

BIENNIAL  
REPORT  
OF THE  
ADJUTANT  
GENERAL  
OF  
MINNESOTA

1917-1918

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REPORT  
of the  
ADJUTANT GENERAL's office

of the  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

covering the  
Thirtieth Biennial Period Ending  
December 31, 1918

BRIGADIER GENERAL W. F. RHINOW  
The Adjutant General

VOLUME ONE



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## PERSONNEL OF ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

Brigadier General Walter F. Rhinow.....The Adjutant General  
 Major William C. Garis.....Chief of Staff  
 Major W. A. Curtis (resigned to enter Federal Service).....Chief of Staff  
 Major J. W. Edwards.....Accountant  
 Major H. L. Brady.....Quartermaster Department  
 Major F. E. Krembs (resigned to enter U. S. Army)...Ordnance Department  
 Major H. W. Howland (resigned to enter U. S. Army).....Draft Inspector  
 Major J. P. Snyder.....Chief Executive, Draft Department  
 Captain J. B. Mills.....Administrative Division, Draft Department  
 Captain J. S. Bryant.....Stationery and Supplies, Draft Department  
 Captain A. G. Teuchert.....Delinquent Division, Draft Department  
 Captain Geo. A. Rhame.....Induction Division, Draft Department  
 Captain Harry E. Murphy.....Draft Inspector  
 Captain A. D. Wright (relieved from active duty).Quartermaster Department  
 Lieutenant T. Glenn Harrison.....Intelligence Officer  
 Lieutenant Wm. B. McElveny.....Home Guard Department  
 Sergeant S. H. Cox.....National Guard Records Clerk  
 Sergeant J. B. Le Claire.....Information Clerk  
 Sergeant Jack Dalton (resigned).....Orderly  
 Sergeant Leslie Gillette (discharged to enter U. S. Navy).....Clerk  
 Sergeant H. L. Bowers (resigned).....Military Storekeeping Department  
 Private Karl Wamsted (deceased).....Military Storekeeping Department  
 Private Earl Brady.....Orderly and Driver for General Rhinow  
 Miss A. M. Sullivan.....Stenographer  
 Miss E. C. Cook (resigned to enter other department).....  
 .....Home Guard Department  
 Miss Seraphine Steil.....Stenographer to General Rhinow  
 Miss Emaline Season.....General Orders Clerk  
 Miss Patricia Riley.....Stenographer  
 Miss Effie Elfenbein (resigned).....Stenographer, Draft Department  
 Miss M. M. Kelly.....Stenographer  
 Miss L. Henry.....Multigraph Clerk  
 Miss F. Fisher.....Stenographer  
 Miss Stella Ebert (resigned).....Stenographer  
 Miss Edna Ebert (resigned).....Stenographer  
 Miss Elizabeth Naseth (resigned).....Clerk  
 Miss M. McAndrews.....Stenographer  
 Mrs. Marie Chenery.....Stenographer  
 Mrs. Agnes Budd.....Clerk  
 Mrs. M. H. Corcoran.....Medical Department  
 Miss Glades Glotzbach (resigned).....Clerk  
 Miss A. Edwards.....Multigraph Clerk  
 Mrs. F. Ermekeil (resigned).....Stenographer  
 Veronica Gormley (resigned).....Stenographer  
 Miss Ruth Carmichael (resigned).....Clerk  
 Miss Harriet Jensen (resigned).....Stenographer  
 Miss Bessie Whited (resigned).....Stenographer  
 Miss B. V. Spitalske.....Clerk, Quartermaster Department  
 Miss Lucille Coborn.....Clerk, Quartermaster Department  
 Mrs. Jennie Scanlon.....Stenographer  
 Mr. C. J. Humason.....Pension Department

To His Excellency, the Honorable J. A. A. Burnquist, Governor of Minnesota and Commander-in-Chief of the State Military.

The following report of the activities of the office of the Adjutant General of Minnesota is respectfully presented for your approval. It covers the period from May 5, 1917, on which date I was appointed your military secretary, to December 31, 1918.

As the United States of America had declared a state of war to exist between it and the Imperial Government of Germany, the labors thus thrust upon my department were of huge proportions. You delegated to the Adjutant General's department the burden of the supervision of the Selective Service and the multitudinous details attending it. The Federalization of the National Guard, existing before the war, necessitated the formation of new regiments to replace them together with the formation of a Home Guard for strictly state duty. Two natural calamities smote the people of the state with heavy hand, but due to the speed of which this department is capable, the suffering naturally attendant was materially reduced. Effective remedies were at once applied which relieved the unnatural situation in short order.

Needless to say this work has not been accomplished entirely by me and I desire to commend to your favorable attention the work of those associated with me. The majority of these efficient workers have labored for inhuman stretches of time at tasks which it was imperative should be expedited; their efficiency has at all times been a proven quantity and their loyalty of heroic quality.

Here and in this public manner, I desire to thank the members of my staff and office force, the officers and men of the Minnesota National Guard, the Home Guard and the Motor Corps, the members of the 121 local draft boards, the members of the five district draft boards, the members of the legal advisory and medical advisory boards, the members of the instruction boards and all others who have so courteously and competently assisted this office in the furtherance of my sworn duty to the state of Minnesota.

You will note that the report proper is written in the third person. This style is adopted to facilitate reading and to avoid the use of the personal pronoun.

(Signed) W. F. RHINOW,  
 Brigadier General,  
 Adjutant General of Minnesota.

# THIRTIETH BIENNIAL PERIOD

of the

## ADJUTANT GENERAL

### SELECTIVE SERVICE

#### DEDICATION

Dedicated to the memory of those men from Minnesota who made the supreme sacrifice during the great war of 1914-1918 in order that civilization might live.

There are historical precedents for drafting men into military service, but none of the methods used before had been established and conducted on a scientific, efficient basis until the United States originated and put into effect the "Selective Service" system. In Biblical times when it was necessary to form an army by "draft" only a few conditions were considered as causes for "exemption" from military service. This was occasioned by the simple pastoral life which was led at that time.

Selective  
Service Sys-  
tem a Scien-  
tific One.

In today's complicated commercial life, however, there are conditions which never could have had any bearing on selection for military service in those days, but which are vital to the conduct of war in this age. Then there was no complicated machinery of supply because the troops lived on the land through which they passed, there was no complication of fighting machinery, each warrior carried with him the fighting implements which he was specialized in and when it was considered necessary to erect rams or catapults the material was found nearby the scene of the fight.

War is now a highly specialized business and demands specialized machinery. Workmen skilled in the manufacture of these Martian articles are needed at home to fabricate them. Battles and fighting lines now extend for scores of miles to the one mile in Biblical times. It is manifestly impossible for these millions of troops to subsist on the resources of the country in which they are located and it is needful that they be supplied with the necessities of life. Men behind the lines are essential and it would be folly to send such as these into battle.

War Now a  
Business.

A method whereby these errors of judgment would be eliminated was necessary, so a number of trained men were called into consultation at Washington and after mature deliberation the first general rules and regulations were adopted for the selection of the army of the United States which was to be the answer to the insolent, autocratic domination of Germany. These regulations were changed as it was discovered that there were conditions which they did not fit.

Regulations  
Made Elastic.

There never was any idea at any time to make these regulations rigid because it was expressly announced at the beginning of the draft that it was expected there would be changes necessary and as rapidly as the need for new regulations were discovered they would be promulgated. This policy is what has made the operation of the "Selective Service" the success that it has been.

At the time that this report is being written the so-called "draft troops" have been decisive factors in the successes on the western front. These men, the same that that proponent of frightfulness, Kaiser Wilhelm, spoke so contemptuously of as "a mob of farmers armed with agricultural implements," were the ones who defeated and routed the picked troops of the German Empire. They did it because they had the "fighting spirit" and were well equipped and trained. They knew that the "folks at home" were with them in spirit and were working and praying for their success.

Selective  
Service Well  
Named.

The "Selective Service" was well named. It is in reality a selection process which takes those who should rightly go to war and requests those who should not go to remain at home and "do their bit" there. By this means those who are selected to be a part of the armed forces of the United States are imbued with the idea that they are a vital and essential part of the country and because of their selection are representing the civilized world in its struggle for existence.

Draft Boards  
Greatest  
Factor.

Perhaps the greatest factor in the selection of this immense army is the army of public spirited citizens who have so freely given of their time to serve on the "selection board," or as they have been popularly termed, "draft boards." The time and faithful service these members accorded their draft work has in many instances detrimentally affected their personal businesses. This factor has not deterred them from this work, it has rather acted as an added incentive to more time on the work of the Selective Service.

Working for almost inhuman stretches of time in order to complete as rapidly as possible some immediate, pressing task connected with the furnishing of men for the army, these draft board members would "come up" fresh and smiling and ready for whatever was the next job.

Draft Officials  
Olympian.  
Gods.

Very few of the general public have any conception of the varied and important tasks which constitute a day's work for a member of one of these boards. Yet, if they would only stop to think that on the decision rendered, may have rested the welfare of an entire family or the contentment of an entire neighborhood they would readily discover that the work was of such an important nature that these members might be well considered as "gods of Olympus."

It was an absolutely unique position to place these men in and it was one which required an immense amount of study and attention to detail and unflinching tact if they would so conduct themselves as to cast nothing but credit on the methods employed in the formation of our army. May it be said to the credit of the board members in Minnesota that they have covered themselves with glory and have, like Caesar's wife, been "above suspicion."

At the time that the Selective Service plan was originated there was no idea entertained that it would be necessary to hold four registrations of men in a period of 15 months. Registration of the manhood of the country between the ages of 21 and 31 years was considered at that time to be ample. As the war continued and it became more and more evident that the burden of winning the war would fall heavier and heavier on the United States, discussion of an extension of the age limits began.

It was finally decided on Aug. 31, 1918, to raise the age limit of liability to military service from 21 to 31 years to 18 to 45 years, inclusive. This amendment to the Selective Service law of May 18, 1917, virtually commandeered the entire effective fighting force of the United States and violently disturbed the "Mittel Europa" dream of the German Emperor.

The first registration day was set by Presidential proclamation for June 5, 1917. On that date all males then in the United States (with but very few exceptions) were required to present themselves at the proper registration place for the first step in becoming liable to military service.

Many so-called "authorities" predicted that this registration would be accompanied by serious rioting and disorder. Traitorous organizations, formed and sustained for enemy propaganda work, insidiously spread word among the ignorant that if they would refuse to register no punishment could be given, as it was unconstitutional to force them into military service. Printed "literature" (God save the word) was distributed among the people who belonged to organizations which were composed of the discontented, urging them to resist the draft.

This damnable attempt on the part of the "enemy within" to block the raising of an army to assist in the liberation of the world from the curse of Militarism "died aborning" and a patriotic host of God-fearing and liberty-loving men marched to the registration places and firmly placed their names on the roster of "the Army of Liberty."

June 5, 1917, will go down to history along with July 4, 1776, as a pivotal day in the United States of America. The earlier date was made memorable because of the fact that representatives of 13 disorganized colonies solemnly signed an agreement to resist with the uttermost force a series of injustices perpe-

Four Regis-  
trations in  
Fifteen  
Months.

First Regis-  
tration Day,  
June 5, 1917.

Attempt to  
Foil Regis-  
tration Fail-  
ure.

June 5 Equal  
in Import-  
ance to  
July 4.

trated by an unfair ruler. June 5, 1917, takes its place in history alongside July 4, 1776, because ten million men placed their names on record as being willing to sacrifice all if need be to retain their liberty won at so great a cost to their forefathers

Second and  
Third Regis-  
tration Held.

Rapid absorption into the army of the registrants of the class of 1917, so called, caused a second registration to be held June 5, 1918. This was of the youths who had arrived at the age of 21 years since the first registration, June 5, 1917. These youngsters, who had yet to cast their first vote, manfully assumed the burden of defending that right and by their signature pledged themselves as willing to make the supreme sacrifice for their country.

Events moved so rapidly that before the ink was hardly dry on the signatures of the second registrants another call was made for the youths who had arrived at the age of 21 years since June 5, 1918. This registration was held on August 12, 1918.

Age Limits  
of Liability  
Altered.

In the meanwhile the legislative body of the United States was considering a change in the age limits of those men who were to be made liable for military service. Raising the age to 45 years and lowering it to 18 years was the method finally adopted. After the first gasp of astonishment that the needs of war were so urgent, the potential army of 13 million men settled themselves mentally and prepared to take their places on the "battle line of Freedom."

Registration  
an Impressive  
Scene.

September 12, 1918, was the date set for this registration. Due to their eagerness to register, these men literally swamped the registration places in order to get their names on the lists early. Nothing like it had ever been seen before in the history of the United States. Father and son stood in line together to declare themselves on the question of the war. A number of young grandfathers proudly signed their registration card and announced that "they were young enough and willing enough to do anything that their country might ask of them."

It was a sight never to be forgotten by any who witnessed it, and it is with reverent thanks that the Adjutant General reports THERE WERE SO FEW SLACKERS IN MINNESOTA.

Because of the fact that the choice of an army by this means was an experiment in the annals of American history, not excepting the so-called "draft" of Civil War days, it is the intention in this section of the report to give a chronological and detailed account of the operation of the selection process from its inception until September 15, 1918.

Nominations  
Asked on  
May 8, 1917.

Although the Selective Service act had not yet become a law, under date of May 8, 1917, at the request of the authorities in Washington the Adjutant General's office sent a letter to the sheriff of each county in the state, explaining as much as was

possible concerning the proposed law. Each of these sheriffs was requested to maintain absolute secrecy in the matter in order that premature publicity might not be given.

Two others, in addition to the sheriff, were requested to be named to act as members of the local Selective Service board. The names of these men were to be furnished the Adjutant General's office immediately and a recommendation was also to be made regarding the selection of a registration place in each voting precinct in the county.

This matter received the immediate attention of each of the men addressed and when the Selective Service act was given final approval on May 18, 1917, the Adjutant General's office was notified by telegraph to proceed at once under Federal authority with the organization in county and state of the necessary personnel to handle the selection of soldiers for the army. As most of the selections had been made and were merely awaiting approval of the governor, it was a simple matter to proceed and in a very short time each man who was to serve as a member of the board was notified and ready for service.

Organization  
of Local  
Boards Made  
on May 18,  
1917.

Although copies of the Federal regulations governing the process of registration of all men residing within the territorial limits of the United States or its possessions, between the ages of 21 and 31 years, had been distributed to all the draft officials in the state, it became necessary to supplement these with additional regulations to cover special cases. In answer to scores of inquiries, under date of May 25, the registration officials were notified that "members of any duly organized and recognized military or naval force" were not required to register for the draft. All these organizations were shortly thereafter called into Federal service.

Although every effort was made, it is said, to correct and make perfect the proof sheets prior to final printing of the printed regulations governing the operation of selection of men for the army, a number of errata were unnoticed. Telegraphic addenda were subsequently sent out to all Adjutants General. For a period approximating three months corrections were also mailed to local boards throughout Minnesota.

Telegraphic  
Addenda Sent  
for Three  
Months.

The day before the first "National Registration day" ever held in the United States a telegram from Provost Marshal General Crowder was received specifying that American citizens temporarily or permanently residing in foreign countries could register with the American consul or by mail to this country.

June 5, 1917, by proclamation of President Wilson, was set apart as the day on which all male citizens between the ages of 21 and 31 years were to register for military service. Minnesota registered a total of 222,698 men.



Failure to register was to be considered an offense punishable by one year's confinement in Federal prison, with no alternative of a fine.

Four Days  
Additional  
Granted for  
Registration.

On the day following registration day, June 6, a telegram from General Crowder was received by the Adjutant General's office, announcing that for a few days "a liberal policy should be followed in regard to the registration, subsequent to the prescribed registration day, of those individuals who for any reason were not registered on the day set." Fair play was the basis for this extension of time. Although every newspaper in the country had featured the news of the registration for many days prior to the date, the Federal draft authorities, desiring to work no hardship, extended for the four days following June 5 the period for registration. On June 10, 1917, a telegram from General Crowder advised all local draft boards to proceed immediately with investigations of alleged non-registrants. Each case was ordered to be brought promptly to the attention of the nearest representative of the Department of Justice.

Failure to  
Register  
Serious  
Burden.

One of the reasons for strict enforcement of the registration regulations, aside from that of patriotic observance of Federal legislation, was the fact that quotas of men to be sent to training camps were assigned to the various states in proportion to their population as determined by the Census Bureau. The result of failure to register would cause a serious increase in the burden on those who had registered. By this method of quota assignment if the proportion of those who registered for military service was not in direct ratio to the population there would, of necessity, be more men called for service than should rightfully be.

Registration day had gone by but twice around the sun when registration certificates issued to the registrants were lost by the hundreds. General Crowder on June 27 issued a regulation permitting local draft boards to furnish a statement, sealed and signed, identifying the one who had registered as the individual whose certificate had been lost.

No Numbers  
for Non-  
Registrants.

As a part of the punishment to be assigned those who had failed to register on June 5, if they did so willfully, their cards received no serial number at the time and these registrants were ordered not to be included in the first draft. In order that appropriate punishment might be meted out to these individuals their induction into military service was delayed pending the establishment of definite rules of procedure which were promulgated later.

The detail work in the operation of the selective service was so absolutely new to the majority of board members that thousands of inquiries and requests for rulings on various points poured into General Crowder's office in Washington. His working force was swamped and the flood of letters became so seri-

ous that on July 17 instructions were issued to all local boards that all correspondence intended for the office of the Provost Marshal General should be addressed to him through the office of the Adjutant General of each state. By this means a tremendous duplication in correspondence was eliminated. Where more than one board requested ruling on similar cases, the offices of the Adjutants General, if the question was one they could not answer themselves, would take the matter up by telegraph with Washington, secure a ruling, and then answer the inquiries themselves.

In the rush of appointing men to serve as members of the various local boards throughout the state a few were nominated who were themselves in the draft age. Complaints on this condition were received by the office of the Adjutant General from drafted men, their friends and relatives, and resulted in an order from Washington to replace such men with others who were over 31 years old. Two purposes were served by this move: First, a more mature and deliberate type of official was secured; Second, it afforded no opportunity for any captious critic to allege that "the trenches were being cheated."

Board Mem-  
bers of Draft  
Age Replaced.

To properly hear and investigate the cases of registrants coming before local draft boards it was found necessary that oaths be administered. Acting under Presidential authority, Governor Burnquist, under date of July 31, 1917, issued telegraphic authorization to all members of Minnesota's draft boards to administer such oaths.

To the everlasting disgrace and shame of a few registrants in the State of Minnesota, and a large number of these slackers throughout the United States, marriages were hastily consummated, subsequent to registration, with the object of securing exemption from the operation of the selective service law. Local boards were advised on August 2, 1917, that such marriages, of themselves, did not create a status of dependency. In considering such cases Local Boards were reminded that the pay of a soldier was never less than \$30.00 per month, in addition to which all clothing, subsistence, medical treatment and housing was furnished. Many soldiers were thus enabled to allot, in many cases, as much as \$25.00 a month toward the support of their dependents.

Scores of such "slacker marriage" cases were presented to Local Boards and through them to the Adjutant General's office. If the evidence in the case was sufficient to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the marriage was consummated with an idea to evasion of military service, the registrant's appeal for exemption was denied and he was certified as subject to military service.



"Slacker"  
Marriages  
Reviewed.  
Antedated  
Marriages  
Not All  
"Slacker."

Not all marriages consummated subsequent to registration day were "slacker marriages." No exemption was claimed on the grounds of dependency in many of these marriages. Young couples whose marriages had been pending for some time set the date ahead and when the husband was called for service his bride tearfully but patriotically bade him farewell and Godspeed. It is of this class of men that the best fighters are found.

Only the archives of the Local Boards know the difference between these marriages. Of course, "Died in service," or an honorable discharge from the armed forces, is sufficient evidence for those who were accepted for service. There is, however, that class of men who for one reason or another were rejected for service; this is a question which will be one to which a satisfactory explanation must be made after the war has been won. Many solutions of the problem for posterity's sake have been suggested to the Provost Marshal General, and it is anticipated that the matter will be satisfactorily disposed of in time.

Early in the process of decision regarding the entrance into, or rejection from, the National Army, of registrants, it was discovered that there was a vital necessity for some person to undertake an appeal of certain cases from Local Boards to District Boards where there was any occasion to believe that exemptions or discharges were not to the best interest of the Nation. Under date of August 6, 1917, General Crowder requested the appointment of one attorney to each Local Board who would be known as a "Government appeal agent." The duties of these men consisted of a fair and impartial review of the case of each registrant with a view of determination whether or not there was any question as to the registrant's liability to military service. These appeal agents took no active part in the deliberations of the Local Board. They were to remain aloof from such deliberations and safeguard the interests of the Nation. The appointment of these men was a precautionary move merely to insure absolute fairness to all parties concerned, by the Local Board.

It might be presumed that Local Board members would regard the Government appeal agent as one who would be an unwelcome busybody. Such was not the case, however; the Government appeal agent was received with hearty acclaim by the Local Board members because his presence would have a tendency to raise or keep the efficiency of the board at a high standard.

Although not evidenced in Minnesota to any extent, a belief prevailed in certain portions of the country about August 1, 1917, that friendly aliens who had not declared their intention to become citizens of the United States were disqualified by that reason from service in the National Army. To correct this belief, General Crowder issued a statement to all Local Boards

explaining that such registrants were virtually volunteers and if they failed to claim exemption, because they were aliens, their services should be heartily welcomed and they should be accepted when their numbers were reached in the order of call.

Following the example of other countries using some form of the selective service principle in securing their military, the United States, under date of August 11, 1917, initiated the use of an "exemption button," to be worn in the coat lapel. Only a few hundred of these buttons were ever given to Minnesota. In fact, the number was so small that all the Local Boards in the state did not secure a shipment. A cancellation order for the use of this exemption insignia was never issued, but no further shipments of the button were made. The phrase "exempted from service in the National Army" was on each button.

A Few "Exemption" Buttons Issued.

Thousands of foreign-born citizens of the United States, who had dependents in the country of their birth, or in other foreign countries, were obliged to secure affidavits from these dependents to substantiate their claim for exemption on grounds of dependency. In many of these cases the alleged dependents resided in or near the war zone. Although local boards were instructed on August 11, 1917, to grant a reasonable extension of time to these registrants that they might secure the necessary affidavits, interference with mails in these foreign countries caused, in many cases, a considerable delay. These registrants were then inducted into military service when their order number was reached, or when in the opinion of the local board a return of the affidavits from the alleged dependents was not probable. If, however, the necessary affidavits were received after a man had been placed in military service, a certificate of discharge was applied for and a release from military service was granted.

Alien Affidavits Necessary on Dependency Claims.

Religious opposition to participation in war was one of the most delicate questions approached by the Local Boards. Although specific rules covering these cases had been issued by General Crowder, the question remained one of great importance to both the Local Board and the registrant claiming exemption on those grounds. Many sleepless nights were endured by the Local Board members who were confronted with a claim for exemption based on "religious opposition to war." It was a most difficult matter to accurately separate the truthful, conscientious objector from the slacker who was adopting this method to escape military service.

"Conscientious Objectors" Difficult of Determination.

Many of those registrants whose claims were disallowed by the Local and District Boards and who persisted in their opposition to military service were then arrested and turned over to the Department of Justice. In a few cases, following arrest,

"Government  
Appeal  
Agents"  
Appointed.

"Non-Declarants"  
Welcomed to Colors.

these men announced themselves as willing to accept military service. The others who defied the power and authority of the Federal Government, following involuntary induction into the Army were tried by military court martial and, if found guilty, sentenced to severe punishment. In these latter cases evidence was presented to the courts of trial which established the fact that the exemption plea was not founded on good faith but was a subterfuge by which it was hoped military service would be evaded.

District  
Boards (Appeal Boards)  
Organized.

It was not thought advisable to centralize in the Local Board the authority, without chance for appeal, of induction into military service. "Boards of Appeal," or, as they were later termed, "District Boards," were instituted to supplement the work of the Local Board. It was the duty of these Boards of Appeal to pass upon claims for exemption based on industrial or agricultural grounds, and also to consider and decide upon such appeals from decisions of the Local Boards as might be made in cases of dependency.

Four of these Appeal Boards were designated for Minnesota: Board No. 1 at Mankato; Board No. 2 at Minneapolis; Board No. 3 at St. Paul; and Board No. 4 at Duluth. On October 4, 1918, a fifth Appeal Board was established at Crookston. The state was thus divided into five parts. Local Boards within the jurisdiction of one of these Appeal Boards were required to forward all industrial or agricultural claims for exemption and appealed cases to their respective Appeal Board. The Local Boards in cases of industrial or agricultural claims act merely as an intermediary and not a board of review.

Few Boards  
Send to  
Colors Only  
Non-Claimants.

Lack of application and study of the then existing draft regulation caused a few Local Boards in the country to send into service only those registrants who had claimed no exemption. By this method the principles underlying the selective service law were perverted and the "volunteer system," which the selective service was to supplant, was placed in vogue.

An order from General Crowder was received on August 16, 1917, specifically calling to the attention of all Local Boards that "all registrants are to stand in an equality before the law except as the law decreed an inequality." In other words, each Local Board was to consider each case on its individual merit, and if the registrant should, in view of the evidence presented, be made liable for military service, he should be sent into that service when his order number was reached. The records do not show that any Minnesota draft board was guilty of this offense, but a few of the rural divisions were somewhat lax in their exercise of the draft and immediately the regulations were called to their attention this situation was rectified.

The first quota of drafted men called for from Minnesota totaled 17,778. They were to be sent in contingents of 5%, 40%, 40%, and 15%. Dates of entrainment were set by the Government, but owing to construction difficulties in the various camps and cantonments it was found impossible to adhere to the originally outlined schedule.

First Minnesota  
Quota  
Was 17,778  
Men.

Those people old enough to recall the scenes attending the farewells given to Minnesota's armed men who fought in the Civil War and those who remembered the celebrations attending the departure of Minnesota's troops to engage in the Spanish-American War, declared that never before in its history had Minnesota given such a tremendous ovation as was given to the first men who entrained for training at Camp Dodge.

Never-to-be-  
forgotten  
Scenes Attend  
Farewell.

Parades, banquets, formal balls and receptions were tendered these men. Each one of these drafted men thus entertained were so impressed with the "home spirit" that they declared they would carry with them the exaltation thus given to the front line trenches. These men who were sent in the first 5 per cent contingent were America's first answer to German autocracy. Many of this first contingent have entered on the "great adventure" and now lie peacefully under French soil which they enriched with their own young blood in order that America might pay her debt to Freedom.

These men on arrival at the training camps were immediately used in the formation of skeletonized companies. They were carefully instructed and trained into their duties, and when the second contingent arrived a rapid and easy absorption of these "rookies" was made by the pioneer 5 per cent.

First "5%"  
Form Nucleus  
of Army.

Many requests for permission to leave the United States were received by local boards. No regulation covering this point had been included in the printed rules, and in consequence the office of the Adjutant General requested a ruling from General Crowder. Permission was given to local boards to release for travel to Canada by a registrant who was able to satisfy his local board of his probable return and its approximate date.

Thousands of registrants who on June 5, 1917, had not yet declared their intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, but who had subsequently made such declaration, were made subject to the operation of the selective service by an order from General Crowder on September 26, 1917. Practically all of the men affected by this order had unintentionally delayed their application for citizenship, but had determined on such a course. Realizing their allegiance to the country which offered them the most opportunity, they took the first moment to place themselves on record as to the country in which they had their faith.

Registrants,  
Later Applying for  
"Papers"  
Subject to  
Draft.

Appeals to President Sent to Others in Error.

During this preliminary phase of the draft work an appeal from the decision rendered by local and district boards could be made direct to the President. Hundreds of such appeals were sent to the office of the Provost Marshal General, members of Congress, and others at Washington. This was an error and all such appeals directed to others than the President were returned to the registrant with directions to readdress his appeal to the President. Agricultural and industrial claims for exemption were the only grounds for such an appeal.

"British-Canadian" Recruiting Mission" Approved.

Towards the last of 1917 the British Government designated a number of its military to come to the United States and organize themselves into what was called "The British-Canadian Recruiting Mission in the United States." The duties of this organization were to recruit for military duty with the British and Canadian forces those men in the draft ages who were of alien birth and who had not made application for citizenship in the United States. Others not in the draft ages, who were friendly aliens, could also be enlisted in these forces if physically acceptable.

Under the agreement between the United States and Great Britain this recruiting mission was enabled to recruit aliens other than British or Canadian subjects. On September 12, 1917, instructions were given all local boards to permit duly accredited representatives of the mission access to the registration cards in their files.

This is the first time in American history that permission to recruit for military duty in a foreign country was ever given. It had always been a policy in this country to remain strictly aloof from any foreign wars and not to permit recruiting for either side of the struggle then being carried on. There is reason to believe that such recruiting was carried on, however, but it was never done with the permission of the United States Government.

It may be said to the credit of the members composing this mission to this country that very few violations of the "gentleman's agreement" entered into between the respective countries were noted. Such violations as were detected were immediately rectified without the necessity of diplomatic intervention.

Federal Suggestion Closes Saloons on Entrainment Days.

Closing the saloons on the days of large entrainments of drafted men was suggested by a telegram from General Crowder to the governors of each state. The telegram read, in part: "A large per cent of your population is about to leave home for the uncertainties of a soldier's life. While not an occasion for sorrow, it is a day for solemnity. It is especially inappropriate that it be marred by the untoward offense which drunkenness brings in its train." The suggestion was favorably acted on by the Governor and saloons in each locality from which men were being sent to camp were closed until the train had departed.

The international diplomatic status of registered friendly aliens was one which caused an inquiry lasting more than ten months. It was begun by the embassies of foreign governments, who appeared before General Crowder early in September, 1917, and requested an investigation into the cases of aliens who had been sent to training camps, but who had not yet declared their intention of becoming citizens.

A caution to local boards to be very careful and thorough in informing those registrants who appeared to be aliens of their right to file claim for exemption on that ground was given by means of a telegram from General Crowder. It further advised that in cases where it appeared that, through ignorance, aliens had failed to file claims for exemption the local board should extend the time or reopen the case if necessary.

It has been the experience of everyone who ever had anything to do with the formation of a military unit that there are those who "go over the hill," or, in other words, desert the service. A number of men selected by their local board for military service for one reason or another evaded their specified duty and thereby became deserters, technically or actually. They were made deserters by the fact that from the time that they placed their names on the registration card they were potentially in the armed forces of the country and if they failed to observe any of the rules or regulations issued at any time they were breaking the law.

Under date of December 27, 1917, a telegram from General Crowder was received by the Adjutant General's office urging that an effort be made by city, county and state authorities to apprehend these deserters. Under War Department regulations, a reward of \$50 was payable to the arresting officer, and as soon as the fact that a reward was payable was made public vigilance was increased on the part of the officers and a number of deserters began to be turned over to army posts and camps.

The first entrainment of negro registrants from Minnesota was ordered during the five-day period beginning October 27, 1917. They were to be sent to Camp Dodge. Very few registrants of this color were to be found in the state outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul and in consequence the major part of the entrainment was made from these two cities. Parades were held, bands played, banquets were given—in fact, the send-off the colored men received was worthy of their often repeated assertion that they are "good fighting men." This boast was later made good on the battle fields of France.

The War Department, recognizing that one dentist to each thousand enlisted men, according to regulations, would not be sufficient to care for the Brobdignagian increase in the enlisted personnel of the army, requested that volunteers from the ranks of civilian dentists throughout the United States care for the

International Status of Alien Registrants Investigated.

Registrants Made "Deserters" by Failure to Observe Regulations.

First Quota of Negroes to Camp Dodge.

Dentist Volunteers Care for "Selectives' "Teeth.

teeth of the drafted men before their entrainment for camp. The appeal to the dental profession was met with an overwhelming response, and from the latter part of October, 1917, each registered man in Class 1, subject to call into service, was examined and treated, if necessary, by these volunteers. Where fillings, bridge work or plates were necessary the draftee was obliged to pay only the cost of the material. The labor performed by the dentist was his way of doing his "bit" for the army, and was not to be charged for.

Draft Correspondence Taxes Postal Facilities.

The terrific amount of correspondence necessary by the local, district and state draft boards to the handling of the selective service throughout the United States entailed a tremendous burden upon the postal facilities. A request was made by General Crowder to Postmaster General J. S. Burleson, under date of October 13, 1917, to facilitate, as much as possible, the transportation of this mail. A special order on the subject was issued by Postmaster Burleson to all postmasters throughout the country, and the delays which in some instances had interfered seriously with the draft were eliminated by a closer coordination of work on the part of the postal department.

"Half Numbers" Given Late Registrants.

Future generations, upon reference to the registration number of many of their progenitors, might be somewhat puzzled at a half number. This half number, so called, was made necessary by late registration. Such late registration can be explained by one of two causes. Either the registrant willfully failed to register on the registration date and was apprehended and then forced to register, or he might have been outside the territorial limits of the United States on registration day and upon his return to this country registered for the selective service within five days of his return.

Many of the local boards, instead of assigning a man a half number, such as 1865½, used a letter following the number, such as 1865A. The meaning of this half number is the same whether the letter is used or not. Unfortunately, it will cause many men, whose only fault was that they were out of the country at the time of registration, occasions of embarrassing explanation in the future.

Financial Aid Granted Dependents of Soldiers and Sailors.

About four months ensued from the time of registration for the draft until the recognition by congressional action that the United States Government must supply a monetary allowance to the dependents of drafted men and those who had voluntarily enlisted in the regular army, navy or marine corps. Under date of October 6, 1917, an act of Congress was approved which provided for family allowance, allotments, compensation and insurance for the military and naval forces.

"Monthly compulsory allotment shall be in an amount equal to family allowances hereinafter specified, but not more than one-half pay, nor less than \$15," the law governing the allot-

ments read. "A family allowance not to exceed \$50 per month, in addition to pay allotted by the man, shall be paid out of the Treasury of the United States. Such family allowance shall be paid upon application, which may be made by the man, or made by or in behalf of the beneficiary. Those entitled to family allowances and schedules are: Wife only, \$15; wife and one child, \$25; wife and two children, \$32.50, and \$5 per month additional for each additional child; no wife, but one child, \$5; no wife, but two children, \$12.50; no wife, but three children, \$20; no wife, but four children, \$30, with \$5 per month additional for each additional child; one parent, \$10; two parents, \$20."

As a direct result of the passage of this compensation act, large numbers of registered men withdrew their claims for exemption and, feeling it their duty to take a part in this war and assured that their families would have a regular monthly income, entered the armed service of the United States. Previous to the passage of this act large numbers of men, feeling that their duty was in the war, taking an active part, but not desiring to leave their families in want, joined the Canadian forces, by which means they were enabled to care for their families almost as well as if they were at home. This was made possible by means of public subscription in Canada, which cared for the families of the men who had gone to the front and made a regular monthly allotment to them.

"Compensation" Increased Army Materially.

Although wonderful progress in furnishing men for the army had been made under the original system inaugurated at the beginning of the operation of the selective service law, it was soon discovered that even with the countless amendments which had been made, the system then in effect was not sufficiently elastic. Justice and equality to all concerned were the underlying principles which must be emphasized, and in order to care for that principle the best minds of the country were called into service to devise an effective, elastic method of selection.

Original Selection Method Not Elastic.

One was wanted which would list the qualifications of each man with the thoroughness that a merchant takes stock of his business. The good points and the bad, together with illuminating bits of the man's history, were desired. A set of questions which would cover nearly all conditions of men was the method finally adopted, and the "questionnaire" was made an integral part of the selective service.

In contrast with the original method, the questionnaire system was a distinct revolution. Instead of having but one or two courses open to it in the disposition of the case of a registrant, the local board under the new method had wide discretionary powers. The old method entailed either absolute acceptance or total rejection of the registrant. The new method enabled the draft board to classify the registrant in an order of call which

"Questionnaire" Method Supplants Original System.



would least interfere with the material welfare of the country.

The questionnaire itself was a 16-page pamphlet. It contained an exhaustive list of questions which were to be answered, and the answers sworn to, by the registrant. It was printed in sufficient quantity to insure one copy to each of the nearly ten million registrants. Although these questions were clearly and concisely worded, their very number, it was feared, would cause confusion on the part of the registrant in filling out the answers.

Legal Advisory Boards Appointed to Help Registrants.

To solve this difficulty an appeal was made to the lawyers of the United States. In this appeal the members of the legal profession were asked to constitute themselves "legal advisors" whose duties would consist of advising the registrant as to the proper method of filling out his questionnaire. In many cases the registrant either did not have the time to go to a legal advisor or felt competent to do the work himself, and as a direct result the errors were numerous and varied. Self-evident errors were detected immediately by the local board and the registrant was obliged to make his questionnaire out all over again.

Special classes, at which open discussion and cohesive interpretation of the questionnaire were conducted, were formed and were attended by the legal advisory members and their assistants, and by means of this intensive study each of the legal advisors secured a standardized knowledge of his duties.

Although hundreds of thousands of lawyers volunteered their services for this work, the tremendous task of properly filling out approximately nine million questionnaires within a period of two months proved too much for the limited number of men available. In order to facilitate the work a further appeal was made to competent laymen to offer their services as associate members to such legal advisory boards. These laymen received instructions from the members of the legal advisory board and upon the issuance of the questionnaire both legal advisory bodies began their duties.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the magnitude of the labor involved in properly and adequately filling in the answers required by the questionnaire. Members of these legal advisory boards served entirely without compensation. They worked many hours daily until the task was completed. In some cases the eight-hour day was observed twice or more each day.

After the questionnaire had been filled out and action taken on it by the local board, classifying the registrant in one of the five classifications, a so-called "cover sheet" was required to be made out. This "cover sheet" provided for a tabular condensation of the most vital statistics revealed by the questionnaire. It was necessary that this cover sheet, which accompanied each questionnaire, be completed properly before the

case of a registrant could be considered by the district board in case an appeal was made.

The local boards themselves at this particular period of the draft were overwhelmed with work; indeed, many of the local boards of Minnesota were in session more than fourteen hours daily, seven days a week. It was, therefore, manifestly impossible for the members of these boards or any of their clerical force to undertake the task presented by the "cover sheets."

Another appeal was made by General Crowder, this time to school teachers, school principals and business men, to take over and perform this detail work on the cover sheet and expedite it. Large numbers of volunteers for this work made application to the local draft boards. In many cases in Minnesota, schools were closed for one or two days while the older pupils, the teachers and principals, together with business men, took possession of the questionnaires and filled out the cover sheets. An expenditure of more than one-half a million dollars was saved to the Government in clerical hire in Minnesota alone by the work of these volunteers.

Volunteers Asked for "Cover Sheet Work."

It was expected that some time in October would see the final portion of the first quota of selected men on their way to a training camp. Thousands of these men, expecting soon to be called for service, quit work, and when the call was deferred from day to day and week to week, the funds of these men soon became exhausted and real hardship began. During November and December of 1917 a condition existed absolutely unparalleled in the history of this country. These men on seeking temporary employment and answering their prospective employer's question regarding their position in the draft, were refused work because they were subject to the next call. The situation rapidly developed from one of local importance to a state-wide emergency. The Adjutant General's office was importuned daily by telephone calls, letters and telegrams on the situation, and at last the Adjutant General unofficially requested the civic organization in each city in the state to secure some sort of employment for these men.

Draftees Waiting Call Go Hungry.

Co-operation between these civic organizations and the local boards adequately cared for the situation and employment of one kind and another was given these men. An unofficial promise was then secured from Washington to the effect that no more such debacles would be made in the call of registrants to the colors. This closed one of the most delicate situations regarding employment of men that the state has yet faced. The picture of hundreds of men patriotically willing to enter the army, yet because of the temporary delay being unable to secure employment, was one which was not admirable.

Picture Presented Not Admirable.

Associate Advisors Appointed to Eliminate Congestion.

"Cover sheet" Next to be Filled out by Boards.