

U. S. MUST CENTRALIZE WAR'S WORK

Co-ordination of Methods, So Sadly Lacking In War Department, Is Sought By Chamberlain Committee's Bill.

BAKER AND DANIELS WOULD LOSE POWERS

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—A department of munitions under a new cabinet head to be known as the secretary of munitions is proposed in a bill introduced today by Chairman Chamberlain of the senate military committee as a result of its investigation of war operation.

The new department would operate during the war and for one year thereafter. The bill has the backing of the senate committee and will be pressed strongly. The new secretary of munitions would have power under the president's direction to control arms, ammunition, food, clothing, equipment, transportation and all other materials the president shall designate as munitions of war.

AFFECTS ARMY AND NAVY.

Government bureaus, agencies and funds necessary to munitions administration would be transferred from the war and navy departments to the new department, which contemplates control of navy as well as army supplies.

"The bill is intended to increase and expedite the supply of munitions of war," said Senator Chamberlain. "The great trouble with the war establishment as disclosed by the investigation has been a lack of co-ordination and the seeming impossibility of getting rid of circuitous methods of doing business. Until there can be co-ordination and methods more direct in the dark for many months before we can place ourselves in proper fighting trim."

TO CENTER RESPONSIBILITY.

"This measure places all jurisdiction over munitions of war which are defined at length in the bill and centers every responsibility in one person known as the secretary of munitions, subject to the direction of course, of the president. It co-ordinates all the bureaus, cuts red tape, does away with the useless decisions which had tended only to hamper direct action and gets to the heart of the whole situation."

"I believe if congress can see its way to this measure and the proper man is placed at the head of the department of munitions, America will soon be occupying its proper place at the battle front. It will be noted that the measure is only in force during the continuance of the war which brings it into existence."

TO EXPEDITE INQUIRY.

The senate war inquiry was resumed today under a "speeding up" program adopted yesterday in executive session. Under the new arrangements detailed examination of witnesses will be curtailed to a marked extent and the general work of the investigation will be expedited.

The inquiry again today was given over to the testimony regarding clothing contracts let by the supplies committee of the council of national defense.

CONTRACTS TO COMMITTEEMEN.

The supply committee of the advisory commission of the council of national defense has directed the expenditure of \$300,000,000 for clothing and equipment for the army. Of this amount \$123,000,000 in contracts has gone to firms in which members of the supply committee have a business interest.

It is pointed out in the statement given by the supply committee in the military affairs committee on demand of Senator McKellar that most of these contracts were awarded before the men interested in the contracting firms became members of the supply committee and the true percentage of their participation in awards. Senator McKellar will ask for this additional information.

MAN IS INJURED BY LOADED COAL

Ft. Manison, Jan. 4.—C. E. Smith, formerly of Burlington, is in a serious condition at a local hospital as the result of injuries received when a piece of coal, evidently loaded, exploded.

Smith and a companion took a chunk of coal from a railroad car near the paper mill here and placed it on a fire they had lighted. There was an explosion. Smith was badly bruised about the face and head, and part of his clothing was burned away. The companion, who was some distance from the fire, although slightly injured, did not require surgical aid.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident, and the car from which the coal was taken is being carefully inspected. The belief is that a charge of high explosive had been placed in the coal which was destined for use on the Santa Fe railroad.

SALEM SOLDIER DIES.

Des Moines, Jan. 4.—A dispatch today from Camp Cody, Deming, N. M., reports the death from pneumonia of Private Earl C. Humphrey, Company M, 133rd infantry. His father, James Humphrey, resides in Salem, Iowa.

2,000 COSSACKS DIE; MUNITIONS ARE BLOWN UP

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 4.—A Haparanda dispatch to the Tidningen says that the munition depot on the Russian southern front was blown up recently and that all buildings within a radius of two kilometers were destroyed. Two trains loaded with cossacks on the way to the Don district were wrecked, causing the death of 2,000 men.

RAILROAD PROPERTY ONLY JUNK

Federal Inspectors Find Thousands of Cars Awaiting Repairs and Engines Neglected.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—Working under the direction of Interstate Commerce Commissioner McChord, a corps of inspectors has found that scores of locomotives, the lack of which is largely responsible for the slow movement of freight in the east, have been allowed to freeze during the last few days through negligence and improper attention. Shortage of repair men and machinists was reported from many localities.

MANY CARS USELESS.

In Conway yard, west of Pittsburgh on the Pennsylvania, 1,742 cars needing repairs were found, and less than half the number of repair men available a year ago are employed there now. In the Erie terminals at Buffalo 600 of the 3,000 cars needed repairs. This road was unable to deliver freight to the Grand Trunk and Nickel Plate because those lines were congested and lacked locomotives.

SCHEDULES ARE DISRUPTED.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 4.—Passenger train congestion on the Pennsylvania railroad here was worse today than at any time since the cold weather gripped the railroads and upset schedules. Only a few locomotives could be taken from the round houses and trains scheduled to leave Broad street station last night did not get started until between 8 and 9 o'clock this morning.

NO ENGINES AVAILABLE.

The New York local scheduled to leave at 12:30 a. m. waited until 8 o'clock for an engine. The Federal Express from Washington for Boston laid here over nine hours.

No trains departed on the Schuylkill Valley division for Reading, Pottsville and Wilkesbarre last night or early today because there were no locomotives to pull them.

WILL NOT DISCUSS PROHIBITION LAW

Jefferson City, Jan. 4.—There is little likelihood that action by the legislature relative to the ratification of a prohibition amendment to the constitution will be taken until the next regular session to be held in January, 1919. Governor Gardner has begun to feel pressure for action on the measure at the special session in the spring, but he has announced the matter must go over until the regular session.

More than eighty counties of Missouri are dry, and the drys appear more confident than ever that the legislature will elect enough dry representatives to put the measure through in record time. The last legislature was dry and passed nearly every dry measure that came before it.

MO. TEACHER SAID TO BE DISLOYAL

Chillicothe, Mo., Jan. 4.—J. W. Lind, a rural teacher, has had his license revoked by Superintendent of Public Instruction Luperin following a hearing on a charge of disloyalty. Lind has been teaching since 1886 and for a number of years was on the high school faculty at Moberly. At the hearing it was brought out that the teacher refused to accept an American flag and teach his pupils to salute it, refused to sign the food conservation pledge and before the declaration of war taught his pupils that Germany rather than the allies was right.

WORKMAN IS KILLED BY PHANTOM ENGINE

Council Bluffs, Jan. 4.—Attacked from behind by a runaway engine while he was turning a Union Pacific locomotive on a turntable here, Peter Tomcick, a laborer in the yards, was crushed to death between the two machines.

The workman was operating the turntable in the big roundhouse when the phantom engine, without engineer or fireman, slipped from its stall and rushed at him. He was caught between the pilot of the runaway and the cab of the engine on the table. Death was instantaneous.

Follow laborers said that Tomcick apparently did not see the oncoming engine and did not hear their shouts warning him of the danger.

COMMISSION PLAN IS BEING OPPOSED

Sioux City, Jan. 4.—An election is to be held here soon to vote on the proposition to do away with the commission form of government.

Mayor Andrews, slated for re-election on the republican ticket, asserts he will not be a candidate if the commission form is done away with.

RAMSEYER ASKS LAW TO MAKE IDLENESS CRIME IN WARTIME

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4.—Congressman C. W. Ramseyer, representative from the sixth Iowa district, introduced a bill in the house today designed to prevent and prohibit idleness in the United States during the period of the war. The bill is patterned largely on the laws enacted in West Virginia and proposed in other states. Mr. Ramseyer has been working on the draft for several weeks and announced his intention to introduce it in an interview with The Courier on the occasion of his visit to his home district in November.

"If it is proper, and it is, to draft men for military service in defense of the country," Mr. Ramseyer said, in talking of his bill, "it certainly is no less proper to adopt legislation which says to every man who is not contributing to the production of the land or its factories, 'You must go to work or stand convicted before the law.'"

"I am convinced there are enough men in America, between the ages of 18 and 65 years, to obtain maximum production from all the farms and factories of the nation, and at the same time to keep intact an army of three or four million soldiers."

"In Ottumwa, for instance, there are many men who are engaged in businesses which are not essential to the conduct of the war. In addition, there are many men who, having 'made their pile,' have retired from active life but who still are able to do a full day's work every day. Last and not least, there are many loafers, as we call them, who are able to exist some way—I don't know how—but who appear to be doing no work and certainly are not doing all they could or should."

"The same condition prevails in every city; Ottumwa is an average city in that respect. There is no reason, in my judgment, why a law should not be adopted compelling these men to go to work at some trade or business which will assist the government in the task which is greater than any other task can be—that of winning the war over Germany."

MAJOR PHILPOT NURSES CARRY RAPS HARDING MUCH MATERIAL

IOWA MILITARY LEADER SAYS GOVERNOR'S CRITICISM OF CAMP CODY IS POLITICS.

Camp Cody, N. M., Jan. 4.—Governor Harding's criticism of Camp Cody was all bunk and politics and you can quote me as saying so. He knows what I think of it and I told him the same back home," declared Major S. B. Philpot, commanding the One Hundred Twenty-fifth machine gun battalion (Iowa and Minnesota troops), upon his arrival here from a Christmas visit at his home in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Governor Harding assailed Camp Cody in the newspapers after he visited here a short time ago. He declared the camp was unhealthy and exaggerated in his descriptions of sand storms. Major Philpot is the first to challenge the governor's statements of the camp.

SCHOOLS TO OBSERVE STATE'S BIRTHDAY

Chillicothe, Mo., Jan. 4.—The 100th anniversary of the date of Missouri's application for admission to the Union as a state will be observed in the public schools of Chillicothe Tuesday, January 8, Sup't. A. L. Threlkeld announced today. The schools will be programs in each school arranged by principals and teachers. In the higher grades the children will recount the state's history and the deeds of her illustrious men and in the lower grades the programs will be more adapted to the age of the children. Patrons will be invited to attend programs in their respective districts.

NO MORE GERMAN EXISTS AT MANILA

Manila, Jan. 4.—Manila is to start the new year right. The Kaiser and his people can find any aid or comfort in the fact that German societies exist in the United States and that German is taught in the public schools here. Manila is doing its share to withdraw this aid and comfort.

While the school directors were meeting and voting to expel the German language from the schools, the Germania Verein also met and decided to go out of existence. Germania hall will exist no more. Manila is henceforth to be all American.

MISSOURI PLANS FOOD CONSERVATION

Springfield, Mo., Jan. 4.—The Missouri Retail Merchants' association has planned well under way for a movement of greater food conservation.

E. Black, secretary of the association, announced that the co-operation of more than 15,000 retailers in 260 cities will be sought. A card will be sent each containing a pledge to cut delivery to a minimum, encourage patrons to buy substitutes for wheat and meat products, and use more perishable foods.

MISSOURI WALNUT TO AID GOVERNMENT

Chillicothe, Mo., Jan. 4.—What is said to be the largest walnut tree in the world was cut by R. L. Odell, representing the Chillicothe Gun Stock Co., at the Howdeshell woods, south of town. The monster is valued at \$2,000 and will be used for gun stocks and aeroplane propellers. The Howdeshell tract includes something over 400 acres and the price for the trees run well up into figures.

RED CROSS AUCTION SALE AT ELDON JAN 9

Eldon, Jan. 4.—Wednesday, January 9, in the building formerly occupied by the Leader store, will be held an auction sale for the benefit of the Red Cross.

ICEBOUND EAST CAN'T GET COAL

Fuel Shortage Causes Suffering in Philadelphia and New York.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 4.—It is colder today than at any time since Sunday, the thermometer touching the zero mark. Reports from surrounding towns show temperatures as low as 14 degrees below.

No immediate relief from the coal shortage was forthcoming and thousands of householders spent another bitter cold day without fuel.

Demands for gas have been so great during the past week that it virtually has exhausted the reserve supply and the pressure has become so low that it is almost impossible to use a gas stove. Kerosene is also very scarce.

SIX SCHOOLS CLOSED.

An unprecedented rush for accommodations at hotels and apartment houses is being made.

Six public schools remained closed today and a large number of industrial establishments were forced to shut down because of the shortage of fuel.

Both the city and state fuel administrators said the situation was beyond their control.

NEW YORK IS ICEBOUND.

New York, Jan. 4.—The ice blockade in New York harbor and adjacent waters combined with another day of zero weather today caused much concern to the fuel administrators and transportation officials, who have been battling against odds in their endeavor to relieve the metropolis from its alarming shortage of coal.

Not in years has the ice menace of tons of coal on board virtually were ice bound in the bay last night.

OIL FAMINE IMPENDS.

The Hudson river is frozen down to 200th street, and the Harlem river to 140 street. For the first time in years Long Island sound has been partly frozen over and hundreds of persons skated today from New Rochelle to Execution Light, a distance of three miles.

Despite the handicap, Fuel Administrator Reeve Schley was hopeful of getting considerable coal here during the day.

As hundreds of families unable to get coal have been burning kerosene the supply has dwindled to such an extent that an oil famine is now feared.

COAL TRAINS RULE ROADS.

Columbus, O., Jan. 4.—For the first time in history solid trains of coal were being rushed through the union station with right of way over all other service today. The coal is consigned to the east.

WIND SPREADS FLAMES.

Hoboken, N. J., Jan. 4.—Firemen, United States soldiers and civilians aided by New York fireboats and railroad tugs brought a stubborn blaze under control after a fight of several hours in the heart of the industrial section, paralleling the government control water front here today.

A six story manufacturing plant containing paper and other mill supplies owned by the Gatti-McQuade company was destroyed with an estimated property loss of \$250,000. Numerous small fires, caused by sparks carried by a forty mile wind, were checked by the soldiers and citizens while the firemen, handicapped by weak water pressure, fought the flames in the Gatti-McQuade building. The fireboats prevented the flames from spreading to a number of ships loading with war supplies.

PLANS A HOLDUP; NABBED BY POLICE

Waterloo, Jan. 4.—Fred Thomas, an I. W. W. member who claims German parentage, with Mexico City, Mexico, as his home residence, was picked up by the police on a tip from his partner that he was about to hold up and rob a street car. This he has since admitted. He had a large quantity of I. W. W. literature at his room and on his person a "Savage" 32-caliber automatic pistol, loaded with nickel steel tipped bullets, which had been dipped in acid. He claims to speak five languages and is thought to have a record. He is being held for further identification.

BRAKEMAN DIES FROM INJURIES

Ft. Madison, Jan. 4.—Fletcher Shoemaker, aged 19 years, a brakeman on the Santa Fe, whose family home is located at Rayville, Mo., died in the Santa Fe hospital following injuries received at Wyaconda, Mo., while following his duties Tuesday morning.

The young man slipped and fell under the wheels of the train, the wheels passing over the left leg lengthwise, mashing it from the foot to the trunk. It was necessary to perform a hip operation in an effort to save his life.

FOREMAN GETS PRIZE.

Bonaparte, Jan. 4.—Joseph Cox, section foreman at Croton and son of Mrs. S. Cox of this place, has been presented a check for \$50 by officials of the Rock Island railway as a prize for showing more improvement on his section than was shown by any other foreman during the year 1917. The presentation took place at Des Moines last week.

RED CROSS CAMPAIGN.

Cedar Rapids, Jan. 4.—Although the exact figures for the Red Cross membership campaign which just closed here, have not yet been compiled, close and fairly accurate estimations were taken from a desk which the Linn county membership drive was held Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock of this 13,000 is given to Cedar Rapids and 11,000 to other parts of the county.

COLFAX HOTEL ARMY HOSPITAL

WAR DEPARTMENT MAY TURN IOWA HOSTELRY INTO RECONSTRUCTION INSTITUTION.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—The war department is considering the establishment at Colfax, Iowa, of one of the great reconstruction hospitals where soldiers wounded at the European front will be reclaimed and made useful to industry.

Lieutenant Colonel Ernest G. Bingham of the medical corps was ordered to Colfax a few days ago for the purpose of inspecting buildings and property with regard to suitability for use as a general hospital. The Colfax hotel property was what the war department had specifically in mind in sending the officer to Iowa.

PLAN HUGE HOSPITAL.

If the plans go through the Colfax property will be made into a huge hospital, accommodating several thousand men from Iowa and the adjoining states will be sent for recuperation.

It is planned also to establish a hospital at Excelsior Springs, Mo. In the east there will be hospitals in New York and Washington, and at other places where prospective sites are being investigated.

Specialists will be placed in charge of these hospitals whose main purpose will be to restore the men physically but to aid in making them useful in industry after their physical disabilities have been overcome. For instance, a man who loses an arm or a leg, who suffers from shell rock or loses sight or hearing will be given training in some work that he will be able to do in his crippled condition.

PRESIDENT DESIRES WATERPOWER LAWS

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—President Wilson has summoned several of the house leaders interested in water power legislation to a conference at the white house tonight with a view to expeditious action on some measure that will reconcile all differences. In the conference will be Chairman Ferris of the public lands committee, Chairman Sims of the interstate commerce committee, Chairman Pou of the rules committee, Representative Garrett of Tennessee, member of the rules committee, and others.

The president will seek to get all sides together to avoid repeating the deadlock that occurred on the subject last session.

IS LOOKING FOR MRS. RUTH CLAVER

An effort is being made by Mrs. Fred Cummings, of Omaha, Neb., to locate Mrs. Ruth Claver. Mrs. Claver was living in Albia eighteen years ago and Mrs. Cummings took her two weeks old baby to raise. She states in a letter to The Courier that the daughter is now sixteen years of age, pretty, bright and well educated and is very desirous of seeing her mother. The girl's grandparents lived in Foster where her uncle Jack's wife was killed by a train. Mrs. Claver has a brother, James Madison and a sister, Mrs. Barbara Miller. Mrs. Cummings is very desirous of locating Mrs. Claver and has asked The Courier to help her.

MINISTER REBUKED BY COMMISSIONER

Des Moines, Jan. 4.—Public dance halls in Des Moines were permitted to operate until dawn on New Year's Eve. The commissioner of public safety had decided to close them at 12:30 p. m., but ministers demanded that lights be "kept on" pretty early in the evening. The commissioner refused to acquiesce one preacher denounced the public official from the pulpit and compared him with the German kaiser.

The commissioner became wrathful, as a result, and announced: "The lid is off."

WILL FILL VACANCY CAUSED BY DEATH

Cape Girardeau, Mo., Jan. 4.—Plans are to be undertaken within a few days for a special election to fill the vacancy in the state senate as a result of the death of Senator Whiteledge. B. H. Marbury of Farmington and P. P. Hinchey of DeSoto both expect to make the race. The vacancy must be filled before the special session of the legislature which probably will be held in May.

SOLDIERS PUNISHED FOR HOLIDAY VISITS

Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 4.—"Absent without leave" is the charge against 1,000 Texas and Oklahoma soldiers here, all because of the holidays. These 1,000 were not in the 14,000 granted furloughs but went home anyway. About 200 of the men are already in the guard house serving out their terms. They say the holiday was worth the punishment.

ROBBERS KNOCK COMBINATION.

Davenport, Jan. 4.—Although they succeeded in knocking the combination from the safe, the burglars who entered the office of the Barr Dairy Co., 518 Brady street, Davenport, secured only a dollar watch. The watch thieves succeeded in breaking open. They did not break open the safe, although the combination was knocked off with a hatchet.

BUSINESS CHANGES OWNERS.

Albia, Jan. 4.—The Union Supply changed ownership when Harry Young bought the interest in his partner, E. Miller. The business will continue under the name of the Union Supply company.

THE TEMPLETON FUNERAL.

Eddyville, Jan. 4.—The funeral of Lemuel Templeton, who was found dead at his home early Tuesday morning, was held Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of his sister, Mrs. Josh Emanuel, with interment in Highland cemetery.

50 000 DODGE DRAFT CALLS

This Is General Crowder's Estimate; Ten to Each District.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—Fifty thousand real slackers in the United States is Provost Marshal General Crowder's estimate in his report to Secretary Baker. That calculation supposes that ten men in each registration district have escaped service without being caught.

While a few more than 250,000 of the more than 3,000,000 registered men failed to appear when called for examination, General Crowder estimates that 85,000 of them have gone into military service without notifying local boards. After deducting the aliases, General Crowder estimates that there are about 50,000 real slackers to be accounted for. Only a few more than 16,000 have been identified and a few more than 2,000 have been prosecuted.

The report shows that 928 Germans of draft age have been accepted for service in the national army. A total of 14,161 enemy aliens were accepted, the remaining being Austrians or Hungarians. The enemy alien registration was 279,431 of whom 104,672 were called to produce the 14,161 accepted. Aliens accepted make a total of 76,545.

MINNESOTA STARS CALLED TO SERVICE

Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 4.—Additional University of Minnesota athletes have been called into service by the mobilization of the Minnesota Base hospital unit. Ivan Dart, quarterback on this year's freshman eleven, Byron Morrison, counted as a sure point winner for the track squad, William Kennedy, basketball sub; Clinton Boo, of the athletic board; Arthur Plankers, roster king, and Wingate Anderson, assistant athletic manager, are in the unit. Dick Fisher, quarter miler, and Harold Timberlake, substitute on last year's basketball team, have been admitted to the third training camp for officers. "Rondy" Gillen, basketball captain, has applied for admittance to the balloon observation corps and Conrad Eckstein, line center for two years and a number of this year's basket ball team, have enlisted in the dental naval reserve.

JACKIES ADMITTED INTO THE BIG TEN

Great Lakes, Ill., Jan. 4.—After months of effort, Dr. John B. Eastman, athletic officer at the Great Lakes Naval station, has received official recognition from "Big Ten" coaches. The basketball schedule shows games with Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue and tentative bookings with Illinois Iowa and Wisconsin. Chicago was played on January 1.

The Jackies' success in carding the university teams practically means that contests also will be arranged by baseball. This assures the Great Lakes aggregation of plenty of high class competition during the period of the war.

CARPENTER WOULD WHIP KAISER FIRST

Paris, France, Jan. 4.—Georges Carpentier, French heavyweight champion, is too busy at his job of fighting the kaiser to heed any challenges by Jess Willard, world's heavyweight champion, for as small a thing as a mere fight in the squared circle.

"Just as soon as the kaiser is knocked out," the famous French fighter said today, "I'll be willing to take up Willard's challenge. Until that time I am going to be too busy fighting him to entertain any other ideas about fighting." Carpentier is a pilot aviator in the French flying corps. He was in Paris today on a brief period of leave from the front.

OSKALOOSA.

Carl Underwood, Ralph Crozier, Elmer Cheesman, Stanley Lewis and M. McDowell of Fremont, have returned to the Kemper Military school in Booneville, Mo., after spending their vacations at home in this city and Fremont. They report the school very crowded and doing good work. They all belong to the college band.

Misses Winnifred, Maude and Grace Brady returned home yesterday from a week's visit in Richmond.

School and college students have resumed work again after their vacation.

Marriage licenses were issued to Daniel W. Hohns, 26, and Henrietta Van Ganderen, 22, both of New Sharon.

John A. Lloyd Sr. died at his home here January 2, aged 77 years. He leaves a widow, one daughter, Mrs. Frank Youngberg of Eddyville and two sons John of this city and Arthur of Monroe.

Funeral services Friday Jan. 4 at residence, 31 North Elm street, at 1:30 p. m. Interment in Beason cemetery.

Prof. E. H. Stranahan of Penn college was in Camp Dodge Monday.

Fred Harby a well known young farmer living near Searsboro was killed by a horse Sunday and was badly injured.

Most of the business houses and institutions have completed the January income and are now engaged in making extensions.

Income Tax Collector G. V. Harriet arrived January 2 and opened an office in the court house. He will remain here until February 5, 1918.

The Red Cross campaign drive will continue until January 15 in order that Mahaska county may come up to their quota.

At the commercial club luncheon on Wednesday Superintendent J. P. Houston of the Minneapolis and St. Louis railway gave a speech on government supervision of railways in which he pointed out the advantages to be gained.