

WOOD LAYS CASE BEFORE WILSON

General, Denied Overseas Service, Visits President, but No Change of Status Announced.

NOT ON PERSHING'S LIST

**Impression Conveyed at Capital
Commander Did Not Want
Wood, Bell, or Barry.**

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—"I don't care to say anything except that whatever order I get I shall obey cheerfully," said Major Gen. Leonard Wood as he left the White House this evening after a half hour's interview with President Wilson. The object of the interview, which was sought by General Wood, was to ask the President to countermand the order detaching him from overseas duty in command of his division and assigning him to the administrative post of commanding officer of the Western Military Department with headquarters at San Francisco.

No statement, official or otherwise, concerning the outcome of the conversation between President Wilson and General Wood is forthcoming. Prior to General Wood's visit to the White House it was said authoritatively that General Wood had asked Secretary Baker to change his orders, so as to assign him with troops, and that the request had been referred to the Chief of the Army General Staff for consideration and report. It was made plain, however, that there was no thought of assigning General Wood to the command of troops overseas.

As far as the public is informed in any authoritative way, the action of the War Department in detaching General Wood from duty with the expeditionary forces just as he was about to start for Europe remains as much of a mystery as it was yesterday.

Wood's Friends Indignant.

Whatever the feeling may be in other parts of the country, it is undeniable that here in the nation's capital there is indignation in many quarters over the manner in which the senior officer of the regular army has been deprived of service at the front. It is not going too far to say that even among men who have no particular interest in General Wood the opinion exists that some explanation is due in his case. It is pointed out that he was permitted to organize the National Army Division at Camp Funston, was sent to Europe for observation in order to familiarize himself with the work ahead of him as a division commander, was found physically fit for overseas service by a board of medical officers, and was allowed to make all his preparations for service in France, and even to go to the port from which he was to take passage, when telegraphic orders came directing him to proceed to San Francisco.

The Eighty-ninth Division, which General Wood organized, is composed of drafted men from Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, and it was said today by Congressmen from Kansas and Colorado that General Wood was idolized by the people of those States, who would feel that they were entitled to some explanatory statement of the reasons for his sequestration. It was recalled that the Governor of Kansas recently, by public proclamation, had declared General Wood a citizen of the State with the designation of Citizen Extraordinary.

The impression is being conveyed in Washington that the change in General Wood's status was due to a recommendation of General Pershing. The fact appears to be that General Pershing submitted to the War Department a list of general officers who would be acceptable to him as commanders of troops in the expeditionary forces. General Wood's name, it is asserted, was not on the list. Evidently, if General Pershing did not want General Wood to serve under him in France he took no positive action toward keeping General Wood at home.

It is expected that the question will be exploited in Congress before very long. The understanding that a "negative list" was prepared of general officers not on General Pershing's list, applies also to the cases of other high ranking officers who, after training divisions of troops, were not permitted

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to take them to France. Among these was Major Gen. J. Franklin Bell, who organized and trained the Seventy-seventh National Army Division at Camp Upton. Another was Major General Hugh L. Scott, former Chief of the Army General Staff, who was in command of the Seventy-eighth Division at Camp Dix. Another was Major Gen. J. F. Morrison, formerly in command of the Thirtieth Division at Camp Sevier, recognized as one of the most advanced officers of the army in military science and a foremost advocate of scientific military training.

Wood Highest in Rank.

Major Gen. Wood is the highest ranking officer of permanent grade in the regular army. He is senior in the regular establishment to General Pershing, who holds his present rank under a temporary commission while serving as commander of the expeditionary forces. Major Gen. Bell ranks next to General Wood in the regular establishment. The third ranking officer in the regular establishment is Major Gen. Thomas H. Barry, who commanded the 86th Division at Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill.

With the displacement of General Wood all these ranking officers of the regular army have been deprived of service at the front. All of them are senior in the regular army to General Pershing, although he ranks them under his commission as the commander of the American expeditionary forces.

It became known today that Major Gen. Bell had not been detached from command of the 77th Division at Camp Upton because of physical disability. This was admitted officially and caused surprise, as it was the understanding that General Bell's detachment had been due to a report of the Medical Board that he was physically unfit for overseas service. It was explained that General Bell was found to have some slight ailment that could be corrected by dieting, and that his detachment from active service with troops destined for the expeditionary forces was not due to any physical reason. However, the real reason for his detachment was not revealed. The hint is being conveyed that General Bell was deprived of an opportunity to command troops in France because General Pershing did not want him. His name, it is said, did not appear on the list submitted by General Pershing.

At the time General Barry, their ranking officer of the regular army, was detached from command of the Eighty-sixth Division it was said at the War Department that he had been found physically unfit. It is not certain, however, that this statement was made officially. Nothing has appeared to show that his name was not on the preference list said to have been prepared by General Pershing.

During the day General Wood called

on Senator Warren of Wyoming, father-in-law of General Pershing. When General Pershing was promoted by President Roosevelt, General Wood's intimate friend, from the rank of Captain to that of Brigadier General in the regular army, for his services in the campaign against the Moros, Senator Warren was Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, of which he is now the ranking Republican member. Neither General Wood nor Senator Warren would discuss the visit.

There is reason to believe that the case of General Wood was discussed at the regular meeting of the Cabinet today. One Cabinet officer said afterward that General Wood knew why he had been detached and that it was for a military reason. He would not throw any further light on the subject.

It is generally believed in the best informed quarters here that if General Wood's orders to proceed to San Francisco are countermanded he will not be assigned to the command of troops ordered to France, but may be permitted again to undertake the training of the new drafts that will be sent to Camp Funston.

ROOSEVELT SILENT ON WOOD.

But He Declares America Could Have Prevented the War.

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, May 28.—Colonel Roosevelt, who was in Chicago today for a few hours while awaiting a train for Madison, Wis., refrained from any mention of the transfer of General Leonard Wood. He did say, however, that in his opinion the German drive was a distinct lesson for the people of the United States. He declared that America is awakening to Hun aggression.

"If we had been as wide-awake three years ago as we are now," he said, "there never would have been a war. And if we had been as keen to the dangers of our enemy's aggression one year ago the present German drive could never have been launched. We would have had 1,000,000 Americans on the fighting line today. But the people realize the great significance of the war now.

"It is needless to say that those at home must do everything in their power to re-enforce our army and navy. We must take for granted that every one is giving liberally, sacrificing everything through the Y. M. C. A., the Red Cross, the War Savings Stamp campaign, and other war measures. But it is our men at the front who count, and no sacrifice is too great to meet their sacrifices."

MADISON, Wis., May 28, (Associated Press).—Declaring that the war would have been over a year ago if this nation had started to prepare three years ago, and criticisms for the Government censorship were the features of the speech of Colonel Roosevelt here tonight.

"Most of the censorship which we have had, I think, is exceedingly foolish," he said. "I have wished there had been a censorship on boasting. The statements of what we are going to do should have been censored. Six months ago we were going to startle the world with our achievements. Six months have passed. We were going to have a large airplane fleet. The Germans built to meet that fleet. We were not

ready, and our allies, England and France, have had to ward off the attack. Let achievement speak without boasting."

The Colonel declared that only the English language should be taught in the grade schools and asserted that "English should be the national language, and Americanism the national ideal."

"Americans should be educated in our own universities and every newspaper should, within a reasonable time, be printed in the English language," he said.

During the course of his address the speaker praised the loyalty of the "State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State University." The large audience which heard him had expected him to make some reference to Senator LaFollette, but the Colonel never mentioned his name.