

## WHAT COMMISSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY MEANS TO PEOPLE

Splendidly Organized Body Helps  
Make Minnesota Ready  
and Efficient.

### TO CO-ORDINATE RESOURCES

Board Created by Last Session of  
Legislature, Given Extraordinary  
Powers for Good—Has Support  
of Loyal Citizens—Saves  
State Money.

The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety is an organization that is unique and one that has attracted the attention and the compliment of imitation in nearly every state in the union.

With the extraordinary powers given it by the act which created it, passed at the last session of the Legislature, it has been in a position to undertake a wide range of activity and at times use its powers in taking immediate and effective steps to hasten the military preparedness of our state, cut waste and extravagance, make "profiteering" impossible, and adjust economic questions for the relief of the people. In fact, the opportunities of the Commission as a force for the co-ordination and correlation of the moral, material and military resources of our state for the effective prosecution of the war on the part of our state and placing it at the forefront of the sisterhood of states in a national effort to carry out our part in the war for democracy and the overthrow of Prussian autocracy, have been tremendous. They have developed almost hourly since the creation of the Commission and every problem that has presented itself has been met squarely, handled with patriotic motives, statesmanlike vision and without regard to personal or political consideration.

#### An Economical Proposition.

The creation of the Commission meant that thousands of dollars would be saved to the people of Minnesota. Without it, it might have become necessary to continue the Legislature in session almost continually in order to take up public matters with respect to the present war conditions and activities that are constantly presenting themselves for adjustment. For this purpose a body of nearly two hundred men with widely differing opinions, would have proven unwieldy, expensive and slow as to results. With a small organization of but seven members appointed for the one great patriotic task of placing our state in position to do its full share in the war, and with this idea back of their every official act, taken after conscientious and broad minded deliberation, our state has made wonderful progress in its war preparations and has excited the envy and admiration of all other defense bodies in the nation.

#### Has Support of Loyal People.

The Commission of Public Safety has the patriotic support of all loyal people who realize that every personal consideration must be put aside during the present crisis. They realize that the Commission is Minnesota's pledge to the national government that our state is back of our President and Congress in their war program. The Commission is the official head of our government in Minnesota and as such, must be given the undivided support of every citizen in the discharge of the tremendous task it assumes. Its decisions and orders have all been taken with uniform good grace and obeyed in a large sense, with great credit to the patriotic citizenship of our people, regardless of whatever hardships might ensue, by seemingly unwarranted restrictions, knowing that the action would result in the greatest good to the greatest number in the final outcome of this world wide war.

#### The Organization.

The great task of the Commission and one of the essential fundamental ideas back of its creation was the mobilization of the sentiment of our people for the war; the popularization of the war idea for the protection of national honor, perpetual world peace and the safeguarding of democratic forms of government. This task has been one of the greatest problems of the Commission of Public Safety, in which all others have subordinated themselves. It meant that the mental attitude and disposition of a large majority with regard to the war and its problems would have to be utterly changed if victory was to come to our armies.

This was to be accomplished by the presentation of facts, and causes of the war through the press, the pulpit, the platform, literature and every means of expression that could be brought to bear.

At the time of the entry of this nation into the war the people of our state were in anything but a warlike mood. They were prosperous, happy, peace loving and had no idea of the deadly peril that threatened them at the hands of the Prussianized autocratic power seemingly so far removed as to make any thought of danger now or in the future too ridiculous to contemplate.

To awake them to their real danger and to emphasize the fact that a

real danger has threatened, and does threaten their very homes right here in Minnesota, has been a task that seemed almost impossible of accomplishment. There has been a great change in public sentiment everywhere, however, which has been brought about by the work of the Safety Commission, aided by its splendidly organized system of county units and various patriotic bodies who have assisted in the work.

During the first few weeks of the life of the Commission, a great deal of careful thought and study was brought to bear on the task of selecting county and township chairmen of the Commission who would co-operate earnestly and conscientiously with the head office in making Minnesota ready and efficient. The result has been something that is a source of pride to Governor Burnquist, and all members of the Public Safety Commission, whom we all honorably regard as the center of every patriotic endeavor in our state. Less than five changes have been made in county chairmanships and this only because of ill health or a call to a wider sphere of patriotic service. This is a record that cannot be shown by any other state so far as can be ascertained.

Each and every county or township chairman responded loyally to the call and have done yeomanlike service in their particular communities, under conditions many times that would have brought dismay to the stoutest heart and absolute surrender to a faint heart.

It is stated, without the slightest fear of contradiction, that the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety has the most fearlessly faithful and most conscientiously patriotic set of county officers that can be gathered together for any like purpose. Without this organization the task of coping with the earlier state of public sentiment would have been well nigh hopeless.

There is yet a great deal to be done and it will be done well. The Commission with the aid of its faithful members of the county units will continue to "smoke out the Huns within our gates" with the great fires of patriotism kindled within the breast of every loyal American.

#### Washington Co-operation.

The present day watchword among the allied nations is "unity of action." This will be brought into the war work in this country and from Washington comes the command to fall into line. The various loyalized and reorganized defense bodies of the state have been directed to co-operate all war activities under their immediate supervision. Duplication will be eliminated and a tremendous unified effort of the United States, individually and collectively, will be made to make our whole people practically of one mind in the desire to make our world safe for democracy.

#### Educational Campaign.

The great "drive" will be against the lukewarm pacifist, those that hesitate and those who have failed to realize what their danger is or their personal responsibility in war activity and preparation. The openly disloyal and seditious must be made to feel their isolated disgrace. Tons of literature will be the barrage, fire against anti-war sentiment, a speaking campaign, nation-wide in its scope, to carry the war message directly to the most isolated individual in the nation, will follow as the infantry to make sure that the trenches of the public mind are clear of all pro-enemy thought.

This is the task that the organization of the Minnesota State Commission of Public Safety is prepared in every detail to assume and discharge with fine effect and assurance of results. Many efforts along similar lines have been made, but not until a correlated nation-wide movement was instituted at the suggestion and official request of President Wilson in September, was it recognized that to be permanently effective, all movements must be joined as one body under the direction of the official defense body.

It has proven fortunate that Minnesota was in a position through a well established organization in lively working condition to take up this great work. While it has done splendid work from the first, it will do even better with the added prestige of co-operation and recognition from the National Council of Defense.

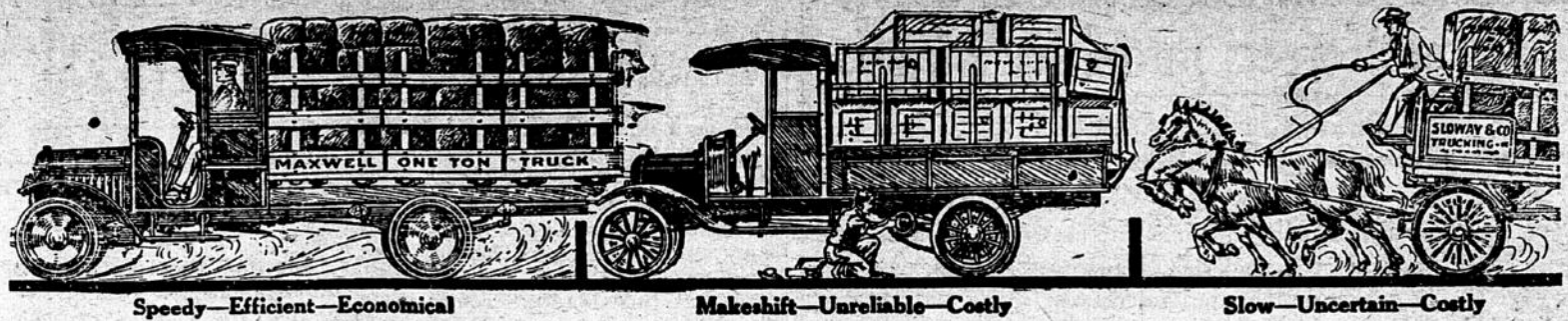
#### The Commission Needed.

No mention has here been made of the numberless problems that have been solved by the Commission or the manifold duties that have been thrust upon it. Enough has been touched upon to indicate that without a defense body of this nature, any state would have been in no position to do herself justice in the discharge of her responsibilities. The state officials would have been at the mercy of the demagogue, the charlatan and selfish political interests who seize upon every patriotic issue to cloak their nefarious designs.

#### Should Recognize Work of County Organization.

The work of the state Commission would have meant less to this state and it would have been infinitely harder to accomplish its various tasks, without the splendid service given by county units. A mere request invariably brings instant action in any section of the state and worlds can be conquered by such spirit and patriotism as has been the characteristic of the work of the county units.

If you are working in harmony and co-operation with the State Commission of Public Safety and its county units, it means that you are doing your "bit" to assist our state in driving the "Hun from our gates" and for winning a glorious victory in the war to make liberty everlasting, democracy safe and enforce enduring world-wide peace.



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