

INCREASED FOOD SUPPLY AND MORE SHIPS NATION'S GREATEST NEEDS SAYS CABINET

All Phases of War Activities Were Discussed in Meeting of Cabinet Yesterday—Country Will Bend All Energy to Supplying Allies With Food and Money—In Congress Lawmakers Are Debating War Plans, Conscription Being Discussed Principally in the Center.

Washington, April 10.—President Wilson and his Cabinet at today's meeting reviewed the many phases of war activities, found that every step possible to equip the army and navy and turn out munitions is under way, and decided that the most pressing needs of the nation now are to increase the supply of foodstuffs and ocean-going vessels, and raise sufficient money to finance America's part in the war and make liberal loans to the Entente Allies.

For present activities the Allies are understood to be well supplied with munitions, and to have as many men in the field as they can equip and feed under existing conditions. Through a coordination of the munitions industry in the United States, and the raising of a large army the United States will be in a position later to supply any need in either field.

Food and Money.

Members of the Council of National Defense who are also members of the Cabinet have been studying the best methods of aiding in the defeat of Germany, and they took to the President word that the most pressing need of Europe is for food and money. Therefore, the American Government will seek to supply those with whom it is making common cause.

President Wilson personally appealed to farmers today through the National Agricultural Society to make it their patriotic duty to increase the food supply of the nation, and Secretary Lane brought forward a plan for greatly increasing the acreage under cultivation on public lands.

The Financial End.

Secretary McAdoo left the Cabinet meeting early to appear before the members of the ways and means committee of the House regarding plans for raising bonds totaling \$5,000,000,000 and treasury certificates totalling \$2,000,000,000, \$3,000,000,000 of the bonds to be loaned to the Entente Allies.

The government is already in position of information that several of the Allied nations will be glad to accept loans from the United States. Russia and France probably will be among the first nations supplied.

To quickly meet the demand for ships, examination was begun of the condition of the German merchant vessels in American ports, which the government plans to use. It appeared probable that Major Gen. George Goethals, builder of the Panama canal, would be placed in charge of the construction of the great fleet of 1,000 wooden, ocean-going vessels for the Shipping Board.

In its consideration of ways of raising a large army, and at the same time keeping necessary industries going at full speed, the administration has decided to consider separately the production of luxuries and the necessities of life. It is taken for granted that people will be willing to give up luxuries.

In making exemptions from military service, if Congress authorizes the draft, the government will take the position that if young men work in industries producing luxuries their labor is not necessary and they will not be exempted. Just what will be classed as luxuries has not been determined.

Work in Congress.

Washington, April 10.—Congress debated war plans today over a wide range, but in the broadest generalities. In the House most of the debate was devoted to emphasizing the necessity of realizing the importance of an adequate food supply, and in the Senate the debate turned principally on the question of universal service.

Democratic Leader Kitchin today announced his readiness to pilot the administration war program through the House. He voted against the war resolution, and there was some doubt of his position.

Mr. Kitchin also announced that he would give the Democratic caucus an opportunity to decide if it desired to depose him as House leader. While a large majority of the Democrats disagreed with his opposition to the war resolution, the general feeling is that he has voted his convictions and now that he is willing to take charge of the war measures, he is not open to attack.

Great Surprise.

Great surprise was expressed by Mr. Kitchin over any question being raised as to his being willing to push the war measure through the House. He never had any intention of opposing them once the war resolution passed, he said.

"Now that the resolution has passed, I certainly am willing to take charge of the measures and push them through," said he. "I cannot understand why it ever has been intimated that I would be unwilling to take charge of the bill. I expressed my willingness in my address to the House and I wish to reiterate it now."

Belief was general in congressional circles that all the so-called pacifist factions would join with Mr. Kitchin in support of the measures.

Despite Kitchin's announced willingness to father the administration's war revenue measures as the chairman of the ways and means committee, several of his friends express belief that he probably will oppose universal military service and training.

Opposed to Draft Feature.

Efforts to break down opposition to the draft feature of the proposed army bill were continued today by President Wilson. He arranged to see Representative Anthony, of Kansas, a Republican member of the House military committee, and an opponent of conscription, and to explain how strongly he believes the United States should not apply the volunteer system in raising a big army for use against Germany. He made a similar personal appeal yesterday to Chairman Dent, of the military department who does not favor conscription.

There was considerable talk today of a compromise to be presented by opponents of compulsory service, and although the administration recognized this possibility, no hint was given that it will recede from its insistence on conscription. Chairman Dent declared it would be at least a week before a bill of any sort is reported from its committee.

Secretary Baker told the House military committee today that while the administration bill for a new army by selective conscription authorizes increase of the regular troops to 287,000 men, the War Department does not now propose to take advantage immediately of all these increments and that only 203,000 regulars now were contemplated.

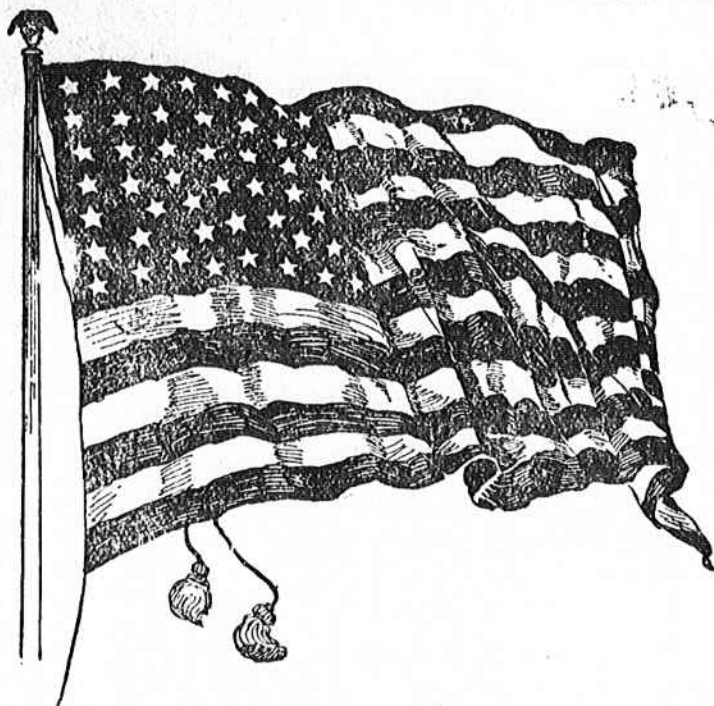
Secretary Baker in general reiterated his unyielding view that universal service was the only method of producing an adequate army for the war with Germany.

Senators on Conscription.

"I have very grave apprehension respecting this idea of conscription, as to whether it will appeal to the people of the United States," said Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader. "I do not know, however, if we can raise a volunteer army unless we emulate Canada in paying our soldiers."

Senators Thomas, of Colorado, and Vardaman, of Mississippi, Democrats, also favored increasing the pay of soldiers, and advocated voluntary recruiting.

As a means to stimulate recruiting the Senate agreed to an amendment to the army appropriations bill offered by Senator Hitchcock authorizing the Secretary of War to accept gratuitous services of a publicity agency and also space from newspapers and magazines for advertising for recruits. Another amendment also authorized the Secretary to pay for advertising services and space.



The Star Spangled Banner

O say! can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there!

(CHORUS.)

O say, does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free, And the home of the brave.

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mist o'er the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines in the stream;

(CHORUS.)

'Tis the Star spangled banner! oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free, And the home of the brave.

Oh, thus be it ever, When freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation;
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then, conquer, we must, for our cause it is just,
And this be our motto,—"In God is our trust."

(CHORUS.)

And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free, And the home of the brave.

In urging his amendment, Senator Hitchcock said:

"When individuals are volunteering their services, the newspapers ought to be given an opportunity to contribute their space. If this country is to be aroused as it should be, there ought to be united, spontaneous and gratuitous effort of newspapers."

Senator Chamberlain questioned the response from newspapers opposing the war policy.

"Each community," Senator Hitchcock answered, "will take care of its newspapers of a copperhead character."

GERMANS ADMIT REVERSE.

Berlin, April 10.—Regarding the heavy fighting on the western front, the official statement says:

"The battle near Arras continues." It adds that the British succeeded in penetrating German positions on the roads radiating from Arras, but did not break through the lines.

"In stubbornly resisting the superior forces of the enemy two of our divisions suffered considerable losses," the German official statement says.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S SHARE

Would Have to Furnish 8,000 Men in Case of Call for Million.

Columbia, April 10.—In the event that President Wilson calls for 500,000 men for the first great army, South Carolina will have to furnish about 4,000 exclusive of the National Guard. A call for 1,000,000 men means 8,000 from this State.

A CALL TO CLARENDON COUNTY.

On the 18th and 19th of this month United States officers representing the Army and Navy service will be in Manning for the purpose of obtaining recruits. The citizens of Manning desire to bring together these officers and all young, able-bodied men in the County, between the age of seventeen and thirty-five years, and, with this end in view, on the night of the 18th at eight o'clock in the Masonic Hall a Smoker will be tendered these officers and all young men between the said ages, at which time all desired information about the respective branches of the service will be fully given.

There will be speeches from a number of persons on this occasion.

Clarendon has always done its part in its country's need and a full attendance of young men is expected.

WAR CREDIT WILL BE SEVEN BILLIONS FOR U. S.

France, Russia and Italy Will Receive the Greatest Allotments—Passage of Bond Bill is Practically Assured.

Washington, April 10.—Seven billion dollars in natural securities will be the first "war credit" arranged by the United States government, according to a determination reached today by the committee on ways and means of the house of representatives.

Following a discussion which extended throughout the day and in the course of which no partisan line of cleavage developed, but Democrats and Republicans worked as members of the one great American party, the committee decided to report a bill authorizing the issuance of \$5,000,000,000 worth of 3½ per cent 20-year gold bonds and \$2,000,000,000 worth of certificates of indebtedness bearing the same rate of interest but running for only a single year.

It is the anticipation of Chairman Kitchin, of the ways and means committee, that the elimination of the indebtedness of \$2,000,000,000 as evidenced in the proposed certificates will be taken up by taxation in the course of their year of life. This means that the committee must at once set about devising new revenue-producing legislation which will approximately double the present income of the federal treasury.

Of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue, \$3,000,000,000 will be devoted to the purchase of the government bonds of the entente allies. It is not believed that the bill authorizing the issue should specify which of the potential allies of the United States shall receive the stupendous credit or in what amounts it shall be allotted among the various belligerents arrayed against the common enemy.

But it is known that by far the great fraction will be loaned to France, certainly one billion and perhaps a billion and a half. Russia and Italy will receive also certain allotments. There will be no probable need for the assumption of any part of Great Britain's credit at this juncture.

Chairman Claude Kitchin, of the ways and means committee, returned to Washington today. He sat with the committee for the first time since the declaration of war against the imperial German government to which in the house he had voiced opposition. Chairman Kitchin, by his attendance on the committee, set at rest the allegations that his opposition to the declaration of war would be given further evidence through opposition to the bond issue.

At the meeting of the cabinet today, the distribution of the United States loans to the foreign governments was discussed. Word had been conveyed to the cabinet that the enactment of the bond issue bill was but the question of a few days of discussion and that its passage was assured.

BRITISH GAIN VICTORY

Battle Monday Results in Capture of 9,000 Prisoners.

London, April 10.—It is officially announced that the British captured more than nine thousand prisoners and more than forty guns yesterday. After heavy fighting the British drove the Germans from the northern end of Viny Ridge, and also cleared the Eastern slope. The Germans were driven from the high ground near St. Quentin. The fighting continues throughout the whole front. The British have seized the village of Fampoux and neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe river. A strong German attack near Ypres was frustrated by a British counter attack.

ROOSEVELT SEES WILSON

Former President Calls at the White House Today.

Washington, April 10.—Col. Roosevelt, accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, called on President Wilson at the White House today.

Col. Roosevelt laid before president his plan for raising a division of troops for foreign service. He said afterward that he was received with "the utmost courtesy and consideration."

EXPLOSION KILLS AT 100 IN MUNITION PLANT IN PENNA

Frightful Casualties in Destruction of Munitions Plant at Chester, Pa.—Scores of Girls Mangled and Burned to Death.

Chester, Pa., April 10.—At least one hundred persons, mostly girls, were killed and 200 or more injured, by an explosion today in the great munition plant at Eddystone, Pa., near here, owned by the Russian government.

Nothing is known as to the cause of the explosion, though there is suspicion that it was not due to accident.

The greatest confusion prevails and no one is allowed to approach the plant in which the explosion occurred. The trolley line to Eddystone is not running because its wires were destroyed.

It is stated the building in which the explosion occurred was used for making time fuses for shrapnel. The workers were mostly women and young girls.

Big Works Destroyed.

The first explosion was in the structure known as the 10-F building. Immediately there was another explosion in the old F building adjoining. These two structures were destroyed. About 400, mostly women and girls, worked in these buildings.

At 1 p. m. firemen, policemen and others still were dragging bodies from the wreckage. Shells were found scattered about the scene for a space of two blocks.

The explosion occurred soon after 10 o'clock in the pellet room of the shrapnel building where about 1,200 girls were employed putting the finishing touches on shells. In a building adjoining approximately 30,000 shells were stored. A second explosion demolished this building and scattered the shells in every direction.

Immediately calls were sent for outside aid and physicians, firemen and policemen from surrounding towns arrived in great numbers. The buildings in which the explosions occurred caught fire and were destroyed. Charred bodies were pulled from the wreckage and injured persons were picked up and taken to Chester, a mile away. The two main hospitals of the city were soon filled and others injured were taken to the Fifth regiment armory and a frame tabernacle.

Plot is Suspected.

No official of the company was found who could tell anything about the explosion. There were whispers of a plot to destroy the plant.

The plant originally was constructed soon after the European war started by Baldwin Locomotive interests. Recently it was taken over by the Russian government which has been employing about 10,000 people making shells.

The place has been thoroughly guarded night and day, and after dark immense searchlights made every portion of the grounds as light as day. In addition secret service men and detectives worked in the various departments disguised as munitions makers.

Dead Mostly Girls.

At the undertaking place of Coroner White there are 80 bodies, 79 being those of girls.

Thousands of girls were employed at the plant, most of them coming from Philadelphia, ten miles away. They were attracted by the high wages paid.

Officials of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation this afternoon said the damage to the plant was not serious. Announcement was made that operations will be resumed tomorrow.

FOOD PRICES DECLINE

Suggestion of Meatless Days and Government Control of Food Causes Break.

Chicago, April 10.—J. Ogden Armour's suggestion for meatless days and government control of all foodstuffs was said to have caused the sensational break on the board of trade at the opening today. Wheat declined five cents a bushel, and provisions also declined.