



FIRST PICTURE OF UNITED STATES COUNCIL OF DEFENSE.

Members of the National Council of Defense, the body authorized by Congress to direct the various activities of the United States in time of war. Its members are appointed by the President. Those sitting, from left to right, are: David F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture; Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy; Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War; Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior; William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor.

Those standing, from left to right, are: Grosvenor B. Clarkson, Secretary of the Council; Julius Rosenwald, of Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, chairman of the Committee on Supplies; Bernard M. Baruch, the New York financier, in charge of raw materials; Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, chairman of the Committee on Transportation; Dr. F. H. Martin, chairman of the Committee on Medicine and Sanitation; Dr. Hollis Godfrey, Science and Research; Howard Coffin, chairman of the Committee on Munitions; W. S. Gifford, Director of the Council. Secretary of Commerce Redfield and Samuel Gompers are members of the Council, but were not present when the photograph was made.

CURRENT EVENTS

The War.

Several important developments have taken place within the last month and the European War has become enlarged into a veritable World War. The daily press has had unusual official statements over which strong headlines have appeared day after day. In the earlier part of the month, Germany showed signs of evacuating ground before the British between Arras and Chaulnes, as well as in front of the French troops, south of Roye.

The allied forces immediately launched a severe offensive and within about ten days had wrenched nearly 900 square miles of territory from the enemy, together with scores of villages and several strongly fortified towns.

Bad weather set in at this juncture and although the British and French continued to harrass the enemy, no further very important gains were made until just as we go to press word has been received that the British with the Canadian troops in place of honor have commenced another great

drive and the Canadians have at last captured the German stronghold of Vimy Ridge.

This Ridge held by some of the Teutonic's best troops cost the French army 100,000 men earlier in the war. Word received gives the number of prisoners already captured as close on 13,000 and the battle rages with increasing fury.

News from other fronts give increasing cause for assurance of ultimate victory. In Mesopotamia the British contingent has succeeded in joining forces with the Russian out-post. Whilst in Roumania and on the Russian fronts the Germans have been unable to make any effective progress.

Whilst this has been taking place other sections of the world has experienced exciting events. During the third week in March a revolution which has as its object the freeing of the Russian people took place and at the end of three days the Czar abdicated, the government of the Russian Empire had been overthrown and the army and navy had gone over to the New Russian government. Bloodshed occurred but considering the importance and far-reaching effect of the