

MICHIGAN RATE

STATE IS GIVEN TITLE TO OVER 43,000 ACRES OF GROUND BY GOVERNMENT.

NON-COMS WILL DRILL ROOKIES

Most Promising of Custer's Petty Officers to Get Opportunity to Gain Experience.

Lansing.

Michigan has finally completed arrangements for 43,722 acres of state land which have been transferred to the regular acreage of United States land. Deeds are expected in a few days which will put the state into possession of lands which have been sought for years.

Both state and national governments have owned tracts of land within the state owned by the other. The deeds now block out the holdings of each, going away with conflicts.

The state acquires in Alcona, Oscoda, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Roscommon, Kalkaska, Lake, Montmorency, Ogemaw and Presque Isle counties.

Title to the biggest forest in the state, located in Luce county, will be vested in Michigan when the deed comes.

Final details of paying the tax on all state land to the county in which it is located were discussed at the meeting. Payments will be made in 1937 and will add \$20,000 to the road funds of the counties, where the state lands are held.

Non-Coms Will Train Rookies

Training of the new contingent to arrive at Camp Custer will be left for a time almost entirely in the hands of the non-commissioned officers. The first of whom are recruits of two months ago. The long delay in sending the third quota has given the new men a great deal of training. Many of the brighter and better educated ones have made the most of their opportunities and progressed in remarkable fashion. To these men the recruits will be left for the school of the soldier, the school of the camp, the early physical drill and preliminary instruction of every recruit.

Two ends will be served by this. The companies will not be retarded so much and the non-coms will get experience as instructors. The recruits will then be picked as candidates for commissions and get work in handling recruits that will fit them to be officers.

When the recruits are within halting distance of the rest of the company, they will work with their comrades.

Two calls for men are already being against the next increment. The largest is for Camp Pike, where 3,000 men will be sent to help make up a sort of reserve national army division. Most of these men, if not all, will come from the new increment because the men already here have been pretty well picked over.

Another small bunch, perhaps 250 will be assigned to the 49th support train. These men will be truck drivers, mechanics and other specialists for the outfit.

Pruden to Fix Price of State Coal.

Power to fix the price of the state coal produced in Michigan and sold in the state to consumers for consumption in the commonwealth has been delegated to W. W. Pruden, state administrator, by Dr. Garfield, national fuel administrator.

Mr. Pruden is holding a series of conferences and conferences with the coal owners, having investigations made which will determine the price which producers of coal in Michigan mines may charge for their coal.

Just when this work will be finished and basic prices set is not known by Mr. Pruden.

In a conference with C. C. Cunningham, railroad commissioner, Frank H. Alfred, president of the Pere Marquette railroad, said that encouraging reports had been received from the national council of defense in which foreign equipment was to be given the Pere Marquette lines for the movement of coal supplies.

Such action would be a step in the relief of cities and towns on the line which have been suffering a coal shortage through the inability of the line serving them to procure equipment for coal movement.

Employment Bureau Plac 9488

Positions were obtained for 3,551 men and 932 women by state employment bureaus during October. During the month the state employment bureau employed the other bureaus ranked as follows: Pilot, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Jackson, Flint Creek, Eastland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Bay City.

War Hurts M. A. C. Attendance.

Some tangible evidence of the extent to which the call to arms has responded to by farm boys of the state is reported by Ashley M. Berridge, director of short courses at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station.

The work for the two-year short course opened, only 25 of the 33 young men who were members of the second-year class returned for the third year. Letters explained, are almost all in military service. The reduction in the freshman 2-year class was small.

Free-Grazing Land in U. P.

Several hundred thousand acres of grazing land in the upper peninsula will be offered free to western sheep and cattlemen according to a plan announced by a council of landholding firms. The scheme has for its object the increased production of cash and sheep, particularly wool. The grant will have use of the land free for two years, after which small payments are provided for again the land is paid for. This will put little land in good use producing meat.

Camp Custer Is Plinked.

Camp Custer, the home of the 25th division of the national army, and the future home, it is expected, of other divisions, until the great war is fought to its close, was formally handed over to the government November 15.

Four millions of dollars was the first estimate of the price. That the confidential authorities say, has long been forgotten. Today the estimate stands at \$7,000,000.

More than a month behind the schedule, the quartermaster's construction department is entitled to high praise for its work, which, under the most difficult conditions, has been accomplished.

Constant changing of plans probably worked more havoc with the speed record at Camp Custer than in any other of the new army cantonments.

The government has found it necessary to make several additions to the camp capacity, adding a large number of buildings which were not included in the first estimate.

Yet wonderful speed has been made. One need but look at this large city, built to house almost 50,000 men, and think that it has sprang from the earth and what fields of July, 2, to the present. Now it is a model community, with sewers, light, heat and water, in every one of its thousands of dwellings.

Custer Holds First Review.

In the presence of an immense "battery" of two-thirds feminine, the National Army's first review at Camp Custer last week.

It was the largest military drill ever conducted in Michigan.

The review itself was a splendid spectacle. In the dignified presence of Major General Kerkensy, from the British and French armies, 15,000 men wheeled across the parade ground, in platoons were attempted, but the division had the appearance of a military machine.

As inspiring as was the review itself, the review of 15,000 men in uniform under the observing eyes of official representatives of three allied nations, the review of the British and French armies, 15,000 men wheeled across the parade ground, in platoons were attempted, but the division had the appearance of a military machine.

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PRO-GERMANS RULE IN RUSSIA

Immediate Peace First on Their Program—Retreat of Italians Continued—British Take Highly Important Paschenke Ridge.

Russian Mission in Paris.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

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UNITED STATES WAR CONFERENCE

Participates for the First Time in Allies' Council in Paris.

HOUSE HEAD OF COMMISSION

Board Now in Europe Is Expected to Urge Adoption of Policy of Hostilities.

Washington.

The United States is participating for the first time in a military conference to be held by all the allies. An American commission, headed by Col. E. M. House, chief of the American military mission, is already in Europe, and with authority to commit the United States government to any agreement that may be reached by the Paris conference.

Col. House and his associates are expected to urge the adoption of a policy of greater unity in the prosecution of the war.

One of the possibilities is the creation of a joint war council with supreme power to direct the disposition of troops, to supervise military strategy and to apportion munitions and other economic resources among the allies.

Makeup of Commission.

The American war commission consists of the following members: Col. E. M. House, chairman, who will act as the representative of the United States on questions pertaining to the general policies of the conduct of the war.

Col. W. B. Smith, chief of staff, U. S. A., who will participate in the formulation of plans for the employment of the combined naval forces of the allies.

Col. T. H. Bliss, chief of staff, U. S. A., who will give detailed information on the extent of military support that the United States will be able to give next year.

Col. T. H. Bliss, assistant secretary of the treasury, who will speak for the United States on questions of financial aid.

Col. T. H. Bliss, chairman of the war time board, who will assist in planning a uniform policy in administration of the war.

The United States, in the employment of its man power and material resources, desires to use them to the greatest advantage against Germany. It has been no easy problem to determine how they can be used most effectively, since the industrial production of requirements by the allied governments have been hampered by the war.

By a general survey of the whole situation and a free discussion of the needs of all, the agreement of the allies will undoubtedly be able to give to the demands of the several governments their true perspective and proper place in the general plan for the conduct of the war.

Limit to Resources.

"Though the resources of this country are vast and though there is every power to devote them all, it is necessary to limit them. But even if they were greater they should be used to the highest advantage in attaining the supreme objective of the war—victory."

It is the duty of this government to employ its military and naval forces and its resources and energies where they will give the greatest return in the shortest time.

The change of views which will take place at the conference and the conclusions which will be reached will be of the greatest importance in the planning of energy and in bringing into harmony the activities of the nations which have been so valiantly fighting.

As a result of the conference it is expected that the allies will be able to coordinate their military and naval forces and their resources and energies where they will give the greatest return in the shortest time.

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