

the payment of indemnities to recover the expenses of the war; but the Congress does hereby declare in favor of the creation of a common fund, to be provided by all the belligerent nations, to assist in the restoration of the portions of territory in any of the countries most seriously devastated by the war, and for the establishment of an international commission to decide the allotment of the common fund."

Why Senator La Follette is so chary of alluding to German reparation for wronging Belgium is not disclosed, nor, to any ordinary mind, easy to understand.

As a practical proposition for the consideration of Congress his resolution is equally hard to understand. There appears to be no chance of its passage. Congress sufficiently reflects the temper of the American people to make that a safe statement.

The mere introduction of such a resolution exactly serves Germany's purpose. No matter how falsely it represents American public sentiment, it will be eagerly and instantly used by German publicity agents as if it did fully represent that sentiment—by agents also who perfectly understand how to exalt a Senator's influence in the popular eye abroad. It will be used, not only in Germany by those agents, but especially in Russia, where they are particularly active, and where by their reported ownership of many Russian papers they have already interpreted America, not as it is, but as they would have the Russians believe it is—material, corrupt, unsubstantial. For this and other publicity purposes, we are told by an experienced observer lately in Russia, the German agents have already spent in Russia nearly fifty million rubles. As some offset in a publicity truth-telling campaign in Russia, we have spent about eighteen thousand rubles! The difference in these sums, according to this observer, represents the difference in influence as exhibited respectively by Germany and America. By the mere introduction of his resolution Senator La Follette has acted so as to diminish American influence in Russia and to reinforce the influence of Germany.

AMERICAN MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Newspapers of the week ending August 15 recorded not a few interesting facts concerning the progress of the organization of our military affairs. This week saw the conclusion of the first series of officers' training camps and the announcement of the award of many thousands of coveted commissions. The second series of camps are soon to begin, and at their conclusion the opportunity of securing a commission at a training camp will have ended. Officers in the future are to be chosen from the men in active service who demonstrate their efficiency. Those men who failed to secure commissions at the recent officers' training camps will be given an opportunity to serve as non-commissioned officers in the new army. Doubtless many of them will by this means later win the right to command.

On August 14 the War Department announced the organization of the first of the National Guard army divisions to be sent to France. This will be known as the Forty-second Division and will consist approximately of 19,000 men drawn from all over the country. The Major-General commanding this division is to be William A. Mann, now serving as Chief of Division of Military Affairs of the War Department. The selection of this division from military units all over the country is expected to have a moral value in stimulating interest in and understanding of the war.

An interesting announcement has been made by General Crowder concerning the conscientious objectors recognized by the Draft Law and the new National Army. The wise decision has been reached to employ these men in non-combatant service, but, it is made clear, in service which will not relieve them from the dangers of war.

The President has announced the appointment of 184 general officers in the National Army; 37 of them (all from the Regular Army with the exception of Major-General John F. O'Ryan, of New York, and Major-General Charles M. Clement, of Pennsylvania) are given the rank of major-general. This means the promotion of all the 35 brigadiers of the Regular Army to this higher rank. The order also includes the promotion of 147 colonels and lieutenant-colonels to the rank of brigadier-general.

The most disappointing item in the week's news is the con-

firmation by the War Department of the report which first appeared in the New York "Times," and which we recorded in last week's issue of The Outlook, that the new training camps are to be taken out of the authority of the departmental commanders. This action is defended on the ground that it will reduce paper work in the Army. To any one familiar with the paper work of the Army such a statement might sound prepossessing if one did not realize at the same time that this order will leave valuable departmental commanders stranded without an opportunity to exercise their proper functions.

If these departmental commanders are to be deprived of an opportunity for effective service in their present positions, they should be given commands in active service commensurate with their ability, rank, and experience.

THE NEED OF REAL SELECTION

It has been the wise intention of the Government to make our new National Army a real selective service. It has been called to the colors on a basis not only of choosing men because of their fitness for military work, but also of exempting men because of their ability to perform vitally necessary labors in civil life.

Criticism has been made of the fact that this same principle has not been applied to the call for men for medical service. Since the majority of licensed physicians are over draft age, we have resorted to the old volunteer system to supply the medical and surgical needs of our new army. To this appeal for volunteers the medical profession has responded loyally and unselfishly. Criticism has come, not because the doctors have not responded, but from the fact that the volunteer system has put an unfair burden on certain communities, a burden which might have been lessened if the same principle of selective service had been applied to medical men which has been applied to those of military age.

Whether or not this criticism is completely justified, there does appear to be an injustice and a waste of good material within the field of the selective draft itself which have been, so far as we have seen, ignored. We refer to the drafting of medical students not yet licensed as practitioners to serve in the ranks of the new army.

When the war broke out, many of these men took under advisement the question of volunteering for service. They were told in many instances that they should continue their work in the medical school, for the training they would receive would be of more value to the country than any purely military service which they would be likely to render.

Now many of these young men have been drafted for service in the new army. They will be among the last to ask exemption. To use these men as private soldiers will be to throw away all the valuable technical education which they have received in a profession which in time of war is as vitally necessary as that of bearing arms.

Though these men are not licensed physicians or surgeons, they are infinitely better prepared for first aid and hospital work than the majority of non-commissioned orderlies in the medical corps. If they are put at this work, their training and experience will be conserved for the use of the country both in time of war and in time of peace. The way is still open for establishing a real selective service of our medical students and of other men technically trained.

A MAN'S CHANCES IN WAR

To some whose sons or brothers or friends are drafted for service in the new National Army the summons to the colors may seem almost like a sentence to death. It is nothing of the sort. Most of the men who will go to war from America will, if figures can be trusted, come back, not only alive, but in better physical condition than they were in when they went. Of course the risk these men will run is greater in war than in times of peace in ordinary civil life; but it is not so great as to cause despondency.

Figures of the losses in war are not easy to obtain, but they are known with sufficient approach to accuracy to enable some general conclusions to be drawn. Babson's Statistical Organi-

CARTOONS OF THE WEEK

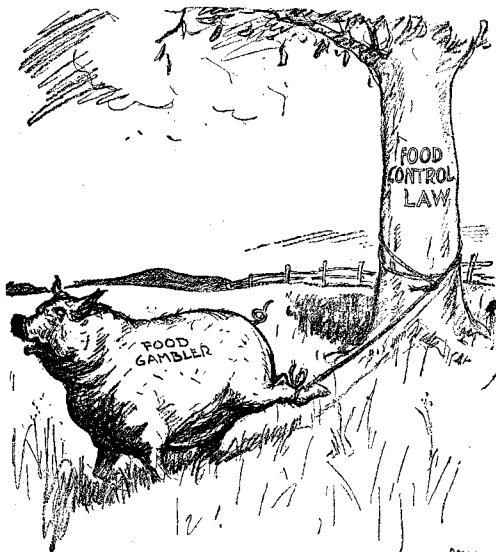
Cesare in the New York Evening Post



MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

IT IS THE NEW YORK MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND CITY HALL THAT TAMMANY WANTS TO OWN

Kirby in the New York World



AT THE END OF HIS ROPE

THE FOOD SPECULATORS AND THE FOOD BILL

Stinson in the Dayton (Ohio) News



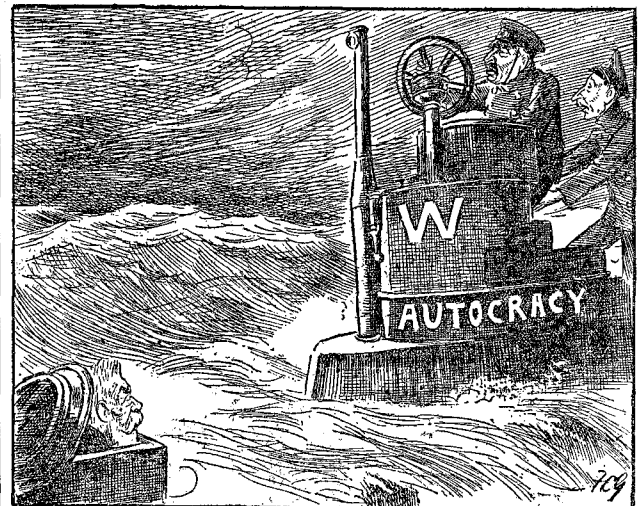
"LET 'ER RAIN; I'M ALMOST THROUGH!"

Thomas in the Detroit News



DON'T FORGET, SON, THIS COUNTRY IS ONE OF YOUR DEPENDENTS
SOMETHING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUMMONED BY THE EXEMPTION BOARDS
TO REMEMBER

From the Westminster Gazette (London)



SUBMARINE TACTICS

Kaiser: "I think we'd better submerge, Willie?"
Willie: "All right, father! We needn't go down very far, and then we can
slip up again when the weather's cleared a bit!"

THE HOHENZOLLERN DYNASTY IS FEELING INSECURE

Hatfield in the Passing Show (London)



Short-Sighted Old Lady: "Good-morning, Mr. Smith, and how's your allotment progressing?"

Rehse in the New York World



"Say, von Speck, vot you tink anyway? How long
you believe dis var lasts?"
"Vell, two years ago I saidt idt would last shust a
couple years more, undt I shill tink it vill."

NON-COMBATANTS—RURAL ENGLAND AND URBAN AMERICA