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UNITED ITALY NOW FACES FOE, SAYS HERBERT COREY

WORLD-HERALD CORRESPONDENT IN WAR ZONE VISITS INVADED COUNTRY.

Declares Germans Must Get Down Out of the Mountains Before Winter Sets In There.

Herbert Corey, the Omaha World-Herald's special correspondent in the war zone sent a cablegram yesterday to that paper, following a visit to the Italian front. Mr. Corey has been in Switzerland viewing internal conditions in Germany and Austria-Hungary.

He cables the following summary of the Italian situation:

"The Italian army has returned to its work with a good heart after the recent terrible strike of the Germans and Austrians.

"Careful inquiry on a visit there leads me to the conclusion the cause of the Italian collapse were neither strictly military nor strictly political.

"When I left the Germans and Austrians were in a critical situation. They must get down out of the mountains before the winter becomes too severe, but the Italians were holding well their lines and they showed a cheerful courage in the work they believed faced them, should the foe attempt to spread out over the plain, driven from the mountains by the cold.

"The front line heroism of the Italians in the fighting with the invaders has aroused a national spirit which can be explained by several causes. Some disaffected elements were taken prisoners by the German forces.

Morale Improved.

"French and British army reinforcements had been received and were ready to help the Italians hold their lines.

"Italia Irredenta has never aroused much enthusiasm in Italy outside the northern border districts, for the Italians live in compartments as no other great people do. However, patriotism which was not aroused by the attempt to gain land from Austria is now warmly resisting the invader of the country. Soldiers from every section gallantly shared suffering and this is making Italy into a nation with one purpose and spirit. This shows the action which is now being taken against peace propagandists.

Italy needs immediately men, guns, flour and coal. Vigorous and ungrudging aid in these will help her to fight triumphantly."

ASKS CONGRESS TO PUT UP MONEY IF U. S. TAKES ROADS

REPORTED PRESIDENT READY TO MAKE SUCH REQUEST IF GOVERNMENT OPERATION BECOMES ACTUAL FACT.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The railroad situation continued to engross President Wilson today with the financial problem involved in a possible government control drawing most of his attention. The president has before him a mass of information on the subject including details of the British plan of government operation.

The president, it is understood, is ready if he decides on government operation, to ask congress to guarantee the railroads pre-war earnings and the railroads are said to want such a guarantee to be based on 1916 revenues. Officials tonight estimated that such an arrangement might cost the government next year as much as \$100,000,000.

Returns on Capital.

In addition to guaranteeing earnings the government, if it operates the roads, probably would be called on to guarantee returns on new capital invested. The roads estimate that they will have to invest next year between half and three-quarters of a billion dollars in equipment and improvements. The roads, it is said, are ready to finance themselves whether under government control or not, although they ask that their credit be not impaired by having to compete in bond sales with government bond issues.

Reports today to the railroad board showed that on December last, unfilled car orders amounted to 117,132 cars, a decrease of 22,880 since November 1, and an increase of only

10,000 over December 1, 1916, although the roads are handling 20 per cent more traffic than in the same time last year.

GERMANS START STORY U. S. EXECUTED A WOMAN SPY

STATE DEPARTMENT SENDS OFFICIAL DENIAL TO EMBASSIES IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—Persistent repetition of a story that a woman spy had been executed in the United States has caused the state department to send an official denial to American consuls and legations in the European neutral countries.

The story originated in Germany, and its widespread use is regarded as another case of propaganda.

The name of the woman was given as Anna Huitema. Ordinarily no attention would have been paid to a story so palpably false, but in this case credence appeared to have been given to it in neutral countries.

SILVER MEN WANT A DOLLAR PER OUNCE

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—Spill silver producers must receive at least \$1 an ounce or shut down their mines, Director Baker of the mint was told today by a delegation of producers from western states, who conferred on the government's plans for acquiring the silver output for the next year.

Mr. Baker and Albert Strauss, the government's foreign exchange expert, told the silver men that a decision on the price and details of the proposed silver arrangements would be made in about a week. In addition to the silver producer the conference included Senators Smoot, Pittman, King, Newlands, Ashurst, Smith (Arizona), Shaffroth and Borah.

Treasury officials today declared the proposed silver acquisition was solely to meet the momentary needs of the United States, Great Britain and other co-belligerents.

Co-operate with your government and mail your Christmas parcels early. Unless you mail your Xmas parcels early this year the boys in the cantonment may not receive their presents.

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Dennison's fancy Christmas Boxes at the Journal office.

Initial stationery will be found at the Journal office. An excellent Christmas present.

Christmas Cards of every description at the Journal office.

While T. M. Patterson, president of the Farmers State Bank, was waiting for a late train at the Burlington Station in Omaha last night, he was fortunate enough to meet Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, chairman of the Thrift Stamp movement for the United States, who is now making a tour of the country, and Mr. Ward M. Burgess, Director of the movement for Nebraska, who were also waiting. Mr. Vanderlip is President of the National City Bank of New York City, the largest bank in the United States and next to the Bank of England the largest in the world. Both Mr. Vanderlip and Mr. Burgess urged Mr. Patterson to push the sale of Thrift stamps in Plattsmouth which he agreed to do.

Dennison's tags and seals are on sale at the Journal office.

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LET THE CHILDREN HELP TO WIN THE WAR

GIVE THEM WAR SAVINGS STAMPS for Christmas

CONFUSION AND CHAOS REIGNS IN RUSSIA NOW

COSSACKS WIN BATTLE AT ROSTOV PUT KORNILOFF RE-TREATS NEAR BIELGOROD.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS JAILED

Constituent Assembly Menaced and Suspended; Rioting Feared at Petrograd.

Official announcement is made by the Bolshevik government at Petrograd that the Russian delegates to the armistice conference now in progress at Brest Litovsk are empowered to begin peace negotiations with the central powers if an armistice is signed.

Meanwhile the struggle for power in interior Russia is growing more bitter. Advantages in the civil warfare are claimed by both sides. The Bolsheviks assert success in the fighting with General Kaledine's Cossacks in the vicinity of Bielgorod, some 350 miles south of Moscow, while the Cossacks are reported victorious at Rostov-on-the-Don, capturing the city and forcing the Bolshevik troops to retreat across the Don.

Official German and Austrian statements say that the Russian delegates arrived at Brest Litovsk Wednesday and the armistice negotiations were resumed yesterday.

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—In the battle near Bielgorod, according to a Bolshevik staff report, General Korniloff's Cossacks were defeated. They retreated to Vasileika.

In connection with the battle at Rostov, the evening newspapers report the Cossacks as victorious, the Bolshevik forces having retreated across the Don river to Nakhivka.

London, Dec. 14.—Bolshevik troops have occupied Tamonivka and Kaluga, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd.

Tamonivka is near Bielgorod, in Kursk province, about 350 miles south of Moscow. There is a railroad town named Kaluga in the province of the same name, which lies about 100 miles southwest of Moscow.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd, announces that if an armistice for the eastern front is signed at Brest-Litovsk, the Russian delegates are empowered to enter into peace negotiations.

Tamonivka was occupied by troops from Petrograd, while Kaluga was captured without much fighting. The counter-revolutionary troops there disarmed and arrested the Bolshevik authorities restored.

Petrograd, Dec. 13.—The Bolshevik forces have defeated a "death battalion" in the vicinity of Bielgorod, where the fighting with the Korniloff and Kaledine forces centers.

In the Orenburg district, where General Dutoff has a large force of Cossacks, there has been little fighting and the Bolsheviks have sent agitators to work among his troops. It is reported that Kaluga has been taken by the Bolsheviks, after the defeat of a counter-revolutionary "death battalion."

The commander of the Black sea fleet has called upon all the sailors to fight against Kaledine, declaring Kaledine, together with the allied imperialists, has declared civil war.

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GREAT WORK BY CROWDER'S OFFICE

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGULATIONS AND QUESTIONNAIRE TO ALL REGISTRANTS.

MODELS OF COMPLETENESS

Provost Marshal General and His Expert Assistants Have Completed an Immense Task in Preparing for the New Drafts.

By EDWARD B. CLARK.

Washington.—Provost Marshal General Enoch H. Crowder is waiting the events to follow the installation of the new selective service regulations and the all-embracing questionnaire to registrants.

There has been constructive and in part perhaps destructive criticism of many of the branches of the government since the United States entered into the war. The office of the provost marshal general has not been immune from criticism of individuals, but in a general way the work that it has done has received the praise of the people.

If study, care and extreme thoughtfulness can make for success of the preparations for the next drafts, then success is certain to come with the same fullness with which it was meted out in the first high instance.

No one who has not been in daily touch with the office of the provost marshal general can appreciate the magnitude of the work with which this office of the service has been confronted from the first. The new selective service regulations which today are in the hands of every local board in the country were prepared to meet every possible case, and contingency which may arise. If anything has been overlooked it managed to escape notice while a score of pairs of trained eyes were on watch.

Making the Questionnaire.

General Crowder and his staff of officers subjected themselves to a questionnaire on their own account. It may be said that in effect a school was established in the general's office. Every question which it was conceivable that anyone might ask was given consideration and the answer was forthcoming. The matter was viewed not only from the questioning standpoint of the man who might be drafted, but from that of every official connected in any way with the service of drafting and from that of every person of whatever kind or class who might take an interest in the service subject.

Law, rules and regulations are the foundations of the selective service operations. It has been the attempt of General Crowder, soldier and lawyer, and of his assistants, also soldiers and lawyers, to strip bare the book of information of all technicalities and confusing verbiage.

The country perhaps has no conception of the tremendous volume of correspondence which flowed between the public and the office of the provost marshal general at the time of the preparation for the first draft and during the weeks which succeeded it. A large part of it came wholly from the fact that the people who asked the questions did not read the rules and the regulations and did not want to take the trouble to read them, but were willing to take more trouble on themselves in order to get something straight from headquarters.

The correspondence of the provost marshal general's office was so tremendous that it taxed almost to the breaking point the energies of the officers and stenographers who worked within the walls of these Washington army quarters. It is the belief and the hope apparently of the provost marshal general's office that, with seemingly every possible question answered in some part of the regulations which have been forwarded to the governors and to the local boards, the persons who are in doubt about anything will appeal to their board members or to any other competent authority willing to clear up doubt.

Prepared by Experts.

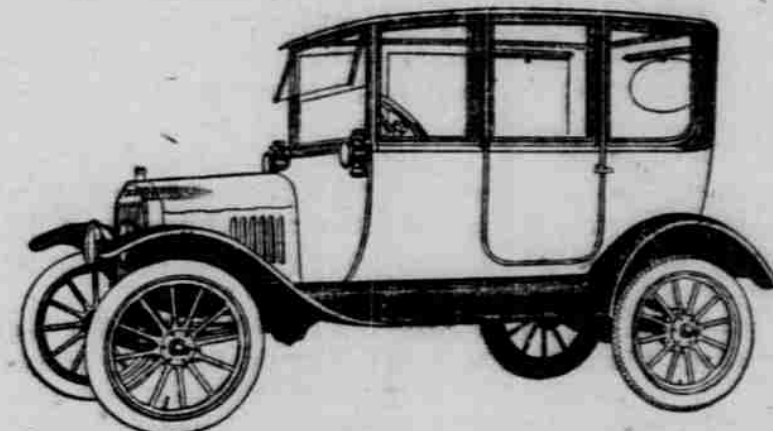
The selective service regulations which have been prescribed by the president are conveniently arranged in a well indexed book. The preparation of this book has been the work of General Crowder and a corps of assistants composed of live officers of the regular army and of the reserve corps. All of these officers are lawyers, for there are in the judge advocate general's office many officers of regulars who found time either after graduation from West Point, or, if not graduates, after entering the service, to take the prescribed law courses in order that they might be attached to the office of the judge advocate general.

When General Crowder was lieutenant of cavalry in the 80's he was stationed at Fort Yates on the Standing Rock agency, in North Dakota. The post had a small library and on one of its shelves Lieutenant Crowder found a copy of General Fry's history of the draft of 1863. He studied the book thoroughly and continued the study of it through the years thereafter. There never was any thought, of course, in General Crowder's mind that one day he might be called upon to conduct a draft of American soldiers for a great war, but the day did come when it was necessary and it found him prepared so far as the past records could prepare him both to put a draft through and to avoid what he thought to be the mistakes of the earlier operation.

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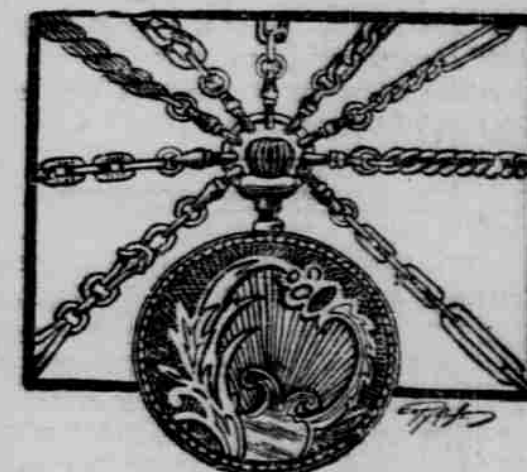
We have put in service two Ford Trucks equipped with Hog Racks and will haul hogs to the South Omaha market at the rate of \$10.00 per truck load for any farmer within a radius of six miles from Plattsmouth and a small extra charge for extra mileage.

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