

PRESIDENT SIGNS DRAFT MEASURE; TROOPS TO FRONT

Division Under Command of Major General Pershing.

REGULARS FIRST TO FRANCE

Executive Sets June 5 as the Date of Registration for All Men Between the Ages of 21 and 31—Rejects Roosevelt Volunteer Army—Declares It Would Interfere With Present Plans.

Washington, May 21.—Flatly rejecting that section of the measure which would permit Colonel Roosevelt to organize volunteer divisions, President Wilson signed the conscription bill. The president signed the army bill just after dinner at 8 p. m. on Friday, without formality, and set June 5 as the date of registration for all men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one for military service.

President Issues Proclamation.

President Wilson's proclamation, putting into effect the selective draft provision of the war army bill, signed last night, follows in part:

"A proclamation by the president of the United States:

"Whereas, Congress has enacted and the president has on the 18th day of May, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, approved a law which contains the following provisions:

"Section 5. That all male persons between the ages of twenty-one and thirty, both inclusive, shall be subject to registration in accordance with the regulations to be prescribed by the president; and upon proclamation by the president or other public notice given by him or by his direction, stating the time and place of such registration, it shall be the duty of all persons of the designated ages, except officers and enlisted men of the regular army, the navy and the National Guard and naval militia while in the service of the United States, to present themselves for and submit to registration under the provisions of this act, and every such person shall be deemed to have notice of the requirements of this act upon the publication of said proclamation or other notice as aforesaid given by the president or by his direction; and any person who shall willfully fail or refuse to present himself for registration or to submit thereto as herein provided, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction in the district court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year, and shall thereupon be duly registered; provided, that in the call of the docket precedence shall be given, in courts trying the same, to the trial of criminal proceedings under this act: Provided further, that persons shall be subject to registration as herein provided who shall have attained their twenty-first birthday and who shall not have attained their thirty-first birthday on or before the day set for registration, and all persons so registered shall be and remain subject to draft into the forces hereby authorized, unless exempted or excused therefrom as in this act provided.

Registration on June 5.

"Now, therefore, I Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, do call upon the governor of each of the several states and territories, the board of commissioners of the District of Columbia and all officers and agents of the several states and territories, of the District of Columbia and of the counties and municipalities therein to perform certain duties in the execution of the foregoing law, which duties will be communicated to them directly in regulations of even date herewith.

"And I do further proclaim and give notice to all persons subject to registration in the several states and in the District of Columbia in accordance with the above law that the time and place of such registration shall be between 7 a. m. and 9 p. m. on the 5th day of June, 1917, at the registration place in the precinct wherein they have their permanent homes. Those who shall have attained their twenty-first birthday and who shall not have attained their thirty-first birthday on or before the day here named are required to register, excepting only officers and enlisted men of the regular army, the navy, the marine corps and the National Guard and naval militia while in the service of the United States, and officers in the officers' reserve corps and enlisted men in the enlisted reserve corps while in active service. In the territories of Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico a day for registration will be named in a later proclamation.

All Must Co-Operate.

"The power against which we are arrayed has sought to impose its will upon the world by force. To this end it has increased armament until it has changed the face of war. In the sense in which we have been wont to think of armies there are no armies in this struggle. There are entire nations armed. Thus, the men who remain to till the soil and man the factories are no less a part of the army

that is in France than the men beneath the battle flags. It must be so with us. It is not an army that we must have and train for war; it is a nation. To this end our people must draw close in one compact front against a common foe. But this cannot be if each man pursues a private purpose. All must pursue one purpose.

"The nation needs all men, but it needs each man, not in the field that will most please him, but in the endeavor that will best serve the common good.

"It is in no sense a conscription of the unwilling—it is rather selection from a nation which has volunteered in mass.

"The day here named is the time upon which all shall present themselves for assignment to their tasks.

"It is essential that the day be approached in thoughtful apprehension of its significance and that we accord to it the honor and the meaning that it deserves. Our industrial need prescribes that it be not made a technical holiday, but the stern sacrifice that is before us urges that it be carried in all our hearts as a great day of patriotic devotion and obligation when the duty shall lie upon every man, whether he is himself to be registered or not, to see to it that the name of every male person of the designated ages is written on these lists of honor.

"By the president:

"ROBERT LANSING,
"Secretary of State."

President Wilson directed that an expeditionary force of approximately a division of regular troops, under command of Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing, proceed to France at as early a date as practicable. General Pershing and staff will precede the troops.

A division contains approximately 28,000 men. It is understood that at least 20,000 will be infantry.

The war bill was carefully gone over during the day by Brigadier General Crowder, judge advocate general and provost marshal general.

It was announced that all existing regiments of the guard will be called into service by August 5, and officials estimate that with from a month to six weeks' intensive training these troops will be ready to go forward for final preparation behind the fighting lines in Europe for the fighting that is before them.

After the army bill had been perfected in both houses of congress and sent to President Wilson for signature the senate adopted an amendment to the war budget bill to put conscription out of force four months after the end of the war.

President's Statement.

The president issued the following statement at the White House:

"I shall not avail myself, at any rate, at the present stage of the war, of the authorization conferred by the act to organize volunteer divisions.

"To do so would seriously interfere with the carrying out of the chief and most immediately important purpose contemplated by this legislation:

"The prompt creation and early use of an effective army would contribute practically nothing to the effective strength of the armies now engaged against Germany.

"I understand that the section of this act which authorizes the creation of volunteer divisions in addition to the draft was added with a view to providing an independent command for Mr. Roosevelt and giving the military authorities an opportunity to use his fine vigor and enthusiasm recruiting the forces now at the western front.

"It would be very agreeable to me to pay Mr. Roosevelt this compliment and to let the compliment of sending to their aid one of our most distinguished public men, an ex-president, who has rendered many conspicuous public services and proved his gallantry in many striking ways.

"Politically, too, it would no doubt have a very fine effect and make a profound impression. But this is not the time or the occasion for compliments or for any action not calculated to contribute to the immediate success of the war.

Seeks Advice From Both Sides.

"The business now in hand is undramatic, practical and of scientific definiteness and precision.

"I shall act with regard to it at every step and in every particular under expert and professional advice, from both sides of the water.

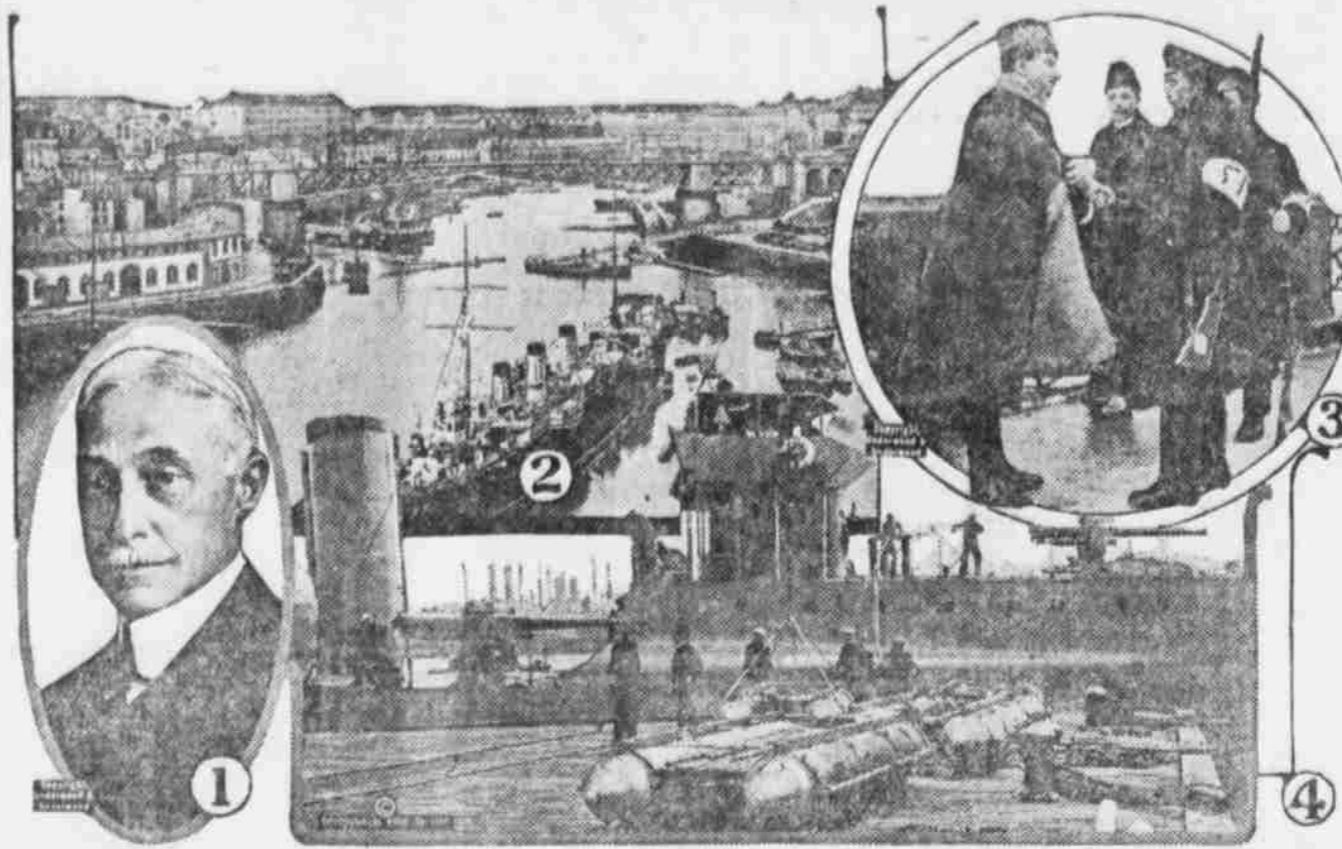
Says He is Responsible.

"He named many of those whom he desired to have designated for the service and they were men who cannot possibly be spared from the too small force of officers at our command for the much more pressing and necessary duties of training regular troops to be put into the field in France and Belgium as fast as they can be got ready.

"The first troops sent to France will be taken from the present force of the regular army and will be under the command of trained soldiers only.

"The responsibility for the successful conduct of our part in this great war rests upon me. I could not escape it if I would. I am too much interested in the cause we are fighting for to be interested in anything but success.

"The issues involved are too immense for me to take into consideration anything whatever except the best, most effective, most immediate means of military action. What these means are I know from the months of men who have seen war as it is conducted, who have no illusions and to whom the whole grim matter is a matter of business. I shall center my attention upon those matters and let everything else wait. I should be deeply to blame should I do otherwise, whatever the argument of policy or of personal gratification of advantage."



1—Elmer A. Sperry, noted inventor, who has submitted to the naval authorities a device calculated to destroy submarines. 2—The military port of Brest, which is likely to be the port of entry for the American troops that are sent to France. 3—One of the new policemen of Petrograd about to examine the papers of a pedestrian. 4—Life rafts taken from the seized German steamer Cincinnati about to be put on the U. S. destroyer Jenkins.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

American Destroyers Already Are Taking Part in the War on German Submarines.

FIRST TROOPS GOING SOON

President Orders Division Under Pershing Sent to France at Once—Draft Registration Set for June 5—Hollweg Refuses to Discuss Terms—Russian Crisis Over.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The American navy is represented in the war zone, and an American warship has had a fight with a German submarine.

So much was revealed on Wednesday by the British admiralty, which announced the presence in British waters of a squadron of American destroyers. It mentioned the "brush" with the submarine, but did not tell the result. Both the British and the American naval authorities maintain a policy of silence concerning the capture or destruction of U-boats.

The destroyers, which are under the general command of Rear Admiral W. S. Sims, arrived at Queenstown and were inspected by a British officer, who asked the American commander when he could be ready for business. "We can start at once," replied the American, and they did.

There is reason to believe some of these destroyers took part in the recent big raid on the German submarine base at Zeebrugge.

The American vessels and their crews were given an enthusiastic welcome at Queenstown, and Vice Admiral Beatty and Admiral Mayo exchanged congratulatory cables.

Pershing to Lead First Force.

Friday evening, President Wilson issued orders for the dispatch to France of the first American expeditionary force. It will be about one division of 28,000 men, all veterans of the regular army, and will be commanded by Maj. Gen. J. J. Pershing. This force will be sent across as soon as is practicable, in response to the appeals of the British and French war missions.

The army conscription bill, having been accepted by both house and senate, was signed by the president, but he announced that for the present, at least, he would not accept the Roosevelt volunteer divisions. In a public statement he handed some bouquets to Colonel Roosevelt, but said that "the business now in hand is undramatic, practical and of scientific definiteness and precision," he was acting under expert and professional advice from both sides of the water. The president also issued a proclamation calling on all men subject to selective conscription to register on June 5.

Japan also began taking an active part in the warfare in Europe last week. A number of Japanese gunboats arrived at Marseille to aid in the fight on submarines and to convoy French merchantmen, and it was unofficially stated that a contingent of Japanese troops was landed at the same port and would fight on the west front alongside the Russian division that has been there for some time.

Building Up Our Armies.

With no illusions as to the seriousness of the task confronting it, the administration is proceeding steadily in its preparation for the part the United States is to play in the war. President Wilson has ordered the regular army brought up to full war strength, and all the machinery for raising the great selective draft army is ready. All over the country the training camps for officers were opened at the beginning of the week, and thousands of efficient young Americans are being drilled in the duties of commanding officers. The sale of "Liberty" bonds in denominations as low as \$50 is in full swing. To provide for the country's own expenses as a belligerent, the appropriations com-

mittee submitted to the senate the greatest war budget in the history of the nation, the total being nearly \$3,400,000,000. All the week the house debated the war revenue bill.

Aggravated by criticisms of congress for its alleged dilatoriness in the matter of war legislation, many senators on Wednesday bitterly attacked the war policies of the government. Their especial targets were Secretary of War Baker, the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense, the car efficiency committee of the American Railway association, proposal of a food dictatorship and plans for fixing maximum and minimum prices. The outbursts of the senators showed they were speaking in large measure in behalf of the business concerns of their respective localities who, they asserted, had had no chance to get government contracts.

Trading in Futures Stopped.

Food supply matters in America moved rapidly toward a crisis last week. Actuated presumably by the investigations of the government into gambling in foodstuffs, and by the tremendous rise in the price of wheat, the Chicago board of trade and the grain exchanges of several other middle West cities put a stop to trading in futures. Wheat and flour prices fell promptly and decisively. The government gathered the necessary data for prosecution of the wheat gamblers, and then got after the butter and egg men. The government also came to the conclusion that the exorbitant prices of wheat and flour were due in part to the gigantic wheat buying operations of Great Britain and France, and asked them to dispose of their immense holdings of grain for future delivery. This the allies agreed to do, and they also agreed to co-operate with the United States in a pooling system to apportionate exports.

All in a position to know scout the idea that there will be an insufficiency of food in this country. The problem is to regulate the distribution and the exports.

Hollweg Won't Talk of Terms.

The imperial rulers of Germany are not yet holding out an available perch upon which the dove of peace might alight. Stubbornly resisting the prodding of both the pan-Germans and the Socialists, the chancellor, Doctor Hollweg, on Tuesday told the reichstag and the world that the time was not fitting for a statement of Germany's war aims or peace terms. The military situation of the central powers, he declared, was satisfactory, and he intimated that they were ready to grant liberal terms to Russia, if that struggling nation desired to get out of the conflict. But he asserted there was no reason to believe England and France would at present listen to any propositions from Germany, and to make any would be construed by them as an evidence of weakening. On the whole, the chancellor's speech was bold and defiant, and his position does not seem to be weakened, despite the continued attacks on him. The most startling of these attacks last week was made by Georg Ledebour, Socialist leader, who warned the reichstag that events must happen in Germany as they have in Russia and that the people must soon introduce a republic in Germany. "Though such sentiments are supported by many, it is likely the mass of opinion in the empire is better represented by Herr Roedicke, president of the German Farmers' union, who denounced the Socialist aims as sinister and anti-national, and as tending to a prolongation of the war since, as he declared, the entente based their hopes on German disunion.

"President Wilson," Herr Roedicke continued, "wants no peace with the Hohenzollerns, but the monarchy is too deeply rooted in German hearts for the malignity of the entente or of President Wilson to be capable of destroying it."

Developments in Russia.

After much travail the Russians managed to settle the crisis in that country by the formation of a coalition cabinet in which all elements, including the workmen, the soldiers and even the peasants, are represented. Prince Lvoff, the premier, then announced that for the first time they had a government that would combine both moral authority and material power. The peace-without-annexations-or-indemnities factions still adhere to that policy, but all seem agreed that the

war must be carried on vigorously and faith kept with the country's allies. Professor Mitukoff was forced to quit the cabinet and was succeeded as foreign minister by Tereschenko, while Kerensky, who was minister of justice, became minister of war and marine. Generals Brussiloff and Gurko and other commanders who had resigned, were persuaded to withdraw their resignations, and turned their energies toward stopping the disintegration of the armies.

All this sounds encouraging, and it may be Russia can be held firm to her pledges. If not, it means merely the prolongation of the war and the deferring of the certain ultimate result—the defeat of the central powers.

The United States began giving concrete aid to Russia on Wednesday, when Secretary McAdoo gave to its charge d'affaires \$100,000,000 of the allied loan, with the specification that the money be spent in this country under the supervision of the treasury department. The American mission to Russia, headed by Mr. Root, was given its instructions, but it cannot reach Petrograd for about two months. Belgium got a share of the loan when Mr. McAdoo handed its representatives a credit for \$45,000,000.

Italian Offensive Begun.

With the passing of winter conditions Italy began a vigorous offensive on Monday, attacking the Austrians along the entire Isonzo front. The enemy fought back stoutly, but was forced to give ground in the region of Plava, north of Goritz. In this Italy is only anticipating a grand assault which the Austrians had been preparing to make. The fighting continued throughout the week with varying fortunes, the Italians slowly pushing their way toward Trieste, their objective.

Released temporarily from the necessity of guarding strongly the eastern front, Germany brought from there to France a large number of comparatively fresh troops and threw them into the struggle against the British and French. General Haig's men are now confronting greater enemy forces than at any time in the past, but before the week ended they were in full possession of Bullecourt, the village for which the Germans fought so desperately because it protected Quant, the southern end of an important line of defenses.

On the French front the most violent fighting was about Laffaux mill, a position even more important than Bullecourt. Again and again the Germans made desperate attempts to regain this ground, but the French repulsed them with terrific losses.

Many burning villages behind the German front north and south of St. Quentin indicated an intention of the Germans to carry out a further retirement. St. Quentin itself has been burning for some time.

General Petain on Tuesday was appointed commander in chief of the French armies in France. General Nivelle was given command of a group of armies, and General Foch became chief of staff of the war ministry. Petain gained fame and high popularity by his defense of Verdun.

In Great Britain, too, there was a shake-up, a general staff for the navy being formed in response to the attacks on the admiralty. Admiral Jellicoe heads the staff.

A gratifying decrease in the number of vessels sunk by submarines, was reported by the British admiralty. Whether this is due to the increasing attacks on Zeebrugge by sea and air, or to the recent destructive fire at the Wilhelmshaven wharves, or to the large number of U-boats caught in the British nets—reported to be between 80 and 100—is not known outside of Germany.

One more nation was added to the long list of the Kaiser's declared enemies last week, when Honduras severed diplomatic relations with Germany. Spain remained neutral, but barely so.

Premier Lloyd George offered John Redmond immediate home rule for Ireland, excluding northwest Ulster, or a plan for an Irish convention to arrange a plan. Redmond accepted the latter suggestion.

The United States lost one of its most distinguished and honored citizens in the sudden death of Joseph H. Choate, eminent lawyer and former ambassador to Great Britain.

MANAGER OF FOODS

NATION'S BREADSTUFFS TO BE HANDLED BY HOOVER.

WILSON URGES CO-OPERATION

Both Producer and Consumer Directly Appealed to. Commission to Serve Without Compensation.

Washington.—President Wilson has appointed Herbert Hoover "food administrator" of the government.

Mr. Hoover accepted the position "on condition that he is to receive no payment for his services and that the force under him, exclusive of clerical assistance, shall be employed so far as possible upon the same volunteer basis."

"The proposed food administration," the president says, "is intended only to meet a manifest emergency and to continue only while the war lasts.

"Since it will be composed for the most part of volunteers, there need be no fear of the possibility of a permanent bureaucracy arising out of it. "All control of consumption will disappear when the emergency has passed."

The president urges that all associations of producers and distributors of foodstuffs mobilize and volunteer in the work of co-operation necessary.

With Hoover's appointment as definite policy of food conservation is expected to take form immediately.

The president has urged prompt action by congress on the food control legislation he has drawn.

The attitude of the government on the embargo question is coming to light. Steps will be taken to prevent supplying food to Germany through the Scandinavian countries and Holland.

T. R. Releases Recruits.

Oyster Bay, N. Y.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt issued a statement declaring that all men who had volunteered to serve with him under the American flag in France had been absolved from all further connection with the movement and that the only course open to them now is to enter the military service in some other way if they are able to do so, and, if not, to serve the country in civil life.

Revolt Nipped in the Bud.

Dallas, Texas.—An armed uprising against selective army service in west Texas has been halted by United States authorities. As a result of the unveiling of the conspiracy—believed to have been financed by Germans—a number of arrests have been made.

40,000 in Overseas Force.

Washington.—All three arms of America's fighting forces, the army, navy and marine corps, soon will be represented in the war zones. A regiment of marines has been ordered to join the expeditionary force and round out the nation's representation in the field.

The marines will be attached to the army division under General Pershing, which is under orders to proceed abroad as soon as practicable.

Although details are not being made public, it was calculated that with the marine regiment, the total American force now designated for land service in Europe is close to 40,000.

Scheme to Divide Europe.

Washington.—Germany's next peace declaration, expected to suggest a program of territorial renunciation on the east and the west, is regarded here as largely answered beforehand by information revealing for the first time the full scope of the imperial government's aspirations for conquest in the south. This information discloses as one of the primary aims of the war a plan for consolidation of an impregnable military and economic unit stretching from the North Sea to the Mediterranean, cutting Europe permanently in half, controlling the Dardanelles, the Aegean and the Baltic, and eventually forming the backbone of a Prussian world empire. In the light of German history the plan shows how implicitly the Kaiser has followed out the blood and iron politico-economic methods of Bismarck for development of Prussian world-power. How minutely defined is the German plan and how accurately it is being carried out have become fully apparent only with the opening up, during the last few weeks, of several new avenues of information, which have supplied the explanation to the American government of more than one hitherto obscured feature of the German policy.

Japan to Aid Allies.

Washington.—Probably the most important news from Europe is the announcement that Japan is going to take an active part in the great struggle. A Japanese naval force has arrived at Marseilles to join the campaign against the German submarines, especially, according to dispatches, with the purpose of protecting French shipping. This unheralded action by the allies' Oriental partner raised both political and military questions of supreme interest.