

MAYORS DISCUSS MILITARY CENSUS WITH GOVERNOR

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and Enter Project With
Enthusiasm.

AID OF CHURCHES WILL BE ASKED

"Connecticut Stands Ready
to Do Its Share For the
Country," Says Gov-
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Casting politics to one side and entering into the project with enthusiasm, democratic and republican mayors, representing eighteen cities in Connecticut, discussed before Governor Marcus H. Holcomb yesterday afternoon in the State Capitol the plans for the preparedness movement that was launched in the state Senate Tuesday when Governor Holcomb made his plea for a complete military census of the state.

Before the meeting had closed, Governor Holcomb received the promises of every city in the state of loyal support and co-operation in this move—the first of its kind ever instituted by any state in the country. Mayor George A. Quigley of New Britain was the only executive not present, New Britain being represented by M. Irving Jester.

No urging was necessary at the meeting. Each representative entered into the spirit of the project and when Governor Holcomb, just before adjourning the meeting, said that "Connecticut will be found where it always has been found—ready to do its share for the country," he was enthusiastically applauded.

Work Starts Immediately.

In every city and town in the state the work will be started immediately. As the pioneer of the movement, the first to start active work in the gathering of the census, Hartford's method was explained to the mayors by Charles A. Goodwin, to whom Governor Holcomb gave credit yesterday for originating the scheme. Norman H. Moray, of the Hartford Accident & Indemnity Company, who is in charge of the indexing; Robert P. Butler, chairman of the citizens' committee, and Mayor Frank A. Hagarty, it was explained to the mayors, however, that they need not follow Hartford's method—that they may employ any method they see fit so long as they secure a complete census and have the names of all males of 16 years of age and over, in the hands of the general committee on scheduled time.

The churches will be asked to take part in the project, it being announced at the meeting that Governor Holcomb would issue a proclamation to the various churches throughout the state, asking the ministers to speak of the importance of the project from the pulpit on Sunday, February 18.

Finished in Three Weeks.

Within three weeks, according to Charles A. Goodwin, the complete tabulation of the males over 16 years of age in Connecticut will be ready for the governor. Within ten days, the organization of the entire state will be perfected and the work of taking the census will be started. With the health of the insurance companies, factories and other business concerns throughout the state, it is expected that more than 200,000 cards, bearing the names, ages and occupations of every male in the state over 16 years of age will be at the disposal of the governor about March 1.

"For two years we have been dreading what may happen," said Governor Holcomb in opening the session, "and now it has been brought a little nearer to us. We are now preparing for what may be before us. We have heard a good deal about preparedness, but it has all been hot-air and not practical. What we want is something practical. I sincerely hope that there will be no war. I hope Connecticut will not be called on, but it is an act of wisdom for Connecticut, one of the most important states in the country, to take an inventory. This state will be relied upon to furnish the munitions of the nation and would be attractive to the enemy, in case there is an enemy. It will have the honor of being the first in the country to find out its resources, and the enthusiasm all through the state is made evident by the gathering here today.

"Connecticut has risen above the question of republicanism or democracy, or what church a man belongs to in this crisis," said the governor in closing, "and we meet now on the common plane of patriotism. I pray to God that we won't have to go to war, but if we do, Connecticut will be found as it always has been found—ready to do its share to back up the President of the United States who is responsible for the present position of the country. Go home and go to work."

33,000 Names Gathered.

"Approximately 33,000 names have been gathered by the committee at work in Hartford," said Robert P. Butler, "and before Monday, with the aid of the postmaster, the directory and the voting and tax lists, we expect to have 40,000 names ready for the starting of the canvassing. The newspapers will be used to advertise the project, requesting every male between 16 and 21 years of age to be sure and have his name on the list. The index system that is being employed and the co-operation of the manufacturers, will reduce canvassing to the minimum."

"Hartford is always in the lead in answer to a call for service," said Mayor Frank A. Hagarty, "and Hartford will be ready for the cards when they arrive Monday."

"The publicity work will not be carried on only in the papers printed in the English language," said Aubrey L. Maddock, "but it will also be carried on in foreign language papers printed in this state. The idea of the publicity work is to get the men to receive the census taker in the friendly spirit and not in a spirit of hostility."

The time has come when we must

throw off our coats and go to work," said Rev. Dr. Irving H. Berg. "There are forces in our own land with which we must reckon and there is no time to spare."

Mayors Present.

The following mayors were present at the meeting: Frank A. Hagarty, Hartford; Daniel P. Dunn, Wilimantle; J. J. McDarry, Putnam; Allyn L. Brown, Norwich; Edward W. Kneen, Shelton; Carl A. Harston, Norwich; Samuel Campner, New Haven; John P. Cameron, Rockville; Joseph Dutton, Bristol; Harold M. Meach, Middletown; Martin Scully, Waterbury; John Mead, Ansonia; George P. Sullivan, Derby; Joseph A. Cook, Meriden; E. E. Rogers, New London; John J. Treat, Stamford and Anthony Sunderland, Danbury.

Officials of the Co-operative Tool Company of Meriden have placed its facilities at the disposal of Governor Holcomb or of the national government, should the need arise. Governor Holcomb has also received a communication from the Hartford Chamber of Commerce saying that the chamber will discuss at its next luncheon the question of taking the military census. The luncheon will be held next Tuesday.