

Demobilization

of Troops in Camp to Begin Immediately.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Movement of American troops across the Atlantic has stopped entirely and demobilization of troops in cantonments and camps at home is under way.

General March, chief-of-staff, made this announcement today, outlining the War Department's plans in answer to the questions the country has been asking since the day the armistice was signed and it became apparent that the war was over. He said orders already issued would send 200,000 men back to civil life within two weeks, and that when the plan was in full swing about 30,000 would quit the army daily.

Fighting divisions of General Pershing's army in France will be demobilized as fast as possible in their home communities. The chief of staff would make no prediction as to when the first divisions would start home. It appears probable, however, that the flow of returning troops can be in full tide before February.

Some officers regard it as possible that certain divisions may be recalled in advance of the general return movement. General March indicated that the Forty-second (Rainbow) division, because it is composed of men from 26 states and in recognition of the fighting record it has made in France, would be marked for special treatment. The Twenty-sixth (New England National Guard) and the Forty-first (Sunset) divisions are in the same class, so it would not cause surprise, therefore, if these three organizations should be designated by General Pershing as the first to return. With six weeks of 1918 left it is possible they may be home before New Year's day.

Supplementing the statement of General March, Secretary Baker said it would not be necessary to maintain all the existing cantonments for demobilization purposes and that a study was now being made of those desirable for that purpose. The others, with all the divisional camps, he indicated, will be abandoned as soon as the men now occupying them have been mustered out.

The demobilization will be carried out in the following order:

First, development battalions, 71 in number and comprising 98,199 men.

Second, conscientious objectors not under arrest.

Third, spruce production division.

Fourth, central training schools for officers with some modifications.

Fifth, United States guards, now numbering 135,000 men.

Sixth, railway units.

Seventh, depot brigades.

Eighth, replacement units.

Ninth, combat divisions.

"We have in the United States now something like 1,700,000 men and to muster out a force of that kind, of course, will take some time," said General March.

"Each man has to be examined physically, his final accounts made so that the men may get compensation they are entitled to.

"The orders that have already

been issued affect some 200,000 men. I expect to muster them out in two weeks. When the machine is in full operation we expect to release 30,000 men a day.

"In handling this problem of demobilization one of the features which had to be considered was the subsequent retaining of men for the regular army, or what will be the regular army, when Congress passes laws reorganizing that army. When the war broke out there were only a limited number of such men in the service and the great number of men who filled out these units were men who voluntarily enlisted for the period of the war. So we have offered these men who came in for the period of the war the option of re-enlisting if they care to.

"We have offered an immediate honorable discharge with a furlough of one month upon re-enlistment and we propose to ask Congress to give every single man who has been honorably discharged one month's pay, whatever his grade is, as a bonus.

"As men are discharged, we take up the question of officers. Officers who want to apply for commissions in the regular army will be considered; officers who want to put themselves in a class where they can be used for future military operations will be offered commissions in the reserve corps. The rest of them will be discharged.

"I have cabled General Pershing to return to the United States on troop transports all the men who are casuals or convalescents, sick and wounded, who are able to be moved.

"We propose when the divisions come back from France to have them mustered out in the vicinity of their homes.

"With reference to casualties in the American expeditionary forces I cabled General Pershing to report in plain English and not in code, so as to save time, the name of every man killed, wounded and missing up to the time of the armistice not hitherto reported."

GASOLINE CAUGHT FIRE

What came near being a disastrous fire and explosion occurred on last Friday afternoon in front of J. A. Morris' automobile supply station on Wood Avenue, when gasoline was being emptied from the supply wagon into a large tank buried in the ground at the sidewalk. While the gasoline was being emptied into the tank a passerby accidentally threw a lighted match to the curb and it struck the funnel through which the gasoline was flowing and instantly ignited it, causing an angry looking fire for a few minutes. The flames leaped fully twenty feet in the air, but by the use of fire extinguishers in Mr. Morris' store and some brought by Messrs. I. C. and J. R. Taylor from the Amuzu Theatre the fire was soon extinguished before it done much damage. A number of people thought the gasoline tank would explode and left the scene in a hurry but those with the fire extinguishers rushed to the fire and by putting it out and saved the town, doubtless, from a disastrous explosion and fire, for which they are commended by every one for their presence and bravery.

The upholster on Mr. Morris' automobile, which was standing near by, was scorched and the tires damaged some.

Hold Your Liberty Bonds.

Don't surrender your Liberty Bond, conditionally or unconditionally.

Financial Plan

New Liberty Loans Will Total Nine Billions.

Washington, Nov. 13.—A financial plan to meet the transition period from war to peace in the business world already is assuming tentative form.

Features of the plan at present under consideration by W. G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, and congressional leaders are:

A heavy reduction in the tax bill to give a spur to business, with, however, a retention of the profits.

The excess profits tax is likely to be eliminated.

At least two more large bond issues to bring in a minimum of \$9,000,000,000 and provide for a continuance of credit to the allies until peace is proclaimed.

A resort to short-term certificates of indebtedness, running from one to three years, for any further financing necessary in carrying over the readjustment period, these notes to be amortized by a surplus of taxation that will result as the expenses and current demands on the treasury gradually decrease.

A continuance of credits to the allies will be necessary, it is pointed out, if America is to market her peace products abroad.

The allied countries will require great quantities of food, which can be paid for only by exchange of products or by financial credits. It will be at least a year before these countries can exchange commodities in any great volume.

The allies will be asked to convert their present credits, amounting to \$8,000,000,000, into long-term obligations, with maturity dates equivalent to those for the Liberty Loans.

A movement, said to be growing in certain quarters, to cancel these loans, or a part of them, as an expression of this nation's gratitude, finds no favor with the administration, nor is it sought by the allies.

Order Men Out Of Draft

But Classification of Youths Will Be Continued by Local Boards.

Washington, Nov. 14.—Men between 35 and 45 years of age who have received but not filled out questionnaires were asked today by Provost Marshal General Crowder to return them in blank form to local boards. The boards are instructed to cancel all entries relating to men of these classes, and they will be considered as no longer bound by the selective service law.

Classification of youths of 18, which will be continued, is regarded by the general staff of the army as most valuable for statistical purposes, and its bearing upon possible future military problems.

Draft boards also have been notified of the possibility that they may be needed as the active local agents in governmental demobilization plans.

BOSCHEE'S SYRUP

Will quiet your cough, soothe the inflammation of a sore throat and lungs, stop irritation in the bronchial tubes, insuring a good night's rest, free from coughing and with easy expectoration in the morning. Made and sold in America for fifty-two years. A wonderful prescription, assisting nature in building up your general health and throwing off the disease. Especially useful in lung trouble, asthma, croup, bronchitis, etc. For sale by Kelly Drug Company.

Committees To Aid In Industrial Plan

Will Play Important Part in Industrial Conversion After the War.

Washington, Nov. 14.—The war time service committees named for more than 300 groups of interests to cooperate with government agencies in putting the country's industry and trade on a war basis are looked to now, officials said today, to assist in the great task of industrial conversion to peace conditions. These committees now plan a federation into a few large industrial and commercial groups, which in turn will be federated into one unit. This will represent a larger portion of business interests of all kinds than any organization now in existence.

The federation will be effected, according to present plans, at a conference of the war service committees at Atlantic City December 3, 4, 5 and 6 arranged under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. This conference will discuss many reconstruction questions, such as methods of cancelling contracts, continuation of government control, further stabilization of prices, means of better working out better relations with labor, continuation of the conservation of materials and labor, needs for government financial assistance during the conversion period and absorption into business of returning soldiers.

At this conference also information will be gathered systematically on estimated needs for materials, labor and credit in the next year, stocks of materials on hand, outstanding financial obligations to the government and similar subjects.

The County Election Next

The 1918 election is over and the result is very gratifying to the Republicans all over the county. The 1919 election at which time all county officers will be elected in this state is the next of importance to the people in this section. Soon after the first of the year candidates will begin to make their announcement for the various county offices. There seems to be a strong sentiment in favor of nominating and electing the present officeholders who are as follows: R. W. Holly, Treasurer, C. R. McCorkle, Commonwealth's Attorney, W. B. Adlington, Sheriff, with the exception of W. B. Hamilton, clerk who has declined to be a candidate any more. Mr. Hamilton, has served fourteen years in the clerk's office, six years as deputy and eight years as clerk, but says that he will be forced to get out of the office on account of his health. All the above officers have made good and the voters of the county would make no mistake in electing them for another term. The following gentlemen have been mentioned as a probable candidates for clerk. A. W. Compton, of Bondtown, C. G. Duffy, of Stonegap, W. S. Rose, of Big Stone Gap, either of which would make an efficient clerk.

The commissioners of revenue will be elected one from each magisterial district. At present there are only two, W. C. Stewart for the western district and C. E. Bevins for the eastern district. We do not know that either of these gentlemen are candidates for reelection. They have both made good. It is understood that the convention for nominating the Republican candidates will be held sometime about March, 1919.—Appalachia Progressive.

FLEW ON THE WINGS OF DEATH TO THE HILLS

State Board of Health Receives Heart-Rending Reports of Grippe's Ravages in Southwest Virginia.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 14.—It is hardly likely that the general public will ever realize the extent of the suffering and the anguish caused by the Spanish influenza in some of the more remote mountain communities of Virginia where the frightful malady raged with a degree of severity which is difficult to explain.

Particularly did the mining and lumber sections of the southwestern counties suffer, though the State Health Board acted with amazing celerity in establishing emergency hospitals where the need of outside help seemed most pressing. Despite the fine organization of these institutions and the zeal with which their attaches labored day and night, scores of sufferers in mountain cabins and shacks far distant from railroads, could not be reached at all, and in some instances it was heard even to find persons to bury the dead. In several neighborhoods the supply of Collins utterly ran out while almost everywhere there was a shortage of doctors and nurses. Worse still, the well people of some communities became so terrified when they noted the ravages of the disease, that they were either afraid or unwilling to help the sick, and consequently a few dauntless spirits were left to perform duties which taxed their endurance to the staggering point.

In Dickenson county, which has only one railroad, the "flu" literally ran riot, and it is little to be wondered at that many persons became panic stricken, for in some sections they saw death and suffering on every side. Worse still, the disease did its deadly work with horrifying rapidity and no man, sick or well, could tell when his hour might come. In the Clintwood neighborhood alone there were probably 1,000 cases of "flu" while 300 out of 500 persons in Fremont and its environs became ill. To add to the terrors of the situation, pitiless rains drenched the mountains and made ordinary travel almost impossible. In one household four out of ten people succumbed to the malady. And is it any wonder that their neighbors became demoralized when they saw a quartette of Collins standing in front of this stricken home? The sight that met their gaze was a hideous allegory of menace and tragedy.

Report also has it that in one lonely cabin both the father and mother died without help, or at least with no help save that which came to them from a tiny child. And had passers-by not heard the wail of distress which came from this little one, she too would have perished in that desolate abode.

In many instances whole families—sometimes three generations were ill at the same time in the same house and starvation almost stared them in the face. The State Board of Health knows of at least one case in which an entire family lived for several days on canned tomatoes alone. No one in the habitation had strength enough to go for food or assistance.

So far as Dickenson county is concerned, it may at first appear strange that so isolated a

section should have been so sorely afflicted when the health authorities everywhere proclaim that Spanish influenza is "a crowd disease." Well, everybody would have to admit that Dickenson's heart-rending story presents a sort of scientific mystery, were it not for the fact that her people had their county fair just a few days before the scythe of death began to reap its human harvest. That fair probably did the work which has left desolation in its wake.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

For Soldiers in Europe—Extension of Time.

The limitation to Nov. 20th has been changed. Boxes may be sent any time up to Nov. 30th. Apply for information to

Stonewall—Superintendent of the office.

Roda—Mrs. H. S. Estill.

Osaka—Mrs. E. F. Tate.

Appalachia—Mrs. R. W. Holly.

Inman—Mrs. G. V. Brown.

Imboden—Mrs. H. A. Alexander.

Exeter—Mrs. Crocker.

Keokee—Mrs. King.

East Stone Gap—Miss Christie Jones.

And at Red Cross Home Service Section, office on second floor, Post Office Building, Big Stone Gap.

See This

Labels will be supplied on application to the above to those who should have received them, but have not. Also to any one wishing to send to some soldier not otherwise provided for. It is desired that all of them should have one box, but none of them two.

Radford Normal Notes

The second annual fair of the Household Arts and School Garden Departments was held on Friday, in the Normal School Auditorium. The stage was attractively decorated in flags and posters. These formed the background for the exhibit of food which has been preserved for winter use by the Senior Household Arts students. This collection includes canned beans, corn, tomatoes, rhubarb, pickles of all kinds, jellies and substitute preserves, dried apples and corn. The blue ribbons were won by Miss Mary Lucy Bowman, of Tennessee, and Miss Margaret Harvey, of Radford. The academic students tomatoes and jelly, and the blue ribbons were won by Misses Jessie Muncy, Elizabeth Potter and Lottie Daniel. The class in School Gardening had a splendid exhibit of garden truck, corn and fruit.

At the chapel period the Senior Household Arts students, dressed in Hoover dresses, gave a food conservation program which was very interesting and well given. It included short talks on "Food Administration" by Miss Emily Topper, "The Sugar Situation" by Miss Margaret Harvey. Special music was given by Misses Byer, Ward and Cruikshank, assisted by the Household Arts students in their cookery costumes.

A most helpful part of the exhibits was one on "The Food We Wasted Yesterday." This was a collection of scraps from the girls' plates on Thursday. Miss Bowman, using this as a basis, showed the girls how much they would waste in the nine months. Miss Schaffer followed by showing how the wasted food, if saved, would assist in feeding the French and other Allies. Poetry and humor on Food Conservation was presented by Miss Ward.

The fair was under the direction of Misses Moffett and Burnett and Prof. Hardin.

Carl Wyal, who is in the naval service, spent Friday in town visiting Judge and Mrs. H. A. W. Skeens, enroute to his home at Dryden, where he will visit his parents.