

U. S. PREPARED TO MAKE POISON GAS

Sec. Lane Reveals Chemists Report Showing Readiness For War

Washington, Dec. 14.—In the annual report of Secretary of the Interior Lane, made public yesterday, it is disclosed that a group of chemists, representing "the best genius of the country in this science," were recently in conference at the Secretary's office to discuss the problem of poison gases.

The result of that conference was that American chemists were found to have "a reserve of knowledge as to what gases will kill and what will choke and what will burn and what will hasten disease which in a war of cumulative frightfulness would make the United States modestly distinguished if it wished to so shine."

"The report adds: "One of the groups said: 'We chemists in America have never turned our minds to the destruction of human life. Our work has been constructive—the chemistry of the soil, of cement, of printers' ink, of the by-products from petroleum and tar, of 10,000 things that will make for a longer, happier life for man. But if the world is to be turned upside down and instead of staying death and disease and making new things

that man can use for his own enlightenment, we are wanted to push forward the work of destruction of man and all his works, we can be counted among the worst in such enterprises."

Gas Masks Perfected The report also states: "When the Bureau of Mines was created by Congress five years ago it was hardly to have been imagined that the methods used for the saving of life in the case of mines in the United States would become of vital use in the problem of saving lives and destroying lives in a world war, yet this is just what happened."

"Germany, which has been foremost for some years in the science of chemistry, has out of its extensive experience developed a form of warfare (which had not before been known, a modern expression of those diabolical inventions such as the cervi and stimuli which made Caesar's campaign in Gaul to be characterized as a war of science. To meet this new method of attack by deadly gases, the western powers promptly provided gas masks which contained chemical absorbents or other agents that would neutralize the effects of the gases sent adrift by their enemies."

"The soldier's kit, which was so simple a thing in other wars, had to be increased by a gas mask not unlike the helmet of a deep-sea diver, with a box of chemicals adapted for offsetting the effects of the various kinds of gas the enemy was known to use, and for special use in dugouts and saps filled with concentrated gas, an oxygen supply was furnished. These outfits were not new to the world."

"For some years there has been keen rivalry between the great mining nations as to the one which provided the best. They were put on by those who went into the mine where poisonous gases from explosions or fires were known or supposed to exist. Every rescue gang wore them. This country claimed that it had improved upon the English, German and French in the mask which it provided."

The rather humorous incident

which led to the opening of five mines yielding 400 tons of pyrite a day, with a promise of 1000 tons a day before the end of winter—more than fifteen good ships could bring from Spain to our coast if kept in a continuous circle—was related by the Secretary, as follows:

"In studying a map of southern ore deposits with relation to the placing of a nitrate plant it became evident that pyrite was to be found in a stretch of the mountains running from northern Georgia to central Alabama. And just when this was found there came into the office one of the most forceful of southern manufacturers, who entered with a statement that he was looking for a place—not under the spotlight."

"I'm not a prima donna; just a man's job; something somebody else would shy at."

"Why not find the pyrite ore in your southern hills?" I asked. "I never heard of the stuff, but if it's there and you say we need it for the war I'll get it. And he did." Among the subjects treated in the report are: Health and employment, suppression of intoxicants, nonpayment of pensions to residents of Germany, education and the war, prevention of mine explosions and fires, fuel investigation and the general development along the line of the Government's railroad in Alaska.

WOULD PROHIBIT DUELLING Berlin, Dec. 14.—Prohibition of duelling in the German Army and Navy is urged by the newspaper Germania in commenting upon the order issued by Emperor Charles of Austria, forbidding the practice in the Austro-Hungarian Army and Navy.

"This inhibition," says Germania, "will awaken an echo of satisfaction in the widest circles in Germany and will give renewed expression to the repeated command that competent officials put an end to this duelling which restricts or hampers the achievement with half measures and nothing short of an order prohibiting duelling will prevent further sacrifices through this antiquated method of settling honor."

DESERTERS IN SWITZERLAND CAUSE CONCERN

Hundreds From All Belligerent Countries Refuse to Be Sent Home to Eight

Zurich, Dec. 14 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—All Switzerland is amazed at the audacity of some four hundred deserters from various adjoining countries who, in solemn convocation, have protested violently against the measures recently adopted by the authorities for controlling the undesirable stranger element in the country.

Switzerland had believed that its measures—taken to intern deserters, enforced labor or internment in case of undesirable conduct, etc.—were unusually lenient, and regret has been expressed in many quarters that the powers that be had not seen fit to take sharper steps against a stratum of the population which is looked upon here as a necessary evil.

The Zurich deserters, however, many if not most of them of the anarchistic type, have adopted and sent broadcast through Switzerland a resolution which calls the attention of the Socialist party to denunciation of deserters, declares that the measures here are caused by the "capitalist character" of the state, and are due to fear lest the example of the deserters in refusing military service to their respective countries may strengthen the antimilitary spirit among the working classes.

The deserters recommended that the problem be solved, not by laws against the deserters or for their control, but by the alteration of existing citizens' laws so that all foreigners here would be embraced by them.

The resolution concludes with an appeal for the Swiss party to take up the matter at once and do all in its power to solve the foreigner question along this line. And the Socialist papers, nearly if not all of them of the violent, semi-anarchistic type, have made themselves more unpopular than ever by espousing the cause of the deserters.

Aside from the resentment which the conservative press and citizenship express at the action of undesirable at least unwelcome elements in Switzerland in attempting to dictate the treatment which they shall receive, the affair arouses the gravest fears that it will give impetus to a movement to encourage the refusal to do military duty in defense of Switzerland's neutrality.

The deserters' conference has for the moment obliterated party lines in the great majority of the Swiss press, and all but the radical Socialist papers join in vying with one another in their denunciation of them.

"Impudence," "nerve," "audacity," "presumptuous foreigners," are but a few of the terms that are being applied to the Zurich deserter delegates and their action.

Clean Fruit Orchards Bring Larger Crops

A few months ago attention was called to the necessity of sanitation in the control of brown rot of peaches and plums. Authorities at the Pennsylvania State College strongly recommended that rotten fruit should not be allowed to accumulate on the ground or to hang upon the trees.

As one travels about over the state it is very evident that many such fruits not worth picking were left upon the trees. Now is a good time to gather and dispose of such old fruits as they are sure to carry over the disease and to start it off next year.

Other orchard diseases are also often carried over in this way. Cleaning up the orchard is very essential in order to control diseases, and the checking of diseases is one of the quickest ways to increase production.

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Advertisement for Wm. Strouse, a man's gift from a man's store. Includes an illustration of a man and a woman.

Large advertisement for Burns & Co., The Real Christmas Furniture Store of Harrisburg. Features a large illustration of a mahogany chair and lists various furniture items with prices.

Large advertisement for 'BOOK'S REAL SHOE MAKERS' featuring a 'XMAS FOOTWEAR SALE' and 'GIVE FOOTWEAR GIFTS'. Includes illustrations of various shoes and boots.

Advertisement for VICK'S VAPORUB, featuring an illustration of a person and text describing its uses for sore throats and other ailments.

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WOMEN'S SHOES AT SPECIAL PRICES For style, for quality, for workmanship, these shoes can only be compared with those selling elsewhere at much higher prices.

MILITARY BOOTS Havana and Nut Brown, Tan and Black kid, with one and two-color tops. Nine-inch lace tops, elegant, graceful heels, military soles. All sizes. \$4.95

WINTER DRESS SHOES High laced and button, in plain and fancy novelty patterns. One and two-color tops. All sizes. \$3.95

ONLY EIGHT MORE Shopping Days

Boys' Hi Top Shoes Just the gift for the boy. A pair of these tan and black (waterproof) storm calf high tops. Sizes to 13 1/2. The \$2.50 "True War" grade. Special at \$1.95

WOMEN'S SLIPPERS—Thick fur trimmed felt Julietts. Red, black and gray. Flexible leather soles. \$1.50 98c

CHILDREN'S SHOES—Colored kid top shoes with patent leather bottom. Sizes 8 to 6 98c

BOYS' SHOES—Gun metal uppers, good heavy soles in blucher and button styles \$1.25

CHILDREN'S SHOES—Colored kid top shoes with patent leather bottom. Sizes 8 to 6 98c

BOYS' DRESS SHOES Sturdy and stylish. Made in English, button and blucher styles. Dull and patent leather. Sizes to 5 1/2. \$3 values at \$2.45

TWO PENN STATE STUDENTS Win French War Crosses State College, Pa., Dec. 12.—Two Pennsylvania State College students, both members of the American Ambulance Service in France, have been awarded the Croix de Guerre for conspicuous bravery under fire. They are W. B. Byers and F. P. Smith, former members of the class of 1919.

Byers and Smith left college last spring. They enlisted for six months as ambulance drivers and have been in active service on the Western Front.