

CAMP CUSTER

CHANGES AT CUSTER MADE ONLY WHEN IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICE RESULTS.

STATE WHEAT NEARLY NORMAL

Crop Report Gives Condition As 84 Per Cent—1,350,000 Bushels Sold In Last Three Weeks.

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Steps to prevent a flood of applications for transfers from one regiment to another by men who wish to be with some friends or to prefer, for no reason in particular, another arm of the service than that in which they are, have been taken by the division commander at Camp Custer. These were contained in the order permitting transfers, which has just been given out.

No man may be transferred from one unit to another unless some good service results, the order states, mere individual preference being ignored. There are no transfers being made unless backed by particular fitness. The order was issued because the recent first muster of the 85th division made it possible to place men in units to which they are better suited, a thing which could not be done before.

Until now, men assigned to one organization and desired by another, were simply "attached" to that organization for duty, actually going on the rolls of the one with which they were not serving. Now these men can be properly assigned.

Each unit has a right to a certain number of men of various heights and finally the division will be balanced in this respect. The territorial idea will be adhered to as far as possible, but the efficiency of the unit will be placed before everything else.

Wheat Nearly Normal

Wheat conditions in Michigan are 84 per cent normal, according to the November crop report.

The average yield of corn per acre is 16.11 bushels; of beans, 6.89; and potatoes, 28.4. The acreage of both beans and potatoes is considerable above normal. Cloverseed is 5.8 per cent normal.

The estimated total number of bushels of wheat marketed in the last three months is 1,350,000.

In accordance with an order compelling them to report immediately after threshing, the farmers have reported to the secretary of state the following bushels of grain threshed up to and including November 1:

Wheat, 11,940,000; corn, 3,304,594; oats, 3,405,203; barley, 2,356,939; buckwheat, 68,081; peas, 83,895. The above figures have been received of the farmers through the secretary of state, yet on the field and the returns are so scattered to be of benefit.

Fewer Visitors at Custer

Camp Custer is losing its prestige as a mecca for sightseers, and relatives and friends of selected men serving in the camp are being reduced and is becoming each day more like the typical and desirable military camp.

Perfectly licit reasons are at hand for the changes. No such military venture had ever been housed within the boundary lines of the state and so all new and old regulations, tactics, many people were curious to view it. Thousands have come, seen and gone and to those who could not come, have carried away information.

When the selected men first came, passes were given sparingly. There has been one way for visitors to be conducted and that was by relatives coming here on the visiting days. Probably 90 per cent of the men in camp have been visited and although there are still many family reunions in camp Sunday, they are gradually decreasing.

That is explained further by the fact that passes are more easily obtained than in the beginning and it is found more congenial for the week-end holiday to be passed around town freebies than on the bleak and chilly hills of Custer.

State General Fund Getting Low

There was a balance of \$2,242,330.51 in the general fund of the state treasury when the value of the gold currency was November 1. This money is available for immediate use. As there are some heavy drains on the state fund during November and December, it is considered doubtful by the state treasurer and subordinates, whether there will be sufficient gold to meet the first of the year to pay current obligations until the January taxes are received.

State Fish Markets Successful

During the week, 11,369 pounds of fish was sold by the state under an act passed by the legislature, game commissioner. The fish have been sold at prices ranging from 12 to 20 cents below retail prices. Lasting week received \$470 from the sale of 100 and 350 pounds of fresh herring; \$100, 6310 pounds trout; \$120, 2291 pounds trout; and \$100, 964 pounds of herring and seven cents. More Michigan cities will be added soon.

Phone Companies Ask Raise

The Detroit metropolitan telephone question which has been hanging for a time in the state railroad commission for several years is again before the state board of public utility rates. The Detroit solution will be put off still further, independent telephone companies, are planning for making applications for increased rates in several Michigan points.

Custer Hospital Has 50 Buildings

The hospital at Camp Custer is a regular small city. It has 50 buildings, and there are more than 50 buildings, and they are far more substantial looking buildings than those of the camp proper. Matched lumber, grained pine, wide-planked porches, make it even in its unfinished and muddy state an inspiring sight.

Present plans call for a hospital rated at a 1,000-bed capacity, but which actually will be a 1,300-bed hospital. There are plans for an extension to a 1,500-bed rating or even to 2,000 beds, and as it is at present, it will take 40 medical officers, 60 female nurses, and 350 enlisted men to run it.

So far it is shy of personnel; having only 30 medical officers, 150 enlisted men and 10 nurses, and it is more than enough to take care of the needs of the patients.

When it is done it will compare favorably with the best city hospitals, but now the work is hampered by lack of material with which to finish the buildings. Plumbing is the chief trouble. Lack of supply pipes to connect them makes the bath tubs useless. The operating rooms cannot be used for the same reason. There have been no cases requiring immediate operation.

Big Masonic Event Planned

Camp Custer will be the scene of a big Masonic invasion, this week, when Masons from various parts of the state will assemble there for a summer camp. The Michigan Sovereign Consistory has decided to make every officer, who is a blue lodge member, a member of the thirty-second degree. Mason without charge, a thing never done before, according to Leut. M. E. Trimble, who is organizing the camp.

The camp will be held from Saturday, November 19, to Monday, November 23, at Camp Custer. Gen. J. T. Dickman, Gen. B. C. Morse and Gen. S. W. Miller will be guests of the consistory. The camp will be held at the Post theatre.

While Secretary of War Haker has made a ruling permitting secret members of the consistory to attend, it is doubtful if any of the lodges will build at Camp Custer immediately. The Masons may build a temple facing Custer circle.

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