OFFICERS OF THE LAST WAR.

More than 28,000 former World War officers and other patriotic citizens have offered their services to the War Department and the applications continue to pour in at the rate of 1500 per day. A special division has been created to handle these applications. There are rigid requirements for physical fitness.

FREE POSTAGE

The Second War Powers Act contains a provision which would afford free postage to all persons in the military and naval forces of the country including officers, enlisted men and nurses. In the first World War, soldiers and sailors who served overseas had this privilege. The present bill extends it to all soldiers and sailors whether serving abroad or at home.

CCC

With an increasing draft on young manpower, there was a growing movement to abolish the Civilian Conservation Corps at least for the duration of the war. The New War Powers Act would empower the President to use the CCC personnel, to protect war industries, guard bridges, serve as patrols to prevent forest fires, protect public utilities such as water, light and power plants and do other defense duties.

PROFITS ON WAR CONTRACTS.

Where speed is essential in securing war production, contracts are often negotiated for the building of camps or housing projects or for the manufacture of war supplies and equipment on the basis of what seems to be a reasonable estimate of the cost as submitted by the contractor. These contracts are awarded on a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee-basis. The contractor or manufacturer then gets the cost of the work plus a fee which has been agreed upon in advance. The cost estimates however may have been so high as to permit an unreasonable profit. Congress is making provision for the auditing of all manufacturers books where such contracts are involved to make certain that profits are not unconscionable.

NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARD

In the first thirty days of its existence which ended February 12, the National War Labor Board received sixty-five cases involving 779,530 men. Six of these cases were closed by mediation, one by Board decision, three were referred to arbitration, two to the National Labor Relations Board and twelve to special examiners. Seven of these are under consideration by the full Board and twenty-three are in mediation.
THE PEANUT AND WAR

Peanut acreage for 1942 will be increased to five million acres to make available a larger amount of peanut oil which is used not only in the manufacture of shortening and food products, but in deriving the by-product of glycerine for use in munitions. A ton of peanuts will produce 580 pounds of oil. The 1941 crop produced 779,000 tons of peanuts, of which 60,000 tons were crushed for oil.

NETHERLAND INDIES

The Netherland Indies contain about one-fourth of the continental area of the United States and set astride the Equator, for an east-west distance of 3,200 miles. Java is the size of New York State and has a population of 48,000,000. About six million acres in Java and the outer islands are devoted to large plantations which are scientifically managed. From these plantations come rubber, sugar, tobacco, tea, coffee, copra, palm oil and other items. Thirty-eight per cent of the world's rubber comes from the Indies.

WAR INCREASES SMOKING

Internal Revenue figures indicate that fifty-five million more cigars and three billion more cigarettes were smoked in January 1942 than in January 1941. This might indicate that the intensity of feeling and emotionalism which attends war has increased smoking.

YOUR CHANCES FOR A NEW CAR

It is said that there are 480,000 passenger cars in inventory, of which 340,000 will be sold in the calendar year 1942. It is planned to release 145,500 of this 1942 quota in the three months of March, April and May. The Illinois quota is 8,789 cars with 454 in reserve for special contingencies.

DEFERMENT OF LABOR LEADERS AND MOVIE STARS

The Selective Service Act is quite clear on the matter of deferments. The Law specifically prohibits deferment by groups and there can be no group deferment unless the present law is changed. Occupational deferments can only be made for six months and must then be reviewed. Only the local draft board can defer an individual so that every individual case must be resolved by a local board on its own merits.

WAR PRODUCTION PROGRAM IN A NUTSHELL

One-hundred nine billion dollars have been authorized and 18½ billion has been expended. Seven and one-half billion have been committed to the expansion of industrial plants. Civil non-farm employment is now estimated at 41,000,000. Farm labor is estimated at 9,000,000. Unemployment is estimated at 4,500,000.