Emergency Employment Committee for Soldiers and Sailors

Stopping the Breach Caused by the Curtailment of Funds of the United States Employment Service

By D. M. Reynolds, U. S. Council of National Defense

THE United States Council of National Defense, through an Emergency Employment Committee representing all branches of the Government, has taken over the problem of finding employment for soldiers and sailors—work that became necessary because of the lack of funds available in the U. S. Employment Service. This need became apparent when on March 13th the Department of Labor issued the following statement:

"Owing to the failure of the passage of the Urgent Deficiency bill and the unavailability of funds from other sources, the U. S. Employment Service, the national machine for placing soldiers, sailors and war workers in suitable employment, will be reduced to 20 per cent of its present size on March 22d."

This simple announcement meant that the U. S. Employment Service, which during the first ten months of 1918 had taken out of peace-time pursuits over two and a quarter million men and women and placed them in industries manufacturing supplies and ammunition for our armies at home and abroad, which, since the signing of the armistice had been placing in suitable employment an average of 100,000 men and women a week—must immediately reduce its machinery from 750 branch offices to approximately 56, and its personnel from nearly 5,000 employees to 1,000.

By March 14th the Council of National Defense announced the formation of an emergency committee to find employment for soldiers and sailors with Colonel Arthur Woods as chairman.

On the same day a telegram was sent to the Governors of each state and the mayors of a large number of principal cities asking for coöperation. Almost immediately telegrams began to pour in both to the Council of National Defense and the U. S. Employment Service from governors, mayors, organizations and private individuals, containing pledges of support and advices of immediate action tending to support the Federal Employment Service, until on March 22d, John B. Densmore, Director General of the U. S. Employment Service was able to issue a statement in which he said:

"In addition to the 56 offices which the Federal Employment Service had arranged to continue, approximately 250 more—nearly half the total number slated for closing today—are assured of continuance for the Employment Service by contributed funds and personal services. . . . The 2,000

Emergency Bureaus for Returning Soldiers and Sailors and the activities of the U. S. Employment Service in the demobilization camps and on the transports will also be continued at full blast. The pledges of outside funds to keep the service going until Congress assembles, from the treasuries of states, cities, chambers of commerce, labor and welfare organizations and other volunteer bodies already amount to hundreds of thousands."

The welcome which the inter-departmental committee, known as the Emergency Employment Committee—representing as it does all branches of the government which are interested in the problems of labor and employment—received from the press and the country at large, has demonstrated clearly the need for some such organization to act in a purely administrative capacity, and place behind the Federal Employment Service at least for the present emergency the full strength of all governmental machinery.

The personnel of the committee is satisfying and compelling. The records for performance of its individual members guarantee the carrying out of any task to which it sets itself.

In selecting Col. Arthur Woods as his special assistant in employment matters and to act as chairman of this committee, the Secretary of War has picked a man whose reputation for efficiency, integrity and inspiration is nation-wide.

A New York newspaper man in describing him said:

"He was the best Police Commissioner New York ever had." Mention his name to a New Yorker and the reply almost instantly is, "Oh, you mean the Police Commissioner."

The position of Police Commissioner of New York city has been the grave of many a shining reputation, and destroyed forever the hopes and aspirations of more than one incorruptible man. Woods' success was due solely to his policy of the square deal in its broadest sense. His first announcement was: "Any patrolman can see me personally, at any time and talk over his troubles, but the patrolman's friends can never see me." He lived up to this policy to the letter, which meant the immediate abolition of politics in the department. The effect on the morale of New York's 10,000 policemen was incalculable, and he left the police force the finest and best disciplined body of uniformed men in the world.

It will not be any part of the work of the Emergency Employment Committee to create, maintain or operate under its own administration, any employment machinery to substitute that which already exists.

Its first duty is to gather the fullest information concerning all existing agencies, whether governmental or established and maintained by private organizations and individuals, study their efficiency and find out just how the War Department and the committee can, by coöperating with the local agencies, fulfill the nation's obligation to the men which it is now returning to civil life.

Its second duty is to find out how the government and

The instant response by the country to the preliminary appeal, is clearly indicative that the nation—to paraphrase Victor T. J. Gannon, writing for "Carry-On"—is going to fight for him today, as he fought for us yesterday, that his tomorrow may be worthy of us both.

The Current Supplement

FROM time to time articles on the so-called "flying sickness" have appeared in the newspapers and magazines. It has usually been suggested that this sickness hinged upon a failure of the human mechanism properly to adjust itself to the change in pressure involved in passing from high altitudes to low or *vice versa*, and that accordingly it was in a way analogous to "bends" and other caisson afflictions. That this is utterly fallacious is the thesis of the author of *Flying Sickness*, in the current SUPPLEMENT, No. 2260, for April 26th; and an excellent case is made for what this experienced aviator regards as the true cause of the malady. In the chemical field is presented a translation of Professor Mourelle's recent address upon *Inorganic Complexes*, in which much of interest alike to chemist and to layman is said. *Water Power in California* discusses the position which this state occupies in the present and potential development of this factor in fuel conservation. *Degrees of Permanence in Photographic Prints* makes plain what can be done in this direction and how, and what cannot be done and why not. The amateur will find it instructive, and the professional will have to admit that at the very least it is interesting. An excellent account of the latest development in mechanical handling of materials is given in *The Portable Scoop Conveyor*. An investigator into the mysteries of crystal growth contributes an admirable description of his *Apparatus for Growing Crystals Under Control*. *The History of the Cattle-Tick Fight* tells what the Government has done to eradicate this dangerous pest, and the measure of success that has crowned the efforts. The story of *Radio Telephony* runs through its second installment, and will be concluded in a third part next week. In addition, various shorter articles of value will be found.

Composition of the Atmosphere of the Soil

FROM 10 to 20 per cent by volume of the soil is composed of air, but this "atmosphere of the soil" differs from the superficial atmosphere in composition

and is likewise more variable. The percentages of its constituents vary likewise from season to season. Recent investigations of this subject by two English scientists, Messrs. Russel and Appleyard at Rothamstead in England furnish some interesting data. To a depth of 0.15 meter the soil atmosphere is very similar to that of ordinary air, though containing a little more carbon dioxide, but the total amount of carbon dioxide plus oxygen is less than in the air. During periods of active nitrification the percentage of oxygen diminishes, and this is one of the conditions which characterizes the so-called "awakening" of the earth in spring.

Besides the atmosphere entangled in the interstices of the soil there is a certain amount of air dissolved in the water and the colloids the soil contains, but this is almost entirely deprived of oxygen.

From November to May the curves follow the temperature, but from May to November the percentage of oxygen in the atmosphere of the soil increases with every rain-fall (as does bacterial activity), which proves that the soil-atmosphere is renewed by the rain. This fact indicates that rain is superior to irrigation. As might be expected soil which is covered with turf contains more carbon dioxide and less oxygen than arable earth. The composition of the soil-atmosphere appears to be but slightly affected by variations in barometric pressure, by temperature, by velocity of the wind, or by crop conditions.

Seated, left to right—Mathew Woll, American Federation of Labor; Elliott Goodwin, General Secretary, Chamber of Commerce of the United States; John W. Hollowell; Edward N. Eurlay, Chairman United States Shipping Board; Colonel Arthur Woods, Chairman of the Committee; Grosvenor B. Clarkson, Director of the Council of National Defense; Franklin D. Roosevelt, Acting Secretary of the Navy; Nathan A. Smyth, Assistant Director General, United States Employment Service; E. J. Ayers, Interior Department. Standing, left to right—Assistant Secretary Christie, Department of Agriculture; D. M. Reynolds, Assistant to the Director, U. S. Council National Defense; E. H. Greenwood, Secretary of the Committee; B. S. Cutler, Chief, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; Dr. R. McElwee.

United States Council of National Defense's Emergency Employment Committee for Soldiers and Sailors

the Emergency Employment Committee can best supplement and support the work of the U. S. Employment Service, and encourage cities and towns, through public and private contributions to carry on the bureaus for returning soldiers and sailors, and to establish similar bureaus where they do not exist.

Its third and perhaps one of its most important functions will be to determine to the fullest extent, the needs of the discharged soldier, sailor and marine, and how best needs can be supplied. To do this work, plans have already been made for a very complete division of information. It will be the task of this division to establish a personal contact between the man and the department of the government with which he may have to deal. It has been proposed that this work shall be so complete that this branch will be able to answer any question regarding the status in civil life of the man leaving the service.

The Emergency Employment Committee has already received pledges of support and coöperation from all the great welfare organizations, from Chambers of commerce all over the United States, from many of the great trade and manufacturers organizations and other sources.

The organization of this committee and the work which it already has under way is complete evidence of a full measure of realization on the part of the government that its obligation to the individual does not cease when he is discharged from the service.