has been signed.

The publication today of the list of officers' training camps to be established indicates only an element of the work that already has been done. Most of the plans are held as confidential, however, and will not be given out until Congress has acted.

The Senate committee formally voted 10 to 7 today to report virtually without change the bill as originally drafted by the General Staff and approved by the President, and will present it tomorrow. The measure may be passed by the Senate without waiting for action in the House.

The President made very plain to those with whom he talked his determination to have the staff bill enacted. There seems to be no doubt that he will appeal directly to the country, if necessary, and tell the people that in the opinion of the military advisers of the Government, as well as Administration officials, National safety demands that the war be prosecuted under the plans prepared by the Army experts after long study and consideration of lessons learned from the war in Europe.

President Wilson has appointed George Creel, a newspaper man, war censor for the country. Creel was formerly a member of the staff of the New York World. He is the husband of Blanche Bates, the actress.

Administration Sure Army Bill Will Pass.

Washington, April 19.—The President and administration leaders in congress are confident of the ultimate enactment of the army bill without material changes. The fight probably will begin in the senate, where the bill will be taken up as soon as the espionage measure is disposed of. Chairman Chamberlain, of the Military Committee, submitted his favorable report today.

Chairman Dent, of the House Committee, formally presented during the day the report of his committee offering the bill in amended form, authorizing the President to call for volunteers in increments of 500,000, and providing for the selective draft only after the volunteer plan has failed.

Representative Kahn of California, ranking Republican member of the house committee, who will be one of the administration's chief spokesmen during the fight in the house, had a long conference with officials of the war department.

PRESIDENT WILSON EXPLAINS ADMINISTRATION'S ARMY PLAN

By Selective Conscription Those Who Should Bear Arms Are Chosen, and Those Who Can Serve Best in Other Capacities Are Left at Home

Washington, April 19.—President Wilson today sent a letter to Representative Helvering of Kansas, explaining and strongly supporting the Administration's Army bill, with its selective conscription plan. The letter indicated the purpose of the administration to insist upon enactment of the measure vigorously. It says:

"I welcome the inquiry of your letter of April 19, because I have realized the truth of what you say from my own observations, namely, that what is meant to be understood by the selective draft is not generally understood throughout the country."

"The purpose of the draft is, I think, very clearly set forth in the bill drafted by the war department and which I so earnestly hope the congress will adopt, but it is worth while to state the idea which underlies the bill a little more fully."

"I took occasion the other day in an address to the people of the country to point out the many forms of patriotic service that were open to them, and to emphasize the fact that the military part of the service was by no means the only part, and perhaps, all things considered, not the most vital part. Our object is a mobilization of all the productive and active forces of the Nation and their development to the highest point of co-operation and efficiency, and the idea of the selective draft is that those should be chosen for service in the army who can be most readily spared from the prosecution of the other activities which the country must engage in and to which it must devote a great deal of its best energy and capacity."

"The volunteer system does not do this. When men choose themselves, they sometimes choose without due regard to their other responsibilities. Men may come from the farms or from the mines or from the factories or centers of business who ought not to come, but ought to stand back of the armies in the field and see that they get everything that they need, and that the people of the country are sustained in the meantime."

"The principle of the selective draft, in short, has at its heart this idea, that there is a universal obligation to serve, and that a public authority should choose those upon whom the obligation of military service shall rest, and also in a sense those whose shall do the rest of the Nation's work. The bill, if adopted, will do more, I believe, than any other single instrumentality to create the impression of universal service in the army and out of it, and if properly administered, will be a great source of stimulation."

"Those who feel that we are turning away altogether from the volunteer principle seem to forget that some 600,000 men will be needed to fill the ranks of the regular army and National Guard, and that a very great field of individual enthusiasm lies there wide open."

House Democratic Caucus Agrees to Consider Only War Legislation. Washington, April 19.—Democrats of the house in caucus late today agreed to consider at the present extra session only such war and general defense legislation as may be recommended by the President.

National prohibition, being urged as a necessary war measure, may be included under this list, but unless the President recommends it as a war measure, it has no chance of being taken up. It also is possible that a rivers and harbors bill embracing such proposed improvements as are deemed essential by the war department of the National defense may be passed. The President has indicated his willingness to approve a measure under certain restrictions, and the war department also desired harbor improvements of a limited character. The caucus refused, by a vote of 77 to 71, to approve either a \$32,000,000 or a \$15,000,000 waterways bill, both of which were proposed by Chairman Small, of the Rivers and Harbors Committee.

The caucus agreement was reached only after a bitter fight over prohibition, and after several New York city members had withdrawn because of the adoption of a resolution providing for consideration of a measure to authorize the President to prohibit the manufacture or sale of liquor during the war.

Fresh German Troops Fail to Check Embattled French

Fierce Fighting Now Going On North of Aisne River.

General Nivelle's Forces Press on Toward Victory Despite the Infliction of More Than 250,000 New Germans Against Them.

Germany has thrown nearly a quarter of a million fresh troops into the fray on the 60-mile sector of the western front between Soissons and Auberive and still unable to check the French advance.

Both north of the Aisne and in the Champagne General Nivelle's forces are pressing forward. The last stronghold of the Germans on the Aisne was taken with the capture of the Vailly bridgehead yesterday and their wavering lines continued last night to be pushed rapidly northward.

From Chavonne on the Aisne the French have driven more than three miles north of the river despite desperate resistance by von Hindenburg's reinforced armies.

In the Champagne the successes of the French are equally striking. They have driven a great wedge more than three miles deep into the German lines between Rheims and Aumerive and last night's attacks netted General Nivelle's men several important heights in the Moronvillers region.

Two more German batteries were captured in the Moronvillers fighting. Previously the taking of 75 German guns in the new French offensive had been reported so that the number of cannon wrested from the Germans must now be nearing the 100 mark.

The tone of the whole French official communication today is notably confident. The complete repulse of every German attempt at a reaction is unequivocally claimed and the successes in the Champagne are mentioned as having been achieved "on a great scale."

While the French are thus driving far as the official accounts show, waiting their turn to strike the other flank of the von Hindenburg line. That notable activities are in progress behind the British front in preparation for the renewal of the attack on Lens, St. Quentin and the other threatened points in the line, however, is certain.

The French so far have taken more than 17,000 prisoners in their offensive. "At last accounts the British had taken in excess of 14,000 so that the combined offensives for the two armies thus far has resulted in the capture of more than 31,000 men or the greater part of two German divisions.

Paris, April 19.—(5:45 a. m.)—Further details of yesterday's battle from Soissons to Auberive show that the French infantry tactically outclassed the Germans. The first army operating from Soissons to Craonne, had established itself on Monday night along the front running from northeast of Margival and Vauxaillet to the south of Caronne by Vregy, Chivres, Chavonne, Chivy and Ailles. North of the Chivres-Chivy line the enemy retained all the heights and a footing had to be won thereon before the operation, so auspiciously begun, could be properly completed.

Two simultaneous attacks were decided upon with Nanteuilla-Fosse on the left and Chivy and Bray-en-Laonnois on the right as the respective objectives. The attacks succeeded perfectly notwithstanding the determined resistance of the enemy who had all the advantages of the ground. Driven out of Nanteuil and Brye the Germans nevertheless still cling to the intermediate positions, comprising Vailly and the important bridgehead on the Aisne by which they could threaten the French flanks.

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, Grand Headquarters of the French army on the French Front, April 19.—The French success in the forward movement was much more considerable than indicated by the published reports of the army communiqués which narrate a very sober tale of the events. There is no intention of relaxing the pressure on the Germans, who are opposing a tenacious resistance without avail.

Besides points of formidable strength and most important strategic value, which are Ostel, Courteon and Vailly, which have fallen before the French assaults, reports sent by runners from reconnoitering parties indicate steady progress everywhere and large captures of material. The staffs take no risks; everything is methodically prepared in order to be as certain as is humanly possible of success before trying to approach each objective point.

The commanders of the German reinforcements hurrying to the front appear to have lost their heads or have been badly directed in several cases. One division marched directly into wire entanglements and was almost entirely annihilated or taken prisoner. Eighteen new German divisions have been thrown into the front since Monday, several of which were blown virtually to pieces by the French artillery immediately after their arrival. Two divisions, launched directly before Juvincourt suffered in this way.

Owing to the extent of the battle line the Germans are no longer so much favored by maneuvering on the

inside line circle. The French soldiers' confidence and spirit have been even intensified under the most severe hardships during the advance. Nothing seems to depress them. Even the old territorials, road-making on the heels of the attacking troops, maintain a constant cheeriness.

British Parliament Adopts Resolution of Appreciation to America.

London, April 18.—Today's sitting of the British Parliament will be a historical landmark. Both the legislative houses adopted, the house of Lords unanimously, and the house of Commons with one dissenting vote, resolutions expressing the profound appreciation of the British nation for the action of the United States government and people in entering the world war in defense of the high cause of freedom and humanity. The unusual importance of the occasion was shown in the crowded state of the galleries in the House of Commons. Among those in the galleries were Walter Hines Page, the American Ambassador, and many other Americans, as well as the representatives of the Entente Allied States. An unaccustomed air of enthusiasm was given the occasion.

Germans Look Upon Loss of Vimy Ridge as Most Serious Blow.

From a staff correspondent with the British army in France, April 19.—Via London.—A German officer captured Tuesday frankly stated that the Germans regard the loss of Vimy Ridge as the biggest defeat they have suffered since the war began. This officer knows the ridge thoroughly, having been stationed on it all last summer, and said he could not understand how any troops could fail to hold it. In his opinion, the garrison must have been demoralized before the British attack began.

The latter statement is thought to be true, for other captured Germans have testified to demoralization in their ranks after several days of the British intensive artillery fire. The Germans continue highly nervous all along the front, the slightest increase in the British fire calling up distress

German Line Very Flexible.

From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, British headquarters in France, April 18.—Via London.—The flexibility of their trench communications and the effectiveness of their machine guns are the two elements of defense upon which the Germans appear to be placing their greatest reliance in the present fighting. In effect, the various elements of the more important defensive trenches enable the German fighting line to swing upon double hinges so, if pressed too hard, one pivot swings back from the other. In this manner much ground can be yielded in a series of angular or criss-cross retirements, without the fighting front technically being broken.

The trenches are known as switches, and a great system of them is connected with the Hindenburg or Slegfried position. It was undoubtedly with these strategic switch lines in view that Field Marshal von Hindenburg recently declared that the German lines in the west could not be broken.

Naval Engagement Off U. S. Coast Denied at Boston Naval Yard.

Boston, April 18.—It was officially announced at the Navy Yard late today that no credence was placed in reports from three coast guard stations on Cape Cod that heavy gunfire had been heard off the coast. The positive statement was made that there had been no naval engagement and that warships had not exchanged salutes with foreign vessels.

The previous announcement that heavy gunfire had been heard during the morning was also issued officially at the Navy Yard. It was based on reports from Cape Cod received by Lieut. E. G. Blakelee, in charge of the naval radio district. Newspaper correspondents at points on the cape reported that they had not heard any gun firing and that they knew nothing of it except from the bulletins issued by the naval authorities. The statement discrediting the first official announcement was issued after the Navy Yard radio station had been in communication with the patrol fleet off the coast. No information of any firing was obtained from ships at sea, the authorities said, adding that coast guard stations had sent in no additional reports. Naval officers who were asked to explain the probable origin of the morning reports, which, according to the official announcement, came independently from three coast guard stations, said they were unable to offer any suggestion as to what might have been heard at those stations.

Now Use to Marry Now.

Washington, April 19.—Men of military age who have married since a state of war against Germany was declared will not escape military service under a war department policy formally announced today. The department's statement follows: "The war department announces that all men married since the outbreak of war will be treated upon the same basis as unmarried men in so far as their military obligations are concerned. It is desired that the utmost publicity be given by the press to this announcement."

New Trucks For Coca-Cola Company.

Mr. Z. V. Murphy, who came here several months ago from Statesville to take charge of the Coca-Cola plant, has bought two new trucks to serve his trade. One is a Kissel-Kar one-ton truck, and the other is an Ebron-Ford truck. He plans to keep one car working the country trade all the time, and the other will be kept at the plant to serve the town trade, and be ready to go to nearby country stores in a short time. The Coca-Cola plant here serves the Union county, Peachland, Polkton, and north of Polkton trade.

Mr. J. R. Shute, who owns the Coca-Cola building, is building Mr. Murphy a garage adjoining the main building for the two trucks. The brick masons have already built it up several feet, and it will be completed in a few weeks.

Mr. Murphy is an experienced bottling man. He formerly had charge of the Statesville Coca-Cola plant, but sold out to take charge of the plant here. He is thoroughly familiar with the retailer's problems, and the Coca-Cola business has taken on new activity since he has taken charge.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN M. THOMAS

A Before the War Merchant, Soldier, and Postmaster During Cleveland's First Administration, Passed Away Wednesday Afternoon.

Mr. John M. Thomas, probably the last of the before the war Monroe merchants, postmaster here during Cleveland's first administration, ex-Confederate soldier, and well-known citizen, died Wednesday afternoon at 5:30 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. B. Billingsby, after a lingering illness of several months. Old age was the cause of his death; he had not been able to leave his room but once since last Thanksgiving.

The passing of Mr. Thomas removes a landmark from this community. Actively engaged in business before the war with the late T. D. Winchester and D. F. Hyden, he had been an important cog in the social and business activities of the town up until about twenty years ago, when he moved to Lilesville. He was appointed postmaster by President Grover Cleveland during his first administration and he served the patrons of his office well and painstakingly.

When Jefferson Davis called for volunteers in '61, Mr. Thomas was one of the first to respond. And his devotion to the cause of the Confederacy never wavered for a moment. He fought valiantly through the war until sometime in '64, towards its close, he was made a prisoner by the Federal forces. He was carried to Pennsylvania, where he was imprisoned until long after the war had closed. He reached home sometime towards the close of the year 1865.

Penniless when he reached home, he started rehabilitating his condition, incidentally contributing his share towards the rebuilding of the South during the days of reconstruction. He took a leading part in the business activities of those days, and all remember him as being honest, kind, and one who was willing to serve.

Mr. Thomas joined the Baptist church in his youth, and was a consistent and faithful member of the church here until he moved to Lilesville, where he carried his membership. Too much could not be said about Mr. Thomas' conscientious and upright life. He was a good man; all who knew him readily vouch for that.

The deceased was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Thomas, and was born in this county on August 5, 1834. He was therefore nearly 83 years of age. In 1860 he married Miss Elizabeth Redfern, daughter of the late Mr. Albert Redfern, and she, with the following daughters, survive: Mrs. H. B. Billingsby, Monroe; Mrs. H. C. Boylin, Hamlet; Mrs. J. T. Sanders, Lilesville; and Mrs. Elerbe Buchanan, Chicago. To this union were also born two sons, but they are both dead.

For the past three years Mr. Thomas had been making his home with Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Billingsby. While here he renewed his old acquaintances, after an absence of nearly twenty years; but they all found him to be the same upright man of former days.

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at four o'clock by Rev. J. E. Abernethy. Interment was in the Monroe cemetery.

Snipers Fires on American Soldiers.

El Paso, Texas, April 19.—Snipers fired at an American sentry stationed at the viaduct in the suburbs of this city were fired upon in return by a squad of United States soldiers late today. One Mexican was seen to fall after the volley had been fired across the border.

When Mexican Consul Bravo reported the affair to Brig. Gen. George Bell, Jr., General Bell informed the Consul that the American sentry had been fired upon and had obeyed orders in returning the fire. "I have ordered the outposts to shoot to kill when fired upon," said General Bell, later. "I will court martial a man who fires across the border first, and I also will court martial one who falls to return the fire when he is fired upon."

Mr. Gordon in Earnest.

There is a report going the rounds that Mr. W. M. Gordon is not really in earnest about his candidacy for alderman from ward three. Nothing could be more erroneous. He is in the fight to the finish, and expects to be elected. His platform is progress, or have it while you live.

A PECULIAR WILL

The Old Man Got His Boys Mixed Up on the Division of His Land, So They Tried to Draw Mr. Billy McCauley Into the Affair.

Several years ago, John Hood, who lived in one of our neighboring counties, died leaving a will which bequeathed to his three sons, Thomas, John and James, a tract of land containing one hundred and twenty acres. In the will he directed: "That James, my youngest son, shall have so much of said land as shall be equal in value to one half of the whole tract, including the creek bottoms, and separated from the remainder by a line running due east and west; that the remainder should be equally divided according to value, between Tom and John; the two lots to be separated by a line running due north and south. That the whole tract of land be valued at \$2400, and that the share assigned James should be valued at five dollars an acre more than the average value per acre of the remainder; and that the lot lying west of line which divides the said remainder, be valued at two dollars an acre more than the average value per acre of the lot lying east of said line."

After the old man's death, the sons secured the services of a surveyor, who not being an expert mathematician, figured and calculated for a couple of days and ran the division lines, so he thought, in accordance to the will. But the parties were not satisfied with his survey, and have been wrangling over it for a number of years. It is said there have been several fights over the division in addition to many quarrels, much ill-feeling and estrangement of families—and disgraceful slander.

About a year ago, through the intervention of friends, and upon the suggestion of the surveyor, they were persuaded to have a new calculation made, and if errors were found in the first calculation, to have a new survey made, thus settling all of the difficulties that had arisen. Upon the recommendation of the surveyor, all three agreed to employ Mr. Billy McCauley, the well-known Union county surveyor, to make the new calculations. But he threw another stumbling block in their way by refusing to have anything to do with the matter unless they entered into a written agreement to abide by his calculation, and to have a competent surveyor to place the division lines according to his instructions, and that his decision should be final to them; and to have the contract and agreement, together with the surveyor's report, properly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the county in which they resided. For this service Mr. McCauley would only have charged \$10.

Strange to say, the parties all turned down Mr. McCauley's offer, and they are still discounting the line. It seems that one of the three boys must realize that he is in the wrong, else all three would have agreed to Mr. McCauley's proposition, which would have forever ended the wrangling.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Services Sunday, April 22, as follows: 7:30 a. m., Holy communion; 11 a. m., Service and sermon; Sunday school at 3:30; Evening service at 8 o'clock.

Bishop Cheshire confirmed the following Wednesday night: Misses Hannah Jane Blair, Corneila Metzger Dillon, Anna Francis Redfern, Katherine Kyle Redfern, John Wilson Fairley, Henry McLean Fairley.

Three colored people were confirmed Tuesday night.

Bishop Cheshire, being unwell, felt obliged to sit when he preached, and that very fact added to the effectiveness of his visit.

For Mayor.

Ignorance, selfishness, inefficiency and waste—these are the cause of all our troubles. Do you desire a political government or a business government? Politics is insincere, unreliable, selfish. Politics is a wicked thing. A true democracy, for the people, by the people, and with the people, is the only safe government.

Equal rights and opportunities to all and special privileges to none should be our highest aim. The counsel of the lowly will be respected as well as the counsel of the great. I will co-operate with my bitterest enemy when he proposes any good thing; I will oppose my best friend when he proposes anything against the welfare of the community.

Friendly criticism will be thankfully received and appreciated. Hostile criticism will be taken for what it is worth, the source being duly considered.

The one thing that alarms me most is that men will deceive people into voting for them and then proceed to use the people's funds for selfish or political purposes. Another thing that appears grossly wrong is that men think little enough of public service and public duty to run for office just to get a vote for chief of police. This is a very insignificant thing compared with a man's other duties to his people.—H. D. Stewart.

LIST TAKERS' APPOINTMENTS.

Marshville Township.

I will be at the following places on dates named for listing property in Marshville township:

T. J. Tadlock's, Tuesday, May 8.
J. R. Bivens' Wednesday, May 9.
D. V. Griffin place, Thursday, May 10.

Marshville from the 12th to the 22nd inclusive.

F. W. ASHCRAFT, List-Taker.