

## WOULD BAR SALE OF WAR GOODS TO EX-SERVICE MEN

Rep. Graham Seeks Speedy  
Action on Bill Follow-  
ing Disclosures.

## MUCH FRAUD EXPOSED

Federal Suit for Recovery of  
Exorbitant Claims Also  
to Be Urged.

This is the tenth of a series of articles published by THE NEW YORK HERALD detailing governmental conditions in Washington and outlining prospective legislation to remedy affairs.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—A bill making it a crime for any former member of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps to buy or lease any property, real or personal, sold by the United States Government will be introduced during the present short session and immediate consideration urged.

Representative William J. Graham, Republican (Ill.), chairman of the select committee on expenditures of the War Department, will confer with the next day or two with members of the Military Affairs Committee and Rules Committee of the House with a view toward getting speedy action on the bill. Chairman Graham told a

representative of THE NEW YORK HERALD to-day that he was moved to this course as a result of the disclosures his committee had made of the conditions of certain contracts for the disposal of surplus war material in which former service men were interested and in which the profits to the contractors appear to be out of all proportion to the service rendered to the Government.

Representative Graham will shortly go to Marion, for a conference with President-elect Harding. He will urge upon Mr. Harding the desirability of appointing under the new Attorney-General a special assistant, whose sole duty will be to prosecute those who, it is alleged, have defrauded the Government and in cases where exorbitant claims already have been paid, to start suit for recovery.

One of the chief influences that has moved Mr. Graham to seek immediate remedial action with respect to this state of the affairs of the Government, which the new Administration will inherit from the old is the information that has come to him from a number of army officers themselves, who have been connected with the Claims Board of the War Department.

Under existing provisions the War Department's Claims Board will pass out of existence soon after January 1 next. But officers with knowledge of the actual validity of numerous claims that have been allowed in connection with contracts for war material have appeared before the committee on war expenditures and the House Appropriations Committee requesting that further emergency appropriations be made to continue the board so that certain of these claims can be reopened and awards more equitable to the Government arrived at.

"I haven't the slightest doubt," said Representative Graham, "in view of testimony adduced before this committee that the Government has been victimized to the extent of hundreds of millions of dollars by allowing claims that, to use the most charitable term, are at least erroneous. I believe much of this amount can be recovered, but it will require an energetic and vigorous effort on the part of the Attorney-General. For this reason I intend to take up with Mr. Harding as soon as possible the question of the appointment of a special assistant to the new Attorney-General, who will be placed in charge of this work and who will take advantage

of the information unearthed by this committee.

"There are now pending before the Claims Board of the War Department about 300 claims aggregating approximately \$600,000,000, with a probable liability to the Government of \$90,000,000 or \$100,000,000. It is the opinion of this committee that these claims should be turned over to the Court of Claims and that any further adjustments of war contracts should be made by a court of record."

Some interesting facts in connection with the War Department's practice of settling claims for contracts cancelled following the armistice and at the same time expending money from the War Emergency Appropriation for the same sort of material covered in the contracts is disclosed in the report of the subcommittee on Foreign Expenditures, of which Representative Royal C. Johnson (Rep., S. D.) is chairman, which is now before the full committee.

The report shows that while a claim was paid to a corporation manufacturing the "Mittor" truck for the cancellation of a contract involving 1,950 trucks, and while large numbers of trucks were being returned from France, the department went ahead and ordered 75 additional new trucks at a cost of \$8,000 each. The original requisition called for 150 of these new trucks, but a strenuous protest by Quartermaster-General H. L. Rogers, in a letter dated October 11, 1919, probably resulted in cutting the order in two. In any event the War Department last February contracted for 75 of these trucks, and THE NEW YORK HERALD has been informed that the order has not been cancelled.

The report of the subcommittee on Foreign Expenditures on this transaction follows in part:

"It is established in evidence that we still have on hand at least 6,800 first class tractors for the hauling of guns and an abundance of trucks and tractors for general military purposes. It is also established that these gun tractors are better than any that the Allies used in the war. With the most liberal allowance for tractors for ordnance purposes, even to meet a motorization programme far larger than any contemplated, ordnance experts testify in effect that the number of military tractors we now have on hand, of excellent quality, will be sufficient to equip an army three or four times as large as our post-war army is going to be. Notwithstanding such an ample supply, the Secretary of War in February of this year, over the objection of the Quartermaster-General, approved an order for 75 trucks known as the 'Mittor' at a cost of \$8,000 each,

totalling, with additional tires and spare parts, \$725,000. This purchase is ordered to be made out of War Emergency Appropriation.

"In 1917 the Commanding General of the A. E. F. asked that a standard truck be designated to meet the military conditions abroad. The War Department thereupon proceeded to work out and adopt a design which came to be known, and is now known as the 'Mittor' and the 'Mittor' Corporation proceeded to make six of such trucks for experimentation and test at an expense of \$329,002.31. The department decided to use large numbers of this truck. It did so, however, in the face of opposition from some of the leading makers of trucks.

"The net result is that the department has paid out to the 'Mittor' Corporation a total of \$1,380,213 for seventy-five trucks, whereas the same company offered to produce 500 trucks for only \$274,000 more. Eighty-one 'Mittor' trucks are to cost the Government \$2,063,902.20. Of these only six have been delivered. It is to be remembered, too, that this is the truck that was requested by the army in France in September, 1917, for its urgent needs.

"It is clear to the committee that the 'Mittor' trucks recently ordered are not needed by the army. The department in an orgy of money spending, recommended the purchase of 150 of them. Seventy-five, however, were ordered in the face of the opposition of the Quartermaster-General.

"Here at home we are buying trucks we do not need, whereas in France we sold trucks without retaining any whatever for the removal of our dead from their resting places on the battlefield to the ports of embarkation."

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# Bring back his Christmas smile every day

OPENED with a word of thanks on Christmas morning—the next day put aside and forgotten. How often that is the fate of an ill-chosen gift! Don't let that happen to the Christmas presents you give him this year.

There is one gift that will save him discomfort day after day—that will eliminate the needless trouble so many men have in shaving.

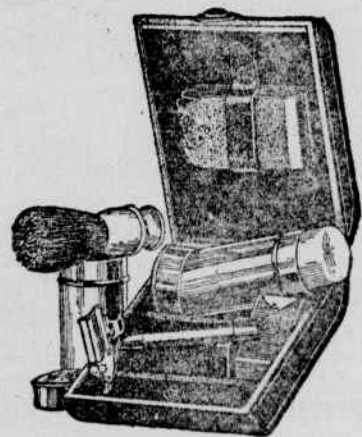
Unstropped razor blades grow dull quickly and pull and scrape—cause aftersmart and burning. To end these shaving troubles once for all get him an AutoStrop Razor for Christmas. It will give him every day a shave as cool and clean as his first shave with a new blade.

Built right into the frame of the AutoStrop Razor is a simple, efficient stropping device which quickly sharpens the blade. It renews the edge in a few seconds without removing the blade or taking the razor apart.

This unique razor is a gift a man will enjoy day after day—a present that will bring back his Christmas smile every morning.

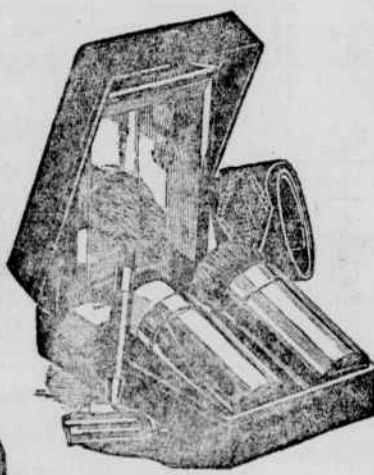
The new De Luxe AutoStrop Razor sets described on this page are especially appropriate for Christmas gifts. Any man will be happy to own one of these handsome, distinctive outfits.

Make your gift this Christmas an AutoStrop Razor. Ask your dealer today to show you the AutoStrop Razor sets shown on this page as well as others he may have in stock.



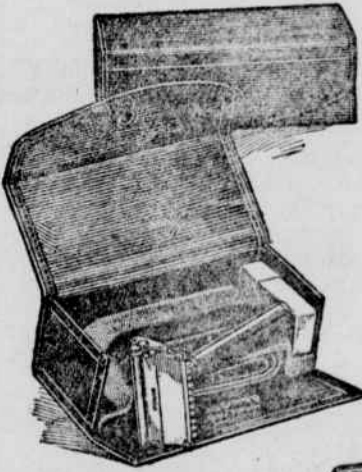
Combination Set

Silver-plated AutoStrop Razor; special shaving brush and shaving soap in silver-plated tubes; twelve blades and selected leather strap, specially prepared. Eight and a Half Dollars.



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Gold-plated AutoStrop Razor; special shaving brush and shaving soap in gold-plated tubes; removable beveled plate mirror; twelve blades and selected leather strap, specially prepared. In black leather case. Thirteen and a Half Dollars.



Sterling Silver Set

Sterling silver AutoStrop Razor; twelve blades in sterling silver container; selected leather strap, specially prepared. In finest grade black or brown calfskin case, velvet lined. Twenty-five Dollars.



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Silver-plated AutoStrop Razor; twelve blades in silver-plated blade container; selected leather strap, specially prepared. In flat silver-plated case, handsome ribbon design, engraved top, velvet lined. Ten Dollars.

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# France bore the brunt!

Just as we needed France before the armistice, so she needs us to-day---

To help her people to help themselves,

To provide nurses for children dazed by four years of privation—and for the care and education of expectant mothers,

To supply looms and sewing machines,

To start schools of domestic science and manual training,

To grant loans of money to farmers and merchants against the war indemnities which Germany, under the Treaty, must be forced to pay.

To develop the Boy Scouts of France for the sake of the men of to-morrow,

To install library rooms replacing the complete destruction of books,

To provide tools, seeds, building materials to reconstruct homes, schools, churches and farms.

What did we here in New York know of the complete devastation of war?

In the four counties of France where this Committee's work is concentrated the destruction was complete.

Of France's 1,500,000 dead, more than 600,000 men came from the desolated areas.

But France is still fighting---fighting back to peace.

This isn't charity---it's an investment in mankind!

The French are rebuilding and repaying. They pay back their loans as soon as they get a new foothold.

Since this Committee's work began in 1917, it has received 11,000,000 francs in contributions---

It has spent 15,000,000 francs and---

It still has on hand 1,000,000 francs!

Yes---the French repay! All they need is help to help themselves!

But never was the need so great. More counties call for help. New York won't fail to answer.

Never before since 1917 has this Committee asked the New York public for a penny. But to-day---this week---it asks for \$250,000.

Think of your own home and what it was spared---think of those other homes in France and what they withstood---

Then invest in the new generation of France!

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