

Over Edge of Hell in Tank.

Oliver Warren drove a tank at the battle of Cambrai when General Byng bit the Hindenburg line in the famous surprise attack. Oliver, says the Brooklyn Eagle, is a second cousin of Edward B. Lent, of Freeport, Long Island. And his letter about the battle of Cambrai as he witnessed and felt it follows: "For just two weeks I have been right in the thick of the fray. It seems years. Really the Tank Corps has made a great name for itself. Everything went according to plan and the men officers and all, were splendid! "Well, after great preparations in secret training with the infantry, etc., we crept up behind our own lines. Marvellous how it was done so quietly. We did that the last moment, the night of the 19th (November 1917). My own experience I had better start with: "First of all, my own Old Tank behaved splendidly. I had no mechanical trouble when I called upon it at a critical moment. On the evening of the (date censored), after dark, about 5 p. m., I started on my last journey before "the day," a distance of three miles, and only one mile from our front line. I slipped into a big ditch in the dark—I mean my Old Tank did. I, of course, was outside leading it just like a child so I would get it safely there. It was very dark, and some how or another, before I could warn my men inside, the Old Tank slid sideways down an enormous ditch. I was disappointed. I knew I could get it out all right, and I also knew it would take three or four hours. Instead of getting up there in good time for a rest before the dash I would be busy, working hard up to the very last minute. We dare not show a light—pitch dark, the dear Old Tank standing on its head, kicking its caterpillar legs in the air, ten Tommies sweating in the mud, the black blanket of night over all. It was the very edge of hell. I can't give you the mechanical details for getting a tank out of a hole like that, but it is an interesting piece of business. There is a certain appliance—after very hard work and the use of that certain appliance, which is a bit of British war secrecy we carry with us—I got back onto terra firma again just as it was getting light, 6:20 a. m. is the time I should make it. Still leading the tank, I got to the appointed spot on time. One minute after I arrived hell was let loose! Shall we live to tell the tale ever forget it? "We all realized that never in the history of the world had there been a fight like this. This time it was our hell prepared for the enemy. I never spotted a gun, so cleverly was the Hun artillery concealed. But at the very minute appointed our barrage started. It does not sound much on paper, but guns were strewn along the line, batteries touching each other. The tanks pitched in and led the infantry upon that successful day. My job was to cut wire, which I did without a hitch. What a sight within an hour! The artillery and the cavalry were then coming forward. The tanks had made it possible for all this, and it filled us with pride to see how we had hacked through. The so-called Hindenburg line crumpled up. Some of the enemy were slaughtered; some fled; some gave themselves up. Just before we started one of my men was outside and got a stray bullet through his knee—my first and last casualty. Well, we chased the enemy like a fox hunt. Thousands gave themselves up. As you know, our casualties were very slight. At one spot in the Hindenburg line I had great difficulty with my enormous machine in avoiding the protruding bodies of the killed and wounded, but I won my way in and out between the fallen somehow. By 3 o'clock in the afternoon I had gone as far as I could with the petrol and other material it takes to run the tank, and I came back to a pre-arranged point. In the long run back we had many casualties. We got an advance that we came on the enemy batteries before they could skedaddle. Some of their guns knocked our tanks out at point blank range. One of their batteries gave attention to me, but I was not hit badly. All the Hun batteries were captured and the guns were used the next day against the enemy. News to Give the Kids a Pain— The Circus Cannot Go By Train. News Item—Owing to a railroad blockade, circuses will not travel next summer. Since railroad trains must rush along munitions, food and other freight, the papers say (we hope they're wrong) that circuses have got the gate. But some new Barnum, possibly, will prove a Johnny-on-the-spot and make his whole menagerie, his clowns and trainers walk—why not? The elephant could check his trunk and hike along the railroad track, like birds and monkeys, on his back. They'll let a dromedary tote a cage of tigers on his hump. The kangaroo and mountain goat will take the fences at a jump. The hippopotamus, it seems is slow enough to get their moss; but when it comes to fording streams he'll ferry all the show across. They'll lead the lion through the street, around his neck a piece of rope, and when he roars he'll give him meat—some grizzly bear or antelope. The tattooed man, the funny clowns, the acrobats and human flies, will travel in and out of towns on dusty pikes and railroad ties. So let the circus rumble on, and cease this pessimistic talk; with railroad trains and schedules gone, we'll let the pesky critters walk. —Subscribe for the "Watchman."

DEVIL WANTS TO RESIGN.

The devil sat by a lake of fire on a pile of sulphur kegs. His head was bowed upon his breast, and his tail between his legs; A look of shame was on his face, the sparks dripped from his eyes— He had sent up his resignation to the throne up in the skies. "I'm down and out," the devil said—he said it with a sob— "There are others that outclass me and I want to quit the job. Hell isn't in it with the land that lies along the Rhine; I'm a has-been and a piker and therefore I resign: One ammunition maker with his bloody shot and shell, Knows more about damnation than all theimps of hell. Give my job to Kaiser William, the author of this war; He understands it better a million times by far. I hate to leave the old home, the spot I love so well, But I feel that I'm not up to date in the art of running hell."—Ex.

From the Sheep to the Sock.

Because she raises the sheep, shears them, cleans and cards the wool, makes yarn, colors it to the Red Cross standard gray by carefully mixing the wool, and knits socks, sweaters and helmets out of it for the Red Cross, Mrs. Chris White, of Dell Rapids, has obtained the title of "America's champion Red Cross helper," says a dispatch from Dell Rapids, South Dakota. This title was given Mrs. White by the Minneapolis Red Cross headquarters where she sends all of her work and her name leads all the other workers in the Northwest. She also knits for her grandsons in the army and for other boys with whom she personally is acquainted in army cantonments and "over there." She is 70 years old. The number of articles she has knitted since the United States entered the war, Mrs. White said she could not estimate, but she protested that her work was "not worth making so much fuss about."

"What I did for the soldier boys and what I'm doing, isn't much," she said, as her hands made her knitting needles fly. "When I sheared the sheep, washed and combed the wool, spun the yarn and knit the socks, I had no idea of anybody taking any notice of it. You see I simply did it for the soldiers. To me it seems very easy, because it's something I learned in my childhood. "Up here," she continued, still knitting vigorously without looking up, "you know we women can't run to the store every time we need a little yarn. Why they charge too much for it, much more than they ought to charge considering what they pay us for the wool we sell. "It takes me about a week from the time I cut the wool off the sheep to the time I have finished a pair of socks. But then you must understand that I do my housework in that time, too," she continued as she looked up for the first time and stopped her knitting to pull up a little more yarn from the ball on the floor. "If the women in other communities want to make their own yarn, tell them it isn't hard to run a spinning wheel," she said, resuming her knitting. "Not nearly as hard to learn as one of those new-fangled sewing machines."

Mrs. White was born in Denmark and came to South Dakota 45 years ago. She has one grandson fighting in France, and several in training in this country, all of whom have been benefited by her knitting. "This winter," she said, "I am going to knit more for I won't have so much work to do, like putting up fruits and vegetables. You see I will have much more spare time and I'm going to make good use of it."

Resume Making Binder Twine.

The making of binder twine, a business which formerly resulted in profits to the State of thousands of dollars, has been ordered resumed at the Indiana State prison at Michigan City, by Governor Goodrich, says the Indianapolis News. The immense binder twine plant at the State prison has been idle for a year, according to information the Governor has received, and the reasons therefor are not clear. The information to the Governor is that the plant was closed following orders from Samuel L. Ralston, former Governor, prior to the expiration of his term as Governor last year. Edward J. Fogarty, warden of the State prison, who "hired" for a time with proposal to become manager of a cordage business for Samuel T. Murdock, former power in the Democratic administration, which held sway at the Statehouse during the Ralston administration, has been in Indianapolis recently, but would not indicate the nature of his business in the Governor's office. It is known, from reports received from Mr. Fogarty by the Governor, that bids have been obtained on various ingredients entering into the manufacture of binder twine and that a large quantity of sisal has been ordered from Central America, to be shipped by way of New Orleans. Employees who formerly had charge of this branch of the State prison's activities have been retained and will continue to supervise the operation of the plant, the Governor has been advised. It also has become known that the United States Food Administration has asked that the production of binder twine be forced to the utmost capacity everywhere in the country and the Governor has information that the Government will fix a price on binder twine that will insure a profit to manufacturers regardless of the fact that the cost of all materials entering into the product has increased rapidly. The exact date of beginning operations at the State prison is problematical because of the impossibility of accurate forecast of arrivals of the shipments of sisal.

Habit.

"Why did your wife leave you?" "Force of habit, I guess. She was a cook before I married her."

What Hospitals in France Need.

Everyone in your town is doing some sort of Red Cross work. Here are some suggestions, taken from the February Woman's Home Companion, which will prove very helpful. The magazine says: "Special points emphasized in the report of the committee are: "1. Convalescent robes should be warm, heavy bath-robing preferred. "2. Pajamas should be made of good outing flannel for winter use. "3. Convalescent suits (lined pajamas) are needed, as the men wear them in places of suits in both the American and the French hospitals. "4. Both pajamas and lined pajamas are preferred with a turn-over collar with which a tie can be worn. Pajamas for French hospitals may be made in dark colors. "5. Convalescent suits (lined pajamas) should be made of bright colored materials so that the convalescent patient may be easily discernable. "6. Nightgowns are not desirable for either American or French hospitals. Bed jackets are used in place of them and should be made of warm material. "7. Operating leggings are desirable made of flannel or heavy canton flannel for winter use. "8. Heavy, warm, machine-made sweaters with long sleeves are needed by the men in the tuberculosis hospitals; no particular color is mentioned."

Expert Claims Late Blight Caused Vast Potato Loss.

According to the State Department of Agriculture, the 1917 potato crop amounted to 25,674,500 bushels. Figures compiled from over 200 reports on potato losses by C. R. Orton, of the botany department of The Pennsylvania State College, show that eighteen per cent. of this crop or 8,402,563 bushels were destroyed by the late blight. This enormous loss might have been saved if proper spraying had been carried on throughout the State. One bushel of potatoes could thus have been furnished to every man, woman and child in Pennsylvania. The survey shows further that last year's potato crop was reduced 4,668,090 bushels or ten per cent. by early blight, another fungous disease which can be controlled by timely spraying. It thus is evident that the potato crop in Pennsylvania was reduced more than 25 per cent. last year by fungous diseases which might have been prevented by proper spraying with homemade Bordeaux mixture. Every potato grower should plan to secure a supply of copper sulphate for the various ways of measuring time, and fittingly related this little story: Some time ago the parson of a country charge stopped at the home of one of his parishioners for lunch, and after being warmly welcomed was placed at the table by the good housewife. "We are going to have eggs, parson," she said, arranging the culinary tools. "How do you like yours boiled?" "Medium well done, if you please, sister," answered the dominie. With this the housewife repaired to the kitchen and in a minute or so the preacher heard her happily singing "Shall we meet beyond the river?" One verse was sung, then another and yet another. Then the singing stopped and the songstress returned to the dining-room. "Sister," asked the parson, as the eggs were being finished, "why didn't you finish the hymn?" "It wasn't necessary, parson," answered the housewife. "It takes only three verses to boil them medium."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Lincoln and the Cowardly Legs.

The February Woman's Home Companion says: "One day his generals had brought case after case to him, each deserving death; and each sentence he had managed, by one argument or another, to commute. At length they brought him the final case—a most flagrant one. The boy had been proved a coward in battle; he had been convicted of stealing from his comrades; he had swindled the enemy," but I call them, for short, my "leg cases." If Almighty God has given a man a cowardly pair of legs, how can he help running away with them?"

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Cuba to Help Solve Sugar Problem.

"Cuba is going to help solve temporarily at least, the sugar problem by shipping to the United States large quantities of cane sugar," remarked R. A. Knight, an American who has lived on the island for 10 years, to the Washington Post. "The crop of sugar this year that will be turned loose upon the markets of the world—75 per cent. of which will come to the United States, and in all probability more than that—will be close to 4,000,000 tons, the greatest crop Cuba has ever produced, and which will represent 60 per cent. of the cane sugar production of the world. More than 200 sugar mills are actively at work in Cuba now, and when the shipment of the raw product begins and the Louisiana mills start turning out what is called 'plantation granulated' there ought to be enough sugar to supply all the needs of our people, and then some. "The Cuban sugar crop will, in my judgment, bring a drop in the price of sugar to the American consumer of at least 1 cent a pound. There will be an immense saving in the cost of sugar production because of the better transportation facilities between Cuba and New Orleans. Many of the important Louisiana mills which have had a short season this year are operated by natural gas, and this fuel is available in sufficient quantity to make the output of sugar by the Louisiana mills large enough to relieve the demand for sugar in the North and other sections of the country. "President Monocal and the Cuban people generally are doing everything in their power to manifest their friendship for the United States. This is evident in many ways."

Vegetable Seed Tests.

To grow vegetables successfully no factor is more important than good seeds. Good seeds are those which will germinate strongly, and produce vigorous plants true to the variety for which they were purchased, and which later will produce a profitable crop for the market. In order to ascertain the quality of the seeds, they should be purchased several weeks before they are needed for sowing and germination tests made. From the results secured by such tests it is possible to determine how thickly the seeds should be sown to secure the number of plants desired. A germination test may be made by placing some of the seed between pieces of moist blotting paper in a saucer. Another saucer inverted will serve as a cover. If possible, however, it is better to make the test in soil, under conditions similar to those under which the crop is to grow later on. Such tests will eliminate disappointments when it may be too late to secure a new supply of seed in case of failure to germinate. It is often desirable to secure seeds from more than one source for important crops. Germination tests will doubtless show differences in vitality and subsequent field tests will show differences in time of maturity, trueness to type and productiveness and make possible the planting of seeds of known value. —An order has been placed by the Government for 65,000 dozen safety razors, with blades to match, for the soldiers in the trenches. —Subscribe for the "Watchman"

Medical.

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How One Industrial Plant Made Gardens.

A writer in the February Woman's Home Companion says about war gardens: "At a big industrial plant in New York State, where they are in the habit of tackling a job with enthusiasm and team-work, there was a sixty-acre tract over the canal which the company had reserved for factory extension. A canvass of the works showed that fully one thousand employees wished to cultivate a war garden. So the company bought a traction engine and gang plow, plowed up into one thousand plots of 25 by 75 feet each, with streets and avenues that made it look like a real estate project and allotted it to war gardeners. By that time there were fifteen hundred applicants, and some of the plots had to be cut in two. "Each employee got a badge with the number of his plot upon it. Tools were purchased and a seed house built and a flag pole erected, the American flag hoisted, and a farm expert secured to give advice and issue gardening bulletins. The produce of this big factory garden was worth fully ten thousand dollars, and this year there will probably be twice as many gardeners, and as most of them will want more ground the acreage will be greatly increased. "One of the most interesting things in connection with this factory war garden, they say, was to watch the way in which each man or woman applied his or her business knowledge to the unfamiliar task of raising food. A survey of one plot planted by an engineering expert showed that he had staked it out on a precise mathematical plan, just as many beans in each hill, with exactly the same space between, and he probably calculated his crop in advance on a slide rule. The molders and heavy workers farmed on a rough and ready principle. The stenographers and typists kept their plots neat, like careful housewives, and some of the foreigners wrought marvels in the intensive use of soil, and brought to light strange agricultural tools which they had carried with them from their homes across the ocean."

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