

TURNING SOLDIERS INTO CIVILIANS

How Great Britain is Demobilizing Her Large Citizen Army.

TWO THOUSAND A DAY That Many Men Will Be Let Out as Organization Grows.

London, Jan. 19.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Demobilization of the British army is now in full swing. Up to the present time a total of 80,000 men have passed thru the six dispersal stations in England and Scotland, and skilled workers are being returned to industry in rapidly increasing numbers. Soon 15 dispersal stations will be in operation, each of which will be capable of dealing with 2,000 men every 24 hours.

According to Major-General B. F. Burnett-Hitchcock, director general of demobilization, who is in charge of the work, it will be a long time before the demobilization limit has been reached. The question of the number of men each of the associated governments is to leave in the armed forces for national purposes will be determined at the peace conference.

The following classes are being demobilized at the moment: Miners, sick and wounded soldiers, convalescents, men over 41 who were called up in the last draft, "civilian" or "leading" men in industry, students and teachers. Those that will not be demobilized for the present are the railway personnel in France, men having to do with transportation generally and those in charge of horses. Many physicians have been released, but a sufficient force will be retained to care for the 90,000 men and wounded now under treatment.

General Hitchcock had been working on demobilization plans for 15 months prior to the signing of the armistice, and his machinery was as nearly ready for its work as the exigencies of the war permitted. The main outlines of his scheme were: (1) to get the men out of the front lines as soon as possible; (2) to get them to the rear; (3) to get them to the front.

The actual number of units to be sent ready for demobilization, said General Hitchcock, is 17,000. There are 10 categories of men, each category having different legal rights to be safeguarded. One ship from London and one from more than 100 other ports converted into transports and they soon will exceed berth accommodation at the various ports from which the men are being sent home. Every ship from France is now bringing a contingent of men to the front. The bulk of them are miners, 25,000 having been released from the army to date.

Transportation Difficult. Conditions of rail and road transportation in France are extremely bad, he pointed out, and the question of supplying the army of occupation in Germany was paramount. The men are not to leave at home doesn't entitle them, said General Hitchcock, to be mustered out of service before a condition in the field. Nor is the question of a man's discharge left in the hands of commanding officers, but it is permitted to the man, and we will see him.

"Compassionate cases"—that is, where the wife of a soldier is seriously ill, or where there are motherless children, are being dealt with as quickly as possible. Soldiers are bringing home many quantities of luggage. One ship from London had 200 tons of it, including four grand pianos and a label from a woman who turned and an officer badly stung. At the Wimbledon station, the correspondent saw the work of the demobilization machinery. On arrival the men find a hot meal awaiting them, no matter what the hour of day or night. Each receives a ration book, an unemployment policy, a railway warrant, a pamphlet of good advice, \$10, a label from the War Office, and a certificate entitling him to draw pay and all allowances for 28 days.

Identification Difficult. There is a great deal of trouble in identifying the returning soldier. "You would be surprised," said General Hitchcock, "to know how many soldiers change their identification disks with pale. It's the same in the French army. Why they do it is beyond me. They are always burying the wrong man."

The soldier turns over his rifle and accoutrements, but he is permitted to keep his uniform and "tin hat." He must return his army overcoat within a month, receiving \$5 for it. One of the station canteens is a tailor shop, where the soldier is given his choice of one of three suits of varying weight and pattern, made to his measurement. If he doesn't want the civilian suit he is given \$12.50. The wise soldier takes the suit, for it is worth the price it would cost him considerably more than \$20.

SOUTH AFRICANS WON PRAISE FROM KAISER

Stahl of Ninth Division at Marrires Wood Deemed Magnificent.

London, Jan. 19.—(Remarkable German tributes to the fighting qualities of the 9th Division, composed of the South African Brigade and Scots, are now officially published. A staff officer who was captured by the Germans near Corbie, in March, 1918, states that after capture he was taken to the German battalion headquarters for examination by an intelligence officer who, relating to the 9th Division, said the fight it had put up was considered one of the best on the whole front, particularly the last stand of the South African Brigade at Marrires Wood which was magnificent. Both officers and men were killed against overwhelming odds. The brigadier was captured firing a machine gun whilst his brigade made a stand beside him. Many other German officers spoke to the staff officer about the splendid fight of the South Africans.

At Le Cateau the staff officer met two British officers who said that while waiting to be taken to the rear, they were stopped by the Kaiser, who asked if any one present belonged to the 9th Division and that he was glad his men had not always to meet the 9th Division or he would have had no more troops with which to attack.

ALLIED CONCESSIONS TO PRESS HALF A LOAF

Paris, Jan. 19.—It is understood that when the supreme council adjourned on Friday there was pending a plan for one open and five secret sessions per week.

It now seems that the concessions made by the supreme council constitute what might be called "half a loaf." It is understood that these concessions were made after a vigorous discussion led by President Wilson, who was supported by British delegates.

ADDITIONAL TERMS FOR ARMISTICE CONGRESS OPENED

Clauses Added to Surrender Agricultural Implementments.

Paris, Jan. 19.—(Associated Press.)—The French president, was escorted by the group of premiers to the head of the table, while a hush fell upon the assembly as the moment arrived for the opening of the congress.

It was exactly three minutes past three when M. Poincaré began his address and the peace congress came to order. The entire assemblage stood as the president spoke. M. Poincaré spoke in an earnest, easy manner, without declamatory effect, and in a low, calm, steady voice, there was no applause or interruption.

M. Poincaré spoke in French, and when he had concluded, an interpreter read the presidential discourse in English.

As M. Poincaré closed, he turned to receive the congratulations of the French president, who then withdrew, greeting each delegation as he retired.

Wilson Proposes Clemenceau. President Wilson rose as M. Poincaré concluded. He gave me great pleasure to propose as permanent chairman of the conference, Mr. Clemenceau, the president of the council.

"I would do this as a matter of custom. I would do this as a tribute to the French people. But I wish to do it as something more than that. I wish to do it as a tribute to the man."

"France deserves the precedence not only because we are meeting at her capital and because she has undergone some of the most tragic suffering of the war, but also because her capital, her ancient and beautiful city, has so often been the centre of conferences of this sort, on which the fortunes of large parts of the world turned."

"It is a very delightful thought that the history of the world, which has so often centred here, will now be crowned by the achievements of this conference. It is the supreme conference of the history of mankind."

All Interests Represented. More nations are represented here than were ever represented in a similar conference before. The fortunes of all peoples are involved. A great war is ended, which seemed about to bring a universal conflagration. We have seen a victory have been won for mankind, and it is delightful that we should be able to record these great results. The peace which may rise up from one day to the next.

A Splendid Ambition. "It is a great, splendid and noble ambition which has come to all of us. It is desirable that success should crown our efforts. This cannot be done unless we have firmly fixed and clearly determined ideas on what we wish to do."

"I said in the chamber a few days ago, and I repeat here, that peace is not possible unless we have been in those recent days in constant consultation with him whom we warmly welcome to this conference. We have heard his advice, and we have seen his face. He feels as we feel, as I have no doubt everybody in this hall feels, that it is the highest spirit of friendship and accommodation and to do it as promptly as possible in order that they may be able to return from these purposes of life which will bring them happiness and contentment and prosperity."

"Knowing his brotherhood of heart in these great matters, it affords me a personal pleasure to propose that the permanent chairman of this conference, Mr. Poincaré, be elected as the permanent chairman of this conference."

Lloyd George Seeks Nomination. Premier Lloyd George, speaking earnestly of the distinguished services the French premier had rendered in war and peace, Mr. Lloyd George said:

"I count it not merely a pleasure, but a great privilege that I should be expected on behalf of the British Empire to propose the nomination of President Wilson as the permanent chairman of this conference."

"I cannot too earnestly or solemnly urge upon the congress the appropriation for which Mr. Hoover has asked for the administration of food relief. Food relief is not the key to the whole European situation and to the solution of peace. Bolshevism is poisoning Germany, cannot be stopped by force, but it can be stopped by food, and all the leaders with whom I am in conference agree that concerted action in this matter is of immediate and vital importance."

Report Labor Party Strong in Lincoln County Contest

Merritt, Ont., Jan. 19.—The Labor party is making a timely start in the Lincoln County by-election. The Labor men held the first three public meetings of the campaign last week, one in Merritt and the other in Port Dalhousie, followed by the women's meeting in St. Catharines. All three were well attended. Speakers from Toronto and Niagara Falls addressed the meetings, followed by the farmers, and taking a very active part in the arrangements for meetings in their districts. There are many farmers in the grain-growing business, and who will be hard hit by the cutting off of the manufacture of wine. These men may discontinue to support the present government, following the Labor party, which is arranged by the Labor party for the coming week.

TO KEEP GERMANY OUT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Paris, Jan. 19.—The admission of Germany to the league of nations is the subject of considerable discussion in the peace conference. In the opinion of Leon Bourgeois, the French authority on the league of nations, the league on the present must be composed exclusively of the association nations and these neutral states which since 1917 have adhered to rules of the second Hague peace conference and who have during the war strictly obeyed the obligations of international rights.

Later, M. Bourgeois feels, Germany may prove her title to membership.

HISTORIC WORLD CONGRESS OPENED

(Continued From Page 1.)

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ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE OF CANADA

The next annual examination for entry of Naval Cadets into this College will be held on or about the 15th June, 1919, the last week of September, 1919.

Candidates must be between their fourteenth and sixteenth birthdays on 1st September following the examination. The examination for entry should be made to the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, before the 24th May, 1919.

Further details may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

G. J. DESBARATS, Deputy Minister of the Naval Service, Ottawa, December 6, 1918.

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nations and freedom of the seas did not appear on the agenda.

It was pointed out today that the absence of these subjects from the program was not due either to oversight or a desire to delay their consideration, and that no delay would result from the order of business have been almost automatically referred to various delegations, which will report on them as soon as they are ready.

The conference has solved the delicate questions of etiquette in selecting four vice-presidents, who are to preside in the absence of M. Clemenceau.

League of Nations Today. Pending the call for the next session of the conference, which has been adjourned without date, the supreme council will meet tomorrow to continue work on the program, and in execution of the promise of M. Clemenceau that the question of a league of nations would take first place, it will endeavor to hold together the various projects which have been under separate consideration by different delegations. If it is impossible to reduce them to one plan, it is expected that they will be classified and put into comparative form for consideration by the conference as early as possible.

The American delegation will take the initiative in this work and tomorrow will lay what may be called the American plan before the council. If the council is ready to take it up, the race payers are not slow to see that such a connection will go a long way towards making it the radical centre of Ontario and furnish a reliable and speedy freight service to handle the immense shipments of fruits that are sent from the garden of Ontario.

It is stated that the race payers throughout the Townships of Nelson and Salford, where the bylaw will have to be sustained, are also strong for Hydro, so it looks as if the crafty Hydro of the G. Bonites are going to bear fruit, which will be sweet eating for "public" ownership, but mighty sour for the capitalists.

Burlington Situation. Events are moving rapidly in Burlington, and they are moving towards the eventual taking over of the now supposed insolvent line of the Hamilton Electric & Radial Co. by Sir Adam Beck. That the little town by the lake believes in making hay while the sun shines is evident from the fact that while the G. Bonites members of the council, who resigned on Saturday, were hardly returned from the town, plans have already been made to hold nominations on Feb. 3, when new candidates will line up for municipal honors.

"We are going to hold nominations for a school trustee on February 2, and we will hold them for the council also," said Clerk Hicks, who was just returning from the council. The result of the Hydro taking the line under its wing.

The missing members of the town council, who have been absent since the last meeting, are expected to return today. Clerk Hicks stated that he was positive they were all in order. The resignations were the result of the Hydro taking the line under its wing.

Strongly in Favor. Burlington has never been so strongly in favor of Hydro since it first saw the light of day on the shore of Lake Ontario. There will be a nomination day, but the general opinion is the ex-Mayor C. F. Coleman, who fought the corporation as hard as he could at the last election by the G. Bonites, will be unanimously re-elected.

The other candidates will be strong Hydro men and the slate will be for Sir Adam Beck and against Sir John W. G. Bonites, and his henchmen. There is not the slightest doubt what the results will be and when the next council meeting is held in the little town, it will be a bold council, and will arise and suggest that Burlington enter into an agreement with the corporation.

Rebels of the little town are well content to use the motor trucks for the time being as long as they have the eventual taken over by the Hydro. They have had enough of corporations and G. Bonites councilors. Public ownership never looked so good as it does now. What they will do is to let the Hydro take any and all the candidates put up by the capitalists on election day will be a shame. Double crossed by their new council they are not going to take any chances with their friends of the Cataraugus crowd.

HALF RUSSIAN PRISONERS DIED IN CAPTIVITY

London, Jan. 19.—Of the 2,000,000 Russian prisoners scattered throughout the central empires, 1,000,000 died in captivity, according to The Morning Post. Repatriated British prisoners of war have brought reports of inhuman treatment meted out to Russian prisoners in the concentration camps of Germany and Austria, and these stories have been borne out by a report recently received by the International Red Cross from some of its delegates who have just returned from Germany.

According to these reports the Russians were subjected to terrible brutality and were forced to heavy manual labor. They were always half starved and were under the constant stimulus of the lash. Some 500,000 of the Russians still remain in Germany.

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