

CHANGES COMING IN THE DRAFT LAW

Secretary of War Baker Will Present
New Plan When Congress Convenes
Extending Age Limits.

Washington, D. C.—The draft age limits will go both up and down and the government is preparing to increase the army to a total strength of from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 men. The men taken to increase the army will be largely without dependents and all will be sent to France if necessary to whip the boches. According to the plans announced, the government does not contemplate the invasion of the deferred classifications of the draft for at least two years, if this is done at all.

There will be, however, an increasingly rigorous combing of the deferred classification for men to take places in essential war industries. The work or fight order will be extended to many additional occupations within the next year. The plan for the 5,000,000 army will be presented to congress within the next six weeks, according to the war department.

"When congress reconvenes," Secretary Baker said, "I shall present a plan which will involve increased appropriations, modifications of the draft age, and somewhat larger mobilization of our military forces. The question as to the draft age limit is being studied to determine how we can get the necessary number of men with the least interference with the industries of the country."

Secretary Baker said he would recommend definite age limits, lowering the minimum below 21 and raising the maximum above 35. The age limits which have been under consideration are 18 to 45, but Secretary Baker previously recommended 19 as the minimum draft age, and he may adopt that minimum as well as a maximum short of 45. The armed forces of the United States now total 3,074,572, this number comprising 2,570,780 men in the army and 503,792 men in the navy. There are approximately 1,300,000 men in the training camps in this country. The composition of the armed forces follows:

National army	1,400,000
Regular army	525,741
National guard	434,511
Reserve corps	21,528

Total army	2,570,780
Regular navy	219,168
Naval reserve	219,566
Marine corps	58,463
Coast guard	6,605

Total army	G. mfwyp
Total navy	503,792

Secretary Baker has been criticized for delaying the extension of the draft age, it being contended that class 1 will be exhausted within two months when it will be necessary to slow down army training and transportation, or invade the deferred classes for man power. There were originally a little more than 2,000,000 men in class 1. There are now less than 278,000 but Secretary Baker expects this total to be raised 1,000,000 by the class 1 men of the 1918 registration, the reclassification of men now in deferred classes and the addition of British subjects drafted under the treaty soon to be proclaimed.

Whether there is to be a slowing down in the rate of transportation of troops abroad it is known that Secretary Baker has ordered a slackening in the mobilization of draftees in the training camps. There are to be 300,000 called to the colors in August; 150,000 each month, in September, October and November, and 125,000 in December, a total of 875,000. In this way Mr. Baker plans to make the 1,000,000 men he estimates in class 1 last until additional class 1 men can be provided under the plan he will present to congress in September.

If the present rate of transport be maintained, men will be going abroad henceforth faster than to the training camps at home. The general conclusion here is that Mr. Baker contemplates a slackening off of overseas transportation despite the imperative need of increasing the American forces in France.

The draft calls ordered by Mr. Baker will produce an army totalling 3,500,000 by the end of 1918. If the draft age limits are made 19 to 45 it is estimated that 3,000,000 men will be made available for military service. From these would be selected enough to bring the army up to between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 men.

Father of Punctuation.

The present system of punctuation, now used in all modern languages with but insignificant variations, was introduced in the first half of the fifteenth century by a Venetian printer named Aldus Manutius. He is the real father of punctuation marks—of the full stop, comma, semicolon, colon, question and exclamation marks, apostrophe and inverted commas. Manutius' system was adopted later by all printers until it finally established itself throughout Europe.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Romans Liked Cock Fighting.

In the New Testament the cock is mentioned in reference to the denial of the Lord and indirectly in the "cock-crowing." There is no mention in the Old Testament of the cock or hen. These domestic birds were known to the early Greeks and Romans and probably were introduced by the Romans into Palestine. It is said that these birds were prized by the Romans both as food and for cock fighting.

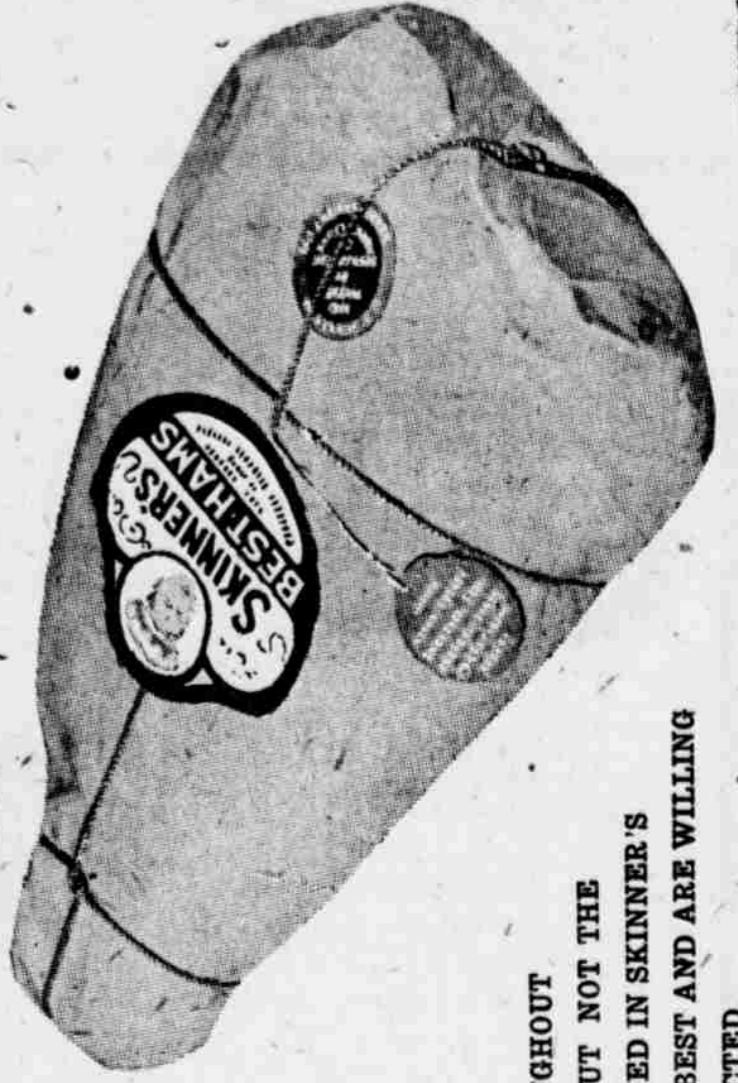
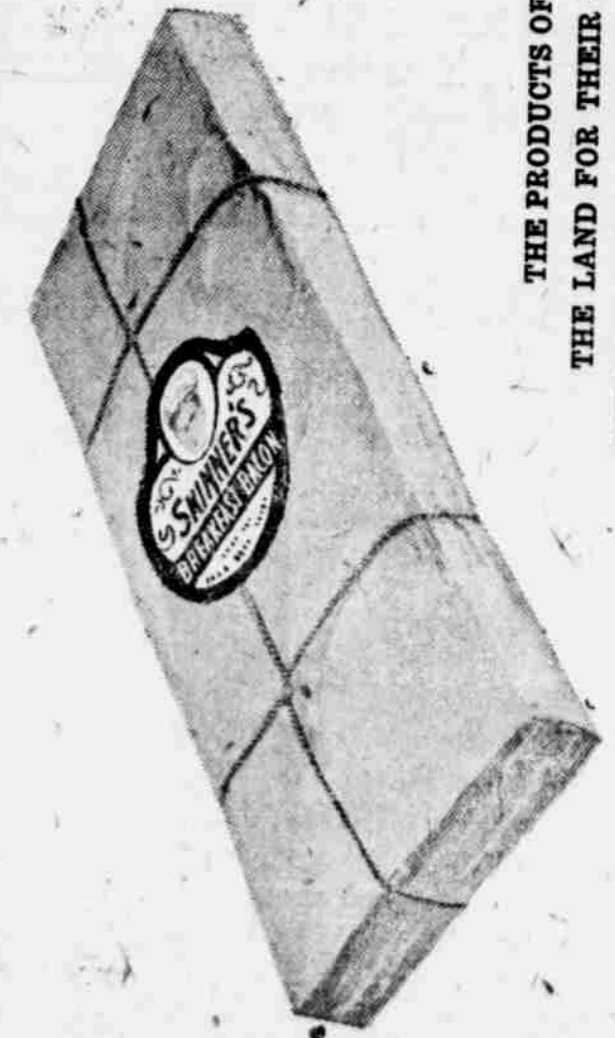
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