

LIFE ON THE HOMEFRONT INFO SHEET

Raising Money

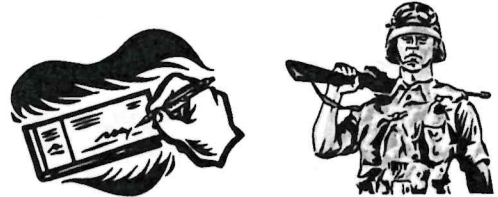


Congress passed new taxes, used liberty bonds and victory bonds to pay for the army, navy and the supplies of war

- Government placed higher taxes on incomes and some goods such as tobacco and railroad tickets
- **Liberty Bonds** – the government borrowed money from the people to pay back later by selling liberty bonds.
- Almost half of Americans bought bonds
- The bonds brought in two thirds of the money needed for war

Selective Service Act

- Congress passed new laws to get enough men to build an army
- A draft signed up all men between the ages of 21 and 30
- Later the draft ages were extended to include all men between the ages of 18 and 45
- By the end of the war, 24 million Americans had signed up for the draft
- Over 4.7 million served in the war



Factory Laws

War Industry Board – a group of government employees were hired to tell factories what war goods to make

They also aimed to stop the waste of materials which could be used to make war goods



Propaganda



Committee on Public Information was created to make people support the war

- Filled newspapers and magazines with stories about the good side of war
- Had famous people selling liberty bonds
- Had songwriters write songs
- Sent speakers to Churches and schools

New Jobs

National War Labor Board was created to settle differences between companies and workers so workers would not go on strike

- Strikes had to be stopped because we needed the goods for war
- The board opened up jobs for everyone for the first time
- Men were leaving to fight, so someone had to replace them
- Women and blacks were given jobs never given to them before
- **Great Migration** – thousands of African Americans came north in search of jobs



Food Rationing

Food Administration, headed by Herbert Hoover was set up to make sure troops (the US and Allies) had enough food at the front

- Asked Americans to grow more food on farms
- Grow food in gardens
- Waste nothing
- Go without some food – “meatless Mondays” and “wheatless Wednesdays”
- **Prohibition**- banned the sale or manufacture of alcohol because the government needed wheat for other things



Espionage Act

To keep Americans from doing anything against the war, the US government passed the Espionage Act, which put them in prison or fined people for:

- Spying or sabotage
- Not going along with the draft
- Speaking out against liberty bonds



Sedition Act

To keep Americans from saying anything bad about the war, the government jailed those who made public speeches against or said anything in private negative about the war