

Three More Boards Linked in Draft Bribery Inquiry

U. S. Grand Jury Investigates Rejection of Men
Physically Perfect

3 Held in \$5,000 Bail

New Exemptors in District 99
Begin Work on East
Side

The Federal Grand Jury yesterday began hearing testimony which, it is expected, will result in the speedy return of several indictments on charges of bribery and other violations of the selective draft law in Manhattan.

Shortly before noon, just as the grand jury was beginning its work, Louis I. Cherey and Dr. S. J. Bernfeld, members of Exemption Board No. 99, and Kalman Gruher, their alleged "fixer," were brought from their cells in the Tombs and arraigned before United States Commissioner Samuel M. Hittcock. A technical charge of conspiring to defeat the Federal draft law was brought against all three.

Released on \$5,000 Bail
They were released on bail of \$5,000 each to await the findings of the grand jury. Commissioner Hittcock had held Gruher under a bail of \$2,500, but a stenographer, in preparing the papers, by error made Gruher's bond read \$5,000. This mistake was called to the attention of Isadore E. Schlesinger, attorney for Gruher, who shrugged his shoulders and said:

"Let it stand. It makes no difference."

Several witnesses were examined yesterday by the grand jury, which, according to John C. Knox and Edward M. Stanton, Assistant United States District Attorneys, will receive testimony for several days in the cases of the members of Board No. 99.

"I think I can promise all three men speedy justice," said Mr. Knox yesterday. "The law will move as fleetly as Mercury for them. We'll see to that." In the meantime, the United States District Attorney's office is cooperating with William M. O'Flynn, superintendent of the local bureau of investigations of the Department of Justice, in running down complaints of irregularities in the operations of other local exemption boards.

"I think that on the whole the administration of the draft has been absolutely fair and honest in Manhattan," said Mr. Knox. "But we stand ready to smash into any board doing anything off color."

Other Irregularities Investigated
"We are investigating carefully reports of other irregularities in New York boards. We haven't learned anything definite as yet, and so I cannot state if they are legitimate complaints or simply the vapors of disgruntled persons who think they have been discriminated against."

"It seems to me that the thing for the members of other exemption boards to do is to communicate with this office and bring about the immediate arrest of persons who approach them with bribes. We'll do the rest. The trouble with many of the letters we have received charging irregularities in the operations of other local boards, is that they are anonymous."

"We urge that complaints be signed. We will keep secret the names of our informants, just as we are not making public the names of those who will testify in the present investigation into the activities of Board No. 99."

The investigation into the operations of Board No. 99 is developing new irregularities hourly, according to Department of Justice men. Mr. Knox has received the names of three men—all physically perfect—who were exempted. Reports of ten other similar cases have been received, and are now under investigation.

Altogether, Federal officials say, they have received forty letters telling of irregularities in the examination and exemption of men for the draft army. Some of these letters refer to Board No. 99. But complaints also tell of irregularities in another district on the lower East Side, a district in Harlem and one in Brooklyn. They are all being investigated.

New Board Begins Work
The newly organized Board No. 99 began work yesterday at the school at Rivington and Lewis Streets. Deputy State Attorney General Roscoe S. Conkling motored over to the East Side at noon and swore in two new members of

Examination Begun to Furge Army Of Cowards and Other Defectives

Sifting of Mentally Deficient Soldiers, Including Homesick
and Those Who Cannot Control Fear, Begun Here by
Experts—Test Will Make Force Best in the World

The work of turning out a cowardly American army has begun. Preliminary to the actual weeding-out process at the various army cantonments throughout the United States, the business of sifting the mental and nervous defectives began in New York yesterday at the 7th Regiment Armory, under the direction of Major Graeme M. Hammond, of the Medical Reserve Corps. Out of the 450 men examined not one was rejected.

Three were classified as "suspicious," but, upon re-examination by Major Hammond, they were passed.

If there is a coward or a homesick soldier now in the New York armories he may last until he gets to his cantonment, but no longer. For Major Hammond and his squad of psychiatric experts will follow the soldiers right to Spartanburg, where, in the atmosphere of camp life, the next elimination process begins.

Camp Will Expose Cowardice
"You can't spot a coward in an armory," said Major Hammond yesterday. "But he does show his real self when he gets into the noise and action of field training. If there are any men who can't control their fear, we'll give them a little time to get accustomed to the life, and if that doesn't cure them, home they go. We can't make actual tests for cowardice, but close observation will usually be sufficient."

Homesickness Major Hammond regards as a real and serious illness. "When a soldier is homesick he loses flesh, can't eat and becomes so generally dispirited that he can't execute orders or be of any use to his company," he was notified to spot homesick men at the cantonments, and as a remedy give them a day or two of leave or send

for some of their family to visit them. If after that the defection persists they'll try some good old-fashioned medicine, which is rarely incurable, but if a man could not control this weakness he could not keep him in the service."

The order of the War Department which will admit no militiaman to Federal service until he has passed this examination is the result of another lesson learned from the experience of the Allies. Canada, according to Major Hammond, has had to recall several thousand men who, although they were physically able to stand the rigors of trench life, could not mentally or nervously endure the strain. This inconvenience the United States hopes to spare itself.

Will Make Army World's Best
This examination will make the United States Army the best in the world," said Major Hammond yesterday. "It will be an army of splendid bodies, sound minds and strong nerves—an army with the slightest possible chance of 'drawbacks.' And if the truth is any indication, we've already got a fine collection of soldiers."

Major Hammond, who as an alienist was connected with the New York Hospital before the war, has a corps of experts in mental and nervous specialists under him in this work. The soldiers are examined for "stigma of degeneration" and put through a question-and-answer test. "Stigma of degeneration" includes abnormal thyroid glands, nervous tremors of any part of the body and certain defective measurements about the head. The question-and-answer test determines a man's general intelligence.

Major Hammond and his examiners will finish the 7th Regiment tomorrow and proceed immediately to other armories in the city until New York's militiamen have all been tested. Some of the members of Major Hammond's staff are Dr. J. J. McPhee, Dr. Walter Timme, Dr. Morris J. Karpas, Dr. George H. Pierce, Dr. Valentine Wildman, Dr. Minus Gregory and Dr. Frank Robertson.

the board. They are Max Steindler, of 277 Stanton Street, and Dr. L. Spangler, of 103 Cannon Street.

Louis Birnbaum, who is to be the clerk of the board, is out of the city. He was notified of his appointment and started for New York last night.

The headquarters of the board was thronged yesterday with men who had been notified by the old board to appear for examination. They were sent home and told to await summons from the new board. It will take several days before the new board gets the machinery of the draft in motion again.

New York and Jersey Men
Picked at Fort Niagara

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Commissioners were awarded to the following New York and New Jersey students at the Fort Niagara, N. Y., camp:

Captain, infantry, O. R. C.—Percy F. Burrage and Morris S. Oliver, East Orange, N. J.; Second lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—William B. Beam, Monticello, N. Y.; Alden D. Bell, Elmhurst, Atlantic City, N. J.; Second lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—Albert M. Ely, Collingswood, N. J.; Conrad F. Nagel, Jr., Newark, N. J.; Lathrop Bevan, East Orange, N. J.; William M. O'Flynn, Orono, N. J.; Alexander M. Haig, Merchantville, N. J.; O. R. C. Second lieutenant, artillery, N. J.; Frank S. Jones, Delaware, N. J.; National Army—G. F. Paul, Haddonfield, N. J.; Robert G. Ernst, Hoboken, N. J.; George J. Gladner, Camden, N. J.

Second lieutenant, ordnance department, National Army—Jacob H. Clark, Elmer, N. J.; Paul H. Taylor, 24, Camden, N. J.; Second lieutenant, adjutant general's department, National Army—Frank T. Gorman, Montclair, N. J.

Will be assigned to the regular army:

Second lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—Malvern J. Nubb, Millville, N. J.; John C. Cleave, Trenton, N. J.; Second lieutenant, field artillery, O. R. C.—James E. Brinkerhoff, Orange, N. J.; Warren G. Donaldson, Jr., Trenton, N. J.

May Search Mexican Coast

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Renewed reports of German wireless stations or supply bases on the Mexican Gulf coast may lead to a search there by the State and Navy departments contain no confirmation of the report of discovered wireless stations on Lobos Island and the coast of Campeche.

Officials are inclined to minimize the reports of wireless stations, but a theory that German small craft may be operating along the coast is not taken so lightly.

It is a district almost isolated from the interior by jungle, and officials admit that agents of Germany might supply German small ships a long time without detection.

First Three Draft Appeals Are Denied By District Board

Nation's Interests Above
Individual's, Says Chairman Hughes

The District Board, the court of appeals from the decisions of the local boards in denying draft exemptions, considered three cases at its first formal session yesterday and denied all three. In opening the session Chairman Hughes made it plain that those seeking to escape service on various industrial claims will receive no sympathy from the District Board, unless their claims are meritorious beyond all question.

"We, the district boards, will be entrusted with the solution of one of the most vital problems of the war," said Mr. Hughes, after reading a list of instructions from Provost Marshal General Crowder. "Two things are to be accomplished—to raise armies, to maintain industries."

Interests of Nation Are First

"As the war proceeds more and more men will be required for battle. It is the interest of the nation solely that must be subserved. The interest of the individual or associations of individuals cannot be considered except where such interests coincide with the interests of the nation."

"There may be cases where questions of private loss or hardship, rather than national necessity, are presented. Such cases are without the power of this district board and it is only necessary to ask: Is this case so far within the national necessity that this man should be relieved from service and another substituted in his place?"

The cases considered were those reported back to the board by the sub-committee headed by Justice G. L. Ingraham. Two were claims for industrial exemption and the third was that of Girsch Sarchen, of 1449 Boston Road, a Russian who has taken out his first papers but who said he wanted to return to fight in the Russian army. The decision of the sub-committee that he must serve in the National Army was upheld by the board.

The board held that the work of Frederick W. Barth, superintendent of the Hudford Company, at 1700 Broadway, a concern which transforms pleasure automobiles into motor trucks, now doing work for the government, was of such a nature that his place could be filled by another man on a few hours' notice.

The third claimant was David G. Hiergesell, a manufacturer of thermometers and other scientific and medical glass instruments. The board decided there were enough other concerns making the same products and that Hiergesell's employees could easily obtain work with some of them. Notices of the board's decisions were mailed to the men last night.

Method of Filing Appeals

"There seems to be a misapprehension on the part of the public in regard to the method of filing appeals," said Mr. Hughes. "Many persons seem to think that as soon as they have been physically examined they should rush here without waiting for the action of the local boards. Others fail to file notice of appeal with the local boards so that they may forward us the records in the case. As a result we have the affidavits in many cases and not the certificates from the local boards."

Hundreds of men stood in line in room 323 throughout the day to file their appeals. Some brought their aged fathers, others their wives and sisters, and a few came with interpreters. Many did not understand that no oral arguments are permitted before the board and that everything must be submitted in affidavit form.

One of these was Isidor Bratspays, of 260 South First Street, Brooklyn, an Austrian who has been in this country four years, but who has not taken out his first papers. He said he had been certified for service without having been called for an examination. The mailed notice, he said, had never reached him.

Five Vacancies on Board

The five vacancies on the board have not been filled, but an effort is being made to have special legislation passed at Albany enabling Edwin L. Garvin, Charles E. Simms, John Dalton and Samuel H. Evans to serve. This will leave only one vacancy, that caused by the resignation of Nathan Straus on account of illness.

A meeting of all the district boards of the state will be held in the rooms of the Bar Association, at 42 West Forty-fourth street, at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon, to bring about a unity of action on industrial claims and appeals. The meeting was called by Mr. Hughes at the request of the provost marshal general through Adjutant General Stotesbury.

The first exemption case taken to the courts is that of Robert Reinstein, who claims that he registered through a misapprehension and is over conscription age. He obtained an order, returnable before Judge Hand, in the United States District Court, at 10 o'clock Thursday morning, directing the chairman of Local Board 155, at Lexington Avenue and Ninety-sixth Street, to show cause why Reinstein's name should not be taken off the registration list. Deputy Attorney General Conkling called attention to the fact that the claims of such persons not eligible to draft, but registered through error or fraud, should be forwarded, with proof, directly to the adjutant general, instead of being taken to the courts.

Physician Loses Fight
To Serve on Draft Board

After the passage of the draft bill Dr. Edward J. Bero, of 230 West 112th Street, announced his willingness to serve on an exemption board. So a friend looked around for an opening and discovered that George Goldenberg,

who had received an appointment to Exemption Board 114, was of draft age and therefore presumably ineligible.

The friend enlisted the aid of the Mayor's Committee for National Defense, and shortly secured the approval of the president for the appointment of Dr. Bero in place of Mr. Goldenberg.

Dr. Bero appeared at the headquarters of the board, at 12 St. Mark's Place, and requested Mr. Goldenberg to give up his seat. But Dr. Bero refused to allow Dr. Bero to take part in sessions of the board. Dr. Bero wrote a complaint to Assistant District Attorney Conkling, asking for a decision as to which was entitled to serve.

That the eagerness of the two men for the work had led them into a quarrel was surprising to Attorney Conkling's office. Before Mr. Conkling could reply to Dr. Bero's complaint the physician received a telegram from Adjutant General Southbury cancelling Dr. Bero's appointment. It turned out that Dr. Bero is also nominally ineligible because his residence is not in District 114.

Baker Lauds Men For Sacrifices in Training Camps

Chosen and Instructed
Without Political Favor,
He Says

More Get Commissions

Winners at Various Camps
Are Announced at
Washington

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Secretary Baker issued the following statement commending the work of the men who have filled the officers' training camps and noting the patriotic motives that have prompted them to make sacrifices in order that the nation should have officers.

"The War Department feels no small pride in the commissioning during these days of thousands of young officers who have passed through a period of training as thorough and intensive as it could be made by men of the regular forces, loyal and capable, whose lives have been spent in preparation for such an emergency."

"Two thoughts I like to keep with me as these men come from their camps throughout the country. First, their selection and preparation have been ac-

complished by means as far removed from political favoritism as could be devised.

"Secondly, the thoroughness of the training received by these men will mean that those who will be chosen under the selective service act will be properly instructed and led so as to insure a maximum of effectiveness and a minimum of casualties, in undergoing whatever may be necessary to bequeath to coming generations of men what our forefathers secured by their sacrifices for us."

William De L. Kountze
Wins Majorship
In Georgia Camp

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Commissions have been awarded to the following New York and New Jersey students at the Fort McPherson, Ga., camp:

Major, infantry, O. R. C.—William De L. Kountze, N. Y. City; Captain, infantry, O. R. C.—Baill Reubillard, Buffalo; Charles B. Stuart, N. Y. City; Kenneth Winslow, Tuxedo Park; Herbert Duker Jones, Brooklyn; Anthony Fowler, Great Neck; Henry Vincent DeHority, N. Y. City.

Second lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—Charles Oscar Francis, Brooklyn; Jerome Edward Kemmerer, Brooklyn.

Second lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—John Griffin Underhill, Oswego.

Second lieutenant, infantry, National Army—Harry Keat Hamilton, N. Y. City; Captain, cavalry, O. R. C.—William Henry Jackson, Woodford.

Captain, field artillery, O. R. C.—Lewis Stuyvesant Chandler, Jr., N. Y. City.

Second lieutenant, field artillery, O. R. C.—Donald M. Walden, Brooklyn.

Second lieutenant, Q. Co., National Army—Martin Ollendorf, Richmond Hill; Marion B. Folson, Rochester.

Captain, ordnance department, National Army—William R. Rosencranz, Hoboken, N. J.

Will be assigned to duty with the regular army: Second lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—Harry R. Kilbourne, Westbury, N. J.

Leon Springs Selections

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Commissions awarded at the Leon Springs (Tex.) training camp include the following:

First lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—Lawrence W. Weddell, Woodbury, N. J.

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Captain, field artillery, O. R. C.—John R. McAlpin, Oseining.
Charles Farraday Naves, New York City.

Fort Logan H. Roots Wins

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Commissions awarded students at the Fort Logan H. Roots, Arkansas, camp include the following:

Major, infantry, O. R. C.—Raymond W. Brederick, Buffalo.

Captain, infantry, O. R. C.—George A. Dorn, Johnston, N. Y.

First lieutenant, infantry, O. R. C.—William K. McMullen, Schenectady; Louis Schommon, Brooklyn.

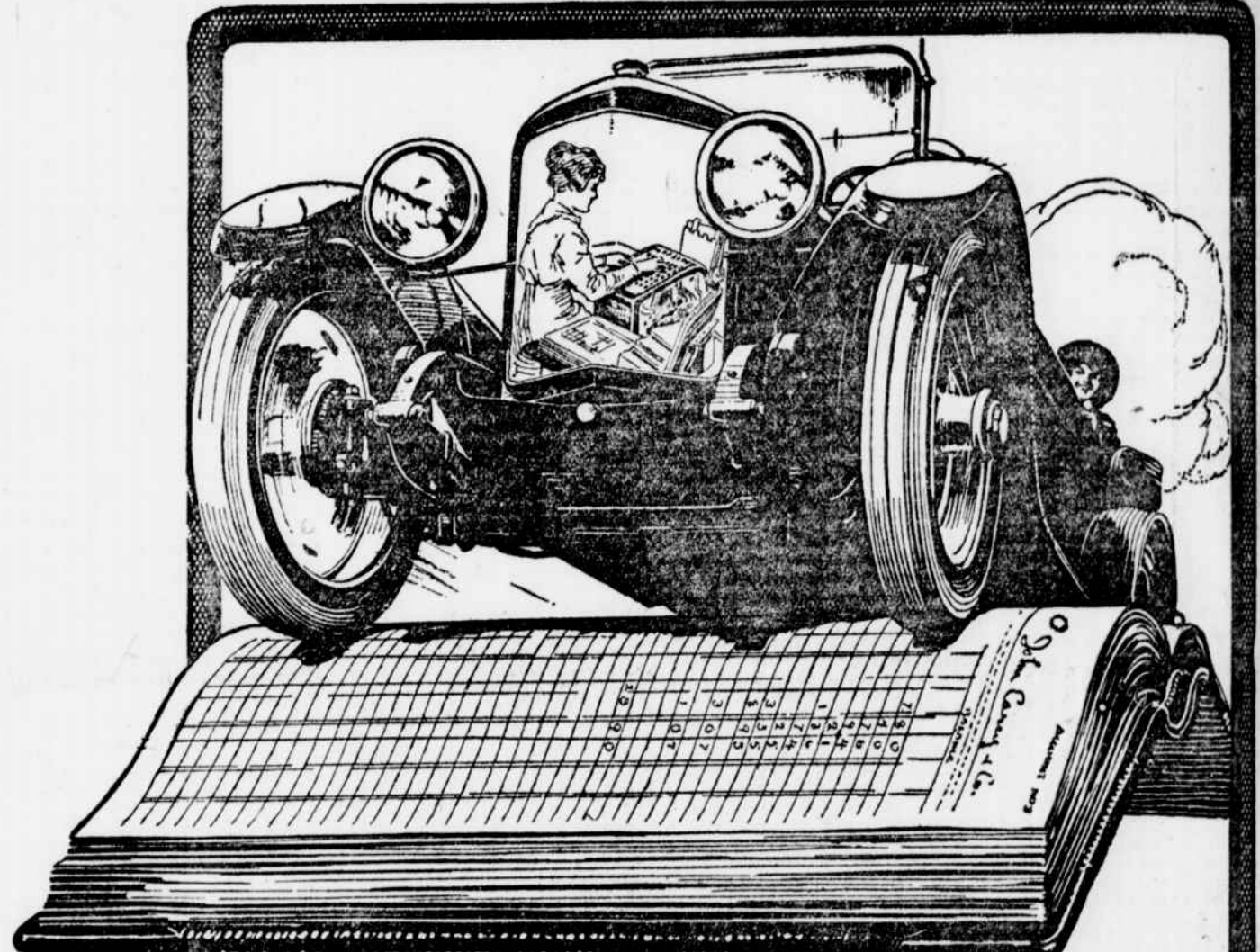
Second lieutenant, quartermaster corps, National Army—Achille F. Israel, Tunis, N. Y.

Awards at Fort Snelling

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Commissions have been awarded to the following New York students at the Fort Snelling (Minnesota) camp:

Captain, infantry, O. R. C.—William H. Huntzinger, Pelham Manor, N. Y.

Second lieutenant, Quartermaster Corps, National Army—Leroy B. Benedict, Tunis, N. Y.



Taking Bookkeeping Hills on High

Burroughs Direct-to-Ledger Posting gives this bookkeeping department a flying start for the month-end up-grade.

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