

TOO MANY SOUGHT TO EVADE SERVICE

APPEALS FROM THE LOCAL AND
DISTRICT DRAFT BOARDS
NUMBERED 25,000.

WEEDING OUT THE SLACKERS

Good Work in Washington by the
Provost Marshal General's Office—
Hope for Improvement in Delivery
of Mail to Soldiers Abroad.

By ARTHUR W. DUNN.

Washington, Twenty-five thousand appeals were made by men who sought exemption from the draft and had been refused by the local and district boards. Out of approximately 2,000,000 men in class 1 this may not seem so large a number. At the same time the desire of 25,000 young men to escape military service was rather discouraging to the war officials, particularly since upon examination many of the claims for exemption appeared to be frivolous or equivocal.

Army officers administering the law and dealing with applications for exemption especially when they were backed by senators and representatives in congress, found considerable difficulty in adjusting the various situations in view of the fact that here in Washington many thousands of clerks claimed exemption as employees of the government, while a large number of other young men within the draft age were seeking and securing commissions in the various noncombatant staff corps and were very numerous in their uniforms on the streets of Washington and in the departments.

There has been a decided change in this score within the last few weeks. The provost marshal general's office has been reaching into the departments and lifting out the clerks who were within the draft age and liable to service. Every department has been called upon to furnish the number and names of all men within the draft age. Another reform has been started by the secretary of war, which is the weeding out of staff officers in Washington who have been filling clerical positions. Of course this cannot be accomplished in its entirety, but it has been remarked during the past few weeks that many officers in uniform, with sashes in their hands, have been seen weeding their way to the Calan station on the route to "somewhere" with the possibility of doing real military duty.

Many people in the United States hope that a recent announcement from the post office department will result in better mail service between the United States and the soldiers in France. During the several weeks in which complaints have been aired officially as well as unofficially about the inadequate mail service, there has been a contention on the part of the post office department that the delays were due largely to the manner in which the war department was handling the mail. Even in his latest statement the postmaster general said the military authorities in France would not disclose to the postal officials the location or movement of troops in Europe, and consequently there has been a great deal of delay. By the new arrangement, however, it is expected the war department will take charge of the distribution of mail sent abroad and in that way letters and other matter to the soldiers will be very much expedited.

Political expediency and personal ambition figured largely in the past and costs as to whether an additional revenue measure should be considered before the present session of congress adjourns. As to the politics of it, the Democratic leaders argued for the reason that everybody would be agitated over the proposed new taxes. There were a very few and very sagacious politicians, too—who asserted it would be better to have the revenue bill out of the way and understood, rather than have it hang over the whole people.

President Wilson has never been much impressed with the political effect of legislation which he considers necessary. Four years ago it was necessary for the revenues made it necessary to pass another revenue bill. It was the first bill to be called a war revenue measure, and was given that name because the war in Europe was alleged to have been the main cause of the falling off of treasury receipts. Politicians in congress argued against passing any such bill before the elections, but President Wilson insisted that it was necessary and therefore the people would not be dissatisfied; and it may also be recalled that the Democrats won the elections in 1914. The personal reasons for avoiding revenue legislation are greater than the political reasons. Members of congress do not want to stay in Washington any longer than they are obliged to. Their salaries and the salaries of their employees go along just the same whether congress is in session or not, and it is natural that they should prefer to be at home, mingling with their people, especially those members who are seeking re-election, rather than to stay in Washington, which is a mighty warm place during the months of June, July, August and September.

On more than one occasion Senator Borah has taken exception to allusions to "leaders of the Republican party in the senate." In doing so the Idaho senator declines any title or right to be considered a "leader," but he objects to any body of self-constituted "leaders" speaking for the Republicans of the senate. The last occasion when he adverted to this subject was at the time of the appointment of Charles E. Hughes as an investigator of the aircraft imbroglio. Now, it is a fact that some Republicans felt the selection of Mr. Hughes was a shrewd move on the part of President Wilson that would tend to shut off any possible partisan criticism that could be made in regard to aircraft production, especially if the findings should be that there had been no misuse of money or criminal action. Some newspapers published stories to that effect and attributed the comments to Republican "leaders."

Senator Borah repudiated the idea that there was any Republican objection to the selection of Mr. Hughes. A little later Senator Smoot remarked that Mr. Hughes' selection "was as remarkable as it was admirable."

The largest, finest and best furnished room in the war department is now called the "turn-down room." Here gathered all of the people who want to see Secretary Baker and who have not been accorded interviews in his private office. Those who are given interviews in his private office are likely to have something to say which the secretary wants to know about or may have a proposition which the secretary may accept. But in this outside office it is different. The people who assemble there belong to the "fortuna hope" crowd. Dozens every day are there, and proffer their requests and are turned down. The secretary of war enters the room with a negative countenance. He has the ever-ready "I am sorry, but I cannot do it," at his tongue's end, and that is usually what the visitors in the "turn-down room" hear. Of course, it is always accompanied by an explanation as to rules, regulations or laws which stand in the way of granting the request.

That which was once a sacred tradition and an unwritten law in the United States senate is now only a memory. The tradition was that a new senator should not take part in the debates until he had sat at the feet of the seniors for at least one session. The tradition was shattered when 12 new senators entered the senate 25 years ago, and it has been put upon the scrap heap by the progressives. Tradition has been introduced into the senate many men with a message and ideas on all subjects of public interest. And so the tradition is but a memory.

Old habits of the senate realized this fact when, within two or three weeks after taking the oath of office, Senator Lenroot of Wisconsin took an active part in the discussion of the rivers and harbors bill, even before that he had shown a determination to do his duty by objecting to various pet measures of senators, which have usually passed without opposition on account of senatorial courtesy, but which have a somewhat dubious reputation in the halls of legislation. What is an interesting fact, in connection with Lenroot's activity, is that he was listened to by other senators and attention given to what he had to say.

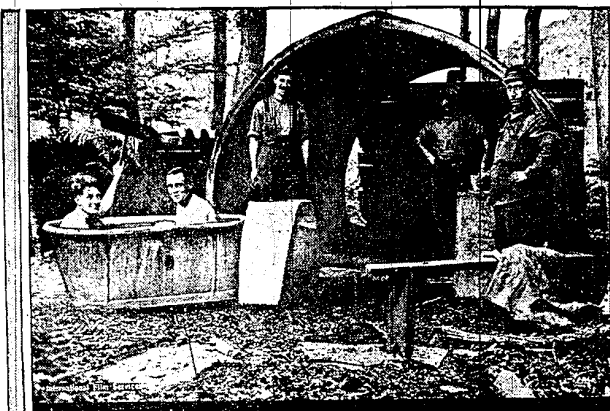
It is a characteristic of nearly every speaker of the house of representatives that he desires to be absolutely right in his rulings, although he naturally desires to be on the side of his own party. But perhaps none of the predecessors of Speaker Clark was quite so anxious to be impartial and just as he is. Recently some point was being argued in the house which the speaker had decided, and as the debate went along Congressman Walsh of Massachusetts asked if the speaker had not ruled on this question.

"Yes," replied Champ; "but the chair is not as eagerly struck on his own ruling, that he will not listen to somebody else."

Here is another sacrifice that the people of America have got to make, coming in the way of a statement from the forest service and referring to President Wilson's appeal to the Boy Scouts of America to help win the war by locating black walnut trees. The statement goes on to say that black walnut lumber is needed for manufacturing airplane propellers and gunstocks, and then mentions the scarcity of black walnut in this country. Thirty to fifty years ago there was a great deal of black walnut in the country, but it was cut down and used for firewood and for the manufacture of furniture. A considerable amount of old black walnut furniture is still in existence. But the sacrifice which now is to be made is the loss of the fruit of the black walnut trees. There is no better, richer or more delicious nut meat than that which comes from the black walnut tree. Like all other good things, it is hard to get, but it is very fine when obtained. But as these trees are necessary for war purposes, they will have to go, along with many of the other luxuries which the people of the United States have enjoyed.

An Obstacle.
You can people, especially those members who are seeking re-election, rather than to stay in Washington, which is a mighty warm place during the months of June, July, August and September.

"ROOM AND BATH" JUST BACK OF THE FIGHTING LINES



One of the most necessary things, and sometimes the thing greatly lacking, is a bath for the men "out there." Behind the lines they are bathing quarters for the men and when bathing day arrives they are in a happy frame of mind. It's a case of first come, first served.

AMERICAN GENERAL CONGRATULATES MEN ON A TRENCH RAID



The daring of the American fighters in France has been rewarded and commended in various ways. Some of the men have been decorated with the French war Cross. Yet a lighter delight in having his commanding officer personally congratulate him for exceptional valor, General Edwards, shown in this picture, realizes that his men want his thanks. So when a raiding party composed of his men carried out a successful raid on enemy trenches he gathered the men around and shook the hand of each.

HAS BEEN NURSE IN FRANCE



Miss Margery Kay, a Detroit society girl who served in an American hospital in France, has returned to the United States. She says that she is one of the first American nurses who served "over there" to come back. Here Miss Kay is shown wearing one of the uniforms popular with the women ambulance drivers in France. There is no official garb, so each one provides her own. The Blue Devil tan she is wearing was given to her by the former owner to replace her own cap, which was lost during a strenuous run. The bronze ring is the official badge of the American ambulance corps.

Passing the Sentry.
While I was on the Mexican border the camp had a heavy guard at night. The captain came back to camp late one night and it happened that the road over which he came into camp had three or four sentries which he would have to pass.
Each sentry halted him. He had evidently had some trouble before he came back, he was not in his best mood and he had not met every time they halted him.
When the guard at the last post heard the captain coming he called, "Halt, who goes there?"
The captain yelled out, "Who in thunder do you suppose?"
The guard returned, "Advance, Who is Thunder Do You Suppose, and give the countersign"—Chicago Tribune.

OAKLAND DISLIKES KAISER BOOSTERS



The photograph shows men of Oakland, Cal., who recently drunk toasts to Wilhelm Hohenzollern. Under the watchful eyes of armed policemen they are "making little ones out of big ones" and thus working off their enthusiasm for the Kaiser. The rock-crushing activities will continue for some time to come.

KAISER'S GOLD CUP MELTED FOR RED CROSS



The war fund of the Red Cross was considerably boosted by the gift of a solid gold cup that was given an American by the Kaiser. It has been melted down into bullion and the proceeds devoted to Red Cross work. The Kaiser cup was awarded to an American yachtsman for winning a transatlantic yacht race to Kiel. Two nurses are shown sitting on either side of the Kaiser's gift.

EXPERT'S TRIBUTE TO WESTERN CANADA SOIL

That there is good reason for the wonderful crops of grain grown in Western Canada, which have made thousands of former residents of the United States wealthy, is not always given the thought that it deserves a quite apparent. But that there must be a reason is quite evident. Probably more than one—but the one that requires emphasis—is that the soil is of the nature that will produce "good" crops. It was not long since that the farmer selected his land in the most haphazard way. He need not do so today. He will select it on the soil analysis plan. Soil from Western Canada was submitted to Prof. Stevens, soil physicist of the State College of Washington, at Pullman, Wash. His report should not doubt further encourage settlement in Western Canada? It reads as follows:

"We have analyzed this sample and find that it runs high in lime, very high in potash, phosphorus and in nitrogen; that it has a splendid supply of organic matter and is, in the best of physical condition. There is nothing wrong with this soil from the standpoint of crop production, and I am satisfied that it will give splendid results wherever put under cultivation."

It is not like this properly worked, and on scientific lines, as is the rule today, that gives the opportunity to quote the experiences of farmers who have increased their incomes from \$500 to \$20,000 in two seasons, and whose story would read as follows:

"I have threshed altogether 7,000 bushels of No. 1 Northern wheat from 200 acres, which went from 24 to 50 per acre—seed breaking 24, spring plowing 36, back setting 50 bushels—the average being 35 bushels per acre."

The newspaper giving an account of this man's experience says: "When he disposed of his 1,000 acres from north of Brooks, Alta., to four Oak Harbor men, he was worth \$20,000. Two years ago he came here with \$500 and a few horses."

It is the soil of Western Canada, and the knowledge of what it will do that brings to Canada the hundreds of settlers that are daily arriving at the border. A growing enthusiasm for the fertile prairie lands of Western Canada is spreading all over the continent. This enthusiasm is the recognition of the fact that sufficient food could be produced on these prairie lands to feed the world. From the south, east and west, hundreds of men, too old for military service, are pouring into Western Canada to take up land, or to work on the farms. A great many of the incoming settlers have arrived at such central points as Calgary, Edmonton, and Lethbridge, Alberta, and at Regina, Moose Jaw, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Judging from the bulk of their household effects, the number of their horses and cattle, and the quantity of implements they are bringing with them, most of the new arrivals also seem well blessed with the farmer's goods.

Reports from North Portal, Saskatchewan; Coutts, Alberta, and Kingsburg, British Columbia—the principal gateways into Western Canada from the United States—indicate that the present influx of farmers is in such volume as has not been witnessed for many years. From Vancouver, British Columbia, people are going to the prairies for summer farm work; many with the intention of taking up land themselves at the end of the summer.

The influence of this tide of farmer settlers on greater food production will be more readily appreciated when it is considered that the average settler takes up at least twice as much land as he has hitherto been farming—and land which, acre for acre, produces better and larger crops.—Advertisement.

JUST HOW DID SEXTON KNOW?

We Have Been Told Those Numbers in Combination Have a Significance for "Policy" Players.

The conversation at a social gathering turned to the subject of amusing situations, when this incident was contributed by Congressman Fred A. Britten of Illinois:

Some time ago the sexton of a big city church was making the arrangements for the Sunday morning service when he suddenly paused and glanced at the preacher with a look of consternation.

"These hymns will have to be changed, parson," he declared. "It will never do to post them on the board in the order you have selected them."

"Why not?" wonderingly asked the preacher. "What is the matter with them?"

"Just look how they read," returned the sexton, placing the numbers on the wall, "431-44." Philadelphia Telegraph.

All the Findings.
Little Fuddy had just been put in a khaki suit with long trousers. "Mamma," he asked, "am I a man now like papa?"

"I suppose so," she replied. "Well, then," he continued, "I guess I'll take a dime out of my bank and go down to the barber shop and get shaved."

Proving the Contrary.
"He makes \$20,000 a year as an aviator." "And yet people say you can't live on air."

A married man says that the best alarm clock is his wife's elbow.