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DRAFT REQUIREMENTS

COORDINATION of draft requirements is one of the essentials of the service, according to conflicting reports appearing in recent papers. In one exemption boards are advised that new physical examinations are being promulgated calling for stricter methods in selecting men for the draft to the end that men with even remedial defects cannot be accepted for service. This refers especially to foot conditions, bad teeth or neglected physical ailments which have previously been no bar to the draftee. Men are wanted for immediate service, we are told, and only those in a fit physical condition are to be called. The excuse offered is that the military camps have not time to work over such registrants at the present time as all men accepted for the colors must be in shape to go to Europe with the least possible loss of time in the training camps. Yet on the same day that this order went forth there appeared an official statement to the effect that Secretary Baker had sent to congress the draft of a bill to raise the maximum limit for voluntary enlistments in the army from 40 to 55 years. The explanation of this course is given as follows: "Many men whose long experience as mechanics will make them particularly valuable to the various staff corps and departments may be thus secured instead of younger men without that experience and the efficiency of the staff corps and departments will thus be increased." Staff corps positions include many duties behind the front. Every headquarters unit includes a number of positions for which the older men would be just as well suited as the present occupants who, under the new plan would be released for line duty.

This may be all right but there does not appear to be any reason in rejecting young men of draft age simply because they do not measure up to certain standards and then go and take men of advanced years. The draft will include plenty of candidates for every possible branch of service and it would appear to be a better and simpler system to take those who come under the draft law than to further disrupt industrial conditions by enlisting older men who naturally cannot stand as good a physical test as younger candidates, although the latter may have a minor defect that technically bars them from serving their country under the rigorous laws of the trenches. Probably there will be found some way out of the dilemma, but it is unreasonable to release youths from the draft and at the same time be bidding for the services of men old enough to be their fathers.

TRAINING MARKSMEN

SUCH organizations as the Tonopah Rifle club and the Manhattan Rifle club should receive better encouragement from the government since they are engaged in the most effective form of training men for the ranks. These clubs maintain their own shooting grounds, buy their own rifles and ammunition and devote a great deal of time to the task of fitting themselves for defense of their country or homes. The recognition extended them is so very meager that it amounts to nothing and the whole responsibility is thrown on the individuals. It was at the opening of hostilities that General Pershing expressed a desire to secure good riflemen. He deprecated the bayonet and constant use of the hand grenade which he remarked took too much time of the man engaged in fighting a real enemy. In other words, the general thought it was easier to fire a bullet after a retreating foe than to engage in a sprinting contest that the pursuer might overtake his enemy and puncture his hide with a bayonet. The use of the bullet, in the estimation of General Pershing, is a material time saver and ever since he has constantly urged the war department to pay close attention to the education of recruits in the use of the rifle and the cultivation of a certainty about shooting so as to eliminate the waste of powder and steel. Lord Kitchener had the same idea and Lord Roberts during the Boer war said he did not care a whoop for the appearance of his army so long as he knew they knew how to handle a rifle and handle it with alacrity and sureness. This present system of campaigning calls for expert marksmanship since the sniping industry has become an integral part of the work of keeping No Man's Land free from prowlers.

There are hundreds of skilled marksmen in this country now beyond military age who have displayed their skill in rifle matches. Such men could qualify as musketry instructors at sixty years or more of age. One of the things that baffles opticians and oculists is the skill displayed by old men at the targets, and some eye specialists class it as instinct. Such men could teach recruits how to aim, how to allow for wind and changing light and how to cure gun shyness. The country needs every man who can teach the art of the sniper and also of snap shooting at close range.

The dear people have to foot the bills after all, just what Mr. Hughes told the country when he was making his campaign two years ago. If you doubt this you are referred to the advance in freight rates decreed by the railroad administration which will yield the railroads \$800,000,000 when the new advance in wages only calls for an outlay of \$300,000,000.

The Hun is getting a taste of the Yankee dexterity in mastering new weapons and is fighting shy of our birdmen, who are taking to the air as a goshing does to water. Wait until the boys get broken in and then they will be taking excursion jaunts to Berlin.

Jeremiah O'Leary, the man who jumped his bond on a sedition charge, is a fair type of the Prussianized Irish who are willing to use this country to cloak their scheming. At the first sign of danger he skipped and left his brother to hold the sack in bonds of \$100,000.

Berlin must have forgotten the necessity for caution when it permitted an explanation from a Sinn Feiner to go out under a Berlin date.

ARMY SURGEONS, UNSUNG HEROES OF SERVICE, SUFFER HARDSHIPS

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE (Correspondence of the Associated Press), April 24.—One of the unsung heroes of the war is the military surgeon. No man has been harder worked in the tremendous fighting of the past few weeks, and his work has been in most cases far from pleasant. There is not the same romantic stimulus for the medical man that there is for the infantry or artillery officer. It is one thing to dash about under fire intent on killing or being killed; it is another thing to dash about under fire and take the same risks while calmly attending to those with wounds from which all other

men as they pass avert their heads. "Thank God, I am not a doctor," said an officer who had been detailed to inspect a number of improvised casualty clearing stations along the front during a recent attack. The regimental surgeon in the British army has in his charge the well-being of more than a thousand men. When there is no fighting on, he has plenty to do. He has to strike a happy medium in discouraging the faint-hearted, who come to him as a means of obtaining a fortnight's rest, and in holding out a helping hand to those who are in real distress. If he is too lenient, the commanding of-

ficer begins to ask whether he intends to deplete the whole regiment; if he is too harsh the junior officers and men lose patience. The doctor is the only officer in the regiment, however, who is the fortunate possessor of a cart, but this leads to numerous complications. There are some thirty-odd officers in the regiment, and each one of them has some few trifles which must go in that cart. If he is weak enough to take them, the cart is overloaded and before long breaks down and precious medical stores have to be abandoned. If he refuses to take them, his position in the officers' mess becomes well nigh unbearable.

A COMMUNICATION

Because we would not allow this Merchants association to curtail and regulate our established methods of business, they immediately started to injure us in every way they could. They have compelled the local wholesalers to not sell to us, except for cash; they have attempted to ruin our good standing with outside wholesalers; they have informed visiting drummers not to sell to us under penalty of having their own orders cancelled, and, we are informed, they have demanded of the freight depot, Wells-Fargo, and even the postoffice, to be advised when, and from whom, we are receiving any goods.

We have suffered all this in silence, but when, in their published statement of their "objects and aims," they seek to discredit us before the people of Tonopah, and declare we are "hardly patriotic," they have stooped to methods we thought them incapable of. PATRIOTISM! what indiscretions are committed in thy name!

We wish to state that this month we have paid to the government over \$600 in war tax. Is that not helping win the war? We have subscribed to every Liberty bond issued; have bought more in some cases than we could afford, and our check for \$20 to the Red Cross this month we regret could not be at least five times as much. One of our firm is an active member of the Council of Defense and the Home Guards, the other is on the committee for the sale of Liberty bonds, and then because we do not abide by the wishes of some of our competitors they hold us up before the public as "hardly patriotic." Whatever we suffer at the hand of this association, we will never consent to stoop to the methods of declaring to the public that they are "hardly patriotic."

We believe that the members of this association are patriotic, that the members of this association are above reproach in regard to patriotism; we also believe that this unwarranted attack upon us was influenced by some of our business competitors, who seek to show that it is "hardly patriotic" to sell some needy wife a pound of butter, or a sack of salt, only during the hours in which they have always conducted their business. We joined this association when it was organized. A rule they laid down in regard to taking new customers was not lived up to by some of our competitors. At least three grocers refused to join this association, and they took in four local wholesalers, a hardware man, a man engaged in the real estate business, and an auto supply man. While still members of this organization, we finally agreed, after many conferences, to close our business as they wished, if they could compel three non-member grocers to do likewise. This they were unable to do, but insisted that we close. One member of this association, who does not happen to handle groceries, does not abide by this 6 o'clock closing rule, and offers in explanation that one of his competitors, who is not a member, keeps open. This association evidently allows him to violate this rule, but refuses to extend the same privilege to us. Was it because we were in the grocery business that this difference was made? We have in the past, and intend in the future, to abide by every suggestion from the government and food administration, and shall strictly adhere to the same. As we understand this suggestion of the food administration to conserve and curtail expenses was for the purpose of giving the consumer the advantage of the saving. Do not our prices compare favorably with our competitors in this association? We believe the law of competition rules the prices in Tonopah as well as elsewhere. Is this association fearful that we may have to raise the price of our goods beyond theirs, as a result of keeping open longer than they see fit? Is it not reasonable to suppose that if we are under more expense than they, and have to raise our prices, that they will reap

the benefit and receive the trade? After this association forced us on a cash basis with local wholesalers we ordered our vegetables shipped twice a week from Los Angeles. Maybe they were not any better than we could procure here, but we imagined so, and we found that we could get them cheaper and gave our customers the advantage of the difference. Would this association also declare this to be "hardly patriotic"? Does this association imagine that the consumers of this town are chateaus of theirs, to do with as they see fit, to dictate to them what they may or may not do? We are of the opinion, that the consumers would only suffer a temporary inconvenience if every grocery in town would close, for we know that people can and have sent outside for their groceries. Yes, it is "really inspiring" to see how some of the members of this association have entered into the spirit of the times in trying to injure and discredit us. When they point the finger of scorn at us and shout "hardly patriotic," they have in our opinion, tendered us the greatest insult at their command. Are insult and slander to take the place now of injury? Gentlemen, we hardly thought you capable of this.

If this Merchants association wishes and succeeds in "flinging from us our good name in this community, then they rob us of that which will benefit them not, and leave us poor indeed." The land of our birth is in the hands of the enemy, its humble homes are a shambie, its women have been murdered and enslaved, and still we are accused by this association of being "hardly patriotic" to our adopted country. We, who some of the members of this Merchants association are pleased to refer to as "Bohunks," came to this country when quite young, received most of our education in your free American schools, became naturalized citizens, married our wives here, and our children were born in this great and glorious country, and we hope, and expect, to raise and educate them in the fundamental principles as laid down by the organizers of this great republic. We glory in this country's history and achievements; we are proud of our citizenship and pledge not our fortunes, for we have none, but our lives and our sacred honor for her success in this, her great hour of need.

We wish to state that this letter is not written for business purposes, but purely and solely for the object of vindication. We have lived long enough in this country to be instilled with the measure of that Yankee independence to resent any imputation upon our honor. If this Merchants association wishes to band together for their mutual benefit, and that of the consumers of the town, we are with them first, last and all the time; but we want them to know that they cannot coerce or intimidate us while engaged in the legitimate prosecution of our business.

(Signed) HORACE CHIATOVICH, PETE PEKO. AdvM281

BRITISH GOVERNMENT RUNS JAM FACTORIES

(By Associated Press) LONDON, May 28.—The capacity of the factories in which the government makes jam for the army and navy is to be trebled this year. The government started jam making last year with ten factories which converted 10,000 tons of fruit into jam. A few months hence thirty factories will dispose of 30,000 tons of fruit. The principal fruits handled are sour apples and plums. Strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries are also used to a smaller extent.

Richard Gudke, a German military critic, "assumes that American forces are sailing over the ocean," but, of course, he could not go so far as to admit that they are landing anywhere.—New York World.

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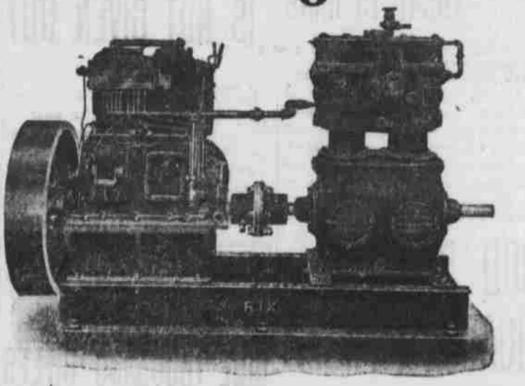
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