

# HOW THE GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENS FIGHTER AND SAFEGUARDS HIS HOME

### Uncle Sam's War Risk Insurance Offers Protection at Cost—Government Assumes All Administrative Costs and Extra War Hazards—Business Exceeds by Several Hundred Per Cent Largest Insurance Company in World.

By JAMES H. COLLINS.  
(From Committee on Public Information.)  
On October 6, 1917, the war risk insurance law went into effect, providing for protection of our soldiers, sailors, and marines and their families. On April 6, 1918, only six months later, Uncle Sam had written approximately \$11,000,000,000 of war risk insurance on his fighting forces, covering upward of 17,000,000 persons in the military and naval service. For all months and allowances alone approximately 1,000,000 checks aggregating more than \$100,000,000 have already been sent. It will not be long before the Bureau will be cashing out a million checks a month.

We have spoken of it as "the war risk insurance law." Technically this is correct, for it is a measure of law for the protection that went into effect on October 6, 1917, was really a group of laws, four acts coordinated for a common purpose. The first measure in this group is the program of protection in the form of allotments and allowances, in which the Federal Government and the partners for the care of the families of all enlisted men in the military or naval service.

The second measure provides for stated compensation for death and disability incurred in the line of duty. This is the modern American substitute for pensions. The compensation, which ranges from \$20 to \$100 a month, is paid automatically by the government to certain specified beneficiaries, regardless of rank or pay, and without any cost to the recipient.

The third measure of protection is outright government insurance against death and total permanent disability. In this, the United States is a pioneer among the nations of the world—offering insurance up to \$10,000 to every member of its fighting forces, at no peace rates. The government assumes all overhead charges and costs of administration, thus making the rates almost incredibly low. This insurance is a supplemental form of protection, stimulating thrift and strengthening self-respect.

**Immunity of Bureau's Work.**  
The fourth measure of protection embodied in the military and naval insurance act is the system of re-education and rehabilitation of the men disabled in the war. In itself a task of vital importance and great magnitude.

The figures given convey an idea of the immensity of the Bureau's work. The insurance now on the books of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance exceeds by several hundred per cent the insurance held by the largest life insurance company in the world.

To cope with the Hydra-headed problem imposed upon it, the Bureau of War Risk Insurance has been forced to expand at an exceedingly rapid rate. The Bureau now occupies space in eight separate buildings, covering an area of more than 1,200,000 square feet, and has a personnel of more than 3,300, working in two shifts from nine o'clock in the morning till midnight.

It may be asked why the government, in addition to family allowances and liberal compensation, should offer insurance against death and disability to its fighting men. The justification for this sweeping innovation is simply this: The government by calling a man to war takes him into the most hazardous business in the world, and thus destroys his insurability. In return, it is only fitting and proper that the government should go into the insurance business for his benefit. Private insurance companies could not possibly insure soldiers and sailors except at prohibitive rates. At a conference of life insurance representatives in Washington, when the present act was discussed, it was stated that \$50 a thousand was the lowest figure at which any insurance company could afford to accept soldiers and sailors as risks, and that only for one year. Thus, \$10,000 life insurance, which under the government system would cost a soldier twenty-six years old \$80.40, would cost about \$50 with a private insurance company. This disparity is largely explained by the government's liberality in itself assuming all the administrative costs and the extra war hazards.

**Supplants Pension System.**  
The entire system of protection afforded by the government is, in the words of a major general in the army, an element of victory in the present war. Families provided for means fighters unafraid.  
The difference between the old pension system and the modern system which has supplanted it is clearly demonstrated by the case of Mrs. Betty Ingraham, 403 Third Street, Platt City, Ala. The first woman to receive a check from the Bureau of War Risk Insurance for a soldier or sailor killed in action in the present war. Her son, Gunner's Mate Oswald Kelly Ingraham, was killed October 15, 1917, when the U. S. S. Cassin was attacked by a German submarine.

Under the terms of the military and naval insurance act, Mrs. Ingraham, being a widowed mother dependent upon her son for support, will receive \$20 per month, as long as she lives, unless she remarries. Furthermore, she is entitled to \$20 a month for 240 months under the insurance provisions of the act. Her son had not made special application for insurance, but up to February 12, 1918, automatic insurance for approximately \$1,300 was provided. Thus, Mrs. Ingraham will receive a total of \$10,000 from the United States government. If her son had applied for \$10,000 of insurance, she would receive \$77,500 a month. Under the pension laws, section 1707, Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of June 27, 1890, Mrs. Ingraham would have been entitled to \$12 a month. Such is the chasm between the old and the new.

The vast amount of correspondence which comes to the Bureau of War Risk Insurance is kept in logical order. Stamps of heroism and duty patriotism are found by the thousands in the letters received at the Bureau. Many mothers and fathers have returned checks sent to them by the government, declaring that the government needs the money in this crucial hour to win the war. Other letters are vivid and moving tributes to the government's liberality and justice.

**Keeps Home Fires Burning.**  
The Bureau of War Risk Insurance is keeping the home fires burning. But it is doing more than that. It is keeping America's fighting forces confident and re-assured.  
A "blue-jacket" on one of the battle ships after signing the application for \$10,000 of government insurance, dropped his pen and said:  
"I have taken care of my family, now I can go out and fight like blazes."  
Thousands of families throughout the country are directly and vitally affected by the allotment and allowance feature of the war insurance law. Every married enlisted man in the army and navy must allot from his pay (every month) at least \$15 a month, and not more than half his pay, toward the support of his wife and children. To this allotment the government adds certain allowances, depending upon the size of the family. In addition, the enlisted man may make some further provision for other relatives, and in case of dependency the government will add certain allowances.

The Bureau of War Risk Insurance, in return, must keep a tremendous filing of crossing system, covering every enlisted person in the nation's service, and this means millions of cards, millions of bookkeeping and financial operations, thousands of awards, and thousands of checks going out every month.

The bleak specter of poverty, the humiliation of charity, the silent suffering of penniless pride—these are eliminated by the government protection when the man is fighting. After his fighting is over, government compensation and government insurance are then called upon to play their part in the work of protection.

Persons who have business with the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, as beneficiaries or otherwise, need not, in any circumstances, employ claim agents or provide lawyers. The Bureau of War Risk Insurance will cheerfully furnish full legal advice and assistance. Secretary McAdoo has vigorously denounced the nefarious activities of claim agents and others who would prey upon dependents of men killed in battle by exacting unnecessary fees and requiring useless litigations.

**Claims Paid Promptly.**  
Actual insurance checks, mailed to the dependents of a soldier or sailor who has been killed in battle or died of disease, involve very few complications making for delay. These insurance claims are paid promptly after death.

Uncle Sam's war risk insurance had the "selling" advantage of a very attractive rate, and also a wide popular interest roused by the contingencies of war. Even so, a certain amount of work was necessary to roll up a large body of policyholders. A very brief experience during the first few weeks demonstrated that educational work was necessary—some well-organized effort looking toward explanation, so that every soldier, sailor, marine, nurse, and coast guard man would know what might be obtained under this law—that is to say, know their rights.

Therefore, during the month of January, men were detailed in every cantonment and on every ship to undertake the work of explanation. It was found that hundreds of trained insurance men were available in the army and navy, and these, as well as officers interested in the welfare of their men, were arrayed for a general campaign. Leaders in this movement were assembled at the War Risk Insurance Bureau in Washington for three days' instructions, returning to their posts all over the country prepared to explain insurance in detail. A spirit of friendly rivalry was created among regiments and other units of the fighting forces on land and sea. Many officers made it a point of pride to have every one of the men under their insured, very often to the entire

amount allowed under the law, which is \$10,000.  
Average is \$8,000 a Man.  
The latest figures show that the average amount of insurance taken out by our fighters is upward of \$8,000 per man. It was estimated as early as February 12, 1918, that the American army, both here and abroad, was more than 90 per cent insured by Uncle Sam. Final figures for the navy are not yet available but the blue-jackets are known to have responded enthusiastically. As long as new insured are added to the ranks, Uncle Sam's insurance campaign will continue with out let up. "Insurance means preparedness," preparedness means victory. This is one of the many battle cries which have aroused the hearts of our men in the insurance law.

# FAMINE STALKS IN PETROGRAD

### Hams at \$300 Each, Eggs 75 Cents Each, Are Examples of Food Scarcity.

London.—A dispatch to the London Times from Petrograd says: "The famine in Petrograd is becoming positively alarming. There is practically no food in the markets or the shops. Two-thirds, if not more, of the latter are permanently closed for want of goods of all kinds, besides flour, stables, cheese, or milk, pigmilk, and very little meat. All is under control unless accidentally or privately obtained. The principal necessities of life have to be got when possible through friends and charitable organizations at enormous cost if they are stronger than those of the authorities, and absolutely inadequate for subsistence. The present ration of inedible black bread, half baked, with as much moisture as possible left in it to increase its weight, is one-eighth of a pound per day, and often that is not forthcoming on account of the hopeless disorder and universal thieving habit.

**Rob Without Compunction.**  
"Relatives and dependents rob one another of food without compunction. Hunger has no conscience. If a morsel of anything is left on the plate for later consumption it will disappear as soon as you turn your back and every scrap has to be put under lock and key after each meal. In my own case, the house committee which receives flour from the town authorities for distribution to its tenants could not account for nine pounds (324 pounds) of flour, so that we all had to go without any bread for two days.

"In spite of special commissions and stringent measures against hoarding and speculation, profiteering goes on to a great extent among all classes. In fact, food is a far more valuable commodity than paper money and is secretly circulated instead of it. All conversation indoors and out is about food and how to get it. Half the working day is wasted in pursuit of sufficient to eat.

"As an illustration of how far the organization and good can go, I mention the fact that no fewer than fifteen cartloads of rotten hares were recently brought into town and several attempts made to fust them on the municipal executives; but they were finally rejected and condemned. Good hares are being sold at £2 10 shillings apiece (nearly \$1250, according to the rate of exchange here of the war).

**Hams at \$300 Each.**  
"Prices of other articles are quite fabulous. Hams are offered at £40 and £50 each. Butter costs 42 shillings a pound; cheese, 3 shillings a pound; white flour, 30 shillings a pound; eggs, 3 shillings apiece; carrots, 5 shillings a pound; potatoes, 6 shillings a pound. With the exception of occasional limited sales most of these articles can only be obtained privately.

"In these circumstances the British community in Petrograd, which is now reduced perhaps to about 500 persons, who are unable for various reasons to leave Russia, felt obliged to induce the British consul and the incumbent of the English church to wire to London for a few edible supplies to help tide over this serious crisis. I am told that the wire to this effect has been sent to the foreign office, but so far no assistance is forthcoming. We do not want luxuries, but a few cases of crushed oats, for example, some sugar, margarine, and flour, would be a god-send.

"There has been no essential improvement of internal affairs here. On the contrary, the situation in many respects has been going from bad to worse."

**NIGHT SCHOOL FOR ESKIMOS**  
It is Being Conducted for Them in Native Village in Northeastern Alaska.  
Seattle, Wash.—A night school for Eskimos, believed to be the first of its kind, is being conducted at Shishmaref, a native village in far northeastern Alaska, according to the Eskimo, a magazine devoted to the interests of the natives of the sections of the Bering sea, late copies of which have been received here.  
The school is attended by the older natives and has an enrollment of eighty. It is conducted by J. P. Jones and Miss Hollie Jones, the teachers of the regular Shishmaref Indian school. If summer sessions are held, lights are not needed, the long arctic days making them unnecessary.

**Want Italian Laborers.**  
Scranton, Pa.—The board of trade has decided to ask the war department to have 16,000 Italians who left the coal mines here to join the Italian army return as a means of relieving the labor shortage. The board would replace the Italians with as many American troops.

**Two Beers for the Marines**  
Lads With Wet Names Apply for Enlistment and Are Accepted.  
New York.—Beer for the marines! This is the rather startling announcement made from the local United States marine recruiting station. It won't make much of a bit with prohibitionists, but it's a fact.  
While men in other branches of the service will be compelled to stick to water, the marines will have beer on hand all the time, in fact, two beers; to be exact, Otto A. twenty-three years old, and his brother, Warren M. twenty-four.  
These two lads with the wet name applied for enlistment and were accepted.

# DEATH RATE IN BELGIUM IS HIGH

### Under German Occupation, II Treatment and Poor Food Kill Thousands.

Washington.—The existing death rate in Belgium is as high as at the time of the most terrible epidemics of cholera that occurred on the battle field, due to the extreme overcrowding of the country. In addition, at least one Belgian daily is executed by the German authorities, according to a statement made public by the Belgian government. The statement came from Havre and read as follows:  
"Not taking into account the loss of the field of battle Belgium has suffered heavily in its civilian population through the invasion and occupation of its territory by the Germans. Civilians killed during the invasion, August-September, 1914—although we are not yet in possession of a complete list of the civilians killed by the Germans during those fatiguing days, we know the number of victims to be well over 5,000. For the following provinces we have approximate estimates: Namur, more than 1,500; Luxembourg about 1,200; Liege, more than 1,000; Brabant, 897; Hainaut, about 300. Most of these victims fell in the towns where, under pretext of the existence of sharpshooters, German fury knew no limits. Dinant, for example, counted 606 victims; Audenarde, more than 200; Famenne, more than 400; Louvain, 210; Aerschot, about 150; Namur, about 75.

**Deportees Death Rate High.**  
"2. Among the deportees the mortality resulting from privations, ill-treatment, underfeeding, etc., exceeds largely the normal percentage of deaths. Some, too, have met death on the battle fields, where the Germans forced them to do auxiliary work. If we possess ample information about individual places and undeniable testimony on the broken health of returned deportees in general, we are, however, unable to quote figures.

"3. The electrified wire which makes the Belgians prisoners in their own country accounts for a great number of victims, especially among young people, who try to escape in order to join the army, or among couriers, who try to smuggle news in or out of Belgium. In less than a year, between August, 1914, and July 1917, 160 persons were executed. Since then the average number of victims has increased, owing to the strengthening of the guards and the putting up of new wires.

"4. The death penalty, pronounced by the German military courts for crimes of patriotism, levies a heavy toll on the population. It is estimated that each day one Belgian at least suffers the supreme penalty.

"The unsatisfactory food situation, due to the requisition of the home-grown foodstuffs and the sinking of many relief ships, the use of unsuitable substitutes, the lack of fuel, as a result of the exploitation by Germany for her own consumption, and for exportation, of the Belgian coal fields, has dangerously increased the death rate.

"Deaths from hunger and cold are not unusual, but it is mostly indirectly that the underfeeding of the population causes numerous premature deaths, for, through lack of physical strength, many people are subject to rickets or tuberculosis, and so become unable to resist slight illness which, under normal conditions, would not prove fatal. As to the bad effect of unsuitable substitutes, it will suffice to recall the diseases contracted by the deportees through the use of raw tubers and the paralysis of the brain and of the marrow in the special kind of jaundice provoked by the use of lupin seeds as a substitute for coffee berries.

**White Plague Prevalent.**  
"The death rate all over Belgium, but especially in the large towns, is about as high as at the time of the most terrible epidemics. A Brussels paper, appearing with the consent of the German censorship, admits that there are more civilian dead from lack of sufficient food than Belgian soldiers fall on the battlefield. On the other hand, a report on the 'Work of the War Orphans' in Belgium shows that in 1917 there were fewer orphans of soldiers fallen in the war than of civilians killed during the same period and of deportees dead in consequence of their deportation.

"Cardiac affections and cerebral hemorrhages account for the greater part of the deaths, tuberculosis, especially under the form of tubercular meningitis, for almost as many. Typhoid fever, caused by the occupying army, has occasionally led to a heavy toll on the civilian population.

"The situation in 1918 can only grow worse; it is undeniable that the physical standard of the nation is lowering dangerously and that the effects of the German occupation on the health of the people will make themselves felt for a long time after the war."

**How Germany Conserves Space.**  
A conservation of land-space movement in Germany, some time ago, resulted in the utilization of dwarf varieties of fruit trees instead of such of the shrubbery planted merely for ornamental purposes, and in the planting of small trees close against the walls of brick or stone houses so that the branches could be trained over the walls in the manner of ivy, says the Popular Science Monthly.  
Pear-trees are pruned carefully and trained to spread out over the walls just like vines. The practice is now common in hard-pressed Germany, and is likely to find favor in this country. Pear, plum, and other fruit-trees are thus trained over house walls, fences, and garden partitions so that not an inch of ground is wasted. In this way, too, the trees are prevented from throwing too much shade over other growing things in their vicinity, and the appearance of the houses is, in addition, very considerably enhanced.

**How Aviators Navigate at Night.**  
Several subscribers have written us asking how aviators find their way about at night. Though it may seem strange to the layman, on a moonlight night an aviator can see almost as much as he can in the daytime. From a considerable height villages, roads, canals, railways, and even small groups of buildings, and such other things as bridges, factories and trenches are distinctly visible. The only difference from daytime visibility is that the aviator cannot see so far, his range of vision being limited, except for large objects, to three or four miles, which is amply sufficient for ordinary navigation, given normal intelligence, good maps and a little experience.—Exchange.

**How He Had Lost Watch.**  
Butcher W. E. Patterson of Nesco, Pa., lost his watch, advertised it, and then, the next day, discovered it in the head of a dead bull. The watch disappeared while he was killing at Millville. He hunted for it several hours, and the next day, when cutting up the beef, found the watch lodged in the head. Presumably, he had dropped the watch from his pocket into the gash he had inflicted in the bull's neck.

# WHY Hot Water Cast On Stove Doesn't Touch It

It is impossible to throw a few drops of water on a red-hot stove. The water can never touch the stove at all. What is seen is a few drops running rapidly over the surface, gradually getting smaller as they disappear. If the drops are on a perfectly level place one can see under them to the other side of the room, thus proving that they are not in contact with the stove itself. What actually happens is that the bottom of the drop changes at once to steam or vapor on coming close to the hot surface, and this vapor is supported by the drop as it gradually goes away. So the drop rests on a cushion of vapor until it is entirely dissipated. This state of water is known as the spherical stage, and it is of interest simply on account of its peculiar and seemingly paradoxical behavior. The reason why the drop is not immediately evaporated or changed to steam is also very interesting. The water vapor that interposes between the under surface and the red-hot stove is a very bad conductor of heat, and consequently the full intensity of heat cannot get into the water itself, only the amount transmitted through the vapor being available for that purpose.

**BRITISH COLONY SUFFERING WORSE THAN AN EPIDEMIC**  
Mortality in Civil Life Greater Than in Battlefields—Situation Can Only Be Worse, Says Legation—One Execution Daily.  
London.—A dispatch to the London Times from Petrograd says: "The famine in Petrograd is becoming positively alarming. There is practically no food in the markets or the shops. Two-thirds, if not more, of the latter are permanently closed for want of goods of all kinds, besides flour, stables, cheese, or milk, pigmilk, and very little meat. All is under control unless accidentally or privately obtained. The principal necessities of life have to be got when possible through friends and charitable organizations at enormous cost if they are stronger than those of the authorities, and absolutely inadequate for subsistence. The present ration of inedible black bread, half baked, with as much moisture as possible left in it to increase its weight, is one-eighth of a pound per day, and often that is not forthcoming on account of the hopeless disorder and universal thieving habit.

**HONORS AMERICAN ARTIST**  
Louis Orr an American artist, is the first artist of any nationality to have a picture acquired by the Louvre in Paris, during the artist's lifetime. His painting is of the Font Neuf, the oldest bridge in Paris. The original picture is now in permanent possession of the Louvre and a copy of it is in the Luxembourg museum along with Mr Orr's famous etchings of Reims cathedral.

**NEED WOMEN AS DRAFTSMEN**  
Schools Urged to Fellow Michigan's Lead in Training Them for That Occupation.  
Detroit, Mich.—Universities, colleges and technical schools throughout the country are urged to follow the lead of the University of Michigan in providing special courses for woman students in drafting and tracing, inspection and drawing of materials.

**Girl Bootblacks Proud to Take Places of Men**  
Yakima, Wash.—"We are proud to release men for active war service," said one of the girls who have taken over a shoe-blacking stand here. The two young women declare the work is not hard, and although they do not exactly like the name "bootblack," they are willing to do their share to help win the war. Their stand is liberally patronized.

**Two Beers for the Marines**  
Lads With Wet Names Apply for Enlistment and Are Accepted.  
New York.—Beer for the marines! This is the rather startling announcement made from the local United States marine recruiting station. It won't make much of a bit with prohibitionists, but it's a fact.  
While men in other branches of the service will be compelled to stick to water, the marines will have beer on hand all the time, in fact, two beers; to be exact, Otto A. twenty-three years old, and his brother, Warren M. twenty-four.  
These two lads with the wet name applied for enlistment and were accepted.

**Famine Stalks in Petrograd**  
Hams at \$300 Each, Eggs 75 Cents Each, Are Examples of Food Scarcity.  
London.—A dispatch to the London Times from Petrograd says: "The famine in Petrograd is becoming positively alarming. There is practically no food in the markets or the shops. Two-thirds, if not more, of the latter are permanently closed for want of goods of all kinds, besides flour, stables, cheese, or milk, pigmilk, and very little meat. All is under control unless accidentally or privately obtained. The principal necessities of life have to be got when possible through friends and charitable organizations at enormous cost if they are stronger than those of the authorities, and absolutely inadequate for subsistence. The present ration of inedible black bread, half baked, with as much moisture as possible left in it to increase its weight, is one-eighth of a pound per day, and often that is not forthcoming on account of the hopeless disorder and universal thieving habit.

**Death Rate in Belgium is High**  
Under German Occupation, II Treatment and Poor Food Kill Thousands.  
Washington.—The existing death rate in Belgium is as high as at the time of the most terrible epidemics of cholera that occurred on the battle field, due to the extreme overcrowding of the country. In addition, at least one Belgian daily is executed by the German authorities, according to a statement made public by the Belgian government. The statement came from Havre and read as follows:  
"Not taking into account the loss of the field of battle Belgium has suffered heavily in its civilian population through the invasion and occupation of its territory by the Germans. Civilians killed during the invasion, August-September, 1914—although we are not yet in possession of a complete list of the civilians killed by the Germans during those fatiguing days, we know the number of victims to be well over 5,000. For the following provinces we have approximate estimates: Namur, more than 1,500; Luxembourg about 1,200; Liege, more than 1,000; Brabant, 897; Hainaut, about 300. Most of these victims fell in the towns where, under pretext of the existence of sharpshooters, German fury knew no limits. Dinant, for example, counted 606 victims; Audenarde, more than 200; Famenne, more than 400; Louvain, 210; Aerschot, about 150; Namur, about 75.

**Why Hot Water Cast On Stove Doesn't Touch It**  
It is impossible to throw a few drops of water on a red-hot stove. The water can never touch the stove at all. What is seen is a few drops running rapidly over the surface, gradually getting smaller as they disappear. If the drops are on a perfectly level place one can see under them to the other side of the room, thus proving that they are not in contact with the stove itself. What actually happens is that the bottom of the drop changes at once to steam or vapor on coming close to the hot surface, and this vapor is supported by the drop as it gradually goes away. So the drop rests on a cushion of vapor until it is entirely dissipated. This state of water is known as the spherical stage, and it is of interest simply on account of its peculiar and seemingly paradoxical behavior. The reason why the drop is not immediately evaporated or changed to steam is also very interesting. The water vapor that interposes between the under surface and the red-hot stove is a very bad conductor of heat, and consequently the full intensity of heat cannot get into the water itself, only the amount transmitted through the vapor being available for that purpose.

**British Colony Suffering Worse Than an Epidemic**  
Mortality in Civil Life Greater Than in Battlefields—Situation Can Only Be Worse, Says Legation—One Execution Daily.  
London.—A dispatch to the London Times from Petrograd says: "The famine in Petrograd is becoming positively alarming. There is practically no food in the markets or the shops. Two-thirds, if not more, of the latter are permanently closed for want of goods of all kinds, besides flour, stables, cheese, or milk, pigmilk, and very little meat. All is under control unless accidentally or privately obtained. The principal necessities of life have to be got when possible through friends and charitable organizations at enormous cost if they are stronger than those of the authorities, and absolutely inadequate for subsistence. The present ration of inedible black bread, half baked, with as much moisture as possible left in it to increase its weight, is one-eighth of a pound per day, and often that is not forthcoming on account of the hopeless disorder and universal thieving habit.

**Honors American Artist**  
Louis Orr an American artist, is the first artist of any nationality to have a picture acquired by the Louvre in Paris, during the artist's lifetime. His painting is of the Font Neuf, the oldest bridge in Paris. The original picture is now in permanent possession of the Louvre and a copy of it is in the Luxembourg museum along with Mr Orr's famous etchings of Reims cathedral.

**Need Women as Draftsmen**  
Schools Urged to Fellow Michigan's Lead in Training Them for That Occupation.  
Detroit, Mich.—Universities, colleges and technical schools throughout the country are urged to follow the lead of the University of Michigan in providing special courses for woman students in drafting and tracing, inspection and drawing of materials.

**Girl Bootblacks Proud to Take Places of Men**  
Yakima, Wash.—"We are proud to release men for active war service," said one of the girls who have taken over a shoe-blacking stand here. The two young women declare the work is not hard, and although they do not exactly like the name "bootblack," they are willing to do their share to help win the war. Their stand is liberally patronized.