New Mexico in the Great War, III: The State Council of Defense

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NEW MEXICO IN THE GREAT WAR

III The State Council of Defense

New Mexico responded quickly and willingly to the nation's call for the mobilization and use of its resources to prepare for and maintain the public defense and to assist in the prosecution of the war against Germany. Immediately following the issuance of the declaration of war against Germany, Governor Washington E. Lindsey summoned a group of representative citizens to convene at the state capitol as a council, to discuss ways and means of preparing New Mexico to fully meet the emergencies and requirements of war. The council convened in Santa Fe on April 21st, 1917. Governor Lindsey, presiding, briefly reviewed the war situation and prophetically summarized the things that the citizens of the state would be called upon to do to provide for state and national security and to aid the entente allies. A state of war existed! New Mexico would perform its full duty. The conviction was expressed by members of the conference that sooner or later the United States would be obliged to tax its resources to the utmost and wage an offensive war in order effectively to protect our country and conquer Germany. There was no debate, no dissenting opinions. The council appointed a committee, with Edward C. Crampton, of Raton, as its chairman, to formulate plans and make recommendations for the designation and organization of a permanent war body. On the same day the committee, reporting back
to the council, recommended, among other things, that a permanent "War Committee" be formed, consisting of one member from each judicial district of the state and four members at-large, to be appointed by the governor, with the governor as ex-officio member of the committee; that the committee should take immediate steps to organize the agricultural resources of the state for a greater production of food stuffs and to provide for the economic and military defense of the state and nation; that the governor, in his discretion, should call a special session of the legislature to provide the means for carrying out the war program, and that the War Committee, as soon as appointed, should immediately organize and remain in session from day to day until every requirement had been met. These and other recommendations of the committee were unanimously adopted by the council. Immediately after the adjournment of the council, Governor Lindsely appointed the following war committee: Charles Springer, Cimarron; C. R. Brice, Roswell; E. C. Crampton, Raton; Ed. M Otero, Los Lunas; B. C. Hernandez, Tierra Amarilla; R. E. Putney, Albuquerque; Jose Gonzales, Las Cruces; W. A. Hawkins, Three Rivers; Secundino Romero, Las Vegas; Rafael Garcia, Albuquerque; J. M. Sully, Santa Rita; and Eufracio Gallegos of Gallegos.

The war committee, selecting E. C. Crampton as its permanent chairman and Miss Edith Wileman as its temporary secretary, was formally organized on April 25th. At this meeting, Neil B. Field, of Albuquerque, presented the following resolution adopted at a public meeting of the citizens of that city favoring the calling of a special session of the legislature:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this meeting that the governor should be requested to call immediately an extra session of the legislature to pass all such laws as may be necessary to mobilize the resources of the state for the present emergency and the raising of such funds as may be required for that purpose."
The committee considering the resolution in connection with its own information declared that public necessity required early enactment of war measures and adopted and addressed the following resolution to Governor Lindsey:

“That it be the sense of this committee that the governor be requested to call a special session of the legislature immediately, and the work of the session be confined to the matter of economic agriculture and military offensive and defensive operations of the state and nation growing out of the present emergency.”

On the following day, April 26th, Governor Lindsey issued his proclamation calling the Third State Legislature to meet in special session on Tuesday, May 1st, 1917, to enact such legislation as would enable New Mexico to “provid[ing] for its own defense and to assist the United States in the prosecution of the war.”

The War Committee continued to meet daily until it was succeeded by the State Council of Defense. In addition to considering many important matters and taking appropriate action concerning them, the War Committee appointed auxiliary committees in each county, secured valuable information regarding the agricultural and industrial resources of the state, considered and recommended measures to the governor for the public defense and offered suggestions for emergency legislation. Upon the passage and approval of the Public Defense Act, May 8th, 1917, the War Committee was dissolved.

The Third Legislature met in extraordinary session on May 1st, 1917. Among other laws enacted was the Public Defense Act, passed and approved on May 8th, which created the Council of Defense of New Mexico consisting of nine members to be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve during the period of the war, and for such further time thereafter as the governor deemed necessary. The act appropriated the sum of $750,000.00, or so much thereof as might be required, to be expended and disbursed by and under the direction of the governor in such manner and for such
purposes, and through such agencies, and under such regu-
lations, as he might deem necessary or proper to provide
for the increase of domestic production of articles and ma-
terials essential to the support of armies and to provide for
the public defense. The act provided that the funds appro-
priated should be raised by the issuance and sale of war
certificates from time to time in such amounts as the gov-
ernor might determine.

Immediately following his approval of the Defense Act
on May 8th, the governor appointed the following to mem-
Brice, Charles Springer, W. A. Hawkins, Secundino Ro-
mero, Rafael Garcia, J. M. Sully, Eufracio Gallegos and R.
E. Putney.

These appointments were promptly confirmed by the
senate on the same day. It will be noted that all of the
members of the Council of Defense had served on the War
Committee. On May 10th Secundino Romero was elected
chairman of the Council and Phil. H. LeNoir its general
secretary.

It will be seen that New Mexico had held a special ses-
sion of its legislature and had organized an official war
body, all within the space of thirty-five days and during
that period had done many things to place the state upon
a war footing.

Mr. Putney and Mr. Garcia, sheriff of Bernalillo Coun-
ty, both resigned shortly after the organization of the
Council because of other public and private demands upon
their time. Eduardo M. Otero succeeded Mr. Putney
through appointment by the governor, but the vacancy
caused by the resignation of Sheriff Garcia was never fill-
ed.

Mr. LeNoir, general secretary, compelled to give up his
work on account of ill health, resigned the secretaryship
in October, 1917. Mr. LeNoir rendered very efficient ser-
vice, especially in organizing the Conference of War Work-
ers held at Albuquerque during the week of October 7th,
1917. So far as known this was the first state-wide war
conference held in the United States. Following his resignation in October, the present writer, Walter M. Danburg, was elected general secretary of the Council.

With the exception of the changes noted the personnel of the Council remained the same throughout its existence.

Following its organization the Council adopted comprehensive plans for increasing production of food crops and acted upon many other matters, including the mobilization of the New Mexico National Guard.

It early became evident that all members of the council could not remain at Santa Fe. Upon request of the members the governor appointed an executive committee composed of Charles Springer, chairman, B. C. Hernandez and C. R. Brice. The executive committee was clothed with all of the powers of the Council and authorized to act and discharge the duties imposed during the interim between meetings of the Council.

Although the members of the Council were often consulted by the executive committee and the writer concerning various phases of the war work, they never met in regular session after the appointment of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, however, was in session almost continuously during the war emergency, and thereafter as often as the business of the Council required until its voluntary dissolution in the fall of 1920. Judge C. R. Brice was appointed disbursing agent for the disbursement of the "War Fund" under the direction of the Council of Defense and its Executive Committee. The Council of Defense and the Executive Committee were designated by the governor as the chief agencies for carrying out the provisions of chapters III and V of the acts passed by the legislature at its special session.

At one stroke of the pen Governor Lindsey made it possible to coordinate and systematize the state's war activities.

By an act of congress the State Council of Defense and the county and community councils of defense became official auxiliaries to the National Council of Defense for
carrying out its instructions and suggestions and the orders of the president in all matters pertaining to the efficient prosecution of the war.

For its own complex tasks, and in order to co-operate effectively with the government through the National Council of Defense and all other accredited agencies engaged in war and relief work, the State Council developed auxiliary organizations and appointed committees and agents throughout the state. County councils of defense were organized at an early date. Financial agents were appointed throughout the state to handle the Council's agricultural activities in the sale and distribution of seed at cost on both a cash and credit plan. Later by the National Council of Defense county councils of defense were asked to organize community councils in every school district or other proper district within their respective counties. Previous to that time the New Mexico Council had caused war committees to be organized in many of the school districts of various counties. In such cases the personnel and business of war committees was practically the same as prescribed by the National Council for the Community Councils. Merely changing the name of these subsidiary units gave our state an early lead in the organization of Community Councils.

The work of the county councils, community councils, local committees and agents, was carried on in every county of the state by volunteers who served without pay. In addition to the specific work laid upon them by the Council, these volunteers were in most instances the local representatives, organizers and workers for Liberty Loans, War Savings, Food and Fuel Conservation and Production, the Red Cross and other war relief undertakings. The splendid record credited to New Mexico in respect to all matters pertaining to the war speaks more eloquently for the many men and women who gave of their time without stint than any words I might set down speaking of their sacrifices and accomplishments. The records show that the people of New Mexico over-subscribed every Liberty
Loan quota and that the quotas for Red Cross, Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, Y. M. C. A. and other accredited war relief organizations also received large over-subscriptions. In the record in other directions especially in the matter of the state's contribution to the military and naval forces of the United States, a still greater testimonial to the loyalty of the people of New Mexico will be found. For over sixty years the people of New Mexico sought to gain admission to the Union for their territory, but it was not until 1912 that New Mexico was admitted to statehood, just a scant five years prior to war being declared against Germany by the United States.

As the council's war activities increased it was found necessary to appoint certain committees and create certain departments and bureaus with state-wide jurisdiction. With one or two exceptions the various chairmen and directors served without pay. It is impossible to cover all of the activities of the Council of Defense and its various departments and auxiliary and subsidiary committees within the pages of this short review or to mention the names of all of the many persons who contributed to the success of the many undertakings. Brief reference, however, to these committees, bureaus and departments in the order of their creation will give some idea as to the scope and magnitude of the emergency activities.

The Woman's Committee

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Council of Defense, as it was known in the first instance, was organized May 5th, 1917, when women delegates appointed by the War Committees from the various counties met at Santa Fe during the special session of the legislature. Mrs. W. E. Lindsey was named chairman of the Auxiliary. The women quickly effected a state-wide organization with precinct and county chairmen. The Auxiliary was organized and functioning before the complete organization of the Woman's Committee of the National Council of Defense. Early in 1918 the Auxiliary was reorganized under the name of the "Wo-
man's Committee" and otherwise made to conform more closely to the scheme of organization and work finally prescribed by the Woman's Committee of the National Council of Defense. Matters of organization, including the personnel of the committee, its activities and accomplishments are reviewed in a separate chapter and such matter will not be detailed here. It should be said, however, that the Woman's Committee and the women of the state under its leadership contributed in service and accomplishment in a very large way to New Mexico's splendid war record. In a number of instances the committee and its auxiliary organizations achieved notable results and surpassed the records made by similar organizations in some of the older and more densely populated states. Did space permit mention would be made of the exceptional services rendered by many women throughout the state and credit would be given to many of the women of the Woman's Committee who worked continuously and faithfully throughout the emergency without monetary remuneration and who performed extraordinary services. A large share of the credit for the accomplishments of the auxiliary and the committee should go to the late Mrs. W. E. Lindsey, wife of our war governor. Under her leadership New Mexico was probably the first state to perfect a woman's state-wide organization. Despite her duties as First Lady of the State and despite the handicap of ill health, which caused her to relinquish the chairmanship of the committee at the time of its reorganization, she kept in constant touch with the work of the committee and assisted in directing its affairs. During the three strenuous months or more preceding the signing of the Armistice, Mrs. Lindsey was in active charge of the work and affairs of the Woman's Committee owing to the absence of the chairman from the state.

Publicity Department

The publicity department of the Council was created May 22, 1917, with Guthrie Smith as director. Through this department, with Mr. Smith as editor, was published
the New Mexico War News, issued weekly for the purpose of keeping the war-workers and the public informed as to all war activities including the work of the State and National Councils of Defense. In addition to the publicity work of the council, the publicity department conducted the publicity campaigns in New Mexico for the Council of National Defense, the United States Shipping Board, the Provost Marshal General's office, the United States Public Service Reserve and the United States Boy's Working Reserve. On July 15, 1918, the department commenced the publication of a Spanish edition of the War News, with Senator A. V. Lucero as it editor. The Spanish edition was sent to those who did not read English readily and reached a large number of persons who did not regularly read any newspaper. The publicity department rendered a distinctive service and was highly complimented by the officials in charge of the various departments at Washington for its effective support and work. The War News came into national prominence by reason of the council's campaign against the Hearst publications. The council had been instructed to watch carefully all newspapers which had been disloyal or pro-German before the United States entered the war and those suspected of exerting a bad influence over our citizens in connection with the prosecution of the war. Articles that had appeared in some of the Hearst papers were republished in the War News in connection with some of the facts relating to the asserted disloyalty of the Hearst papers and the news dealers and people were asked not to purchase, sell or read such papers. News dealers in many sections of the state discontinued the sale of the Hearst papers and publications. In some way the phrase "Hearst Publications" crept into the publicity and as a result the International Magazine Company, a purported Hearst publishing concern sought to enjoin the members of the council of defense, the governor, the attorney general, Guthrie Smith, the writer and others from doing anything further in pursuance of an alleged "unlawful scheme and purpose" to injure the business of the Magazine Company
in the sale of the magazines published by it. None of the
Hearst newspaper concerns were parties to the court ac-
tion or made any attempt to justify their policy pursued in
relation to the war or to prevent the council's activities,
other than might be inferred from the action of the Mag-
azine Company. The Magazine Company probably had
good reason to complain and secured a temporary injunc-
tion against the defendants in the United States Court. The
council members and other defendants appealed from the
decision granting the temporary writ to the Circuit Court
of Appeals. Before the matter came up for hearing the
war ended and neither the company nor the council took
any further notice of the matter.

The publication of the War News was discontinued
immediately after the signing of the armistice.

Agricultural Operations

The most serious problem confronting the state was
that of increasing the production of the more important
food crops. New Mexico farmers were producing only about
fifty per centum of the staple food products, other than
meat, required for home consumption. After a careful
survey of the state the conclusion was reached that certain
crops, notably wheat, pinto beans and corn could be raised
successfully in many sections upon lands used almost wholly
for grazing purposes. In some localities it was felt that
dry farming operations had failed principally through the
lack of proper soil treatment and cultivation and the plant-
ing of crops unsuited to the soil and climatic conditions.
The council lost no time in perfecting plans to stimulate
and increase the production of food crops. Working in
co-operation with the Extension (farm) Service of the New
Mexico College of Agriculture, the council soon had many
agencies at work in the agricultural field. Eleven coun-
ties had agricultural agents or farm experts. Governor
Lindsey authorized the expenditure of $35,000 for the em-
ployment of agricultural agents in the other seventeen
counties and such agents were quickly employed. This step was more than justified for within a year increased production, improved farming methods and greater interest in agricultural pursuits were plainly visible.

It was determined that the money available for farming operations could best be used for purchasing selected seed and selling it to farmers at cost for cash, or on credit in those cases where the farmer could not otherwise secure seed. In this connection the council secured from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, services of an expert seed man, Mr. Roland Harwell, who selected practically all of the seed purchased and distributed by the agents of the council. Many car loads of seed wheat, oats, rye, barley, beans, kafir corn, cane and potatoes were purchased and distributed. A total of $131,208.40 was paid out of the War fund for this purpose. No money was loaned to any person for any purpose. $80,000. or more had been repaid to the state when the council turned its affairs over to the state when the council turned its affairs over to the state auditor in 1920. Notes and mortgages were turned over to the auditor to cover the greater portion of the balance remaining unpaid.

That the effort to increase production was successful is best evidenced by the figures of the U. S. Bureau of Crop Estimates. In 1916 the production of wheat totaled 2,104,000 bushels on 113,000 acres. In 1919 the state produced 6,100,000 bushels of wheat on 283,000 acres. The production of corn was also increased, the state being credited with a 7,000,000 bushel production in 1919.

The increase in wheat and bean production was largely due to the planting of winter wheat, and beans, in the dry farm sections. Over 60% of the 1919 wheat crop was produced on the so called dry farms, and 77% of the total bean crop was produced on similar lands. The total crop value in New Mexico in 1918 was given as $37,644,000. The 1919 total value came to $58,362,000., or an increase of over $20,000,000.

It is noteworthy in this connection that 85% or more
of the total production of wheat and beans during 1919 is credited by the Bureau of Crop Estimates to those counties that received 85% of the seed sold and distributed by the council on the credit-sales plan.

As a part of its agricultural program the Council, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, conducted an extensive campaign for the extermination of noxious rodents and predatory wild animals. The co-operative campaign against predatory animals was commenced in February, 1918, and the campaign against the noxious rodents in April, 1918. The expenses for this work were shared equally by the council and the federal government. The results obtained were so satisfactory upon completion, December 31, 1919, of the work called for under the co-operative agreement, that the Fourth Legislature made provision for the continuance of the co-operative work, and authorized the expenditure of $50,000. by the council for such purpose, the work to be continued and carried on by the State College and the U. S. Biological Survey. The detailed reports concerning these activities cover a number of pages in the council’s final report. Mr. S. E. Piper, of the U. S. Biological Survey, was in charge of predatory animal control operations, and Mr. Charles F. Bliss, biological assistant, was in charge of rodent pest repression. Their work was efficient and highly commendable.

Military Operations

When war was declared, April 6th, 1917, the state faced an unusual situation. The New Mexico National Guard had just been mustered out, upon its return from the Mexican border where it had been in active service for some eighteen months. National Guard appropriations had been exhausted and funds were lacking for reorganization and recruiting purposes, and camp facilities and equipment were lacking. When the Guard was called into federal service again, on April 21, 1917, the actual strength of the Guard, including Battery “A,” was 49 officers and 39 enlisted men. Recruiting the Guard up to war strength was
first undertaken by the War Department. The recruiting work progressed so slowly, however, that the regular army officers seriously considered abandonment of the attempt and the mustering out of those already recruited. In this emergency Governor Lindsey, upon the recommendation of the Council of Defense, ordered Adjutant General James Baca to undertake the recruiting work. The council was authorized to pay the expenses of recruiting and mobilization. The recruiting progressed rapidly under the direction of Adjutant General Baca and the First Infantry Regiment and Battery "A" were quickly brought up to war strength.

It was then found that the mobilization and training camps to be provided by the national government would not be ready for several months. Again the council acted. Governor Lindsey authorized it to proceed to construct and equip a complete training camp at Albuquerque. The cantonments and other buildings were rapidly constructed and the New Mexico National Guard was mobilized at Albuquerque about June 1, 1917, and was given intensive training for four and one-half months. Battery "A" went to Camp Greene, North Carolina, and soon left for France where it figured prominently in the allied offensive known as the second battle of the Marne. It was one of the batteries that fired the opening guns at Chateau-Thierry and was cited for exceptional and effective service. The Infantry Regiment, under Col. E. C. Abbott, was sent from Albuquerque to Camp Kearny, California, where it became a part of the 40th Division and finally saw service in France.

The New Mexico State College, the Roswell Military Institute and the State University were called upon by the War Department to provide training for enlisted men in technical and mechanical branches and to provide facilities for training recruits in the Student Army. Governor Lindsey was determined that New Mexico should make good in every branch of war work and he authorized the Council of Defense to construct necessary quarters at the State Col-
lege for the housing of 210 soldiers and to purchase required equipment. Appropriations were also made to the Military Institute and to the University to provide proper facilities for their work.

New Mexico took the lead in other work of a military character and was the first state to undertake medical and hospital treatment for discharged soldiers, until such time as the federal government might provide for their care. Another operation of the council was the selection of legal advisory boards, working through the county com- baths to aid in the enforcement of the selective service law. A legal committee, composed of Ira L. Grimshaw, Levi A. Hughes, Benjamin M. Read, J. O. Seth and Charles Springer was appointed, and in turn local county legal committees were selected, to give advice and assistance to persons called for military service and dependents and relatives of soldiers and sailors. A legal booklet prepared by Mr. Grimshaw for the use of the committees was issued. These committees under direction of the state legal committee gave free advice to registrants as to their affairs and legal rights, and to soldiers' and sailors' dependents regarding insurance, allotments, allowances and compensation matters. Many cases were referred to the Council of Defense and satisfactorily disposed of.

The council also created a medical department, with Dr. J. A. Massie of Santa Fe as director. This department under the direction of Dr. Massie and with the assistance of Dr. J. W. Elder, capt. Med. Corps and medical aide to the governor, rendered most valuable service. The results obtained by the department caused the legislature to create a permanent State Health and Welfare Department.

Historical Service Department

A Board of Historical Service, consisting of Edgar L. Hewett, Benjamin M. Read and Col R. E. Twitchell, with Lansing B. Bloom as executive secretary, was appointed at an early date, to arrange and preserve all facts and records relating to the services and activities of our citizens in con-
connection with the war, including a complete record of the services of every New Mexico soldier. The results of its work are shown in part in a separate chapter.

Speakers’ Bureau

The speakers’ bureau of the Council consisted of fourteen members, with Col. R. E. Twitchell as its chairman and director. The first work undertaken by the bureau was in connection with the recruiting of the New Mexico National Guard, and in this work Colonel Twitchell, speaking throughout the state and otherwise assisting the council, Adjutant General Baca, Captain Edward L. Safford, and others, rendered exceptional service. In 1918 the Bureau was consolidated with the Four Minute Men’s organization and Mr Laurence F. Lee, chairman of that body, succeeded Colonel Twitchell as chairman of the bureau. The effective work of the Speakers’ Bureau, which includes the Four Minute Men, is reflected in the results obtained in all drives for funds and the increasing ease with which all work was being accomplished as the war progressed.

Department of Education and Labor

Jonathan H. Wagner, state superintendent of public instruction, directed the affairs of this department. He was also federal state director of the Public Service Reserve and of the Boys’ Working Reserve. New Mexico was one of the first states in the union to register and exceed its quota of workmen for the shipyards. This department organized the community war labor boards. Through it the National Council’s educational program was carried out in New Mexico. The state legislature took cognizance of the effective work done by Mr. Wagner and his co-workers and continued some of the department’s activities for an indefinite period.

The council had other committees, including the Highways Transport committee, with five district chairmen and a director, George S. Singleton of Clovis; and the Motor
Minute Men's organization whose members volunteered the use of their cars and their services for any and all war work.

On account of the disturbed conditions along the Mexican border during 1918, and in order to give proper protection to life and property, it was found necessary to re-establish the New Mexico Mounted Police. Under rules and regulations prescribed by the committee on State Police, composed of Charles Springer, Victor Culberson and Charles Ballard, the Mounted Police consisted of Captain Herbert McGrath of Silver City, two sergeants and fourteen paid privates, its operations being directed from the council headquarters. The police were paid from the war fund and served from May 1, 1918, to December 31, 1918, when the force was disbanded. On January 2nd, 1919, the force was re-established by Governor Larrazolo and the Council of Defense was directed to continue to pay the salaries and expenses of the organization. The 1919 legislature made the force permanent and provided funds for its maintenance, but the force was abolished in 1921. During 1918 the police performed very valuable service to the state and nation.

Of the $750,000 war certificates authorized to be issued, only $370,000 thereof were issued and sold. The total war debt of the state therefore amounted to $370,000. Under the policy followed by the council and the governor short term certificates only were issued, and on May 1st, 1921, all of the certificates so issued had been redeemed and cancelled, thus wiping out New Mexico's war debt.

Under the provisions of the Public Defense Act, and amendments thereof, the Council of Defense was to continue its work until peace should be formally declared by the United States. At the time of the signing of the Armistice and thereafter, the council by reason of legislative action was engaged in winding up certain of its activities and at the same time continuing certain activities delegated to it. Provision had been made to transfer any and all unfinished business to the state auditor at such time as the
council's term expired. Early in May, 1920, it appeared that it might be some time before peace would be formally declared and it was thought advisable to discontinue the Council. In order to do this the Executive Committee authorized its secretary to ask the members of the council to resign. Acceptance of the resignations by the governor would naturally accomplished the desired result. The final reports of the council and of its disbursing agent were prepared and filed with the governor as of May 31, 1920. The members of the council submitted their resignations, and upon their acceptance, the council turned over its business and records to the state auditor.

No one ever need apologize for New Mexico's war record. Measured by the standards of wealth, population and responsiveness, its record equalled that of any state in the union and in instances its contribution to the cause exceeded that of many of the other states. In the matter of voluntary enlistments in the army and navy, New Mexico stood fifth among the states. Over 17,000 of her sons served in the various branches of the military service. Twenty-one per centum of the state's physicians were in active service. Every quota, whether for men or money, was exceeded. Every call was answered quickly. There was not a single disturbance or strike of the slightest importance during the emergency. If trouble seemed to be brewing, the situation was promptly and effectively handled by the officers of the council or its agents acting under specific instructions.

Governor W. E. Lindsey cooperated with the Council of Defense in every possible way. His absolute honesty and devotion to the duties of his office and the fidelity with which he served the people reflected great credit upon his administration.

During every emergency some strong man is found to direct the important undertakings. New Mexico had its strong man, a man of unusual patience and wisdom; one whose courage never faltered in any situation. He could pour oil upon troubled waters with greater facility and ef-
fectiveness than any man I ever met. He was tolerant to a fault of other men's deficiencies. The aggressive side of his character is tempered with an unusual gentleness. His sincerity and unquestionable integrity, his accomplishments and services rendered to the state without financial reward, easily stamp him as New Mexico's most useful citizen. I refer to Charles Springer of Cimarron who was chairman of the council's executive committee and to whom the credit belongs for the work and accomplishments of the state draft board, chairman of the state highway commission, and the directing head of other activities. He discharged all of his various duties with fidelity and with marked success. Always interested in everything that affects the welfare of the people of the state, Mr. Springer finds time somehow to help in a practical and effective way, and I know of no man in the state who has rendered more unselfish service than he.

WALTER M. DANBURG

IV Civilian Activities

By civilian war activities are meant the activities of individuals, institutions, and agencies outside of the military organization. In a sense the "Great War" was a civilians' war in that practically all New Mexicans who did military service were in civilian pursuits previously. The greatest civilian activity of the war was the bearing of arms by civilians. But apart from those under arms, civilians performed exploits of almost incredible multiplicity and magnitude. From the national organization down to the most remotely isolated cabin there developed a close bond of understanding and cooperation in the mighty undertaking of "winning the war" for the freedom of the world. This was brought about through the Councils of Defense, national, state, county, and community, representing a splendid achievement of civilian enterprise, an achievement which requires a separate chapter for adequate treatment. Let it be noted here, however, that the State Council of Defense
for New Mexico has stood in the van of similar state organizations in supervising and stimulating with such signal success the numberless activities which it initiated.

It is not our purpose in this chapter to speak of the efforts of the splendid women of the state, although their work comes under the general head of civilian activities under whatever form it was carried on. The remarkable assistance rendered by newspapers, industrial and other concerns, and by institutions, public and private, can be merely mentioned as part of the sum total of civilian effort. While these agencies are treated in other chapters of this volume, it is difficult not to remark upon the evidence, found everywhere, of the spirit of Kipling's lines:

"It aint the guns nor armament, for funds that they can pay,
But the close cooperation that makes them win the day,
It aint the individual, nor the army as a whole
But the everlasting teamwork of every blooming soul."

The story can in fact, be told only in outline. Here and there a name may be mentioned, but the list of patriotic men and women who contributed to the success of our great adventure, must be elsewhere permanently recorded. The story begins with the organization of the Red Cross work in the spring of 1915, and this was the only form of activity carried on until the stage was set for the entrance of the United States in the final scene. Then representative men of the state visited the East and brought back those urgent messages that set the people of New Mexico to their heroic task.

During the war, New Mexico selected more than fifteen thousand of its best young men for active military service. The remarkable feature of this selection is that the machinery was almost entirely civilian. In charge of the selective draft was Captain R. C. Reid acting at first for Adjutant General James E. Baca and later as draft executive, with a medical advisor also holding a captain's commission. The state was organized into two districts, the
northern and the southern, each under an exemption board. In each county at first, the county sheriff, the county clerk, and three other civilians had supervision over the selection with powers of exemption. Later the number of members on the local board was reduced to three. Under the regulations issued by the provost marchal-general, medical, dental, and legal advisory boards usually of three members each were organized to aid the county draft boards in their work. In each county a lawyer was appointed to act for those appealing for exemption. Every doctor, dentist, and lawyer in the community, however, was asked to assist in the work of selecting our soldiers from those registering on June 5, 1917, and June 5, August 24, and September 12, of 1918. The entire cost of the selective draft in New Mexico was about $80,000, or approximately one dollar per registrant. This low cost was brought about by the fact that, in most of the counties, the members of the various boards made no claims, or very moderate claims, for reimbursement. With infinite patience and strict honesty, as well as incalculable sacrifice of time and effort, these men have served their state and nation beyond our power to fully appreciate.

The Y. M. C. A. campaign for $30,000 was in charge of Ralph E. Twitchell and was initiated at Santa Fe with a banquet attended by one hundred and fifty representative men. On that occasion alone $2,500 was pledged. The campaign was carried on vigorously throughout the various counties with the result that the state's quota of $30,000 was exceeded by $30,603, making the total $60,603, double the quota. In this connection mention should be made of the Y. W. C. A. campaign in 1917, when there was subscribed approximately $5,000. The subscriptions were practically all secured from women, the "drive" being in charge of local Y. W. C. A. organizations and the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

In August 1918, the Knights of Columbus initiated a campaign for war funds. A remarkable banquet was held in the historic De Vargas Hotel in the city of the Holy Faith
at which men were present representing all religious beliefs, and addresses were made by an Episcopal rector, a Methodist minister, and a Jew, as well as by Roman Catholics. As a result the sum of $4,000 was pledged, a part of which was later included in the amount raised in the United War Work campaign. In the whole state, the pledges reached a total of $20,000. The Knights of Columbus’ drive was under the direction of Honorable E. P. Davis who labored even more earnestly when the movement was merged with those of six other organizations.

The Salvation Army drive came July 24, 25, 1918. In New Mexico, the campaign was in charge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Mr. P. A. Lineau, Exalted Ruler of the Santa Fe Lodge and Deputy State Insurance Commissioner, being the state chairman. The usual thorough preparation was made to meet the state’s quota of $18,000 and again New Mexico went beyond the mark with subscriptions aggregating $24,623.72 exceeding the quota by 37 per cent.

The United War Work Campaign began September first, 1918, under the direction of S. J. Brient of El Paso. In the campaign, seven organizations worked harmoniously, each with a representative from the state at large, as follows: Young Men's Christian Association, George A. Kaseman, Albuquerque; Young Women’s Christian Association, Mrs. F. W. Parker, Santa Fe; National Catholic War Council, E. P. Davies, Santa Fe; Jewish Welfare Board, Alfred Grunsfeld, Albuquerque; War Camp Community Service, E. T. Chase, Albuquerque; American Library Association, Evlyn Schuler, Raton; Salvation Army, T. J. Mabry, Albuquerque. At the head of this committee was R. E. Twitchell, who gave himself whole heartedly to the work of inspiration and leadership in all civilian activities. At a conference held at Albuquerque on September 19, 1918, practically every county was represented and plans were well laid with a view to an effective campaign. The quota for the state of $204,600 was accepted. The organization was complete and reached into practically
every community in the state. The state was divided into six districts with a director and a chairman for each. Each county also had its chairman and there was besides an advisory committee of one hundred members. The campaign was directed along several lines of endeavor including the following divisions: The Boys and Girls Earn and Give Clubs; Student work; Women's organizations; Spanish speaking communities; Indians (Zuñi, Navajo, Apache, Mescalero, and Pueblo); Speakers Bureau. The drive began on November 11, 1918, the day of the signing of the armistice, and in spite of difficulties and handicaps it established a record of which our state may indeed be proud. According to reports, 3,584 boys gave $5,320 and 4,339 girls $6,179. The educative values suggested in these figures is significant. In the five state institutions open at the time, the University, the Spanish-American Normal, the New Mexico Military Institute, the Agricultural College and the School of Mines, 1,000 students and members of faculties gave $6,000. The pupils of the Indian School at Albuquerque gave $750 and those in the Indian School at Santa Fe $100. Indians on the reservations contributed approximately $3,000. Miners contributed generously as did employers in all the industries. One of the largest contributions was that of $35,000 by the Chino Copper Company of Grant County. So thoroughly had the work been done that the state was third in reaching its quota and on November 24th it was found that the state had contributed $286,153.

Types of organizations for meeting war quotas and for performing the community's part in all activities were the "War Chest" in Colfax County, the "Lick the Kaiser" Club in Eddy County and the "Patriots' Fund" in Albuquerque. The last mentioned fund was made up of contributions made upon the basis of one per cent of the income following the Kenosha Plan. In Santa Fe, the Red Cross requirements were met by systematic monthly payments. These various plans show the earnest spirit in which civilians were determined to "see it through."
In the four Liberty Loan campaigns of May and October, 1917, April and September, 1918, New Mexico's quotas were respectively $1,375,400, $3,095,700, $3,658,500 and $3,243,300. The subscriptions amounted to $1,834,600, $3,945,750, $6,001,750 and $6,170,300. This is a record of which New Mexico is justly proud. Individual credit cannot be distributed as it seemed that all lent their aid in accordance with ability and opportunity. The figures for the third loan in the northern district where Judge Reed Hollo- man was in charge are typical. In that campaign in the ten counties of Colfax, McKinley, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Juan, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos and Union, every county oversubscribed its quota. The total quota for the ten counties was $1,058,300 and the subscriptions amounted to $2,323,450, the number of subscribers being 12,694. All the counties and fifty-five towns and villages in this district were awarded honor flags. The southern district under the directorship of Max Nordhaus of Albu- querque, was no less patriotic. In the campaign for raising New Mexico's quota of War Savings Stamps, it was, for several reasons, impossible for the people of the state to buy the amount assigned to it, yet many of the counties made splendid efforts to reach the mark set for them, Luna County, however, being the only one to exceed its quota. Grant County subscribed for $218,110.04, or 62 per cent of its allotment. Although New Mexico failed to raise its quota of seven million dollars, only two million dollars being subscribed for, the ratio per capita will compare favorably with those in many of the more prosperous states; and this in spite of a three years' drought and an utter lack of war profits or business stimulation such as other sections enjoyed. For the remarkable results obtained, the unwearied efforts of the director of the campaign, Mr. Hallett Raynolds of Las Vegas, are chiefly responsible.

The whole machinery of the State Food Administration was in the hands of civilians, thirteen hundred agents work under the directorship of Ralph C. Ely. There is not and representatives devoting their time and efforts to this
space in this chapter to tell of this work or of that of the Fuel Administration at the head of which, until his death, was former Governor William C. McDonald, with organizations in all the counties. Sixty or more civilians acted as agents for the issuance of permits to handle explosives. There were organizations of livestock growers, of wholesale and retail merchants, of restaurant and hotel keepers, each planning in conference and all working for the common aim of "winning the war." These conferences took place as a rule either at Santa Fe or at Albuquerque, a general conference of all war workers being at Albuquerque, May 9th and 10th, 1918.

The Highways Transport Committee, under the chairmanship of George Singelton of Clovis, organized the state into five districts each in charge of a chairman. The aim of this committee was to facilitate the movement of commodities in every way possible and, had the war continued, its well laid plans, involving the co-operation of hundreds of persons, would without doubt have achieved the desired results.

The thorough organization of the "Four Minute Men" in every county in the state, as perfected under the leadership of Laurence F. Lee of Albuquerque, was a noteworthy feature of civilian activities. Very little of the literature relating to the war was printed in Spanish and public addresses were, as a rule, the most effective means of appealing to Spanish-speaking people. The results of the various campaigns in the northern counties of the state are sufficient evidence of the generous response to these appeals. The "Four Minute Men" began their work in August, 1917, but for a time reports were sent directly to Washington. From March 11 to December 31, 1918, there were two thousand two hundred ninety-four addresses made to audiences aggregating four hundred ninety-two thousand four hundred twenty. It is conservatively estimated that fully as many talks were made and as many people heard them in the period from August 1917 to March 1918. Santa Fe County reported twenty speakers making a total of seventy-
five talks and together addressing eighteen thousand persons. In the city of Roswell one hundred fifteen talks were made to a total of forty-six thousand. In the organization were thirty-one chairmen and two hundred fifty regularly enlisted speakers, not including clergymen. Churches, motion picture theatres, school houses, public buildings of all kinds and many homes were freely offered for use by the "Four Minute Men." The extent to which the work was voluntary is indicated by the fact that the total expense incurred in this work for the whole state during the entire war period was less than five hundred dollars.

In connection with "war" meetings, mention should be made of Liberty Choruses which furnished patriotic music on numerous occasion. Wherever an enthusiastic musician could be found to lead, groups were formed to sing the songs of America and her allies. Whole communities were thus taught the national songs of the United States, England, France and Italy.

For the purposes of this chapter, one holding an office under the national, state, county, or municipal government is a civilian. Practically every man in public life in the state was called upon to perform duties in connection with war activities as a speaker, or as a chairman of a committee in charge of some important work. Thus our nine district judges were leaders in the Liberty Loan campaigns in their respective districts. All justices of the Supreme Court were active participants in the various "drives." But our officials also performed important work by virtue of the office which they held. As to Governor Lindsey, some account of the leadership and service of our "War Governor" has already been given.

The state bank examiner, George H. Van Stone, contributed much to the effectiveness of the excellent organization of the banks of the state in promoting all forms of work and in addition gave of his time and efforts to arousing interest in increased food production. Through the interest and cooperation of R. P. Ervien, commissioner of public lands, 22441 acres of land leased for grazing pur-
poses were planted in crops, and the raising of corn, beans, forage and potatoes was materially increased. The State Corporation Commission was instrumental in securing lower freight rates on feed for livestock that saved the growers of sheep and cattle over $100,000 in one season. The state treasurer invested three quarters of a million dollars of Permanent Funds of the state institutions in Liberty Bonds.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction was called upon again and again to set the machinery of the school system of the state into motion to assist in various undertakings. As state director of the United States Public Service Reserve and of the Boys Working Reserve, Superintendent Wagner and his office staff enrolled 3700 men and 2624 boys. Of the men enrolled, seven hundred skilled workers and three thousand unskilled laborers entered the employ of the government in various parts of the country. Of the boys enrolled eight hundred and sixty reported seventy nine thousand five hundred and thirty seven days of work with net earnings amounting to one hundred twelve thousand four hundred and three dollars and thirty eight cents. In addition the state department of education supervised the organization of girls in a similar manner, enrolling one thousand three hundred and forty-one members of whom eight hundred and nine reported sixty-two thousand two hundred one working days with total net earning of forty-one thousand one hundred fifty nine dollars and sixty-nine cents. Associated with Superintendent Wagner in bringing about these splendid results was Mr. Guthrie Smith as executive secretary. These results, it must be noted, were reached practically without cost to either state or nation. Through this office, the Thrift Stamp Campaign was carried into every school in the state. The director of industrial education, Mrs. Ruth C. Miller, was director also of the Home Economics Division of the State Food Administration and was one of the most active in spreading the gospel of production and food conservation. Among county and city officials, too, there was
the same readiness to answer every summons to service. The duties of county clerks in connection with the selective draft were heavy; sheriffs were called upon to assist in bringing in “slackers” of all classes; assessors made investigations concerning property of aliens; and county superintendents served as organizers of rural communities through the medium of the schools.

Those citizens of the state who held positions under the federal government during the war were all in the civilian division of our army. Postmasters and postal employees were overburdened with work naturally pertaining to their employment, and yet new duties were constantly added as a result of the government’s war plans. For example, postmasters were appointed agents for securing laborers for war work and were expected to assist in the sale of War Savings Stamps. The officials of the various U. S. Land offices in the state and forest supervisors, all of whom were civilians, redoubled their efforts to improve conditions for quickly increasing production. In this state and in Arizona, as one result, the number of cattle grazed on national forest reserves increased by 70,000 over the previous year, and the number of sheep by 48,000.

The various state educational institutions, in addition to being centers of patriotism and loyalty, joined in every campaign for war funds. At the University of New Mexico, the service flag numbers one hundred seventy-five stars, evidence enough of the loyalty of the institution and its members. From the opening of the war in April, 1917, the president and board of regents of the University sought opportunities for cooperation with the state and nation in their war plans. The offer of its three hundred fifty acre campus for the location of barracks was accepted by the National Guard. The curriculum was adjusted to war conditions. Public lectures were given by members of the faculty on war topics. The columns of the “Weekly” and the “News” were devoted to disseminating war information. All “drives” were given the undivided support of instructors and students by generous subscriptions as well
as by participation as workers in each organization. On October 1, 1918, the University opened its doors on practically a military basis in connection with the Student's Army Training Corps. One hundred sixty young men registered for military training in addition to college courses.

The varied and extensive operations conducted by the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts can hardly be even outlined in a paragraph. Many of these operations were carried on in connection with the Council of Defense and accounts of some of them will, no doubt, have a place in other chapters. The whole equipment of the institution and all its organization and facilities were offered to the government. In the engineering department, new courses were offered and old ones readjusted in accordance with war training requirements. For example a Radio and Buzzer Operators' School was established from which forty operators were trained. Special training was given in many trades required in the army, even before the assurance that the institution would be used for soldier training. Of the Student Army Training Corps, one hundred men registered in various departments, half of them electing work in engineering. A total of five hundred and seven men were sent to the college for military training during the summer and fall of 1918.

Because of the results of many years of study and experimentation, the College was found ready to assist the State Food Administration and the Council of Defense in the production and conservation of food and forage. Numerous bulletins were issued to supplement former publications. Information was promptly furnished along lines that had to do with methods for securing the best results quickly. Through the efforts of the agents and instructors in the College, it has been estimated that the production of crops was increased in the state by thirty per cent. In the extension department, the office and field force was expanded until there were one hundred ten persons on the payroll all using their utmost efforts to assist the people of the state in their war work. Four thousand members
were enrolled in the Boys' and Girls' Club Work in 1918 in nearly twenty different classes of projects with the value products amounting to one hundred twenty thousand dollars and profits of seventy five thousand dollars.

With the expansion of the work of the College due to war demands into so many fields, it might be supposed that less attention would be paid to Liberty Loan, Red Cross and other campaigns. The record shows however, a total of $55,934.30 pledged by the members of the faculty and the students for war funds.

Eighty-six per cent of the students enrolled in 1916 at the New Mexico School of Mines were found at the close of the war to have been in active service, thirty-eight per cent of these receiving commissions. Considering the fact that this institution does not include military training in its courses, this is a remarkable evidence of the character of engineering work done and the spirit of patriotism characterizing the school, its faculty and students.

The New Mexico Normal University was active in all war enterprises. Its instructors made over 150 patriotic addresses in various parts of the state; faculty and students took $30,000 in Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps; and Red Cross Work was carried on constantly. The institution had charge of the war gardens in the town of Las Vegas where 205 boys and girls were enrolled and vegetables produced of the value of $3844.80. In the regular school work courses were readjusted to meet the demands of war conditions.

The New Mexico Normal School at Silver City has a long list of items to its credit in the civilian activities account. Only a few typical ones can be here given. Faculty members and students performed their full share of Red Cross requirements. Practically all boxes used for shipping the supplies of the Grant County Chapter were made by the manual training pupils of the Normal School. The support of orphan children of France and Belgium was assumed by the instructors and students of the school and by means of various entertainments the institution assist-
ed in raising one thousand dollars for the Blind Soldiers' Fund. As volunteer workers for the draft board, as members of canteen committees to care for sick soldiers passing through Silver City on their way to Fort Bayard and generous subscribers to all war funds, these teachers and students proved themselves patriotic and capable in the highest degree. In the regular school work emphasis was laid on courses in First Aid, Home Care of the Sick, Surgical Dressing and in Food Conservation.

The New Mexico Military Institute, in addition to the participation of its students, past and present, in active war service, shared in all other activities incident to war needs. Upon the opening of hostilities, the whole work of the institution was readjusted to assist the government. Military training was intensified and every effort made to prepare young men to become officers in the army. Students were sent into various communities to serve as drill masters in local high schools and to assist in organizing military units. When the Student Army Training Corps unit was established at the Institute, seventy-six students were inducted into the service; sixty-six others were enrolled but the armistice took place while their papers were under consideration at Washington.

The work of the director of the Museum of New Mexico and his staff in connection with child welfare and the collection of historical material relating to New Mexico's part in the war must be classed with civilian activities. So must the service rendered by public libraries in their use of war posters and bulletin boards. It was largely through the librarians of the state, led by Miss Evelyn Shuler of Raton, that ten thousand volumes were collected in twenty-two towns for the reading rooms at the various camps.

The increase in crop production under the stimulus of war demands is still another evidence of civilian energy and enterprise. The acreage planted in wheat increased from 113,000 acres in 1916 to 213,000 in 1918 and the production from 2,104,000 to 3,334,000 bushels. Of corn, 4,250,000 bushels were raised in 1918 as compared with
2,625,000 in 1916. The potato yield was 816,000 bushels in 1916 and 1,276,000 bushels in 1918. In the former year, 64,000 acres were planted in beans and 207,000 acres in 1917. It is estimated that the bean crop in 1917 reached a total of 70,000,000 pounds. In Eddy County 6,500 bales of cotton were picked and in Dona Ana County 14,700 crates of canteloupes were shipped in one season.

In war garden work, men, women and children responded splendidly to the appeal for greater production. In all, there were about 3,000 war gardens, Tucumcari for example, reporting 140 gardens, Las Vegas 400, and the little town of Willard in Torrance county had 40. Mrs. Isaac Barth was the head of the home gardens division.

As a war measure, the adoption of the prohibition constitutional amendment at an election held November 6, 1917, should not be overlooked. On that date the civilians of New Mexico decreed by a splendid majority of 16,585 that they would not suffer their efforts to win the war to be handicapped by the liquor traffic. On October 1, 1918, therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the amendment adopted, all saloons in the state closed their doors and, it is believed, closed them forever.

We are not permitted in this brief resume to more than mention that in one of the Liberty Loan campaigns, twenty-seven convicts in the state penitentiary joined in the purchase of a one thousand dollar bond, each contributing an amount of from two dollars to four hundred dollars; that practically all owners of automobiles placed their cars at the disposal of all committees and agencies engaged in war activities as Motor Minute Men; that traveling men in their several itineraries about the state added to the sum total of civilian activities by spreading the spirit of loyalty and by reporting to the proper authorities the slightest signs of disaffection; that miners in the Gallup coal fields volunteered to assist in the saving of the fruit crop in San Juan county; that Indian farmers on the Mes-
calero reservation increased the acreage of potatoes planted from three acres to seventy-eight acres in one year; that in several towns and cities of the state, men formed Home Guard companies and drilled persistently until the war closed. In fact, the special activities here mentioned are merely typical of the loyal spirit of New Mexicans. They have been selected at random and the list could be greatly extended.

The story of civilian activity in New Mexico told here in brief outline, could not be fully told by recounting merely what was done or attempted. What the people of the state did not do should also be a part of the history of the state for the period of the war. In obeying all suggestions and appeals it is doubtful whether any part of the United States has been more scrupulous than our own state. The food restrictions, often embarrassing, were seldom disregarded. The hampering regulations which governed traveling and transportation met with cheerful compliance. Needing school houses and other public buildings, all construction was promptly suspended at a suggestion from Washington. This was true also to a large extent, of the work on roads and bridges which had been planned by the county and state highway officials. In fact if the sum total of civilian self-restraint and sacrifice could be measured, it would equal even the splendid aggregate of what we might call positive forms of activity. While thousands in New Mexico served, tens of thousands obeyed and waited. They were all parts of the remarkable system of cooperation that evolved so rapidly and that placed New Mexico in the front ranks of the states of the Union in war activities.

Rupert F. Asplund