

RED-ROBED FRANCE.

The Huns stripped off my own green gown And left me stark and bare; My sons, they spread a red robe down And wrapped me in it there. The garb they brought was red as blood— The robe was red as flame; They veiled me in it where I stood And took away my shame. Was ever web so costly worn Or warp so gloriously spun? I'll wear no vestment prized above That wide and scarlet one. Though younger sons, some happier day, Weave me a fair green gown Anew, or bid me don array Of corn-ripe gold and brown. The names (like beads, told one by one) My heart will still repeat; Will call, with tears, each dear, dear son Whose red robe wrapped my feet. —Charles Buxton Going, in Everybody's Magazine.

Urges Farms for Soldiers.

That every United States soldier, when he returns from the war, should be given an opportunity to become the owner of a farm, is a principle enunciated by Senator Warren G. Harding, of Ohio. "Every thoughtful man realizes," said Senator Harding, "that the proper distribution of the land is the very basis of national well-being. The land should, as far as possible, be in the possession and ownership of the men who work it. A nation of owners of small farms which support sturdy families is the ideal. The magnificence of France when the supreme test came has been largely due to the sturdy folk of her farms. These were the people who paid the price of the loss of the Franco-Prussian war. They have been the saviors of France in many emergencies. But for the solution of the land question and its division into small tracts in the ownership of the people, France would probably have ceased to exist before this. "The weakness of England, the inability of that Nation to feed itself in the present crisis, the internal unrest, the growing masses of the dependent classes, the 'Hooligans' of the slums of London, have been admittedly caused by the ownership of the land by the few. England has been progressing slowly toward solving her land question. She has been working it out in Ireland faster than at home, for the question has been solved in Ireland. "In the United States the drift of the people to the cities, the drift of farms into operation by tenant farmers, into ownership in large acreage by absent landlords, has been recognized as a dangerous tendency. But out of the war will grow many demands from the people. The man on the street will appreciate his rights more clearly and will be more ready to demand them. America's most probable demands will be his right to the land. The quicker and stronger he makes that demand the better for the Nation. "There are 35,000,000 acres in the Middle States that might be farmed, but which are lying idle. Much of this land is in the very outskirts of cities where food prices are high and the demand unlimited. In the Pacific Coast States there are 180,000,000 acres of unused but usable land. In all 500,000,000 acres or thereabouts is lying idle, to say nothing of that which is inadequately farmed. "In the meantime the cities are full of people whose greatest ambition is to own a piece of this waste land and to convert it into productive homes. The mass of the foreigners in this country came from agricultural communities in Europe and would like to be on farms over here. They are allowed to become submerged in foreign sections of great cities, to be swallowed up in less wholesome activities and to be lost to this sort of beneficial productiveness. "Even if the man in the city gets good land and at a fair price, it is practically impossible for him to establish himself and make a success without guidance and co-operation. The machine is not built up that will convert him from a city-dwelling wage earner to an independent farmer. "That is exactly the machinery that should be developed. The proper agency to supervise its development is the Government. The time is now. "This making of a farmer is a difficult task. Not one man in a dozen who is good material for farmer making would succeed if a perfectly good farm were presented to him gratis. It is the exception when a city man, even when adequately financed, goes on the farm and makes it pay. It is a still rarer thing when the family accustomed to city life goes into the country and is happy. To make the venture work out with regard to all these necessities requires organization and direction. Men in cities must not be merely given farms, but they must be directed in their management of those farms and the community life of which they become a part must be made such as to allow their lives to be as happy as in the old environment. Otherwise they will return to the city. "The Government should see to it that land is available at fair prices. There are great tracts of idle land throughout the country. Much of it is for sale at a fair price. There is plenty of capital available that is ready for investment in that land if proper arrangement is made for its development and sale. Outside of New York, say 30 miles, there is a tract of land 500 acres in extent. It can be bought at a reasonable price. It has been examined by Government experts, who say that its soil is good and that it is convertible into productive farms. "There has been made available through funds seeking investment or through funds of large interests that want their money to serve a good purpose, the necessary backing to handle this project. The land is bought. "It is cleared and divided into ten-acre farms. On every farm is plac-

ed a house and barn. A horse, a cow, two pigs, a flock of chickens is bought for each farm. Every detail is charged up against the farm. To the money expended is added a profit which pays interest on the investment and makes the development of the tract a sound business undertaking. This profit and no more is the developing company allowed to take. "Thus has the 500 acres become 50 farms ready for occupancy. In the meantime those applicants for farms in New York city have been carefully examined. It is not necessarily true that the very best of these will be selected for the settlement. Take it that 50 average families are chosen. Some of these families will be able to make considerable payments on their farms. It may be true that some of them can make no payment at all. The farms are sold on 20 years' time. Only the initial payment is required until the third year. It will take that much time before the farm can afford to make a payment. "When these 50 families move into this community, their very presence adds value to the land. What a few months ago was an unoccupied solitude is now a dense settlement with a family on every ten acres. The normal value of the land has immediately increased. The investors have already made a profit if the land reverts to them. "But this is no ordinary farming community. In the first place it is built around a community center. The schoolhouse, the postoffice, the store, the community hall, the motion picture show, are in the middle of the settlement. Nobody lives a mile from this center. There is no isolation. The settlers rub against their fellows almost as they would in the city. "But there is another element in this community center. This is the demonstration farm. It is presided over by a scientific farmer who knows just how these farms should be handled to get the greatest possible return from them. The central tract which it cultivates is growing all the crops in the best accredited way. The farm manager lives there and it is his business to show each of the settlers just how it is done. Further it is his business to see that the settlers follow directions. Their contracts stipulate that they agree to follow directions. "So they plant their crops and nurse them to harvest under this expert direction. In the meantime the settlement manager has arranged for the marketing. Their produce is pooled and is sold in quantities. This makes it possible to get consideration on the New York markets and to provide a community truck that takes this produce to market every day. This common marketing is a vast saving. The organization of the community makes it possible to buy seed potatoes, coal, chicken feed, anything, on a much more advantageous basis. It means all the difference between handsome profits and failure. "This is but a rough sketch of the possibilities and an example of the method of working this matter out. The situation is different everywhere and requires that adjustments should be made. But everywhere there is land and everywhere there are people who want to go on it. The well-being of the Nation depends on whether or not the people get the land. A beginning might as well be made now as any other time toward making the readjustment. "When the 2,000,000 men to be trained for the war come out of the ranks, there will be an unparalleled opportunity to work out this scheme on a wholesale basis. These 2,000,000 will be fine sturdy young Americans with the discipline, the training, the efficiency, developed by their service. Every one of them could go on one of these farms and make himself a good home. Not every one, possibly not 25 per cent. would want to go on a farm, but 25 per cent. would be 500,000 farmers, 500,000 farm homes for the future, where there were none before. If but 10 per cent. wanted to go on farms there would be 200,000

farm homes established. This would be no mean asset to the Nation. "These young men will all be unattached. They will have been weaned away from their former tasks and associates. They will be wanting to strike a field for themselves. They should be given the opportunity. The Nation should prepare the way. Canvasses might be taken months ahead of the disbandment of the armies and preparations made in accordance with the returns. The lumber of cantonments might be utilized in making soldier homes upon the land. "In the meantime the experiment might be tried of placing the dependents of soldiers on these little farms. Those men of foreign birth who have gone back to fight for their countries have left their families in America, and some attention should be paid to their well-being. They might furnish additional material for the little farms. The maimed soldiers who will soon be returning must be placed on the way toward being self-supporting, and these, wherever possible, should be sent to these farms. "As a war measure, a beginning should be made upon this great task of the Nation. Here might the experiment be tried, if it be regarded as an experiment, which it is not, since it has been done in scores of nations, in scores of countries. But the ultimate importance of the proposal goes far beyond a plan to reward the defenders of democracy. The great mass of the people should be offered the possibility. The plan should be put to work and kept to work like an endless chain which, season after season, converts hundreds of thousands of stilted tenement dwellers into people of the open, which changes tenant farmers whose very association with the land they cultivate make them shiftless, into self-respecting farm owners. "Various measures have been introduced into Congress in recent sessions that have looked toward accomplishing this end. That introduced by Senator Curtis last session is probably the most promising. The situation undoubtedly calls for action that should go further than any of these, and the coming session will doubtless witness the thrusting of the question to the fore and its solution may be one of the by-products of the war which will continue to benefit the Nation for generations to come.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Medical Supplies Scarce.

Russia is almost entirely dependent upon the allies for medical supplies for her hospitals and convalescent camps, according to a report of Dr. Frank Billings, recently appointed head of the American Red Cross commission to Russia. In Dr. Billings' cable came the startling information that the hospitals at the Russian front are almost devoid of everything but vaccines. In response to Dr. Billings' appeal the Washington Red Cross headquarters has dispatched a \$400,000 shipment of field operation kits, collapsible operating tables, syringes, needles, adhesive tape, catgut, rubber goods, etc. In addition to these articles 964 kilograms of medicines was included. The shipment brings the total value of supplies sent to Russia for the use of the American hospital contingents up to \$400,000. In addition to this latest Red Cross shipment Dr. Billings hopes to import by courier from Japan and China, some vaccines and other necessities that are obtainable in those countries. The way to cordial relations and close co-operation between the American Red Cross and the Russian army and relief organization has already been paved by the Red Cross commission there. The hearty welcome given to Dr. Billings and his fellow commissioners by officials and populace indicates that Russia is eager to grasp the hand of the great American war relief society.

Are You Studying Modern Warfare?

Read a little up on the history of warfare between Waterloo and the South African battles and then compare these with the present conflict and you see more difference in methods of conducting a scrap between nations and armies than between Gettysburg and Chevy Chase. In the latter they merely added weapons that sent projectiles by the explosion of gunpowder, instead of in the more remote time shooting arrows from bows and crossbows. They fought on the ground, planned, maneuvered, charged, retreated and that was about all there was to it. But now! Fighting forces, in all, are not content to merely go at each other with volleys, single firing, bayonet and sword. No, indeed. They do all these things and add to them such interesting items as using hand grenades and rifle grenades, bombs of other various sorts, asphyxiating gases, liquid fire, barrage fires, which when made almost an actual curtain of projectiles is spoken of as having been laid down, like one would refer to a tablecloth or a blanket. And then balloons, flying machines, submarines, nets for catching same, depth bombs and what not are added. But most remarkable of all is the trench.

The trench, is indeed, no new invention, but its present universal adaptation, continuous for miles, with listening posts, rest and sleeping shelters, machine gun placements, dug-outs, supply tracks for small railroads along the bottoms—all this was never dreamed of in the old days. And, after all, this is not more than one-half a matter of relative scrapping ability, but war now is a contest between ingenious devices. Let us hope it will be the last great war, but if not, what shall we expect in the way of improvements in the art of killing, wounding and destroying?

Is the Land of Untold Wealth.

Fifteen million ounces of silver is one of South America's annual contributions to the world's pocketbook. This would make more than 17,000,000 silver dollars. Silver to the amount of more than \$2,000,000,000 has been mined in the last 300 years from Potosi, the famous "peak of silver" in Bolivia. The hills of South America are seamed with gold. It is found in every State. All this gold and silver could be studded with precious stones from Colombia. Seven hundred thousand carats of them are dug out of her hills annually. Almost all of the emeralds in the world come from there. Our famous copper mines in Michigan, Montana and Arizona are surpassed in richness by those on the west coast of South America. Enough silver is mined with the copper of one Peruvian mine to pay all the expenses of mining, of shipping the ore over the mountains and up to North American smelters. It also pays the cost of smelting. The Bethlehem Steel works in Pennsylvania could be kept busy for 75 years with the iron ore of one of Chile's provinces, Coquimbo. More tin is mined in Bolivia than anywhere else in the world except the Federated Malay States, and only a few mines have yet been opened. Although South America imports most of her coal, there is enough tucked away in her mountains to supply the needs of both Americas for ages to come. But there are no railways to bring it out. Chile's nitrates fertilize the fields of the world and bring her annual revenue in export duties of more than \$15,000,000. The value of the deposits must be reckoned in ten figures.—World Outlook.

—A Frenchman has invented a telephone instrument so small and convenient that both the receiver and transmitter may be hidden in a flower vase.

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