

December 15, 1917, Last of Volunteer System for Army.

By special permission, men in Class 1 who had not yet been called and others in deferred classification were permitted to enlist in the regular army up to and including December 15, 1917. That date marked the close of general recruiting for the Regular Army and may prove to be the last of the unfair volunteer method of securing men for the army. Much publicity was given this ruling and throughout the state, especially in the larger cities, the rush of men to enlist swamped the normally adequate examination facilities offered by the recruiting stations. In St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth lines of men, blocks long, crept past the examining sergeant. Those who were accepted swaggered happily away, while those few who failed to pass slouched dejectedly. At one station applicants who were in line at midnight December 15 were examined and passed by the recruiting sergeant.

Postal Employees Deferred in Call Until After Holiday Rush.

So many men being away from home in training camps, it was feared by the President that the regular holiday rush of gifts, letters and cards would swamp the already sorely taxed facilities of the Postoffice Department, and on date of December 12, 1917, on application of Postmaster General Burlison, all local boards were authorized to defer induction of postal employes until after January 1, 1918. By this method it was thought that the postal force would not be crippled and the men in service would be enabled to receive their remembrances from home with a minimum of delay.

Medical Advisory Boards Appointed.

As was described in the beginning of this section, regulations governing the selective service were in a constant state of flux. Under the original plan, no provision had been made whereby an appeal could be taken from the results of a physical examination by either the government or the registered men. In the rush of physical examinations, it was estimated, a number of registrants were rejected by the examiners for slight physical defects which were remedial or which were of such nature that they would not interfere with military service. On December 1, 1917, under order of General Crowder, permission was given to organize medical and surgical specialists into what would be known as "medical advisory boards."

Only physicians, surgeons and dentists of the highest standard, and with training which qualified them to pass upon cases as specialists, were nominated for service on these boards. The primary object of the medical advisory board was to place at the call of the Government as well as the registrant the service of specialists in all manner of human ailments. These men were all volunteers and received no compensation for their labors.

In case of a controversy as to the relative physical fitness of a registrant, or in cases where the local board examining surgeon did not feel qualified to either accept or reject the registrant, he was sent for special examination to the medical

advisory board. At the hands of these specialists the registrant received a rigid and thorough examination, the result of which definitely determined in what class he should be placed.

Closing of voluntary enlistment in the army to registered men was the cause of a condition which was paradoxical. Hundreds, reluctant to wait for a call from the Government, desired immediately to enter military service. Preferring service in the army to that in the Navy or Marine Corps, these men were unable to enlist. This condition was brought to the attention of General Crowder, and under date of December 17, 1917, permission was given for voluntary induction of drafted men into certain camps and for certain branches of the army. This permission was seized upon avidly by these registrants and proved to be of material aid in increasing the armed forces of this country. Voluntary induction was, in effect, enlistment, the only difference being that the registrant, instead of passing through the recruiting office of the army, passed through the draft board.

The need for trained men in nearly every vocation found in civil life was early experienced in the operation of the draft. The questionnaire method was only a partial solution of this difficulty, as it merely enabled a census of the man power of the United States between the ages of 21 and 31 years to be classified according to vocation and training.

The Federal Board for Vocational Education was then organized. Eugene Prosser, director of Dunwoody Industrial Institute, Minneapolis, Minn., was chosen its chairman. This board's work was primarily to initiate methods whereby registered men could receive further instruction along lines which would render their skill more readily available for military use. One example of the work of this board occurred shortly after its organization. Several thousand mechanics of all kinds were needed immediately for work in camps and cantonments. A hurried survey of the questionnaires was ordered and the required number of men secured by voluntary induction. These men then received a short, intensive period of training in army methods and were thus enabled to satisfactorily and immediately care for the emergency.

Not all the mechanics or skilled tradesmen could be sent into military service, as General Crowder and Secretary Baker have since announced: "It is not the intention nor the spirit of the selective service act to blindly disrupt home industries." Some method of deferring skilled mechanics and others who would otherwise be placed in Class 1 and made subject to call for military service was necessary. Thousands of manufacturing concerns were supplying the material, finished and unfinished, on army and navy contracts. In order, therefore, not to interrupt the production of such manufacturing establishments,

Voluntary Induction Takes Place of Enlistment in Army.

Federal Board for Vocational Education Organized.

"Emergency Fleet Classification" Defers Needed Mechanics.

what was termed "the emergency fleet classification" was then devised.

This "emergency fleet classification" was a method whereby necessary mechanics could be deferred in their call to the colors from month to month. During the length of their employment on army or navy contracts their employers, with the consent of the Government inspector, could make application for deferred classification of these necessary workers.

With the coming of 1918 a request was received from the Chief Medical Officer at Camp Dodge that local board examining surgeons and one delegate from each medical advisory board in the state meet at the state Capitol building on January 14, 1918, for a conference. The purpose of this conference was to make uniform the medical examination of drafted men throughout the state. Not that there was any lack of uniformity on the part of local board examiners, or on the part of medical advisory board examiners, but there was a lack of uniformity between these officers and the army examiners in the training camps. An almost unanimous response was had to the invitation, and two sessions, both lasting several hours, were held instead of the one originally scheduled.

Examining methods in use by army surgeons at Camp Dodge were vividly and technically explained by the visitor. As a direct result of this conference standards of physical examination were stiffened and the percentage of rejections for physical disability at Camp Dodge was cut from 2% to less than 1% of the total quota. The beneficial results of this conference were later transmitted to the office of the Provost Marshal General at Washington and a request made that there be more of these conferences held from time to time.

Not all local board members were in a position to donate their services to the United States, and the question of compensation proved to be one of the serious stumbling blocks to an effective operation of the selective service. Under a system inaugurated at the beginning of the draft, members of local and district boards were entitled to a monthly compensation not to exceed \$150.

After a careful investigation, covering a period of over three months and extending over the entire country, it was decided by the office of the Provost Marshal General that this flat rate of pay was neither fair nor just. Each local and district board was then asked as to their idea of the proper method of compensation to draft board members.

A decision was at last reached, and on January 10, 1918, a bulletin was issued fixing a unit basis for compensation. This unit basis was at the rate of 30 cents per man per board per final classification. The words "final classification" meant that wherever a registrant was finally placed in Class 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5,

Medical
Examiners
Meet at
Capitol.

Compensation
for Board
Members
Changed.

Compensation
Turned Over
to War Re-
lief by Many.

such final classification was sufficient ground for the allotted compensation.

In making final classification the basis for compensation, all temptation was removed and there could be no possibility of a commercial evasion of the extraordinary powers conferred upon local and district board members. Many of the local and district board members in Minnesota at this time signified their willingness to serve without compensation. Others who claimed compensation turned the money thus secured into the coffers of the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army, or other organizations whose war relief work was worthy. These unselfish actions on the part of these members cannot be too highly appreciated by both the State of Minnesota and the United States.

Success of the British-Canadian Mission and a desire for autonomous representation in the war led prominent representatives in the United States of the Polish people to request permission to recruit for a Polish army. This permission was given on November 30, 1917. The Polish Recruiting Mission in Minnesota requested permission of General Rhinow to seek recruits among the Polish registrants who had been placed in Class 5 because of alieny. The question was taken up with General Crowder, who granted the desired permission.

The recruits thus obtained were sent to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, for training. They were equipped with a horizon-blue uniform, the same as that worn by the French poilu, but with a shoulder brassard on which were the words "Polish Army." After receiving military instructions at this camp the men were sent overseas to form a component part of the Polish army in France. Dispatches received since the departure of these men would indicate that they are exercising the old Hebraic law of "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" in their bitter battle against the nation that ravaged and laid waste their country.

As the result of a fire in the offices of a local board in Missouri the attention of the Federal draft authorities was abruptly brought to the high valuation which should be placed on all the records maintained in connection with the draft. An order was issued on January 17, 1918, requesting all local boards to secure fireproof storage places for the safe keeping of these records. In the majority of instances throughout the rural sections of Minnesota the local boards were situated in county offices and thus had access to fireproof vaults. This, however, was not the case in the quarters maintained by the urban boards and calls were made by such as these upon patriotic citizens to supply such fireproof cases. So far in Minnesota none of these records have been lost or destroyed through any cause.

Polish
Recruiting
Mission Be-
gins Work.

Fireproof
Storage for
Draft Records
Requested.

District Boards Meet to Discuss "Slacker" Marriages.

Marriage of men in the draft age subsequent to May 18, 1917, had produced a peculiar situation, as has already been discussed, and in order that the opinion of the members of the four district boards might be obtained a meeting was held in the state Capitol building on Sunday, January 27, 1918. It was the opinion of all who attended that the burden of the proof, in order to obtain a deferred classification, should be placed on the registrant. In any claim where it was alleged that real hardship to the wife or child would result if the registrant were taken for the army, proof which would stand a rigid search must be furnished to the board.

The premise adopted was that all such registrants had entered into the marriage relation with full knowledge and notice of their military obligations to the government and with the assumption and understanding that their marriage would not be a claim for deferred classification. In a very few cases, it was decided, conditions might have arisen under which deferred classification might be properly given to the registrant. The procedure recommended at this meeting was that all registrants who had married subsequent to May 18, 1917, should be placed in Class 1, Division A, and their case appealed by the Government appeal agent to the district board for careful consideration.

Failure to Return Questionnaire Cause.

For some unknown reason, a large number of local boards labored under the impression at this time that if a registrant had failed to return his questionnaire he should be automatically placed in Class 1 and made subject to military service when his order number was reached. A correction of this impression was issued by General Crowder on January 31, 1918. He informed them that it was within their power and jurisdiction to place in a deferred class a registrant whose questionnaire had not been returned or had not been properly filled out.

"This discretion should be exercised with the greatest discrimination," said General Crowder's message, in part. Where the registrant was an alien enemy, a non-declarant alien, or in the military or naval service of the United States, and failed to return his questionnaire, if the board members had authentic information to this effect these orders of General Crowder specified that a proper deferred classification be given.

Federal Authorities "Feel Way Through" New Draft Regulations.

From the voluminous mass of telegrams amending and counter-amending the selective service regulations at this time it was evident that the Federal draft authorities were cautiously feeling their way through the new questionnaire method. It was no uncommon thing for the Minnesota state draft office to receive as high as 15 telegrams in one day from General Crowder containing addenda to the draft regulations. The longer the draft machinery remained in operation the more unified its work became, however, and the less necessity there was for so many changes to be made. At the time this report is written the

flood of telegrams had ebbed until a minimum of from one to three telegrams daily is the average.

Hundreds of complaints regarding selected men, sent to training camps only to be rejected there on account of alleged physical deficiencies, were made to the Adjutant General at this time. An investigation was begun and it was discovered that there was a serious discrepancy between the army physical standards used by the examining surgeons at the camps and the physical standards outlined for the use of the local board examining surgeon. It was found to be an impossibility for some men who had been passed by the local board surgeon to be accepted by the army surgeon at the camp, and through no fault of the local board doctor, who had been merely following the standards set for him by the regulations.

Physical Standards of Draft Changed.

This state of affairs was called to the attention of General Crowder and under date of February 9, 1918, the Adjutant General was notified that changes were being made in the physical examination regulations used by the local boards and that they would more closely conform to the standards in use by the army at the camps.

With no unfair criticism in mind, but merely with the idea of recording with historical accuracy the events of the selective service as they unfolded themselves week after week, the "resting on the oars" attitude of the Federal draft officials about the middle of February, 1918, is worthy of notice.

Misunderstanding Causes Peace Preparation by Board Members.

A telegram signed by General Crowder, dated February 14, 1918, read in part as follows: "This department has been requested by several state headquarters to outline the general duties of local boards after the completion of classification. Some fifteen thousand citizens compose those boards, and it was recognized early that the Government must adopt some policy which would enable these men to assist it in its hour of need, yet not take unfair advantage of their patriotism through their business and financial loss. To this end the regulations calling for classification were planned and put into effect. With this work completed, the local boards have finished the great task."

Chief clerks of each board were authorized to append their signatures in the name of the board and, to further quote the telegram, "There will be no serious demand on the time of the board members and hence no compensation will be provided."

The reception of this telegram by various local boards throughout the state was likened by them to "a bolt of lightning from a clear sky." Many of these members, figuring that "inside information" regarding the end of the war was being given them, forthwith began the arrangement of their personal affairs looking toward a peace-time resumption of business.

This paradise of expectations was short lived, however, and in less than ten days another order came from General Crowder

which rudely dispelled the dream and brought the local board members back to a realization that the war was just as bitter as it ever was and their positions just as important as before, and instead of being on the verge of a holiday they were condemned to more work.

A Few Boards Refuse Permission to Enlist in Navy.

Whenever a registrant desired to enlist in the Navy or Marine Corps under the then existing rules, if he were not needed to help fill the current quota for men, the local board was obliged to give him a release for such enlistment. Whenever a man was released for the Army, the local board was credited for one man. No credits, however, were given the local board for releases of registrants for the Navy or Marine Corps. A very few of the Minnesota draft boards adopted the principle of refusing permission to enlist in the Navy or Marine Corps because they, the local board, received no credit for the man. Governor Burnquist telegraphed General Crowder on February 15, 1918, asking if local boards were required to release registrants not in the current quota for enlistment in the Navy or Marine Corps. General Crowder's answer said: "Local board NOT authorized to prohibit enlistment in Navy in issuing certificate." The reception and publication of this telegram materially assisted the Navy and Marine recruiting campaign.

Minneapolis Medical Advisory Board Swamped by Work.

Medical advisory boards, under the Selective Service rules, were required to physically examine registrants whose cases had been transferred by their local board, or who had been called to service by their local board and were not within their board jurisdiction. The medical advisory board located in Minneapolis reported to the Adjutant General's office that as a result of this rule they were swamped with work and were entirely unable to care for the physical examination of out-of-town registrants. At this time this particular advisory board was examining hundreds of registrants whose cases had been appealed on one ground or another.

Fifth Division Board of Minneapolis Examine Overflow.

Notification of this state of affairs in this particular medical advisory board was given General Crowder by General Rhinow, and an amendment to the selective service rules was immediately made which permitted physical examination of out-of-town registrants to be made by the nearest local board to the temporary residence of the registrant. A large majority of these out-of-town registrants were quartered in downtown hotels, lodging or rooming houses. In consequence the labor of the examination fell heaviest on the Fifth Division Local Board of Minneapolis. Credit should here be given to this local board for the efficient manner in which they cared for these cases. Temporary quarters were secured in the Federal building, Minneapolis, and daily examinations held until the rush of examinations had ceased.

Subdivision of each of the five classifications adopted under the questionnaire method caused much confusion in the minds of the public. The confusion resulted from an erroneous idea that men in Class 1, Division A, would be called to service before men in Class 1, Division B, and so down through the subdivisions of each classification, irrespective of the order number. This erroneous idea gained such wide credence that it was necessary to conduct a very extensive publicity campaign by the aid of the newspapers throughout Minnesota to correct this impression.

In this publicity campaign it was thoroughly explained that the order number, and only the order number, was the determining factor in the order of call to service within his classification. To further explain, a registrant with order number 250, but who has been placed in Class 1, Division C, would be called to service before a registrant with order number 260 who had been placed in Class 1, Division A.

Subdivision of classification had for its primary object the securing of statistical information. For statistical purposes it would not be right to throw together single men, married men who were dependent upon their wife's labor for support, men who had claimed no deferred classification irrespective of their dependency obligation, etc. As soon as the public realized the principle underlying the subdivision of each classification there was no further confusion, but for a short period of time until this explanation was understood each local board was hampered in its work by questions on this problem.

The "certificate of final classification" which was given to each registrant was a small card. Among the few unscrupulous registrants, when they were finally inducted into service, these final certificates were bartered to men of draft age who for one reason or another had failed to register for the draft. This final certificate, then, for a short period of time rendered them immune from arrest for failure to register. On March 1, 1918, General Crowder so amended the selective service regulations that at the final roll call, prior to entrainment for camp, each drafted man was required to turn over to his local draft board his certificate of final classification. If the registrant had lost his certificate, or claimed to have lost it, a written and detailed explanation was required to be filed with the board. This method automatically eliminated any attempts at evasion of the draft act by this particular method.

During the period from February 1st to the latter part of April many hundreds of specially trained registrants were inducted into service and sent to camps in the south and southwest. From information conveyed in the induction call for these men it was understood by the Adjutant General's office that construction complications demanded the induction of highly skilled mechanics and other tradesmen. Among the trades es-

Classification Sub-division Causes Confusion.

Traffic In Classification Cards Stopped.

pecially called for were bricklayers, mechanics of all descriptions, carpenters, blacksmiths, farriers, construction foremen, and lumber and sawmill experts.

"Nation's
Want Column"
Fills
Emergency
Need.

These men were largely secured by what was known as "The Nation's Want Column." A list of the needed occupations was printed in poster style and sent to each local board. These posters were displayed in such a manner that the attention of the registered men of that division would be attracted to it. If any of these registrants were in a position to voluntarily serve they were asked to do so, and by this means, it was understood, a serious emergency was met.

Although the operation of the draft, as far as Minnesota was concerned, dated historically from June 5, 1917, the first men to be sent to the training camps left in September, 1917. Thus the question of drafting of farm labor had been a purely academic one. Now that spring had arrived and seeding time with it, the question was removed from its academic and made into a personal, pertinent, timely matter. The question of the food supply was a vital one not only for this country but for the countries which were allied in the winning of the war. Calls for men were coming faster and faster because of the completion of training camps and the increased facilities for handling men. The question of the disposition of the farmer registrants was one which was of great importance to everybody.

Farmer
Registrants
Deferred in
Call to Raise
Foodstuffs.

In order to insure the sowing of a large crop and its proper cultivation, it became necessary to defer the call to service for the time being of men who were actively, completely, and assiduously engaged in the planting or cultivation of crops. This was done on the urgent representation to General Crowder by the food administration.

In round numbers, more than 9,000 men in Minnesota were thus deferred in their call to the colors. These men were permitted to remain on the farm, cultivate and harvest their crops, and in many cases sow their winter wheat before they were required to enter the army. "Fighting the foe with the hoe" was the duty of these farmer registrants, and because of their sturdy battle Minnesota was enabled to produce one of the largest and most valuable crops in its history.

This was not the only means adopted for insuring a large crop. If farmers had already been sent to service and their assistance was needed for cultivation or harvest purposes, a furlough for the necessary period of time from the training camp to the farm was made possible by a further amendment of the selective service regulation. While no figures are available, it has been estimated by county agricultural agents through the state, in the neighborhood of 3,500 men were thus called back from military life to civil life in order to insure that while "the

world was being made safe for democracy," democracy should not go hungry.

At this stage of the operation of selective service, registrants following their physical examinations were divided into three general classes. Formerly there had been one of two things to do, either accept a registrant physically or reject him. Into the first physical class, Class A, were placed all men fit for general military service, i.e., men whose physical qualifications were such as to not interfere with their assignment to any department of active military endeavor; into Class B were placed men who, because of minor or curable physical defects, were unfit for general military service but still could be used in departments not requiring physical perfection; into Class C were placed men who were permanently physically unfit for any form of military service.

One of the inevitable results of this classification was disaffection among the men placed in Class B, special or limited military service. A large number of the men so placed in this classification felt humiliated and many varied were the steps taken by them to get out of this limited service class and into Class A, general service class. Instances were related in the state press of a man whose excessive weight was the cause of his classification in the special or limited service class, underwent a rigorous course of training to eliminate his superfluous flesh. Others who, by reason of their excessive thinness, were placed in this classification, endeavored to pick up the flesh that was being dropped by their more heavily padded brethren. Still others who needed a slight or minor surgical operation or medical attention, immediately underwent such care as was deemed necessary by their physicians. For these reasons Class B, special or limited military service, was in a constant state of flux and many good soldiers were obtained.

As in the formation of a new trade or profession where words are coined or old words inclined to a new meaning, so the selective service added to the labor of the lexicographers. As an example, the word "induction," whose dictionary meaning is "The process of putting into office," was changed into the meaning of selective service manual to be "The process of taking from civil life and placing into military life those men who had been selected for that purpose by their local draft boards." Other terms and phrases of peculiar importance to the selective service are "deferred classification," "selected man," "contingent," "quota," "allotment," "call," and "quota basis."

There are four methods of induction recognized under the regulations: General induction; voluntary induction; individual induction; and special induction. General induction is the process of placing into the army in a normal manner men called to fill a normal state quota. These men are not required to

Three Physi-
cal Classes
Now Estab-
lished.

Selective
Service Adds
to Lexico-
graphers'
Labors.

Four Pro-
cesses of
Induction
Into Army.

have any special knowledge or any special qualification. Voluntary induction is the process of voluntarily offering one's self to the filling of any call. Individual induction is the process of calling individually certain registrants by properly authorized army officials. Special induction is the calling to service of registrants usually, but not necessarily, skilled along certain lines.

Stop Sending Questionnaires to Fighters Overseas.

Many local boards, in their endeavor to follow out the selective service regulations, forwarded questionnaires to men in military or naval forces of the United States who were overseas, or to the Adjutant General of the Army, in order that these questionnaires might be properly filled out and returned. At this particular period in the "winning of the war" shipping space was extremely valuable. Questionnaires in quantities took up much valuable space and thus prevented transportation of foodstuffs, munitions of war, clothing, or other necessities. Notification was given the local boards that when evidence was presented which beyond a reasonable doubt established the fact that the registrant was in active service that he should be placed in Class 5 without the formality of sending a questionnaire to him. By this cutting of the Gordian knot large amounts of cargo space were saved and a tremendous amount of routine "paper work" was eliminated on the part of the fighting men overseas.

Divulging Draft Information Forbidden.

Toward the last of April the question of divulging any information contained in the questionnaires filed by registrants was discussed and settled by an order from General Crowder forbidding any such practice. The only exception that was made to this rule was the granting of permission to any accredited representative of the Army intelligence, Navy intelligence, Secret Service, Department of Justice, or other investigational officers of the Federal Government, to examine records of any registrant in the possession of the draft boards.

Certain Aliens to be Placed in Class 5.

The sequel to the ten months' investigation of the international status of friendly aliens was reached on May 3, 1918, when an order by General Crowder required "all persons discharged from the army on the ground of alienage or upon the request of the accredited diplomatic representative of the country of which the man is a citizen or subject" to be placed in Class 5.

Care of tubercular registrants by state organizations was recommended early in 1918 by General Crowder. By this method it was hoped soon to have each state anti-tubercular society in possession of all the data regarding the male consumptives in the draft age.

A strenuous campaign against the "white plague" was begun by the Federal Government among its armed forces, and the military, through the local boards, were requested on May 20, 1918, to cooperate with the state anti-tuberculosis forces in an endeavor to stamp out the disease.

"White Plague" Campaign Begun by Federal Order.

Forged communications to local boards, by means of which it was hoped to escape military service, were exposed by General Crowder during the first part of June, 1918. A wide variety of the methods in use were catalogued and members of the boards were warned not to permit any registrant to use them effectively. In many cases, where the individual had not registered, it was hoped by means of these letters to prove that he was either over or under the age limit then existing.

Forgery Used for "Stacker" Purposes.

A eulogy of the work done by the local, district and medical advisory boards was given in a telegram from General Crowder on the first anniversary of the draft, June 5, 1918. The telegram read as follows:

Draft Boards Eulogized by General Crowder.

"One year ago occurred the first registration for military purposes of the young manhood of the Nation. Ten million men responded in a single day. This accomplishment was nothing short of marvelous. The task of utilizing the enormous force seemed unachievable. But the work of classification of this great mass of man power in such a way as to permit of its organization and molding into an effective army was intrusted to 4,663 local boards and 156 district boards, constituting a force of nearly 15,000 of the leading citizens of every community who, assisted in their work by more than 100,000 equally patriotic volunteers, have performed a work that challenges the attention and excites the admiration of all our people.

"Well may we pause today, while another million of our youths enter the lists, and survey the results of the year's work. Each registrant has been examined and his availability for military service has been determined. In other words, these millions of men have been classified in such a manner that the Nation may now call for them to come forward into the army. No call can be so large that it will not be filled immediately, whether the number be such as may be filled by those who have been found to stand in the front rank of availables or so great that men standing in the second, third or fourth ranks of availability must go forward. In other words, these millions of men who one year ago were an inert mass have become a mobile army. Each has found his place and each in his proper turn has marched or awaits the order to march.

"These results could not have been accomplished except through the devoted and unselfish labor of patriots. The local and district boards have scored an unprecedented triumph and have earned the undying gratitude of the Nation.

They have already sent into camp, including those under orders for June mobilization, an army of more than a million and a half men. They have already produced as soldiers one man out of every six registrants, and the world stands in profound astonishment as it views this accomplishment.

"Compensated poorly, if at all, except by the gratitude and affection of their neighbors and of the Nation at large, the boards have labored incessantly through the enervating heat of last summer, only to find a still greater task awaiting their unceasing devotion throughout the rigors of the following winter. Then, having accomplished the classification, they found themselves confronted with the mobilization of millions of men, and accurately and promptly they have performed and are performing this labor. Much work yet remains. Today the new men of twenty-one are being registered and must be speedily classified. On the first of next month the local and district boards will be invested with the still further responsibility of preventing idleness and of unproductive employment which is not effective to the Nation in the emergency. Some boards will review their work and correct those inequalities which have been unavoidable in so tremendous an undertaking.

"The Nation, however, with full confidence in the men who have performed these great tasks in the past, face the future without foreboding. The splendid work of our local and district boards and of the other great volunteer army of assistants has filled us with admiration. They have been tried and found true and so long as this war may last our people are happy in the complete assurance that this great organization will not fail the Nation. Crowder."

In this splendid tribute to the men who made the success of the Selective Service possible General Crowder paid a high tribute to himself as an organizer. He realized that the work was of such nature that it needed and required the assistance of the type of men whose services could not be purchased for this kind of work, but who were of the type that when their country needed them could be relied upon to step in and labor until the task was completed.

In this acknowledgment, and also in an interview given to the press, he declared himself supremely satisfied with the exceptionally high character of the membership of the draft boards throughout the country.

The first registration for the Selective Service was held on June 5, 1917. One year later, to the day, the second registration was held. The men who registered were those who had attained their majority subsequent to June 5, 1917, and prior to June 6, 1918. While the registration entailed the appearance of a little under one million men, its psychological effect was even greater than the first registration.

Second
Registration
Held June 5,
1918.

Casualty lists had appeared for several months bearing the names of the dead, wounded and missing of our troops overseas, but the calling for these youths who had just reached their majority, yet who had not cast their first vote, made a deep and lasting impression on the minds of the American public.

While thoroughly legal in every respect, a situation arose and was investigated that was not a "square deal" to a large number of the registered men. With the idea in mind of enlisting in either the Navy or the Marine Corps, a number of registrants presented evidence which insured their being placed in a deferred classification. These same men then secured a release from their local boards and enlisted in the Navy or Marine Corps.

It was a granted premise at that time, and still is, that both these branches of service are essential to the successful carrying on of the war, yet this practice mildly perverted the principle of the regulations, and under date of June 7, 1918, an order was issued which corrected the situation.

The order specified that any registrant who had been placed in a deferred classification and who desired to enlist in any specific branch of armed service must first be placed in Class 1, and then if he was not needed to fill any current quota of the local board he could secure a release to enlist in his chosen branch of service.

This idea was further carried out in an order which permitted any resident alien to enlist in the military forces of a co-belligerent of the United States. This order enabled the alien to practically choose between fighting under the Stars and Stripes or that flag under which he had been born or for which he held the most respect. It was avidly seized on by a large number of the non-English-speaking aliens and for quite a little time the recruiting staffs of the embassies of the various foreign countries were kept busy.

With the idea of still further unifying the physical standards of the draft boards and the regular army examining surgeons, new physical examination regulations were issued on June 11, 1918. This was the second change made in these regulations, and it was thought that this would bring into still closer union these two different branches of physical examiners.

The change was badly needed, as in a certain shipment of men to a centrally located camp the percentage of rejections suddenly jumped from less than 2% to more than 20%. The examinations at the local draft boards had been no less rigid than they were before, but the variance between the two standards was emphasized more strongly when the army standards were strictly applied.

Unfair En-
listment by
Deferred
Classes
Stopped.

Friendly
Aliens Per-
mitted to
Enlist Under
Native Flag.

Second
Change in
Physical
Regulations
Made.

Re-examina-
tion Ordered
of Current
Quota.

As soon as these new regulations had been received the Adjutant General ordered each local board in the state to re-examine all its contingent who were to go to Camp Grant in the June call. The men were gone over systematically and there was a calm assumption that Minnesota would have a record-breaking minimum of rejections.

Much to the surprise of everyone connected with the draft in Minnesota shortly after the June contingent arrived in Camp Grant the rejected men began pouring back to their local boards. Some of the boards in the state had as much as 25% rejections on this call.

Perfunctory
Examination
Complained
of by Rejected.

The men rejected all complained of a perfunctory examination at the camp and as a result of their testimony a "smoking" letter of complaint was sent to the camp commander at Camp Grant and also to General Crowder.

These wholesale rejections at Camp Grant caused much avoidable expense to the government in the transportation and subsistence of the men and, in the opinion of the Adjutant General, were the result of a too captious examination.

Conscientious
Objectors
to be Met
Firmly.

The question of disposition of conscientious objectors, even in Biblical times, was one which had to be met with a firm but kind appreciation that all do not function alike in their methods of thought and life. On June 11, 1918, General Crowder stipulated that a claim by a conscientious objector should not be regarded as prima facie evidence of a deferred classification. A certificate of non-combatancy should be issued the objector if he was in Class 1, if the local board was convinced of the honesty of his claim, but otherwise no action should be taken on the claim until he had passed through the regular channels of the draft.

June 5, 1918,
Registrants
Like Race
Horses.

In direct contrast to the conscientious objector, the eagerness of the youthful registrants of June 5, 1918, to get into service was refreshing. Like high-bred race horses, straining their necks, ears pricked forward, nostrils distended, these youths fairly quivered with the intense desire to get into some form of armed service.

The importunities of this class of registrants became so strong and imperative that permission to enlist in the Navy or Marine Corps was given by General Crowder on June 11, 1918. As a direct result of this permission the class of 1918 (as it was then called) was seriously depleted by such enlistments of these youngsters.

Rail Control
Makes
Changes
Necessary.

When the Government took over control of rail transportation various supercharges, for different gradations of service rendered, were established. These charges necessitated a slight change in the transportation requests used by the local boards

to secure transportation needed for the various contingents of drafted men ordered to training camps.

Where drafted men were required to travel more than 14 hours en route to their destination, and where such travel would normally require sleeping accommodations, and where tourist sleepers could be secured, under the regulations it was imperative that such tourist sleepers be used. Where "tourists" were not available standard Pullman accommodations were permitted.

Taking over the direction of the railroads created an intangible mental attitude on the part of the drafted men which almost invariably resulted in the feeling that they were being cared for in a thoroughly efficient governmental manner. It completed the heretofore broken chain of governmental contact. From the moment of their call to their arrival in camp the drafted men were under the direct supervision of Government employes, there being no interposition of private ownership.

May 18, 1917, in addition to being the date of the enactment of the Selective Service law was also the "dead line" after which marriage would not be considered, of itself, a basis for deferred classification. The new registration, June 5, 1918, brought a class of registrants who had arrived at the age of 21 years subsequent to June 5, 1917, and prior to June 6, 1918. It obviously would have been unfair to use May 18, 1917, as the "dead line" for marriage contracted by these registrants, and so January 15, 1918, the date of the introduction of the joint resolution regarding the new registration, was adopted as the date after which these registrants could not marry and request a deferred classification as a result.

It was with much pleasure that the Adjutant General reviewed a recapitulation sheet showing the number of requests for deferred classification based on marriages subsequent to January 15, 1918. This recapitulation graphically showed that these requests were considerably less, in proportion, than the preceding class of registrants. The figures were in the neighborhood of a 70 per cent reduction.

The number of the marriages, in proportion, had not decreased, but the number of requests for deferred classification on that ground had. Analytical observers were of the opinion that a deeper national realization of the seriousness of the war had taken hold of the younger generation and was the cause of this splendid showing.

A thorough examination of the case of every registrant not yet called to the colors was ordered by General Crowder on June 22, 1918. The purpose of this was to ascertain if any material changes had taken place in the economic or family conditions of each registrant. A reclassification of every registrant whose condition had changed so as to materially affect his classification in the draft was ordered.

New Method
Completes
Chain of
Contact.

Marriage
"Dead Line"
Made June
15, 1918, for
New Class.

New Class
Claimed Less
Marriage
Exemption.

Reclassifica-
tion of All
Registrants
Ordered.

Classifications
Affected
Were Classes
2, 3 and 4.

This work pertained to those registrants who had been placed in Class 2, A and B; Class 3, A, B and C, and Class 4, A, particularly. As these classifications deal exclusively with dependency relations, it was thought with the passage of time that some changes might have occurred which would be sufficient ground for reclassification by the local boards.

The first two classifications, Class 2, A and B, stipulate as follows:

"Class 2, A. 'Married men with children, or father of motherless children, where such wife or children, or such motherless children are not mainly dependent on his labor for support for the reason that there are other reasonably certain sources of adequate support (excluding earnings or possible earnings from the labor of the wife) available, and that the removal of the registrant will not deprive such dependents of support.'

"Class 2, B. 'Married men without children, whose wife, although the registrant is engaged in a useful occupation, is not mainly dependent on his labor for support, for the reason that the wife is skilled in some special class of work which she is physically able to perform, and in which she is employed, or in which there is an immediate opening for her under conditions that will enable her to support herself decently and without suffering or hardship.'

"Class 3, A. 'Man with dependent children (not his own) but toward whom he stands in the relation of parent.'

"Class 3, B. 'Man with dependent aged or infirm parents.'

Class 3, C. 'Man with dependent or helpless brothers or sisters.'

"Class 4, A. 'Man whose wife or children are mainly dependent upon his labor for support.'"

Thousands
Reclassified
as Result of
Order.

Realizing that a period of more than a year can and does produce many changes in family relationship, this reclassification was ordered. A sincere effort on the part of each local board to meet the intent as well as the letter of this reclassification order resulted in many thousands of registrants in Minnesota being placed in Class 1. Not all the reclassification was from deferred classes to Class 1. Many thousands of primary class registrants were placed in deferred classes as the result of changes in the family relationship or in business conditions.

Crowds Present
Data
For Reclassification
Purposes.

After the first startled gasp from registrants in deferred classification, the necessity of such reclassification was discerned and the information necessary to a thorough and complete reclassification was gladly furnished the local board. Each draft headquarters was crowded night after night during this

period with registrants and their families who were present to furnish the needed information.

Many cases were brought to light where financial reverses had made the conditions of many of the registrants deplorable. Disease and death in other cases had wrought havoc with the producers of the families, and if it had not been for this reclassification order little of this information would have been given to the local board by the registrant through a mistaken idea of patriotism.

When the Selective Service was instituted it was specifically stated that no control of industry was contemplated. The introduction of the questionnaire method furnished an accurate census of the industrial qualifications of every registrant, and when sufficient time had elapsed for a comprehensive study of the tabulated information secured from the questionnaires the "work or fight" order was promulgated.

Under the provisions of this order, roughly speaking, those registrants engaged in non-productive labor or employment were obliged to seek productive employment. On the face of it this order was a drastic one, but in its practical application little, if any, real disturbance in industrial conditions resulted. Employers of labor, such as department store and other retail establishments, were obliged to secure more female help, but the change was made by degrees and there was no violent disruption.

Those affected by this order were:

"Persons engaged in the serving of food and drink, or either, in public places, including hotels, social clubs; passenger elevator operators and attendants, and door men, foot men, carriage openers and other attendants at clubs, hotels, stores, apartment houses, office buildings and bath houses; 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 performances; persons employed in domestic service; sales clerks and other clerks employed in stores and other mercantile establishments."

In order that the foregoing "non-productive occupations or employments" might be further elaborated, General Crowder, under date of June 21, 1918, furnished an explanation of the various occupations affected by the order.

Thousands of letters and telegrams of inquiry relating to the new order almost swamped the office of the Provost Marshal General. These queries were occasioned by the fact that the outline of occupations affected was intentionally made somewhat vague.

Realizing that it is impossible to draft a set of laws or regulations to govern human methods of gaining a livelihood which

"Work or
Fight" Order
Not Control
of Industry.

Occupations
Affected by
Order.

Explanation
of Order
Issued on
June 21.

will adequately cover the innumerable necessary exceptions, General Crowder and his advisors purposefully omitted specifying too elaborately any immutable regulations in this order.

Explanation
of "Work
or Fight"
Order.

In General Crowder's explanations of the "work or fight" order the paragraph "Persons engaged in the serving of food and drink, or either, in public places, including hotels and social clubs," was not made applicable to "managers, clerks, cooks or other employees, unless they were engaged in the serving of food or drink, or either."

In the paragraph specifying "passenger elevator operators and attendants" the words "other attendants include bell boys, and also include porters, unless such porters are engaged in heavy work."

The paragraph pertaining to "persons employed in domestic service" was held in the explanation to "not include public or private chauffeurs, unless they are also engaged in other occupations or employments defined as non-productive."

The paragraph specifying "sales clerks and other clerks employed in stores and other mercantile establishments" was explained to "not include store executives, managers, superintendents, nor the heads of such departments as accounting, financial, advertising, credit, purchasing, delivery, receiving, shipping and other departments; does not include registered pharmacists employed in wholesale and retail drug stores or establishments, and does not include traveling salesmen, buyers, delivery drivers, electricians, engineers, carpet layers, upholsterers, nor any employees doing heavy work outside the usual duties of clerks."

The words "sales clerks and other clerks" do include the clerical force in the office and in all departments of stores and mercantile establishments.

Order
Amended to
Exclude
Amusement
Workers.

This order was amended under date of July 6 to exclude "owners and managers, actual performers, including musicians, in legitimate concerts, operas, motion pictures, or theatrical performances, and the skilled persons who are necessary to such productions, performances, or presentations," from the work or fight provisions.

By this means such skilled workers as motion picture operators, camera men, and others, whose services were vital to the continuance of the motion picture industry, were permitted to continue in their occupation and thus maintain popular priced amusements for the "home folks."

A number of local boards were in doubt as to the application of the "work or fight" order to registrants finally classified in Class 5. Although the Adjutant General's office felt itself competent to rule on the question, a telegram of inquiry was sent to General Crowder to secure an authoritative ruling. The answer to the query specifically excluded from the operation of

the "work or fight" order any registrant finally classified in Class 5, irrespective of their occupation.

In order that this regulation might not work unnecessary hardship the following grounds were specified for acceptance by local and district boards as reasonable excuse for temporary idleness or for being engaged in a non-productive occupation or employment:

Exceptions to
Order
Explained.

"Sickness, reasonable vacation; lack of reasonable opportunity for employment in any occupation outside of those described, or those hereafter specified by regulation or rule; temporary absence (not regular vacations) from regular employment, not to exceed one week, unless such temporary absences are habitual and frequent, shall not be considered as idleness; where there are compelling domestic circumstances which would not permit change of employment by the registrant without disproportionate hardship to his dependents, or where a change from a non-productive to a productive employment or occupation would necessitate the removal of the registrant from his place of residence, and such removal would, in the judgment of the board, cause unusual hardship to the registrant or his family; or where such change of employment would necessitate the night employment of women under circumstances deemed by the boards as unsuitable for such employment of women, boards are authorized to consider any or all of such circumstances as reasonable excuse for non-productive employment."

In order to properly fill out and complete, ready for local board action, the questionnaires of the registrants of June 5, 1918, the services of both legal advisory board members and their associates were again called into use. These men performed a difficult technical task, one which was absolutely necessary and yet which would have been an impossibility to have been cared for by local board members. It will be remembered that the services rendered by these legal advisory board members are gratuitous. Only the highest calibre of men were used for this work, the nature of which demanded intelligence, discrimination and tact, as well as an infinite amount of patience.

Legal Ad-
visors Again
Called for
Service.

To lessen the expense entailed in the delivery of a draft deserter from points in northern Minnesota or North and South Dakota authorization was given to deliver such prisoners to the sheriff at Bismarck, North Dakota, instead of Fort Snelling, Minnesota. This was done by command of Major General Barry, in charge of the Central Military district.

Another
"Deserter
Delivery
Point" Desig-
nated.

It was the general impression that because of the travel distance and the cost entailed many draft deserters were not being apprehended to the extreme portions of the territory

tributary to Fort Snelling. Although no accurate figures are available, it is estimated by competent military authorities that this additional point for delivery of deserters caused an increase of approximately 30 per cent of these men to be apprehended.

These prisoners would be held in the custody of the sheriff at Bismarck until an armed guard could be sent from Fort Snelling to escort them back to the fort. By this means the expense involved in transportation and in feeding the prisoners was reduced to a minimum.

Experienced and able instructors for "aviation ground work" in engineering schools instructing men for the army were few in number. A large percentage of these instructors were between the ages of 21 years to 31 years old, the then existing draft age limits. In order to make sure of the retention of these instructors as such, General Crowder, on July 9, 1918, issued a regulation giving authority for the enlistment of these men in the "enlisted reserve corps of the Engineering Department."

The ruling read: "Under such regulations as the Chief of Engineers may prescribe, teachers who are engaged primarily in the training of men in ground work for aviation in engineering schools which are giving courses for the mechanical training of soldiers, may, upon nomination by the school authorities, enlist in the enlisted reserve corps of the Engineering Department, and thereafter, upon presentation by registrant so enlisting to his local board a certificate of such enlistment, the certificate shall be filed with the questionnaire of the registrant, and the registrant shall be placed in Class 5 on the ground that he is in the military service of the United States."

The institutions which were chiefly affected by this order were Dunwoody Industrial Institute of Minneapolis, and the University of Minnesota.

Great Britain and her dependencies were allied with the United States in the furtherance of the "War to make the world safe for democracy." Some method was necessary to avoid useless duplication of recruiting for the armed forces of each country. England, Canada and the United States had each adopted some form of a draft upon the able man-power of each country. The basic principle of this draft was to secure the largest number of armed men with the least disturbance to necessary industry.

During the preceding years of peace emigration of hundreds of thousands of citizens of each of these countries to the other country had taken place. The situation that existed when war with the Imperial German Government was forced upon the United States included an "alien problem." Under international laws then existing it was an impossibility for one country to draft into military service citizens or subjects of another country. The United States respected these international laws and

Ground
Aviation
Instructors
Enlisted in
Reserve.

International
Draft Agree-
ment Signed
by Britain
and United
States.

for a time alien citizens or subjects of Great Britain and of Canada were given deferred classification, along with other aliens.

Because these same aliens were prospering in this country, a large majority of the citizens of the United States, decrying the injustice which permitted aliens to take financial advantage of the war and demanded citizens of the United States to sacrifice, requested that wherever possible the services of these aliens be utilized in the common military cause. It was a delicate subject and one which required extremely careful handling.

On June 3, 1918, a decision was finally reached between the British, Canadian and American governments. This agreement, with certain restrictions, provided for the drafting into military service in the country in which he resided of a citizen of any of the three countries signatory to the agreement. If a citizen of the United States resident in Great Britain or a British or Canadian subject resident in the United States originally resided where the law did not impose compulsory military service, he was not made liable to the provisions of this international agreement.

In a study of this phase of the draft it should especially be borne in mind that this was not a draft by Great Britain of British or Canadian subjects resident in the United States, and it was not a draft by the United States of its citizens resident in Great Britain or Canada. What this convention did do was to make liable for military service under the laws of the country they were residents of, citizens or subjects of any of the three countries signatory to the agreement. By this means territorial integrity of each of the countries was maintained and all opportunity for "slacking" was removed.

In other words, those affected by this international agreement were subject to the same deferred classification or exemption laws of the country in which they were residing as was a citizen or subject of that country.

To facilitate the work of drafting men affected by this international agreement an order by General Crowder on July 11, 1918, stipulated that in the United States the registration cards of all British and Canadian subjects should be placed in a separate file. Induction into military service of any of these registrants, whether declarants or non-declarants, was ordered stopped for a period of sixty days, as indicated in the convention, to permit their enlistment into the military of their own country.

Reciprocal
Draft
Decision
Reached on
June 3, 1918.

Registration
Cards Separ-
ated Under
New
Agreement.

"BRITISH AND CANADIAN CONVENTIONS.

"Convention Relating to the Service of Citizens of the United States in Great Britain and of British Subjects in the United States.

"The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, being convinced that for the better prosecution of the present war it is desirable that citizens of the United States in Great Britain and British subjects in the United States shall either return to their own country to perform military service in its Army or shall serve in the Army of the country in which they remain, have resolved to enter into a convention to that end, and have accordingly appointed as their plenipotentiaries, the President of the United States of America, Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States; and His Britannic Majesty, the Earl of Reading, Lord Chief Justice of England, High Commissioner and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary on Special Mission to the United States, who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found to be in proper form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:

"All male citizens of the United States in Great Britain and all male British subjects in the United States, shall, unless before the time limited by this convention they enlist or enroll in the forces of their own country or return to the United States or Great Britain, respectively, for the purpose of military service, be subject to military service and entitled to exemption or discharge therefrom under the laws and regulations from time to time in force of the country in which they are: Provided, That in respect to British subjects in the United States the ages for military service shall be for the time being 20 to 44 years, both inclusive: Provided, however (That no citizen of the United States in Great Britain and no British subject in the United States, who, before proceeding to Great Britain or the United States, respectively, was ordinarily resident in a place in the possessions of the United States or in His Majesty's dominions, respectively, where the law does not impose compulsory military service shall, by virtue of this convention, be liable to military service under the laws and regulations of Great Britain or the United States, respectively: Provided, further, That in the event of compulsory military service being applied to any part of His Majesty's dominions in which military service at

present is not compulsory, British subjects who before proceeding to the United States were ordinarily resident in such part of His Majesty's dominions, shall thereupon be included within the terms of this convention.)

"Citizens of the United States and British subjects within the age limits aforesaid who desire to enter the military service of their own country must, after making such application therefor as may be prescribed by the laws or regulations of the country in which they are, enlist or enroll or must leave Great Britain or the United States, as the case may be, for the purpose of military service in their own country before the expiration of 60 days after the date of the exchange of ratifications of this convention, if liable to military service in the country in which they are at the said date; or if not so liable, then before the expiration of 30 days after the time when liability shall accrue; or as to those holding certificates of exemption under Article III of this convention, before the expiration of 30 days after the date on which any such certificate becomes inoperative unless sooner renewed; or as to those who apply for certificates of exemption under Article III and whose applications are refused, then before the expiration of 30 days after the date of such refusal, unless the application be sooner granted.

"The Government of the United States and His Britannic Majesty's Government may through their respective diplomatic representatives issue certificates of exemption from military service to citizens of the United States in Great Britain and British subjects in the United States, respectively, upon application or otherwise, within 60 days from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this convention, or within 30 days from the date when such citizens or subjects become liable to military service in accordance with Article I, provided that the applications be made or the certificates be granted prior to their entry into the military service of either country.

"Such certificates may be special or general, temporary or conditional, and may be modified, renewed, or revoked in the discretion of the Government granting them. Persons holding such certificates shall, so long as the certificates are in force, not be liable to military service in the country in which they are.

"This convention shall not apply to British subjects in the United States: (a) who are born or naturalized in Canada, and who, before proceeding to the United States, were ordinarily resident in Great Britain or Can-

ada or in any other part of His Majesty's Dominions to which compulsory military service has been or may be hereafter by law applied, or outside the British Dominions; or (b) who were not born or naturalized in Canada, but who before proceeding to the United States were ordinarily resident in Canada.

"The Government of the United States and His Britannic Majesty's Government will, respectively, so far as possible facilitate the return of British subjects and citizens of the United States who may desire to return to their own country for military service, but shall not be responsible for providing transport or the cost of transport for such persons.

"No citizen or subject of either country who, under the provisions of this convention, enters the military service of the other shall, by reason of such service, be considered after this convention shall have expired or after his discharge to have lost his nationality or to be under any allegiance to His Britannic Majesty or to the United States, as the case may be.

"The present convention shall be ratified by the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the United States, and by His Britannic Majesty, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington or a London as soon as possible. It shall come into operation on the date on which the ratifications are exchanged and shall remain in force until the expiration of 60 days after either of the contracting parties shall have given notice of termination to the other; whereupon any subject or citizen of either country incorporated into the military service of the other under this convention shall be as soon as possible discharged therefrom.

"In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention and have affixed thereto their seals.

"Done in duplicate at Washington the 3d day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

"ROBERT LANSING, (Seal)

"READING. (Seal)."

"Convention Relating to the Service of Citizens of the United States in Canada and of Canadians in the United States.

"The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions Beyond the Seas, Emperor of India being convinced that for the better prosecution of the present war it is desirable that citizens of the United States in Canada and Canadian British subjects in the United States shall either return to their own country to perform military service in its Army or shall serve in the Army of the country in which they remain, have resolved to enter into a convention to that end and have accordingly appointed as their plenipotentiaries the President of the United States of America, Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States, and His Britannic Majesty, the Earl of Reading, Lord Chief Justice of England, high commissioner and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary on special mission to the United States, who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers found to be in proper form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:

"All male citizens of the United States in Canada (hereinafter called Americans), and all male British subjects in the United States (a) who were born or naturalized in Canada, and who, before proceeding to the United States were ordinary resident in Great Britain or Canada or in any part of His Majesty's Dominions to which compulsory military service has been or may be hereafter by law applied, or outside the British Dominions; or (b) who were not born or naturalized in Canada, but who, before proceeding to the United States, were ordinarily resident in Canada (hereinafter called Canadians), shall, unless before the time limited by this convention they enlist or enroll in the forces of their own country or return to the United States or Canada, respectively, for the purpose of military service, be subject to military service and entitled to exemption or discharge therefrom under the laws and regulations, from time to time in force, of the country in which they are: Provided, That in respect to Americans in Canada, the ages for military service shall be the ages specified in the laws of the United States prescribing compulsory military service, and in respect to Canadians in the United States the ages for military service shall be for the time being 20 to 44 years, both inclusive.