

## BAKER REPLIES TO HIS CRITICS ON CONDUCT OF WAR; BULGARIA AND RUSSIA CONCLUDE A SEPARATE PEACE?

### Declares No Army of Similar Size in World's History Has Ever Been Raised, Equipped or Trained So Quickly As United States Forces.

### ARMS OF MOST EFFECTIVE TYPE PROVIDED FOR SAMMIES

#### Officers and Men Trained Especially for Modern Warfare—Independent Lines of Communication and Supply Under Construction and Great Plans Formulated for Production of New Death Dealing Instruments—Army of Million and a Half Men Now in the Field or in Training At Home and Abroad.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Secretary Baker today replied to criticism of his department's conduct of the war, in a long and exhaustive prepared statement presented to the Senate Military Committee.

Conceding delays and errors of judgment in so vast an undertaking Secretary Baker optimized his reply in the following words:

"No army of similar size in the history of the world has ever been raised, equipped or trained so quickly. No provision has ever been made for the comfort, health and general well-being of an army."

America now has in France an army of "substantial" size ready for active service, Secretary Baker told the committee.

Officers and men, he explained in a statement of the mobilization accomplishments have been trained specially for modern warfare, independent lines of communication and supply are in process of construction and great programs have been formulated for the production of new instruments of war.

#### MOST MODERN AND EFFECTIVE ARMS PROVIDED.

As of the most modern and effective kind, the secretary declared, have been provided for every soldier in France and are available for every fighting man who can be sent to France in 1918.

An army of nearly a million and a half men, enlisted and selected without dislocation of the nation's industries is now in the field or in training at home and abroad, he asserted. The subsistence of the army, he continued, has been above criticism while its initial clothing supply, temporarily inadequate is now substantially complete.

"In the foregoing conditions of the War Department's problem, and some of the results attained for two years," he said, "in the first place the American people are entitled to know of the splendid effectiveness with which they have been able to organize the man power and the material power of the nation in a great cause; and second, our army in France under General Pershing and our allies are entitled to have the benefit resulting from the depression of the morale of their enemies which must come when the Germans realize that American democracy has neither blundered nor hesitated but actually brought the full power of its resources into completely organized strength against their military machine."

#### ARMY MOBILIZATION BEATS ALL RECORDS.

"No army of similar size in the history of the world has ever been raised, equipped or trained so quickly. No such provision has ever been made for the comfort, health and general well-being of an army."

"By the cooperation of all interests and all people in the country the nation is now organized and set to its task with unanimity of spirit and confidence in its powers. More has been done than anybody dared to believe possible. That there have been errors of judgment and delays goes without saying; but I should be wanting in frankness were I to omit my own estimate of the real situation and stating that things have progressed wonderfully."

#### Outline of War Work.

The secretary gave an outline of the work of the War Department and its various bureaus.

"On the first day of April, 1917, the regular army," he said, "comprised 5,791 officers and 121,797 enlisted men; the National Guard in Federal service approximately 3,733 officers and 76,713 enlisted men; and the reserve 4,000 enlisted men. There were also at that time approximately 2,573 officers in the reserve, but as these were on inactive duty they cannot properly be considered in estimating the strength of the army of the United States at that time. On the 31st day of December, 1917, the regular army consisted of 10,250 officers and 475,000 enlisted men; the National Guard of 16,031 officers and 400,900 enlisted men; the National Army of 430,000 men, and the reserve of 84,575 officers and 72,750 enlisted men. In other words, in nine months the increase has been from 9,524 officers to 110,856 officers, and from 202,510 to 1,428,650 men."

#### Six Times as Great.

"During the war with Spain the army of the United States at its maximum strength aggregated 272,000 men and officers. The army now in the field and in training is, therefore, roughly six times as great as the maximum number under arms in the Spanish-American war."

"The total number already in the military service is one and a half times as large as any force ever mobilized by this nation."

"A substantial part of our military forces was selected by the operation of a draft law, the execution of which has demonstrated both the economical and the efficient way of selecting soldiers. The law itself was drawn, its execution carried to a successful conclusion and the theory of the law, novel to our people, explained and made popular, because of its demonstrated fairness both in plan and execution."

#### For Officers' Training.

"For the training of officers two series of training camps were held, from which about 45,000 officers were commissioned from civil life. This number is nearly eight times as great as the number of officers in the regular army on the first day of April."

"For the training of these soldiers, 16 cantonments have been built costing \$134,000,000 with an average profit to the contractors of 2.98 per cent."

#### The Death Rate.

"The death rate in our forces in the United States from mid-September to the end of December averaged 7.5 per thousand and is slightly less than would have been the death rate of men of the same age at home."

"For the fiscal year 1915 Congress appropriated for the War Department \$158,000,000; for fiscal year 1916, \$263,000,000; for the fiscal year 1917, \$493,000,000; for the fiscal year 1918, \$757,338,715. In other words taking 1915 as a normal year, the appropriations for 1918 are nearly 50 times as great."

"The regular appropriation made by Congress for all governmental purposes for fiscal year 1915 were \$730,000,000 or nearly one-tenth the 1918 appropriations for the War Department alone."

#### War Appropriations.

"Of the total War Department appropriations for 1918, \$3,200,000,000 was for the ordnance department of which contracts amounting to \$1,677,000,000 already have been placed."

"On the first day of April, 1917, the ordnance department consisted of 97 commissioned officers while now it consists of 3,004 officers and, in addition, has 26,120 enlisted personnel."

"In addition to the selection and training of this new force, the making of these great contracts, and the follow-up necessary in the manufacturing processes, a continuous study of new weapons and instrumentalities has been kept up. The trench warfare material alone involves commitments of \$282,000,000."

"For the quarter, \$2,018,000,000 was appropriated or a sum more than four times as great as the 1915 appropriations for all governmental purposes."

"On the first day of April there were 347 officers in the quartermaster corps. On the first day of January, 1918, there was a total of 6,431 officers."

"On the first day of January, 1918, nearly two billion dollars of the appropriation had been obligated by contracts for disbursements."

#### Aviation Section.

"The aviation section of the signal corps on the first day of April, 1917, consisted of 65 officers and 1,120 men. On the first day of January, 1918, it consisted of 3,900 officers and 82,120 men."

"This division of the War Department was charged by Congress with the expenditure of an appropriation aggregating, for 1918, \$744,000,000, or five times the 1915 appropriation for the entire War Department."

"The Engineer Department, for which in 1917, \$52,000,000 was appropriated was charged by the 1918 appropriation with the expenditures of \$390,000,000 or about 700 per cent. increase."

#### Technical Troops.

"There have been organized, trained and equipped technical troops of foresters, stevedores and railroad construction and operation men, aggregating about 120,000, many of whom have been operating in France for some months."

"In summing up the War Department's work the secretary gave the following as its chief accomplishments:

#### Chief Accomplishments.

1.—A large army is in the field and in training, so large that further increments to it can be adequately equipped and trained as rapidly as these already in training can be transported.

2.—The army has been enlisted and selected without serious dislocation of the industries of the country.

3.—The training of the army is proceeding rapidly and its spirit is high. The subsistence of the army has been above criticism; its initial clothing supply, temporarily inadequate, is now substantially complete.

4.—The regular appropriation made by Congress for all governmental purposes for fiscal year 1915 were \$730,000,000 or nearly one-tenth the 1918 appropriations for the War Department alone.

5.—Of the total War Department appropriations for 1918, \$3,200,000,000 was for the ordnance department of which contracts amounting to \$1,677,000,000 already have been placed.

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