

### WHEAT CROP SHORT 50,000,000 BUSHEL

Department of Agriculture Reports Condition April 1 as 63.4 Per Cent of Normal.

### NEBRASKA 35 PER CENT

Washington, April 7.—A prospective slump of more than 50,000,000 bushels in the winter crop of wheat, as compared with last year's crop, is the first war feeding problem to confront the country. Official estimates of the Department of Agriculture today—the first for the 1917 harvest, forecast that much of a decrease, although the acreage is much greater. The winter wheat crop will be about 430,000,000 bushels. Last year 481,744,000 bushels were harvested and 673,947,000 bushels were produced in 1915. Condition on April 1 was 63.4 per cent of a normal compared with 78.3 last year; 88.8 in 1915 and 86.2 the ten-year average. The condition decreased 22.3 points from December 1 to April 1, compared with an average decline of four points in the last ten years between those dates.

Condition of winter wheat in the important growing states on April 1 was: Ohio, 80; Indiana, 65; Illinois, 60; Missouri, 62; Nebraska, 35; Kansas, 45; Oklahoma, 74.

Condition of rye on April 1 was 86.06 per cent of a normal compared with 87.8 last year; 89.5 in 1915 and 89.6, the ten-year average. The food problem of the coming year being one of the paramount questions affecting the United States in the war, extraordinary interest centered in the government's report today showing the condition and production forecast of the winter wheat crop planted last autumn.

The extent of the winter wheat crop usually about two-thirds of the entire production of wheat in this country, is a vital question, inasmuch as the allies will depend to a large degree upon American supplies and Argentina has placed an embargo on wheat and flour exports.

### Acreage is Largest.

The winter wheat area last autumn was 40,090,000 acres, one of the largest acreages ever planted. How much of this acreage will have to be abandoned because of conditions which prevailed during the winter has been a cause of much speculation. Reports from different sources reaching the Department of Agriculture have indicated there was some winter killing of wheat in many sections of Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, and of hard red winter wheat in the western and southwestern plains, particularly in Kansas and Oklahoma. Whether the extent of the damage is more than the average was uncertain. Lack of adequate snow covering during the winter has been reported and prolonged and severe drought conditions have followed. Much of the winter sown acreage that has been abandoned undoubtedly will be sown to spring wheat because of the indicated shortage of the winter crop and the prevailing high prices.

Notwithstanding the heavy decrease in the prospective winter wheat crop, the production of rye is forecasted by the Department of Agriculture at 60,000,000 bushels, the largest output of that crop ever recorded in the United States. Last year the production of rye was 47,383,000 bushels, and the average of the previous five years was 37,568,000 bushels.

### Money Order and Mail Service to Germany Stops

Washington, April 7.—Postmaster General Burleson today suspended mail service to Germany during the war and also instructed all postoffices to refuse as well any mail destined for Austria, Hungary, Luxembourg, Bulgaria and Turkey, as it cannot be dispatched at present without passing through Germany. Mail from the countries last named which may be received in the United States will be sent forward to destination. Postmaster General Burleson also has suspended postal money orders between the United States and the German empire. International money order offices will decline to pay orders drawn upon them by German offices on and after April 6.

### Large Submarine is Sighted Near Tampa, Fla.

Tampa, Fla., April 7.—Captain Lindquist and crew of a fishing smack from Sarasota today reported that they saw a large submarine in the gulf yesterday. The craft rose within a mile of them and there were men on its deck, Captain Lindquist reports. He hailed, but had no response, and saw no marks of identification.

### ADVOCATES OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE BILLS.



ABOVE: SENATOR CHAMBERLAIN. BELOW: REP. KAHN.

Senator G. E. Chamberlain, chairman of the senate committee on military affairs, who has introduced into the upper house a measure providing for universal military service. The Chamberlain bill is the same as the one framed during the last congress, with slight modifications. Representative Kahn of California, ranking republican member of the house military affairs committee, has also introduced before the lower body a bill providing for universal military service. The Kahn bill is the system proposed by the army general staff, and is generally credited by military men with being the most thorough of the two.

### Former Shenandoah Man Killed in California

Shenandoah, Ia., April 7.—(Special.)—When the car in which he was riding on a mountain road on the way to Los Angeles plunged over the side of the roadway Claude Comer, a cousin of Guy Howery of Shenandoah, was pinned between the car and a tree and crushed to death. Mr. Comer was born in Shenandoah December 28, 1883. He moved to Tulare, Cal., in 1913.

### Brazilian Ship Sunk In Middle of Night

Rio Janeiro, April 7.—The captain of the torpedoed Brazilian steamer Parana cables that in addition to the killing of three members of his crew, several sailors were wounded by the explosion of the torpedoes. He said that the ship was attacked at midnight without warning and denounces the conduct of the Germans as barbarous.

### SECRETARY BAKER EXPLAINS ARMY BILL

Head of War Department Goes Over Proposed Measure With House Committee.

### TECHNICAL UNITS ADDED

Washington, April 7.—Secretary Baker told the house military committee today the plans of his department for training 1,000,000 men during the next year. He urged immediate enactment of the general staff bill, including the selective conscription provisions, recommending just one change in the bill as made public yesterday. That was to provide for the organization of technical units, including automobile and aerial engineers, signal men, etc. This suggested addition to the bill reads: "The president is authorized to raise and maintain, by volunteer enlistment or draft, as herein provided, special and technical troops as he may deem necessary and embody them into organization and to officer them as provided in the third paragraph of Section 1 and Section 8 of this act."

Chairman Dent of the committee, with Representative Kahn of California, ranking republican member of the committee present, made this statement: "I cannot say yet what the attitude of the committee will be regarding the question of selective conscription, as the committee is not yet familiar with the bill and I could only judge by the questions asked the secretary."

Secretary Baker is convinced that the draft system is absolutely essential and that the voluntary system would not work adequately. The argument that has been all along made, of course, is that under a draft system every body would be treated alike and that it would not be the case under the voluntary system.

"Under the present laws the ages for eligibility to enlistment are from 18 to 35 in the regular army and 18 to 45 in the National Guard and the new bill changes this to make it 18 to 40 years old in both cases."

Secretary Baker told the committee there are enough small arms to equip the first 1,000,000 men; that within fourteen or eighteen months most of the heavy ordnance necessary would be available and that within two years there would be sufficient equipment to put 2,000,000 men on a complete fighting basis. He said there were 7,000,000 of which he estimated 4,000,000 were available for service after eliminating those in factories or in arts and sciences, where they perform work necessary for preparation of the country for war and the men who have dependents or military defects."

Secretary Baker opposed a suggestion that there be written into the bill a provision that the president might fill up the ranks of the National Guard by draft only after the voluntary system failed.

### HYMENEAL Boli-Bloom.

Shenandoah, Ia., April 7.—(Special.)—Miss Auda Z. Bloom, 16 years old, of Coin, Ia., was married Tuesday to Charlie Boli, 24, of Shenandoah. They will make their home in Tennessee.

### BLAZE THREATENS OMAHA GAS WORKS

Eleven Draft Horses Lost in Blaze at Union Fuel South Yard.

### FIREMAN M'COY HURT

A spectacular fire, which threatened the gas works and started rumors that the army quartermaster depot had been set on fire, totally destroyed the barn and eleven horses at the south yard of the Union Fuel company, Twentieth and Hickory streets, between 11 and 12 o'clock last night. Strenuous work by the fire department prevented flames from spreading to a huge gas storage tank on the same block. The army depot, two blocks west, was in no danger.

Archie McCoy, 2471 South Twentieth street, a fireman of one of the hose truck companies, was severely burned on both hands, while fighting the blaze. He was taken to the police dispensary, where Drs. Shook and Nigro dressed the burns. Defective wiring is thought to have started the fire. Damage totalled over \$6,000, according to A. B. Cook, president of the company. It was fully covered by insurance, he said. Andrew Brackbill, the night watch-

### OLD-TIME OMAHA POLICEMAN HEARS LAST CALL.



MORRIS J. FLEMING.

man, said he received the alarm from Mike Malovich, a teamster, who was staying with him at the yard over night, expecting to get a job in the morning. The fire seemed to be along the ceiling, which was wired for electric light, he said. The two men tried to rescue the thirteen draft horse in the barn, but succeeded in saving only two. The horses were worth \$250 each, the barn over \$2,000, and it contained about \$1,000 worth of harness, hay and feed.

### FOR CONSCRIPTION IN THE IOWA GUARD

Senator Rule May Introduce Bill Providing This Method of Filling Ranks.

### MANY MORE ARE NEEDED

Des Moines, Ia., April 7.—(Special Telegram)—Senator Rule of Cerro Gordo county, chairman of military affairs in the Iowa senate, may introduce a committee bill, providing for conscription in Iowa to fill the ranks of the National Guard. The guard now has 4,500 men and 9,000 are needed in all. An age limit has not yet been determined. Some senators favor ages from 19 to 23, while others favor 18 to 25. As the legislature will adjourn at the end of this week the bill may not get through both houses before adjournment.

### "Gus" Miller is Riled by Pro-German's Argument

The court house is no place for persons with pro-German proclivities to express their sentiments. An unpatriotic individual with German sympathies started an argument with Miss Alice Dellone, one of the juvenile court deputies. He never finished his

part of the wordy debate as to whether Germany was justified in certain things, for Probation Officer Miller came along about that time. "Gus" heard about three sentences and then ousted the pro-German from the office, advising him not to return again.

### Dublin Police Put Ban Upon Public Meetings This Week

Dublin, April 7.—The reasons for forbidding public meetings and processions in Dublin next week unless authorized by the military are given in an official proclamation today. The document states that there is reason to apprehend that the assembly of persons for the purpose of holding meetings in any public place within the Dublin metropolitan police district will give rise to grave disorders. It was during Easter week last year that the Sinn Fein rebellion broke out.

### Franz Bopp Sends Word He Will Surrender

San Francisco, Cal., April 7.—Franz Bopp, former German consul general, under prison sentence for violating American neutrality, telephoned to federal authorities here today from St. Helena, Cal., that he was on his way here to surrender. A few minutes previously federal agents announced he was a fugitive, believing he was heading for the Mexican border. He is at liberty under \$25,000 bail.

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Rough weaves have been coming in during the past week. La Jerz, Khaki Kool, Yo-San, Tussah, in colors natural and ivory. Especially practical for out-of-doors wear; \$2.50 to \$3.75 a yard.

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Never were patterns so beautiful, so charmingly spring-like—and weaves there are in abundance—so many entirely new this season.

Wash Fabrics are embroidered, woven or printed as preferred, in pleasing designs; certain to make the daintiest of dresses, skirts and blouses for warmer days. They launder perfectly, too.

We advise an early selection of Dress Linens, as many colors cannot be reordered and prices are certain to be more when these are gone. Two qualities are offered; 36-inch, 85c; 45-inch, \$1.00.

Wash Goods Are Opposite the Silks.

### Gloves of Quality

Fitting complements to the spring costume. In shades and styles appropriate for every occasion.

First quality Trefousse, the finest Kid Gloves produced in all of France, that great center of glove making, shown in pastel, navy, gray, white and black; \$2.75 a pair.

Trefousse one and two-clasp Gloves, in tan, navy, gray, pastel, white and black, \$2 and \$2.75 a pair.

Filosette—Our new washable fabric glove, in white, all sizes, 75c.

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Black Silk Hose, very sheer, medium or heavy weight; are priced \$1.75, \$2, \$2.25, \$2.50. White Silk Hose, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75.

### Announcing a New Model--Thomson's Glove Fitting Corset

A Corset that will appeal to every woman who wears a medium size. It is a low bust, long skirt model that shapes close to the body. May we show you style one fifty-one? \$1.50 a Pair. Corset Section, Third Floor.

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Stuffed Young Duck  
Apple Sauce  
Roast Spring Lamb,  
Mint Sauce  
Prime Ribs of Beef, au jus  
Mashed Potatoes  
Boiled Potatoes  
Stewed Corn  
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