

# Enlist in the Army and Get a Drink

The following correspondence showing the inducements to join the army for overseas service offered by a recruiting station, and Sec'y. Baker's comment, is self-explanatory.—Editor.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
U. S. ARMY RECRUITING STATION.  
204 Fifth Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
July 28th, 1920, 3:31 P. M.

CONFIDENTIAL TIP.  
(If you let this out, someone will beat you to it).  
Old-Timer,

We received this very minute a telegram from the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C., authorizing us to accept for the AMERICAN FORCES IN GERMANY, certain especially desirable men for service in the Infantry, Cavalry, Quartermaster Corps and as Cooks and Clerks.

ONLY 975 vacancies open:  
Thousands of old-timers have been to see us begging us to take them for service on the Rhine. Some have stayed in the office for hours trying to figure out some way they could start a small war and get over there; they know that the American Forces in Germany are SITTING ON THE WORLD—that fact can't be denied. Since the pay-bill has passed, the 20 per cent on the new pay of the soldier—especially in Germany where the dollar is worth ten times what it is worth here—service in Germany is more desirable than ever.

Unfortunately we did not take the names of the old-timers who wanted to get back to Germany. Therefore we are addressing this letter to the most desirable of those ex-service men whose names are on our service rolls of honor.

For those who were not over there, this is an opportunity to see London, Paris, Berlin, Rome and the old countries.

First come, first served. As you can see, this will not last for more than ten days.  
THE NEW PEACE-TIME ARMY STANDS READY TO GIVE YOU

(1) a good job (you cannot beat it) (2) a \$12,000 trip to the old countries of Europe (3) relief from old King H. C. L. (4) A chance to get away from the 18th Amendment while still serving Uncle Sam and living under the great flag of the nation. Yours truly,

WAYNE R. ALLEN,  
1st Lieut. Infantry, U. S. A.

Lincoln, Nebr., Aug. 24, 1920.  
Hon. Newton D. Baker,  
Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Baker:  
I enclose herewith a copy of a letter, the original of which was sent out by a recruiting agent in Pittsburgh. Kindly advise me whether the war department authorizes or is aware of the inducement that is being held out to young men to enlist in order to escape the provisions of the 18th amendment to the federal constitution.

I also call your attention to the suggestion in the letter that those who enlist may get a chance to fight in Germany.

The contents of this recruiting letter are so astounding and the circulation of the recruiting letter referred to has so aroused some of those who have seen it that I assume that you will desire to give it public attention at once.

Very truly yours,  
CHARLES W. BRYAN,  
Associate Editor & Publisher The Commoner.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Washington, August 31, 1920.  
Hon. Charles W. Bryan,  
The Commoner,  
Lincoln, Nebr.  
Dear Mr. Bryan:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th instant calling attention to a letter sent out by a recruiting officer in Pittsburgh holding out inducements to enlist for service in Germany in order to escape the provisions of the eighteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution. This matter will be promptly investigated and any necessary action taken with a view to discontinuing the use of such advertise-

ing. You will be informed of the result of the investigation and action taken.

It may be stated that the department does not approve of holding out inducements of this character in its efforts to obtain recruits for the army.

With thanks for your courtesy in bringing the matter to the attention of the department, I am, Very truly yours,

NEWTON D. BAKER,  
Secretary of War.

## PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 27, 1920.

My dear Mr. Hyde: Answering your inquiry of June 25th, just received—it may be too late for my answer to be of service to you—I beg to say that I favor the primary system and am anxious to see a national presidential primary. I think the federal law should fix the day so that the primaries will be held at the same time in all the states. Such other provisions as may be necessary to secure such uniformity as may be deemed desirable should be added, with privilege to the states to add anything they like and to take charge of the machinery where they desire to do so. A second and third choice should be permitted, as in some of the state primaries, so as to make it easier to ascertain the wishes of the voters. A National Bulletin ought to provide the means of informing the voters as to the merits of candidates properly entered, so that a large campaign fund will not be necessary, and a limitation should be placed on the amount of money that can be spent by candidates or for them, in order to put all aspirants upon an equal footing. Penalties should be fixed for disregard of instructions.

The two conventions of this year have furnished new proof of the necessity for a national primary,  
Very truly yours,  
Mr Henry M. Hyde,  
McClure Magazine,  
New York City.

W. J. BRYAN.

## DEMOCRATIC FINANCE

Following is an extract taken from a report of Comptroller of the Currency Williams, of July 31, 1920:

"The number of national banks in the United States on July 1, 1920 was 8,097. Their assets amounted to over twenty-two billion dollars (\$22,000,000,000)—an almost incomprehensible sum.

"And for the last fiscal year (ending October 31, 1919), there was no failure of any national bank in the entire United States involving one dollar's loss to any depositor.

"The unprecedented safety of our national banks means much to our people, for the national banks of the country now have over 20 million deposit accounts on their books of men and women of all classes—rich and poor—and the safety of this money deeply affects the happiness and welfare of these depositors.

"For the twenty-two months' period from January 1, 1918 to the close of the fiscal year October 31, 1919 (embracing ten months of the perils of war and twelve months of the reconstruction period) the record of the national banks as to their immunity from failure was 3,000 per cent or 30 times better than the yearly average for the previous forty year period.

"The Federal Reserve Act is a Democratic measure throughout. It was passed by a Democratic congress and approved by a Democratic President. The Federal Reserve Act was passed by the vote of 47 Democratic senators and 7 Republican senators. No Democratic senator voted against it while 34 Republican senators tried to defeat this great measure and voted against it. The Federal Reserve Act was passed in the House of Representatives by the affirmative vote of 248 Democrats while only 38 Republicans voted for it.

"Before the Democrats reformed the archaic, panic-breeding currency system fostered by the Republicans for half a century of almost continuous rule, panics were almost as frequent as the seasons.

"In the forty years from 1874 to 1918 national bank failures occurred on an average of one in about every twenty-one days.

"From January 1, 1918 to the end of the last fiscal year—October 31, 1919—22 months—there was only one such failure.

"The percentage of all business failures to the total number of business houses in the

United States in the year 1919 under a Democratic administration, following in the wake of the greatest war in all history—was the lowest of any year since the Civil war.

"And the total number of all business failures in the country for the last fiscal year, 1919, was the smallest in about 40 years, despite the fact that the aggregate number of business houses has more than doubled in that time."

## WETS SEEK UPSET OF VOLSTEAD LAW

(Special dispatch to The Washington Post.)

Baltimore, Sept. 5.—Baltimore and Maryland are to play an important part in the proposed repeal of the Volstead act and eventually the Eighteenth amendment. This was disclosed today when it was learned a Maryland branch of the newly organized association against the Prohibition amendment was launched here a few days ago.

It was in Baltimore that the feasibility of establishing such an association, nation-wide in its scope, first was discussed by about twenty-five leading citizens of the city.

Names of many well-known Baltimoreans are linked with the organization, including men of such prominence as Waldo Newcomer, Gen. Felix Agnus, Dr. Julius Friedenwald, Dr. H. Warren Buckner and Gen. George F. Randolph and many others.

To Capt. W. H. Stayton, a native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and at present president of the Baltimore Steamship Company, should go credit for the plan. It is due chiefly to his efforts that the association has branches in New York, Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, in addition to Maryland.

When prohibition was enacted Capt. Stayton was one of thousands who believed the country had been made "dry" by a fanatical minority. He also believed local organizations launched from time to time in different communities to combat the Volstead act would prove of little avail. So the idea of a national organization was decided upon.

With members joining at the rate of 12,000 a month it is felt that the time is ripe for a big drive throughout the United States.

The first act of the association which established headquarters in the Munsey building, Washington, was to place boxes in many cities in the east which contained cards. These cards contained the information that the "Volstead law can be repealed; the Supreme Court says we may keep it or repeal it, just as the voters prefer."

"The Volstead law can be repealed," it goes on, "if those opposed to it will join our association and merely let themselves be counted so that congressmen may know how many of us there are."

To better facilitate this counting, the association also took up the "chain" system to increase its membership. This is not of a character to conflict with regulations of the post-office department, for it is only requested of members that they send headquarters the names of "prospects." These prospects are sent circulars telling of the work of the association and by this "chain" process the organization grows monthly by the tens of thousands.

If the names of 100,000 voters are secured in Maryland the officers or a committee of the association just previous to the time that political parties nominate for office will go to stellar lights in either camp and say:

"You have two men running for the Senate. One is Horace Jones and the other is Wilber James. Jones is a 'dry' man and here are the names of 100,000 voters who stand opposed to his election, irrespective of party affiliation."

The association intends to "freeze out" the "dry" candidates and prevent them getting nominations from any party. In a few years, if the plan pans out, there will be in congress only those lawmakers who will be in sympathy with the aims for which the association is working, as follows:

1. To repeal the Volstead act.
2. To permit every state (under the concurrent clause) to pass its own enforcement act.
3. To remove the prohibition amendment from the constitution.

The association against the Prohibition amendment is nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

When branches of the association are established in every state it is proposed to select delegates to attend a convention and elect national officers.