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BETTER OFF THAN WE WERE IN 1898

ALTHOUGH GERMANY IS MUCH MORE FORMIDABLE ENEMY.

ARMY IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE

The British Fleet and the Battle Lines on the Western Front Are Also Comforting.

By International News Service.

New York, April 13.—When the military strengths of Germany and Spain are compared, it is evident our present army to-day is less able to meet the former nation's than our little body of 25,706 enlisted men and 2,418 officers was to face the latter's troops in 1898.

Recruiting has been going on, especially since the break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany, but the last published figures of the personnel of the regular army are approximately correct under existing conditions, and these show that the military forces comprise about 7,000

Regular army officers think the United States is better off to-day than when it declared war with Spain, because we have as a first line of defense the strong British fleet and the British and French lines stretching across France and Belgium from the Channel to Switzerland. But that is the only way we are better off. We have a numerically larger army, they say. We have a system for enlisting a volunteer force which is free from many of the defects that marked the system employed in the Civil War. We have the Officers' Reserve Corps, and we have the probability, some believe even the assurance, of universal military service for the country, but we are opposed to a nation which is so much better prepared than Spain was that our advances are discounted two and three times over.

Regular army officers say it would be at least a year before the beneficial effects of universal military service could be felt; no announcement has been made of the number of men commissioned in the Officers' Reserve Corps, though it has been stated that the number preparing for examination for such commissions exceeds 5,000, but if all were commissioned they would create a force capable of officering no more than an additional 100,000 men. But they are forced to admit that, compared to the situation which would have confronted us had we had Germany to fight in 1898, the United States is in far better position to-day. Then there was a rush of volunteers, as there was a way been whenever the United States has called them, and, as army men concede, there undoubtedly will be when the call is issued now, but they came in command of their own officers, appointed by the Governors of their States, and previous service or knowledge of things military has been no requisite to the obtaining of a commission.

Now the law of April 25, 1914, has changed all this. All officers are to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Governors may suggest candidates for commission, but the President will determine to whom commissions shall go. Nor need he, as in the past, commission an officer for a certain regiment. Instead commissions will name a man as an officer of the New York or New Jersey or Massachusetts volunteer infantry, and he may be assigned to whatever regiment is most in need of his services. Provision has been made in this law also for the maintenance of a recruiting force at home, a device

AGAIN SMASH THE GERMAN LINES

London, April 12.—The British forces penetrated the Teutonic lines further in the fourth day of the world's greatest battle. At ten or more points they hurled back Hindenburg's legions.

Below St. Quentin the French, with signal success, opened a drive against the key to the Hindenburg line. The Canadians stormed a front of one mile capturing German trenches and reached the crest of Hill 145. Five big and twenty small guns were captured.

Gen. Haig's forces north and south of Vimy Ridge advanced along a fifty-mile front.

SEEK SURVIVOR OF FATAL QUARREL

Police are scouring the city today for a man named Nicolosi, believed to be the one who stabbed to death Ledia Lao Barginos, a native of Peru, at Decatur and Duane streets yesterday morning. Three other men who were present at the time are also being looked for.

What caused the trouble is not known, but police believe the stabbing occurred in a free-for-all fight. Barginos died shortly after at the Charity Hospital.

The murdered man was a fireman on the tug Leopold, plying between Havana and New Orleans. While in port he lived at 607 Decatur street.

A quarrel of several minutes' duration preceded the stabbing. Barginos and his slayer came to blows and the latter drew a knife and hurled it in his chest, almost piercing the heart.

From meager information gathered in an investigation of the case, police believe the murderer's name is Nicolosi, a Peruvian. The other three who engaged in the fight are also said to be foreigners.

HELD THE DIAMOND FOR \$50 REWARD

An unidentified white man, who said he found a diamond, lost by Mrs. John McDowell, of Danville, Ky., stopping at the Grunewald Hotel, and failed to return it because she would not give him \$50 reward, is being looked for by the police. Mrs. McDowell furnished an accurate description of the culprit.

Wednesday afternoon, upon returning from the St. Louis Cathedral, Mrs. McDowell discovered the diamond had fallen out of its setting in a ring. Thinking she lost it at Orleans and Royal streets, where she waited for a street car, Mrs. McDowell went there yesterday morning to search.

While looking for the gem, a man approached Mrs. McDowell and asked what had been lost. She told him and he then said he found it, but demanded \$50 for the stone's recovery. Mrs. McDowell refused and he hurried away.

ADMIRALS AGREE UPON JOINT PLAN OF NAVAL CO-OPERATION

Foremost Object is to Clear the Steamer Lanes of the German Submarines---10,000 More National Guards Ordered Into the Federal Service

By International News Service.

Washington, April 12.—The "clearing of the steamer lanes of the German submarine" is the course determined upon today after the first joint war council since the United States entered the war.

Vice Admiral Browning, of the British fleet, and Rear Admiral Grasset, of the French navy, conferred with the heads of the American navy on joint operations by which the fleet of the United States will aid the Entente navies against the enemy. The details will be worked out at conferences which will continue for several days.

The Navy Department tonight announced that America's part in the naval end of the war will be to keep the ocean clear for a continuous flow of munitions and supplies to the fighting forces of Europe. The admirals worked out a complete plan of naval co-operation which includes the relief of the Entente naval ships now doing patrol duty on this side of the Atlantic, by American ships.

Ten thousand militiamen were ordered mustered into the Federal service tonight. The commands include the First Tennessee, Second Maine, First South Carolina, First separate battalion of Florida, Second and Third Kentucky, Eighteenth Pennsylvania, Fourth New Jersey, Third New York and Fifth Maryland, all infantry; six companies of the California Coast Artillery, and the First Company of New Hampshire coast artillery.

Further plans decided upon by the Council of National Defense include:

The building of a fleet of wooden merchant ships, of about 2,000 tons each, to take the place of the merchant ships destroyed by the German submarines. It is expected that the first of these ships will be ready by October 1, and that within a year later, one thousand of these, each manned by thirty men and costing \$300,000, will be in commission. Upward of a hundred private ship yards will take part in this work. Gen. Goethals, builder of the Panama canal, will supervise the work.

The appointment of Fairfax Harrison, of the Southern Railway; Howard Elliott of the New Haven; Samuel Rea, of the Pennsylvania; Hale Holden of the Burlington, and Julius Kruttschnitt, of the Southern Pacific, as a board to direct the operation of American railways throughout the war.

The appointment of Herbert C. Hoover, of Belgium Relief fame, as chairman of the board having control of American food supplies.

Washington, April 12.—President Wilson has thrown the weight of his personal influence into the scales in an effort to overcome opposition in Congress to the administration army plans based on the draft system. Summoning Representative Dent, chairman of the house military committee, now considering the bill, to the White House Tuesday, the President made it clear that he believes the safety of the nation hangs on the action of Congress in this regard. He made a similar exposition of the military situation to Representative Anthony of Kansas, who has led opposition to the draft plan among Republican members of the military committee.

In the war address Mr. Wilson formally told Congress that in his judgment the United States must face her enemy with a certain weapon in the form of an army raised by application of the principle of universal liability for military service as a duty of citizenship. Supplementing that, he issued recently a statement approving in every detail the departmental plans, which have the unanimous approval of the army general staff.

In his action Tuesday the President recognized the fact that there may develop a strong feeling in Congress in favor of adhering to the old volunteer system, and sought to bring home to Mr. Dent, one of those who hold that view, the lessons to be drawn from the great war into which the United States now has plunged and which all point, military advisers of the government declare, to the absolute necessity of facing the issue squarely and summoning men to the colors by draft.

A compromise plan may be offered by the opponents of compulsory service. A sentiment for such a move was evident in Mr. Dent's committee, before which Secretary Baker and the military chiefs of the War Department assembled in full strength to support the administration's policy. There was no indication, however, that a compromise would be accepted by the President.

As a result of Dent's attitude, it is possible that some other member of the house committee will present the administration bill if it is reported, as officials hope it will be, substantially in the form in which it was drawn. The chairman agreed to introduce it "by request", which means that he would take no responsibility for it. Representative Kahn, ranking Republican member, has been a consistent advocate of universal military training service for years. He went to the extent, in the framing of the National Defense Act, of sending to England for recruiting posters and literature, and used them to illustrate to the House the unreliable and inefficient operation of that system. While refusing to discuss his conference with the President, Mr. Dent admitted that no conclusion whatever was reached.

IN GULF SEEKING FOR TANK SHIPS

Galveston, Tex., April 12.—A German raider was reported tonight in the Gulf of Mexico. Fears are felt that it will sink oil tankers. The first warning was given by a British steamer, which was captured and held.

Buenos Aires, April 12.—An unconfirmed report says that the Brazilian steamship Gurupay has been submarined. If this is confirmed Brazil will probably declare war on Germany without further delay.

MURDER OF GIRLS PART OF BOMB PLOT

Washington, April 12.—Evidence discovered in the Eddystone explosion indicates that a campaign of destruction is being engineered by some central authority, probably a German official or army officer. Bomb plots may be made punishable with death.

SEVERAL SOULS MADE HAPPY

By International News Service.

Washington, April 12.—The Senate confirmed the president's tariff board this afternoon and adjourned to Monday.

The Senate also confirmed the nomination of W. R. Smith, of El Paso, to be judge of the United States court for the Western district of Texas this afternoon.

SHORT ON SHIRTS, SHOT LAUNDRYMAN

During a quarrel over clothes Jules Esperides, 401 Dauphine street, last night shot and dangerously wounded Frank Glee, Chinaman, at the latter's laundry, 4033 Dauphine street. Esperides surrendered to Police Sergeant Coarns. His victim is in the Charity Hospital.

Esperides made a statement to the police, in which he said he sent a little girl to the laundry for his shirts and Glee only gave her two when there should have been more. He went to the laundry himself to see about it and Glee demanded more money before giving up all of the apparel, according to Esperides. A quarrel resulted during which Esperides drew his revolver and fired a shot at Glee, the bullet piercing his stomach. Esperides then went to the Fifth precinct station and gave himself up to Sergeant Coarns.

War department Louisiana will have to furnish approximately 8,000 men, or 6,000 in addition to the present guard strength. This will mean two additional regiments and certain auxiliary units. All of these troops will be drafted into the Federal service for the duration of the war, when they will be finally discharged.

The first regiment to be raised in compliance with this order will be the Louisiana cadets, Adjutant General McCreary said. Companies for this regiment now are virtually ready to be mustered in at Shreveport, Monroe, Thibodaux, Lafayette, Alexandria, Hammond, Baton Rouge, Minden, Tallulah, Crowley, Marksville and New Orleans, it was stated.

FOOD AND MONEY NEEDED BY ALLIES

WELL SUPPLIED NOW WITH MUNITIONS AND MEN.

SUPPLY OF FOOD SHORTENED

By Action of Argentina in Placing an Embargo.—Big Crop in America Demanded.

Washington, April 12.—The Entente Allies are well supplied with munitions and men for their immediate needs, the administration has learned, and therefore, the immediate assistance to be rendered by the American government will consist in sending bread, meat and money, and in providing ships to convey food supplies to Europe.

While there is nothing to indicate that any of the Entente Allies are pressed for the need of anything, the Council of National Defense, after thorough consideration of the problem, has decided that there is more need for food and money than for anything else. Through supplies being produced by themselves, and those gotten in the United States and other neutral nations, the Entente Allies are understood to be well supplied with munitions.

In organizing the munitions industry of the United States for American uses, however, every effort will be made to supply the Entente Allies with all the arms and munitions they need.

The placing of an embargo by Argentina on some forms of foodstuffs has lessened the supply for the rest of the world, and expected shortages in the United States have impressed the administration with the necessity of doing everything possible to increase the output of livestock and necessary grains.

HAND BOOK AND LOTTERY ARRESTS

Another alleged hand book operator and two more negroes accused of violating the lottery law were arrested yesterday by police in different sections of the city.

Detectives Martinez and Clifton paid an unexpected visit to the office of the Brunswick club, Royal and Iberville street, and arrested Walter J. Gunnises, 3908 Iberville street. The detectives say Gunnises was operating a hand book on races and had a list with names of horses in his hand when they entered.

Paul Dobbard, negro, 1516 Spain street, was taken into custody by Patrolmen Sharp and Fernandez on a charge of running a lottery shop at his residence. Tickets, slips and other paraphernalia were confiscated and are being held for evidence.

The other negro was Raymond Destimasse, 1640 North Johnson street. The same officers arrested him at Columbus and Derbigny streets. He was charged with running lottery paraphernalia in his possession.

TO HOLD LOYALTY MEETING.

A meeting of negro citizens of New Orleans will be held tonight at the Pythian Temple, corner of Saratoga and Gravier street, to express their loyalty to the government and their desire to aid. J. Madison Vance, the well known attorney, who is active in the movement, says a large attendance is expected.