

While the selective service system provided the men to fight the war, the money to finance the war was obtained primarily by borrowing through the sale of war bonds in four "Liberty Loan" campaigns. With the cost of the war far exceeding estimates, the amount of money that needed to be raised through these campaigns was enormous. The Treasury Department, the Committee on Public Information (the government's war propaganda agency), and national and local volunteer organizations carried on intensive campaigns to inform the public about "Liberty Bonds," and through appeals to patriotism, and even coercion, encouraged people to buy them.

For the first campaign, in June 1917, Bayfield County subscribed \$53,450. For the second and subsequent campaigns, a team of volunteer canvassers in each of the city's six wards went from door to door and business to business to solicit subscriptions. For the second campaign, in October 1917, the Times, equating loyalty with bond purchases, warned those who might be reluctant (or unable) to buy a bond that "The government of the United States is going to keep a tab on every person in this liberty bond campaign and blue cards have been pro-

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vided for those who refuse to buy liberty bonds." Washburn's quota of \$50,000 was oversubscribed by several thousand dollars, the Times announcing that "Washburn people are determined to make the world safe for democracy. When Kaiser Bill hears the report of the Liberty Bond sale in Washburn he is going to feel his throne totter. . . ."

Those who could not afford Liberty Bonds could buy War Savings Stamps for \$5 each, or Thrift Stamps for 25¢, sold through post offices, letter carriers, schools, businesses, banks and even restaurants. For the purchase of 20 War Savings Stamps the buyer received a War Savings certificate, while 16 Thrift Stamps, plus a dollar paid for one War Savings Stamp. The Thrift Stamps were considered particularly useful for mobilizing the petty cash and enthusiasm of children, and through them the participation of their parents. The Times declared that "America

will be safe from any attempt to [Prussianize] it. The Hun's carefully laid plan did not work because he did not know that the old spirit of 1776 was still the prize possession of every man, woman and child of America. He did not figure that the spirit of patriotism and love of freedom once aroused would sweep everything before it." A "monster drive" began on February 3 1918 to sell War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps, with solicitors contacting every person (including children) in the city. A second campaign to sell War Savings Stamps began in June. According to the Times, the county quota "is equal to \$20 for every man, woman and child" and those "who have not pledged enough will be called upon to increase their pledges," while those who did not subscribe "will have their names taken." Washburn residents responded generously to these crude threats, by fully subscribing to the city's quota.

For the third campaign in April 1918, the quota for Washburn and the adjacent towns was \$80,500. With American soldiers now in active combat in France, the Times made a more direct appeal to the consciences of Washburn residents—"our boys are now in France where they are face to face with the Hun

hordes. They are daily in contact with the opposing armies and are willingly giving up their life that the cause of democracy and freedom may long live. We at home have a duty to perform in backing up these boys with our resources." The appeal was certainly successful, for the allotment was generously exceeded, the box company, lumber mill, coal dock and Du Pont employees subscribing 100%. For the fourth campaign in September 1918, the pressure on individuals to buy bonds was considerably less subtle than in previous campaigns. The campaign began on Friday, September 27th with a huge evening parade along Bayfield Street. Headed by the city band, it included Boy Scouts, Red Cross workers, mothers with sons in the services, patriotic organizations, "followed by civilians who intend to purchase Liberty Bonds." As they had in the previous three drives, Washburn residents oversubscribed the city's quota, doing their share and more to defeat "the Hun's carefully laid plan." In April 1919 a "Victory Loan Campaign" was held. Washburn once again over subscribed its quota, every individual subscribing to the amount assigned by an allotment committee.