

ARMY CONTRACT GRANTERS.

Hat Manufacturers the First to Be Rounded Up.

New York, Dec. 4.—Conspiracy to defraud the federal government out of hundreds of thousands of dollars on contracts for more than a million service hats is charged in an indictment filed today against William B. Thom, John J. Slattery, Joseph Ives, Edward Slattery, connected with corporation of Thom and Bailey, the Peelskill Hat Co., the firm of H. D. Parmaloe & Co., and Arthur C. Gibson and Peter J. Duffy, inspectors of the quartermasters' corps are named as co-conspirators.

The Country's Backbone.

(Abbeville Press and Banner.)

It is stated that of the men who have enlisted in the army as well as of those who have been drafted into service a greater percentage of the boys and young men from the towns and cities have been found fit for service than of the boys from the country districts.

Those people who expected the country districts to furnish better soldiers than the towns and cities have either forgotten or have never heard the experiences of the Civil War. Col. G. McDuffie Miller, of Orr's Rifles, stated that the best soldiers in the Civil War were young eighteen year old boys from the towns and cities; that they were possessed of more endurance, stood the hardships of camp life better, and were more easily trained than their brothers from the farming sections, and that most of all they didn't have any better sense than to be brave and fight.

And in this war the towns and cities have done their part. Of all the young men in the old National Guard perhaps ninety per cent. are boys from the towns and cities. The recruits who volunteered for the most part have come from the same places. The drafted men show a full percentage of these same men.

In the patriotic calls upon the people of the country, the towns and cities have borne the burden. Of the fifty-three hundred dollars contributed in this county for the Red Cross, something like four thousand dollars came from the city of Abbeville alone, and the greater portion of the balance from the towns of Due West, Donalds and Calhoun Falls. The Liberty bonds sold in the county have been bought by the people in the towns and cities. When the second Liberty loan was floated in this county, although cotton was selling for twenty-seven cents, and there was money in the hands of farmers in all sections, it was left to the people of the towns and city to take practically the whole allotment for this county. And our representatives in congress have so arranged matters that practically the entire war tax in this country will be paid by the men in the towns and cities. Although the war has brought hundreds and thousands of dollars to the people on the farms in Abbeville county, and although they are being enriched by it through the price, not only of cotton, but of all other products, they will pay practically none of the burdens already imposed on the people nor of those to be imposed on them.

We have been hearing all these years, (mostly in election years,) that the farmers are the backbone of the country, but we heard little of it in the Red Cross campaign, the Liberty Bond campaign, the Y. M. C. A. campaign, and we hear no complaints that the farmers are not assessed their part of the war taxes. Even those who are opposed to the war are accepting the big profits which other men's blood and money are purchasing for them without feeling called on to pay value received.

In saying this much we are not unmindful of the fact that some, a very few, of the farmers of the county have responded to all the calls of the government. We have no complaint against these men; they deserve the commendation of all men, especially because they are few.

But we assert that in the great crisis through which we are passing, and in the great fight which is being waged over the waters, and which will be waged, the towns and the cities are the backbone of the country.

So It Seems.

If something is not done to check the rising prices of the necessities of life, there is going to be some starving and freezing too in the good old State of South Carolina before the springtime comes round again.—Newberry Observer.

Artificial gas is supplanting coal as a fuel in Philadelphia. It is also pointed out as an incentive to its use that while the price of coal has soared that of gas is either unchanged or lower.

ENDEAVORER ENDORSES Y. M. C. A.

Sergeant John G. Dinkins Writes Christian Endeavor Convention in Praise of Y. M. C. A. War Work.

My Dear Fellow Endeavorers:

I appreciate very deeply the kind invitation of your program committee to address a few words to your State Convention at Charleston. It made me feel good to receive a letter bearing that almost revered insignia "C. E."

I have been asked to invite the attention of your convention to some of the "ways in which C. E. can help us," having reference of course to the ones of us who are in the military service. It is gratifying to those of us who are in the military to note the interest that the C. E. U. is manifesting in the Y. M. C. A. War Work. In my judgment this is the best and hence the most direct and practical way in which the C. E. Association can help. The Y. M. C. A. is recognized by our government and the war department and with this prestige it can, quite naturally, conduct its work so as to keep in intimate touch with the soldier boys. With the Y. M. C. A. in this position, Endeavorers can have the complete satisfaction of knowing that, whatever aid they give, of any kind whatsoever, will be merely using the most practical and definite plan to reach the soldier. Then when you give a dollar to the salary of some secretary or clerk, or send even an old copy of some periodical to a "Y" post, or lend your time or interest in any other way that may be indicated, you can rest assured that it will reach, and contribute, in no small measure to the happiness and comfort of some man in the training camp or the trench.

The "Y" is doing good work right here at Camp Sevier. The buildings and tents are located conveniently for the men. The folks in charge of the work here are splendidly trained for this kind of service, and appear to be intensely interested in the enlisted men. They hold regular services on the Sabbath, and mid-week prayer meetings. During week nights the soldiers can attend classes in French, English and arithmetic. There are also movies, athletic sports, and various indoor games for the instruction and amusement of the men. Then, they provide tables and writing material, also a place to purchase stamps and money orders. They always try to keep on hand good magazines and papers. The demand, however, for reading matter is usually greater than the supply on hand.

I must not forget to mention the interest that the enlisted men take in the "Y" and its programs; and the great benefit that they receive from it, aside from the comfort and convenience which they derive from it. The surroundings and the environment is always wholesome and strengthening, and it is nothing short of the marvelous to witness the telling influence which it wields over the men in a moral and spiritual way. As an Endeavorer and as an enlisted man, I want to add my name to that innumerable list of endorsers of the present Y. M. C. A. War Work, and urge you to give it your enthusiastic support.

I wish that I could attend our convention, and hear Mr. Lehmann, and the rest of your interesting speakers, and have the high honor of responding to that "roll call of honor," in person. I know already how nobly and generously you are going to respond to this war work. Just as sure as the night follows the day; just so sure, will loyal and patriotic C. E.'s in a crisis like the one which now confronts our commonwealth, prove themselves loyal and patriotic Americans. There is to come a day when the German dynasty, with its entire Hohenzollern tribe, will have to reckon and account for smothering the pitiful cries of a people begging with outstretched hands, for quarters or freedom. In that day it will have to answer for drowned, helpless, non-combatants; for the barbarous outrages committed by Prussian liberties and the ferocious Hun; for the destruction of peaceful Belgium, and the smiting of the great and historic cathedrals of France. These, and countless other wrongs, will that government have to account for. And Endeavorers, when that time does come, I am jealous for you to have done your bit and acquitted yourselves, by means of helping the soldier through the Army Y. M. C. A., even as the soldier will have done his bit, and acquitted himself, with the rifle and the bayonet.

Yours for a great Convention, and for the further advancement of C. E. John G. Dinkins, Sergeant, Headquarters Co., 118th Inf. Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C.

Stockings.

"They say certain colored stockings have dangerous germs in them." "Yes, but think what other things they have in them."—Florida Times-Union.

OUR BREAD SUPPLY.

Wheat Surplus and Deficiency by States Develop Many Interesting Facts.

(Manufacturers Record.)

A study of the wheat surplus or deficit, by States, this year and a comparison with a five-year average develops many interesting facts.

The New England and Middle States this year will need 110,000,000 bushels more of wheat than they have produced. New York, for instance, will have a deficiency in its wheat production of more than 43,000,000 bushels, and Pennsylvania 23,500,000 bushels. The only State in this group which has raised more wheat than it will need for its own consumption is Delaware, with a surplus of 900,000 bushels.

The most striking fact, however, brought out by a study of this situation is that the great western States of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa all produced less wheat than they consume. Their shortage this year aggregates 16,000,000 bushels and California, which has been counted one of the great wheat States of the Pacific coast, has had such an increase in wheat consumption over its wheat production that it now falls short by 9,400,000 bushels of raising wheat which it needs for its own consumption.

No State in the South has such a deficit as California in wheat production. Taking the entire South, there is a wheat shortage of only 31,000,000 bushels, but some months ago the United States Department of Agriculture sent out a statement to the effect that "the Southern States consumed over 22,000,000 barrels of flour (equal to about 110,000,000 bushels of wheat)" and that "all of this flour is imported into the South from other sections."

The detailed figures which we have compiled from the official report of the Department of Agriculture show that the net shortage in the South is only 31,000,000 bushels. For the five-year period, from 1909-1913, there was an average deficiency in the South of 43,000,000 bushels of wheat. This has been cut down until the deficiency for 1917 is only 31,000,000 bushels.

The following table compiled from the report of the United States Department of Agriculture, is interesting as showing the surplus production and the deficiency by States. These figures do not, of course, cover the total production of wheat, but merely show the amount of shortage in some States and the amount of surplus in others. From this point of view they are exceedingly interesting: **Theoretical Wheat Surplus and Deficiency, by States, 1917 Crop.**

	1917	Surplus, Deficiency (Bushels.)
Maryland and Dist.		
of Col.	2,259,000	.....
Missouri	7,365,000	.....
Virginia	8,160,000	.....
Georgia	8,851,000	.....
West Virginia	3,160,000	.....
South Carolina	4,774,000	.....
North Carolina	1,308,000	.....
Florida	3,710,000	.....
Kentucky	2,024,000	.....
Tennessee	4,217,000	.....
Alabama	7,790,000	.....
Mississippi	7,096,000	.....
Louisiana	7,521,000	.....
Texas	9,149,000	.....
Oklahoma	14,541,000	.....
Arkansas	3,464,000	.....
Total Southern States	33,325,000	63,934,000

SUSPECTED SPY HELD.

Man Who Talked on Train Investigated at Spartanburg.

Spartanburg, Dec. 3.—A man giving his name as J. Bronx was taken from a Southern Railway train this morning by a United States deputy marshal and is now being investigated by a secret service agent on the supposition that he may be a German spy. United States officials here received a telegram from passengers on the train saying that the man had indulged in suspicious talk on the train. He claims to be a prominent business man of New York, engaged in importing surgical rubber. Correspondence found in his possession indicated that he had been operating in the munitions market. His baggage bears labels of several steamship lines. The man says that he is an American citizen.

JOIN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Washington, Dec. 3.—An appeal to men between the ages of eighteen and forty to join the enlisted personnel of the army medical corps was made today by Surgeon General Gorng. Candidates were directed to apply before December 15 to any recruiting officer of the army or to the medical officers of any military post or cantonment.

Lenine and Trotzky cannot last, but they can play hell while they are there.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

INCREASED WHEAT YIELDS.

Improved Methods and Seed Selection Used with Much Success.

Reports of the United States Department of Agriculture and State agricultural colleges cooperating in improved methods show that in 1914 there was an increase of 38,364 bushels of wheat on 4,800 acres where these methods were followed. This increased yield will make at least two and one-fourth million one-pound loaves of bread.

In six States where 135 wheat growers conducted demonstrations by using selected varieties of seed, the yield on 3,343 acres was increased 18,854 bushels. The breeding and selection of special varieties of wheat adapted to particular regions or localities is one of the most important items in the experiment station programs for producing increased yields. When these varieties have been determined it simply remains for the farmers to secure the adapted variety for seeding. The intelligent use of commercial fertilizer, treating seed grain for smut, the fallow system in some dry-land areas of the West, and the growing of peas in the place of summer following in other western sections were also included in the successful program used by the county agents in these States last year. Reports from eastern Washington show very successful results in growing peas after wheat. The wheat crops after peas were increased in yield, and the pea crop itself was available.

If these improved methods had been applied throughout these 14 States generally, instead of upon a limited number of farms where tests were made, and the same rate of increase had held, the increased wheat yield upon the same acreage would have produced a considerably enlarged bread supply.

RUSSO-GERMAN ARMISTICE.

Agreement to Cease Fighting Signed at Headquarters.

London, Dec. 4.—An armistice between Russia and Germany has been signed at the headquarters of Prince Leopold of Bavaria, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam today. The armistice is valid 48 hours.

Dirt Roads and the War.

Thousands of miles of the roads which furnish the only outlets from the farms on which is grown the food for ourselves and our allies still remain as dirt roads. Even if it should be considered justifiable in this emergency to place the most durable surface upon all of these roads, it would be impracticable today or in one year or two or three. Most of them must remain as dirt roads for years to come yet. They must, however, carry to the shipping centers, and without serious interruptions, the increasing quantities of grains and other food products which are so vitally necessary at this critical time.

The problem of maintaining dirt roads has therefore become a more important one than ever, and county and state highway authorities should see to it that every effort is made to put all of these roads into the best possible condition as soon as practicable. There is still time this fall to do considerable grading and shaping of roads so as to permit them to resist more successfully the effects of winter weather, and be in better condition in the spring for immediate use or more rapid improvement. All highway officials are now familiar with methods of treatment that will prevent excessive rutting, such as the use of the drag, scraper and other simple means, and these should be employed now and whenever, advantageous throughout the winter in order to prevent the formation of ruts and mud-holes, which make so difficult the putting of the roads into shape when the frost goes.

In a great many localities it is possible to improve dirt surfaces with local materials at comparatively little cost, such as by the construction of sand-clay roads, by gravel surfacing, etc. Advantage may be taken of the comparative idleness of teams and farmers during the winter to haul the sand, gravel or clay necessary for this purpose and distribute it along the sides of the road ready for use as soon as weather conditions permit in the spring. Even the snow plow can be used to advantage in many cases to prevent the concentration of all traffic to a single pair of wheel tracks through the snow, which generally results in a cutting through of the road surface along these two lines, to the detriment of the road.

Much of the above applies to northern climates. In many parts of the Southern States maintenance and construction of roads can be continued throughout the winter. In such localities work should be begun promptly and continued to insure that there shall be no delay at any time in getting to the distribution centers all the marketable foodstuffs grown anywhere in the State.—Municipal Journal.

NAVY NEEDS MANY MORE MEN.

Eight Thousand Recruits Needed for Ground Personnel of Flying Corps.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Navy recruiting officers it was announced today have been ordered to begin at once a drive for 8,000 men between 21 and 35 to form the ground personnel of the navy's flying corps. Carpenters, woodworkers, machinists, copper-smiths, blacksmiths, fabric workers, riggers, acetylene workers, gas engine repair men and instrument workers are needed especially.

After intensive training the men will be eligible for promotion to higher grades.

GERMANS DRIVEN OUT.

Last of African Possessions Lost.

London, Dec. 3.—"East Africa has been completely cleared of the enemy."

This official announcement was made tonight.

The text of the announcement reads:

"Telegraphing under date of December 1 General Vandeventer, commander of the military forces in East Africa, has reported that reconnoissances have definitely established that German East Africa is completely cleared of the enemy. Thus the whole of German overseas possessions have passed into our hands and those of our Belgian allies.

"Only a small German force now remains in being. This has taken refuge in adjoining Portuguese territory and measures are being taken to deal with it."

How the Boll Weevil Has Helped Us to Appreciate the Value of Fertile Fields.

Until recent years Southern farmers, as a whole, seemed to give no thought to the state of their soil fertility. They continued to grow cotton with or without commercial fertilizers, and without any thought for the future of the soil. They were able to do this longer than any other one-crop farmers were ever before able to do so, because cotton is the best poor-land crop known and responds best to the use of commercial fertilizers.

But at last the Southern farmer was rudely jolted out of his indifference to the state of his soil fertility. Among other things which served to awaken him to something like a due appreciation as to just how poor most of our soils had become and of the importance of a rich soil if his farming was to continue to support himself and his family, was the coming of the boll weevil. When it became necessary to grow other crops, the poverty of his soil revealed itself to him in a light which he had never seen before. He had gone to the very edge of the precipice of destruction, through his absolute disregard of the care of his soil; but the boll weevil while sending many over the precipice also stopped many a man from going over and down to destruction. Land that had produced cotton enough, when fertilized, to give a bare living, absolutely refused to give living yields of corn, oats and other crops. It is said that every people who go onto virgin soils deplete them, sometimes to the point of near starvation, before they begin to sufficiently appreciate the importance of a rich soil to cause them to do those things necessary to even maintain, much less build up, soil fertility. There is no denying the fact that the boll weevil had much to do with arousing Southern farmers to a realization of the extent to which our soils had become depleted and started many of them to restoring as rapidly as practicable their worn soils. It is unfortunate that some of these have been sorely disappointed, because of the slowness with which their soils have "come back." This is not really due to any fault of our soils, for they respond to good treatment amazingly fast; but it is rather due to the fact that these farmers expected too much and failed to realize that what it had taken many years to destroy could not be restored in a year or two. Our soils may be made fertile; more fertile than they ever were; but it will take time and effort, or money to do so, and very much money to do so quickly.—The Progressive Farmer.

The Need of Economy and Saving.

When we put a million and a half soldiers in the field, we withdraw those men from productive enterprises. They do not while they are actually in training or in service produce anything. They do, on the other hand, consume much. There is nothing more expensive on earth than to support and maintain a great army in the field, especially if it is on the fighting line. The attrition of supplies and everything else is tremendously great when we have a fighting army in the field.

America is the one great remaining storehouse in the world of supplies and credit. We must maintain and make effective as possible our own soldiers and the soldiers of those nations who are fighting for us. We must therefore draw as little as possible upon our common store of supplies and money. The more we lessen our domestic demand, the more we can contribute to the support and effectiveness of our allied armies.

Economy is now a national duty, such a duty upon the people at home as fighting is upon those Americans who are bravely offering their lives for the honor of America and the preservation of liberty and justice.

GENERAL STAFF SURRENDERS.

Russian Staff Submits to Authority of Bolsheviks.

Petrograd, Dec. 4.—Ensign Krylenko, the Bolshevik commander in chief, telegraphed today that the general staff which has refused to recognize the authority of the Bolsheviks, has surrendered.

Paris, Dec. 4.—On the Verdun front west of the Meuse the Germans last night attempted to approach the French positions but were thrown back, the war office announces. On the Champagne front heavy artillery fighting is in progress.

The Contrast.

The first death penalty imposed since the American troops landed in France was on an American soldier who was found guilty by court martial of the rape and murder of a French woman. He was executed by a firing squad. The details will be published later, since it is the purpose of the United States to make plain to the world how the American army will deal with men who commit such crimes. The khaki will not protect brutes from swift and full punishment. Stern, relentless justice will be meted out to those who disgrace the uniform they wear and the righteous nation they represent.

In striking contrast is the record of the German armies, darkly stained with shame. The walls of hacked and mutilated children, the shrieks of outraged girls, mothers, aged women and nuns have rent the air where the beasts have gone. Upon the white bodies of the innocent and defenseless is forever stamped the mark of the German beasts in uniform. Dr. Leon Dabo in a public address lately delivered in New York said that "all the correspondents send over about the atrocities that have been committed, all the inhumanities, all the bestialities that no paper can possibly receive in ink—they are not only true, but the worst of them a not be told. I have been in a hospital in the department of the Meuse in France, where there are nearly one thousand girls; not one is eighteen years of age and all will be mothers. Eleven per cent in addition are stark mad. I have seen boys terribly mutilated." Not since the Middle Ages has been paralleled the horror that the Hun has perpetrated upon defenseless womanhood. These brutes have not been punished. So far as the world knows, not one of them has been shot for his atrocity. Instead, there is evidence that these barbarities have been instigated by the arch-fiends higher up in the German army. There is no evidence to disprove the assertion that this campaign of frightfulness had the tacit sanction of the Imperial German government, whose war cry is "Onward with God."

The American army will follow the policy that was best expressed by Gen. Robert E. Lee in his immortal Chambersburg order, written when the Confederate army was on foreign soil:

"The duties exacted of us by civilization and Christianity are not less obligatory in the country of the enemy than our own. . . . No greater disgrace would befall the army, and through it our whole people, than the perpetration of barbarous outrages upon the innocent and defenseless and the wanton destruction of private property. . . . It must be remembered that we make war only on armed men, and that we can not take vengeance for the wrongs our people have suffered without lowering ourselves in the eyes of all whose abhorrence has been excited by the atrocities of our enemy and offending against Him to whom vengeance becometh, without whose favor and support all our efforts must all prove in vain."—Greenville News.

Planting Wheat.

(Union Progress.)

Union county farmers are sowing grain—lots of it—about 35 per cent more wheat than last year. But more must be sown if South Carolina is to feed itself. So keep sowing grain, preferably with a drill, and put it on your best and not your poorest land, so there will be an abundant harvest.

No wonder Austria is desperate. When Germany thought it would win, Austria stood to lose. And now that Germany is sure to lose, Austria also is bound to lose.—Butte Miner.