

Public Ledger and Evening Telegraph... EDITORIAL BOARD: CHAS. H. K. CURTIS, Chairman... MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS... THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news published therein.

SECRETARY BAKER ON THE RIGHT ROAD

But He Will Have to Go Pretty Fast to Keep Up With the War Demands of the Nation

IT IS noteworthy that we did not begin sending troops to Europe in great numbers until the March drive of the Germans proved that the British and French must be re-enforced if they were not to be defeated. Only about four hundred thousand men were shipped at road from May, of last year, to the end of February, this year. In the four succeeding months we have sent six hundred thousand men. This number will be increased by three or four hundred thousand before the end of this month.

It is noteworthy also that nothing definite about the size of the army to be raised came from the War Department until General Foch began to show what could be done when he was backed up by the re-enforcements with which we had supplied him.

Secretary Baker has now announced that we must have an army of five million men available for service in France next spring. This is the most important and encouraging pronouncement that has come from Washington since we entered the war. Secretary Baker is to be congratulated on his dawning appreciation of the task before him, and on definitely setting out on the road to master it.

What the nation expects in Washington is a readiness to summon its entire man-power, if that be necessary, in order to win the war in the shortest possible time. It will stand behind Mr. Baker's demand for an army of five million, and if he concludes that we need seven and a half or ten million it will support him. There are men who say that if we had entered the war two years earlier Germany would have been defeated by now and that many lives would have been saved. But it is a waste of time and breath to discuss this question at this time. We are in the war at last, and nothing must be left undone which will hasten victory.

If it is necessary to broaden the age limit, and Secretary Baker thinks it is, then Congress is expected to take the necessary action when the War Department asks it. It did not act a few weeks ago because the plans of the War Department were not perfected, but the matter was dropped with the understanding that it would be taken up again after the summer recess.

Whether the minimum age shall be eighteen, nineteen or twenty is a question of detail that can easily be settled in the light of the knowledge that there are tens of thousands of boys of these ages who are anxious to do their part. Tens of thousands of them are already in uniform as enlisted men, and boys still younger have taken liberty with the truth about their age in order to get into the army.

Whether the maximum age shall be forty or forty-five is also a matter of detail that will adjust itself. Men above thirty-five can do excellent work in the Ordnance and Commissary and Quartermaster's Departments who are not fit for fighting in the trenches. Every such man who puts on a uniform releases a younger man for real fighting.

If we can end the summer campaign with the Germans driven back a few miles at critical points on the line and prepared to hold them during the winter and can be assured that we shall have five million fighting men within call of General Foch for the spring offensive, we can contemplate the future with satisfaction—provided the War Department does not conclude that after it has raised five million it need not increase the size of the army. Another million or two must be held ready to send across next summer to keep the ranks full and to enable General Foch to hold every point that he gains and to drive the Germans out of France and Belgium and across the Rhine. It is impossible to make preparations on too gigantic a scale. There is not the slightest doubt that the war could be ended next summer if we could put ten million men in France before the beginning of June. There is little doubt that it can be ended with five million, but it is the part of prudence to give ourselves the benefit of every possible doubt and prepare against all contingencies.

We have seen that a million men can do, not only in fighting, but in heartening all of our allies, and in putting the knowledge of fear into the stomachs of the Germans. Five million men can do ten times as much.

Mr. Baker is now headed in the right direction and he deserves the highest praise. Now let us see how fast he will go. He will have to make pretty good speed to keep up with the temper of the nation.

What a hard time the German papers have explaining the American troops to their readers! After telling them how few Americans there are in France, now they report that the Yanks were slaughtered in hundreds of thousands in the recent fighting.

CONGRESS AT PLAY GUNS were roaring in France the other day, thrones tottered, the towers of civilization itself shook a little, while Congress in a long debate wrestled with the ethics of corn-doctoring in the District of Columbia. The debate rumbled on and on among Mr. Cooper, of Wisconsin, and Mr. Moore, of Kentucky, who declaimed for the pages of the Congressional Record the narrative of his experience with corn doctors. The question that caused the oratorical up-heaval was whether both doctors should be punished as "peddlers" in the District.

RUBBER HEELS

When Tirpitz sent a U-boat 4000 miles to sink four unarmed scows off Cape Cod did any one think to call it cowardly?

The Kaiser's "pocket" between Soissons and Rheims seems to have a hole in it.

Speaking of pockets, Mr. McAdoo's suspicious silence suggests that he is preparing a new drive on our wallets for the next Liberty Loan campaign.

What Germany seems to be seeking is not self-determination, but self-extermination.

Dear Socrates—What do people mean by "a return to the status quo?" ANN DANTE.

They mean being able to buy a ham sandwich for a nickel.

The Bolsheviks are said to be mobilizing, but presumably it is quite informal; R. S. V. P. if you don't intend to be present.

Helpful, the new German ambassador to Russia, is taking two battalions of shock troops with him to guard against familiarities on the part of the populace.

But a sawbuck and a cord of hickory wood would have frightened the Soviets far more.

What the Doughboys Read SAYS the sergeant to the corporal, "Let's see you make a noise."

For some one's sent some magazines to our doughboys; Some ladies' aid society has gone and done us kind.

So let's unpack our stockings and see what we kin find."

The corporal to the sergeant, he up an' sez, sez he, "There isn't many high-brows in this here company."

But what we'll do with Harp's Bazaar is more than I can tell.

Though they say there's lots of readin' in the Ladies' Home Journal."

The sergeant stopped to masticate a chew of navy plug.

"We'll use that House and Garden when we buy the parlor rug.

An' when that Denver rookie starts to wash his overalls.

He kin get some nice suggestions by readin' in McCall's."

The corporal made two shining braids from out his auburn hair.

"I think I'll rest a bit," sez he, "an' take up Vanity Fair;

I find my figure's so obese, I really think I'll try.

To cut my Butterick jacket suit from Fashions on the fly."

The sergeant shook two loaded dice and drew another card.

"I learned this game of checkers from the Youth's Companion, pard;

An' when I start to throw a bridge across a bollin' canyon.

I'll read up that new tating stitch in the Woman's Home Companion."

The corporal smiled and blew non-alcoholic foam away.

"I get so tender-hearted when I'm readin' Vogue all day,

I sometimes think there ain't no use of high ideals an' vision Unless my ruffled bathin' suit is genuine Parisian."

THE NO-MAN'S LAND NAVY

By Lieut. Leon Archibald, British Royal Engineers

AFTER four days of pushing and being pushed in the great Allied offensive at Loos in the autumn of 1915 a certain British regiment was withdrawn while there still remained a core of sufficient magnitude about which to re-construct a fighting unit bearing the same name.

During this process of rehabilitation it found itself in charge of a sector which, when compared with scenes that lay immediately behind, might almost be looked upon by this battered and blood-stained unit as a health resort. In fact, there were those in the regiment whose seemingly indestructible sense of humor would have done, but in a land where the difference in elevation were so slight there was no drainage, which simply meant that after all existing dikes, ditches and canals had been forced the garrisons on both sides—for the water was strictly neutral—to take up positions on the higher ground.

In some instances placed as much as a mile and a half of water, anywhere from six inches to six feet, between the British and German front-line trenches, and as a consequence, warfare in this sector was reduced to a condition bordering almost on stagnation.

All front-line weapons, even as deadly as they might be under normal conditions, suddenly were bereft of their abilities to create discomfort and simply lay impotently idle. From here on, or until the waters receded a few months later, the war was handed over to the gunners and the artmen with but one stipulation. They must on no account provoke the boche into retaliation on the front line.

The front line, being completely refused to be made the recipient of punishment for the sins of others. But, unfortunately, such a delightful condition was not to last for long.

THE EXIST in the army being whose apparent aim in life it is to forever concoct ways and means for the annoyance of all and sundry beneath them, enemy included, and these persons decided presently that the vast expanse of water between the two lines must be patrolled in order that a complete contact might be maintained with the enemy by night as well as day.

This duty was to be done by means of pontoon boats borrowed from the engineers and manned by the infantry.

Four pontoons were in due course supplied. Each was to carry two machine guns, one fore and one aft, together with a crew of ten men, and all that remained to complete their warlike bearing was to affix to the vessel a means of propulsion.

This was almost immediately done, such ships of war as the Lion, Tiger, Invincible and Indestructible being called upon to share the awe-inspiring titles with this latest addition to the grand fleet. The Lion, by virtue of the importance she had become heir to on account of her name, was made the flagship, while the Tiger, as was her wonted custom, carried a beauty.

NIGHT after night these four valiant ships of war left our shores in sections of two, each section under the direction of its leading ship, the Lion or the Tiger, with the whole or supreme command vested in the Lion. One section went to the east to the edge of a road which ran directly across to the German trenches and along which ran the wire, the other section went to the west, while the other went directly across, having its approach hidden by the Orchard Island or, in other words, an elevation upon which were growing several fruit trees. In the bow of each pontoon were the lookouts, whose duties, in addition to keeping a sharp watch for any signs of the enemy, were to direct the courses of their ships, keeping them off shoals, fences, trees and other objects which existed to obstruct their passage.

Here again the unfortunability and irresistibility of humor came to the surface, and the lookout was continually ordering the beauty to go "hard astern" or "full speed ahead."

THE U-Boat Crew

ALAS! alas! for those blond boys who stalk Their prey in ambush of the shuddering seas.

Whiling the wait with merry, tender, talk Of some dear knot of flower-clad cottages Beyond the Rhine! The merchantship draws on;

Their swift torpedo strikes its mark; The sea Moans with the dying; for a victory won They thank the pagan god of Germany.

Happier to die the hideous, smothering death, Too deep for mercy, in their own snared trap, Than live to learn how time interpreteth The cause they served; the tragical mishap

Of pride that pledged The Day and brought The Night; —Than live to loathe their Fatherland, a name So high, so fallen, that betrayed their bright Young loyalty to savageries of shame. —Katherine Lee Bates, in "The Retinue."

A Wind Warrior "What's become of Blagotin?" "He's laid up, a victim of the war." "I didn't even know he had enlisted." "He hasn't. He sprained his larynx telling how things ought to be done." —Boston Transcript.

Cheering for Boarders The high price of berries doesn't trouble those who always have had a preference for prunes.—Springfield Globe.

Quite Simple Among the things most easy to remember is, we think, the fact that Mrs. Lloyd George's former home was in Mynyddymynydd, Criolcieth, Wales.—Springfield Globe.

But Who'll Enforce It? The greatest need of Russia at the present time seems to be a drastic and most sternly enforced "work or fight" law.—Springfield Union.

What Do You Know? QUIZ 1. What is meant by Juso-Jitsu? 2. In what mythology was Mitche Manitou a deity? 3. What is the pronunciation of Chateau-Thierry? 4. Where is the Ourea River? 5. What is the council of national defense? 6. What are the capital and largest city of Wisconsin? 7. What is meant by the letters "G. C. P."? 8. Name the author of "Robinson Crusoe." 9. Who is the United States director of aircraft production? 10. What is periscope?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Camp Hancock is the army cantonment at Augusta, Ga. 2. Chief, the chief cook of a large establishment, as of a club, hotel or restaurant. 3. Admiral von Mante was named as successor to Dr. von Kuhlmann, who resigned as German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as a result of his speech, declaring that a military decision could not be forced in favor of Germany. 4. Annapolis is the capital and Baltimore the largest city of Maryland. 5. The late Mary Stuart Dodge, for many years editor of the "Chicago Tribune," was a favorite Jesuitical book of life in Holland. 6. Bastille Day, July 14, is the French national holiday, in celebration of the storming and capture, in 1789, of the Bastille, a fortress and military operations headquarters. 7. Metropolitan, an ecclesiastical area, is a bishop, archbishop or patriarch who has oversight and certain forms of control of a province, called a metropolitan see, and presiding over several dioceses. 8. Major General Bessell is the British director general of military operations, succeeding Major General Macrae. 9. Abraham Lincoln is the author of the Emancipation Proclamation. 10. I have labored hard and well, and I yearn for this—it would be more than I can do to call you.



THE NO-MAN'S LAND NAVY

By Lieut. Leon Archibald, British Royal Engineers

AFTER four days of pushing and being pushed in the great Allied offensive at Loos in the autumn of 1915 a certain British regiment was withdrawn while there still remained a core of sufficient magnitude about which to re-construct a fighting unit bearing the same name.

During this process of rehabilitation it found itself in charge of a sector which, when compared with scenes that lay immediately behind, might almost be looked upon by this battered and blood-stained unit as a health resort. In fact, there were those in the regiment whose seemingly indestructible sense of humor would have done, but in a land where the difference in elevation were so slight there was no drainage, which simply meant that after all existing dikes, ditches and canals had been forced the garrisons on both sides—for the water was strictly neutral—to take up positions on the higher ground.

In some instances placed as much as a mile and a half of water, anywhere from six inches to six feet, between the British and German front-line trenches, and as a consequence, warfare in this sector was reduced to a condition bordering almost on stagnation.

All front-line weapons, even as deadly as they might be under normal conditions, suddenly were bereft of their abilities to create discomfort and simply lay impotently idle. From here on, or until the waters receded a few months later, the war was handed over to the gunners and the artmen with but one stipulation.

They must on no account provoke the boche into retaliation on the front line. The front line, being completely refused to be made the recipient of punishment for the sins of others. But, unfortunately, such a delightful condition was not to last for long.

THE EXIST in the army being whose apparent aim in life it is to forever concoct ways and means for the annoyance of all and sundry beneath them, enemy included, and these persons decided presently that the vast expanse of water between the two lines must be patrolled in order that a complete contact might be maintained with the enemy by night as well as day.

This duty was to be done by means of pontoon boats borrowed from the engineers and manned by the infantry.

Four pontoons were in due course supplied. Each was to carry two machine guns, one fore and one aft, together with a crew of ten men, and all that remained to complete their warlike bearing was to affix to the vessel a means of propulsion.

This was almost immediately done, such ships of war as the Lion, Tiger, Invincible and Indestructible being called upon to share the awe-inspiring titles with this latest addition to the grand fleet. The Lion, by virtue of the importance she had become heir to on account of her name, was made the flagship, while the Tiger, as was her wonted custom, carried a beauty.