

\$4,000 INSURANCE.

Plan Will Be Taken Up By Council of National Defense.

Washington, June 2.—Plans for issuing \$4,000 free government insurance on the life of every American soldier and sailor during the war in lieu of pension arrangements will be taken up next week by the Council of National Defense. A report prepared by Assistant Secretary Sweet, of the Department of Commerce, ready to be submitted, urges that the insurance be provided through legislation before American troops are sent to France.

The defense council took up the question some weeks ago and turned the whole subject over to the Department of Commerce for investigation. The report ready offers a long list of arguments showing the advantages of working out a compensation system before American lives are lost in the war.

Plans as Prepared.

The plans as prepared provide for a flat insurance of \$4,000 on the life of every officer and private in the military and naval service to be paid to his beneficiaries without premiums. There would be provision for a system of insurance by which officers and men desiring to do so could take out amounts higher than the \$4,000 free policy by paying premiums at peace rates.

Insurance companies, it is said, are ready to approve the scheme if assured the government will not continue in the insurance business after the war. War hazards are so great that few companies are anxious to insure soldiers and sailors except at high premiums.

After the War.

At the end of the war the government, it is suggested, could turn over to insurance companies its premium war business, dropping the flat \$4,000 policies on all who leave the service, but continuing it on men who remain in the army or navy.

One argument advanced for the insurance plan is that it would improve the morals of the troops. The plan would provide also insurance for partial or total disability. In case of death the insurance would be paid in instalments whose amount would be determined by a government board. Government officials are convinced the best way to dispose of the pension problem is to meet it beforehand.

Opinion of Officials.

Many officials hold that since many will be drawn from occupations in which government and State laws compel compensation for injury or death, the government cannot subject a man to more risk than he encounters in his usual occupation and not make compensation if he is wounded or killed.

The success of the government war risk insurance bureau, which has paid out large sums for ship losses, is pointed to as argument that the government itself can bear the risk. The \$4,000 insurance given free would be a direct loss, but pensions, it is argued, would be much more costly in the long run.

Mr. Wilson Buys Liberty Bonds.

Washington, May 31.—President Wilson today joined the ranks of participants in the liberty loan by subscribing for a \$10,000 bond.

Writing to Secretary McAdoo, the President said:

"May I not send you personally my subscription to the liberty loan, which I make with great satisfaction and with the wish that it might be a great deal larger?"

County Short Course June 14-15.

The county short course for demonstration workers will meet at Bamberg June 14th at 10 o'clock in the morning. Girls are requested to arrive and register by 9.30 Thursday morning. Welcome address by Hon. B. D. Carter; address on gardening by Mr. Elliott, district agent; lessons on record books and histories, and short talks by visitors will last until one o'clock.

Beginning at 3 p. m., Miss Yarborough will teach sewing and booklet making; Miss Napier, fancy packs of beans and peaches; Mrs. Walker will give demonstrations in drying of vegetables.

Friday, June 15, will be a joint meeting of boys' and girls' clubs. Demonstration in testing seed corn, address on agriculture and live stock by Mr. L. L. Baker for the boys. The girls will can tomatoes and beans in tin, led by Miss Barratt. Miss Parrott, State Agent, will be here, also Mr. Cleveland, who will give a demonstration on testing and preserving eggs. Cooking demonstrations, fireless cooker and other home conveniences will be taken up in the woman's club programme in the afternoon. Special attention will be given to the concentration of tomato products, which, on account of the high price of cans, is much needed just now.

SEEKS U-BOAT BASE.

Germany Attempts to Get Control of Island Off Coast of Venezuela.

Washington, June 2.—Reports have reached the government from a source described as reliable that Germany is attempting to get control of the island of Margarita, off the coast of Venezuela, for use as a submarine base. The State Department has forwarded the information received to Venezuela for the consideration of Venezuelan officials.

The exact nature of the advices is withheld, but officials permitted it to become known today that the report had caused some concern here. They indicated that they had positive confirmation of overtures designed to secure control of the island, but that they were uncertain whether the effort had met with any degree of success.

Protested Against U-Boats.

Officials do not believe the government of Venezuela would be a party to any such alienation of territory, even though temporary. Venezuela is one of the South American governments that have joined in protesting against submarine warfare as conducted by Germany, although her technical position remains one of neutrality.

It has been known by the American government for weeks that German influences have been actively at work in Venezuela and that indirect, if not direct, means have been used by agents of the Kaiser to secure popular and official sympathy.

Very Unlikely.

It is suggested here that Venezuela's accession to the German overtures in the case of Margarita is rendered very unlikely by the fact that Venezuelan officials could not fail to realize the seriousness of passage of the island to the control of an enemy of the United States. It is pointed out that the cession would be a clear violation of the Monroe doctrine and would undoubtedly call for energetic and prompt opposition by this government.

Margarita is off the Northern coast of Venezuela, near the Southeastern corner of the Caribbean sea and within striking distance of the Panama canal. It is about 500 miles from Culebra and 1,000 from Colon. Its adjacent waters, including the Gulf of Curacao, would make it an admirable naval base.

PLEADS GUILTY OF SINKING SHIP

Johann Klattenhoff, Captain of the Libenfels, in the U. S. Court.

Charleston, June 6.—When the case against Johann Klattenhoff, captain of the German steamship Libenfels, was called yesterday morning in the United States District Court, the defendant approached the bar, unrepresented by legal counsel, and in a simple, almost, it seemed without interest, pleaded guilty to the charge pressed against him of sinking his ship, the Libenfels, in the channel of the Cooper river February 1. There were two charges against him, but that of conspiracy was continued at the request of the district attorney.

Capt. Klattenhoff drew quite a bit of interest when he began to talk upon being asked if he wished to make a statement. He stated that he sank his ship in accordance with orders he had received from Consul Muller, at Atlanta. He stated that the letter containing the order had been received through the mails here by a person and delivered to him by the person. He declined to give the name of the person, saying that at the time he had given his word of honor that he would not do so. When asked about it, he stated that he did not remember whether or not Consul Muller's name was signed to the letter or not, and he burned it as soon as he had read it, but he said that he "knew it was from Muller." He stated that the letter instructed him to sink his ship, but to be careful not to block the channel. Sentence has not been passed upon him yet.

500 Bales Bring \$52,000.

Bennettsville, June 2.—Mr. B. E. Moore sold today 500 bales of cotton from the warehouse of T. B. McLaurin to E. D. Moore, cotton buyer, at the price of twenty-one cents. This is the highest price paid here and one of the largest checks ever given locally for cotton. Mr. Moore receiving around \$52,000 for the lot. Mr. Moore has realized a handsome profit by warehousing his entire crop.

Negro Lynched by Mob.

Columbia, Miss., June 2.—A mob of about 100 white men and negroes shortly after last midnight overpowered the jailer here and took from their cells Van Haynes and Prata Hampton, negroes, accused of murdering Reece Johnson, also colored. Haynes was hanged to a steel bridge about five miles South, but Hampton escaped from the mob and fled into the woods, eluding his pursuers.

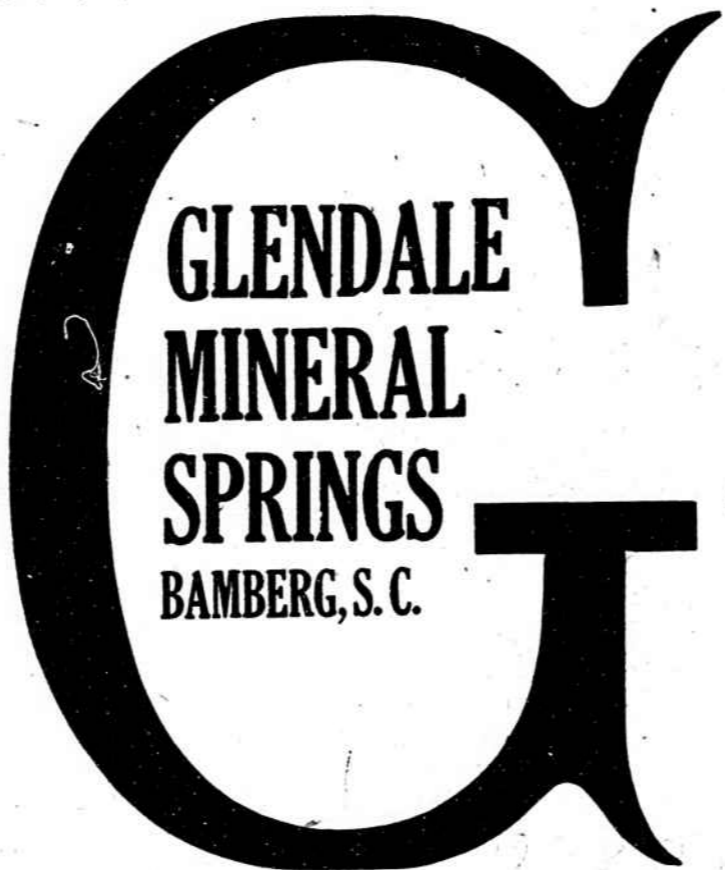
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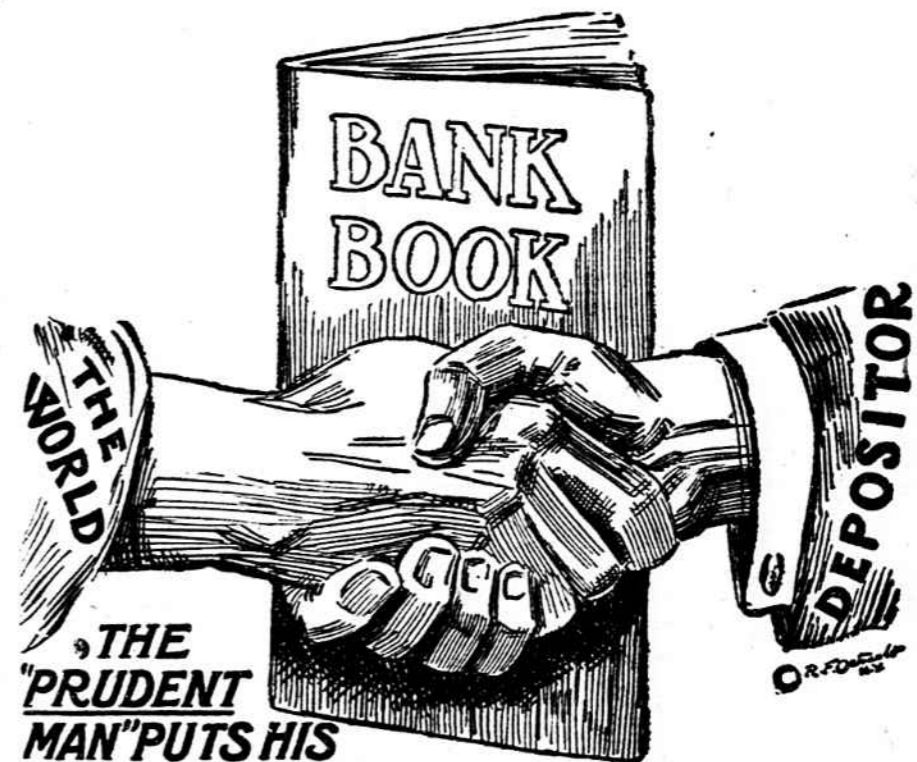


Telephone subscribers are urged to call by number and not by name. In a community of this size the operators cannot possibly remember the names of all subscribers; when you call by name you delay your service and hamper its efficiency.

All telephones are known to the operators by numbers which are on the switchboard directly in front of them. The directory is your index to the switchboard and should be consulted before making a call.

Call by number and help the operator serve you better.

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