



1—Lieutenant Esman of the French aviation corps standing unconcerned with his dog beside his Farman machine, which a short time before had fallen from a height of several hundred feet. 2—Bandman and hospital staff members of the Americans who were first at the front in France. 3—Scene during the progress of a fire of suspicious origin that was started on oil barges at Port Newark and endangered the government ship-building plant there.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

AMERICA AND ALLIES ARE LAYING PLANS FOR VICTORY BEFORE YEAR CLOSES.

GERMAN STRIKES SPREADING

Workmen of Empire Demand Peace—Civil War Rages in Finland—Italians Drive Back Austrians—Secretary Baker's Excellent Defense Checks Criticism.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Washington correspondents were permitted to say, last Friday, that the United States and the entente allies are maturing plans of supreme importance which it is hoped and believed will bring the war to an end before the close of this year. What the project is, cannot be stated, but it is known that this country is about to use its men and resources on a far greater scale than has been considered possible, and that there will be close co-operation by all the opponents of the central powers.

of bolshevik literature across the lines, and this, together with the general publication of President Wilson's war aims address, has had immense influence.

The conflict in Finland between the government of that new republic and the revolutionists, who seek to follow the example of their brethren in Russia, has resulted in some sharp fighting. The so-called white guard, supporting the government in northern Finland, defeated the red guard despite the help given the latter by Russian soldiers, and then began a march on the southern part of the country, where the red guards were in control.

The Roumanians joined forces with the Ukrainians under the command of General Schebetcheff, whom the bolsheviks declared an outlaw, and invaded Bessarabia, partly to restore order there and especially to protect great stores of supplies belonging to Roumania that had been removed there at the time of the German invasion.

This move, added to other sources of irritation, caused the Russian government to break off all relations with Roumania and to announce that it would fight the Ukraine. The troops of the rada got into action, and in Volynia they defeated the bolsheviks, taking possession of Lutsk.

On the other hand, the Ukrainians were forced to surrender Kiev to the bolshevik troops. The bolsheviks seem not to have come to any agreement as to the peace negotiations with Germany, and it was reported the breach between the Lenin and the Trotsky factions was widening. The premier favored yielding to the German demands, as might be expected from him, while Trotsky firmly opposed such a course.

The negotiations at Brest-Litovsk were resumed on Tuesday, the Russian delegates returning as the "representatives of the world proletariat," for the pansoviet congress in Petrograd has declared for a holy war against all imperialists. Trotsky was given a free hand in dealing with the central powers.

Italy struck suddenly and hard last week at the Austrian line on the eastern Asiago plateau. The dashng Italians broke through the enemy's positions, took some 1,500 prisoners and repulsed all counter-attacks. A day or so later they attacked again, taking enemy positions on Col del Rosso and Col Dechele and finally pushing on to the capture of Monte di Val Bella, a dominating height. A thousand more prisoners, many guns and large quantities of supplies were taken. The Teutonic resistance to these attacks was strong, but the Italians, who had valuable assistance from the French and British batteries and aviators, were not to be withstood. This looked like the beginning of a real offensive that might develop into a drive of magnitude, the probable object being to drive the enemy back against the slopes of the snow-covered Alps.

On the west front there was ever-increasing artillery activity but no notable infantry movements. The much-advertised German offensive still was delayed, perhaps waiting for internal troubles to simmer down. The sector held by the Americans was subjected to frequent shelling, and one early morning trench raid was made there, so that General Pershing had to report a number of casualties.

Our government gave out the gratifying news that sixteen great transports, the biggest armada ever sent out by America, had arrived safely at French ports and unloaded thousands of soldiers and immense quantities of war material. The assembling of the men and the departure of the vessels were successfully kept secret, and all submarines were avoided. The transports were all formerly German or Austrian steamships that were seized by America, among them being the Leviathan, which was the Vaterland, largest of Atlantic liners. The German press had led the German people to believe that most of these ships had been damaged by their crews beyond repair.

According to Secretary of War

Baker, the United States now has nearly half a million men in France, and a million and a half more who will be ready to go whenever transportation is provided. Which does not accord with the opinion expressed by certain eminent Boches that the military power of America need give Germany no anxiety, because no great number of our troops can be taken over to Europe.

Stimulated, perhaps, by the successful attacks of allied aviators on Mannheim and other German cities, the Kaiser's air forces made two big raids on successive nights on London and southeast England. The bombs dropped by the first expedition killed 47 persons, mostly women and children, and all but one in the metropolis, and injured a considerable number. The second bunch of raiders murdered only two.

For the first time in months Paris was raided by enemy aviators. They attacked the city in considerable numbers and killed 20 persons and wounded 50.

Secretary Baker, at his own request, appearing a second time before the senate committee on military affairs, made an address that created an excellent impression that much of the criticism of him and his management of the war department was unwarranted. He spoke frankly and eloquently, no longer seeking to cover up the faults of the bureaus, but asserting that his critics had made it appear that specific cases were characteristic of general conditions, which was not true, and that every mistake discovered had been rectified and none of them repeated. His explanation and defense of most of the criticized acts of his department sounded convincing, and he displayed no ill temper or animosity.

The immediate result was an amicable conference between Secretary Baker and Senator Chamberlain. The senator assured the secretary the urging of the munitions director and war cabinet bills was due only to patriotic desire to help win the war and in no way was intended to reflect on the administration. Mr. Baker finally agreed to reconsider his objections to the former measure, but asked that the latter be shelved. It was believed that if the position of munitions director is created it will be filled by Mr. Steffenus, who already, in the reorganization, has been made surveyor general of army supplies. His long experience as purchasing agent for the entente allies seems to fit him peculiarly for the place.

The good results of the senate investigation and of the general criticism directed against some features of the war department's management are apparent daily, and the improvement may go on until all the critics are satisfied except those who hold that a professed pacifist is not the man for secretary of war in war time.

Secretary Lansing announced Wednesday that an agreement had been arranged by the United States, Great Britain and Canada providing that subjects of each country in any of the others may return home within sixty days for military service, and if they do not they may be drafted where they are.

The British and Canadian recruiting missions in the United States, under the command of competent and experienced officers who have all done their bit at the front, have been getting reasonably good results in New York, New England, Chicago, and many other sections of the country, and they will hail with joy such a pact as is planned, for there are thousands of British subjects in the United States who only need to be pushed a little in order to get them into the armed service of their country.

Explosions and fires in plants that are making war material continue to be disgustingly frequent, despite the efforts of the secret service to catch the spies and agents responsible. One of the worst of these occurrences was a great explosion in the naval torpedo station at Newport News, Va. Another was a disastrous fire on oil barges that threatened the big government shipyard at Port Newark. Federal agents believe many of these outrages are the work of pacifists who call themselves Americans.

PERSHING PRAISES HIS FIGHTING MEN

HE SAYS THEY LEAD CLEANER LIVES THAN EVER DID ANY SIMILAR BODY OF MEN.

MOTHERS MAY REST ASSURED

Feed Manufacturers and Dealers Must Secure Licenses by February 15—New Courses Added to Medical Training Camps.

(From Committee on Public Information.) Washington.—In a recent communication to Secretary of War Baker, the commander of the American expeditionary forces said:

"There has never been a similar body of men to lead as clean lives as our American soldiers in France. They have entered this war with the highest devotion to duty and with no other idea than to perform these duties in most efficient manner possible. They fully realize their obligation to their own people, their friends, and the country. A rigid program of instruction is carried out daily with traditional American enthusiasm. Engaged in healthy, interesting exercises in the open air, with simple diets, officers and men, like trained athletes, are ready for their tasks. Forbidden the use of strong drink and protected by stringent regulations against sexual evils, and supported by their own moral courage, their good behavior is the subject of most favorable comments, especially by our allies. American mothers may rest assured that their sons are a credit to them and to the nation, and they may well look forward to the proud day when on the battlefield these splendid men will shed a new luster on American manhood."

Manufacturers of and dealers in commercial feeds for live stock, cattle and hogs must secure licenses under the food administration by February 15. This covers baled hay, shelled and ear corn and many other commodities intended for use as feeds or as ingredients in mixed feeds. The only exceptions are for millers manufacturing bran and dealers in coarse grains, who have already been placed under food administration licenses.

Applications for license should be addressed to the license division, Food Administration, Washington, D. C., specifying the nature of the business to be licensed.

Ten new sections are included in the courses for officers in medical training camps at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and Fort Riley, Kan. Fort Riley has a capacity of 7,000 men, and enlargement of the school at Fort Oglethorpe to the same size has been authorized. Its present capacity being 5,500. The ultimate needs of the medical department of the army look to training camps with capacities totaling 35,000 to 40,000 officers and men.

There have been graduated from medical training camps since June 1, or are now under instruction, about 9,000 officers and 20,000 enlisted men. Various groups now in active service have been trained, including officers and men, to operate ambulance companies, field hospitals, evacuation hospitals, base hospitals, and hospital trains.

For work in the enlisted Veterinary corps, 2,000 men not subject to call under the selective-service law, are wanted. They will be assigned to duty in veterinary hospitals and for other purposes in the corps. Service overseas can be expected shortly.

There is particular demand for veterinary and agricultural students, farmers, stablemen and others accustomed to handling horses. A few men of the following occupations will also be accepted: Horseshoers, saddlers, pharmacists, cooks, typists and strong men.

Pay for enlisted men and noncommissioned officers ranges from \$30 to \$53 a month, food, clothing, and quarters. Applications for enlistment can be made at any army recruiting office.

One of the functions of the newly established war service exchange will be to answer inquiries of persons desiring to serve in the army. It will also keep informed of needs of the various branches of the service as to personnel, and direct suitable persons as to where and how to apply, and will co-operate with the department of labor and other agencies in locating and supplying men needed for special purposes by various branches of the service.

Inquiries regarding enlistment opportunities, etc., should be addressed to the War Service Exchange, room 529, State, War, and Navy Building, Washington, D. C.

To conserve tin, linseed oil, and other ingredients of paint and paint containers necessary for war use, manufacture will be limited to 32 shades of house paint after July 1. Some firms are now making 100 shades of this class of paint.

The overseas service of the American Library Association is in operation. Although space is extremely valuable aboard transports, they have been provided with bookcases holding collections of books which are used as circulating libraries on the way over. The cases are emptied at port of debarkation and the books sent to the men in the field.

As a means of further increasing the supply of books among the overseas forces, the association plans to have each soldier carry a book in his kit, to be put in circulation when he reaches the other side.

Secretary Houston of the department of agriculture has set forth the policy which he thinks should be followed in highway construction during the war:

"So far as it is practicable to do so, this department will urge the maintenance of the highways already constructed; the construction and completion of those highways which are vitally important because of their bearing upon the war situation or for the movement of commodities; the postponement of all highway construction relatively less essential or not based upon important military or economic needs. The department is preparing to suggest to the state highway departments the preparation of a schedule of work for the federal aid projects for 1918 in line with this policy."

Road construction and maintenance in the United States involve an annual expenditure of about \$300,000,000.

The department of labor is arranging to bring into the United States 110,000 laborers for railroad and farm work, from Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, according to Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of the department of labor.

Mr. Post declares there is no necessity for importing common labor from Mexico or China. Porto Rico is an agricultural territory and yet has a density of population exceeded by only three states. A considerable surplus of workers exists on the island. It can furnish 100,000 laborers, and the Virgin Islands can send 10,000 more.

Arrangements are being made to bring over 50,000 men as soon as tonnage is available.

A recent report made by the United States consul in Tasmania, an island state of Australia, includes the following:

"The general scheme for the repatriation of returned soldiers contemplates placing them upon the land. At a recent conference between the commonwealth and the state authorities, it was decided that each state would have to find the land, while the commonwealth government would advance up to \$2,437 to improve the holding of each returned soldier and to procure the necessary stock and implements. In this state it was deemed that the crown lands would prove too difficult to improve to attract returned soldiers, and it was decided to purchase large estates and divide them up into small farms and to use the money advanced by the commonwealth government for buildings, fences and tools. The money expended by the state in purchasing the land, as well as the money advanced by the commonwealth for improvements, is a lien upon the property and must be repaid in small annual payments. It was also decided by the commonwealth to advance money to returned soldiers who may desire to rent land. Bills will be introduced into the various parliaments at once so that this scheme can be put into operation throughout Australia."

For purposes of operation railroads of the United States have been placed in three divisions, as follows:

Eastern Railroads.—The railroads in that portion of the United States north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers and east of Lake Michigan and the Indiana-Illinois state line; also those railroads in Illinois extending into it from points east of the Indiana-Illinois state line; also the Chesapeake & Ohio, the Norfolk & Western, and the Virginian railways.

Southern Railroads.—All railroads in that portion of the United States south of the Ohio and Potomac rivers and east of the Mississippi river, except the Chesapeake & Ohio, Norfolk & Western, and the Virginian railways, and also those railroads in Illinois and Indiana extending into those states from points south of the Ohio river.

Western Railroads.—All railroads not included in the above definitions and, broadly speaking, all railroads in the territory west of Lake Michigan and of the Indiana-Illinois state line to the Ohio river and west of the Mississippi river from the Ohio river to the Gulf of Mexico, excepting those railroads in Illinois included in eastern territory and those railroads in Illinois and Indiana included in southern territory, as above stated.

According to information received in Washington, butter is selling in Berlin at \$2.25 a pound, sugar at 56 cents a pound, ham and bacon at \$2.11 a pound, and white soap at five bars for \$1.12.

For the unit of women telephone operators to be sent to France a distinctive uniform is being provided. Salaries range from \$80 to \$125 a month, with allowance for rations and quarters. Successful applicants must speak both French and English with ease.

The department of agriculture estimates that only one-third of the marketable surplus of the potato crop had been moved by January 1, 1918. Last year's potato crop was the largest ever produced in the United States.

FOOD CONTROLLER OF CANADA GIVES WARNING

Food Production Should Be Increased at All Cost.

In his letter to the public on the 1st of January, Hon. W. J. Hanna, Canada's Food Controller, says:

"Authoritative information has reached me that food shortage in Europe is terribly real, and only the sternest resolve on the part of the producers, and equally stern economies on the part of all as consumers, can possibly save the situation.

"France last year had a crop between one-third and one-half that of a normal year. Women did the work of draught animals in a determined effort to make the impoverished soil of France produce every possible ounce of food. They now look to us to make up their deficiency of essential supplies.

"The harvest in Italy was far below normal and will require much larger supplies to feed her people until next harvest.

"It is impossible for the allies to spare many cargo carriers to transport foodstuff from India, Australia, New Zealand and even the Argentine Republic. This means that the allied nations are practically dependent upon North America to supply them with the food which must be forthcoming if terrible suffering is to be avoided and the fighting efficiency of the armies maintained.

"On December 1, the United States had not a single bushel of wheat for export, after allowance was made for domestic requirements on the basis of normal consumption, and the United States Food Administration is endeavoring to bring about a reduction of 20 per cent in home consumption of wheat and flour. This would release 100,000,000 bushels for export, but the Allies will require nearly five times that amount before the 1918 harvest.

Canada is the only country in the world, practically accessible to the Allies under present conditions of shipping shortage, which has an actual exportable surplus of wheat after allowance for normal home requirements. The surplus today is not more than 110,000,000 bushels. A reduction of 20 per cent in our normal consumption would save an additional 10,000,000 bushels for export. The outlook for production of food stuffs in Europe next year is distinctly unfavorable.

"Such is the situation—grave beyond anything that we thought possible a few months ago. Unless our people are aroused to a realization of what the world shortage means to us, to our soldiers and to our Allies, and of the terrible possibilities which it entails, disaster is inevitable.

"Production, too, must be increased to the greatest possible extent. Present war conditions demand extraordinary efforts, and every man, woman, boy or girl who can produce food has a national duty to do so.

"I am confident that when the people of this country realize that the food situation is of utmost gravity they will willingly adjust themselves to the necessities of the case and make whatever sacrifices may be required. The call which is made upon them is in the name of the Canadian soldiers at the front, the allied armies, and the civilian populations of the allied nations who have already made food sacrifices to an extent little realized by the people of this country."

Here is an appeal made by a man, upon whom rests the great responsibility of assisting in providing food for the allies and the soldiers at the front, who are fighting the battles in mud and blood. It cannot be ignored. At home we are living in luxury and extravagance inclined to idleness and forgetfulness. This must cease. We must save and produce. Our lands must be tilled no matter where it may be, in Canada or the United States. It is our duty to cultivate. Splendid opportunities in the United States are open for further cultivation of lands. Western Canada also offers opportunities in high producing lands at low prices. Decide for yourself where you can do the most good, on land in the United States or in Canada, and get to work quickly.—Advertisement.

Obvious. "Come on," said the first flea, as he hopped from the brown bear's foreleg; "come over and join me at a short game of golf."

"Golf," exclaimed the second flea, hastily taking a bite of hyena; "where in the realm of Barum are we going to play golf?"

"Why," said the first flea, "over on the lynx, of course."—Jack o' Lantern.

His Choice. "Is he making any special claim for exemption?"

"No. Says he'd rather die in battle than live the rest of his life as a liar."

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