FIGHT OR WORK, CROWDER'S ORDER

Ball Players, Bartenders, Golfers, Clerks, Gamblers, Must Find Useful Employment.

ACTORS ON EXEMPTED LIST

Sweeping Edict, Effective July 1, to Make Nation Efficient in War, Takes Registrants Out of the Deferred Class.

Bulletin.

Washington, May 23. — General Crowder's new "work-or-fight" regulations may require professional baseball players either to engage in some useful occupation or to join the army. Baseball players, as well as jockeys, professional golfers and other professional sportsmen, General Crowder said today, will be affected by the regulations if strictly enforced. General Crowder said he did not desire to make specific rulings at this time and would make rulings only when cases came to him from local boards after July 1.

Bulletin.

Washington, May 23.—Theatrical performers have been excepted from the new draft regulations at the direction of Secretary Baker, who is said to feel that the people cannot do without all amusement in war time and that other amusements could be dispensed with more readily.

THESE ARE HIT IN ORDER TO FIGHT OR WORK.

Idlers.
Gamblers.
Bucket shop employees.
Race track attendants.
Clairvoyants and the like.
Professional golfers.
Professional baseball players (probably).
Elevator operators at clubs and stores.
Club and hotel doormen.
Waiters in hotels and clubs.
Ushers in theaters.
Attendants at sports.
Persons in domestic service.
Clerks in stores.
Specially Exempt.
Actors.

Washington, May 23.—Provost Marshal General Crowder today announced that every man of draft age must work or fight after July 1. The order is under a drastic amendment to the selective service regulations. All draft registrants, besides idlers, in what are held to be nonuseful occupations, will be given an opportunity before local boards to choose a new job or join the army.

Gamblers, race track and bucket shop attendants and fortune tellers head the list, but those who will be reached by the new regulation also include waiters and bartenders, theater ushers and attendants, passenger elevator operators and other attendants of clubs, hotels, stores, etc., domestics and clerks in stores.

Deferred classification granted on account of dependents will be disregarded entirely in applying the rule. A man may be at the bottom of class 1, or even in class 4, but if he fails within the regulation and refuses to take useful employment he will be given a new number in class 1 that will send him into the military service forthwith. Local boards are authorized to use discretion only where they find that enforced change of employment would result in disproportionate hardship upon his dependents.

May Solve the Labor Problem.

The statement of the provost marshal general's office is as follows:

"Provost Marshal General Crowder today announced an amendment to the selective service regulations which deals with the great question of compelling men not engaged in a useful occupation immediately to apply themselves to some form of labor, contributing to the general good. The idler, too, will find himself confronted with the alternative of finding suitable employment or entering the army.

"This regulation provides that after July 1, any registrant who is found by a local board to be a habitual idler or not engaged in some useful occupation shall be summoned before the board, given a chance to explain and, in the absence of a satisfactory explanation, to be inducted into the military service of the United States.

"Any local board will be authorized to take action, whether it has an original jurisdiction of the registrant or not; in other words, any man loafing around a poolroom in Chicago may be held to answer to a Chicago board even though he may have registered in New York and lived there most of his life.

"The regulations which apply to idle registrants will be deemed to apply also to gamblers of all description and employees and attendants of bucket-shops and race tracks, fortune tellers, clairvoyants, palmists and the like, who for the purpose of the regulations shall be considered as idlers.

"The new regulation will also affect the following classes:

"(a) Persons engaged in the serving of food and drink, or either, in public places, including hotels and social clubs.

"(b) Passenger elevator operators and attendants, doormen, footmen and other attendants of clubs, hotels, stores, apartment-houses, office buildings and bathhouses.

"(c) Persons, including ushers and other attendants, engaged and occupied in, and in connection with, games, sports and amusements, excepting actual performers in legitimate concerts, operas or theatrical performance.

"(d) Persons employed in domestic service.

"(e) Sales clerks and other clerks employed in stores and other mercantile establishments.

"Men who are engaged as above or who are idlers will not be permitted to seek relief because of the fact that they have drawn a later order number or because they have been placed in class II, III or IV on the grounds of dependency. The fact that he is not usefully employed will outweigh both of the above conditions.

"It is expected that the list of nonuseful occupations will be extended from time to time as necessity will require so as to include persons in other employments.

"Temporary absences from regular employment not to exceed one week, unless such temporary absences are habitual and frequent, shall not be considered as idleness. Regular vacations will not be considered as absences in this connection.

"The regulation further provides that where such a change of employment would compel the night employment of women under circumstances which a board might deem unsuitable for such employment of women the board may take such circumstances into consideration in making its decision.

General Crowder Explains Plan.

Explaining the new regulation and the necessity for it, General Crowder said:

"The war has so far disorganized the normal adjustment of industrial man power as to prevent the enormous industrial output and national organization necessary to success.

"There is a popular demand for organization of man power, but no direct draft could be imposed at present.

"Steps to prohibit idleness and noneffective occupation will be welcomed by our people.

"We shall give the idlers and men not effectively employed the choice between military service and effective employment. Every man, in the draft age at least, must work or fight.

"This is not alone a war or military maneuver. It is a deadly contest of industries and mechanics.

Must Copy German Machine.

"Germany must not be thought of as merely possessing an army, we must think of her as having an army—an army in which every factory and loom in the empire is a recognized part in a complete machine running night and day at terrific speed. We must make of ourselves the same sort of effective machine.

"It is not enough to ask what would happen if every man in the nation turned his hand to effective work. We must make ourselves effective. We must organize for the future. We must make vast withdrawals for the army and immediately close up the ranks of industry behind the gap with an accelerating production of every useful thing in necessary measure. How is this to be done?

"The answer is plain. The first step toward the solution of the difficulty is to prohibit engagement by able-bodied men in the field of hurtful employment, idleness or ineffectual employment, and thus induce and persuade the vast wasted excess into useful fields.

"The very situation we are now considering, however, offers great possibilities in the development of the draft as well as great possibilities for the composition of the labor situation by effective administration of the draft. Considering the selective service law, we see two principal causes of detriment of the call to military service—exemption and the order numbers assigned by lot.

Exemptions in Two Categories.

"The exemptions themselves fall into two conspicuous categories—dependency and industrial employment. One protects domestic relations, the other the economic interests of the nation. Between the two there is an inevitable hiatus, for it is demonstrably true that thousands, if not millions, of dependency exemptions have no effect of industrial protection whatever.

"In one of the unanswerable criticisms of the draft has been that it takes men from the farms and from all useful employments and marches them past crowds of idlers and loafers to the army. The remedy is simple—to couple the industrial basis with other grounds for exemption and to require that any man pleading exemption on any ground shall also show that he is contributing effectively to the industrial welfare of the nation."

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Chinese alphabet consists of 214 letters.

Oil has been discovered at Bell Island, Newfoundland.

Ecuador has a tree producing berries which can be used as soap.

Only a third of South America's population is of pure white blood.

In 1656 New York city, then New Amsterdam and ruled by the Dutch, had 1,000 inhabitants, 120 houses and 17 streets.

To keep office building elevators running on a schedule and relieve their power plants of overloads an electrically operated signal device has been invented.

An Indiana inventor's coupling for pump rods makes it possible to change a pump from hand to mechanical operation with the change of a single bolt.

For the use of railroad car inspectors a metal danger signal has been invented that locks itself to a rail automatically and cannot be unlocked except with a key carried by the man it protects.

Apparatus using electrically produced ozone has been invented by a Paris scientist for quickly purifying the interior of barrels used in breweries.

An oven has been invented to utilize for baking the smoke and hot gases that ordinarily would pass out of a chimney from a residence heating plant.

The cherry gets its name from Cerasos, an old Greek town on the Black sea, whence came the first garden cherries known to Europe.

A camera has been invented that projects as well as makes motion pictures and uses a broad piece of film on which the pictures appear in rows instead of a long ribbon.

British interests are experimenting with rubber seeds from the Maya states which contain about 42 per cent of a drying oil that is a good substitute for linseed oil.

The largest watch in the world, built as an advertisement, is 17 inches in diameter and weighs 115 pounds, while the smallest is but seven-tenths of an inch across and weighs less than one eighth of a Troy ounce.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Jackson—One hundred and fifty inmates of Jackson prison have purchased $1,850 war savings stamps. Acting Warden Edward Frensdorf says that the end is not yet.

Grand Rapids.—Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a huge pile of straw at the American Box Board company. The loss is estimated at nearly $50,000. The straw pile was 300 feet long, 70 feet wide and 60 feet high.

Lansing—On Monday, July 8, election of district school trustees will be held in 8,500 district school houses in Michigan. On the same day in all of these schoolhouses patriotic mass meetings will be held at which prominent orators will be asked to speak.

Lansing.—Dr. George W. Dunphy, state veterinarian, sees no difficulty in producing brayless mules for army service. A simple operation, the removal of the vocal cords, would turn the trick with no decrease in the ability of the animals, says Dr. Dunphy.

Lansing.—Federal Food Administrator Prescott has stated that unless the situation as pertains to wheat, flour and sugar shows marked improvement during the next two or three months, the use of these staples will positively be prohibited to concessionaires in the dispensing refreshments this year at fairs.

Kalamazoo—Carl Stewart, 15 years old, was drowned in Kalamazoo river just south of the city Sunday afternoon when a boat in which he and his four brothers were crossing the stream capsized. Stewart's body was recovered. The other occupants of the boat saved themselves by clinging to the limbs and bushes which hung over the river.

Port Huron.—The angle in the state game and fish law which prevented St. Clair river fishermen from marketing their catch of wall-eyed pike, commonly known as pickerel, was cleared May 21, when Game Warden John Baird notified Deputy Game Warden Henry Radtke, not to interfere with fishermen, but to permit them to market their catch.

Battle Creek.—Gov. Sleeper in an address before the Rotary club here said that Michigan was not only sending men and food to France, but is also furnishing iron ore and copper vitally needed by the allies, shipping automobiles and trucks in large numbers, furnishing salt and doing some other things that should materially help in winning the war.

Lansing.—Registration cards to be filled out June 5, by young men who have attained 21 since the registration one year ago, have been received at the office of Adjutant General Colonel John S. Bersey, and are being distributed to local boards. With one or two minor changes, the registration cards are similar to those used at the general registration a year ago.

Ann Arbor.—Miss Helen Fraser, of England, speaking here on "What women must do to help win the war," said that more than 7,000,000 women in England were doing war work. One third of them had never worked before. She declared that women in many instances ran war plants, making airships, dreadnaughts and munitions with little aid from men.

Lansing.—The saving for food of at least three per cent of the total wheat and small grain crop of the country, ordinarily lost in threshing, is to be attempted by a special threshing division of the federal food administration. Under the general direction of Capt. Kenneth D. Hequembourg, U. S. R., with headquarters in New York, county organizations will be made to assist and advise farmers. More careful methods and better mechanical conditions will be used to effect the saving.

Alma.—Albert Elchorn, May 21 started on a life term at Marquette prison for the murder here last September of pretty 17- year-old Beatrice Epler, of Alma, who was found dead in a road in front of her home, having been strangled to death by Eichorn during a struggle for her honor in a house of ill repute, where, the state charges, she was lured by Mrs. Inez Johnson, Eichorn and Joseph Brennan, a third actor. Two hours and fifteen minutes the jury was in session before reporting.

Flint—Fire destroyed the meat market of Roy McQueen, at Flushing, early Sunday morning, with a loss of $5,000, partly insured. The building was owned by John Farthing and was one of the oldest in the village. It was the first serious blaze Flushing has experienced in the last few months. A few hours later, during a severe electrical storm which swept the whole country, the farm home of George Sutton, near Flushing, was struck by lightning and burned, only a small part of the contents being saved. The loss is $4,000.

Owosso.—Dr. A. M. Hume, of Owosso, president of the Michigan State Medical society, says that 624 Michigan physicians have been commissioned for war service, while the government is calling for 100 more for the army and 50 for the navy by July 1. He predicts that the plan for an army of 3,000,000 will bring a call for 750 more before the close of the year. An existing shortage of physicians at home would not be so acute, Dr. Hume says, if the graduating classes of the medical colleges were up to the numerical standard.

Lansing.—Notwithstanding suggestions to that end, it can be reliably stated there is but a remote possibility of an extra session of the legislature to so remedy election laws that the votes of the soldiers in France can be taken for this summer's primary or this fall's election. Congressman Carl Mapes, of Grand Rapids, is the latest advocate of an extra session and he has wired a long request to Governor Sleeper. This was the first intimation that the question to remedy election laws was under discussion in government circles.

Petoskey—Frank Clement, an upper peninsula woodsman, has been convicted of selling whisky and paid a fine of $50 in court at St. Ignace. Alex. Gustafson, to whom Clement sold the Whisky, was fined $27.50.

Monroe—The bid of Spitzer Rohrig & Co., Toledo, for the $200,000 county road bonds, was accepted here Saturday, it being the best of 20 bids submitted. The bonds carry 5 per cent interest and brought a $30 premium. They are to run 10 years.

Ann Arbor.—A committee of 10 faculty members of the University of Michigan is communicating with Detroit manufacturers to find out in what line trained women can be used, with a view to establishing university courses in which to prepare them.

Ann Arbor.—Lieut. Lozey William, assistant professor of military science and tactics at the University of Michigan, received orders from the war department to report to Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., to take the chair of military science and tactics.

Flint.—Pontiac was selected by the Grand Encampment and Patriarchs Militant of the Michigan I. O. O. F. for the 1919 convention, at closing of session May 22. Battle Creek also put in a strong bid for the meeting, at which the I. O. O. F. centennial is to be celebrated.

Pontiac.—A. W. Willson and M. R. Blair, Royal Oak township officers convicted of fraud and neglect of official duties, has entered a stay of sentence until June 4 to enable the court to investigate legal points raised. An effort was made to get sentence deferred until the supreme court can pass on appeals.

Lansing.—The food administration will issue within the next week rules and regulations for the storage and distribution of butter and cheese based largely on discussions at a recent conference of butter and cheese dealers with food administration officials in Washington, according to Food Administrator Prescott.

Flint.—The Flint council has granted permission to Michigan Light company to increase the rate charged consumers from 85 cents to $1 a 1,000 feet of gas at the same time fixing the standard number of heat units at a maximum of 600, a minimum of 540, and fixing a penalty of $100 a day for every day in which the gas falls below the minimum for three five-minute periods.

Mt. Clemens.—Clarence J. Crosby, a bell boy at the Sherman hotel, is the first drowning victim this season. With another boy, Amos Bruery, he went to the old Swimming hole at the Cadet brick yard, was seized with cramps and young Bruery, unable to swim, could give no assistance. Crosby was 16 years old, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Crosby, South Gratiot road.

Washington.—Ensign Stephen Potter, U. S. naval reserves, of Detroit, Mich., was killed April 25 in desperate combat with seven German seaplanes over the North sea the committee on public information announced May 22. Potter and a companion battled gallantly against the V-shaped flying wedge of the Teutons and quit only when his machine, in flames, crashed into the sea.

Albion—The Calhoun county Y. M. C. A. has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Geo. Dean, Albion; vice-president, E. B. Stuart, Marshall; treasurer, I. G. Carver, Marshall; secretary, Fred Richey, Albion. C. E. Ackley, former secretary, has been named a state secretary and his place will be taken July 1 by Deyeo Leland, former principal of the high school at Traverse City.

Grand Rapids.—J. Alexander, 21 years old, of Grand Rapids, a member of the Lafayette Escadrille, is dead in France, injuries suffered in an airplane accident May 8. His father, James Bayne, has received a cablegram from French authorities announcing the death. Bayne had been flying with the Escadrille several months and was planning to be transferred to the American flying corps.

Lansing.—Upon information from Washington, Adjt. Gen. Col. John S. Bersey is advising all local and district draft boards not to induct into military service registrants having hernias of any kind. Those having foot conditions which interfere with weight bearing or with wearing military shoes, or those having teeth below present dental requirements, whether remediable or not, are also barred from army service.

Big Rapids.—An ordinance increasing fixed salaries has been passed by the city commission. The pay of City Manager Willits was raised $100, making it $1,500 a year. The pay of City Clerk Carter was brought up $50, making it $900. City Treasurer Macarrie's pay is also increased $50, making it $770. Others were raised accordingly. Day laborers will get $2.40 and a man with a team $2.75 per day. At the same meeting it was also decided to investigate the raise in the price of ice.

Adrian.—Members of the Lenawee county Grange and of the several cooperative companies throughout Lenawee county have sent a notice to W. K. Prudden, state fuel administrator, that they will be willing to supply the people of Lenawee with coal during the coming season on a margin of from $1 to $1.75. Their highest figure is 50 cents lower than the margin allowed Adrian city dealers by the fuel administration and they say they can supply the communities outside the city at a margin of $1.00 per ton.

Lansing.—Wayne county and the state of Michigan will shortly divide about $46,000, covering a portion of the peculations of Tony Kloka from the Wayne county treasurer's office. An agreement with the insurance companies on Kloka's bonds for this sum has about been completed. Attorney General Groesbeck and Prosecutor Jaenowski made the deal. Kloka's proven peculations amounted to approximately $52,000, but of this $6,000 occurred after it was admitted that some of the county officers knew he was stealing money.

ZONE SYSTEM FOR ARMY'S PURCHASES

TERRITORY HAS BEEN ALLOTTED TO EACH OF THIRTEEN GENERAL SUPPLY DEPOTS.

ORDNANCE EQUIPMENT READY

Every Soldier Leaving for France Has Been Fully Outfitted — American Merchants Take Over the Interests of German Fur Men.

(From Committee on Public Information.)

Washington.—A zone system for the apportionment of purchases throughout the United States and to facilitate distribution has been established by the quartermaster department. Territory has been allotted to each of 13 general supply depots. The general supply depot quartermasters are charged with the duty of ascertaining the manufacturing possibilities of their zones. On the basis of reports along this line forwarded to the acting quartermaster general, food and equipment for troops at the different camps will be purchased within the zone in which the camp is located.

Formerly nearly all of a particular class of supplies was purchased through a single general supply depot. Other articles were obtained through other supply depots. Manufacturers in sections distant from the particular supply depot buying their goods were at a disadvantage and were unable to compete with rivals nearer the point. Under the new system most classes of supplies will be purchased through each of the 13 depots, and manufacturers will be able to transact their business through the depots nearest them.

Each general supply depot quartermaster besides ascertaining production facilities within his zone is instructed to recommend to the quartermaster general's office the employment of such producers as are in his judgment qualified to fulfill contracts. Each depot is expected to keep informed as to market conditions and spot goods located in the zone, and when shortages occur submit recommendations for purchase of articles which may be obtained within the zone.

Purchases are to be made after advertisement by open competitive bidding when time will permit. In emergency cases competition is desired whenever possible. The record of bids received and awards made will be open to public inspection.

The army ordnance department has thus far met every demand imposed by the new program for overseas shipment of American troops, according to a statement by the department. Despite the great acceleration in the sending of American forces to France, no infantryman goes aboard ship without a United States model 1917 rifle (modified Enfield), bayonet, belt, haversack, pack carrier, bandoleers, bayonet scabbard, and full mess equipment.

Tonnage is today a limiting factor in the shipment of complete munitions overseas, especially because of the present necessity of increasing the transport of infantry regiments.

Sufficient supplies of artillery—French 75-millimeters and 155-millimeters and American heavy railway artillery—are already in France to meet the present demand. Sufficient machine guns are also immediately available for American forces in France.

A Canadian order in council provides that no person, with the exception of manufacturers of flour, bakers, confectioners, wholesale or retail dealers, or persons living at a greater distance than two miles from a licensed dealer, shall hold or have in his possession or under his control more flour, made wholly or in part from wheat, than is sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding 15 days.

Anyone living at a distance greater than two miles and less than five miles from a licensed dealer may hold or control flour made wholly or in part from wheat up to an amount sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding 30 days. Anyone living more than five and less than ten miles from a licensed dealer may have sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period not exceeding 60 days. Anyone living more than ten miles from such a dealer may have sufficient for his ordinary requirements for a period up to 120 days.

Any wholesale or any retail dealer licensed by the Canadian food board may not hold flour made wholly or in part from wheat in excess of a quantity sufficient for his ordinary trade requirements for a period exceeding 60 days.

The regulation regarding sugar parallels this save in the last clause. Manufacturers, wholesalers, or retailers may not have more sugar than is required for a period exceeding 45 days.

The Swiss federal government has by decree fixed the maximum price at which farmers may sell cattle for slaughter as well as the prices at which various qualities of butchers' meat may be retailed. Farmers may demand no more than 2.6 cents per pound for first-class fat beef cattle. The price applies to cattle sold on the farm. If sold in a city or other distant market cost of transportation may be added.

With the exception of sirloin and fillet cuts, retailers may ask no more than 40 cents per pound for beef.

According to a statement by the department of agriculture, there has been an actual shortage of more than 2,000,000 tons of sugar annually since the war began. Prior to the war practically all the belligerent countries except the United Kingdom and Italy exported sugar, the total amount being more than 3,000,000 tons. In 1918 it is estimated that the allies must import a minimum of 1,200,000 tons.

Peru was the first country to add instruction in aviation to its public school curriculum.

Arrangements are being completed by which the interests of German fur men, amounting to several millions of dollars, will be purchased by American merchants and the money thus paid turned into the treasury.

Before the war broke in Europe, according to a statement issued by the alien property custodian, the trade of American furriers was practically nothing but a collecting and shipping agency for the Germans. Almost every pelt taken by American trappers went to Leipzig before it could be sold. Although London was the world's market, three-quarters of the fur shipped to London from America, Russia, and even China, went to Leipzig for dressing and dyeing.

The Leipzig dressers and dyers were recognized as the best in the world. Each year after the fur was prepared and German merchants had fixed the price, Americans were allowed to purchase as much as one-fifth of the year's output for manufacture into garments, but in so doing they were forced to pay the original cost, expense of dressing and dyeing, a big profit to the Germans, and a 20 per cent duty, before the furs were returned to America.

The war deprived Germany of the chance to purchase fur in London, and limited the supply from America—now also entirely cut off.

According to the Leipzig correspondent of a Christiania newspaper, the Leipzig spring fair showed exhibits of many substitutes and surrogates which have been placed on the market in Germany. Descriptions of some of these have been received by the United States chamber of commerce:

A surrogate for pepper is offered for sale which, judged only by its appearance, seems almost the same as real pepper. The color, odor and taste have been surprisingly well imitated.

A tea is shown to which the name of "German tea" has been given. It is prepared from any one or a combination of a great variety of plants, from strawberry leaves to linden blossoms. It is said to taste very much like genuine tea, but even a half dozen cups will not produce the stimulation caused by a single cup of real tea.

There are any number of surrogates for marmalades. Most of them are prepared from garden vegetables instead of from fruits, with a minimum amount of sugar.

Substitute soap is offered for sale, which is said to have been prepared from the oil in berries and from pumice stone. It lacks, however, the one main characteristic of soap, that of working up into a rich, creamy lather; otherwise it is very good. Substitutes are also to be had for laundry bluing.

Substitute bicycle tires are sometimes made of two concentric iron rings with small springs between them. They are very serviceable on asphalt pavements, but are not exactly as noiseless nor as easy riding as genuine rubber tires.

A large number of articles offered for sale had been prepared largely or entirely from paper—coarse working clothes for men and women, blouses, aprons, and other fabrics. There were paper belts which seemed capable of driving heavy machinery.

Many artificial and substitute leathers were noticed. Brass and copper articles were not seen, and attempts were made to place substitutes on the market in the form of plated wares.

A committee on public information representative in London says:

London has never heard of a baseball season before, but will get its chance this year when the American baseball league gets its schedule of games well underway. There are eight American and Canadian teams recruited from various organizations stationed in London, with games scheduled for each Saturday during the summer.

The thousands of American soldiers who may pass through London, or be invalided or spend leave here, are in a fair way to be made to feel that England is the next best place to home and that English hearts are kept warm for them.

"Make England the Sammy's blighty," is the way the English press puts it in urging readers to entertain the American troops. "Blighty" is the war word for everything the soldier wants in intervals of his fighting work; the place where friends, recreation, and homelike comfort await him.

The Weekly Dispatch recently called for suggestions for a public entertainment to be offered American soldiers and an instant response made thousands of dollars available for amusements and entertainments. The idea that found greatest favor, however, was to throw open the homes of the nation to the Sammies.

An officer commanding an American squadron operating with the British fleet has reported on a late inspection and speaks in high terms of the present state of efficiency in which he finds both ships and men.

"Vessels show the most gratifying improvement in battery and fire control," he said. "Our ships are smart, spick and span, and have been recipients of many high compliments from British flag officers."

Prior to the war the treasury prepared approximately $50,000 checks annually for the payment of interest on registered bonds of all loans, the issue of these 150,000 checks being distributed through the year. In the May payment of interest on registered bonds of the second Liberty loan more than twice that number of checks were prepared.

More than 2,000,000 members of American fighting forces are now insured by the United States government.

Making It Work Both Ways.

Mr. Slowjay—"I shall bring you back those dark trousers to be reseated, Mr. Murphy. You know, I sit a good deal." Murphy (tailor)—"All right, and if you'll bring back the bill I sent you six months ago I'll be pleased to receipt that also. You know, I have stood a good deal."

Testing Pineapples.

The ripeness of a pineapple may be tested by pulling its leaves. If they do not pluck readily the pineapple is not ready to be used.

GERMANS RENEW VIOLENT ATTACK ON 25 MILE FRONT

FRANCO-BRITISH TROOPS RETIRED TO SECOND LINE TRENCHES METHODICALLY IN PERFECT ORDER

GERMANS PAY FEARFUL DEATH TOLL TO PUSH ALLIES BACK

Americans Repulse Strong Hostile Raiding Party in the Woevre Sector; U. S. Aviator Downs German Aeroplane.

Paris—A battle of extreme violence was engaged from the region of Vauxillon to the outskirts of Brimont (Rheims sector), says the official report from the war office, May 27.

The enemy at the end of the day had reached the region of Pont Arcy. The Franco-British troops retired methodically and in perfect liaison, making the enemy pay dearly for his futile success.

The text of the statement reads: "The battle continued throughout the day with extreme violence on a front of more than 40 kilometers (about 25 miles), from Vauxillon to the outskirts of Brilont. Masses of the enemy attacked our troops in the first line and pushed ahead without regard for their losses into the valley of the Aisne. Certain of their elements reached at the end of the day the region of Pont Arcy.

"French and British troops, co-operating magnificently, retired methodically and in perfect liaison, making the enemy which were inevitable and assured that foot by foot resistance would prove efficacious.

"The activity of the opposing artillery was maintained on both banks of the Meuse, in the region of St. Mihiel and on the Lorraine front."

British Pressed Back.

London—"On the Locre-Vormezeele front, French troops rejoined the enemy with great loss," was the announcement contained in Field Marshal Haig's official report May 27.

The attack against the sector of Berry au-Bac by the British was partially successful by reason of dense bombardment by gas shells and use of tanks, and after heavy fighting the British on the left were pressed back to prepared positions constituting the second line.

Washington — General Pershing's communique issued Monday says after violent artillery preparation enemy infantry penetrated advanced American positions in Picardy at two points, only to be driven out by counter attacks in which Americans entered the enemy lines. The statement also tells of the repulse of a strong hostile raiding party in the Woevre sector, of hostile gas shell bombardments in Lorraine, and of the downing of a German aeroplane by American aviators.

Troops Boiling Up for Big Battle.

London—The outstanding piece of news in Sunday's official reports, all of which show the armies in the west as "boiling up" for the big battle, is the claim, contained in Berlin's communique, that Americans were captured "west of Montdidier."

It shows Pershing's units, which for sometime have been known to be on the Picardy front, are squarely face to face with the spearhead of the German wedge, threatening Amiens, and that when the next blow is struck by Hindenburg and that great Allied base, American troops will be in the thick of Armageddon's third—perhaps final—round.

Polish Troops Drive Germans Back.

Moscow.—Attempts by the Germans to disarm the Polish troops in the Ukraine and Minsk governments are meeting with fierce resistance.

The Poles entrenched and battled against 15,000 Germans, causing considerable losses among the enemy, but themselves suffering heavily.

The fight continued for several days, when the Germans were driven back, losing a few pieces of artillery.

Will Eliminate Red Tape.

Washington.—Elimination of red tape methods is the purpose of a survey of war department activities undertaken by Colonel Ira L. Reeves, of the inspector general's office, under supervision of Assistant Secretary Crowell. A statement today explaining the investigation said no sweeping changes are contemplated.

Glass Found in Flour.

Adrian.—Another instance of ground glass being found in flour was reported May 24 to Sheriff Nutten by a Lenawee county farmer who found several pieces of broken substance in his bread. Samples of the flour and samples of the bread were brought to this city and put under a microscope and the glass could be plainly seen. At the suggestion of T. M. Joslin county food administrator, some of the flour will be sent to the state chemist at East Lansing for analysis.

Costa Rica Declares War on Teutons.

San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua.—The government of Costa Rica has declared war on the Central powers. The declaration of war by Costa Rica on the Central powers brings the total number of nations aligned against Germany to 21. All of the Central American states now have clearly defined their attitude toward the war, Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala have become belligerents. Honduras has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, San Salvador is neutral.