

## Governor Arthur Capper to Phil Crab

Governor Arthur Capper of Topeka (Shawnee County) writes to Phil Crab of Ada (Ottawa County) requesting that he donate to the Red Cross. The Governor's request was prompted by a letter from Ottawa County Attorney, Lee Jackson, who informed the Governor of the resident's refusal to donate and the subsequent threats made by local residents against him. During WWI, persons whose allegiance to the United States was suspect were often referred to as "slackers." In his letter, the Governor encourages Mr. Crab to support the war by donating to the Red Cross and assures him that he will be considered a "disloyal citizen" or "slacker" if he does not. See Lee Jackson to Governor Arthur Capper, 8 June 1918.

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## Governor Arthur Capper to Phil Crab

*Slacker.*

June 11, 1918.

Mr. Phil Crab,  
Ada, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Crab:-

I have received a letter from a citizen of your county complaining that while you are a well-to-do man you have refused to contribute to the Red Cross, and is asking me to do something about it.

I hope this report is not true. All over the nation men of small means, girls working on meagre salaries, are sacrificing pleasures, comforts, and often-times actual necessities in order to help the government. I do not believe you want to put yourself in the list of being a slacker or a disloyal citizen, and if the statements made are correct I beg you to reconsider your decision and to make, at once a liberal contribution to the Red Cross.

I am writing you, not in my official capacity, and with no intention of threatening or annoying you, but I address this letter as one friend writing to another.

I am sure you do not want to be known among the good people of your community as a disloyal citizen. And the man who fails to do his duty at this time certainly will be remembered for all time as an undesirable citizen.

I trust that I may have been misinformed, or that before this letter reaches you you will have already decided to do your part in this war.

Very respectfully

Governor.