

No Lack of Eligibles Here, Says Conkling

Names on Exemption Lists Will Dwindle, Declares Draft Director

Slackers Will Find Military Law Swift

First Registrants To Be Examined Here Next Thursday

There was much concern yesterday among men subject to the draft over a more or less problematical danger that certain of New York City's 189 exemption districts will not be able to fill their quotas for the National Army. What with alien registration and exemptions and disqualifications for physical reasons, guessed the alarmists, some districts might examine every man on their available lists and yet not find the number called for.

Deputy Attorney General Roscoe S. Conkling, the minute man from Albany, whose job it has been to straighten out snarls in which affairs of the metropolitan local boards were involved until the very eve of the Federal lottery, guesses differently. More than any other person or agency he has been in touch with individual boards and individual exemptors, and he says he has heard nothing of local conditions anywhere which justifies the scare.

Besides which, Washington is already considering a revision of the draft regulations to the end that aliens not enemies may be permitted to fight under the Stars and Stripes. Indeed, the situation may be cleared beyond the point of mere alien eligibility to service; for it is understood that an agreement exists, or is being negotiated, with the Entente governments which would make citizens of the Allied nations resident here liable to draft.

Net Stretched for Slackers

Mr. Conkling has plenty of other reasons for his confidence that no New York City exemption district will fail of meeting the quota. One of them is the fact that the boards are on the job in earnest now; realize how grave is the responsibility thrust upon them and are determined, as their questions show, to trap the skulkers and slackers who will seek to slip through the draft net with the legitimately exempt. Efficiency and impartiality on the boards, Mr. Conkling is certain, will work to whittle down the exemption lists far below their present apparent proportions.

There was another reason—the human equation itself—to which the Deputy Attorney General was able to point with a jerk of his thumb. A young man, who carried a well defined air of being nobody in particular, had passed out of Mr. Conkling's new office in the state arsenal at Thirty-fifth Street and Seventh Avenue, as a group of reporters entered.

"Notice that chap?" asked Mr. Conkling. "Well, there's the man we aren't thinking enough about, the man who is going to upset all our calculations. There are a lot like him. Dozens have come here to get my advice and in my talks with exemptors I've heard of hundreds more."

"For the most part we have been wondering what the conscientious objectors are going to do, and how the slackers are going to try to evade service. Here's the other side. The man you just saw go out—I'll cite him because his case is fresh in my mind—has a dependent mother and a brother who shares with him the expenses of her home."

Brothers Toss To See Who Goes
"Both brothers are anxious to go to war as soldiers in the National Army, but there is the mother to consider. They have decided between themselves that one shall go to the front and the other shall undertake to shoulder the whole domestic burden."

"The brother who stays home will be a hero in his way, too, for neither makes much of a salary. They want by advice as the propriety of the scheme before drawing lots to see who's who. I referred the committee of one to his local board and told him to tell the exemptors the same story."

"This is just one instance of a feeling I know to be city-wide. There are slackers and schemers with us of course, but in pursuit of them don't forget the true patriots who are trying to adjust their affairs so they can wave the exemption which is properly theirs. These are the men who, if they are able to go, will be the backbone of the army."

Mr. Conkling told of another man whose period of enlistment in the French army has just expired. The brother-in-law of this Yankee polio brought this message to Mr. Conkling yesterday:

"Bill wants to know if he can get into the new American army. If he

can he's coming home. If he can't he'll stay in France and reenlist."

Mr. Conkling is digging Bill's answer out of the files of the exemption lists and sets of special instructions among which the rulings of Washington are distributed.

Answering the questions of registrants is expected to be a big part of Mr. Conkling's work, which starts practically with daylight and extends far into the night. The exemptors themselves are pretty well informed by this time; whenever a particularly knotty question arises they have to send on the questioner to the unofficial but potent headquarters in the arsenal.

Shoe Bargains Predicted

One man who runs a shoe store in Richmond Hill was a "Conkling caller" yesterday. He wanted to know if he was entitled to exemption by the fact that his shoe store probably wouldn't be much of a success, unless he was around it in person. Mr. Conkling's precise decision is not available, but indications were that the shoe man left that there will be bargains in footwear to be had in Richmond Hill within the next few days.

Despite the general dissatisfaction on the lower East Side, in Brownsville and in some parts of the Bronx with the counting in of alien registrants in figuring the quotas, there has been no official complaint thus far from any of the city districts. Several upstate counties, however, are reported to be much exercised by the discovery that quotas for large and small counties are practically the same.

The local boards here, tired of waiting for the arrival of the master list from Washington, generally are engaged in getting up their available lists from the newspaper figures. Thus when the master lists arrive the county work left before the call goes forth will be one of comparison. Probably by Saturday morning the lists will have arrived. If notices to appear for physical examination are sent out the same day the first batch of registrants will be passing through the doctors' hands on Thursday next.

Once he has been called the registrant not only will have lost his chance to enlist as a volunteer and choose his service, but he will be considered a unit in the military establishment of the United States and as such be subject to military law. And military law, as slackers who try fraud to avoid the draft know, is a law that will find, is swift and terrible in dealing with their kind.

City Clerks' Jobs Held Open

Theodore Rousseau, secretary to Mayor Mitchell, sent a letter to the heads of all city departments yesterday requesting information concerning subordinates of draft age. It will be the Mayor's policy to support exemption claims only in cases where the work of the man called cannot be handled by a substitute. The Mayor will approve applications of employees likely to be drafted who wish to enlist and take advantage of the Fenner law, under which their jobs will be held for their return.

At the same time, Thomas L. Chadbourne, jr., chairman of the Mayor's Committee on National Defence, issued a statement reviewing the work of the committee in connection with the draft, and complimenting Director Philip J. McCook and his volunteer assistants on the success which has attended their labors.

Expect 25 Per Cent Of Drafted to Fail On Physical Test

Officials Will Make Closer Estimate From First Returns of Selection Boards

Washington, July 26.—Reports of the first selection boards to fill their quotas for the selective draft army are eagerly awaited by Washington officials because they will give the first definite information as to the probable percentage of rejections to be expected among the ten million registrants, for physical reasons or for dependents.

All available statistics indicate a probable rejection of one in every four for physical disability. In particular localities this will vary greatly, but the average for the whole country is expected to be between 25 and 30 per cent. There are no available data as to dependents, however, or as to how many must be excused under industrial exemptions.

Suburbs Rated Highly
It appears probable that peculiar results will be brought out in some districts. If the reasoning of some officials is correct, the lowest rejection and exemption rates will be disclosed in well-to-do communities, such as the suburbs of large cities, where men of comfortable incomes make their homes. Sons of such men, it is suggested, have had better food, better care and better surroundings than the factory hands of nearby towns, and they should be in better physical condition.

As a class such young men could hardly be regarded as indispensable, officials say, in their civil, business or industrial capacities, and dependents probably will not free as many of them from service as of most other classes.

In factory towns, on the other hand, the rejection rate for physical disability probably will be high. The fact that the men are confined six days a week at their machines undoubtedly will have affected their physical condition. Virtually every married man of military age in these places is the sole support of his wife and children, and such men cannot be taken. Also, if the industry in which they are engaged is vital to the carrying on of the war, industrial exemptions will run high.

Only reports from selection and district boards in typical communities, however, can show exactly what is to be expected. Roughly, the War Department has estimated that two men must be called for every soldier accepted, but they realize that the returns may tell a far different story.

Plan for Drafting Aliens

Government heads, discussing to-day the various means of foreign residents of the United States, admitted that the State Department had submitted an opinion to the War Department on the question, but declined to state whether the Administration favored or disapproved of the suggestion. It is known, however, that the State Department deems that it would be wise and proper that negotiations with the governments whose citizens or subjects might be affected precede the enforcement of any such legislation. At least three countries are already protected by treaty from drafting of their nationals in America. They are Japan, Italy and Russia.

Nansen Here With Norway's Mission; Opposes Embargo

Westchester Sheriff Says Department of Justice Failed to Act

One in Jail 39 Days

Offey Denies County Official Asked for Instructions

Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, Arctic explorer and Norwegian diplomat, heads a mission of nine prominent Norwegians who arrived in New York yesterday to discuss with the United States officials the future of the economic situation in Norway in view of the American government's embargo.

Dr. Nansen, as spokesman of the mission, told of the difficulties to be overcome and the immediate and pressing needs of his country.

"Primarily we seek to effect an agreement, similar to the one terminated with the Allies on August 18, 1916, whereby Norway is allowed to export certain products to Germany. It is a mutual trade policy dealing particularly with the export of fish and dairy products to the Central Powers, and the giving over of considerable tonnage for the uses of the Allies."

"Norway must have grain, fats and sugars from the United States," Dr. Nansen said. "I have all the sworn statistics of Norwegian consumption of these necessities, and I hope to convince the American government that it is absolutely essential for the economic welfare of my country that the United States permit these necessities to be shipped in amounts sufficient to satisfy the immediate needs."

Norway Must Have Grain

Norway, according to Dr. Nansen, raises only one-third to one-half the necessary grain. She must import approximately 450,000 tons, consisting chiefly of wheat and barley, and about 80,000 tons of maize to be used for cattle fodder. He explained that all of the grain importations must not necessarily come from the United States, since a considerable amount in years past has come from Argentina and Australia. "But," he said, "without any exportations from the United States Norway will fare badly."

Regarding the American objection that a portion of the grains, fats or sweets finds its way into Germany, Dr. Nansen stated that the strictest watch was kept on everything crossing the line. Several smugglers of insignificant amounts of foodstuffs were caught recently and, in addition to heavy fines being imposed upon them, were sent to prison.

Dr. Nansen stated that he hoped to bring about an agreement with the United States principally on account of the large amount of Norwegian carrying trade between the United States and her Allies.

"I believe that it is a point which your government will not overlook," he said. "At the same time, the bottom, the services which Norway has rendered the United States are considerable."

Ship Losses Enormous

"Of course, our loss of ships due to the 'sink on sight' policy of the U-boats has been tremendous. We have lost more than 800,000 tons, and the people of Norway are clamoring for retribution or retaliation. The losses of all other neutrals, with a possible exception of the Dutch, have been only one-third to one-half as great as ours has been."

"It is the difficulty of transportation which has caused the great rise in the price of necessities. Living has advanced nearly 300 per cent, and will continue to rise until some solution may be found to insure the safe arrival of our cargo vessels."

"At the present time coal in Norway costs \$50 a ton, and is then often unobtainable. Nearly all the coal used in Norway comes from England. The price in England is cheap enough, but after paying 30 per cent war risk insurance, accompanied by the too frequent sinking of the cargo, the price at its point of destination has become prohibitive."

Dr. Nansen then told of the interior conditions of Norway, saying that many of the large factories and mills had been forced to shut down because of their inability to obtain fuel. Many plants were trying to use wood, he said, in order to keep their hands employed.

U. S. to Fix Blame For Detention of Three Slackers

Westchester Sheriff Says Department of Justice Failed to Act

One in Jail 39 Days

Offey Denies County Official Asked for Instructions

An investigation of the detention of three men in the Westchester County jail for from twenty-four days to one month and nine days will be started Monday by the United States Attorney's office.

Sheriff Wiesendanger of Westchester County says that the Department of Justice is at fault, and the Department of Justice says Sheriff Wiesendanger is at blame.

The Facts in the Case.

The undisputed facts are these: That Henry Banks, an American citizen in search of work, went to White Plains on June 17. He had not registered through ignorance, and was arrested by a White Plains policeman to produce his registration card he was arrested.

That Frank Rayman, a Russian Pole, also of draft age, drifted to White Plains in search of work on June 18, and not having registered, also through ignorance, he was arrested.

That on July 1 Frank Zebel, another Russian Pole of draft age, was arrested as a slacker while looking for work in White Plains. He, too, said he did not know he should have registered.

Sent Here on July 24

That these three men, without having been arraigned in any court, were confined in the White Plains jail until Tuesday, July 24, when Westchester County deputy sheriff delivered them over to Marshal McCarthy in this city.

Immediately the United States Attorney's office wanted to know who was at fault.

Sheriff Wiesendanger yesterday gave this explanation:

"When the first of these men was arrested I immediately telephoned the office of United States Marshal McCarthy in New York. I was informed that an agent of the Department of Justice would come up here for him. At the same time, the Department of Justice to send one of their agents. When none arrived I wrote a letter, dated June 21, which was mailed on that day, addressed to Marshal McCarthy. Here is a copy of it. You will note that I told them the local police had arrested two slackers, and I asked them what they were going to do with the men."

"I received no answer to this letter," continued Sheriff Wiesendanger. "So on July 5, after I had the third prisoner in custody, I wrote to Marshal McCarthy: 'I desire to call your attention to my letter of June 21 saying I had two slackers. I have another now—Henry Zebel. I again ask you what I am to do with them.'"

"And," added Sheriff Wiesendanger, "I never received an answer to that." When Marshal McCarthy was told yesterday what Sheriff Wiesendanger said, he called in his chief clerk and asked:

"What is done with all letters regarding 'slackers' that reaches this office?"

"They are turned over every evening to Mr. Offey's office," answered the clerk.

"Do I ever see them?"

"No, sir."

Offey Does Not Recall Letters
Mr. Offey said he did not recall seeing the letters Sheriff Wiesendanger claims he sent and which in the ordi-

State Completes Quota of 18,226 For Regular Army

Recruiting Will Not Stop Now, Says Colonel Walsh

City 1,162 Men Ahead

This District Holds Record for Marine Enrolment from July 1 to 24

Officials Assert National Army Will Get Ten Months' Training Here

Washington, July 26.—Plans for vacating training encampments by the National Guard are being considered by the General Staff of the army. It was stated to-day on excellent authority that the cantonments probably will be available for fresh troops at the rate of one a month, beginning in January. As there will be approximately 30,000 men in each camp, this would mean that there would be available for transportation to France 30,000 men a month the first six months, after which larger numbers would be available. The details have not yet been worked out, but are understood to contemplate the evacuation of the National Guard cantonments, sixteen in number, at least four, and possibly six, months before the National Army's first increment of five hundred thousand men break camp. Military men asserted to-day that present plans call for a minimum of ten months' training for the National Army, and that this schedule will be adhered to barring the necessity for sending the men to the front at an earlier period. It was also believed that the second increment of five hundred thousand men for the National Army would not be called out before the end of the present fiscal year.

U. S. Should Join In Balkan Conference, Is View in England

By F. A. WRAY

London, July 26.—The fact that the United States is not represented in the Entente conference on the Balkan situation is regarded here as a grave error.

Although primarily the conference is concerned with the Balkans—the settlement of which problem, incidentally, largely concerns the United States—the deliberations must inevitably be devoted to the conduct of the war.

If the people of the United States mean business, then it is their fundamental duty to be strongly represented and to offer their allies in Europe the benefit of all their ideas concerning the great policies of the war. The absence of the United States delegates gives rise to the feeling that, after all, America means to be only a sleeping partner, and is either uninterested or unwakened to the issues involved.

So far as the Balkans are concerned, it is hoped that the conference will arrive at a definite decision as to the respective claims of Serbia, Greece, Russia and Rumania, eliminating the possible future influence of the Central Powers and formulating some definite scheme of settlement of territorial and political claims.

John Dillon's powerful speech in the Commons yesterday regarding the Salonica expedition and overtures of peace with Austria made by Serbia give matters a doubly serious turn. The conference may turn out to be one of the outstanding facts of the war.

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East Twenty-third Street announced ten enlistments yesterday. Thirty-nine applicants passed the physical tests but of this number only the ten were ready to sign up.

Holds Marine Record

Washington, July 26.—Regular army recruiting brought in 2,370 men yesterday.

A total of 181,377 has been enrolled since April 1, leaving the army only about 22,000 short of its full war strength.

Men Married Since June 5 Exempt, Ruling by Crowder

Trenton, N. J., July 26.—According to the interpretation placed by the military authorities here on a letter just received from Provost Marshal General Crowder in reply to inquiries, drafted men who have married or who shall marry before they are called for examination will not have to serve in the conscript army, if their brides are dependent upon them.

The impression has heretofore prevailed that registered young men who married after June 5 would not be exempt. The following paragraph of the provost marshal's letter, military authorities here say, seems to upset this impression and to establish a reverse ruling:

"In reference to marriage after June 5, 1917, it would seem in like manner that the claim of discharge because of dependency should be determined at the date of calling. If the person called is then a married man and has a wife at that time depending upon his labor in the sense in which that term is used in the rules and regulations, it would seem that he could be discharged from the service, if in the opinion of the board the claim is substantiated."

Farmers Form Board

They Aim to Co-ordinate Their Work With That of Nation

Washington, July 26.—Agricultural leaders from twenty-four states, meeting here to-day, formed the Federal Board of Farm Organizations, to co-ordinate the work of the farmer with that of the nation and to give the farmer greater influence and recognition in national affairs.

American Aviator Hurt

Paris, July 26.—Bennett Moulter, an American aviator in the French service, has been injured, but not dangerously, on the Belgian front by being pitched out of his machine on landing after a night flight over the German lines. Moulter fought for and against General Villa in Mexico.

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Home for the Week End

She has just alighted from the Possum Glory local at "The Small Town Station" which W. E. Hill portrayed so delightfully in last Sunday's Tribune.

Just as Briggs so vividly pictures the world of our youth, so Hill seizes upon a particular spot of America to-day and in "Among Us Mortals" gives us the most human conception of our national life ever traced by pen or crayon.

There have been writers, such as Dickens and O. Henry, for instance, who had the same magic touch of realism, but what they accomplished in pages Hill does in a six-word caption and one startlingly true drawing.

Next Sunday Hill shows us some interesting people and situations in "The Pullman Sleeper." If you've ever lined up at the washroom or crawled into an upper you're not going to let anything keep you from seeing The Sunday Tribune for July 29th. Yes, your newsdealer will hold your copy for you if you remind him to-day.

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American engineer, the first to propel a boat by steam. Original experiment made in 1803 at Paris. In 1807 Fulton built the Clermont, the first steamboat in America. It plied the Hudson river between New York and Albany.

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