

# BAKER DEFENDS U.S. WAR DEBT IN PUBLIC REPLY

## Million American Soldiers Better Armed Than Germans Were When War Broke Out—Plans of Gens. Pershing, Wood, Bliss and Scott Strictly Carried Out.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Secretary Baker replied today to Senator Chamberlain's charges of inefficiency in the war department, at a public hearing before the senate military committee. The secretary began making a verbal statement without manuscript.

Mr. Baker said his statement was not exactly supplementary to his recent one to the committee, but a comprehensive statement of all army activities in the war, especially replying to the charge that the war department had "fallen down."

At the outset the secretary said he thought much criticism came from impatience of the American people "to do this great thing quickly."

He conceded freely that in so great an enterprise it was impossible that there should be "delays and shortcomings." The confidence of the country, however, he said, was necessary to the tremendous efforts.

The mistakes cited in Senator Chamberlain's speech, Secretary Baker declared, gave a disproportionate aspect. Without intent, he said, the effect of the senator's speech was to give the country the impression that the deficiencies were characteristic rather than occasional.

He said he was not there to defend individuals or deny delays and false starts.

"But I think I can say in confidence that in them we have sought the remedy," he said.

That there are more than 1,000,000 men under arms in this country was stated by Secretary Baker in alluding to the number of soldiers who died in camp cited by Senator Chamberlain.

Mal. Gen. Wood, Mr. Baker said, recommended calling out a large army, although the men could not be provided at once with rifles and clothing.

"For some reason or another the impression has gone out into the country to some extent that the war department has fallen down in the conduct of the war," said Secretary Baker. "I want to address myself to that question."

"There are several reasons why I should ask the committee to hear me. First, the country is entitled to know that it is a fact. The country is entitled to know what this war is and what its problems are and how we are doing it. Second, I have a deep sense of duty to the officers and civilians that are laboring with devotion, sacrifice and zeal and are spending sleepless nights to bring this army up to its greatest efficiency and success."

Every soldier who needs a rifle has one, Secretary Baker said, and of a better type than if the British Enfield rifle had been adopted.

Defending the lack of Lewis machine guns, Secretary Baker reiterated that Gen. Pershing does not want Lewis guns for the ground force but only for aviation.

Declaring that by securing artillery from France Mr. Baker said it also would save ships.

"I am telling no secret when I say that ships are the crux of our problem," he said.

Secretary Baker said all foreign representatives and the war council participants, headed by Col. House, England and France, will not take supplies they need, but will help them.

The impatience of the whole country "to do this thing quickly," the secretary continued, "probably inspired much of the criticism. Every one of us wants to see our country hit like a man at the adversary."

"We look back over the past and see there have been shortcomings, that there have been delays. There are things that could have been better done. But our effort is to learn."

"I have no purpose to defend individuals or myself. If I discuss here individuals by name, if I refer to Gen. Crozier or Gen. Sharpe or myself, it will be only to make it clear. If any of us should figure in tomorrow's casualties it would be as nothing beside the object we all seek. I am not here to deny shortcomings, but I think I can say that where we have found such shortcomings or mistakes we have made every effort to correct them. I most earnestly ask that when you have pointed out to you any shortcoming, whether it seem well founded or not, that you instantly refer it to me in order that the processes of the department may sift the truth."

From Senator Chamberlain's speech Mr. Baker said it had seemed to him that, although it was not the Senator's purpose to make it so appear, the country got an impression from the failures and delays that made them "disproportionate to what was going on."

The secretary said that when he heard of the two letters read by Senator Chamberlain concerning bad treatment of sick soldiers he immediately asked Mr. Chamberlain for the details.

"I want to follow these through to the very end," he said, "and find out who is responsible, in order that I can punish the guilty."

Although more than one million men are under arms in this country, Mr. Baker said, the number of complaints received has been relatively small probably not more than 18. In each instance, he said, investigations have been immediately made. Some reports, he said, have not proved serious on inquiry, while others had, in which cases corrections followed.

In the case of the body of an officer who died in an aviation training school being shipped home in a sheet, Secretary Baker said, inquiry developed that the camp was in charge of a British aviation officer who followed the British method. An American officer was then put in charge.

Another complaint, of neglect of a patient at Camp Wheeler, he said, developed that it was unjustified and resulted from "the distressed imagination of the widow."

Mr. Baker told of investigations that resulted in discharge of Lieut. Charles W. Cole and Lieut. John D. Dye for neglect of patients, as recently published.

"The department sets its face against that sort of callous disregard of soldiers' health," Secretary Baker said. "I want the doctors and the country to know that their lives and welfare are a responsibility which I will not permit to be dodged."

While camp commanders are held responsible for health conditions, Secretary Baker said, the surgeon general's office has daily inspections and he has appointed Dr. John A. Hornsby, a hospital expert, as his personal inspector. A telegram from Dr. Hornsby regarding camp conditions which Senator Chamberlain assailed disclosed them "greatly improved," with mortality reduced and "ample accommodations for all sick."

Secretary Baker read a letter from Mrs. Mary Roberts Rinehart, the writer, who has a son in the service commending hospital conditions she recently inspected. Mrs. Rinehart said she was impressed by Senator Chamberlain's "tragic letters."

# COUNT KAROLYI OPENLY AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT

Hamburg, Jan. 28.—The Hungarian independence party, of which Count Michael Karolyi is the head, has decided to adopt an attitude of opposition toward the ministry just formed by Premier Wekerle, but it will support the government's franchise bill, a Budapest dispatch reports.

In political circles in Budapest this decision is believed to have been due to a difference of opinion between Count Karolyi and Premier Wekerle regarding various foreign and domestic questions. The premier asked Count Theodor Batthyany, a member of the independence party, who was minister of public welfare in the cabinet that has just retired, to retain his portfolio on condition that he should leave his party. This is believed to have been one of the principal causes of the rupture between the Karolyi party and the cabinet.

Count Karolyi, now openly opposed to the Hungarian government, has been one of the foremost peace advocates of Hungary.

# DEFENSE COUNCIL TO HELP SURVEY BY FARM BUREAU

Hartford, Jan. 28.—The Connecticut State Council of Defense will assist the Litchfield County Farm Bureau in the Farm Survey which the Bureau is to undertake to ascertain the agricultural needs of Litchfield County. The plan for the survey has already been approved by the council's committee on food supply. The resolution of the council endorsing the Litchfield County survey calls for instructing war bureaus and town committees of the council in Litchfield County to interest themselves actively in the survey and render every assistance possible in carrying on the work. The resolution says that should the council's expectations with reference to the value of the Litchfield County farm survey be realized, the same plan will be put in effect in all other counties of the state.

# CREWS OF SHIPS ON ATLANTICS TO GO ON RATIONS

Washington, Jan. 26.—Crews of all American ships sailing from Atlantic and Gulf ports will be put on a special food administration ration beginning Feb. 1. They will eat less beef and pork than now and will observe 19 wheatless meals a week.

The conservation diet was worked out with the approval of the department of commerce and the shipping board. Food officials say it will provide a much better balanced ration than is the rule now. The program later will be extended to American ships on the Pacific.

# YANKEE AIRMEN BOMB GERMANY IN HEAVY FOGS

With the American Army in France, Jan. 27.—(By the Associated Press)—Four American aviators attached to a French squadron have participated in a daylight bombing raid over Germany. All returned safely.

Because the weather was foggy the aviators were unable to determine just what damage was done, but as they flew fairly low over the targets it is believed that the results were good. After recrossing the lines the bombers were met and vigorously by enemy anti-aircraft guns. They then ran into still heavier fog and some of the aviators were forced to land before reaching their hangars.

The American steamer Owasco is the third seized German steamer to be sunk by U-boats.

# HOW TO HELP "SWAT THE SPY"

Many Germans and Austrians in the United States deserve to be looked upon with suspicion. There are hundreds of spies in this country. Keep your eyes and ears open. Whenever any suspicious act or disloyal word comes to your notice, communicate at once with the Connecticut Council of Defense, State Capitol, Hartford; telephone, Hartford, Bushnell 50.

America is at war with the most merciless and inhuman nation in the world. There are thousands of Germans in this country who want to see America humiliated and beaten to her knees, and they are doing and will do everything in their power to bring this about.

Take nothing for granted. Energy and alertness in this direction may save the life of your son, your husband, or your brother. You can serve your country by making yourself a vigilance committee of one.

# BRIDGEPORT NAMES BURLESON TO P. O. PLACE 10 MONTHS LATE

Washington, Jan. 25.—The Senate yesterday confirmed a belated re-nomination of Albert S. Burleson, to be Postmaster General, after receiving a letter from the President addressed to Vice President Marshall, in which he explained that he had not known until a few days ago of the existence of a statute putting the Postmaster General on a different status from other members of the Cabinet as to tenure of office, which required his re-nomination after the expiration of a Presidential term.

The President's letter read: "I am taking the liberty of sending you for submission to the Senate a re-nomination of the present Postmaster General."

"I would be obliged if you would explain to the Senate that my attention was called only the other day by the Attorney General to the fact that by special statute the Postmaster General's office is put upon a different footing from that of other members of the Cabinet by an explicit limitation of his term of office to four years. I regret very much that I did not sooner know of the existence of this statute, and take pleasure in submitting the name."

Senators expressed the opinion that no complications would be involved through the failure of the President to reappoint the Postmaster General until yesterday. Even though Mr. Burleson had not been confirmed, they argued, he was de facto Postmaster General and the courts would regard him as legally entitled to the office if asked for an opinion.

Senator Smith of Georgia, who recently investigated the status of the hold-over Cabinet, asserted that there was no question of the validity of every hold-over appointment, without confirmation by the Senate, with the exception of that of the Postmaster General. He said:

"The law makes it plain that the Postmaster General must be re-nominated and confirmed by the Senate. But the law infers in his case that he was a de facto appointee and that his acts, therefore, are valid. No complications can result from the failure to re-nominate him. His appointments and acts will stand the test of any court."

Before the Senate acted on the nomination Senator Hardwick of Georgia called attention to a resolution he offered two weeks ago, in which the President was asked to inform the Senate by what authority his Cabinet held office without confirmation by the Senate for second terms. He said that every re-elected President at the beginning of his term had always sent his Cabinet nominations to the Senate.

The Constitution required that all Cabinet officers be confirmed by the Senate, he asserted, and hold-over officers ought to come under the requirement. The statutes, however, made it obligatory only in the appointment of the Postmaster General, whose appointment might hold over only for one month after the President took up his second term.

"As a matter of act, the country, ever since April 4, 1917, has been legally without a Postmaster General," said Senator Hardwick. "I want to congratulate the country on the fact that the President has at last found out what the law is and has at last complied with it. I would still further congratulate the country and the President for the spirit of the Constitution about all these things as well as the letter of the law, and would follow the custom of his predecessors as well as obey the Constitution, by sending to the Senate nominations for the other Cabinet officers."

Edmond Wilson, manager of the New York Call, was asked last night if the Call, to which has been denied second class mailing privileges by Postmaster-General Burleson, would ask to have that order declared void on the ground that Mr. Burleson acted without legal authority when he barred the paper from the mails.

"I have known for some time," he said, "that the postmaster-general has been holding his office illegally. As to whether or not The Call will take any action in the case is a question that cannot be answered tonight. The publishers as well as Morris Hillquit, who is our attorney, will have to be consulted in regard to that."

The Irish World, Freeman's Journal, and Gaelic American, which had their last week's issues held up by order of the post office department, were represented by John J. Rooney. It was said yesterday that he was in Washington to protest against the action of the government.

Jeremiah A. O'Leary, who was head of the company that published the suppressed monthly journal The Bull, could not be reached last night.

# WOOD AVENUE SAILOR SWEEPED OFF UNITED STATES WARSHIP

(Special to The Times.) At an Atlantic Port, Jan. 28.—With the arrival today at this port of a United States warship, the news that seven men had lost their lives by being washed overboard and drowned in a storm off Bermuda two weeks ago became public. Among the men who officials of the warship report lost their lives is William Roller, 19 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roller, 1083 Wood Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn.

Word of the young man's death was immediately forwarded to his parents by telegraph. The message reads as follows: "Your son lost at sea. Washed overboard during storm, with seven others. None of the bodies recovered. Deepest sympathy.—Navy Department."

Roller was a nephew of George Deitz, 134 Clifford street, and lived with his parents until early last summer when he applied at a local recruiting station and enlisted in the navy. On entering the service he was attached to the U. S. S. Pensacola.

# ALL SALT WATER FISHERMEN MUST OBTAIN LICENSES

Tuesday, Jan. 23 Connecticut salt water fishermen and distributors of sea food, who are not already licensed by the United States Food Administration, will be required to operate under licenses after February 15. Under the authority given him in the Food Act of August 10, President Wilson has issued a proclamation which gives the Food Administration almost complete control of the distribution of salt water fish, including menhaden, crustaceans and shellfish. Wholesale fish dealers are already operating under license.

The proclamation covers all fishermen engaged at any period of the year, whether fishing independently or on shares. It covers, as well, all people engaged in the commercial distribution, including catching and selling of any or all varieties of salt water fish. The term salt water fish is defined to embrace all forms of sea food taken from salt water. This places oysters, crabs, lobsters, clams, all shellfish and crustaceans under the control of the Food Administration.

Any person, firm, corporation or association engaged in the catching or distribution of any forms of seafood who engages in business after February 15, without securing a license will be liable to a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

All persons subject to license must apply to the United States Food Administration, License Division, Washington, D. C., specifying the nature of the business to be licensed.

The licensing of the fishermen and the control thereby given will enable the Food Administration to foster and aid the salt water fisheries and greatly increase the catches and the opportunities of the fishermen to broaden their operations. All this will be done without legal authority when the act is enacted and embracing the Atlantic and Gulf coasts which will largely supersede the local laws in the various fishing districts; these laws are at present discouraging the fishermen, keeping them from using the most productive kinds of gear and curtailing the catches. Also in some of the districts closed seasons on certain varieties are in greatest abundance in the shore waters and in many of the districts restrictive laws against non-residents and alien fishermen are rendering it impossible for vessels and equipment from one state to make catches of fish in the shore waters of adjacent states.

In the enactment of the regulations due regard will be paid by the Food Administration to any present restrictions which are vitally necessary from the standpoint of conservation.

# MEN DRAFTED THROUGH ERROR ARE RELEASED

Ayer, Mass., Jan. 25.—Two men were discharged from Camp Devens today after it had been shown that they were sent here through some error in the operation of the draft. They were Claude Wall of Waterbury, and Edward L. Wener of Canterbury, Mass.

Gold coin to the amount of \$200,000 was withdrawn from the treasury for shipment to South America.

# TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S FOOD PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION Many causes have contributed to create the necessity for a more intensive effort on the part of our people to save food in order that we may supply our associates in the war with the sustenance vitally necessary to them in these days of privation and stress.

The reduced productivity of Europe because of the large diversion of man-power to the war, the partial failure of harvests and the elimination of the more distant markets for foodstuffs through the destruction of shipping, places the burden of their subsistence very largely on our shoulders.

The Food Administration has formulated suggestions which if followed, will enable us to meet this great responsibility without any real inconvenience on our part.

# Must Save 30 Per Cent.

In order that we may reduce our consumption of wheat and wheat products by 30 per cent—a reduction imperatively necessary to provide the supply for overseas—wholesalers, jobbers and retailers should purchase and re-sell to their customers only 70 per cent of the amounts used in 1917.

All manufacturers of alimentary pastes, biscuits, crackers, pastry and breakfast cereals should reduce their purchases and consumption of wheat and wheat flour to 70 per cent of their 1917 requirements, and all bakers of bread and rolls to 80 per cent of their current requirements.

Consumers should reduce their purchases of wheat products for home preparation to at least 70 per cent of those of last year, or, when buying bread, should purchase mixed cereal breads from the bakers.

# Special Days Named

To provide sufficient cereal food, homes, public eating places, dealers and manufacturers should substitute potatoes, vegetables, corn, barley, oats and rice products and the mixed cereal bread and other products of the bakers which contain an admixture of other cereals.

"In order that consumption may be restricted to this extent, Mondays and Wednesdays should be observed as wheatless days; each week, and one meal each day should be observed as a wheatless meal.

In both homes and public eating places, in order to reduce the consumption of beef, pork and sheep products, Tuesday should be observed as meatless day in each week, one meatless meal should be observed in each day; while, in addition, Saturday of each week should further be observed as a day upon which there should be no consumption of pork products.

A continued economy in the use of sugar will be necessary until later in the year.

It is imperative that all waste and unnecessary consumption of all sorts of foodstuffs should be rigidly eliminated.

# Appeals to Women

The maintenance of the health and strength of our own people is vitally necessary at this time and there should be no dangerous restriction of the food supply; but the elimination of every sort of waste and the substitution of other commodities of which we have more abundant supplies for those which we need to save will in no way impair the strength of our people and will enable us to meet one of the most pressing obligations of the war.

I, therefore, in the National interest, take the liberty of calling upon every loyal American to take fully to heart the suggestions which are being circulated by the Food Administration and of begging that they be followed.

I am confident that the great body of our women who have labored so loyally in co-operation with the Food Administration for the success of food conservation will strengthen their efforts and will take it as a part of their burden in this period of National service to see that the above suggestions are observed throughout the land.

# FAIRFIELD COUNTY FARMERS CAN GET SUPPLY OF NITRATE

Washington, Jan. 28.—Notice has been given to L. A. Bevan, Agriculture Agent for Fairfield County, that the U. S. Department of Agriculture will sell at cost a supply of nitrate of soda to farmers in Fairfield County.

The nitrate was purchased through the War Industries Board under the authority of the Food Control Act as a part of the program for stimulating agricultural production. It will be unloaded at Atlantic ports at a price of \$15.50 a ton, free on board cars at port of arrival. Farmers are to pay in addition freight from port of arrival and the state fertilizer tag fee.

"Applications for a part of the 100,000 tons of nitrate bought by the government will be received only from actual farmers or owners or holders of farms for use on their land, and may be made through County Agent L. A. Bevan or through any member of a local committee consisting of W. H. Burr, chairman, Westport, Dr. W. C. Wood, New Canaan, G. M. Rundie, Danbury and S. J. Wright, Norwalk.

No money will be required with the application but upon notice from the county agent farmers who have signed applications must deposit with a local bank, association, or individual, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to act as the farmers' agent for that purpose, money to cover the cost of the fertilizer except the freight charge. After the money is transmitted to Washington the nitrate will be shipped to the farmers. If applications for the nitrate exceed the supply of about 100,000 tons the government will allot the supply on a pro rata basis among those who applied. Applications must be received by February 4.

# MRS. JOSEPH W. ALSOP ON DEFENSE COUNCIL

Hartford, Jan. 28.—Mrs. Joseph W. Alsop of Avon has been appointed a member of the committee on women's activities of the Connecticut Council of Defense. Her appointment was approved at a recent meeting of the council. Mrs. Alsop is chairman of the special committee which conducted food exhibits in seven counties of the state last week.

The fuel shortage in Boston was pronounced extremely acute.

# THOUSAND HOME GUARDSMEN ARE IN U. S. SERVICE

Hartford, Jan. 26.—More than 1,000 men were discharged from the Connecticut Home Guard in 1917 that they might join the fighting force of the nation, according to a report from military emergency board today. In addition, about 100 officers resigned for the same reason. There were 15,800 enlistments in 1917. The total discharges numbered 2,432. The army got 602, the navy 107, draft 281 national guard 154, and other branches of service hundreds more.

The roster on Jan. 1, 1918, showed 660 officers and 13,300 enlisted men.

# REPORTS ON EXPENSES OF STATE HEALTH DEPT.

Hartford, Jan. 26.—Dr. John T. Black, commissioner of public health reported to the state council of health at its meeting today that the expense of the department for the quarter ending Dec. 31, amounted to \$15,649.04.

# ANNOUNCE GARDEN AWARDS

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 25.—Hampden county boys and girls won 16 out of a possible 26 prizes offered by the state board of agriculture in state wide competition for work in gardening, home economics, canning and general conservation work last summer. It was announced here today.

# LIQUOR SOLD TO U. S. SOLDIERS IN CITIES OF BRITAIN

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 28.—Intoxicating liquor is sold freely to American soldiers in Great Britain, according to Dr. Charles M. Sheldon, who has just returned from England, where he has been assisting in a prohibition movement.

Dr. Sheldon charged that vice is prevalent in the vicinity of the conscription camps and asserts that many Canadian soldiers have been sent home incapacitated for service because of drink and vice.

"It is the duty of every American citizen," Dr. Sheldon said, "to demand of his government that these conditions be eliminated."