

PLAN FOR THE NEW DRAFT

NEARLY 10,000,000 MEN TO BE CLASSIFIED.

Qualifications of Each Entrant to Be Recorded—Next Call Not Likely Before Middle of February.

Washington, Nov. 10.—President Wilson formally put the new machinery for the carrying out of the selective draft bill into operation tonight with the publication of the foreword he has written to the regulations under which the second call will be made. The regulations themselves and the questionnaires which more than 9,000,000 registrants will be required to fill out are being forwarded to local boards, but have not been made public.

The Department officials estimate that the whole process can be completed within sixty days. This means that no second call will be made upon the draft forces before the middle of next February, as the period of classification will not begin until December 15.

The President describes the new plan of dividing all registered men not already mobilized into five classes, subject to military service by classes, as being intended to produce "a more perfect organization of our man power."

"The selective principle must be carried to its logical conclusion," the President said. And he added there must be made a complete inventory of the qualifications of each registrant in order to determine "the place in the military, industrial or agricultural ranks of the nation in which his experience and training can best be made to serve the common good."

The inquiry projected in the questionnaire will go deep into the qualifications of each of nearly 10,000,000 men. The success of the plan and its completion within the estimated time rests absolutely upon the whole-hearted support given by the people, especially by the doctors and lawyers of each community, and the President calls upon them for their unstinted aid. The President's foreword follows:

President's Foreword.

"The task of selecting and mobilizing the first contingent of the national army is nearing completion. The expedition and accuracy of its accomplishment were a most gratifying demonstration of the efficiency of our democratic institutions. The swiftness with which the machinery for its execution had to be assembled, however, left room for adjustment and improvement. New regulations putting these improvements into effect are, therefore, being published today. There is no change in the essential obligations of men subject to selection. The first draft must stand unaffected by the provisions of the new regulations. They can be given no retroactive effect.

"The time has come for a more perfect organization of our man power. The selective principle must be carried to its logical conclusion. We must take a complete inventory of the qualifications of all registrants in order to determine as to each man not already selected for duty with the nation in which his experience and training can best be made to serve the common good. This project involves an inquiry by the selection boards into the domestic, industrial and educational qualifications of nearly ten million men.

Much Greater Task Ahead.

"Members of these boards have rendered a conspicuous service. The work was done without regard to personal service, and under a pressure of immediate necessity which imposed great sacrifices. Yet the services of men trained by the experience of the first draft must of necessity be retained and the selection board must provide the directing mechanism for the new classification. The thing they have done is scarcely one-tenth the magnitude of the thing that remains to be done. It is of great importance both to our military and to our economic interests that the classification be carried swiftly and accurately to a conclusion. An estimate of the time necessary for the work leads to the conclusion that it can be accomplished in sixty days.

"I call upon all citizens therefore, to assist local and district boards by proffering their services and such material service as they can offer by appearing before the boards, either upon summons or upon their own initiative, to give such information as will be useful in classifying registrants. I urge men of the legal profession to offer themselves as associate members of the legal advisory boards to be provided in each community for the purpose of advising registrants of their rights and obligations and of assisting them in the preparation of their answers to the questions which all men subject to draft are required to submit. I ask the doctors of the country to identify themselves with the medical advisory boards which are to be constituted in the various districts throughout the

U. S. MISSION IN EUROPE.

Arrives Safely, Headed by Col. House. In Conference Soon.

Washington, Nov. 7.—An American mission landed in England today on the eve of the opening of the first great war conference in which the United States will participate.

Col. Edward M. House, President Wilson's personal friend and adviser, is the officially designated representative of the United States. He is accompanied by a staff representing every war agency in the United States, including Admiral Benson, chief of naval operations, and Gen. Bliss, chief of staff of the army.

Announcement by Secretary Lansing tonight of the arrival of the party "at a British port" released American newspapers from a pledge of silence as to the personnel of the mission and its movements. The departure of this group of most distinguished men in the government's war councils was a carefully guarded secret until they were safely through the submarine zone. Even many army and navy officials were not aware that their chiefs had sailed.

United States for the purpose of making a systematic physical examination of registrants.

Duties of Police.

"It is important that police officials of every grade and class should be informed of their duty under selective service law and regulations, to search for persons who do not respond promptly and to serve the summons of local and district boards. Newspapers can be of great assistance in giving wide publicity to the requirements of the law and regulations, and to the numbers and names of those who are called to present themselves to their local boards from day to day. Finally, I ask that during the time hereafter to be specified as marking the sixty-day period for the classification, all citizens give attention to the task in hand in order that the process may proceed to a conclusion with swiftness, and yet with even and considerate justice to all."

Supplementing the President's call to the nation, Provost Marshall Gen. Crowder issued the following statement:

Gen. Crowder's Statement.

"The questionnaire, which is the basis of the new system, is a collection of questions bringing out the essential facts upon which all classifications are made. It is the only printed form which any registrant needs to use, either in making claims or filing proof.

"At first sight it may seem a little formidable, but a reading of the questions show that they are simple for any person who can read and write understandingly to answer.

"The President's message lines up the whole legal profession of the United States as assistants of the selective service system, and as impartial advisors to registrants in filling out their questionnaires. In the new regulation a place is to be provided convenient to every local board, where registrants may go for free advice and assistance in making out this document. The county judge or other judicial officer of similar court is placed at the head of a committee of lawyers in each vicinity, and this committee is charged with the duty of seeing that there are always plenty of lawyers and other volunteers present to help registrants in filling out the questionnaire.

Questionnaires Mailed Daily.

"Questionnaires are to be mailed by the local boards to 5 per cent of the registrants each day. The principal work of the legal advisory boards will thus be over in twenty days, by which time all the questionnaires should be returned to the boards. Every man has seven days in which to return his questionnaire fully made out. The process of classification will begin about December 15. Eight days later the boards will begin the great process of classification, which becomes, in the words of the President, a national war undertaking of such significance as to challenge the attention and compel the assistance of every American.

"Not since the war began has an opportunity been offered for practically every person to take an active and vigorous part in so important a war measure as the actual raising of our armies. The President's foreword offers this opportunity. It gives a definite place for the doctors to work in making the physical examination. For the first time it assigns every lawyer to active duty in building up the national army. In the legal advisory board it gives everyone who responds to the President's call a place in the ranks of the army behind the army.

"The nation already has a remarkable record of efficiency in adjusting its political machinery to the registration of ten million men within eighteen days after the enactment of the law authorizing registration. "It is now proposed to better this record by classifying ten million men in a period of sixty days."

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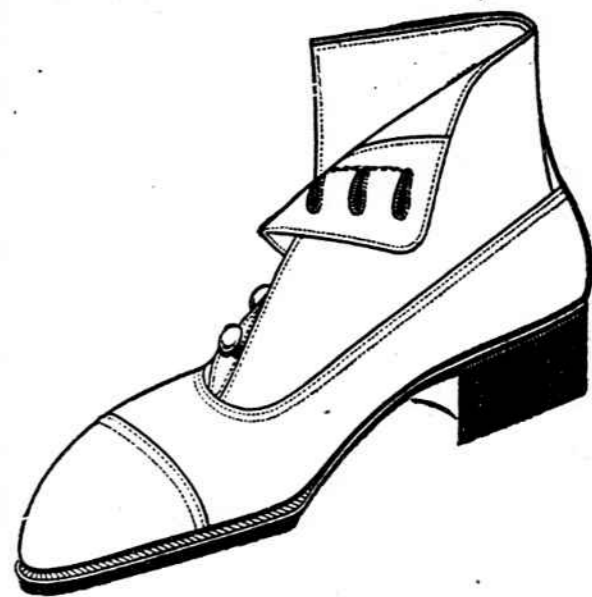


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