

# The Big Stone Gap Post.

VOL. XXVI,

BIG STONE GAP, WISE COUNTY, VA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1918.

No. 2

## Young Men

### Without Dependents Must Do the Fighting

Washington, Jan. 3.—All men for the war armies still to be raised by the United States will come from the Class One under the new selective service plan. That means the nation's fighting is to be done by young men without families dependent upon their labor for support and unskilled necessary industrial or agricultural work.

Provost Marshall General Crowder announces the new policy in an exhaustive report upon the operation of the selective draft law submitted today to Secretary Baker and sent to Congress. He says Class One should provide men for the all fighting needs of the country and to accomplish that object urges amendments of the draft law so as to provide all men who have reached their twenty-first birthdays since June 5, 1917, shall be required to register for classification. Also in the interest of fair distribution of the military burden, he proposes that the quotas of State or districts be determined hereafter on the basis of the number of men in Class One and not upon population.

Available figures indicate, the report says, there are 1,000,000 physically and otherwise qualified men under the present registration who will be found in class one, when questionnaires have been returned and the classification period ends February 15.

To this one extension of registration to men turning 21 since June 5 of last year and thereafter will add 700,000 effective men a year.

## Community Meeting

An event of great and vital interest to all the citizens of Big Stone Gap will be the Community Meeting and public debate on the advisability of establishing a public school in the L. & N. section of town, in the High School auditorium, at 8 p. m. Friday, January 11. The question is "Resolved, that a Public School should be established next year in the L. N. section of Big Stone Gap."

Two teams, each composed of three representative citizens of Big Stone Gap, will uphold respectively the affirmative and negative of this question. After the set debate the question will be thrown open for general discussion by those present, and a vote on the sentiments of the gathering will be taken.

At a community meeting it is in order to bring up any subject of general interest to the people of the community. On Friday night the people of Big Stone Gap will have the first opportunity of hearing our new farm demonstration agent, Mr. D. D. Sizer, who will speak briefly on Big Stone Gap's part in the government's campaign for increased food production.

In addition to the discussions there will be a pleasing musical program.

Mayor William Nickels will preside at the community meeting. The debaters are as follows: Affirmative, Messrs. Geo. L. Taylor and Hugh Slemple and Mrs. D. B. Sayers; Negative, Messrs. C. C. Cochran and W. T. Goodloe and Mrs. R. E. Taggart.

The public is cordially invited and a large gathering of citizens is expected.

## Boy Scout Notes

Carl Knight, Editor

Here is an item for the parents of Scouts and the parents of boys who should be Scouts but are not. What is the future holding in store for your boy. As he sows so shall he surely reap. What scouting does for boys is well set out in an article in scouting which is quoted in part:

About one boy in fifty will remain after the feast and of his own accord offer to help clear things up or to wash the dishes. A number of others would help if asked. A stone is on the pavement where traffic is passing. Autos may hit it and skid, or it may be a piece of glass. One boy in fifty will stop and pick it up and put it off the road where it will do no damage where forty-nine boys will pass by and never think or care about who is damaged by it.

The fiftieth boy is the one who wants in business, in position of trust in any occupation where carefulness is necessary. By this we do not wish to be understood as saying that only one boy in fifty will learn to be careful, for a majority of the boys in time do learn by experience to be careful and thoughtful; it sometimes takes costly experience to teach them. And here is where the trouble lies. Forty-nine boys do not heed what is told them about being thoughtful and careful where one boy does, and the forty-nine learn in the costly school of experience; I said forty-nine, that is wrong, for one or two die in the learning through their own carelessness.

Scouting makes a fiftieth boy of more than half the boys who engage in it. The observance of the Scout law makes a boy careful, thoughtful, reliable and helpful. In looking for a chance to do a good turn a Scout becomes thoughtful of others. He forgets self and seeks others' good. Doing good turns becomes a habit with him. This makes friends for him, friends of the right sort. Good turns are like good seed sown in good ground—they bear a crop and always come back with increase to the one who does them.

The Scouts now in the troop need the co-operation of parents. The troop year begins February first. There will be new activities and a continuation of the regular scout work.

Watch the Post for the Boy Scout Notes during the next few weeks and fill the ranks of the Scouts with manly boys.

The Scouts mid-winter hike took place the week before Christmas. They went down Powell's River about five miles, where they cooked dinner in real scout style; the menu was bacon, potatoes fried and baked, beans and soups. Nature furnished fruit desert in the form of delicious persimmons. Some class.

Following the feast there was a snow ball fight of an hour's duration at Hay Stack Knob. Every scout was wounded and the Scout master was literally shot to pieces, but all were happy and speedily restored by the first orders.

The President said: "I hear criticism and a claimor of the noisy, thoughtless and troublesome." And he could not have more fittingly described them if he had searched the dictionary for adjective.

War saving stamps makes it possible for every citizen of this country, every man, woman and child within our borders, to do SOMETHING to aid their government in her great need. Will you do YOUR share?

## Billion Dollars For Proposed National Military Highways

The following from the Manufacturers Record will be of interest to the citizens of Southwest Virginia:

Charles Henry Davis, president of the National Highway Association, is organizing a drive to get \$1,000,000,000 for national military highways to be expended directly after peace is declared, to force business prosperity while the big adjustment is taking place.

The original route of the Roosevelt Highway is up the three southeastern Kentucky rivers, Cumberland, Big Sandy and Kentucky rivers. The branch up the Cumberland starts from Louisville and traverses the Cumberland through Harlan county to Big Stone Gap, Va. This branch has the backing of the Louisville Board of Trade and the steel corporation interests located in Harlan county, as well as every coal interest in Harlan county.

The branch up the Kentucky River, known as the Lexington-Norton Interstate Highway, has been approved by Governor Stanley of Kentucky, and has the backing of the Standard Oil coal interests in Letcher county as well as Lexington, and all the towns from Lexington to Norton are more or less organized, ready for the big drive.

The branch up the Big Sandy River is to be known as Ports mouth to Bristol Highway, with Henry Roberts, president of the Appalachian Highway Association, back of it. The cities of Portsmouth, Ironton and Huntington have pledged their fullest co-operation.

Mr. Davis, president of the National Highway Association, owns 100,000 acres of Harlan's choicest coal lands, and is counted on to head the big drive for the Roosevelt National Military Highway. Mr. Henry Roberts of Bristol has stated that he would handle the Big Sandy River branch from Portsmouth to Bristol, by way of Coeburn and down Clinch River. The hearty approval this Roosevelt National Military Highway is getting from every quarter in this immense coal and iron field assures its construction at the very earliest possible moment; and it is hoped to start the movement at a meeting now being arranged to mobilize the coal interests in Kentucky. The War Department will send an expert to Southeastern Kentucky to mobilize the owners of 50,000,000,000 tons of coal to plan ways and means of increasing the output easily 100 per cent, and Col. Roosevelt will be invited to attend this meeting.

R. G. Rhett of Charleston, S. C., president of the National Chamber of Commerce, recognized as one of the biggest boosters in the United States, is keenly alive to the possibilities of Charleston as a tide-water outlet for the immense Kentucky resources, and his several letters to the recognized leaders in this field have gone a long way toward bringing some very progressive ideas to a head. Mr. Rhett's interest in this project already manifested in a substantial way, calculated to give added impetus to the movement now well under way.

"Lightless nights" are planned by the Fuel Administration as an additional measure for saving coal.

## Great Army

### Will be Sent to France as Rapidly as Possible

Washington, Jan. 2.—An engagement by the United States to send a great army against the Germans in time to offset the defection of Russia was disclosed today through the publication by Secretary Lansing of a review of the work of the American mission which recently participated in the inter allied war conference at Paris.

American fighting men are to cross the Atlantic as rapidly as they can be mustered and trained. France and Great Britain on their part undertake not only to join in providing ships to carry them, but to see that any deficiencies in arms and equipment are made up on the other side.

This was one of the great decisions reached at the conferences through which the cobelligerents planned to pool their fighting resources and move as a unit toward driving the Germans and their allies out of conquered territory and crushing the Teutonic world dominating scheme. There is to be coordinated effort not only in fighting on land and sea, but in production at home and in the vast shipbuilding projects upon which depends the vital problem of maintaining uninterrupted transportation in spite of submarines.

Even before Colonel House and his associates of the American mission reached home the machinery to again speed up war preparations here had been set in motion. In today's announcement is seen the explanation of the reorganization of War Department control embraced in the formation of the new war council of general officers, of renewed efforts to speed up the shipping board's merchant building program, and possibly of the decision of the administration to take over all the nation's railroads without waiting for action by Congress.

Further indications of new pressure applied since the House mission returned are manifest about the Navy and War departments, but most of the things being done cannot be discussed publicly for military reasons. It can be stated authoritatively, however, that definite steps to make good the pledges given to the allied leaders by Colonel House have already been taken.

The first recommendation of the mission is for "entire military, naval and economic" unity of action between the powers opposed to Germany. That is regarded as having been accomplished.

The summary of the military conferences attended by General Bliss shows that an agreement to "pool resources for the mutual advantages of all" was entered into. There follows this significant statement:

"The contribution of the United States to this pooling arrangement was agreed upon. The contributions likewise of the countries associated with the United States were determined. The pooling arrangement guaranteed that full equipment of every kind would be available to all American troops sent to Europe during this year 1918."

Looking beyond 1918 the United States will have no need to seek military equipment of any kind away from home. Before the present year ends its

full war resources will have been made available.

The third recommendation of the mission to which the country is now committed is for extension of the American shipping board program, "systematic coordination of resources of men and materials," to produce the necessary ships is urged upon government and people alike.

Under a resolution adopted by the inter allied conference, a unified use of ship tonnage was agreed upon which would permit "the liberating of the greatest amount of tonnage possible for the transportation of American troops." A policy to govern the use of neutral tonnage was agreed upon. Port facilities at debarkation points for American forces were inspected and steps taken to permit the return of vessels to their home ports with the least possible delay.

Even as the nature of this agreement which has bound all the resources of more than half the world into one force to defeat Germany was being published, definite action toward making it good was in progress also in Paris. Assistant Secretary Crosby of the Treasury Department, who remained as President of the inter allied council, officially described as a priority board, met there today with the financial representatives of the other powers to discuss questions of credit and to which of the allies further American loans are to go.

The decision to keep American troops moving to Europe in a steady stream makes another advance in the government's war plans. Originally it was proposed to use all available tonnage for the transportation of supplies and munitions and to send no soldiers over until they had been given a year's training. This was changed when Marshal Joffre came to the United States with word that France wanted at once any number of Americans who could come to put the Stars and Stripes on the firing line, and hear the French soldiers wearied by their long battle against the invaders.

## Armenian Funds

The following are the amounts sent to the Armenian and Syrian Relief since that committee has existed:

June 20, .....	\$80 27
June 28, .....	10 10
July 11, .....	35 56
July 18, .....	32 25
July 26, .....	71 79
Aug. 1, .....	13 00
Aug. 11, .....	5 00
Aug. 22, .....	18 25
Sept. 5, .....	29 10
Sept. 27, .....	7 00
Oct. 4, .....	16 50
Nov. 8, .....	71 06
Nov. 12, .....	69 39
Nov. 20, .....	17 15
Dec. 19, .....	53 40
Total	\$500 82

Mrs. H. A. W. Skeen, Local Treas.

## FAVORS EQUALITY IN TAX LAWS

### Prominent Banker Says Intangible Property Should Be Taxed at Uniform Rate

Declaring in favor of uniform tax rates on intangible property, bankers of this vicinity are in hearty accord with the views recently expressed by Oliver J. Sands of Richmond. Said Mr. C. S. Carter, the progressive President of the Interstate Fi-

nance Trust Company of Big Stone Gap to a representative of this paper:

"Bank share holders want to be placed in the same class as other intangible property owners." Said Mr. Carter "Banks have always been recognized as necessary instrumentalities of the Government, created and chartered for the purpose of aiding the Government, and the share holders of bank stock want to be treated just as stock holders in any other corporation. It is to be remembered that many of our shareholders have no voice in the Government. You should be surprised to know the amount of stock in our bank held by widows and orphans, for whom it is our duty to speak and to ask justice at the hands of the lawmakers."

He said further, "Uniformity in the law, and the taxing of shares of bank stock at the same rate as other intangible property is a contention that the bankers of the state will make at the coming session of the General Assembly. Oliver J. Sands, President of the American National Bank, and Chairman of the Taxation Committee of the Virginia Bankers' Association, says 'Owners of the bank stock simply want to be placed in the same class with the owners of other intangible property'.

Discussing the inequality of the tax rate, Mr. Sands calls attention to the fact that bank stock is taxed at \$1.50 on the \$100.00, while other intangible property is taxed at 95 cents. Recently the Governor and Auditor of Public Accounts have suggested a decrease from the 95 cents to 80 cents on the \$100.00. Mr. Sands thinks that holders of bank stock should be treated with the same consideration.

"I understand," said Mr. Sands, "that the Auditor of Public Accounts and the Executive Assistant to the Tax Board are unequivocally in favor of a law placing the shares of bank stock on the same footing with other intangible property'.

Bankers throughout Virginia are in accord with the views expressed by Mr. Sands and the matter will be forcefully placed before the Legislature next month."

## George Hurd.

### Commended for Bravery in France

At a recent meeting of the Town Council the following resolution regarding George Hurd, of this place, who is now fighting with General Pershing's army in France, and who was recently commended by the French Government for bravery, was unanimously adopted:

It having come to the knowledge of the Council that one of our fellow townsmen, George Hurd, has distinguished himself for bravery on the battle fields of France and impelled by loyalty to our Country, and a just pride in the valor of the men we have sent forth to represent us on those bloody fields. It is unanimously Resolved that the thanks of the Council, as representative of the loyal people of the town, be extended to him, with the hope that he and all others of our brave sons may return safe to us.

Be it further Resolved that the Recorder be instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the said George Hurd, and the same be placed upon the records of the Town.