MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS OF CENTRAL POWERS ARE GATHERING AT GRAND GERMAN HEADQUARTERS

Emperor William of Germany Calls Meeting At Berlin of Kings of Teuton Nations—Peace Offer Thought in Sight Over Defeats in West.

THE FRENCH TAKE POWERFUL RANGE OF HIGHTS

Naval Battle Reported to Have Taken Place Off Skaggerak—French and British Continue to Smash German Line, French Take Lassigny.

Amsterdam.—The military and political leaders of the Central powers are gathering at grand German army headquarters for a conference of transcendent importance, German and Austrian advices indicate. Belief is expressed a new peace offer will be made to the Allies.

Emperor Charles of Austria, and the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Baron Burian, are reported to be on the way to the conference. Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria, already has arrived in Berlin.

For the first time in the war such a conference takes place at a moment when Germany has suffered severe defeats on the battlefield. Her allies, political observers here suggest, are likely to take full advantage of this fact. "The military crisis is bound to pull Germany from her high horse in the eyes of her allies," one student of European politics said, "and they are not likely to overlook this chance to do a little dictating of their own."

Big Naval Battle Reported.

London.—A large scale naval action appears to have been fought August 12. Copenhagen advices state that for two hours heavy cannonading went on in the Skaggerak and a great number of warships were seen. Later cannonading was heard further southward.

French Remove Last Obstacle.

London.—Lassigny, last obstacle in the way of a French dash to Noyon, is in the grasp of General Humbert's French third army. Practically the whole of the powerful range of hights in front of the town is in French hands. Lassigny lies 14 miles southeast of Montdidier, eight miles south of Roye, and seven miles west of Noyon.

With the fall of this town and the remainder of the ridge fronting it, the great Picardy battle will automatically spread to the Aisne. At least 25 miles of attacking front—from the Oise to Soissons—will be added to the line of the drive, the total length then will be 70 miles.

With Lassigny hights and town Germans will have lost virtually all the terrain they gained west of the Oise below Noyon in their drive on Compiegne. To escape disaster, all their forces on the east bank of the Oise below Noyon must go back. Indeed, such a German retirement was begun recently on a local scale.

But this means Germans must relinquish their hold on the whole region in the Noyon-Ribecourt-Soissons angle. Such a retirement would bring the French far to the north of the Aisne between Noyon and Soissons and present the gravest possible flanking menace to the entire German Aisne-Vesle front. Presently the attacking front would spread again, include another 35 miles, between Soissons and the east of Rheims, and the great center of the whole German battle line would be under assault.

Thus, the next two or three days are sure to see one of two things—an eleventh hour rally by Germans and a consequent halt to the Allied Picardy drive—which seems unlikely in view of the sustained pressure of Foch's offensive—or the most terrific, perhaps the decisive battle of the war, along a front from the Ancre to the east of Rheims, 100 miles.

British Recognize Czecho-Slovaks.

London.—The British government has issued a declaration formally recognizing the Czecho-Slovaks as an Allied nation and the three Czecho-Slovak armies as an Allied force regularly waging warfare against the Central powers.

U. S. Still Considering Question.

Washington.—Recognition by the British government of the Czecho-Slovaks as an independent Allied nation, arrayed against the Central powers, follows similar action by Italy and France.

This question still is under consideration by the American government and there has been no indication as to what course will be followed.

It is recalled, however, that only recently Secretary Lansing, in a formal statement, expressed the deep sympathy with which this government views the national aspirations of the Czecho-Slovaks and other oppressed people of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

When informed of the action of Great Britain, Professor T. G. Masaryk president of the Czecho-Slovak national council, and as such commander-in-chief of the Czecho-Slovak forces operating in Italy, France and Siberia, expressed his high appreciation, and said it was doubly valuable, since it comes after adoption of a similar course by the other two great Allied powers.

Wilson Approves 26c Copper.

Washington—President Wilson has approved continuance to November 1 of the existing maximum price of 26 cent per pound for copper, as agreed to by the price-fixing committee of the war industries board and the copper producers. The price is subject to additional charges on copper shapes approved June 5. The producers pledged themselves not to reduce wages of their employees and to sell to the government, the Allies and the public at the same price.

Italians Bomb Vienna.

Zurich—According to the Viennese Press, the Italian air raid is sole topic of interest in the talk in cafes and streets of the Austrian capital. The Reichsport, military organ, says an inquiry is pending to punish those responsible, and adds that the fear of reprisals combined with difficulty of carrying heavy explosives for such a distance, deterred the Italians from bombing Vienna.

While comments of the official press are guarded, the fact that the raid made a tremendous impression upon the public is proved through the comments. The Fremedenmblatt, which until a fortnight ago, was subsidized organ of the Austrian foreign office, is being severely censored.

The Fremedenmblatt significantly refers to the eagerness of the public to read the manifestos, which a strong wind had scattered over the populated districts of the city.

The raid excited all the more amazement, because the Viennese were convinced of their immunity, thanks to protection, afforded by the high Alpine barrier in the south.

British Cavalry in Action.

With the British Army in France—Allied forces continued their victorious advance all along the line Sunday pushing in the general direction of the upper regions of the Somme. They were smashing stiff resistance interposed by huge lines in behind-storing Germans, the bulk of whom, according to reports considered reliable, are fleeing in disorder. British cavalry is reported operating close to the town of Nesle. (Nesle is six miles southeast of Chaulnes.)

Many hours ago British, French and American troops had reached, roughly, the old line held by Germans before their retirement to the Hindenburg line. They have pushed beyond in many places.

Goyencourt, two miles northwest of Roye, is reported to have fallen to British forces were on the front of Chaulnes-Hattencourt and Villers-Les-Roye.

Germans are retiring gradually everywhere in the face of fire from British guns, rifles and machine guns.

Down 64 Planes in One Day.

London—Sixty-four German machines were brought down by the British Sunday. Only 12 British machines were lost. The war office report on aviation states. British raiding planes dropped 541 1-2 tons of bombs on various German targets—a record amount of explosives used in this way. British flyers took active part in the pursuit of the Germans in Picardy.

British aviators again successfully bombed the railway station of the German city of Karlsruhe. An explosion was observed to result from the raid. Three hostile machines were brought down, the raiders losing only one machine.

French Down 338 Planes in July.

Washington—During July, French aviators and anti-aircraft guns accounted for 338 enemy machines, according to information received at the French embassy. In addition 49 German captive balloons were destroyed.

Bombing aviators in the same period, threw 194 tons of projectiles upon the enemy by day, and more than 356 tons by night.

Most of the work was concentrated on bridges used by the enemy on the Marne, on German troops, who were advancing south of the Aisne, and on the stations in the region of Loan-Hirson and Retfel.

More U. S. Troops Going to Italy.

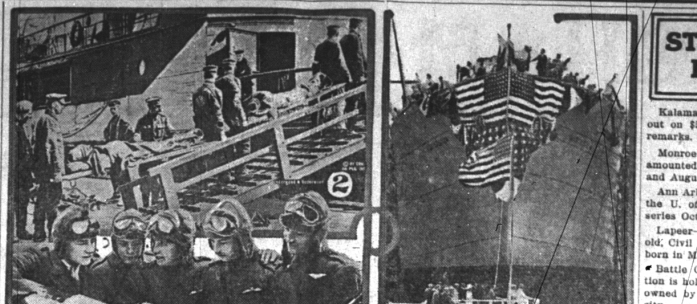
Rome—Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the United States navy, in speaking at a luncheon given in his honor by Admiral Delbono, minister of the navy, gave assurances that additional American troops would be sent to Italy, Mr. Roosevelt stated, was to seek means of preventing enemy submarines from leaving the Adriatic, while it was also desired to find ways for keeping the Austrian fleet from operating against Italians.

Michigan Boy Takes Two Iron Crosses.

Flint—Corporal Ralph Dort, United States marine corps, has sent to his father, J. Dallas Dort, local manufacturer and director of war fund campaigns, two photos and certificates of iron crosses, second class, taken from German prisoners. When he enlisted Corporal Dort's father offered him $1,000 for every German helmet he brought or sent home. Acknowledging receipt of trophies, Mr. Dort told his son they were no good, as they were taken from live Germans.

Italy's War On U-Boats Favorable.

Rome—"The results of our anti-submarine warfare during the last three months could not possibly be more favorable than they are," said Admiral Delbono, Italian minister of marine. Regarding the shipping losses between April and June, he gave the following figures: Italian ships sunk: April, 1917, 17; April, 1918, 3; May, 1917, 10; May, 1918, 4; June, 1917, 10; June, 1918, 2. Admiral Delbono added that three submarines were sunk recently, one by a lone destroyer.



1—American, English, Canadian, New Zealand and South American aviators examining a map prior to a flight over the German lines in France. 2—Hun prisoners being made useful in carrying wounded British soldiers aboard a hospital ship. 3—Steamer Quisconck, first vessel built at Hog Island yard, being launched, the president being present and Mrs. Wilson christening the ship.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

British and French Begin New Offensive Between Albert and Montdidier.

HAIG DIRECTS THE DRIVE

Allies Force Crossing of the Vesle River in Face of Strong Resistance—Plans for Siberian Expedition —March States American Army Program.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Having thoroughly whipped the armies of the German crown prince and driven them back beyond the Vesle river, Foch, now a marshal of France, turned his attention in the middle of the week to the forces under the Bavarian crown prince, Rupprecht. At dawn on Thursday the British Fourth army and the French First army, under command of Field Marshal Haig, began an offensive on a wide front in the region east and southeast of Amiens. The front under attack was about twenty-eight miles in length, from Albert south to the vicinity of Montdidier.

Within 24 hours the allied forces had penetrated the enemy lines to points that were to seven miles beyond the start, had taken more than 10,000 prisoners and great quantities of material and many guns, and had occupied numerous towns. Their own losses were remarkably light. Tanks led the infantry in the attack and did wonderfully good work.

Complete success in this offensive would result in obliterating the German salient in the Montdidier region and would imperil the entire Hun line from Reims to Ypres. The Germans seem to have anticipated this movement by the allies and some days previously withdrew their forces there and in other sectors to stronger positions. Progress by the allies here carries them into the Picardy country which was ravaged by the Germans in their retreat of March, 1917, and again devastated by them when they drove forward this year.

The defeated but not disorganized Huns between Soissons and Reims, as was predicted, gathered their strength for a pause in their retreat between the Vesle and the Aisne. Their guns were brought into play from the plateau in that region which commands the Vesle valley. The Germans, indeed, made strenuous attempts to prevent the French and Americans from crossing the Vesle, especially in the vicinity of Fismes, but numerous relatively small units forced the crossings and held onto their new positions despite furious counter-attacks. These operations were mostly between Braisne and Fismes. Up to the close of the week Marshal Foch had not tried to send any very large forces across the river, probably waiting until his artillery could drive the Huns from the nearer hills to the north. The Germans were using only medium caliber guns, which was taken to mean that their heavier artillery was being placed north of the Aisne to defend that line; for there seemed little doubt that they would be forced that far north before very long. Their position south of the Aisne was said to be really untenable though seemingly strong. At the west end of the line the French and Americans were steadily pushing east along the Aisne, and at the east end immediately north of Reims the French made considerable advance between the railways running to Laon and Retfel.

The city of Fismes, which was so gallantly taken by the Americans, was as gallantly held against all attacks, though the Germans deluged it with explosive and gas shells. The machine gun and rifle fire of the Yankees was so accurate as to arouse the admiration of their allies.

Activity increased during the week in the Lys salient which the Germans made toward Bethune and Hazebrouck. On the southern side of this bulge the British moved forward between the Lawe and the Clarence. In other sectors of the northern line also the British attacked successfully. These operations probably were all related though their full significance was not known here. At least, it was clear that Foch had no intention of allowing the Huns to have any rest, now that he has them on the defensive.

Authorities admit that the kaiser's strength is still prodigious and that he has large reserves, but all unite in asserting that he has passed beyond the high point of power and efficiency and can never regain numerical supremacy, nor can he ever again have the opportunity to achieve a victory that was his two months ago. Those of his people who know the truth now admit that his ultimate defeat is a certainty. The more fearless papers of Germany and Austria do not hesitate to say this plainly. The military and pan-German leaders are held responsible, and as their only hope lies in submitting to the allies the crushing blow so long promised by them, it is reasonable to expect another great Hun offensive before long. That is, if Marshal Foch gives them a chance, which doesn't seem to be a part of his present plans.

Arrangements for the American-Japanese expedition to Siberia have been going forward rapidly and the Czecho-Slovak forces over there will soon have the active support of a small but competent body of allied troops. It is announced that two regiments now in the Philippines will form part of the American contingent, and that it will be commanded by Maj. Gen. William S. Graves until recently assistant chief of staff of the army. Later it will be determined whether he will command the entire expedition. At Vladivostok the Americans will be joined by an equal number of Japanese and probably they will first drive from the Amur branch of the trans-Siberian railway the bolsheviki and the Teuton war prisoners who were armed to aid them. Eastern Siberia would then be in the control of the allies and loyal Russians. British forces were landed at Vladivostok last week, for what purpose was not stated.

Japan has given evidence of eagerness to do more in Siberia than merely aid the Czechs, if she has the excuse, and it is reported that Lenine now plans to declare war on the Japanese, being instigated by Germany. The successes of the Czechs have had great effect in Austria, and reports from that country tell of the desertion of about a million soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian army. Eighty thousand of these deserters are living in Vienna and the government fears to take any step against them.

Conditions in northern Russia are very encouraging. The allies have been driving the bolsheviki south from Archangel, and a new government has been established in that city embracing half a dozen districts. Volunteer detachments of White guards are assisting the allies. M. I. Terestchenko, minister of foreign affairs in Kerensky's cabinet, has been assassinated in Poltava.

Seemingly not yet quite satisfied that Zeppelins as raiders are a failure, the Germans sent a fleet of five of these monsters across to raid England last week. Their coming was signaled and they were attacked by the British air defense before they could reach the coast. One of them was shot down in flames over the sea, its commander, the noted Captain Strasser, and all the crew perishing. The other airships fled.

The submarine pirates continued their depredations in the western Atlantic, torpedoing a number of merchant ships and fishing boats and sinking the Diamond Shoals lightship off Cape Hatteras. This last-mentioned exploit may be part of a set plan of destroying important navigation signals in order to hamper shipping. The doings of the U-boats, however, no longer cause the allies extreme anxiety, for it is evident they are on the decline. Addressing the house of commons, Premier Lloyd George said 150 submarines had been sunk by the British navy, and the British admiralty announces the output of merchant ships by the allies and neutral nations for the three months ending June 30 exceeded the losses from all causes by 296,000 gross tons. The American yards are now turning out vessels with extraordinary rapidity. The launching of the first one from the great government yard at Hog Island was attended by President and Mrs. Wilson.

Our war department's army program was partly revealed to the senate committee on military affairs by General March, chief of staff, when he appeared before it to urge all possible haste in passing the bill extending the draft age limits to eighteen and forty-five years. Concisely stated, the program is as follows:

Ninety-eight divisions — 3,920,000 men—to make up troops obtained under existing law.

Eighty divisions—3,200,000 men—to be sent to France.

Eighteen divisions—720,000 men—to be held in reserve in the United States while additional recruits are being trained.

An army when completed of 5,000,000 men, minimum strength.

Troop movement to France at the rate of 250,000 men a month until cold weather sets in, meaning over 1,000,000 more men abroad before the first of the year.

An expeditionary force of almost 2,500,000 men in France by January 1.

General March told the committee the United States can send the war by getting 4,000,000 trained troops, fully equipped, into France, and he intimated that Marshal Foch is only awaiting the arrival of the Americans in full strength to hurl the entire united military strength of the allies at the Huns on the western front. This tremendous blow, he intimated, was due to fall next spring. The chief of staff said he did not believe it would be necessary to send the eighteen-year-old class to the firing line, but that the government wants these young men trained and in readiness. He said it would be satisfactory if the bill were passed immediately after congress resumes the transaction of business on August 26. Some of the senators believed quicker action would be advisable. Chairman Dent of the house military affairs committee, clinging to the anti and ante-war ideas that always have animated his actions, shows no desire to have the bill considered by his committee in time for early passage. It was stated that the sensible members of the committee, headed by Representative Kahn, probably would have to take charge of the measure. Why the small-minded Dent is not ousted from his chairmanship of this most important committee remains one of the mysteries. Other men connected with the administration and the government, who were pacifists and small army and navy advocates, have seen the error of their ways long since and are doing everything in their power to help win the war, but no such light illuminates the dense mind of Dent.

The house ways and means committee is still busy with the next revenue measure. Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo has informed Chairman Kitchin that he is strongly in favor of a flat war profits tax of 80 per cent, which he believes would render unnecessary any increase in the existing excess profits tax rate, and would also be found the only way to reach real war profiteering. The committee has agreed upon a section that would call on the president to pay a tax of $24,000 as his part of the country's financial war burden and under which the Supreme court justices, all federal judges and all state officers would be taxed. "There is a great sentiment all over the country," said Mr. Kitchin, "that no one should be exempted from taxation." In which Mr. Kitchin speaks the exact truth.

The federal trade commission has recommended that government take control of all the principal stock yards, cold-storage plants and warehouses and of refrigerator and cattle cars, in order to destroy the monopoly which it declares is exercised by Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Morris & Co., Wilson & Co., Inc., and the Cudahy Packing company. The commission accuses these concerns of illegally and oppressively controlling and manipulating the meat and other food supplies of the nation, and of profiteering.

General Pershing is a man of few words, and when he says, "Germany will be conquered," we believe he has a bunch.

RED CROSS HELPS CHILDREN

One of the Principal Activities of the Society in War Zone in France.

Washington.—There are 20,000 children in France, at the present time, receiving American Red Cross assistance, according to a cablegram just received from the Paris headquarters of the Red Cross. Complete medical care is being extended to 700 of this army of children while dispensary medical care claims 3,000 patients. Orphans and other children who are aided by the Red Cross directly or indirectly, number 20,000. Five hundred children per day, for instance, receive medical attention at Evian, the point of repatriation for nationals of France who are being returned from behind the German lines.

The relief of suffering among children, with the care and education of destitute children, embraces one of the principal activities of the American Red Cross abroad. At one point in the war zone in France a children's refuge and hospital has been opened, where several hundred children have been gathered together just to keep them out of danger of gas and shell fire. At another point among the wrecked villages there is a medical center and a traveling dispensary sufficient to look after 1,200 children.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Kalamazoo—John Thayer, farmer, is out on $500 bail for making disloyal remarks.

Monroe—Prohibition fines here amounted to $5,020 between July 24 and August 7.

Ann Arbor—Enrico Caruso will open the U. of M. Choral Union concert series October 19.

Lapeer—Amenzo Hoard, 91 years old, Civil War veteran and second boy born in Macomb county, is dead.

Battle Creek—The food administration is holding a car of smutted wheat owned by the King Seed Co., of this city.

Petoskey—C. F. Miller, former resident, was accidentally killed at Pasadena, Cal., by the discharge of a revolver he was cleaning.

Big Rapids—Former Rep. George A. Loud, of Bay City, declared his support of Roosevelt for President in 1920 at a military banquet here.

Port Huron—Rain in St. Clair and counties in the Thumb district recently has saved thousands of dollars worth of beans and potatoes.

Ferndale—This village is considering restrictions on the speed of D. U. R. interurbans following the refusal of the company to establish two new stops here.

Saginaw—Rev. Fr. John Cook, pastor of St. Elizabeth's Catholic church, Reese, will leave his week for Camp Taylor, Ky., to become an army chaplain. The members of the parish presented him with a purse.

Muskegon—Robert White, 37 years old, was instantly killed Friday when the motor truck which he was driving as an employe of the Continental Motors corporation was struck by a Pere Marquette passenger train.

Grand Rapids—Joseph Kotz, 41 years old, a resident of Chicago, suffered a fracture of the skull and other injuries when the automobile he was driving colliding with another machine on the Division road near the city limits.

Muskegon—Mrs. William Heap, wife of a Grand Haven manufacturer, who resided in this city many years, is dead. She was twice president of the Muskegon Woman's club, a leader in local Y. W. C. A. work and an active worker in the Michigan Art league.

Benton Harbor—After preparing his bath at the Hotel Benton, L. H. McDaniel, of Chicago, Ill., a representative of the White Motor Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, dropped dead of apoplexy. McDaniel had just returned from the city hall, where he addressed the council on fire equipment.

Albion—The Starr Commonwealth boys of this city have furnished another of their number to fight for their country. Raymon Chappell, of the home, has just been accepted for service in the aviation corps and assigned to Rockford Field, Cal. Six of the boys on the Commonwealth are with the colors.

Pontiac—Walter Syzenkerak, former Detroit saloonkeeper arrested near Novi for having a supply of liquor, will have an examination in justice court August 29. He was released on $500 bail. The wine, liquor and beer confiscated in a raid on his house is valued at $2,500. It will be dumped into the sewer.

Albion—The weight of 1,200 bushels of rye and oats caused the barn of Hibbard Howard, northwest of this city, to collapse just as the last load of grain was being brought in from the threshing machine. The men were able to back out in safety from the barn, but a horse, two horses and a cow in the basement below were crushed to death.

Port Huron—The Foundation company, Port Huron, shipyard, incorporated, has begun preparations for the construction of 10 steel seagoing tugs, each 150 feet long, 27 feet beam and 16 feet deep, for the United States shipping board emergency fleet corporation. The boats will be finished by the middle of April. Six hundred more employes are needed at once for this government contract.

Muskegon—With five children, three sons and two daughters, enlisted in the United States service, and a sixth, a son, employed in an aeroplane factory where he is engaged in turning out parts for aircrafts, Mrs. Louis H. Kantz, of this city, is the champion war mother of Muskegon. Two sons are in the navy, one in the aviation service and the two daughters are in the naval reserve as yeomanettes.

Lansing—Members of draft boards are to be exempt in the new 18 to 46 draft, it was announced recently by Colonel Dersey, upon advices from Washington. They are to be considered as already in the military service. Certification by the adjutant general or governor will be necessary just as is now required from any government employe, through the head of department in which he is located.

Traverse City—The Northwestern Michigan War conference have passed resolutions pledging the full and unimpeded forces of this state and its resources to the government, demanding prosecution of the war with no compromised peace, indorsing the plan for fixing just and equitable quotas for counties in Liberal campaigns favoring the erection of a community house at Camp Custer by state war board, to be operated at state expense, to accommodate visitors at Camp Custer at a minimum expense.

Pontiac—A determined effort is being made to settle the injunction suit brought by residents of West Bloomfield township to test the constitutionality of the Covert road act. The Michigan state highway commission has sent a representative here to look into the matter because the case is tying up Covert road construction all over Michigan. It is said that 2,000 miles of roads for which bonds had been put on the market are stopped because bond houses are awaiting the outcome of the suits now pending in the courts.

Big Rapids—Lieutenant E. W. Minter has gone to Fort Sheridan.

Big Rapids—Rev. J. A. Golden, K. of C. chaplain, is reported safe in France.

Hastings—George Vandewalker, of Kalamazoo, paid a fine of $23.95 for using a set line, in fishing in lower Crooked Lake.

Port Huron—The ground upon which the old city opera house block stood for years, was sold at public auction for $300 per foot.

Port Huron — Kimball township farmers will have as their guests on August 21, Governor Sleeper, Henry Ford and Chase S. Osborn.

Bay City—Montiville Hale, 22 years old, bookkeeper for the Thorne Electric company, used chloroform to put himself to sleep. He was found dead in bed.

Albion—The Albion Vigilance corps has taken up a plan proposed by factory men, for every laboring man in the city to work Labor day and give the proceeds to the Red Cross.

Flint—Fred Kavesky, of Flint, reported severely wounded in action, has been sought by the local draft board as a draft delinquent. The board did not know Kavesky was in service.

Albion—The village of Springport turned out over 1,000 strong for the town's annual picnic at Duck Lake Friday. Capt. W. B. Pullinger, for two years on the French front, spoke.

Muskegon—George H. Knutson, a Muskegon young man, is now a consulting engineer in the purchasing division of the emergency fleet corporation, with headquarters at Philadelphia.

Petoskey—Thomas Gordon, Jr., of Howell, Mich., president of the Bay View Camp Ground association, was re-elected to the board of trustees for three years at the annual election in Bay View.

Grand Rapids—James Heyt, 14, a cash boy at the Boston Department store here, walked into an elevator shaft at the store, Saturday, fell five stories and was so badly injured that he died on the way to a hospital.

Big Rapids—Three Mecosta young women have enrolled in the student nurse reserve in the preferred class. They are Mrs. George E. Hurst and Miss Hazel Bricksner of this city and Miss Ruby Pangborn of Lakeview.

Grand Rapids—Governor Sleeper, to fix war fund quotas, has appointed E. J. Buhard, Detroit; Otto S. Severeign, Bay City; W. G. Orvill, Saginaw; Carl Young, Muskegon; Felix Flynn, Cadillac; J. H. Rice, Houghton; Charles H. Bender, Grand Rapids.

Holland—Ptomaine poisoning in a serious form recently developed at the home of Mrs. J. C. Melisky, near Saugatuck, where a party of Chicago people are being entertained. Mrs. Melisky, 10 years old and a child were victims. Three still are very ill.

Reed City—Reed City has had three fires in less than four days. The dining quarters of the Seventh Day Adventists camp burned to the ground. Boys using matches set the Evangelical church on fire and then the Dell Watkins lumber mill suffered a loss.

Coldwater—Fire started by an exploding lantern destroyed a big grain barn on the Shoemaker farm near Coldwater with all the summer's crops and much farm machinery. The farm was occupied by H. R. Clouse, who loses all the proceeds of his summer's work.

Iron Mountain—William Osterberg, 19 years old, of Norway, was drowned in Hamilton lake while bathing. He dove from a raft and his head became stuck in the mud and he failed to come to the surface. Two friends tried to rescue him, one nearly meeting a like fate.

Adrian—The annual budget for the Lenawee Patriotic league has been over-subscribed by more than $19,000 and all the townships of the county have not yet reached their quotas. The Lenawee patriotic league was the first of its kind in the United States, it is believed here.

Petoskey—Thirty Harbor Springs young men of army enlistment age surrendered to the appeals of a company of pretty Petoskey girls, who made a recruiting rally in that village for Sergt. Kent of the Petoskey army recruiting station. The young women are visiting all northern Michigan points.

Saginaw—Theodore N. Eller, a traveling salesman, died at St. Mary's hospital as a result of an accident which he suffered in Flushing. Eller was cranking his auto when it started, jamming him against another machine and tearing about six inches of bone from his right leg. Mr. Eller served as justice of the peace here for six years.

Holland—Recent deaths of Mrs. Leuntje Dekker, at Zeeland, and Mrs. T. M. Vandenbosh, at Holland, have brought to light the coincidence they were born in the Netherlands, in cities five miles apart and their deaths occurred in cities in western Michigan five miles apart. They died from the same disease within three days of each other, and now are buried in the same cemetery.

Muskegon—The state convention of the Michigan Council of Carpenters elected James Charbrool, of Detroit, president. Other officers are: Raymond Wanzo, Kalamazoo, vice-president; J. E. Whittaker, Jackson, secretary and treasurer; William Gessnea, Mogroe, and C. S. Wattlauffer, Saginaw, members of executive board. For the first time in the history of the organization, a woman, Mrs. Retta Reyms, Battle Creek, attended the convention as a delegate. The 1918 convention will be held in Kalamazoo.

Albion—Harold Hartwig, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hartwig, of this city, met instant death when he was electrocuted on the third rail of the Michigan railway on a bridge one mile east of the city. With other boys the lad had been swimming in the Kalamazoo river, and had dressed and left his bathing suit on the fence. When in the middle of the bridge he slipped and fell, with his heels on the car rail and chest over the third rail. His clothing was burned from his body and his chest was burned to a crisp.