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# WISCONSIN'S WAR RECORD

By

FRED. L. HOLMES

Author of "Regulation of Railroads and  
Public Utilities in Wisconsin"

ILLUSTRATED



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## PREFACE

**T**HIS little book is not Wisconsin's History in the Great War. That history remains to be written when the troops have returned; when all the facts are collated and a proper estimate can be made of every war activity. For such a history we must be patient and wait.

But there has come to the author, probably as a result of a series of articles which I have written on early Wisconsin history, an insistent demand for the more important available facts of Wisconsin's part in the war. This book is the result of an effort to furnish such information, carefully and accurately. It is a record of achievement of which every Badger may be justly proud. Nothing has been exaggerated. Every statement is official and modest.

The author is indebted to various persons named as authorities for assistance; is under obligation to the State Historical Society for the information placed at his disposal. The proof sheets have been read and verified by the official heads of the various state departments dealing with war activities.

In putting this information before the public no attempt has been made to embellish the facts, but rather to tell the story simply for the common understanding, with the hope that it will help to keep alive that splendid spirit of patriotism and comradeship that has grown up during the war among all classes of our citizens.

FRED L. HOLMES.

Madison, Wis.,  
January 2, 1919.

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## CHAPTER I.

### WISCONSIN'S RECORD IN THE WAR

HE commonwealth of Wisconsin has made an amazing record in the Great War. It is written in the shell-torn fields of France and Belgium, 'mid the scream of shrapnel and the shock of war; it is written in her fertile fields, which yielded in increased measure, as the result of the farmers' labor; it is written in her factories, where 'mid the hum and roar of machinery labor fashioned the implements of war, it is written in the hearts of the women of Wisconsin, the mothers, the wives, and the daughters, who toiled and sacrificed as woman alone can, for those who had offered themselves for the supreme sacrifice. It is written in the official acts, the administrative and legislative acts of the state of Wisconsin. When the future historian looks back at the record made by this state, through the balancing perspective of time, the deeds of Wisconsin will be written high on the enduring tablets for the future generations.

The story is a dramatic one and weaves its way into every walk of life. Over 118,000 of the flower

of the youth of Wisconsin went into the military service,—one in twenty-one of the total population of the state of Wisconsin. If each one of these enlisted men represented a family it would mean one man for every five families in Wisconsin.

Of this total, 8,000 names were found in the casualty lists; 1,800 of them will never return. They went forth to a rendezvous with death and lie buried under the lilies of France or in

“—Flanders’ fields where poppies grow.”

Not only those served who went to the battle front. The war was also fought in the fields and factories of Wisconsin—fought without the thrill and stimulus of “war’s alarms”—a service that was vital to the winning of the war. The sturdy farmers of Wisconsin, in response to the call of their country, increased the production of the state by almost 25 percent. Every acre of cultivated land was called upon to do its bit and the farmers toiled that its yield might increase and multiply. Hundreds of factories throughout the state were mobilized in war work and throughout the state the lights were gleaming the entire night as the workers toiled that production might be speeded up. And while all this released energy was turned into new channels, during the period of the war, processes of peace were not halted, but the state moved along in the orderly march of material development, unhampered by its

efforts in the gigantic tasks in which the nation was engaged.

When the declaration of war was made on April 6, 1917, Wisconsin was ready for the call and stood at attention. From then on, until the signing of the armistice, November 11, 1918, she moved along with steady and sturdy pace in the front ranks of patriotic sacrifice and effort in every war activity.

The state administration directed by Gov. E. L. Philipp responded willingly and instantly to every call of the federal government. Let the citizen of Wisconsin read from the records the following list of achievements and he may hold his head high in pride that he is a son of the Badger state.

Wisconsin was the first state in the union to organize a State Council of Defense. It was the first state to organize a County Council of Defense. These organizations were educational factors acquainting the people with war causes and the sacrifices demanded.

Wisconsin was the first state to give aid to soldier dependents. Over \$110,000 was expended for the support of dependent parents, wives and children during the war period.

Wisconsin led all other states in recruiting and equipping its National Guard. It spent \$780,000 that the boys might be fully uniformed before leaving the state.

Wisconsin was the first state to report in the

four draft registrations, and was highly commended by federal authorities for efficient draft service.

Wisconsin overtopped every liberty loan quota and war drive activity. Her war contributions reached the figure of \$145 for every man, woman and child in the state.

Wisconsin women carried on campaigns of sacrifice. Working for the Red Cross they knitted 500,000 articles and made 500,000,000 surgical dressings.

Wisconsin was the first state to inaugurate "wheatless" and "meatless" days. This conservation plan proved so successful that the federal government adopted and nationalized the idea.

Wisconsin furnished more physicians to the war in proportion to population than any other state in the union. Some counties gave 40 percent of their medical men.

Wisconsin was the first to organize state and county history commissions to preserve the records in the state. Many other states have adopted its plan in full.

Wisconsin sent approximately 15,000 school boys to farms to help in crop planting and food production.

Wisconsin's labor forces put in long hours that government work might be pushed to early completion. There were no serious labor troubles during the war.

Wisconsin's university furnished to the nation the inventor of the submarine detector; the inventor of a dye for the coloring of Khaki uniforms, the dye supply having been cut off by war with Germany, and the joint inventor of "liberty fuel" that promises to revolutionize the power industries of the world. Six of the sixteen men called to advise the president at the peace table are either now members of the university faculty or have been.

Wisconsin's normal schools sent 40 teachers and 2,000 students into the service.

Wisconsin was the first state to give the soldiers the right to vote and the first state to offer a plan for the soldiers in France to vote.

Wisconsin's people were kept warm by a fuel program of conservation in which the people of the state nobly co-operated.

Wisconsin decreased its crime record. The population at the State prison fell one-fifth. Insanity due to alcoholism decreased 45 percent. Many public institutions became self-supporting under the stimulus to produce and conserve.

Wisconsin's war labor board moved to first place among all the states in employment service work.

Wisconsin kept her finances sound during the war. No bond issue was needed as was required during the Civil war.

## CHAPTER II.

## WISCONSIN MEN IN SERVICE



BEFORE the war Pennsylvania's and Wisconsin's National Guards ranked first in the United States. The Wisconsin National Guard at the opening of the war, re-organized at Waco, Texas, before embarkation to France, achieved a record on French soil that will make the individual names and the heroism of Wisconsin men undying when the full pages of the history of the Great War are written. They won the French sobriquet "Les Terribles." Out of the Civil War records came the significant comment of General William T. Sherman, that "we estimated a Wisconsin regiment equal to an ordinary brigade." From that internecine strife General McClellan's comment, "The Wisconsin Iron Brigade" fashioned a slogan on the deeds of Wisconsin soldiers that has made her name shine with luster in the volumes of history. It was out of the Middle West—Wisconsin and Michigan—that there came the National guard troops, so brave and heroic in the turmoil of shell-swept foreign lands that the Prussian sword was bent and the Prussian army finally

swept back to its own border. And in this final denouement, Wisconsin troops were in the thick of the fight.

To all branches of the service, Wisconsin has contributed approximately 118,000 men, when further mobilization of troops at full speed was stopped by the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918.

### Has 118,000 in Service

Based on the calls of the war department, the following are the numbers furnished:

|                                                                                                                 |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| The Wisconsin National Guard as sent to Camp Mac Arthur, with recruits added while at camp, approximately ..... | 18,000  |
| Selected men to the number approximately .....                                                                  | 90,000  |
| Enlistments in U. S. navy, Regular army and National Guard since entering in U. S. Service.....                 | 10,000  |
| Total number of men furnished...                                                                                | 118,000 |
| Estimated casualties .....                                                                                      | 8,000   |
| Estimated number killed in action and died of wounds.....                                                       | 1,800   |

The whole number of troops furnished by Wisconsin during the four years of the Civil war was 91,379, of which nearly 10,000 are estimated to have been re-enlistments. The losses by death were 10,752. A forty percent larger army was

raised in a year and a half in Wisconsin ready to do service in the great war.

There were three primary avenues for the furnishing of these troops to the government; first, the National Guard and the enlistments to augment it to full strength; second, the calling of men under the selective service law, and third, the voluntary enlistments. As the field for voluntary enlistments in organization outside of the National Guard was limited, the number furnished was comparatively small. Because they were trained and ready for service the National Guard units were the first to be summoned.

During the summer of 1916, under call of President Wilson the Wisconsin National Guard had been sent to the Mexican border where the depredations of Huerta and Villa were harrassing the border towns and cities. These men were retained there until late in the fall, when they were returned to the state, Secretary of War. Baker commenting under date of December 20, 1916, that, "from the time of the arrival of the units of the National Guard on the border, the raids ceased, and the tension between the two countries began to relax."

### **First Call in March, 1917**

No sooner were the men again home, than there were indications that they would again be called to uphold the rights of America on the high seas,

which were being violated by the Imperial German government. Late in March, 1917, matters had reached a crisis and on April 6, 1917, congress declared a state of war existed. Preparatory to this step, on March 26, 1917, the Third regiment of Infantry, Wisconsin National Guard, under command of Col. Randolph A. Richards, Sparta, and composed of companies from Neillsville, La Crosse, Hudson, Mauston, Eau Claire, Portage, Wausau, Menomonie, Superior, Tomah, Sparta, and a machine gun company from Rice Lake, were ordered back into the federal service and placed on duty throughout the Northern and Central portions of the state, guarding the large ore docks, tunnels, bridges, main lines of railroad and also docks at Two Harbors, Minn. They remained on duty throughout the summer until ordered to the mobilization camp on the State Military reservation near Camp Douglas, with the other organizations of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Immediately upon the war declaration, the National Guard was recruited to full strength, from about 4,000 men to 10,000 as required by the National Defense act, approved June 3, 1916. The organization of the new military units being about completed the artillery and cavalry regiments of the National Guard were mobilized at Camp Douglas, the last week of June and the early days of July. Other organizations were moved there as soon as tentage was available. All other Wis-

consin National Guard organizations were mobilized at their home armories on July 15, 1917, and by the first week of August all had been assembled at the state military reservation.

### State Uniforms Men

Without the necessary supplies and uniforms, and with information from the federal supply departments that there would be delay in furnishing the equipment, it became apparent that the state should offer aid. Gov. Philipp directed the purchasing of 10,000 uniforms and supplies. For these the state expended approximately \$780,000 so that every soldier was fully equipped with uniforms, hats, leggings, woolen shirts and blankets by the state before being moved to southern and eastern training camps. The Wisconsin National Guard so mobilized was composed of six regiments of infantry, one regiment of field artillery, one regiment of cavalry, one battalion of engineers, one battalion of signal corps, two field hospital companies, two ambulance companies, staff corps and departments. Every large city in the state was represented by one or more companies. The men came from Reedsburg, Ft. Atkinson, Whitewater, Milwaukee, Madison, Monroe, Neenah, Beloit, Janesville, Marshfield, Oshkosh, Sheboygan, Ripon, Fond du Lac, Appleton, Manitowoc, Marinette, Beaver Dam, Rhinelander, Oconto, Neillsville, La Crosse, Hudson, Mauston,

Eau Claire, Portage, Wausau, Menomonie, Superior, Tomah, Sparta, Chippewa Falls, Stanley, Waupaca, Black River Falls, Menasha, Shawano, Antigo, Crandon, Soperton, Platteville, Stoughton, Edgerton, Waukesha, Kenosha, Hartford, Watertown, Sturgeon Bay, Algoma, Berlin, Chilton, Wautoma, Phillips, Mellen, Washburn, Spooner, Rice Lake, Ashland, Hayward, Baraboo, Galesville, New London, Green Bay, Racine, Lake Geneva, Grand Rapids, Merrill, Stevens Point, Ladysmith, Sheboygan. The aggregate strength of this force was officers 471, enlisted men 14,785, a total of 15,256. This number was later augmented to about 18,000 by further enlistments into the National Guard from this State.

### **Rainbow Division Called**

While still at Camp Douglas, Company E, Fond du Lac; Company F, Oshkosh, and G, Appleton, of the second Infantry were by orders of the war department transferred to the 42nd Division, National Guard, called the Rainbow Division and organized as the 150th Machine Gun Battalion, Companies A, B, and C, respectively, and were sent to Camp Mills, Long Island, N. Y., for preliminary training before embarkation to France. These were the first units of the old Wisconsin National Guard to see foreign service.

During September the remaining troops were sent from Camp Douglas to Camp Mac Arthur,

near Waco, Tex., to be incorporated with the 32nd Division, National Guard. Almost immediately upon their arrival at the camp, a re-organization of Company, Regimental and Divisional Units, based upon the French system was determined upon by the War Department. The War Department declined the proffer of Gov. Philipp to fill each company by voluntary enlistments to the federal requirement.

That the reader may be familiar with general army organization a short explanation is offered. The lowest rank in the army is a private; a squad is eight men with a corporal commanding; a platoon is two or four squads with a lieutenant or sergeant commanding; a company is four or more platoons, war strength 250 men and six officers, commanded by a captain; a battalion is four companies commanded by a major; a regiment is composed of twelve rifle companies, one headquarters company, one supply company, one machine gun company, one medical detachment, war strength 3,605 men and 100 officers commanded by a colonel; a brigade of infantry is composed of two regiments, one machine gun battalion of three companies commanded by a brigadier general, and a division is composed of two brigades of infantry, one brigade of three regiments of field artillery, ammunition auxiliary troops and ammunition trains, war strength 28,000 all commanded by a major general.

### **Men Are Reorganized**

In accordance with federal orders upon reaching Waco, Texas, the Wisconsin Regiments of Infantry were practically disbanded and re-organized on the new basis, the infantry to comprise the 64th Infantry Brigade composed of the 127th and 128th Infantry regiments and the 121st Machine Gun Battalion. The regiments as organized on this basis had a total strength, approximated of 3,600 men. The 2nd Infantry, Wisconsin National Guard, became the nucleus of the 127th Infantry, National Army, and the 3rd Infantry of the 128th Infantry. The 1st Infantry became absorbed into both of these regiments, as did portions of the 4th, 5th and 6th. Of these latter three regiments a great proportion were absorbed into the military police, the ammunition train, both motor and animal drawn, and the supply train, both motor and animal drawn, and one company of the 4th Infantry to the Artillery Brigade as a trench mortar battery. Some of the Infantry companies were absorbed into the 119th Machine Gun Battalion, which was the Divisional Machine Gun Battalion, and the 121st Machine Gun Battalion, which was the Machine Gun Battalion of the 64th Brigade.

The 1st Cavalry Regiment was practically disbanded as such regiment of twelve line troops and the Headquarters, Machine Gun and Supply

Troop, and re-organized into a regiment of Field Artillery of six Batteries with one Headquarters Company and one Supply Company.

The 1st Field Artillery was changed from a regiment to be armed with three-inch Field guns to a regiment armed with 4.7-inch Howitzers. These two regiments of Artillery were assigned to the 57th Field Artillery Brigade attached to the 32nd Division.

The Battalion of Engineers was assigned to the 107th Regiment of Engineers as a Battalion.

The Field Signal Battalion was disbanded and re-organized as Company C (Outpost Company) of the 107th Field Signal Battalion.

The Two Field Hospital Companies and the two Ambulance Companies were incorporated with the 107th Sanitary Train.

### **Haan in Parker's Place**

The 32nd Division, National Guard, was an organization commanded by Major General James Parker of the United States Army. When the General went to France for observation he was succeeded by Brig. General William G. Haan of the United States Army. On his return from France General Parker was transferred to the command of Camp Custer and General Haan placed in command of the Division, being promoted to Major General.

The 64th Infantry Brigade (Wisconsin) was

commanded by Brig. General Chas. R. Boardman, Oshkosh, Wisconsin National Guard.

The 127th Infantry was commanded by Colonel Wilbur M. Lee, Oconto, Wisconsin National Guard; the 128th Infantry by Colonel John Turner, Mauston, Wisconsin National Guard; the 120th Field Artillery by Colonel Carl Penner, Milwaukee, Wisconsin National Guard; the 121st Field Artillery by Colonel Philip C. Westfahl, Milwaukee, Wisconsin National Guard; the 119th Machine Gun Battalion by Major Frank Fowler, La Crosse, Wisconsin National Guard; the 121st Machine Gun Battalion by Major Stanley Piasecke, Milwaukee, Wisconsin National Guard; the 107th Field Signal Battalion by Major William Mitchell Lewis, Racine, Wisconsin National Guard; the Headquarters, train and military police by Colonel Robert B. McCoy, Sparta, Wisconsin National Guard; the Ambulance Section of the Sanitary train by Major Dirk Bruins, Milwaukee, Wisconsin National Guard.

On the staff of the Division Commander were the following Wisconsin National Guard officers: Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert E. Seaman, Milwaukee, Division Surgeon; Major John G. Salsman, Madison, Assistant Division Adjutant; Major Chas. R. Williams, Camp Douglas, Assistant Division Quartermaster, and Major James R. Scott, Appleton, Division Sanitary Inspector.

### **Trained for Warfare**

During the months of October, November and December, the Division was trained in the new modes of warfare, the company organizations completed by the commissioning of a great number of meritorious non-commissioned officers to the grades of 1st and 2nd Lieutenants, and during the month of January the shipment of the Division to the sea-board for embarkation to France was begun, and the month of March found them practically all in France, the exceptions being the casual detachment of men not fitted on account of health for immediate active service, and a number of sick that were left at Camp Merritt, which was the camp nearest to the embarkation port. The shipment was successfully completed.

### **First Men Killed**

Late in December 1917, the 42nd Division, more popularly known as the Rainbow Division containing the three Wisconsin companies was sent to France, arriving there without accident. They were in service within two months. The War Department officially announced on April 13th that the "Rainbow Division" had been engaged in action during the six days, March 16 to 22, 1918. The censorship was then in complete operation and full details as to the location of the troops at that time was not disclosed.

Upwards of 98 members of the Fond du Lac

company were in the casualty list. The report of these first casualties sent a thrill of patriotism through the people of Wisconsin and a determination that the war must be won at all hazards.

The Rainbow Division was again engaged in action about April 6 and the Fond du Lac Company again suffered many casualties. Reports so far received in this count indicate that the city of Fond du Lac has the largest casualty list and the largest death list of any single city in Wisconsin.

### **Torpedoing of Tuscania**

There were casualties in the shipment of troops across the Atlantic, notwithstanding the fact that our ships were convoyed. According to official dispatches the Tuscania, a British transport liner, was torpedoed on the morning of February 5, 1918, off the north coast of Ireland. There were 79 Wisconsin men on the transport, practically all of whom were saved. The Wisconsin men were members of the Forestry's Division and 32nd Division which were being sent to France for service.

Of that awful night, little information has as yet been gathered. The story is graphically told in a letter of a Wisconsin boy, Ray Stephenson, Darlington, written in France, June 3, 1918, and received in Wisconsin early in July. Space will not permit the reprinting of the whole document, thrilling as it is, but a couple of paragraphs will

give Wisconsin people a view of some of the dangers Wisconsin boys faced so bravely.

"I was waiting for the supper bell to ring, when all of a sudden, the sub, or 'tin fish' as we now call them, hit us," writes Mr. Stephenson. "It was a queer, deadening noise, and put the lights out immediately and water was shooting all over from bursted pipes caused by the explosion. We had been talking about the danger we were in just before she was struck, as the men on the boat said it was the most dangerous part of the water, and filled with mines, submarines, etc. As soon as we came to our senses, there was a mad rush for the steps leading to the upper deck. It was pitch dark outside and no lights were allowed on deck after dark at any time. I got up two flights of stairs and made for my stateroom, as I did not have my life preserver with me, due to carelessness, as we were cautioned never to appear at mess without one. There was no order enforced though, and naturally the fellows got careless and would go around without them, unless at boat drill, where it was compulsory.

"I got to my room, by luck, after feeling my way. We were all assigned to certain places on the different decks. I had a hard time to make my way through, as the fellows were all trying to get away in the lifeboats as they

were lowered. I was one of the unlucky ones, for when we got to our deck all to be found that looked like it might have been our lifeboat was a lot of splintered timbers. We waited and waited and saw lifeboats, one after another, being lowered and paddled away. Several smashed boats were thrown from the top deck, striking and upsetting loaded boats ready to pull away. The boys were thrown into the water and were floating around perfectly helpless, and their cries were of no use for we could do nothing.

"After every lifeboat was off, things began to look pretty blue, and were getting worse every minute. There was not even as much as a board left for us to float on, and the only thing we could see to do was to wait and hope. Every once in a while faint lights were seen in the distance, and we did not know whether it was help coming to us or a light in some lifeboat, as the night, as I have said before, was as black as I ever saw it. Finally it started to rain, and then the thoughts of our being in the cold, salty water made us stop and use some headwork, and do it quickly for the *Tuscania* had already tipped considerable and was sinking fast.

"All of a sudden a crash was heard on the opposite side of the boat, and after going over, we found it to be a torpedo boat de-

stroyer. Men were going down the ropes like rats jumping into a river. Several fell and others were crushed between the destroyer and the Tuscania, from the dashing of the waves. About half an hour after the first one left—it was then 9:30—a destroyer pulled up, and it was then I made my get-away. I landed on the destroyer in good shape and went to find a place to ride for the remainder of our trip. I had on only a suit of underwear, shoes, shirt, and trousers when I got off, and it was a cold night, too. Well, as we pulled out, another submarine fired at us and missed, and we were told it was sunk by depth bombs from the destroyer.

"We got to Bemerency, Ireland, about 2:30 in the morning, and they had a lunch for us; then we went to bed. It was about four weeks before our Company were all together again."

On May 25th, 1918, the British transport *Moldovia*, carrying U. S. troops, was submarined and the official dispatch indicated that 11 Wisconsin people were lost. Meantime the old National Guard troops were training in France.

"The 32nd Division was scattered in billets in a number of villages in France," says Adjutant General Orlando Holway in a report just filed with the Governor, "until during the months of April and May the Infantry were united in the 10th French training area near Dijon with Division

Headquarters at Prothay, from here the Division was moved by train to the front lines in Alsace, taking over the entrenchments facing Altkirch and Muehlhausen. Here the Division remained during the months of June and part of July, suffering some losses."

Of the many feats of heroism by Wisconsin boys, no single act of devotion to his fellow soldier is more touching than the story of the death of Willard Purdy of Marshfield, Wis. He gave up his own life that others might live—fulfilling in his sacrifice the scriptural injunction: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." His heroism has received the high commendation of General Charles R. Boardman, Oshkosh. Here is a part of the letter written by his brother, Chester A. Purdy, to their mother:

"I had been out with a scouting party and had just come in from No Man's Land. All the boys carried bombs in their shirt fronts. When Willard reached in to get his, the pin that holds the igniter fell out from one of the three he had in his shirt. He pulled out two but did not get the right one. There were too many men around him to pull out his shirt and let the ignited bomb drop in the trench, so he cried to the men to run and he hung on to all three bombs, bending over and holding them close to his body. He could

probably have saved his own life if he had pulled out his shirt and let the bombs drop, but if he had done that it would surely have killed five or six of his comrades. He chose death rather than let his men get the fragments from the bursting bombs. All three bombs exploded. He did not suffer much, which was merciful. It was a mighty heroic action, a thing I never would have the nerve to do."

On July 20th the 32nd Division was moved by train to the front in the sector of the line west of Rheims, moving by train west to Paris, and entered the zone of Military operations near Chateau-Thierry on July 27th. The Division was attached to the French 4th Army commanded by General Mangin and on July 28th marched to the front relieving the 3rd Division American troops taking station near La Charmel.

The offensive began on July 30th at 3:30 p. m. with the putting into action of the leading battalion of the 127th Infantry and for the following ten days the Division was heavily engaged, overcoming heroically the greatest difficulties of terrain, capturing every position in its front, and at one time holding the objective after the eighth attack. The losses were severe, but the enemy losses were larger.

### Heroism of Old Guard

These operations are known under the general term of the advance from the Ourcq to the Vesle, and the objective was the line at Fismes. In these operations the 64th Brigade was given the name of "Brigade Terrible" and the Division, the name "Division Terrible" by the French.

The part the old Wisconsin National Guard troops took in the battles from Chateau-Thierry to Fismes July to August 5 as given in an official French order speaks eloquently of their valor. A portion of the order reads:

"It was the movement of the American division which advanced from Roncheres to Fismes progressing nearly parallel to the route that runs through Coulongs, Cohan, Longeville farm and St. Gilles, that we will follow, beginning July 30, the date of this division's entry into this sector, until August 5, when it entered Fismes.

"An interesting point is that this division from Wisconsin and Michigan is made up of a great many men of German origin who in thus shedding their blood for the United States gloriously showed their loyalty."

Censorship has prevented the gathering of details that some day will be a glorious page in a chapter filled with heroic deeds.

The 32nd Division, Wisconsin and Michigan

National Guard, was moved near Chateau-Thierry on the firing line to a point where the marines had fought the enemy to a standstill.

### **Brave Wisconsin Marine**

Even among these brave Marines were Wisconsin boys, and they left a great record. Belleau Woods was a nest of German machine guns and regarded as impregnable. The American troops, partly made up of Wisconsin units, had no such word in their vocabulary. Hugo A. Meyer of Sheboygan was a runner in that bloody engagement and his letter to Mrs. Reiss, dated July 4, 1918, is so dramatic and stirring in language that a portion of it is reprinted, because it shows the apparently unsurmountable odds faced by these men, many from Wisconsin, and how they bravely wrought accomplishment. Mr. Meyer writes:

"I had just completed my dugout when word came that we were to 'go over' at 4:30 p. m. Well, I had always imagined going over would mean climbing out of one trench and running to the next but here we were on the edge of a wood with just fields and patches of woods in front of us.

"At the appointed time we started out of the woods in skirmish line and advanced possibly one hundred yards when things began to happen. I don't think I shall ever be able to write or relate the happenings of the next

two hours for they were too terrible. They had cross machine gun fire on us, rifle fire, and artillery. I can safely say that no man crossed those fields and woods that day without praying. Comrades and men killed and wounded on all sides, but we still advanced. All runners stayed with the captain when not running to different platoons on messages and at one time crossing a field we were forced to stop behind a patch of briar. All of us were as close to Mother Earth as possible and still they were hitting us. I scraped a little hollow and buried my face in the briars and even then a machine gun bullet scraped my helmet and hit the man on my right in the leg. God, I saw entire platoons simply slaughtered that day with officers leading them, too. Well, that kept up until nine o'clock when we reached a ravine leading into Bouresche, the town we had to capture. Dead were piled three and four deep in that ravine. Men with skulls shot off, or both legs—oh, it was terrible, and the moaning—God, how I prayed.

"News came that Lieutenant Robertson had entered the town with sixteen men and needed help, so Captain Jane, 79th, collecting his company, found he had sixty left out of two hundred and fifty, and with this handful we ran through a terrible barrage and into the town. Germans had left it so quickly

that in some homes we found spareribs and other food still warm. The captain posted what men he had and sent a runner to Batt. for more men. Well, we stayed in town seven days before being relieved."

Relieving the Third Division of Regulars on this sector, from July 30 to August 5, during seven days of continuous fighting the 32nd Division forced back the enemy until on August 5, the German lines broke and never re-formed until they had fled across the Vesle river and the city of Fismes was occupied by our boys in the onward march to victory.

### Called "Les Terribles"

Individual heroism that equaled the finest achievements of the Civil War were repeated again and again in that irresistible advance of the Thirty-second Division, described by French officers and German prisoners as the most desperate fighting they had seen during the war, Verdun and Somme not excepted.

Of that battle Edwin L. James, New York Times war correspondent, says:

"One village changed hands nine times in the bitter contest between these boys from Wisconsin and Michigan and the German Jaegers and Prussian Guards. The title of "Les Terribles" has been bestowed on this division by the French."

Listen now to the magic words of Frank H. Simonds, who is considered the most thorough and competent writer, from an American viewpoint, on the war. He tells how the Americans turned a day of disaster at Chateau-Thierry to a victory that crushed Germany.

It was again the Waterloo for Napoleon; the July days at Gettysburg, which, when the smoke cleared, found courage re-established in the hearts of the Allies. Mr. Simonds says:

"The battle of Chateau-Thierry was at its height. The Germans were pouring in such a hurricane of shot and shell, liquid fire and poison gas that the French Poilus, staunch veterans though they were, had begun to give way before that storm of destruction and the never-ending hordes of on-rushing Germans.

"Already the French Commander was preparing for a hurried retreat. Already he had ordered his Hospital, with its hundreds of wounded, moved to the rear. The outlook was dark indeed—the road to Paris and the heart of France seemed open to the invader, when suddenly from over the hill behind the French lines came the sound of martial music—of thousands of fresh young voices singing—singing cheerily confidently, exultantly:

"The Yanks are coming,

"The Yanks are coming,

"The Yanks are coming over there."

### Was Germany's Waterloo

"And through the mist and battle smoke broke the long lines of Americans, their flags to the fore, their guns at the charge, their bayonets fixed, every man singing, exultant at the chance to get at the foe.

"They went at the Germans like so many wild-cats; they killed them with rifle butt, with bayonet or with knife; they charged right into the face of machine guns—tore them apart—and choked the gunners to death with their bare hands.

"In two short, glorious hours the whole war was won. In two hours that will rank in history above the Waterloo or Gettysburg battles, the Germans woke up to the fact that they had not a chance—that they were fighting against something too big for them to meet—a spirit so high that no force of theirs could stop it.

"The full story of Chateau-Thierry has never been written. Nor in any newspaper or magazine can you find the things our boys did that day."

The Adjutant General's office at Madison receives no official information from the War Department as to the operations of the troops and these facts were compiled from information received from the officers returning to this country

on detail at training camps as instructors or from those who return discharged abroad.

The shell fire that Wisconsin boys had to face in these days is vividly described by Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Garlock of West Salem. It takes a man who has felt the terribleness of such a situation to write a letter such as he has. Following is an extract:

"Your troops are in a center of resistance. They hold a certain front. It is covered with barbed wire on all sides. They live in dug-outs beneath the ground very strongly built. They have trenches for protection when fighting. Two to five hundred yards away is another line much like yours. Here are the lairs of your enemies; scarcely do you ever see them. There are miles of wire and trenches over there; you can even see villages but men or animals you never see. Nights you hear his wagons rumbling up with supplies, likewise he hears yours. Except for the wire and the outlines of trenches the world seems peaceful. On hot days the heat waves shimmer across No Man's Land, and the tall grass and bushes billow in the breeze out there just as they do on the fields of La Crosse County. You know that men in greenish-grey uniform are somewhere over there. You have seen yawning shell holes in your own lines, great trees broken down,

small trees uprooted, so you know that somewhere over there behind Fritz's hills and woods he has batteries of light and heavy artillery. Just now he is saving ammunition and you walk the woods in peace. Comes a day when his hidden guns suddenly speak. There are four—six—eight loud reports over across and instantly you hear a shriek as of eight devils. It is the shell traveling through the air and turning rapidly. It is coming your way for it swells to a louder and louder tone. It is just an instant or two you have to note it, but note it you do, this whine of the approaching missile, then bang! The shell has burst. You are a bit surprised to find it has not hit you and almost at the same instant there are four—six or eight more bangs. You hear the fragments flying through the trees but by this time you have found a hole or a large tree and are lying low hoping that no shell hits directly on your tree. The reports and explosions continue and you wait hoping for the end to come pretty quick. Maybe the range changes and the exploding shells go somewhere else. You get up and beat it for some real shelter. You never trust the woods again for Fritz is methodical; he opens fire quick and at as short range as possible hoping to catch you out of your trench or away from your dugout. In ten minutes when he thinks

you have come out to see the damage done he will rip off thirty to fifty more. Two can play the game, however. There are some batteries that belong to your sector. A word to them and every twenty minutes Fritz gets some little and big shells landed in spots that bother him."

The following heretofore unpublished orders by the Generals Commanding our Corps and armies of the French Army under whose orders they have been placed are given to show the appreciation accorded to the 32nd Division.

### **Haan's Men Made Good**

"At the time when the 32nd United States Division leaves the zone of Haute-ALSACE, the General commanding the 40th Army Corps wishes to express to the Commanding General of the Division, and to his troops, the great satisfaction he has experienced in having them under his command.

"By the courage, the excellent spirit, the bearing, the zeal to gain knowledge, of which they have given proof in all circumstances, these troops, under the Command of General HAAN, have shown all that can be expected of them.

"The 32nd U. S. Division leaves for coming battles, and our best wishes go with them. The General, the officers and the men know

that they are taking with them the affection and the esteem of the French troops in the zone, with whom they have collaborated in a spirit of such cordial comradeship, and the gratitude of the populations of ALSACE whom, together with their brothers in arms, they will contribute to return definitely to their country.

General PAULINIER, Commanding  
the 40th A. C.

PAULINIER."

**Commended for Bravery**

General Order 6th Army (French),  
August 9, 1918.

"Before the great offensive of the 18th of July, the American troops, forming a part of the 6th French Army, distinguished themselves by taking from the enemy the BOIS DE LA BRIGADE DE MARINE and the village of VAUX, and by checking his offensive on the MARNE and at Fossoy.

"Since that time they have played a most glorious part in the Second Battle of the MARNE, rivalling the French troops in spirit and valour. They have, in twenty days of incessant fighting, liberated numerous French villages and have accomplished, across a difficult country, an advance of 40 kilometers, which has carried them beyond the Vesle.

"Their glorious advances are marked by names which will in the future illumine the military history of the UNITED STATES: TARCY, BELLEAU, Plateau d' ETREPILLY, EPIEDS, LA CHARNEL, the OURCQ, SERINGES - et - NESLES, and FISMES.

"New Divisions, which faced fire for the first time, showed themselves worthy of the best military traditions of the Regular Army. They had the same ardent wish to defeat the Boche, and that quality of discipline which makes it possible for the orders given by the Chief to be always executed, no matter what the difficulties to overcome may be and sacrifices to be paid.

"The magnificent results attained are due to the energy and skill of the Chiefs and to the gallantry of the soldiers.

"I am proud to have commanded such troops.

The General commanding the 6th Army.  
DEGOUTTE."

### **Proud to Command Them**

ORDER, 38th Army Corps (French),  
August, 1918.

"The time having now come for him to hand over the zone of battle to General BULLARD, commanding the 3rd Corps, American

E. F., General de Mondesir, commanding the 38th French Corps, addresses all his thanks to the splendid troops of the 28th and 32nd American Divisions, who have proved during the pursuit, which is still being continued, not only their courage but also their staying qualities.

"The casualties, the toils and hardships due to the difficulties of bringing up rations during the marching and fighting of this period, were unable to break their high morale, their go and their warlike spirit.

"General DE MONDESIR is proud to have had the opportunity to command them. He hopes that the day will come when he will have them next to him as comrades in our common fight.

The General Commanding the  
38th Army Corps.

L. de MONDESIR."

### Seventy-six Percent Officers Suffer

Complete data on the casualties cannot be had. An attempt to gain an accurate estimate for the seven days' drive was made by Congressman James A. Frear of Hudson. He says:

"In the entire division the casualties reached 4,100 or nearly 1 in 4 of those engaged. In the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Regiment casualties

reached 1,445 out of 2,400 men including 76 percent of its officers killed, wounded or missing.

"These figures were given me personally in Washington by two different men, both present at the battle, but results gained are sometimes an index, and the Thirty-second Division of "Les Terribles," from Wisconsin and Michigan, gained its laurels through seven days of constant fighting midst rain and mud charging across the open and through woods against machine guns and artillery, occasionally yielding to superior force, but without faltering, driving on and on until the shock troops of the Thirtieth Prussian Guard were forced back a dozen miles across the Vesle, and our boys gained all their objectives and held them."

At the close of operations at Fismes the Division was moved and took a position at the north of Soissons being heavily engaged. From here the Division was sent to a rest camp to re-organize and refit and afterward saw action in the sector north of Verdun in the direction of Metz.

### **Fought Twenty German Divisions**

The Paris Edition of the New York Herald, early in December, 1918, printed a long article on the bravery of the 32nd Division. The following is an extract from the statement:

"When the American army of occupation started its march toward the Rhine on November 17, one of the crack divisions, the 32nd, was celebrating an anniversary. Just six months before, this division first planted the American flag on German soil in Alsace on May 10. Wisconsin and Michigan men came under enemy shell fire and from that date to November 11, the Division has outranged Boche guns.....In the last few days of the war the 32nd went into the line in the Meuse bridge head sector, and with the French were in the midst of an attack when the armistice stopped fighting. During the war the Division has fought on five fronts,—Alsace, the Vesle, Soissons, Argonne, and the Meuse—and has fought twenty of Germany's best divisions among them the Prussian Guards. It has never yielded a yard of ground to the enemies' counter-attacks."

At the conclusion of the signing of the armistice it was officially announced that the 32nd Division (Wisconsin and Michigan) and the 42nd Division (Rainbow) would be used as a part of the army of occupation, during the forming of the terms of peace. On December 7th General March at Washington announced that the 32nd and 42nd Divisions have been given the task of occupying Luxemburg to go into specific area around Mt. Arieu, St. Mihiel and Longuyon that formed the

second line of the army of Occupation ready to re-enforce the other army on the Rhine if necessary.

### Casualties may be 8,000

"It is difficult to estimate the number of casualties from Wisconsin," said Adjutant General Holway, late in December. "Just from newspaper reports, no official casualty list being filed at my office, the number of Wisconsin casualty may approximate 8,000 and the number of deaths 1,800."

But Wisconsin troops were to be found in other nations and countries than on the French front. Wisconsin men enlisted with the regular army were located at Archangel and Vladivostok, Russia, Greece and places on the Italian front. Several Wisconsin boys among them Paton McGilvary, son of Prof. E. B. McGilvary of Madison, Wisconsin, were with the air squadron on the Italian front that routed the Austrian army in its final drives. The Eighty-sixth Division, known as the "Black Hawk troops," composed largely of Wisconsin selective service men trained at Camp Grant, left for Europe in September. They arrived too late to get into full action.

### Indians in War

The Wisconsin Indians have shown their progress from tribal conditions to those of patriotic citizenship in this war. Unobserved, and unknown

to many, the youth of the Wisconsin tribes have been shaping their ambitions toward the white man's purpose these many years back, but the war has brought to notice their new aspirations and their determination to achieve that which is their present ideal.

From almost every tribe in the state came volunteers to the national guard as it prepared to move toward Camp Douglas. The Winnebagos, Chippewas, Pottawattomies, Oneidas and Menomones were all represented in the guard when it moved to Camp MacArthur, and went with its regiments overseas. In the ranks were the names of families prominent in Wisconsin Indian history, like that of the Decorahs, of whom three were seriously wounded in the battles from the Marne northward, the Thunders, of whom there were five in one organization, and many others from Black River Falls, Mauston, Tomah, Wittenberg, Odanah, Lac du Flambeau, Green Bay and other communities in which the Indian brother has been gradually working out his destiny.

The Indians likewise responded cheerfully in conscription, and their pride in their training, in the uniforms they wore, and in army life generally, was only secondary to their pride in the cause of their country. The war has meant to them not only a righteous cause to fight for, but an opportunity to show their patriotic zeal. They have made a proud record in the nation's battalions,

one which measures up with that of their white brothers.

In war work also, the patriotic Wisconsin Indians have done their part. From meager individual funds have come subscriptions to the Red Cross and other funds which represented the same depth of feeling for humanity which has been so characteristic of all Wisconsin people in the conflict. The Liberty Loans have appealed to them with the same force, with a response commensurate with their ability to subscribe and pay. One Indian woman residing near Black River Falls sold her farm and invested \$3,000 of the proceeds in the Third Liberty Loan. Others gave as liberally of their wealth, in proportion to their means. With gratitude as well as with patriotism, the Wisconsin Indians have sought to "do their bit" in a manner worthy of recognition by their white brothers.

## CHAPTER III.

## STATE DRAFT REGISTRATION



WITH the formal declaration of war, Wisconsin, under the administration of Gov. E. L. Philipp, immediately started to prepare for the calls which would come from the federal government for men and to put Wisconsin upon an effective war-footing. The Wisconsin legislature was in session and several laws were enacted to aid in the latter purpose. To carry out the former, necessitated the waiting upon the national administration for specific direction. The federal policy determined upon was a selective service bill, introduced into congress in April, 1917, which became a law on May 17, 1918.

While the bill was still under congressional consideration, Provost Marshal General E. H. Crowder and his staff were planning for what was to be the registration of the men within the age limits to be determined in the law. In fact the whole scheme was practically outlined in a letter of Secretary of War Newton Baker, April 23, 1917,—just a month before the passage of the statute.



GOVERNOR EMANUEL L. PHILIPP

In the working out of the details of the federal government's plan in Wisconsin, Gov. Philipp called to his aid Dr. Charles McCarthy, head of the legislative reference library, and E. A. Fitzpatrick, who had been prominent in educational survey works in the state for several years. Dr. McCarthy remained in charge until June 9, a few days after the first registration, when he was called to Washington to aid Herbert Hoover in food administration work.

### Fitzpatrick is Chosen

Upon recommendation of the executive, Mr. Fitzpatrick was then placed in complete charge of the draft work of the state and commissioned as a major in the officers' reserve corps. He held the position until December 31, 1918, when he turned in his final and complete reports for Wisconsin to the federal government and accepted a position as secretary of the central board of education. That Major Fitzpatrick administered the office to the complete satisfaction of the governor and the federal administration is evidenced by the many commendatory telegrams received from General Crowder all voicing the one sentiment of "the wonderful administration of the law which I have so often noted in Wisconsin."

From the first the governor took an active interest in the work of preparation for the registration. Secretary Baker's letter of April 23 pointed out

that the election district would be used as the unit basis of registration but that the first Wisconsin task would be the selection of men to carry out the work in the 2,320 election precincts in the state. In view of the fact that it had taken two and one-half months during the Civil war before a single man could be furnished under the draft, Gov. Philipp on April 30, wired for permission to use the personnel of the election machinery of the state. He felt that the "registration should be handled exactly as an election is handled." The suggestion of the governor was approved in a reply from Secretary of War Baker on May 1.

This suggestion proved to be a real contribution to the service. Meantime, blanks for the registration were sent by the federal government direct to the sheriff, county clerk and one physician designated by state authorities, in each county. Instructions were quickly prepared directing that the forms so received be forwarded immediately to the local election officials, in the same manner as official ballots are distributed.

To legalize the election machinery procedure and to have at hand a statutory method for conducting future registrations, Executive Counsel George B. Hudnall prepared a bill covering the plan for presentation in the legislature. It was introduced by Assemblyman Charles D. Rosa of Beloit, house floor leader, on May 3, 1917; passed the assembly on the same day under suspension of

the rules by a vote of 59 to 7; was considered in the senate and passed May 4. The measure received executive approval on May 9—eight days before congress had passed the selective service law, which the Wisconsin measure was designed to carry to fruition. It became Chapter 196 of the laws of 1917, by publication officially on May 12.

A county registration board was promptly designated in each state composed of the sheriff, county clerk and a county physician. In Milwaukee there was designated twenty-five registration boards of three members each—one board for each ward of the city. On May 18, 1917, President Wilson issued his proclamation designating June 5, following, as registration day, for persons between the ages of 21 and 30, both inclusive. Gov. Philipp followed with a proclamation on May 23, calling attention to the provisions of the selective service law; the severe penalties for failure to register and asked the people and press of the state to refer to it as "Duty Day."

"I recommend to the people of the state that June 5, be made a memorable day in the history of the state of Wisconsin," says the executive proclamation, "that flags be displayed on public buildings and private homes and that those who go to the booth and register, with the expectation of rendering a service will receive the applause that is due a patriotic citizen."

Some there were who were apprehensive about the draft. The federal government itself was not exactly sure of how all the people would take the mandate. In Civil war days the draft had been resisted in Ozaukee and Jefferson counties. But pessimists were doomed to disappointment. The June 5 registration proved to be a sober, quiet, orderly event. The saloons of the state were closed. Great interest was manifested by the people. If ever opposition had existed, it gave way to co-operation.

### First State to Report

Telephone and telegraph companies vied with each other in getting in the results so that Wisconsin could get an early count into Washington. At 4 o'clock Saturday morning, June 6, the following memorable telegram was sent to General Crowder:

"Four o'clock, A. M. All Wisconsin counties and cities have reported registrations complete. Totals, 218,700."

Wisconsin was the first state to complete its registration and report.

When on September 11, 1918, this registration was finally closed, and all who had been absent in foreign countries had returned and had their names enrolled, the total reached was 241,131.

While the War Department wished to encourage gratuitous service in the administration of the

draft law, it nevertheless offered to compensate persons, if necessary. On May 4, Adjutant General Orlando Holway was appointed disbursing officer for the state of Wisconsin and Gov. Philipp sent the war department the following message:

"I am pleased to advise you this state will pay all expenses connected with registration and that no funds will be required of the national government for that purpose."

Now that the nation had registered 10,000,000 and the state of Wisconsin had offered its share of a quarter of a million, the next step was the selection of men for service, to answer the coming calls. It was announced that orders would come to send men to camp in early September. The local jury-wheel system, used during the Civil war, met with general criticism, on the ground that there might be opportunity for fraud and manipulation. Washington decided on a new plan. Immediately after the registration, the central registration boards in each jurisdiction, assigned at random numbers to the registration cards. At first these were called the "red-ink numbers," but were later officially designated as the "serial numbers."

### **Great Interest in Lottery**

"In order to guarantee that there could be no manipulation of this list," says Major E. A. Fitzpatrick in his official report describing the

process followed, "official copies were filed with the Provost Marshal General's office in Washington, Adjutant General's office in the state, and were offered to the newspapers for local publicity. After these safe-guards were taken, there was held on July 20, in the Senate office building at Washington, the central lottery. There were thrown indiscriminately into a large bowl and thoroughly mixed with a ladle, capsules containing slips of paper bearing numbers (1 to 10,500). This would determine the order of liability of registrants in the largest local boards of the country and allow a lee-way for late registrations. The highest order number in the state of Wisconsin at the time of the lottery was 4,507. This was in the local board of the city of Kenosha."

The greatest interest was manifested in each locality in the drawing of the names. The number 258 was the first to come out of the bowl and the newspapers rolled off edition after edition as the numbers came in and the names for each locality were classified showing the order of the men to be called. "Lottery day"; the "victories of the Wisconsin troops at Chateau-Thierry" and "Peace Day" will go down as the three greatest days of street sales for Wisconsin newspapers. "Master lists" of these numbers were then sent to the local boards so that the names might be officially re-classified to show the available men.

**First Draft 12,976**

Shortly, thereafter, word came from Washington that the draft for the nation would be 687,000, making in all, when National Guard men are included an army of 1,152,985. Wisconsin's share in this army was 28,199. Credits were allowed for contingents of Wisconsin National Guard mustered into United States Service and for Wisconsin's citizens in other branches of military service on April 30, 1917. Wisconsin had enlistments of 15,274 making the net quota of men actually to be supplied by the draft, 12,976. Thus, one-half of Wisconsin's first quota was furnished by enlistments; standing ninth in this regard among the states of the union; ranking higher than the sister states of Michigan, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota.

Certain communities in Wisconsin had furnished more in enlistments than their population warranted and were fittingly characterized by Provost Marshal General Crowder as "banner" communities. Such communities in this state were: cities of Green Bay and Oshkosh; counties of Douglas, Forest, Lincoln, Oneida, Price and Washburn.

Upon population estimates, Adjutant General Holway apportioned to the various boards of the state, after enlistment credits for each locality had been deducted, the number each local board would have to furnish under the call for 12,976 men from the state. The boards were directed to send these

men to Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill., and Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Michigan. Men from the central and western counties were sent to the Camp Grant cantonment and from the eastern counties to the Camp Custer cantonment.

### Physicians Do Good Work

After the quotas had been announced, the next step was the physical examination of the "selects". Physicians were designated by local boards and approved by Gov. Philipp, to conduct the necessary work.

The first order of the provost marshal was for the examination of 200 percent of the number required from each local board. This would permit rejections for physical disability and for other sufficient reasons. This percentage proved to be too slow. Many passed on physical grounds were later excused because when classified they were found to be married, needed in agricultural or industrial pursuits.

The records show that 59,642 were examined in order to produce a quota of 12,870. Of the number called 2,857 had on November 12 failed to appear, but a large percent of these were later found to be already in some branch of the service. The facts compiled by Major Fitzpatrick with reference to this first draft show that of the 59,642 called, 39,602 men were physically fit; 14,834 had been rejected; 26,114 claimed for exemption or

discharge had been filed by those physically qualified; 21,301 of these claims had been allowed and 3,908 had been disallowed. The others had evidently been withdrawn. This draft resulted in the certification of 19,966 men to the five district boards. There were 89 colored registrants called in this first draft and 37 were accepted for military service.

### Work Was Effective

In this first draft, 5,665 aliens were called and 853, or 15 percent were certified for military service. Many registrants asking for exemption but turned down by the district boards, appealed in the first draft to the president for relief. That the work of the district boards was effectively done is indicated by the fact that of 492 cases so appealed in Wisconsin, 483 were affirmed and 9 were reversed. In the non-agricultural cases 47 were appealed to the president and all were affirmed by him.

Of the number of married men called in this draft Wisconsin has the lowest record. The state draft board's report show that 914 married men were called for military service, which was 3.83 percent compared with an average percentage in the nation of 10.87.

Upon request for information, the Provost Marshal was notified that Wisconsin would be ready to furnish 30 percent of its quota on September 5.

After some modifications of original orders, Wisconsin was notified that the following percentages of men of the 12,976 quota would be required on the given dates:

Sept. 5—Five percent at the rate of one percent a day.

Sept. 19—Forty percent during five day period.

Oct. 3—Forty percent during five day period.

Oct. 17—Fifteen percent during five day period.

### Filling First Calls

The first two calls were carried out as originally announced. The third call was reduced to 20 percent of the quota to go to Camp Grant, beginning October 3. The men from the section contributing to Camp Custer were delayed until later. The fourth call sent the 37 colored men to Camp Grant on October 27. The fifth call was for 30 percent of the quota from the section contributing to Camp Custer and were entrained beginning November 19.

To facilitate further drafts, the federal government worked out a new classification scheme, by which questionnaires were sent to all registrants. To assist in formulating this new plan upon direction of the governor E. A. Fitzpatrick and George Lines of the Milwaukee District Board were sent to Washington. Mr. Lines and Mr. Fitzpatrick were kept in Washington for two weeks. The

detailed information furnished, gave the basis of classification without the former detailed process of local individual hearings and appeals to the five district boards of the state.

The lawyers of the state were organized to furnish free legal advice in filling out the questionnaires. Attorney John B. Sanborn, Madison, was appointed to give general legal supervision. A small percentage of the questionnaires were sent out locally each day so that the legal profession could handle the situation. This new system proved very beneficial and with the later drafts resulted in much less misunderstanding and confusion.

### **New Class 1 Scheme**

The new plan as above noted was to place all registrants in five classes. There were two principal bases of classification: dependency and occupation.

With reference to dependency there were placed in the first class registrants who were immediately available for military service because they had no domestic ties which in the national interest could not be severed if they existed.

In the second class were placed certain relationships where the dependents were not dependent absolutely on the labor of the registrant.

In the third class were placed certain dependencies not of wife or children.

In the fourth class were placed dependencies of wife and children where the wife or children were mainly dependent on the labor of the registrant for support.

With reference to occupation, there were placed in the first class unskilled or unnecessary farm or industrial laborers.

In the second class were placed necessary farm or industrial laborers.

In the third class were placed certain highly specialized experts and assistants associated, or hired managers of, industrial or agricultural enterprises.

In the fourth class was placed necessary sole managing, controlling, or directing heads of necessary agricultural or industrial enterprises.

### **The Second Registration**

The policy of the provost marshal was to restrict the calling of men to class I under the new classification scheme. To augment the number of Class I men, the president, under authority of congress, issued on May 20, 1918, a proclamation for a second registration on June 5. This was for all men who had attained the age of 21 years, since June 5, 1917. Gov. Philipp re-enforced this call with a proclamation on May 24, asking for a complete registration. Because of the small number that would be required to register, the election machinery was not used and eligibles registered

with the local boards. About 20,000 were enrolled.

It was later decided to get a complete register of the man power of the nation. The executive office received instructions on August 9, 1918, anticipating an extension of the draft ages from 18 to 20 years and from 31 years to 45 years. It was anticipated that 320,000 would be registered under this order.

### **Plan Third Registration**

While preparation for this gigantic task was under way, another order was received for a special registration on August 24, 1918, of men who have attained the age of 21 years between June 5, 1918, and August 24, 1918. In view of the shortness of the time the press of the state was called upon to donate page advertisements that the attention of all eligibles might be attracted.

This third registration was conducted by the 104 local boards of the state and resulted in 4,381 registering.

The big registration of 18 to 20 and 31 to 45 was announced for September 12, 1918. The election machinery was again utilized. The names of 308,599 were enrolled. Of this last number 1,064 were colored.

The classification of these men proceeded with all due speed. By November 1, nearly all eligibles of the June 5 and August 24, 1918, registration had been inducted into the service.

The names of the September 12 list were being classified in accordance with the questionnaires when the announcement of the signing of the armistice came on November 11. On that date Wisconsin was sending about fifteen thousand men to camps. Those that were entrained were intercepted before reaching the mobilization camps or turned back by the railroads later in the afternoon, November 11, upon receipt of official orders that the men must be returned to their local boards and honorably discharged.

### **Total in Draft 584,559**

In the four draft registrations Wisconsin made a remarkable record,—the gross registration for the state, all late registrations included, being 584,559. Of this number 90,000 were sent for training to military camps in all sections of the United States.

Wisconsin was very successful in achieving the principal purpose of the Draft,—to take the men needed for the army from the communities of the state with the least possible disturbance of the industrial and family relationships. It was inevitable that in taking out of the state for the army and the navy over 118,000 men there should be some disturbance of the ordinary conduct of affairs, but, in view of the number taken, this was comparatively slight. In achieving the purpose, the co-operation of the Local and District Boards

was mainly responsible for the result. The Agricultural Committee of the State Council of Defense also served in advisory capacity to the Draft Administration. The Draft Administration, too, occasionally called in representatives of labor for advice in connection with administration of the law and no serious step was taken in the administration of the law without suggestions and advice. The most striking illustration of this was the strikes that were threatened in the city of Madison last summer. Here the draft might have been used as a coercive instrument over labor, but after a conference in the Governor's office of C. F. Burgess, J. H. Brown of the Madison Federation of Labor and the draft administrator, a statement was issued to all local parties and highly approved by the Provost Marshal General as being in exact accord with the policy announced by the Secretary of War in a communication to the head of the American Federation of Labor.

There was received on the evening of December 7 the order to close the Local Boards, to seal the records and to hold them until further orders from Washington. They have been sent to the Adjutant General because they are the determining records in the further administration of the War Risk Insurance Act and are vital records in any pension system that may later be established by the Congress of the United States.

### Is Highly Commended

In the closing of the administration of the Draft, the Provost Marshal General wired the Governor:

"I take this opportunity to convey my congratulations upon the vigorous and systematic manner in which the whole administration of the Selective Service System has been conducted in the state of Wisconsin."

Besides the men within the draft, Wisconsin boys went by hundreds into the service through the voluntary enlistment route. Many of these joined the marines or navy, after the National Guard had been recruited to full strength. Some of these were the sons of prominent officials of the state. Cyrus Philipp, son of Gov. E. L. Philipp, went into the navy; Philip F. LaFollette, son of Senator R. M. LaFollette, was commissioned as an officer at Ft. Sheridan. James Lowell Whittet, son of Speaker L. C. Whittet and George Crownhart, son of Charles H. Crownhart, formerly head of the Wisconsin industrial commission, went into training at Camp Hancock, Ga. John L. Mitchell, son of Former United States Senator John Mitchell joined the aviation corps and died in the service. Robert Williams, Camp Douglas, aged 17 years, son of Lieutenant Col. Charles W. Williams, went to France in the service and died of disease; Millard Johnson, son of

State Treasurer Henry Johnson, enlisted and was assigned to the 32nd Division; Arthur L. Myrland became Senior Lieutenant in the navy, and Otto F. became Second Lieutenant in the 162d Depot Brigade, both sons of A. J. Myrland, Secretary of the State Tax Commission. Congressman James A. Frear's only son joined the forces. Hundreds of others might be mentioned if space permitted.

### First in Volunteers

Compared with sister states, Wisconsin ranked first in voluntary enlistments. From a table furnished by the war department under date of June 30, 1917, the following is taken:

Illinois volunteer enlistments was 34.8 percent.

Indiana volunteer enlistments was 41.6 percent.

Iowa volunteer enlistments was 50 percent.

Michigan volunteer enlistments was 31.1 percent.

Minnesota volunteer enlistments was 31.4 percent.

Kentucky volunteer enlistments was 35.8 percent.

Wisconsin volunteer enlistments was 54.5 percent.

Many men beyond the pale of the first draft sought voluntary service. Former Gov. F. E. McGovern, and Guy D. Goff, both of Milwaukee, were selected to the judge advocate's department at Washington. Service in this department was

also rendered by H. H. Morgan, a Madison attorney. Dr. T. S. Adams, a former member of the state tax commission, was on April 2, 1918, appointed by Secretary W. G. McAdoo, as chairman of the Board of Excess Profit Tax reviewers, to aid in administering the excess profits provisions of the War revenue act. Thomas E. Lyons, Superior, a member of the present Wisconsin Tax commission, spent the summer of 1918 in Washington aiding the Internal revenue department in the administration of income tax laws. Cecil Schreiber, of the statistical staff of the Wisconsin railroad commission, was called to Washington to aid in the details of government administration of railroads. James Gillespie and William Nickels, division engineers of the State Highway department, were enlisted as officers in the United States Engineering corps.

## CHAPTER IV.

## SUPPORT OF LEGISLATURE



THE Wisconsin legislature was in regular session at the time war was declared. The deliberations of the senate were presided over by Lieut. Gov. E. F. Dithmar, Baraboo, and the house by Speaker L. C. Whittet, Edgerton. Long before the declaration had come the legislature had passed a loyalty resolution and made plans to back up the president. Two months before war Senator Timothy Burke, Green Bay, offered his resolution in the upper house and Assemblyman Edward Nordman, Polar, another in the lower house. The record vote was made on the so-called Nordman resolution. Four important pieces of legislation, to be treated more fully later, were enacted.

First, the council of defense act and the Eminent Domain law.

Second, aid to soldier dependents.

Third, exemption of soldiers from civil process.

Fourth, the broadening of the scope of the soldiers voting law.

The war and its resultant readjustments went

forward without interfering with the normal functions of the state service, with the exception that the state railroad commission was practically robbed of its powers as many of the functions of this commission were assumed by the federal government. The Wisconsin two-cent fare law on railroads was abrogated at once by federal orders. The increased price of coal sent up public service rates. In most cities of the state the five cent street car fare has been superseded by a six or seven cent fare, with state railroad commission approval.

The regular legislative session closed in mid-summer, 1917.

### **Two Special Sessions**

As during the Civil war, two special sessions of the legislature, however, were necessary to keep the laws of the state in touch with the tremendous advance in war preparations. The state was not pinched for money. The institutions were conducted without inefficiency in their service. There was a time when it was believed that a bond issue would be needed to sustain the state's finances. Such an action had been taken during the Civil war. For this purpose, and for the further purposes of laying before the legislature the filling of the United States Senatorial vacancy, caused by the death of Senator Paul O. Husting, and of increasing the scope of the soldiers' voting law,

the legislature was convened in special session on February 19, 1918. The soldiers' voting law was passed. The bond issue was finally authorized in the sum of \$1,000,000. The legislature declined to give the executive power to fill the senatorial vacancy and the special election for that purpose was called by Gov. Philipp for the first Tuesday in April. This was the first special session of the legislature since the United States had entered the war, and was made spectacular by a bitter fight over a resolution aimed against United States Senator LaFollette which was finally adopted. In August it was announced that the funds of the state were sufficient and the bond issue would not be utilized.

A second special session of the legislature was summoned on September 24, 1918, but was in session only one day. This meeting was called for the purpose of authorizing the building of barracks for the training of soldiers at the university and normal schools, and to give cities, towns and villages the right to invest their surplus funds in Liberty bonds.

Both of the executive recommendations were enacted.

### **Five Enter the Service**

Five members of the 1917 legislature entered into the military or naval service. The first to go was Assemblyman William A. Campbell, Milwau-

kee, who donned a "Jackie" uniform within a few days after the declaration and gave up his seat in the house. The other four members remained until the close of the regular session. Assemblyman D. S. Burnett, Wausau, a Spanish-American war veteran, then joined an engineers' corps for service in France. Senator Albert J. Pullen, Fond du Lac, and Assemblyman George D. Whiteside of Stevens Point, joined a medical corps and Senator William M. Bray, Oshkosh, was in training at Camp Hancock, Ga., when the armistice was signed and was awarded the commission of captain in the United States army on December 10, 1918.

Because of his criticisms of the United States policy in war, Senator Frank Raguse, Socialist, Milwaukee, was expelled from his seat early in the regular session of 1917 and, Louis A. Fons, Milwaukee, was elected to his seat, beginning his service with the first special session in the spring of 1918.

The fall elections of 1918 disclosed an interesting political change. For the first time in the history of the state the democratic party ranked third in legislative membership. At the 1919 session the republicans had an overwhelming majority and the socialists ranked second.

## CHAPTER V.

## STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE



WISCONSIN was the first state in the union to organize a state council of defense. The scheme was largely the product of the mind of Prof. A. L. P. Dennis of the university. The original draft of this bill is now in the legislative reference library at Madison. Rapidly the movement creating state councils of defense spread all over the United States until every state in the union had a council modeled after the Wisconsin plan. Wisconsin was the first state to organize county councils of defense. Through these agencies the state of Wisconsin made a remarkable record in doing its share toward putting Wisconsin on a war footing.

The council of defense was created by an act of the Legislature in 1917. The council organized on April 18th. It is composed of representative farmers, laboring men, engineers, business men, physicians and railroad men. The first members of the council were: Magnus Swenson, chairman; Gov. E. L. Philipp, ex-officio, chairman; John G. D. Mack, vice-chairman; Fred Brockhausen, Mil-

waukee, representing labor; George Buckstaff, Oshkosh, representing the farmer; P. C. Eldredge, Milwaukee, representing railroad men; Dr. J. S. Evans, Madison, representing physicians; Orlando Holway, Madison, adjutant general; Mrs. H. H. Morgan, Madison, representing the women of the state; John M. Reese, Dodgeville, representing the farmer; A. T. Van Scoy, Milwaukee, representing business interests; and A. R. Wheeler, Columbus, representing the bankers; Andrew H. Melville, Madison, secretary. On November 1, 1918, Mrs. Morgan resigned and was succeeded as assistant secretary by Mrs. E. C. Thompson of La Crosse. Early in the spring of 1918 Gov. Philipp recommended a separation of the state council of defense work and the federal food administration work. Until that time Mr. Swenson and Mr. Melville had directed both activities. Following the suggestion of the executive April 17, 1918, Mr. Melville became secretary of the food control work, and was succeeded as secretary of the defense council by J. B. Borden, for many years assistant state superintendent of public instruction. About November 1, Mr. Borden joined the agricultural faculty of the university and was succeeded in the defense council secretaryship by H. A. Burd. Mr. Swenson acted as chairman of the State defense council and federal food administration until October 15, 1918, when he resigned from the defense work and was succeeded by W.

S. Heddles, a prominent Madison lumberman, as chairman. Mr. Swenson continued to act as chairman of the federal food work.

The first thing which the state council of defense did following its initial organization was to aid in establishing auxiliary councils of defense in each of the 71 counties of the state. The first county to organize was Portage, under direction of Assemblyman George Whiteside, who later went to Europe as a member of a medical unit. This was accomplished by May 22nd when a conference of all the chairmen and secretaries of the county organizations was held at Madison.

### **Power to Seize Foods**

The eminent domain bill giving the state council power to seize food and fuel was passed by the legislature under authority of which the state council may purchase and distribute food and fuel. The Legislature also passed a County Council appropriation bill authorizing County Boards to appropriate not to exceed three one-hundredths of a mill on the assessed valuation of the county for the use of County Councils of Defense. City and Village Councils have like authority. Sixty-one county councils in our state have received appropriations, totaling nearly \$115,000.

Six counties have made provision for the expenses of the County Councils, there being no direct appropriation. Only four county councils

In our state remained unprovided for, financially by act of the County Boards.

The activities of the State Council of Defense have been many and varied. The aid which that body, in conjunction with the Department of agriculture, gave to our farmers in procuring seed for planting in the spring of 1917 and 1919 is familiar to every one.

The State Council immediately launched a campaign for registering male citizens between the ages of 21 and 31 under the draft of June 5, 1917, and Wisconsin was the first to make this report to Washington. It aided in the first Liberty Loan which was over-subscribed and in the subsequent loans which were all over-subscribed.

The state council pushed the campaign for the Red Cross subscription; 21 county chapters with auxiliary branches in over 200 towns were formed. The state council appropriated money to pay the expenses of additional lectures for the summer course on civilian relief at the University of Wisconsin.

Through its aid, women's committees co-operating with the county councils of defense, have been organized in 66 counties.

### Originates "Soldier Pal"

Through special bulletins the council aided in securing recruits for the army and navy. The "soldier pal" movement was inaugurated so that every

man who went to the front would have a person at home looking after his welfare.

The labor problem has received careful attention from the State Council of Defense; 68 counties in Wisconsin have county labor agents. Several thousand men and boys have been furnished to farmers this year. Through special bulletin sheriffs have enforced the vagrancy law so that all were compelled to work. Automobile squads were formed in many cities by business men to assist farmers in harvesting their crops, during the autumns of 1917 and 1918.

Attention was given by the state council to the fuel question. Gov. Philipp appointed W. N. Fitzgerald, Milwaukee, state fuel agent and Wisconsin was kept warm in spite of a coal shortage.

### **Pixley Furnishes Data**

The state council of defense through a special appropriation trained 70 young women to take the place of registered nurses in caring for the civilian sick during the war. It published a weekly, "Forward", which brought to all co-workers official information of government war plans. This weekly and central publicity work were handled by Col. R. B. Pixley, Milwaukee.

In co-operation with the Industrial Commission, storage plants, warehouses and factories have been inspected with a view to prevent fire losses and preserve food. The council co-operated with

various private and independent agencies in the state to bring home the war problems. It put 15 speakers in the field urging the liberty loans and distributed tons of literature, showing the justice of America's cause. The women's division of the council, under the direction of Mrs. H. H. Morgan carried on extensive campaigns.

## CHAPTER VI.

## WAR WORK OF WOMEN



**E**IGHTY THOUSAND women, divided into twenty-five hundred units, each linked through a county organization to a central directing body—an organization of volunteer workers at once so coherent, yet so entirely flexible that a message coming from the federal government could be transmitted within a few hours to the farthestmost school district of the state—this, in brief, is what the Woman's Committee of the Wisconsin State Council of Defense grew to be in the twenty months since its inception. No such body of women was ever brought together before in this state nor is it likely, if the Woman's Committee should be dissolved, that such an organization could ever again be effected unless there should come once more to the women of Wisconsin the ringing call to enlist for the service of the nation.

The war brought the Woman's committee into existence, yet almost at the outset it discovered that the tasks assigned to it were not necessarily war time jobs. Indeed, for the most part it was called upon to do things that are quite as

essential for times of peace as for times of war. Food, health, thrift, morals, the care of little children, the education of youth,—all the things which women have ever held dear and to which they have always devoted themselves to the best of their individual ability—these were the things that were turned over to the woman's committee as primarily its work. They were big undertakings and they have been approached in a big, constructive way that has been in itself an education to thousands of women who have found themselves drawn into service. Women have learned many lessons since April, 1914, but one of the best has been that of the value of organized effort for a common cause.

#### **Name Mrs. H. H. Morgan**

The work of the Women's Committee in Wisconsin began when Gov. Philipp appointed Mrs. Henry H. Morgan as the woman member of the Wisconsin State Council of Defense. Shortly after that the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense was organized at Washington and the state committee, which Mrs. Morgan was then gathering about her, was made the Wisconsin division of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense. But Wisconsin women will always remember with pride that in this state a woman's committee was already in the process of organization when the women's com-

mittee of the National Council of Defense had not yet been named.

Mrs. Morgan's duties were complex. It was necessary to organize a state committee, to secure competent chairmen for the various lines of effort along which it was proposed to work, to form units in every county and to see that these county units formed other units in every town and in every school district. It meant an immense amount of correspondence, many miles of hard traveling, hundreds of spoken appeals and a constant attention to details of organization, while at the same time having always a vivid appreciation of the broad constructive program that was to be put through. The woman's committee having come into existence did not continue to live altogether because of the pleasing vistas before it. It had to be carefully nurtured, wisely led, praised when it did well and admonished when it failed and it was because Mrs. Morgan had infinite patience and a big vision that this was done successfully.

### **Map General Policy**

Mrs. Morgan brought together an executive committee which met once a week for conference. This committee consisted of Mrs. Joseph Hobbins, Mrs. William Kittle, Miss A. L. Merritt, and Miss Juliet C. Thorp. It was this committee which decided upon the general policy. Outside of this small body was a larger one called the Advisory

committee made up of representatives of all heads of state Woman Committee departments and representatives of all the larger organizations of women in Wisconsin. Thus these women represented such far reaching state wide organizations as the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Order of Eastern Star, the Pythian Sisters, the Catholic Alumnae, Daughters of the American Revolution, War Mothers, W. C. T. U., Ladies of the G. A. R., Women's Relief Corps, Association of Collegiate Alumnae, Wisconsin Suffrage association, United States Daughters of 1812, Wisconsin Consumers' League, National League for Woman's Service, Home Economics Department of the University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Association of Graduate Nurses, Association Opposed to Equal Suffrage, National Congress of Mothers and Parents, Teachers' Association, Y. W. C. A.

The work of the Woman's committee was planned after the departmental scheme. Certain broad lines of work were mapped out in Washington. The same plan was carried into the states and from the states into the counties. In Wisconsin this work is sub-divided under the heads of Americanization, child welfare, food production and food conservation, health and recreation, home and foreign relief, home work for town and country, information, Liberty Loan, publicity, speakers' bureau, and women in industry. Each department is thus state-wide in its scope, with

chairmen in every county working on a unified plan. It is because of this perfect machinery functioning smoothly that it is possible to carry on to success tasks which otherwise might seem impossible.

### **Do Important Work**

In the counties a similar division of work is made. In every one of the seventy-one counties of the state there is a central committee, with a chairman and with department heads carrying out the suggestions that come from headquarters and directing the work of sub-chairmen in the townships and school districts. It was through such machinery and with purely volunteer help that 180,000 young children were weighed and measured; that 726 student nurses were secured; that 275,000 food pledge cards were signed; that 71,550 pieces of printed matter were circulated by the information department; that 700 speakers gave 3,000 speeches and distributed 20,750 pamphlets for various campaigns and that 700 volunteer workers have given clerical assistance to draft boards throughout the state.

The child welfare work is under the direction of Mrs. Edith E. Hoyt who successfully conducted the campaign for Children's Year. As a result of health conditions discovered when Mrs. Hoyt and her county chairmen undertook to weigh and measure all children under six years of

age, many counties have employed county nurses; in several child welfare clinics have been established. Mrs. Hoyt's goal is the ultimate establishment of a Children's Bureau in Wisconsin which would conserve child life and supplement, in a way that is not possible now, the work of home and school.

From the start the food conservation committee under the direction of Miss Abby Marlatt has worked in close co-operation with the United States Food Administration. Miss Marlatt, who is also head of the home economics department of the University of Wisconsin, has been able to accomplish a vast amount of work. Twenty-five home demonstrators have been working in the state. Volunteer groups for food demonstrations have been trained in many communities. Curb and city markets have been opened, canning and drying of vegetables demonstrated and quantities of printed matter relating to food conservation and production have been sent out.

The Health and Recreation department has been co-operating with the War Camp Community service in establishing Girls' Patriotic Leagues through the state and has also made a state-wide health survey in co-operation with state health authorities. Mrs. E. S. Bickel of Oshkosh is chairman of this department.

The Information department of which Miss May Oakley of Madison is chairman collected files and

distributed much information on war subjects of interest to women. This department was made up of representative librarians of the state and worked in co-operation with the Wisconsin Library commission and the University extension division. The Information Department has assisted in compiling a number of valuable booklets on woman's war work.

### **Demand for Speakers**

The work of the Speakers' Bureau under the guidance of Miss Juliet C. Thorp was one of the busiest of all departments, since its services were in constant demand for any one of the many causes which the government has been directing. It had trained speakers, prepared and printed booklets giving suggestions for speakers along certain lines, directed patriotic pageants, encouraged community singing, and assisted in all campaigns carried on in the state.

Mrs. William Kittle, chairman of the department of women in industry, brought together a committee composed of representatives of employers, employes, the medical profession and service workers which has held many conferences. The chief work of the committee has been the assistance given to draft boards. Mrs. Kittle's work as president of the Consumers' League specially qualified her for this work.

The Americanization committee of which Mrs.

Theodora W. Youmans of Waukesha is chairman was forming county committees through which to carry on the plans of the Bureau of Education for the Americanization of aliens through work in the home, the school and the shop.

### **Foreign Relief Work**

The Home and Foreign Relief department is directed by Mrs. E. L. Maloney. One of its greatest tasks has been the collection of clothing at a central depot in Madison from which thousands of tons have been shipped abroad. Quantities of clothing were also collected in the counties for the benefit of the sufferers in the great forest fires which swept northern Minnesota October 15, 1918. Upwards of 7,000 fire refugees sought shelter in Superior. Upon call of Gov. Philipp, through the State Council of Defense, \$59,000 was raised by voluntary contributions sent through the council and \$15,000 additional was forwarded direct to relieve the sufferers.

The publicity work of the woman's committee was handled by Mrs. Charles F. Burgess. It prepared material for the newspapers and for "Forward," the official publication of the State Council.

In November Mrs. Morgan was called by the government to re-enter her former position of nursing and resigned to take up important executive work at Camp Oglethorpe, Ga. The office work which she has been carrying on was trans-

ferred to Mrs. E. C. Thompson, formerly chairman of the La Crosse county woman's committee, one of the most active units in the state. Mrs. Thompson became assistant executive secretary of the State Council of Defense under a recent amalgamation of the work of the men and women.

All activities included, the State Council of Defense expended \$66,324 from the time of its organization April 19, 1917, to December 15, 1918. On December 10, Gov. Philipp asked the state council to prepare for concluding its work, so that all state activities can get back on a peace basis at an early date.

## CHAPTER VII.

## AID TO SOLDIER DEPENDENTS



WISCONSIN was the first state in the union to enact a law giving aid to the dependents of soldiers. The statute followed the lines of the aid law put on the books during the Civil war, with the exception that the amount of aid given is larger and the law has been more punctually administered. The Civil war allowance was only \$5 a month, but there was great delay in making the payments.

The 1917 Wisconsin statute ante-dated the federal statute on this subject by four months. Even where the person was legally entitled to aid under the federal statute, the delay in the early cases of securing the audit, prompted the state to advance money from the Wisconsin aid fund, that there should be no suffering or want in the home of any Wisconsin soldier's family. Other states followed in the wake of Wisconsin enacting similar laws, but none there were whose provisions were so liberal. The Wisconsin law marks the fine spirit of humanitarianism that prevailed in Wisconsin during the war.

**Burke Fosters Measure**

About two weeks after war had been declared, on April 18, 1917, Senator Timothy Burke of Green Bay introduced the aid bill. Mrs. A. H. Wilkinson of Bayfield was one of the women who urged its early enactment. It passed the upper house with a unanimous vote, six days after introduction. The measure was delayed in the lower house until June 14, when it was concurred in, receiving the signature of the executive, June 23. It was officially published on June 28, and became Chapter 497, Laws of 1917.

The adjutant general of the state was clothed with the power and authority of administering the law. Monthly aid was provided. Under the terms the amount was to be such, that, together with the income of the dependent or dependents derived from other sources, "except such as may be contributed from the service pay of the enlisted man, shall amount to \$30 for one dependent; \$40 for two dependents; \$50 for three dependents and \$5 for the fourth and each additional dependent."

To aid in the administration of the law, Adjutant General Orlando Holway appointed July 7, 1917, Bryan J. Castle, long in the service of the state, to take charge of this department. Miss Frances E. Ryan, Janesville, was retained as secretary. She proved to be a competent organizer in dispatching this detailed work. The declared

policy of the department was that those entitled to aid should get it promptly, but that those with financial income able to care for themselves should not become wards of the state. Every application had to be verified and supported with affidavits, showing all facts of dependency and the branch of the service in which the soldier was engaged.

### **Aid Goes to 616**

To facilitate the quick handling of these preliminary investigations, the local Red Cross Chapters of the state volunteered. This was of the greatest possible assistance in administration of the law. By August 1, 1917, the plan was in operation, but payments were made back to the time the law became effective. From June 28, 1917, to November 11, 1918, the date of the signing of the armistice, 616 certificates were issued granting aid to soldiers' families. The usual allowance was \$20 to \$25 a month; in three cases the aid called for was \$5 a month and in three other cases \$50 a month. In six cases the aid went to children whose mothers were dead or divorced and whose fathers were in the service; in 386 cases allowances were to dependent parents and in 224 cases to wives of enlisted men. Three days after the first of each month the dependent had the state allowance. The grand total expended by the state for aid in those seventeen months was \$110,000.

Under a similar aid law in operation during the Civil war Wisconsin expended \$2,698,999.87. Towns, villages and cities were also authorized to give aid to dependents of soldiers. These figures indicate that the number of dependents was much larger in proportion to population during the Civil war than in the great war.

The department rendered other services. Under the congressional law of October 6, 1917, many were entitled to aid, who did not fall within the terms of the Wisconsin act. The department handled all these applications securing aid for scores under the federal statute.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## GIVEN COURT PROTECTION



THE third law of importance which was passed by the 1917 Legislature affecting our Wisconsin soldier was the one which provided that all persons, resident of this state, now in the military service of the United States or of this state, and all those who may thereafter enlist, be appointed or drafted into the military service of the state or of the United States for the purpose of the present war, shall during such service be exempted from all civil process, and in all civil cases now pending against any person in such service, the proceeding shall be continued and stayed until the discharge of such person from such service. The protection from civil process is to continue for three years from the time of mustering into military service, and it is made the duty of all courts, whenever it appears that a suit has been commenced against a person while in the military service, to dismiss such suit as against such service.

"A statute somewhat similar to this was enacted

in the early days of the Civil War," says L. C. Whittet, speaker of 1917 legislature. "The sound policy, as well as the patriotic principle, expressed in this legislation is acknowledge by all intelligent people. Men who offer their lives in defense of their country should not be exposed to the expense or the embarrasment of court proceedings on account of monetary obligations or property rights, while in the military service of the state or federal government."

The validity of this law is now being contested in the courts. The case of Konkel vs. State, ex rel Breese has been appealed from Milwaukee and the supreme court must pass on the constitutionality of the statute early in January.

## CHAPTER IX.

## SOLDIERS GIVEN VOTE



**T**HAT no detail contributing to the welfare and contentment of the Wisconsin troops in camp and field might be omitted, Wisconsin was among the first to enact laws providing facilities for its soldiers to cast their ballots at the elections held during their absence from the borders. The right of the man bearing arms in defense of his country to continue to participate as a citizen in all the affairs of both state and nation was recognized fully, and every possible effort was made to insure the protection of that right.

The idea was not new, as the Wisconsin soldiers cast their ballots in the field in the Civil War. The conditions were different then, as entire regiments and brigades enrolled from Wisconsin, and it was an easier matter to obtain their ballots. Under the present organization of the army, Wisconsin soldiers were scattered throughout the entire army, and excepting the National Guard units in France, there were no organizations composed entirely of state troops.

### First at Camp Wilson

At the general elections in November, 1916, the Wisconsin National Guard, which had been called into the Mexican border service several months previously, was stationed at Camp Wilson in Texas. Messengers were sent from the Department of State to obtain the vote of the soldiers, and their mission was successfully performed. The total vote cast for governor at Camp Wilson in 1916 was 2,080. It will be of interest to note the partisanship of that vote, which did not vary much from the average percentage of votes cast in the 1918 elections. The vote for governor at Camp Wilson was: Williams, Democrat, 618; Philipp, Republican, 1,423; McKerrow, Prohibition, 14; and Weaver, Socialist, 24.

It was easily apparent to the legislature at its special session in February, 1918, which was called partly to pass upon the subject, that the new type of structural unit in the national army organization, including individual induction of soldiers and their wide distribution to the various camps and subdivisions, required practically an entirely new enactment in order to provide for the soldier vote.

Chapter 16, laws of 1918, was therefore enacted. It provides for obtaining the votes of soldiers at all army camps in this country wherein 200 or more Wisconsin soldiers shall be stationed at the

time of any general election, together with the necessary details for the administration of the law by the Department of State. No provision was made for obtaining the vote at a primary election, or at any special election other than for an office ordinarily filled at a general election.

### Voting by Mail

The voting by mail statute was not suspended by the new law. That privilege remained for such soldiers as could make use of it, the same as other absent citizens, at other elections, including general elections, if any so desired to vote.

The new law was first put to the test at the special election for United States senator held on April 3, 1918. The National Guard units were across the seas by that time, and other Wisconsin soldiers had not been as widely distributed as they were later on. The Secretary of State found from the certificates filed with him by Adjutant-General Holway, who obtained his information directly from the War Department, that there were only nine army cantonments which had a sufficient number of soldiers to comply with the statutory requirement as to the sending of messengers and holding camp elections. Those cantonments were: Camp Grant, Illinois; Camp Custer, Michigan; Camp MacArthur, Texas; Camp Pike, Arkansas; Camp Greene, North Carolina; Kelley Field and Camp Stanley, Texas; Camp Logan and Ellington

Field, Texas; Camp Joseph E. Johnston, Florida; and Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

Messengers were sent to these camps and conducted the elections as required by law, the soldiers selecting their own election clerks and inspectors from their own numbers.

The total vote cast in all the camps were 3,457, of which Lenroot, Republican, received 1,670; Davies, Democrat, 1,306; Berger, Socialist, 411, and Benjamin, Prohibition, 15, with 23 scattering.

### **For Soldiers in France**

The law not making provision for the primary election held on the first Tuesday of September, 1918, the only recourse of the soldier desiring to vote was casting his ballot by mail. In an effort to assist the soldiers in that method, Secretary of State Merlin Hull sent posters and circulars to all camps where Wisconsin men were stationed, explaining the method of voting by mail, also sending applications for ballots to be mailed by the soldiers to the county clerks of their home counties. This special effort was duly appreciated by many of the soldiers, but the total of the vote cast was not large. The ballots were forwarded direct to the home counties, so that no state tabulation was made.

As soon as the primary elections were over, the question of obtaining not only the ballots of the Wisconsin soldiers in this country, but also those

of the seventy-five thousand who were on the battle-front in France, at the November election, came up.

The Wisconsin legislature had not only provided for the soldier vote in the states, but also for that of the soldiers abroad, providing the War Department would permit messengers to go across the seas to arrange for the elections. Wisconsin was one of the first of the states to pass such a law. It was felt that of all men entitled to exercise the right of suffrage, surely the man facing the enemy should have the greatest consideration, regardless of the difficulties which might be encountered.

Early in the summer the matter of sending messengers to France to hold elections in November had been taken up by the Department of State with the War Department. Several other states likewise had the question under consideration. No decision had been reached, however, and the matter was in abeyance.

### **Ruled Against State**

Early in September, Secretary of State Merlin Hull and Adjutant-General Orlando Holway went to Washington to urge consideration upon the War Department. General March, Chief of Staff, conceded the good purpose of the Wisconsin law for the taking of the soldier vote abroad, but declined to grant the necessary permission for

messengers to be sent abroad, stating that such a large portion of the troops were engaged in what afterward proved to be the last great campaign of the war, and were so scattered along the battle front, that any attempt to conduct elections under such conditions would prove disappointing to the state; and even more so to many of the soldiers who might be expecting the messengers from home, only to be denied the election privileges by the urgency of the situation at the front. The object of permitting the soldiers in Europe to vote was thus necessarily given up, even though the sentiment in the state had been strongly favorable to the idea.

Two weeks before the November elections in 1918, it was ascertained from the War Department that there were about 22,000 Wisconsin soldiers and sailors in the camps and training stations in this country. The Department of State prepared the necessary circulars of information, ballots, etc., so that each soldier might vote for candidates for each office in his home county, as well as for state, congressional and legislative offices.

Twenty-four camps each reported more than 200 Wisconsin soldiers. In the selection of messengers, the Secretary of State apportioned the appointments to the various sections of the state, and made selection from all political parties and factions, endeavoring to make the commission non-partisan and non-factional and as broadly

representative as possible. The law required the sending of such employees from the department as could be spared, the other messengers to be selected at his discretion.

### **Messengers Are Sent**

The following messengers were sent to the several camps:

Camp Hancock, Georgia—Philip Lehner, of Princeton; Frank Weber, of Milwaukee; J. F. Shaw, of Madison; John C. Voss, of Oshkosh.

Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina—Howard Teasdale, of Sparta.

Camp Jackson, South Carolina—Solomon Levitan, of Madison.

Great Lakes Naval Training Station—K. A. Johnson, of Portage; J. R. Edwards, Department of State; Norton J. Williams, of Madison.

Jackson Barracks, Louisiana—Will N. Wells and J. E. Hubbard of Madison.

Fort Stevens, Oregon, and Vancouver Barracks, Washington—Robert Cowie, of La Crosse.

Camp MacArthur, Texas—August Meyers, of Sheboygan.

Camp Shelby, Mississippi—Senator Timothy Burke, of Green Bay; R. K. Coe, of Whitewater; George Brew, of Milwaukee and Fred L. Holmes, of Madison.

Camp Taylor, Kentucky—P. J. McMahon, of Milwaukee, Ben Kiekhofer, of Madison.

Camp Grant, Illinois—H. W. Adams, of Beloit; Charles Leicht, of New Lisbon; E. E. Haight, of Poynette; W. H. Sommers, of Blue Mounds; Dr. A. D. Campbell and Edward Oakey, of Madison.

Camp Benjamin Harrison, Indiana—Carl Chandler, of Blanchardville; George P. Bartlett, of Milwaukee.

Camp Custer, Michigan—Senator A. W. Sanborn of Ashland; W. M. Comstock, of Oconto; Rev. George Brown, Department of State.

Camp McClellan, Alabama—J. A. Stone, Reedsburg; Paul C. Hunter, of Madison.

Camp Sherman, Ohio—A. J. Cobban, Department of State.

Sweeney Auto School, Kansas City—R. I. Dugdale, of Platteville.

Camp Dodge, Iowa—Maurice Morrissey, of Delavan; Samuel Lund, of Black River Falls.

Camp J. E. Johnston, Florida—John E. McConnell, of La Crosse.

Camp Greenleaf and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia—L. Albert Karel, of Kewaunee, and E. E. Husband, of Balsam Lake.

Puget Sound Navy Yard and Camp Lewis, Washington—W. B. Naylor, of Tomah.

### Nearly 5,000 Voted

The commanding officers of the several camps and the secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. organizations extended every possible courtesy to

the messengers. The soldiers were also pleased to acknowledge the consideration shown them, and a large percentage of the vote was polled in nearly all the camps.

The total vote obtained was disappointing, however, as many of the troops had been moved toward the Atlantic, leaving comparatively a small number in some of the camps to which messengers were sent. In one or two camps, many were in the hospitals, suffering from influenza and were unable to vote. The total vote cast was 4,465, or less than one-third of what was anticipated. In some camps where 4,000 men had been stationed, only a few hundred remained, the others having started on their way to cross the seas.

The result of the soldier vote as to state officials was as follows:

**Governor:**

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Moehlenpah, Democrat ..... | 1,352 |
| Dean, Prohibition .....    | 98    |
| Philipp, Republican .....  | 2,646 |
| Seidel, Socialist .....    | 360   |

**Lieutenant Governor:**

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Hogan, Democrat .....     | 1,327 |
| Mead, Prohibition .....   | 81    |
| Dithmar, Republican ..... | 2,550 |
| Vint, Socialist .....     | 338   |

**Secretary of State:**

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Hermann, Democrat .....  | 1,117 |
| Noyes, Prohibition ..... | 63    |

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Hull, Republican .....       | 2,739 |
| Damrow, Socialist .....      | 352   |
| State Treasurer:             |       |
| Egerer, Democrat .....       | 1,196 |
| Churchill, Prohibition ..... | 95    |
| Johnson, Republican .....    | 2,647 |
| Georgensen, Socialist .....  | 346   |
| Attorney General:            |       |
| Ryan, Democrat .....         | 1,308 |
| Siggelko, Prohibition .....  | 60    |
| Blaine, Republican .....     | 2,521 |
| Reynolds, Socialist .....    | 370   |

Many other states sent messengers to obtain their soldier vote at the November elections. It may be said, however, for the Wisconsin law and the manner in which it was administered, that a larger percentage of votes was obtained than by any other state, and greater satisfaction was expressed by the soldiers. Many from other states, called upon the messengers while they were in camp to express their commendation of the thoroughness and sufficiency of the Wisconsin method.

The Republican state ticket, headed by Gov. E. L. Philipp, was re-elected on November 5, and the new administration started the first week in January. The legislature convened January 8, 1919.

## CHAPTER X

## LIBERTY LOANS AND RED CROSS



WISCONSIN sent her boys to war and loaned and contributed liberally of her financial wealth to the support of the troops. From data compiled from official sources late in December, Wisconsin had contributed \$364,265,858 to the war in loans and support of war activities.

This does not include the December Red Cross membership drive. Following are the figures which have been compiled:

|                                                  |               |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Four Liberty Loans.....                          | \$318,203,850 |
| War Savings Stamps .....                         | 29,109,080    |
| Y. M. C. A.....                                  | 3,768,000     |
| Y. W. C. A.....                                  | 457,600       |
| Red Cross (First fund).....                      | 3,661,350     |
| Red Cross (Second fund).....                     | 2,666,000     |
| Knights of Columbus.....                         | 324,278       |
| Rotary Clubs, Salvation army,<br>etc. ....       | 200,000       |
| Fatherless Children of France<br>(Pledges) ..... | 335,000       |
| United War Fund Drive.....                       | 4,500,000     |
| GRAND TOTAL .....                                | \$364,265,858 |

This sum raised in Wisconsin is close to the value of all the steam railroad property in the state, which in 1918 was fixed by the state tax commission at \$390,665,000. It is more than ten times the value of all the property owned by the state—capitol, university buildings, normals, charitable and penal institutions, public lands, etc.—which are valued at \$33,000,000. It is one-tenth of the value of all property, of all kinds, in the state which in 1918, was fixed by the tax commission at \$3,846,263,744.

Translated into terms of people, Wisconsin's war contribution means a per capita contribution for every man, woman and child in the state of \$145.70. From another angle it can be visualized in the following graphic way. There are 15,000 miles of main and secondary highways in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's contribution to the war effort would build 18,750 miles of 18 feet concrete highway. It would build the entire system of main and secondary highways leaving \$64,000,000 as a balance,—a sum sufficient to expend \$1,000 a mile on our 60,000 miles of township roads.

### Four Liberty Loans

Wisconsin exceeded the minimum quota in the four liberty loans. In the last two loans the maximum quotas were exceeded. The grand total subscribed in the four loans, according to E. J. Kearney, Chicago, federal Reserve director of

Sales for Wisconsin, both districts included, was \$319,203,850. Following are the results for the four loans:

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| First loan (June 15, 1917) . . . . .    | \$34,180,000 |
| Second loan (October 3, 1917) . . . . . | 86,703,400   |
| Third loan (April 6, 1918) . . . . .    | 73,116,800   |
| Fourth loan (Sept. 28, 1918) . . . . .  | 125,203,650  |

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GRAND TOTAL . . . . . \$319,203,850

Wisconsin is in two federal reserve districts, the seventh and the ninth. Forty-five counties are in the seventh district, which has headquarters at Chicago. Twenty-six of the northern counties are in the ninth with headquarters at St. Paul. The results above are the two districts combined. The interest rate on the first loan was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  percent; on the second loan 4 percent and on the third and fourth loans  $4\frac{1}{4}$  percent.

In the second Liberty Loan the forty-five counties in the seventh district subscribed 155 percent of the minimum quota. As compared with other states in this district, Wisconsin ranked first; Illinois second with 152.8 percent; Michigan, third, with 142.5 percent; Indiana fourth with 122 percent and Iowa fifth with 111.4 percent. In this drive, Kenosha county ranked first with 228.8 percent of its maximum quota based on a five billion dollar issue.

The official figures for the seventh district in the Fourth loan give Wisconsin a rating of 107.14

percent, exceeding the states of Indiana and Iowa. The total number of the seventh district, Wisconsin subscribers, in the last loan was 436,482. "Four minute" speakers at theatres and school houses were a potent agency in acquainting the people with liberty loan facts.

### War Savings Stamps

Large sales of War Savings stamps have also been made in Wisconsin. Up to Dec. 1, 1918, these sales reached the total of \$29,109,680.99, selling price. The maturity value amounts to \$34,500,000, according to data furnished by V. M. Towner, assistant secretary, under date of December 14, 1918. The average sales per capita are \$11.47, when all counties of the state are included. The averages range from \$19.13 in Trempealeau county, which heads the list, to \$4.98 in Washburn county.

### Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A.

The Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. were active in war service. J. B. Modesitt, Milwaukee, connected with Y. M. C. A. headquarters for the state, reports that the subscriptions for Y. M. C. A. war work in Wisconsin, prior to the recent United War Fund drive reached \$3,768,000.

Scores of men from Wisconsin entered secretarial work both in France and at United States cantonments for the Y. M. C. A. F. E. Anderson

of Milwaukee says it will "run into the hundreds." The city of Madison sent twenty-two men, eleven of whom went to France. Among the latter were Former Secretary of State John S. Donald, Mt. Horeb, and Volney Barnes, principal of the Madison high school. The latest figures furnished December 17, 1918, show that to December 15, about \$457,500 was subscribed for the Y. W. C. A. war work.

It has been impossible to obtain data regarding the number of Wisconsin people engaged in active Y. W. C. A. war service. Margaret M. Merriman, secretary of Publicity for Central Field Committee of the National Board of Y. W. C. A., wrote under date of December 18, 1918, saying that no geographical arrangement of names of those in Y. W. C. A. service is obtainable. The following interesting paragraph, however, dealing with one specific instance is taken from Miss Merriman's letter:

"I happen to know, however, of one former Wisconsin girl who has been doing some unusual work in Russia for the Y. W. C. A. She is Miss Clara I. Taylor of Madison, a Wisconsin University graduate who was later General Secretary of the Madison Y. W. C. A. for three years. Miss Taylor volunteered more than a year ago for war work in Russia where she made an inspection of economic and social conditions in factories and work

among the Russian girls and women whom she found very enthusiastic about her plans for bringing light and cheer into their lives. She was just in the midst of this work when orders came for all war workers to retire from Russia and she was forced to leave Russia with the entente diplomats and citizens who went into Sweden. She has not returned to America and is now either in Russia or will go back to that stricken country when conditions are favorable."

### **Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus were active in war work. A score of men were sent to France as secretaries. Among others was Charles O. Coyne, Madison, Wis. W. J. Nuss, State deputy, Knights of Columbus, Sheboygan, declared in a telegram on December 17 that, "Reports in my possession show that the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin had subscribed to their war fund the sum of \$324,278."

These contributions were all made before the recent United War Fund drive.

### **Red Cross Activities**

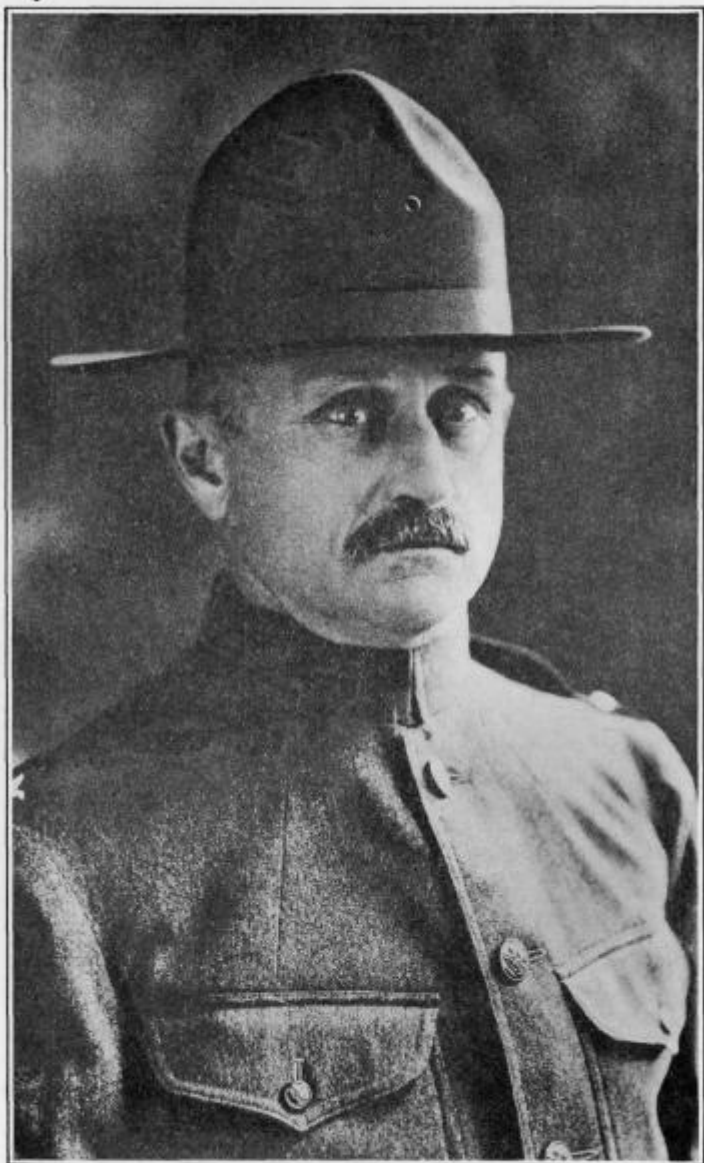
With work of heart and hands Wisconsin backed up the activities of the American Red Cross. A telegram from Walter Davidson, Chicago, December 16, 1918, to Gov. E. L. Philipp

announced that "Wisconsin subscribed to the first Red Cross War fund, \$3,661,340. To the Second War fund, \$2,666,000. The total Wisconsin membership since war began 632,400."

But entirely aside from the collection of funds to be used in Red Cross activities, the Wisconsin women, working in the local chapters, rendered a service that will stand high in the records for personal sacrifice. In response to an inquiry, the following telegram was received on December 11, 1918, from Walter Davidson, Department of Development, American Red Cross, Chicago:

"Chapters of American Red Cross in Wisconsin have made one-quarter of a million of hospital garments; one-half million knitted articles; five hundred million surgical dressings. All knitted articles were delivered to soldiers in camps. Figures of irregular distribution by chapters are not available. Four hundred and four Red Cross nurses from Wisconsin entered the service."

To make such a record required the efforts of many thousands of Wisconsin women; it took nights of toil in knitting and it demanded a sacrifice of time that no one will be able to estimate. Mr. Davidson's brief message is indeed a high tribute to the women of Wisconsin. Many Wisconsin nurses went into Red Cross service and proved their devotion in a thousand ways. Miss Marjorie Johnson, Madison, Wis., had charge of



BRIG.-GENERAL CHARLES R. BOARDMAN

the Red Cross refugees' station at Milan, Italy, and rendered conspicuous service.

### **French Fatherless Children**

Estimates indicate that before the war fund drive Wisconsin people had contributed over \$200,000 additional through Rotary Club subscriptions, Salvation army drives and other kindred organizations.

Besides all these there were subscriptions from Wisconsin for the Belgium relief, for Jewish relief, and the support of the "Fatherless of France." Upwards of 9,200 pledges were made in Wisconsin during the fall of 1918 to contribute \$36.50 during the next year, an average of 10 cents a day, for the support of this number of Fatherless French children. This is a financial pledge of \$335,800.

### **United War Fund**

During the fall of 1918 it was announced that one drive would be conducted for the several war activities—Y. M. C. A.; Y. W. C. A.; Jewish Welfare board; National Catholic war council, which included the Knights of Columbus; the Salvation army, the American Library association and the War Community service. This was shown as the United War Work Campaign. According to Emerson Ela, Madison, state chairman, the quota for the state was \$3,390,000 and the subscriptions

received totaled, on Dec. 16, about \$4,500,000. This is a subscription of about 133 percent. He reported that although the campaign was officially closed many contributions were still coming in at that date.

Wisconsin's response in Liberty Loan and war activities has redounded to the credit of the state. From the capitol, university, normal schools and state institutions came liberal subscriptions, which are chronicled in other chapters. The "Jackie band" toured the state in favor of the loans and the list of people who gave willingly of their time and effort would approximate hundreds of names. In accomplishing these results the press of the state has played a leading part, many papers refusing pay for advertising which promoted these war activities. These publications printed such advertising matter gratis.

## CHAPTER XI.

## UNIVERSITY IN THE WAR

**P**ROUD as is the record of the University of Wisconsin in the Civil war, when because of the enlistments into the Union army it became impossible to hold a graduation in the year 1864, because all but one invalid member of the senior class had entered the service, a more glorious record of achievement was established by the institution in the Great War.

With the rumors of the possibility of the United States entering the war, came stirrings of preparation on the campus. Four months before the declaration, in January, 1917, a campaign was waged to send a Wisconsin unit to the American ambulance service in France. Two men had entered the service in 1916; five more sailed on January 6, and eventually about twenty-five Badgers were in the service ready to go. About the same time students began to enter other military services.

The university went rapidly on to a war footing after the declaration of April 6, 1917. For years it

had maintained courses in military training. An embryo organization was at hand. Four days before the formal declaration, the faculty passed a resolution authorizing the president "to inaugurate at once an extensive course in military instruction for the training of officers." A few days later a special "war council" was appointed to advise students in their enlisting.

All was activity. Demands for farm labor became so urgent that in April the university decided to send its students to production work. The college of agriculture began the "releasing" of students and early in May the university decided to grant full credits to students who went onto farms or engaged in other food production avenues. By May 1, 1917, a total of 448 students had gone into the crop production. Reductions in class work at the college of agriculture as a result of these enlistments, made it possible for thirty-one members of the instructional force to go out as county agents or emergency food agents. Dean H. L. Russell was called to Washington to correlate the work of the different agricultural colleges.

Meantime, during the spring and summer of 1917 the university through its extension department was carrying on campaigns for increased food production and the Agricultural Experiment Station was sending out bulletins to aid the farmer's production in every possible way. Just an

idea of the results may be gained from the fact that the wheat crop in Wisconsin in 1918 is twice the crop harvested in 1916. The home economics department carried on a campaign for food conservation. Abby L. Marlatt and her co-workers were busy from the first. A total of 1,226,000 food bulletins, posters and pamphlets were distributed from the university.

Next came the general order from the federal government for the dismantling of all wireless stations. The university had a most complete plant. The "dismantling" had scarcely started when the university was directed to re-establish its plant and carry on experiments for the war department. A new aerial tower was erected somewhat later and another station for experimental purposes was established at the university by the signal corps of the army.

### First Students Leave

The demonstration at Madison over the news of peace two months ago was not more enthusiastic than the one given the first students who went to the officers' training camp at Ft. Sheridan, May 12, 1917. There were mothers and fathers here from all sections of the state to see the first 150 depart. The men entered in the intensive training courses at the university continued their courses until June, when most of them entered the second camp at Ft. Sheridan.

A nation at war must have an adequate body of scientific men. Herein again the university measured up to its ideals. Faculty men started to enter the service of the government on May 1, 1917. Among others, Prof. C. E. Mendenhall went to the National Research council and was later commissioned as a major. Prof. Lawrence Martin became a geography expert for the government. Prof. A. L. P. Dennis became secretary of the Wisconsin council of defense, and was later succeeded by A. H. Melville, of the extension department of the university. President C. R. Van Hise was called into food conservation work at Washington. He outlined the courses of food conservation, taught under government direction in 900 educational institutions during the past year.

Prof. Max Mason of the department of physics of the University of Wisconsin went into the service and became the inventor of the famous government submarine detector, which rendered efficient service to the Allied cause on the Atlantic ocean. When the smoke of battle has drifted away fuller facts will be disclosed regarding Mason's remarkable invention.

It was first tried out on peaceful Lake Mendota, and the experts who witnessed the trial carried Mason and his co-workers to Washington. Great strides were made by a man from Wisconsin in solving the poison gas problem; finding a gas

more deadly than that of the enemy and discovering means to neutralize the enemy's gas attacks.

"From Wisconsin a professor of chemistry, H. J. Mathews, was chosen to investigate poison gases," was the simple statement announcing some of the work that Mr. Mathews was conducting. "He served four months abroad as chemical liaison officer, with the British armies, securing information on the German poison gases. His laboratory was the front line trench and storm-shelled "No Man's Land." He returned to the states with the data he had accumulated to work with other chemists on the poison gas problem."

### **Praised for Service**

Appreciation of the work done for the Chemical Warfare service of the army by the University of Wisconsin is expressed in a letter received December 18th by President E. A. Birge from Major General Sibert, director of the Chemical Warfare Service. The letter follows:

"I take pleasure at this time in writing you before demobilization is completed to express on behalf of the Chemical Warfare Service of the army the appreciation of the great value to the government and country of the service performed by the University of Wisconsin through the officers and men of the detachment of Chemical Warfare Service studying chemical war problems at Madison.

"The response of the members of the university faculty and student body to the call of duty and the efficient manner in which they have performed it, is worthy of note. Particularly valuable have been the service of Major J. A. E. Eyster, Major H. C. Bradley and Major Walter J. Meek of the Medical Division of this Service and also the services of Dr. A. S. Loevenhart of the Research division."

### **Develops Dye for Uniforms**

Members of the University faculty were detailed by the government to conduct special work in the Madison laboratories. Among the things that they undertook were special problems in aeronautics, both of aeroplanes and balloons; innovations in wireless on land, from ships and in the air and special chemical problems and surgical work. To name the men connected with the solution of these problems is to call the faculty roll in each department. At the Forest Products Laboratories, an institution operated by the federal government in connection with university, an interesting dye was worked out with which the khaki uniforms were colored. It was developed from the osage orange by F. W. Kressman of the laboratory staff. Other notable scientific experiments carried on at the federal laboratory were the seasoning of woods for aeroplane work, the

development of dyes to fill the supplies cut off by war with Germany; and the use of other wood products in war service enterprises.

Wisconsin's scientists were busy throughout the war. Almost simultaneously with the announcement of the war's end came word that the war department had developed a "liberty fuel" made from kerosene that would take the place of gasoline. This was a joint invention of Oliver B. Zimmerman, for five years connected with the University of Wisconsin faculty, and an eastern engineer. If early reports prove true it will revolutionize power industry, just as the invention of Dr. S. M. Babcock of Wisconsin in 1893 revolutionized the dairy industry of the world.

One of the first medical schools in the nation to offer early services was the university. The entire medical school enlisted. This was early in 1917. Two staff members, Dr. W. S. Middleton and Dr. R. Drane, were sent to France at once. Coach P. Withington, just appointed instructor in anatomy joined a medical unit. Almost every staff member undertook special work. Dr. J. S. Evans, head of the university clinic, was selected by Gov. Philipp as the medical member of the state council of defense, and performed most notable service on that board.

A bronze button was given to each student who enlisted to do war work. By the fall of 1917, about 2,000 men and 500 women were wearing these

buttons. The feature of the 1917 university commencement was not the fact that the university granted 1,105 diplomas—95 more than any previous year—but that the names of 252 graduates were “starred” as absent in war service. A special commencement was held at Ft. Sheridan for 76 of these men. During the summer session of 1917 the war work continued; there was drilling of students and the university clinic was called upon to make medical examinations of drafted men.

### **Educating the Public**

“The university took a very active part in disseminating throughout the state the ideas and ideals of the war and carrying on a campaign of patriotism,” said President Charles R. Van Hise in a statement a short time before his death. “In this work, twenty 3,000-word bulletins were prepared, all but one by members of the faculty. These were published in editions of 20,000 and widely distributed. The demand later rose to over 35,000. Shorter abstracts of these articles were plated by the state council of defense and furnished as a part of the campaign of education to the country newspapers. The twenty articles were then published in a book, an edition of about 8,000 being printed under the title “War Book of the University.” A patriotic speaking campaign of about 75 members was organized, in the carrying out of which, members of the faculty went into

every part of the state. These addresses and the information furnished to others with which to carry the appeal were important factors in solidifying the sentiment of the state to support the war."

"Liberty choruses" were organized under the direction of Prof. E. B. Gordon. These organizations in about 230 towns of the state furnished musical programs at patriotic meetings. Profs. F. L. Paxson and W. L. Westermann were called to Washington to aid the preparation of historical data which showed Germany's policy of world domination.

Special war courses, covering every branch of the war work, were carried on by the faculty during the years 1917 and 1918. In March of 1918 experimental breeding of carrier pigeons, so necessary in war work, was inaugurated under direction of Prof. Leon J. Cole at the college of agriculture at the request of the federal government. Easy courses in "French" for enlisted men or men of draft ages and special courses in trigonometry were started, and the athletic department began the teaching of army exercises.

University women were astir in war activities. They aided in food drives and in extension work. Some 22 members of the university extension division entered into Red Cross service work. The department devoted its seventeen summer chautauquas to arousing patriotism. It organized the

Red Cross civilian relief of the state and Prof. J. L. Gillin, who has since become a director of the central association, conducted many classes for relief workers. It waged campaigns for home gardens and thousands of boys were organized under Dean L. E. Reber into the Wisconsin Boys' Working Reserve.

Not less patriotic was the university when it came to the financial considerations of the war. University members purchased \$266,900 of the fourth liberty bonds—a total of \$628,750, when the second, third and fourth loans are combined. Faculty and students contributed liberally to the Red Cross, K. of C., Y. M. C. A. and other war activities. Their subscription in the recent United War drive totaled \$40,000.

### **Vocational Training Work**

During the spring and summer of 1918, the university was selected to give special instruction and military training to students, two forms:

First, two month courses to vocational detachments of soldiers.

Second, in the fall the university was designated to give S. A. T. C. instruction.

The first vocational detachment of students arrived on the campus and began training on April 8, 1918. Their work was done in the shops and laboratories of the university and the military drill on the campus grounds.

About 2,135 artisan soldiers have learned practical trades, of use in peace as well as in war, in the four 60-day army vocational training detachments at the vocational training department of the University of Wisconsin, the last of which closed December 2 with the disbanding of the Students' Army Training Corps.

The number of men in the various detachments was as follows: April-May, 400; June-July, 515; August-September, 510; October-November, 700.

The number of artisans of various kinds trained in these detachments is roughly as follows: 660 gas engine specialists; 292 electricians; 60 sheet metal workers; 226 woodworkers; 182 carpenters; 200 gun-smiths; 200 machinists; 80 wireless experts; 60 concrete foremen; 100 blacksmiths; 30 surveyors; and 60 topographical draughtsmen.

As a part of the detachment, 150 men had begun Nov. 20, a 13-weeks' course for radio electricians to train as officers in the army signal corps. They were to have been followed by 300 others in later groups, but this work was closed by the disbanding of the S. A. T. C.

During the fall of 1918 seven barracks at Camp Randall to hold 1,000 men, to cost \$60,000, the money to be refunded by the federal government, were built largely by student soldiers. These were erected on the old civil war "tenting ground" and were occupied by the soldiers when the orders for demobilization came.

The fourth vocational detachment was to have completed its work on December 9, to be succeeded by a fifth group recruited in the cantonments on December 10, but this work was ordered discontinued on December 2.

### Work of S. A. T. C.

In the collegiate S. A. T. C. about 2,500 men have been training this fall and many had been transferred to officers' camps before the demobilization order came. At the university, these men were under the supervision of Major J. C. Holloway, commandant. Regular military drill will be continued at the university as before the war.

The Students' Army Training Corps was first announced by the war department on May 8, 1918, as a combination of academic and military work preparing for the future. The first step was a summer camp at Fort Sheridan to train instructors which lasted 12 weeks to which the university sent 153 students and 14 professors. Under the direction of Dean E. A. Birge, a campaign was conducted throughout the summer to raise the quotas for the nineteen Wisconsin colleges and normal schools, which were to have S. A. T. C. units, and 1,000 men in vocational groups, the latter including 450 wireless men to come in three groups. The men devoted 11 hours a week to training and 42 hours a week to classes and study. Later a naval section of 300 men and

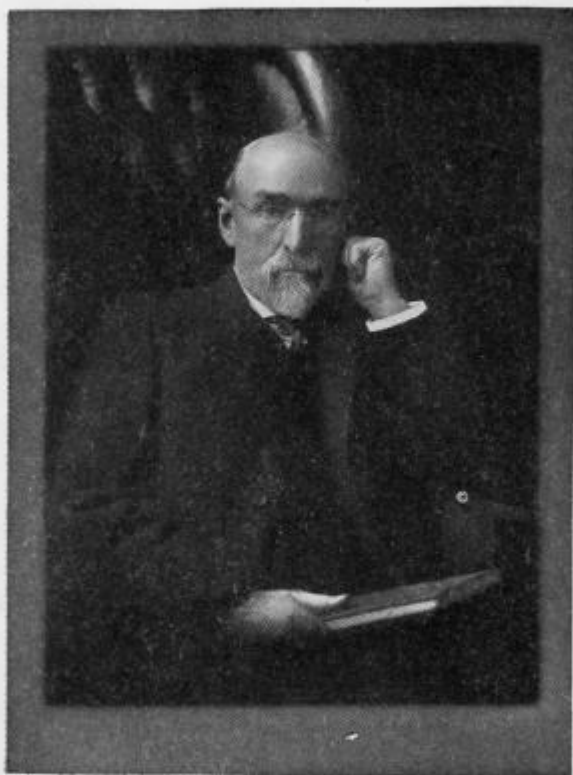
marine corps of 190 men were included in the 3,000 collegiate. The S. A. T. C. began October 1st with about 2,625 S. A. T. C. men and 700 men in vocational training section. During the fall many were transferred to other camps but when word was received to demobilize over 2,700 men were in training at the university.

Early in July, President Van Hise was selected as a member of a mission of newspaper editors and educators to go to war-torn Europe and bring back to the people a message of actual conditions. Tired and worried he returned from his trip abroad on November 1. Then just as peace was settling over the world a great calamity befell the university. The man who as the head of the institution had directed the war faculty and the war courses; the leader who had sent his faculty over state and country to lecture on the justice of the war; who had released his professors, educators and scientists to take leading parts in government work; who had himself traveled and written extensively in behalf of the war—President Van Hise who had done these things for the government—was stricken and his voice was stilled in death on November 19th. But his war and peace program goes forward. Dean E. A. Birge, head of the college of Letters and Science for twenty-seven years, was elected president on December 17, 1918.

### Record of Service

Here is a record which President Van Hise left for coming generations to admire. Total enlistments: 2,133 students enrolled since September, 1916, are known to have gone into the army and navy—1,066 alumni and former students are recorded as in service—total, 3,096. The records are very incomplete, especially in the case of the alumni. About 200 faculty members have resigned or received leave of absence to enter army, navy, or other war service.

Probably no single state in the union has as many of its citizens and former citizens members of President Wilson's peace party as the state of Wisconsin. Of the sixteen men selected to give President Wilson advice at the peace conference, six are either connected with the University of Wisconsin faculty now, or have been in recent years. The list includes Prof. W. L. Westermann, of the history department of the university; S. K. Hornbeck, associate professor at the university, with special training on subjects of international law; Lawrence Martin, geologist, university; Charles Homer Haskins, professor of European history at the university, 1892-1902; Allyn A. Young, a former teacher of economics at the University under Prof. R. T. Ely and William E. Lunt, for several years an instructor in the history department here.



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CHARLES R. VAN HISE

## CHAPTER XII

### NORMALS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**F**ROM the beginning of the war, all of the nine Normal Schools of Wisconsin took an important part. A total of 40 teachers and 2,000 students enlisted in the service. Over \$300,000 were subscribed by teachers and students in liberty bonds and large sums were contributed for the various war organizations. Red Cross work was actively carried on in the Normal schools and a large number of the teachers gave numerous patriotic addresses throughout their districts.

When the War Department called upon the educational institutions to offer their facilities for the Students' Army Training Corps, all of the Normal schools promptly offered their buildings, equipment and teaching force for the work. The Governor of the state called a special session of the Legislature which in one day appropriated the sum of \$195,000 for the necessary barracks, mess halls and equipment. Of this amount, only \$82,082 was expended by the Normal schools owing to economies in using various buildings. The following table shows the cost of building construction and the number of S. A. T. C. men at each Normal school in November, 1918:

|                     | Cost of Building<br>Construction | Number of Men<br>Inducted in<br>the S. A. T. C. |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| LA CROSSE .....     | \$17,160                         | 120                                             |
| MILWAUKEE .....     | 29,864                           | 147                                             |
| OSHKOSH .....       | 2,750                            | 92                                              |
| PLATTEVILLE .....   | 5,648                            | 102                                             |
| RIVER FALLS .....   | 17,160                           | 98                                              |
| STEVENS POINT ..... |                                  | 62                                              |
| SUPERIOR .....      | 9,500                            | 90                                              |
| WHITEWATER .....    |                                  | 56                                              |
|                     | <hr/> \$82,082                   | <hr/> 767                                       |

There were other educational institutions in the state with S. A. T. C. units. These were located at Ripon college, Lawrence college, Appleton; Marquette college, Milwaukee, and Delafield. A vocational unit was given special training in gas engine work at Beloit college.

### Public Schools Active

The public schools of the state were quickly recognized by State Superintendent C. P. Cary as the avenue through which the information regarding the war causes and the plans for state defense could be quickly spread. Through the "Educational Bulletin" of the department sent to every public school in the State he outlined the school work, encouraging the teachers in their patriotic efforts. The 105 school district conventions, attended by the school officers were turned into gatherings to inculcate knowledge

of the war; and to suggest definite things that a patriotic school could do to help the cause.

In the high schools War Savings Clubs, the Junior Red Cross and Boys' Defense Leagues were organized. The Boy Scout Clubs formed in some schools were used in the solicitation of Red Cross funds and to sell War Stamps and Liberty Bonds. From a war service standpoint probably the greatest contribution came, however, through the Boys' Defense leagues to be treated in a later chapter.

Similar organizations were started in the rural and graded schools where 400,000 pupils are receiving their first lessons in citizenship. During the fall of 1918, through the efforts of W. E. Larson, of the state superintendent's staff, these rural school organizations were merged in each district into "School Societies," which assumed the different activities formerly conducted in several branches. This has been done to vitalize school work. Usually Friday afternoons are given over to "School Society" work. The plan has proven to be an effective method of bringing home to the pupils the different civic problems. The adults of the districts are organized into "War Savings Clubs," largely at the suggestion of J. H. Puelicher, Milwaukee, who foresaw the necessity of teaching thrift and economy during war times. It is through these school district organizations that thousands of dollars of thrift

stamps have been sold. Patriotic programs have been given by the rural schools and the "School Societies" have been enlisted in each community in aiding county history committees in gathering the war history of each locality. Rural school educators believe that these societies will prove of the greatest benefit as agencies of Americanization. To promote this latter work in cities and rural communities, the extension division of the University of Wisconsin has established an Americanization department with D. D. Lescohier in charge. This department has established a course in Milwaukee for the training of teachers having Americanization classes; a bureau of Americanization has been started in connection with the extension division of the University and this department is co-operating with the school authorities. In Racine definite training has been given to 482 candidates for naturalization. This experiment will be carried on throughout the state. An attempt is being made to work out a unified plan for Americanization work in Wisconsin and to co-operate with all agencies in accomplishing results.

## CHAPTER XIII

## BOYS' DEFENSE LEAGUE



THE state Council of Defense in December 1917, appointed J. B. Borden, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, as farm help organizer for Wisconsin. The council realized that the single, largest, potential supply of unemployed labor was to be found in the schools of the state. The problem was how to organize, train, and place these young men on the farms.

Plans were immediately made for the formation of a Boys' Council of Defense League. Any boy attending a public or private graded or high school, was eligible to membership in this organization. School officials were asked to allow the boys joining this league to leave school at the time spring work opened, and to give them credit for the remainder of the school year's work, upon proving to the satisfaction of the principal in the fall that they had worked successfully on a farm during the growing season. The boys in turn signed an enrollment blank, agreeing if granted the privilege of leaving school in April, to work faithfully and well on a farm during the season, and if not familiar with farm operations to learn

during the winter months how to do farm chores, and to care for and operate farm machinery.

### **Big Brother Plan**

In co-operation with the Department of Public Instruction and the Agricultural Department of the University, a bulletin was prepared outlining the methods for "speeding up" the work of the schools, and making it possible for the students to complete by April 15, 1918, the essentials of the studies given during the winter and spring terms. The bulletin outlined special work in agriculture, to be taken by those who were not familiar with farm work, and who were desirous of learning the fundamental principles of underlying farm operations. School officials were urged to form special classes for such students, and to co-operate in the "Big Brother" plan with the farmers living in the neighborhood. These "Big Brothers" were asked to take the students at the week end, and to give them practical instruction in performing chores. Special classes were organized to study the mechanics of farm machinery.

To explain the plan for furnishing boy help to the farmers, conferences were called in each of the counties in the state. To these conferences were invited the principals of high and graded schools within the county, the county superintendent, the supervising teachers, city superinten-

dents and principals of ward schools, members of the County Councils of Defense, editors of newspapers, and others interested in solving the farm labor supply. A person representing the state organizer and the state council was selected to attend each conference. These conferences were all held within two weeks in February, 1918. The state representatives were selected from the faculty of the State University and from the supervisory staff of the Department of Public Instruction. The necessity for increased production and the plan for "speeding up" the work of the schools and permitting the boys to leave school, was presented at each conference by the representative of the State Council. Everywhere the scheme was received with enthusiasm, and the school boards promised to make the necessary arrangements to allow the boys to leave in April and to give them credit for a full year's work, provided in the fall they could show that they had worked successfully on a farm.

While these county conferences were in session Dean Reber of the University of Wisconsin, who had been appointed state director of the United States Boys' Working Reserve in June 1917, but who later in that year had gone to Washington to assist in war work in the Department of Labor, resigned as state director. On his suggestion, and with the consent of the State Council of Defense, J. B. Borden was appointed to suc-

ceed him as State Director of the U. S. Boys' Working Reserve. As soon as the county conferences were over, Mr. Borden proceeded to organize this work throughout the state. County directors were appointed in each county, and a day set for enrolling the boys over sixteen and under twenty-one as members of the national organization. There was some confusion at the start, as the Boys' Council of Defense League was well organized. However, the difficulty was settled by having the boys over sixteen enroll in the United States Boys' Working Reserve, and the boys under sixteen remain members of the Council of Defense League.

As a result of these organizations, approximately 15,000 were released from the schools in this state in April, for work on the farms. Nearly 9,000 were members of the United States Boys' Working Reserve. The remainder were under sixteen and eligible for the Boys' Council of Defense League. These boys rendered splendid service. They were the second line of defense. They deserve public recognition for the splendid and patriotic service which they rendered in aiding the farmers of Wisconsin to produce the banner crops raised in 1918. When the boys from the front come marching home, the boys who served in the furrow should not be overlooked. They too did their bit towards making the "World Safe for Democracy."

## CHAPTER XIV

## FARMERS MAKE GOOD



WHEN war was declared, there was a shortage of seed in the state. The state department of Agriculture proved to be a valuable aid in assisting the farmers of our state in not only procuring seed, but likewise in furnishing information as to the crops which should be raised. During the spring season of 1917 the department of agriculture distributed the following seeds:

Potatoes 50,000 bushels, valued at \$148,000; Wheat 2,750 bushels, valued at \$8,250; Beans 3,000 bushels valued at \$21,000; Corn 1,000 valued at \$3,000; Sorghum seed \$2,500; and small seeds to the value of \$1,000.

Wisconsin farmers raised good crops in 1917, but more and better crops in 1918. It is estimated that Wisconsin farmers cultivated 94,000 acres more in crops in 1918 than ever before, in spite of the fact that as the Draft Board states at least 50,000 Wisconsin farm boys went to war. The real miracle performed by the Wisconsin farmers is the production of such a large amount of corn.

## 138      WISCONSIN'S WAR RECORD

Following are agricultural department records:

| Wheat:         | Production |         |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| 1916 .....     | 3,315,000  | Bushels |
| 1918 .....     | 9,866,000  | Bushels |
| Increase ..... | 6,551,000  | Bushels |

| Corn:          |            |         |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| 1916 .....     | 60,840,000 | Bushels |
| 1918 .....     | 70,246,000 | Bushels |
| Increase ..... | 9,406,000  | Bushels |

| Barley:        |            |         |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| 1916 .....     | 18,300,000 | Bushels |
| 1918 .....     | 25,388,000 | Bushels |
| Increase ..... | 7,088,000  | Bushels |

| Oats:          |             |         |
|----------------|-------------|---------|
| 1916 .....     | 81,400,000  | Bushels |
| 1918 .....     | 110,329,000 | Bushels |
| Increase ..... | 28,929,000  | Bushels |

| Potatoes:      |            |         |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| 1916 .....     | 13,630,000 | Bushels |
| 1918 .....     | 33,178,000 | Bushels |
| Increase ..... | 19,548,000 | Bushels |

| Buckwheat:     |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| 1916 .....     | 280,000 | Bushels |
| 1918 .....     | 634,000 | Bushels |
| Increase ..... | 354,000 | Bushels |

| Rye:           |           |         |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| 1916 .....     | 6,075,000 | Bushels |
| 1918 .....     | 7,660,000 | Bushels |
| Increase ..... | 1,585,000 | Bushels |

### Sheep Clubs Multiply

Large increases in live stock production have been stimulated by "Baby Beef" contests and "Sheep Raising Clubs." The Baby Beef campaigns were under the supervision of W. L. Houser, Mondovi, assisted by J. P. Robinson, Evansville, and Raymond Baker, Madison. The sheep club campaigns were supervised by Frank Kleinheinz, of the University Sheep Farm; W. F. Renk, Sun Prairie; T. L. Bewick, Madison, and Mr. Houser. The state agricultural college reports that in some counties the number of sheep has been increased 5,000 head.

Reports from 40 counties incomplete, 14 fairly complete and five complete show great increases in livestock in Wisconsin on December 1, 1918, as compared with December 1, 1917. Cattle of all kinds increased 18 percent; dairy cattle increased 13.2 percent; heifer calves intended for dairy purposes, 37.3 percent and calves under two months of age 52.2 percent. From the same counties the number of hogs increased 22.5 percent; pigs between two and six months old, 43.8 percent. The northern part of the state shows big increases in dairy cattle for the war period. There were large increases in poultry and eggs as disclosed by the reports filed with the state dairy and food department.

The amount of milk used in the manufacture of butter, cheese, and condensed milk increased 3.2 percent. For the year ending June 30, 1918, the value of Wisconsin dairy products is computed as \$190,235,814.72. Large shipments of cheese went direct from Wisconsin factories to the Allies. Cheese was shipped from Richland Center and the Sheboygan dairy district in car load lots. Condensed milk went from the whole southern section of the state where a number of condensories are located. The amount of milk used by condensories increased from 7 percent of the total in 1915 to 12 percent of the total for the year ending June 30, 1918.

## CHAPTER XV.

## WISCONSIN FOOD WORK



THE Wisconsin Food Administration was organized under the Federal Food Act of August 10, 1917. It began its work at once with the appointment of Magnus Swenson, Federal Food Administrator, August 13, by Herbert Hoover. A. H. Melville, Madison, was chosen as secretary.

Wisconsin has been a pioneer in food work. It took a prominent and conspicuous place in the list of states at the outset by establishing meatless and wheatless days on September 14, 1917, six weeks before the plan was put into effect by National Order. It was due in no small part to the splendid results obtained through this experiment that the plan was adopted for the United States.

The State body was speedily decentralized into County Food Administrations, and these in turn into City and Village units until the number of local food administration units reached eight hundred and fifty-six. These deputy food administrators supported by public opinion and the press and the active co-operation of thousands of patri-

otic men and women made possible the splendid results achieved.

Seventeen divisions and departments presided over by high grade men dealing with Enforcement, Dairy and Poultry, Licenses, Flour and Feed, Sugar, Home Economics, Library and Graphic Exhibits, Mill inspection, Inspection of Wholesalers, Bakers, Co-operation with County Food Administrators, Medical Advice, covered problems arising in their particular fields.

### **Wheatless and Meatless Days**

The large hotels of Milwaukee were the first in the United States to put into effect the wheatless and meatless programs.

During the period from January to April, 1918, when our armies and allies were short of bread, Wisconsin's saving of wheat flour was inestimable, permitting thousands of barrels of flour to go abroad to the allies and to our boys in the trenches. It is interesting to state in this connection that about 60 percent of the bread made by our bakers has been rye bread.

About 755,000 tons of sugar were saved in the United States from July 1 to December 1, 1918. To illustrate how conservation of sugar worked out in Wisconsin, the average wholesaler sold one and possibly two cars a week this year during the canning season while last year his normal sales were a car a day. Confectioners and all other

less essential industries had their sugar allowance cut 50 percent effecting a tremendous saving. Wisconsin's allotment of sugar was cut from 13,250,000 pounds for all purposes in July to 8,250,000 in November. With each succeeding cut month by month, manufacturers and housewives, with few exceptions, met decreased allowances with cheerful and willing compliance. In some instances men whose businesses were threatened with ruin said they would willingly sacrifice if saving sugar would help win the war.

Through the movement to conserve grain during threshing, it is estimated that 2,000,000 bushels were saved in Wisconsin in 1918. The plan was outlined in printed cards sent to every thresherman, suggesting the best possible mechanical condition of his machine, greater care in feeding the machine, the placing of canvasses around the machine to catch loose grain dropping from wagons, the use of tight racks instead of open ones and greater care in handling grain in the field.

The functions of the Food Administration have been, (1) to encourage the production of food especially wheat and sugar beets this year, (2) to conserve the consumption of food in every way by simple living, (3) to eliminate the waste of food, (4) to stabilize prices of all licensed food products through supervision and checking of manufacturers and distributors of food, (5) to

prevent profiteering in foods, (6) to regulate and police prices of food. On December 18, the Wisconsin Food Administration was notified to curtail its activities after January 1. The price control feature of federal food work, however, was retained. On December 24, 1918, Chairman Swenson was sent by the federal government to Europe to aid in the solution of food problems there.

The rough fish supply of the state was commandeered by the governor to feed the poor people of the state. Carp were being sold at from 15 cents to 16 cents a pound in New York. Under the plan to give Wisconsin people fish at cost to take the place of meat, the Wisconsin Conservation commission was able to furnish 700,000 pounds of fish in 1918 to the people at from 5 cents to 6 cents a pound. Meat was selling from 25 to 35 cents a pound so that the saving affected to the poor people was upwards of 20 cents a pound or an aggregate saving of \$140,000 to Wisconsin people. W. E. Barber, La Crosse, a member of the State Conservation commission, says that twenty-six cities of Wisconsin were furnished fish under this plan.



MAGNUS SWENSON  
STATE FOOD ADMINISTRATOR



ORLANDO HOLWAY  
ADJUTANT GENERAL



MRS. H. H. MORGAN  
WOMAN MEMBER  
STATE COUNCIL  
OF  
DEFENSE



MAJOR E. A. FITZPATRICK  
STATE DRAFT ADMINISTRATOR



MAX MASON  
INVENTOR SUBMARINE DETECTOR

Photos by DeLonge

## CHAPTER XVI.

## WISCONSIN FUEL ADMINISTRATION



**S**HORTLY after the outbreak of the war it became evident that governmental control of so basic a product as of coal was absolutely necessary. Under the Lever act approved August 10, 1917, the president was given the power to control the fuel situation. In Wisconsin before the law went into effect, Gov. Philipp had foreseen the need for a state representative to insist on shipments of anthracite to Wisconsin in order to provide for the increased supply of industrial coal for the war industries. To take care of this need Gov. Philipp sent W. N. Fitzgerald, Milwaukee, east in August. On his subsequent appointment as state fuel administrator, Mr. Fitzgerald worked out the problem of organizing the state office and the local county committees under whose supervision the work of coal distribution, conservation and price fixing would be carried out. In many counties, during the winter of 1917-18, the problem of an equitable distribution of the anthracite coal necessitated the delivery of less than one ton at a time to each consumer as the shipments came in.

### People Kept Warm

Early in 1918 the Federal Fuel Administration worked out a country-wide distribution plan according to which varying percentages of anthracite were allotted to the states based on their 1916 consumption, and a bituminous saving system to economize on long haul railroad carriage was worked out. Under the anthracite distribution plan Wisconsin was allotted 86.64 percent of its 1916 supply. When one considers that there is a normal increased need of 10 percent a year to be added it may be readily seen that the Wisconsin supply would cover less than 75 percent of her needs. Urgent efforts were necessary to work out an intensive conservation program and to distribute the supply as the shipments came in, in an equitable manner.

The registration of all dealers with the Fuel Administration was the first step. Customers were urged to place their orders early with the dealers who had formerly supplied them with coal. A system of priority shipments to dealers was then worked out so that all dealers who had received less than 50 percent of their allotment based on the orders on hand were given preference until every dealer in the state received his 50 percent allotment. Under this plan it was possible to supply every consumer with at least a small proportion of his order, until such time as the anthracite allotment for the state arrived.

### **Much Fuel Saved**

Because of the necessity for substitution of other fuel for anthracite an increased quantity of bituminous coal has been secured and a campaign of information as to the best methods of substitution was carried out. The work of the administrative engineer of the Fuel Administration both in his suggestions for fuel conservation and by the installation of better methods of power plant co-operation has been of great value. "Heatless days" and "Lightless nights" effected a large voluntary saving. For the year ending July 1, 1919, it has been estimated that 800,000 tons of industrial coal will have been saved, because of the efficiency studies of heating systems and power plants conducted. The work of enforcing the conservation measures of the Federal Fuel Administration necessitated state-wide campaigns. Local committees of volunteers co-operating with the county councils of defense were active in enforcing such orders as the lightless night regulations and the gasless Sunday orders.

Probably the most valuable work of the Fuel Administration has been that of price regulation. It was early found necessary to work out the maximum margins to be granted retail dealers throughout the state, in order to keep down the price to a reasonable level. When the margins were fixed by the state administrator early in the summer it was left to each County Fuel Admin-

istrator to add the delivery charges for his county in accordance with local conditions. It has been predicted that, had it not been for the work of the Fuel Administration, the price of anthracite would have reached the \$16.00 a ton mark in 1918, so far did the demand exceed the supply.

### **County Administrators Help**

The state fuel administrator was fortunate in having the active co-operation of the local county committees and of the coal dealers and dock operators in carrying out this work. Without their co-operation it would have been impossible to provide so equitable a distribution of the supplies on hand or to have arrived at a reasonable price based on fair margins of profit. The consumers also submitted to regulations which entailed an entire change of their habits, and made willing sacrifices in order that the war program might be carried through. Gasless Sundays and lightless nights were submitted to with facetious comments at times, but always with a willing spirit of co-operation.

The difficulties of distribution of so basic a utility as the fuel supply, the necessity for working out plans for an increased production and the need for price control in a market for which the law of supply and demand does not hold, have awakened the thoughtful element of the consuming public. This element is realizing that the

efforts of the Fuel Administration to make possible an equitable distribution of the fuel supply, based on the needs of the consumer and on the efforts of the Fuel Administration, to make possible war demands of essential industries, and to effect a reasonable price control, have been the beginning of a new decade in the fuel history of the United States.

### **Municipal Fuel Yards**

Many municipalities in the state made a determined effort to relieve the fuel shortage. The 1917 legislature passed a law giving cities the power to establish municipal fuel yards. Racine voted \$75,000 for this purpose, but the bonds were held up by the Capital Issues commission. Oshkosh voted \$25,000 for a fuel yard and \$25,000 for an ice plant and Eau Claire appropriated \$10,000 for a fuel yard. Because of the inability to obtain coal, these fuel yards were never placed in operation. The city of Marinette, however, purchased a large supply of wood, which it furnished to the people at cost. Ashland sold coal under a limited plan of operation. De Pere purchased an extra supply of soft coal for municipal purposes and sold the excess to poor people at cost.

In many localities large supplies of wood were cut. A typical example of pluck was furnished by John and Chris Kleinstelber, Grant county's 77 year old twins, who cut 60 cords of stove and furnace wood, for use in Platteville.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

HE part Wisconsin physicians played and the record they made in the war is one of which all are proud. It is exceeded only by Pennsylvania, and the supply of physicians in that state was so much greater per population and per square mile that Wisconsin may easily lay claim to having made the best record of any state in the Union, all things taken into consideration.

"I think that we were the only body of men who anticipated the war and prepared for it in advance," says Dr. Rock Sleyster of Waupun, secretary of the Wisconsin Medical Society and aide to Governor Philipp by appointment of the Surgeon General. He holds the military rank of major.

"Ten months before our country became involved, a "Wisconsin Committee of Medical Preparedness" was formed, of which Dr. Edward Evans of La Crosse was chairman and I was secretary. This committee at that time made a survey of the medical and hospital resources of the state and got the information in shape to use in case

we were drawn into this great conflict, as it was realized that medical men would be among the first to be called upon.

"This committee was later taken over by the Council of National Defense as the 'Wisconsin Committee, Medical Section, Council of National Defense,' and still later when the State Council of Defense was formed with Dr. J. S. Evans of Madison as the medical member, this committee was taken over by this body as a medical section; Dr. J. S. Evans was elected as vice-chairman and later became chairman on Dr. Edward Evans leaving for Red Cross work in France.

### **Sleyster Was Medical Aide**

"My assignment as medical aide to the governor by the Surgeon General, in connection with the selective service work, in November, 1917, kept all of the medical organization work in the state in the office of the secretary of the State Medical Society.

"This committee also acted as a recruiting agency for the Medical Corps and examinations were given at Ashland, Milwaukee, and at Wau-pun."

It was realized early in the war that the demands of the government would be such as to tax the medical profession to its limit, and unless carefully handled would seriously jeopardize the medical needs of the communities of the state.

Another careful survey was made and full information on each physician in the state was obtained. This showed the actual needs of his community, how many dependents he had, his qualifications, his age, his physical condition, his specialty, etc.

Maps were prepared which gave the number of square miles covered by each physician and the population he served. By this means, the state authorities were enabled to advise the enlistment of men who would be of value to the service and who could be spared by their families and by their communities. Others were advised to remain at home until the need should become greater.

### **Aiding Local Communities**

The information on each physician was carefully card-indexed and cross-indexed and a scheme of classification as to the man's availability was worked out. Physicians were also card-indexed according to their specialties. These indexes were kept carefully up-to-date throughout the period of the war and all information regarding any physician in the state and the needs of any community was instantly available.

An exchange was also conducted in Dr. Sleyster's office to which all physicians disqualified for service and willing to substitute in order to relieve some man for military duty were invited to send their names. By this means, it was many times possible to secure a practitioner for a community

without medical help, and often the medical aide was able to supply a disqualified man to take over the work of some man fit to enter the service but unable to do so because of the needs of his community.

### Physicians Send 27 Percent

A checking of the records on December 16, 1918, shows that out of a medical population of 2,814, seven hundred and fifty-four Wisconsin physicians had been called into active service. This is 27 percent of the entire number of physicians registered to practice in the state. It is fully one-third of the graduate physicians who were engaged in active practice at the beginning of the war and is more than half of those who, age and physical condition considered, were qualified for service. A study of the state medical survey shows that three of the counties have given more than 40 percent of their physicians to the service; that 22 counties have given from 30 to 40 percent; that 20 counties have given from 25 to 30 percent, and that 12 counties have given from 20 to 25 percent.

In writing of the part played by Wisconsin physicians in the war program, one must not overlook the men who have for various reasons been unable to enter the service. These men have played a most important part and it has often been harder to remain at home and do routine work without glory than to enter the service.

These men have had to assume the work of those who left and it has required their working almost without exception to the limits of physical endurance.

This has been evidenced by a tripled death rate among physicians during the year 1918. In many communities the physicians who have been left at home have patriotically turned over to the families of those absent in the service a percentage or all of the fees collected for work done for their patients.

Seven hundred of the men left at home have been engaged in making physical examinations for the various local and medical advisory boards and, as a rule, without compensation of any kind.

The record made by Wisconsin medical men in France is one of which all can be justly proud. The medical organization of the 32nd Division, which has been commanded by Colonel Gilbert E. Seaman of Milwaukee, has been acknowledged and recognized as the best "Over There," and Colonel Seaman's work has been recognized recently by their giving him an entire corps. Base Hospital 22, organized, financed and equipped in Milwaukee, has been on the job twenty-four hours a day through the thick of the fighting in the late summer and fall of 1918 and has covered itself with glory.

A letter received from France tells that Major W. F. Lorenz and his field hospital, organized at

Madison, have been doing splendid work. Research work by Major J. L. Yates of Milwaukee has been recognized by both the French and British governments.

The Wisconsin State Board of Health contributed three of its members to army medical service. Lieutenant William F. Whyte, Madison, its President, served at Fort Benjamin Harrison and at Camps Custer, Greenleaf, and Dix. Lieutenant Otho Fiedler, Sheboygan, aided in organizing a Base Hospital unit at Milwaukee and served with it in France. Lieutenant C. A. Richards, Rhineland, the third army member, also served in France.

### Nurses in Service

The devotion of Cordelia Harvey, widow of Gov. L. P. Harvey, Mrs. Susannah Van Valkenburg, Oshkosh, Mrs. Helen B. Cole, Sheboygan Falls, Mrs. H. D. Squire, Sheboygan, as nurses to the boys of the North during the Civil War has found its counter-page in the achievements of the 404 Red Cross nurses from Wisconsin in the great war. Many cities in the state sent units of nurses for service overseas and to cantonments in the United States. Madison, for example, a city of third class, provided thirty.

Highly interesting letters have come from France describing conditions under which Red Cross nurses work. Typical among the many

letters read by the author of this volume, is one from Miss Emily Barber, daughter of the late Charles Barber, a pioneer Oshkosh lawyer.

Speaking of her daily routine and other features of her recreation work, in November 1918, Miss Barber wrote:

"You have no idea what a busy life we lead, for now that the Red Cross has appeared, everyone from the cook to the commanding officer feels that all odd jobs can be turned over to her. I have spent all day arranging a sort of a ten-cent store, soap, wash-cloths, etc. We deal in everything I can imagine. I have had five or six men opening boxes for eight hours a day. I certainly never realized what steady work was before—not hectic, periodic attacks but every moment full each day. I am now sitting by a little stove, which burns very badly, with all my heavy clothing on. October came in with all the pep of December 25. If the temperature declines rapidly with the appearance of real winter I think I shall wear a feather bed. Fortunately I am so busy all day that I keep fairly warm and as I sleep between two featherbeds I don't need to suffer when I return to my funny little room. Every morning I go to the eleven wards and get lists from nurses in charge of articles needed and then I go back to my office and fill and deliver these orders.

"While delivering them I talk to the bed patients. In this hospital are many patients suffering from a milder form of shell shock who are up and about. I take down dozens of notes, secure data on lost baggage and write business letters to Paris. Then I go over to the hut and see that the magazines are distributed, hunt up a movie man, who puts on four productions a week, detail men to sweep the floor, etc. All in all, it is the first time I have had a great big work and although it is heaps too big for me I am bound to grow to meet it. This morning we got two bales of sweaters and there was a regular riot, for the boys were half frozen, many of them having lost everything they had owned. It is just glorious to give things out and they all simply adore Red Cross."

### **Train Emergency Nurses**

That Miss Jean Webster, head nurse at the clinic of the University of Wisconsin could be relieved for service in France, Mrs. F. C. Rinker, a former nurse, and wife of Dr. Rinker of the clinic staff, volunteered for services during the 1918 influenza epidemic and directed the nursing of upwards of 1,000 S. A. T. C. boys from all sections of the state who had contracted the disease.

The legislature recognized that the calls for nurses in France would mean a grave danger of

epidemics at home. It provided special training for emergency nurses. Hospitals were solicited and three of them, the Milwaukee County Hospital, the St. Agnes Hospital at Fond du Lac and the St. Mary's Hospital at Green Bay agreed to undertake the training of high school girls for nurses. When classes were opened more than sixty girls, representing every section in Wisconsin, had answered the call. These volunteer nurses were of invaluable service in combating the epidemic which in the month of October, 1918, alone took 2,600 lives of Wisconsin people as compared with about 150 in similar period in recent years.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## MANY WAR INDUSTRIES



WISCONSIN was the home of many war industries and there was scarcely an industrial city of the state that did not boast of "war contracts." The federal government erected two large "ordnance" factories in Madison, one the Northwest Ordnance company, the second, the Four Lakes Ordnance company. Large army guns were made at one and navy guns at the other. French 75's were turned out by the Wisconsin Gun company at Milwaukee. The cities of Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Sheboygan had large contracts. Hundreds of huge army motor trucks manufactured at Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Hartford and Clintonville were driven under their own power to the sea shore and thence shipped to France.

Ships were constructed at Green Bay, Superior, Sturgeon Bay, Sheboygan and Manitowoc. Powder was manufactured at the large Du Pont plant at Barksdale, Bayfield county, and a large T. N. T. plant for the manufacture of high explosives was under construction near Racine when the armistice was signed.

### **Increase in Accidents**

Both before the entry of the United States into the war and thereafter, there was a very great expansion of industries in Wisconsin. During the summer of 1918 there were probably 50 per cent more working men and women employed in Wisconsin than in 1915. Wisconsin ranks among the foremost states in war production.

This great increase in the number of people working, of course, led to an increase in the number of industrial accidents. While there were only 11,290 industrial accidents causing disability of more than seven days in Wisconsin in 1914, there were 12,781 accidents in 1915, there were 18,769 accidents in 1916, 19,697 accidents in 1917, and 14,789 accidents during the first nine months in 1918. During the month of August 1918, there were more accidents reported to the Industrial Commission than in any previous month in the history of the state, while September, 1918, was the banner month for compensation paid in accident cases. During this month workmen received \$223,419 as compensation in accident cases.

The increase in accidents in the state, as throughout the country, was greater than the increase in the number of employees. This is believed to have been due in large part to the fact that so many "green hands" were used and to overtime work. Statistics show that it is the inex-



INTERIOR OF LIBRARY AT CAMP GRANT

perienced workman who is getting hurt. Another factor leading to an increase in accidents during the war period was the speed maintained in war production and the crowded conditions which prevailed in factories.

### Prosperity is Shown

The state was prosperous during the war. State income tax figures are a reasonable barometer of the State's industrial prosperity. In 1915 the total state income tax assessed, individuals and corporations included, was \$3,837,370.04; in 1916 the total was \$5,344,393.51; 1917 it was \$9,482,595.56 and for 1918 the tax was \$11,830,142.36, the rate being the same for each year. Since the opening of the war the state income tax trebled.

The banking power of the state is another indication of state prosperity. On November 17, 1916, the total bank resources of the state were \$552,177,175. On the same date in 1917 the total resources were \$617,775,758.49,—or a gain of \$65,598,582.88. On November 1, 1918, the total banking power in Wisconsin was \$679,580,462.27. This was an increase of \$61,804,703.78 over the total resources on November 17, 1917. Leaving the National banks out of consideration, the resources of State banks increased from \$325,514,369.68 on May 1, 1917, just after the war declaration, to \$364,563,462.27 on November 1, 1918, when the armistice was signed.

Property values went up during the war. In 1917 the state tax commission fixed the value of all property, real estate and personal, in Wisconsin at \$3,607,470,442. In 1918 the value advanced to \$3,846,263,744, an increase of \$238,793,302. This is an average increase in wealth for every man, woman and child in the state of nearly \$100.

### Wages Went Up

Wages also went up as the result of the war. Women clerks and domestics took employment in munition factories. The records of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission for the first six months of 1918 show that 77 percent of all injured workmen received over \$15 a week, as compared with 26.7 percent for the same period in 1915. The average weekly wage of injured Wisconsin workmen for the first six months' period of each year was \$12.81 in 1915; \$13.34 in 1916; \$15.20 in 1917 and \$17.64 in 1918. The wages of farm help increased from 33 to 50 percent, during the war, in spite of a wider introduction of the farm tractor and other farm labor saving machinery.

The cost of living soared. For employed women in Wisconsin the increased cost was 40 percent for 1917 over 1914. The National Industrial Conference Board, representing the nation's largest employers, found a cost of living advance of 53 percent, all classes of employed, for July 1, 1918, over January 1, 1915.

## CHAPTER XIX.

## WAR LABOR BOARD



WISCONSIN has made a most excellent record in all war activities. It has always been first or foremost. It was first among the states in carrying out the Government's war labor program, to which the U. S. Employment Service is devoted.

The U. S. Employment Service was organized in its present form in January 1918, and the Government war labor program did not become effective until August 1. The essential idea underlying the U. S. Employment Service is to centralize all labor recruiting activities in one responsible department of the federal government and was rendered necessary to overcome the shortage of labor in war industries; to eliminate competitive inroads by one war industry upon another, to reduce the labor turn-over, and to equalize, as far as possible, the trend of labor from employers engaged in non-essential or less essential industries.

The U. S. Employment Service is nation-wide in its scope with one thousand employment offices scattered throughout the country and a force of many thousands of employees. It had complete

and exclusive control of recruiting unskilled labor for war industries.

Soon after this service was organized, the call came to Wisconsin to join in with the Government's war labor program. The state through its Industrial Commission, responded at once to the request of the Government and placed the free employment offices which it has long conducted at the disposal of the Government. The Government in its turn named the Industrial Commission the state director for Wisconsin of the Federal Employment Service. Thanks to this arrangement the state and federal system has been completely amalgamated, as far as Wisconsin is concerned, the state co-operating with the federal government in every possible way in its war labor program. In the various employment offices there were federal and state employes, but all working together in carrying out the Government's war labor program. The Industrial Commission, through its chairman, George P. Hambrecht, retained direction of the entire employment service in the state, and gave its every effort to make this service a benefit alike to the Government, to employers, and to employes.

### **Pettet is Chosen**

Eswald Pettet, for many years associated with the public employment service in Illinois and for some time immediately preceding his appointment

having complete charge of the employment office for Sears-Roebuck Company, Chicago, Illinois, was chosen by the federal Government to represent its interest in the employment service in Wisconsin. Mr. Pettet co-operated with the Industrial Commission in every way in carrying out the program charged to him.

To insure complete impartiality there was established a State Advisory Labor Board. This was composed of two representatives of the employers of the state, F. J. Clausen and E. J. Kearney; two representatives of the employees of the state, Frank J. Weber and J. J. Handley, two women, not named, and Geo. P. Hambrecht was chosen by the Industrial Commission to act as chairman of the Board who devoted a large part of his time on the question of employment, in behalf of the Industrial Commission. Similarly, community labor boards, composed of two representatives of the employers and two representatives of the employees and a chairman acceptable to both, were established in every community where an employment office exists. The State Advisory Board and the Community Labor Boards rendered invaluable assistance to the employment service in their respective fields. The increase of duties devolving upon these boards was evidenced by the addition, with full voting powers, to each community labor board of two women members, one representing the employers

and the other the employees. These women members devoting their entire time to the service assisted in securing women workers to replace men taken for the service.

### Wisconsin is First

Under date of October 27, 1918, a letter was received from Ward Bonsall of Washington, Field Organizer for the United States Employment Service, of which letter the following is a copy:

"Let me congratulate the Wisconsin Employment Service. The weekly graphical report that came to Mr. Hall's desk yesterday for last week showed that Wisconsin had moved to first place of all states in employment service work. . . . ."

Under the Wisconsin plan, wherever employment offices were established the municipalities provided quarters for the service, and defrayed all expenses for equipment, rent, light, heat, janitor and telephone service, carrying out the original state plan of organization inaugurated by the Industrial Commission. Every prominent office in Wisconsin was an office maintained jointly by the federal, state, and municipal governments, co-operating. This arrangement worked out harmoniously. The primary function of the employment service was to help win the war through insuring labor for war industries.

### Offices Are Established

The value of the organization which was built up in Wisconsin is abundantly proven. There were thirty-two employment offices in operation, with a state clearance office at Madison, listed as follows:

|                |            |            |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| Antigo         | Janesville | Park Falls |
| Appleton       | Kenosha    | Racine     |
| Ashland        | La Crosse  | Rhineland  |
| Beloit         | Manitowoc  | Sheboygan  |
| Benton         | Marinette  | Superior   |
| Chippewa Falls | Marshfield | Two Rivers |
| Eau Claire     | Menasha    | Waukesha   |
| Fond du Lac    | Milwaukee  | Wausau     |
| Grand Rapids   | Neenah     | Watertown  |
| Green Bay      | Oshkosh    | West Allis |
| Hurley         |            |            |

There were employment offices in every city of Wisconsin with a population above 10,000, with some other offices in smaller cities that were important industrial centers.

A quota of 16,980 men to be transferred from non-essential industries to war industries was allotted to Wisconsin by the Government early in August. Wisconsin more than filled this quota within the next two months, although the organization of the employment offices was not really complete until October.

## Showing of State

The remarkable increase in placements made by the employment offices in Wisconsin since August 1st is brought out in the figures for the months August, September, October and November in 1918, as compared with 1917.

| Placements      | 1917   | 1918   |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| August .....    | 4,449  | 6,568  |
| September ..... | 3,671  | 11,124 |
| October .....   | 4,471  | 31,198 |
| November .....  | 3,536  | 31,759 |
|                 | <hr/>  | <hr/>  |
|                 | 16,127 | 80,649 |

During these four months 30,469 working men and working women were placed in employment through the government employment offices in Wisconsin. This figure is to be compared with the 16,127 placements during the corresponding months of 1917, and with the figure of 44,705 which represents the total placements through the employment offices in Wisconsin during the entire year ending June 30, 1918. In October and November alone there were more placements made by 50 percent than during the entire year ending June 30, 1918.

This showing was made possible only because of the man power bill passed by congress whereby it became necessary for all men within the ages

of 18 and 45 to secure employment in an essential industry or to be inducted into the military service.

### Considered a Success

Many factors have contributed to make the employment service in Wisconsin a great success. One of these was the fact that the state for many years maintained efficient free employment offices in the four cities of Milwaukee, Superior, La Crosse, and Oshkosh. These offices were organized in 1901, and 1903 and were placed under the direction of the Industrial Commission when it was established in 1911. When the Industrial Commission took charge of these offices it employed one of the most efficient employment men as the superintendent of its employment offices, Dr. Wm. E. Leiserson, now connected with the United States Department of Labor. Under Mr. Leiserson's direction Wisconsin developed the first modern system of keeping employment office records, which has now been copied almost without change by the U. S. Employment Service throughout the country.

Wisconsin was a leader also in another feature which has been copied by the U. S. Employment Service, namely that of establishing a joint committee of employers and employees to act in an advisory capacity to the employment service. In connection with the Milwaukee Employment office

a Citizens' Committee on Unemployment, composed of representatives of the city and county of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council, and the Milwaukee Association of Commerce, was established in 1912, and still continues in existence. The fact that Milwaukee has long had an efficient employment office which merely needed an expansion in personnel and quarters to be fully equipped to meet the Government's war labor demands, is due in large part to the good judgment and untiring service of the members of the Citizens' Committee on Unemployment.

### **Cities Take Interest**

No less important in making Wisconsin a leader in the U. S. Employment Service was the hearty co-operation which the municipalities of the state accorded to the service. Almost without exception, the Wisconsin municipalities heartily responded to the Wisconsin plan of development, and met the Government's needs with reference to quarters and equipment. The few cases in which there was some delay, were due to misunderstanding, and the fullest co-operation was secured when once the need for an employment office was made clear.

Finally, much of the credit belongs to the members of the staff of the employment offices who worked day in and day out, and often into the

night, to make the service a success. Wisconsin was fortunate in getting the services of men like Eswald Pettet, A. G. Connorton, James Brahany, Harry Lippert, R. D. Scoon, C. G. Cotey, C. L. Miller, and Mrs. Elsie Essman, all of whom are experienced employment people. Fortunately, also, most of the inexperienced men whom it was necessary to employ in addition to the few experienced employment men that could be obtained, made good and gave genuine satisfaction in the communities in which they worked.

## CHAPTER XX.

## DECREASE OF CRIME

**T**HE results of the war conditions were very marked in the state reformatory, and other penal institutions. Crime decreased. On June 30, 1917, shortly after the outbreak of the war there were 913 inmates in the state prison. On October 31, 1918, the population was reduced to 775, a reduction of 138. The population of the state reformatory reduced from 289 on June 30, 1917, to 232 on June 30, 1918. The decrease in crime is due to the very active industrial conditions, the fact that the state was better policed during the war period than had been previously done, and also due to the fact that a large part of the state had become dry territory. According to Dr. Frank I. Drake, superintendent of the southern state hospital for insane, Mendota, the number of cases of insanity due to alcoholism decreased from 95 to 43 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918. This is a decrease of over 45 percent.

A very patriotic spirit was exhibited by the inmates of the prison and penal institutions. Subscriptions to the four Liberty Loans at the State

Prison, and the purchase of savings stamps, amounted to \$11,732.04, and the inmates of the State Prison donated to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Soldiers' Smoke Fund, Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus and Episcopal Chaplains' Fund, \$2,040.20, a total of \$13,772.24. These are large contributions when it is considered that the earning power of these men is limited in most cases to 10 cents and 15 cents a day.

### **Back up the Loans**

The employes of the state institutions also exhibited a very patriotic spirit. Figures have not been compiled showing the total amount subscribed by employes for all four of the loans, but subscriptions to the Fourth Liberty Loan amounted to \$56,750 for the sixteen institutions.

The total subscriptions to all of the Liberty Loans amounted from \$150,000 to \$200,000. This amount does not include the contributions to the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., and K. C. and other branches of relief for the soldiers.

During the war period the chief officers and employes of the institutions were very active in producing food, such as vegetables, fruits, etc.; in fact, there was more than twice as much vegetables and fruit canned during the war period than ever before in the institutions.

For instance, at the state prison the canning department of the institution canned the follow-

ing fruits and vegetables: peas, 1,320 gals.; pumpkins, 270 gals.; wax beans, 1,150 gals.; tomatoes, 200 gals.; Swiss chard, 340 gals.; tomato preserves, 100 gals.; strawberries, 335 gals.; raspberries, 224 gals.; catsup, 281 gals.; corn, 450 gals.; and also various other smaller amounts of different fruits and vegetables.

The binder twine plant at the state prison rendered an unusual profit during the last biennial period. For the year ending June 30, 1917, the profits of that department were \$152,494.14, and for the year ending June 30, 1918, the profits were \$253,973.74.

## CHAPTER XXI.

## STATE GUARDS ORGANIZED



AS SOON as the Wisconsin National Guard had left the state, drafted into the Federal service, Adjutant General Holway organized and enlisted a temporary state force to serve in the state during the emergency. This force was named the Wisconsin State Guard and was organized in four regiments of infantry and State Guard of Reserves.

The 7th regiment with headquarters at Milwaukee was composed entirely of Milwaukee, Racine and West Allis companies.

The 8th regiment with headquarters at Beloit was composed of companies from Oconomowoc, Kenosha, Waukesha, Hartford, Ft. Atkinson, Beloit, Janesville, Jefferson, Monroe, Madison, Platteville.

The 9th regiment with headquarters at Appleton was composed of companies from Appleton, Neenah, Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Oconto, Manitowoc, Green Bay, Sheboygan, Marshfield, Grand Rapids, Marinette, Stevens Point, and the 10th regiment with headquarters at Eau Claire was

composed of companies from Superior, Wausau, Bayfield, Menominee, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, Ladysmith, Neillsville, Tomah, Mauston and La Crosse.

### **Location of Reserves**

The reserve companies were located at Milwaukee, DePere, Waupun, Elroy, Minong, Mt. Horeb, Kendall, Horicon, Watertown, New Richmond, Spooner, Tomahawk, Rib Lake, Sturgeon Bay, Cumberland, Wrightstown, Grantsburg, Hurley, Webster, Alderly, Stratford, and Livingston.

These companies are paid by the State an allowance for Armory rent and an allowance for the upkeep of clothing and for general expense. They were issued uniforms of a distinctive pattern, different from the uniforms of the Wisconsin National Guard and the United States Army. They were armed with arms issued to the state by the War Department for that purpose. The strength of this force was approximately 3,500 officers and men in the active state guard and approximately 2,000 men in the reserve companies.

### **King was Commander**

During the month of July 1918 these troops by regiment were in camp of instruction on the Wisconsin State Military Reservation, serving without pay, the state paying the cost of transportation and subsistence. The camp was commanded by Brig. General Charles King, Wisconsin Na-

tional Guard. The discipline and state of instruction were very good, and showed that these troops, though composed at time of organization of men above or below the then draft age, to be competent to perform any duty that might become necessary within the borders of the state.

All the men enlisted understood fully that enlistment in this state guard did not exempt them from the draft, but nevertheless many men of draft age and liability enlisted to receive the preliminary instruction and training afforded.

The State Guard Reserve companies organized in different cities of the state as enumerated were not allotted funds for armory rent or clothing allowance as were the State Guard Companies, but who paid their own expenses of administration, and procured their own uniforms. They were organized as Rifle Clubs in compliance with the United States Law relative to the organization of such clubs and were, therefore, entitled to draw from the War Department a limited number of rifles that could be used in drill and target practice.

## CHAPTER XXII.

## FIRST WAR HISTORY COMMISSION



WISCONSIN was the first state in the Union to organize the state war history commission and auxiliary county Committees for the purpose of collecting and preserving information regarding the activities of the state during the war. This commission was organized under the direction of the Wisconsin State Council of Defense. The commission is composed of M. M. Quaife, Superintendent Wisconsin State Historical Society; Prof. C. R. Fish, University of Wisconsin; Wm. W. Bartlett, Eau Claire; J. H. A. Lacher, Waukesha; W. N. Parker, Madison; Professor A. H. Sanford, La Crosse and H. A. Whipple, Waterloo. The state and county commissions serve without compensation. The commission secured the services of Dr. John W. Oliver of the State Historical Society to direct the work in the counties, but so far the state has made little effort to collect this material. The State Council of Defense recently passed a resolution asking Gov. Philipp to appoint a man with historical knowledge and scholarly attainments and a man versed

in military affairs to go to France and collect data regarding the activities and achievements of Wisconsin troops in the service. No appointments have as yet been made.

The plan attempted by the state commission was to organize similar bodies in each county to collect the war historical material of each county and provide for its preservation in the counties. These committees aim to collect everything that will be of interest and educational value in the activities of the war, such as rosters of all men and women in the military service of the respective counties; files of all county newspapers during the period of the war; soldiers' letters, photographs, records of all Councils of Defense, War Drives, Committees, Red Cross, other organizations and other activities, generally.

### **Barton is Director**

Dr. Oliver himself entered the military service the first of August and was succeeded November first by Albert O. Barton of Madison as director of this particular branch of work. It may be said the first County War Historical Committee appointed for this work was in Eau Claire County which was chosen early in 1917. Already a great mass of valuable historical material has been accumulated in the various counties and it has been strikingly demonstrated that it was most wise and timely to have the work undertaken as

soon as it was and while much of the material was available which otherwise would have been lost beyond recovery.

When the future historian looks back at Wisconsin's record in the great war, her achievements crowded with dramatic intensity into a brief year and a half, he will write this fraction of history down as the most remarkable in the story of a state filled with historic moments.

Men of all racial extractions coalesced and became one in the supreme hour of war. The men of German birth or extraction, when put to the test, responded willingly and nobly—the death, the casualty, the muster rolls tell this story so that no man will dare to deny it. Men of all races, the Scandinavian, the Slav, the Celt, the Latin, were fused into one mass in this supreme hour, and dedicated to America their lives and their fortunes that the world might be made safe for democracy.

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