

WEEKLY WAR NEWS DIGEST.

Stories of Activities and Conditions Throughout the United States and on the Battle Fronts, from Washington, D. C.

WARTIME DEMAND FOR COTTON IS ENORMOUS.

Recent investigations in the use of cotton in war show:
A 12-inch gun disposes of a half bale of cotton with every shot fired; a machine gun in operation will use up a bale in fifteen minutes; in a naval battle like the one off Jutland over 5,000 pounds a minute are consumed by each active war-ship; more than 20,000 bales a year are needed to provide absorbent cotton for wounds of the injured; one change of apparel for all the troops now engaged in the war represents more than a million bales.

EVEN FOOD ADMINISTRATION MEN CAN'T GET THEIR SUGAR.

Members of the Food Administration at Washington, D. C., now have an added personal reason for urging conservation of sugar.
A recent canvass of retail stores of the city showed that of 22 stores 15 had no sugar. Three had only a small supply of cube sugar in packages. Every store had less than 100 pounds and none had prospect of an immediate supply. Of three wholesalers and one jobber, two had no sugar. One had a three-day supply.

No relief is promised for at least six weeks, and Washington will be on a short sugar ration until after Christmas at least.

In the middle west and on the Pacific Coast, where reserve stocks are heavier, dealers generally are responding to the cry for help by placing the same limit on sales in use in the hard-hit districts—2 pounds to a customer, providing other purchases are made.

GERMANS HELD IN THE UNITED STATES NUMBER NEARLY 2,800.

Two classes of German prisoners are now detained in this country. One is comprised of sailors taken into custody when the United States entered the war; the other consists of "alien enemies," civilians who have been arrested and are now being held under governmental regulations for various reasons.

The principal detention camp is at Fort McPherson, Ga., where approximately 850 war prisoners are held. At Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., there are 165 alien enemies; at Fort Douglas, Utah, there are 517 prisoners of war and 80 interned Germans. Small detachments are now temporarily quartered at Army posts throughout the country, but their number is relatively small.

Altogether there are 2,364 actual prisoners of war in the custody of the War Department, and about 400 interned aliens held at the request of the Department of Justice.

It is estimated that Germany is now holding 150 sailors taken from American ships by commerce raiders and other German vessels.

EACH INFANTRYMAN GETS 62 OUNCES OF BRASS IN HIS ORDINANCE EQUIPMENT.

Included in the equipment furnished each infantryman by the Ordnance Bureau of the War Department are 62.7 ounces of brass. This is exclusive of the uniform equipment provided by the Quartermaster Corps.

Used in the haversack are 1.8 ounces of brass; in the bayonet scabbard, 0.5 ounce; in the canteen cover, 0.2 ounce; cartridges (100), 47.4 ounces; cartridge belt, 10 ounces; gun sling, 1 ounce; oiler and thong case, 1.5 ounces; pouch for first-aid packet, 0.3 ounce.

Equipment from the Ordnance Department Bureau for 100,000 infantrymen contains almost 196 tons of brass.

PERCENTAGE OF SICK AT ARMY CAMPS LESS THAN 2 PER CENT.

Returning from inspection trips to 10 Army and aviation camps, Col. Weston P. Chamberlain, of the Surgeon General's office, reports that the per cent. of sick ranges from below 1 per cent. to slightly below 2 per cent.

Among the conditions leading to treatment in hospital are severe colds, tonsillitis, slight injuries, and other comparatively slight ailments. About the only serious disease found at any camp was pneumonia.

Each national Army camp has a thousand-bed hospital, equipped in accordance with most approved modern practice.

AMERICAN ENGINEERS INSTALL ENTIRE RAILWAYS IN FRENCH WAR THEATER.

The Corps of Engineers of the American Army since April has not only been supplying the Engineer equipment for more than 1,000,000 men, but the members of the railway section have undertaken to transport and install and put in operation overseas a complete railway equipment.

The cost of materials ordered to date is approximately \$70,000,000, including some hundreds of locomotives, more than 100,000 tons of steel rails, more than 3,000 complete turnouts, 500,000 ties, 12,000 freight cars, 600 fill and ballast cars, 600 miles of telephone wire and apparatus, and vast quantities of construction and repair equipment.

A duty imposed upon the engineers has been the purchase of the necessary Engineer equipment for more than 1,000,000 men. Within 15 days after the declaration of war, advertised for equipment, awards had been made covering the requirements for this vast force—a total of 8,700,000 articles, including among other items 5 miles of pontoon bridge.

The Engineers have also undertaken the work of organizing and equipping troops for special service, such as lumber supply, road construction, sanitary construction, camouflage service, gas and flame service, mining work, and mapping.

USERS OF EXPLOSIVES MUST SECURE FEDERAL LICENSES.

A Federal license is now required

in the United States for the legal possession of explosives, any person having explosives and not holding a license therefor being subject to a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for one year.

Only citizens of the United States and friendly countries may obtain licenses. The purchaser of dynamite must state definitely what the explosive is to be used for when obtaining his license, and will be held accountable for its use as stated and the return of any that may be left.

With the strict enforcement of this law the Federal authorities hope to prevent explosives falling into the hands of evilly disposed persons, and to put a stop to all further dynamite plots.

Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, estimates the losses up to June 1 of the British expeditionary forces in deaths in action and from wounds at 7 per cent. of the total of all men sent to France since the beginning of the war. He adds that the ratio of losses of this character today, because of improved tactics and swiftly mounting allied superiority in artillery, is less than 7 to every 100 men.

SANDWICHES AND COFFEE FOR FRENCH AND AMERICANS AT BASE CANTEEN.

American Field Headquarters in France.—Upon the ancient glass and age-stained gargoyles of a thirteenth century church the harvest moon threw weird shadows as two correspondents picked their way along a blackened street in a city within the army zone. There was silence everywhere. Now and then a faint light through the crack of a shutter indicated life within the house passed up and down the street. It was nearly midnight, and after 8 o'clock this city, as all others and indeed villages throughout the zone of the army, was in darkness.

Three times during an hour's walk we passed pous of France, their hobnailed shoes echoing upon the cobbled way. A turn in the street revealed the outline of a viaduct and beyond it railroad tracks and the vague form of a station. The street here took a sharp down-grade, and as we descended we came upon a French sentry, who mechanically saluted. Entering the wide door, through which we could see a smoking oil lamp hanging upon a grimy wall, we passed to a vast waiting room, where a similar light revealed a hundred forms huddled in sleeping postures upon hard benches. They were soldiers in horizon blue, with a few peasant women waiting for early morning trains to take them to their destination. We passed out and to the platform of the station, where, after stumbling over piles of cinders and the whole paraphernalia of a battalion of French infantry, we saw an open door. It was wide and barred by a canvas curtain weighted at the bottom with an iron rod, thus permitting brilliant lighting within and throwing but faint shadow without.

Entering we found ourselves in the first American Red Cross base canteen in France, only recently opened, and which we were told would never be closed at any hour of the day or night during the war, even until the last American Sammee returns from the trenches after final victory over the Boche.

FRENCH INVITED IN.

The room was crowded with Sammees, several hundreds of them. Their kits lay in bundles and heaps in various corners. They were en route from one point in the zone to another, and their train would pull out in an hour. Meanwhile they were forming in rows before a white tiled counter with their mess kits in hand. Behind the counter were gentle-faced American women in white caps, embroidered with the cross of red, and great white aprons. As fast as lightning they were pouring coffee and handing out sandwiches of white bread and sliced ham to the khaki-clad. There was the silent rumbling of many voices and the steady munching of food, with the occasional touch of cup to cup.

A French troop train passed and stopped beyond the station for one of the innumerable waits common to the transfer of fighting men along the line. In a few moments the poilu territorial from the train looked within the canvas-covered door and were at once invited to take part in the refreshments offered. They entered in a silent wonder and mechanically took coffee as it was handed them. But their eyes opened wide when they saw that the sandwiches given them were of really truly white bread, for white bread in France, aside from the product of American army bakeries, is a rarity indeed.

Presently the French troop train whistled and the poilus departed with many thanks expressed in many ways. And then the Sammees were given order to fall in and entrain. In 30 minutes the canteen was deserted save for us two men and the white-garbed women.

Instinctively we saluted them as we heard their tale and their names. Names are taboo in connection with correspondence from the army, but the rule applies only to the brown-clad, be private or colonel or brigadier general. But these women from home do not come under the ban. Also, they have had their names in many a paper before, but always in the society columns. Here, "somewhere in France," as simple waitresses, it would seem to me their names should stand out in bolder type and in nobler connection than when associated with teas or receptions or balls or any society function.

For they have packed away their evening gowns and left them at home in exchange for the white uniform of the American Red Cross, voluntarily exchanging comfort for the hardships and inconveniences connected with humbly serving food and drink to the Sammee from over the sea, or the poilu from the North and the Midi. They are patriotically performing their share in the great adventure, and it goes without saying that their work is appreciated to the extreme by the American army, individually and collectively.—By Henri Bazin, in the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Turtle's Choice.

The auto had skidded and upset. An Irishman came up and said to another in the crowd: "What's the excitement, Pat?" "Shure, an automobile has turned turtle." "Turned turtle, is it?" said the newcomer. "Bedad, that must be the rayson it chose a mud puddle."—Boston Transcript.

Oh!

"Why does she lean forward so when she walks?" "That's stylish." "But why does she do it, an old maid like her?" "Oh, she is matrimonially inclined."—Florida Times-Union.

—For high class job work come to the "Watchman" office.

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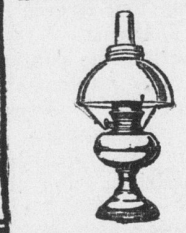
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Crepe de Chine Waists, in white and flesh, special \$2.50

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36 inch Poplins, regular price \$1.50, now \$1.00
A large assortment of stripes, plaids and silks, 36 inches, regular values \$2.50, mark down price \$1.75
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