

and including the day of the current month upon which the payroll is actually made out, the only proviso for this fractional pay being that the deduction of allotments and other charges will be made for the full month.

For example, a man who hasn't seen the staking ghost for six or seven weeks, arrives in a leave area, say, on the 23rd day of the month. If he is the commanding officer is willing, included on a payroll which covers the period of the whole of the preceding month and the first 23 days of the current month, minus all his deductions in full for two months.

How It Works Out He has, say, a voluntary allotment of \$10 per month and a war risk insurance premium of \$3. He receives for the first month \$20, the difference between a full month's pay and the amount of his deductions, and, for the fractional part of the second month, \$12.30, the difference between his pay for 23 days and the amount of his deductions for a full month.

Between now and October 1 soldiers in hospitals will be paid on service records as in the past. In the event that a man's service record does not arrive at the hospital within a reasonable time after he does, the commanding officer of the hospital will write to the Central Records Office, A.P.O. 717, the gathering place of all stray service records, for it.

Just Fits the Pocket The "Soldier's Individual Pay Record Book," to give it its full name, is a 12 page booklet, not quite four by five inches in size, in a waterproof cover, and enclosed in an oil paper envelope on which the holder's name, number and organization are to be written. Book and envelope will fit neatly into the shirt pocket or the breast pocket of the blouse.

This book, it is stated on the first page, "will be carried by the soldier in his personal possession. No alterations of any kind will be made in this book. Necessary corrections of erroneous entries will be effected by making a new entry properly authenticated.

It is made the duty of all members of the A.E.F. finding an individual pay record book to mail same to the Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F."

All About You Page 1 contains the following blank form:

Soldier's No. Name Grade and Organization Occupation Entered service: From N.G. by draft, Aug. 5 17 (Yes or No) Place of rendezvous: By draft in National Army, date: Place of reporting: By enlistment in Reg. Army, date: Place of acceptance: Date of opening pay book: Date of arrival in U.S. from E.S.: Year and date of birth: Date of application for W.R. Ins.: Amount of War Risk Insurance \$: Serving in: enlistment period: Additional pay for: (Order No. source date): Due soldier for clothing, July 15/17 \$:

How Much is Due Pages 2 and 3 are the nub of the whole book. On these two pages the soldier's pay is computed with allotments, War Risk Insurance premiums and other deductions; so that the paying officer can tell at a glance how much is due the man. The soldier will sign this form, and his C.O. will witness it and certify that the entries are correct.

Pages 4 to 8 inclusive are for the record of the Q.M.C. officer making payment. The entries, however, will be made by the commanding officer of the unit paid. He states merely the date to which the man was paid, the date on which he was paid, and the name of the Q.M.C. officer making the payment. The remaining pages are devoted to the instructions for the book's use.

If a soldier loses his pay book, he must immediately report the fact to his C.O., who will secure another through the Chief Q.M. and enter the fact of the loss on the soldier's service record. New pay books will be issued when the old ones are filled up, defaced, illegible or unusable from any cause, and the old books will then be filed with the service records.

ALLOTMENT SAFE IF FOE TAKES OFFICER

Payments Still Go to Wife; Insurance Will Also Hold Good

The wife of a commissioned officer of the A.E.F. held prisoner in Germany will be paid the amount he has allotted her as long as he remains a prisoner, and the premiums on his war risk insurance will also be paid, according to a cablegram from the War Department received at the office of the Chief Quartermaster, A.E.F.

Enlisted men who are made prisoner have already been entitled to their pay during captivity, as stated in the Manual for the Quartermaster Corps, even though their term of service may expire while they are still held by the enemy. Allotments, also, shall continue, even though they may have expired subsequent to the soldier's capture, unless otherwise ordered by the Secretary of War.

The new ruling affecting officers is based on a case which has already occurred. An officer who had not made an allotment to his wife was taken prisoner. He had also made no arrangement for the payment of his W.R.I. premium. The arrangement for the payment of the allotment to the Quartermaster Corps, even though their term of service may expire while they are still held by the enemy. Allotments, also, shall continue, even though they may have expired subsequent to the soldier's capture, unless otherwise ordered by the Secretary of War.

PACKING PLANTS MAY YET BE RUN BY GOVERNMENT

Step Urged by Trade Commission After Investigation of Industry

GRAVE CHARGES BROUGHT

Big Companies Accused of Attempt to Monopolize Distribution of World's Food Supply

BY J. W. MULLER American Staff Correspondent of THE STARS AND STRIPES (By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES.) AMERICA, Aug. 15.—The most important domestic event this past week not directly connected with the war was the making public by the President of the Federal Trade Commission report, in his hands since July 3, recommending that the Government commander and operate for the public benefit all the instrumentalities of the meat packing industry.

The report was made public without any intimation of the action contemplated by the Administration. The report makes charges against the Armour, Morris, Wilson, Swift and Cudahy companies which go far beyond even the grave charges made in the recent profiteering report laid before the Senate. It is charged that the packers aimed to monopolize distribution of the food supply, not only of the United States but of all countries producing food surplus, and "to extort excessive profits from the people not only of the United States but of a large part of the world," and that toward this end they employed practically every tried method of unfair competition known, "and invented certain new and ruthless methods to crush weaker concerns."

Illegal Methods Cited Among the methods cited in the report are the creation of bogus independent, local price discrimination, short weighing, acquiring stock in competing companies, shutting competitors out of live-stock markets, employing lobbyists, electing favorable candidates and defeating others, controlling tax officials, and attempting "to bias public opinion by means of editorial policy through advertising, loans and subsidies and by the publication at large expense of false and misleading statements."

The commission also charges that the packers "used in a propaganda campaign to discredit Francis J. Heney, former U.S. Commissioner in its investigation of the commission's report, and the most deliberate falsification of returns properly required under legal authority. The report also refers to schools of witnesses to coach employees, the destruction of letters and documents vital to the investigation, and a conspiracy for answers to lawful inquiries of the commission.

More Than Meat Involved The report charges further that three of the most powerful banking groups in the country are involved in an elaborate and intricate organization for a vast monopoly, and that the combination among "the big five" is not a casual agreement, but a definite and positive conspiracy to regulate the purchase of live stock and control the price of meat. Meat substitutes, butter, cheese, canned fruits, rice and other food stuffs also come under the monopoly, according to the commission.

The report says: "The packers, in recent public advertisements, have striven to create the impression that they have grown to their present size solely as a result of efficiency, and that improper and illegal methods are merely incidental; but the conclusion is that they have attained their dominant position primarily as the result of unfair practices and illegal methods."

The commission discredits the packers' claims of superior efficiency, and recommends that the Government acquire through the federal railroad administration all rolling stock for the transportation of meat animals and declare such ownership a Government monopoly. The "big five" are said now to own 93 per cent of all kinds of cars used by interstate slaughterers, and 91 per cent of all refrigerator cars for meat transport.

Would Acquire Stockyards The commission further recommends that the Government acquire through the railroad administration the principal and necessary stockyards to use as freight depots and operate them to insure open competitive markets with a uniform scale of charges; that the Government acquire all privately owned refrigerator cars, such ownership being declared a Government monopoly, and that the Government acquire such branch houses, cold storage plants and warehouses as are necessary for the competitive marketing and storage of food in the principal centers of distribution and consumption.

The packers deny the charges and publish big newspaper advertisements, saying: "The packers' profits look big when the Federal Trade Commission reports that four of them earned \$140,000,000 during three war years. The packers' profits look small when it is explained that this profit was earned on total sales of more than four and one-half billion dollars, which means only about three cents' profit on each dollar of sales."

Rebates Also Charged Two days before the publication of this report, the New York Federal Grand Jury returned two indictments against the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the Armour, Swift and Jersey City stock yards companies, charging rebates during the past five years amounting to about \$700,000.

The Federal district attorney says that the action aims to give the Director General of Railroads a court ruling enabling him to break railroad leases over the entire country with elevator companies, storage houses, and pier and terminal organizations, leases which had the practical result of giving large shipper reductions on freight.

These actions were all taken by appointed officials on their own initiative, and without requiring public agitation or pressure of public opinion. It is regarded as a splendid proof of the national morale, because it is convincing evidence that the national machinery functions efficiently and unflinchingly, against even the most powerful interests. Rarely have more courageous, frank and uncompromising Government findings appeared than in this report and the previous profiteering reports to the Senate. You who fight for us in France may have unwavering confidence that we at home are going to keep house clean, and that no interest shall thrive wrongfully on your sacrifices.

PAIR OF PLATOONS SEIZE VESLE CREST

Two Non-Coms Conduct Advance That Holds Ground Won

MILE AHEAD OF BATTALION

Enemy Barrage Cuts Infantry Off and Gas Shells Make Evenings Busy Ones

How two Yankee platoons, officered only by two Infantry non-coms and advancing a mile ahead of their battalion, seized a crest overlooking the Vesle and held it alone for two days and two nights—that is the story of Sergeant Ralph M. Shemman and Sergeant Gordon Galtz, late of Big Rapids, Mich., and more recently of the western front. Their brigade had fought magnificently from the infested woods below the Oureq up and over that hill called 212 which rose like an ominous bastion to the east of Serqy. It had advanced eight kilometers in one breathless day and across the first three hills had to fight fiercely for every inch of soil taken.

Now they were approaching the Vesle, and the order to advance on a two-platoon front came at a moment when these forward platoons had no commissioned officer to lead them. One had been killed on Hill 212, one lay wounded over a line, a third had been called to fill a gap elsewhere. There were only the two sergeants. But they were plenty.

Isolated by Barrage The two platoons, tired and somewhat depleted after the climax of the battle, started for the valley of the Vesle—started at 6 in the morning. They had smothered several machine guns in their path and pushed on for a good half mile with the rest to follow, when right behind them dropped the curtain of a German barrage and there they were, isolated on a crest.

At a word from the sergeants, they unslung their shovels and burrowed into the ground. As the barrage ceased, the trench mortars opened up and the prostrate platoons could hear the great shells whir over their heads and fall—harmless—just behind them. On their bellies, the sergeants held a council of war. Their casualties had been light, one man having been wounded in the barrage and his pal killed in the effort to carry him to safety. The sergeants decided to stay where they were and send out runners to establish their whereabouts. Finally, one by one these fearless couriers of the battlefield crawled back with the news of the lay of the land.

The Nations Come Up The Germans were 200 yards ahead. To the left—nobody. To the right—nobody. To the rear—a mile away—the rest of their battalion. The major had sent word to stay put, with the assurance that the rest would join them at dawn. So ended the first day.

At dark, a venturesome ration detail reached them with their coffee and willie and hot coffee—or pretty hot coffee. That night, the gas shells came over with painful regularity, and the gas watch could allow the tired doughboys only intermittent slumber.

The next day they saw an American outfit of another division charge past them, charge almost through them. From the scattered shots that reached them, they knew they were being taken for Boches, so they ran up a flag that consisted of an unmistakably O.D. blouse fluttering from a rifle barrel. The signal succeeded and the shots ceased.

They hung on through the day. Still there was no sign of their own folks a mile behind them. Should they go back? They could hold the crest if need be. What was wanted? They sent a runner back to ask. And from the major, who knew that relief was coming for all of them with the dawn of the next day, came back this message: "Stay on the crest and make it safe for democracy."

GARBAGE IN THE SWIM

BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Aug. 15.—New York garbage contractors have dumped garbage near the harbor, with the result that when a quarter million bathers hurried themselves into the surf they butted into semi-solid chowder. The only way to distinguish the Coney Island bathers from garbage was by observing that the garbage didn't use the same stroke.

EIGHT BILLIONS IS AIM OF NEWEST REVENUE MEASURE

Details of Record Bill Now Being Worked Out by House Committee

HEAVY TAX ON BIG PROFITS

Corporation, Incomes and Luxuries Will Also Pay, and Many Things Untouched Before

BY J. W. MULLER American Staff Correspondent of THE STARS AND STRIPES (By Cable to THE STARS AND STRIPES.) AMERICA, Aug. 15.—The House Ways and Means Committee is still busy over the details of the new revenue bill. These details are mere trifles, being only questions of a billion dollars more or less. When we oldtimers think of the famous watchdogs of the treasury whose frantic bark awoke the whole continent every time a hundred thousand dollar appropriation bill lifted its head above the horizon, we have to laugh.

For weeks now the newspapers have been recording daily progress of the House committee's program and sums of less than half a million are not deemed worthy of mention. At this time the committee has pretty well figured out how to raise seven billions of the eight billion revenue demanded. The missing billion is missing only in the sense that it has not yet been decided out of what pile to take it. There are several piles, with a good many billions in each.

Heavy taxation of war and excess profits is certain, and apparently only the details remain to be ironed out during the coming week.

No Outside Assistance

An illuminating fact that casts a bright light on the great change that has so vastly yet almost imperceptibly come over the whole spirit of the country is that this huge revenue bill is being put through without any talk of jobs or any other of the outside assistance that once was an almost inseparable part of revenue legislation. Even the ultra-conservative organs and spokesmen who by nature and long habit unalterably oppose taxes on business and finance are exceedingly mild in tone. None of them emit their old-time thunders, and indeed to outward view it would seem almost as if all America from Wall Street down were simply letting official Washington attend to the whole business.

It is practically certain now that when the bill is offered to Congress it will carry very heavy taxes on big profits, greatly increased corporation taxes, advances on all incomes, and as big luxury taxes as the traffic will bear, with a good many novel taxes on things never before touched for national revenue.

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CROIX DE GUERRE FOR WAR CORRESPONDENT

Floyd Gibbons of Chicago Tribune Receives Decoration With Palm

The Croix de Guerre, with palm, has been given to Floyd Gibbons, the war correspondent. Here is the citation, in the words of General Pétain:

"Floyd Gibbons, the war correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, has given on several previous occasions proofs of courage and bravery in going to obtain information in most exposed positions. On June 5, 1918, accompanying a regiment of Marine riflemen, who were taking a wood, he was very seriously wounded by machine gun bullets while going to the aid of a wounded American officer, thus giving proof in this episode of the finest devotion. Rescued several hours later and carried to a dressing station, he insisted on not being cared for before the wounded who had arrived there before him."

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