

More General Use of Wheat Advised

Washington, Many persons have not been able to understand why, after they have adapted themselves to a food regime in which wheat flour was reduced to the minimum, and corn used freely in its stead, the regulations should be suddenly reversed and the eating of wheat in preference to corn recommended. The food administration, in reply to many inquiries, has issued a statement explaining that this, along with many other changes and new adaptations, is due to the situation brought about by the armistice.

Last spring, the food administration, being anxious about the wheat shortage, asked the public to restrict its consumption of wheat in order to meet the needs of the Allies. With a surplus of only 20,000,000 bushels of wheat, the people of the United States, through conservation, enabled the food administration to ship 41,000,000 bushels of wheat. In spite of this conservation, when the 1918 harvest was reached there was less than a ten-day supply in America.

When the new crop came in it proved large, but not too large to take care of the needs at that time. The food administration did not want to be caught another season with a shortage of this most valuable foodstuff, and with the belief that it was necessary not only to continue shipments of wheat to Europe, but to build up a big reserve for the 1919 spring offensive, the food administration continued to ask the people to use wheat sparingly.

The signing of the armistice changed the situation as to wheat immediately, as it did with all measures taken with the needs of a continuing war in view. Wheat supplies in distant countries were made available by the ending of the submarine menace, and the assurance of a good crop in 1919, undisturbed by

war, relieved the necessity of building up as large a reserve as was anticipated. It is probable that the normal actual consumption of wheat in the United States, implying elimination of waste, a matter in which Americans now have been thoroughly schooled, will be permissible and still allow people to keep the food administration's pledge of bread-stuffs to hungry Europe.

Last year's situation, with fodder grains plentiful and wheat scarce, has been entirely reversed and the necessity now points to a more careful use of the grains needed for animal feed and a freer use of wheat.

PROPOSALS CAME EN MASSE

Miss Heien Besler, daughter of the president of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, is probably the most proposed to girl in France to-day. It all came about because one night in one of the American camps she ran out of encores and sang a little nursery song called "If No One Ever Marries Me." It goes like this: "And I don't see why they should, For nurse says I am not pretty, And I'm seldom very good."

The dreadful fate of the little girl in the song was to be to buy a rabbit hutch and live all alone in a little wood. But the American soldiers saw no reason why Miss Besler who is pretty and petite and a typical American girl, should have a similar lot. After they had given her the three cheers and a tiger with which usually thank the Y. M. C. A. entertainers, they hesitated a moment and then added a purely personal message "Barkis is willin'" called the A. E. as one man.

Since then the incident has been repeated in every American camp Miss Besler has visited. No censor would allow an estimate of the number of proposals she received in that way to pass.

The keeper of the museum, Mr. Theodor, struggled for four years with a truly Flemish tenacity. Mr. Pierard asserts, against the removals which took place, and in spite of the affronts he had to put up with he was always at his post. Like a true citizen of Lille he gave proof of a civic courage which cannot be too highly praised. When in 1914 Lille was subjected to an intense bombardment the museum was struck by 75 shells which fortunately only damaged the building and did no harm to its precious contents. During this bombardment M. Theodor, with the help of his assistants, put some of the most valuable contents of the museum in a place of safety in the cellars.

When certain of the distinguished Germans who visited the museum saw the havoc wrought by the bombardment they imagined it to be the work of English aviators and often said: "You see, they call us barbarians—what must be said about your English friends?" M. Theodor used to let them reach that point and then, very politely, set them right by saying: "I beg your pardon. This damage was done in October, 1914, by a German shell." This reply was made to Prince Maximilian of Baden, who thought it wise to change the conversation.

The first picture carried away by the Germans was one brought to France from Germany in Napoleonic times; this went in November, 1914. Some German soldiers forced a case and took out two soins, but these they had to restore. It was only in 1917 that the Germans began to take the pictures and drawings away wholesale. Their pretext was that they wanted to put them into a place of safety out of reach of the English bombs and shells, but that this was not the case was shown by the fact that they took 487 objects of art during last September when they were themselves preparing to leave Lille definitely. The removal of the works of art was supervised by special art officers attached to the army. M. Pierard describes some of the proceeds of these officers who kept a very close watch on M. Theodor. Their great anxiety was to know how they would be received by the learned world after the war, and M. Theodor did not spare them, but told them they would not be able to do without the Louvre and the "British." He finishes his article by recounting the story of the waxen head, the most celebrated thing in the museum. It dates from the time of the Florentine renaissance and is a relation of the "Flora" bust over which Dr. Bode made himself such a laughing stock. As soon as they arrived in Lille the Germans asked for her. M. Theodor had hidden her in the cellars with great care, and when the Germans discovered her at last, he contrived to substitute a cast for the original and it is this cast which they have taken away with them.

Russia is estimated to have more than 4,000,000 acres of land which would produce cotton if irrigated. A Paris dentist has developed a method for bleaching and sterilizing teeth with ultraviolet rays.

A Rotherham (England) postman has walked 153,000 miles during his 45 years of service, and recently celebrated his golden wedding.

GERMAN PILLAGE OF LILLE MUSEUM

Before Teutons Removed Valuable Art Collections Museum Had Been Struck

Paris—The treatment accorded by the Germans to the museum at Lille is the subject of an article in L'Homme Libre. If it is true, the writer says, that the monuments of France are intact and that the Germans have not carried off the Van Dycks and the Davids from the Hospital St. Jean, or the communal museum, which have been preserved in a cellar for four years, the museum at Lille, Douai, Cambrai and no doubt at Valenciennes have undoubtedly been pillaged from top to bottom. The museum at Lille was, M. Pierard asserts, the premier museum of France after the Louvre. It possessed some hundreds of old pictures, among them some by Rubens and Van Dyck, Flemish and German primitives, Dutch works of the Eighteenth century, and Ghirlandajo, Botticelli, Largillieres, Watteau and Goyas. The special pride of the museum was, however, the Wicar room, containing a collection of 800 drawings by masters with which the chevalier Wicar had endowed his native town. Notable among this valuable collection were some of Raphael's studies for the school at Athens, "Parasol" and other pictures, architectural sketches by Michael Angelo, caricatures by Leonardo da Vinci and the first sketch for the "Massacre of the Innocents" by Poussin. None of these remain in Lille, M. Pierard declares, for the Germans have taken them all away.

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Rene Viviani Assails "German Kultur"

Former Premier Rene Viviani, of France, in a recent speech, declared that the German Republic is a mockery and cannot be trusted, according to a report from Paris. He urged that "German Kultur" be suppressed in French Universities.

The former Premier praised American efforts in the war and said that, thanks to the United States, democracy had defeated autocracy.

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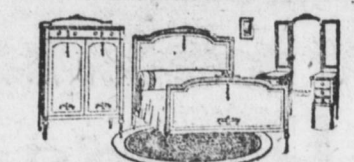
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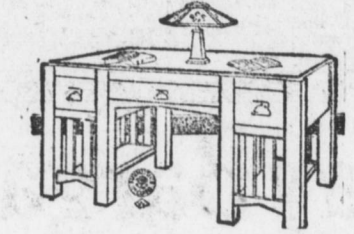
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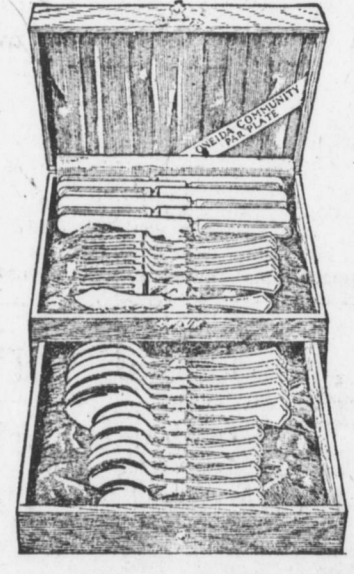
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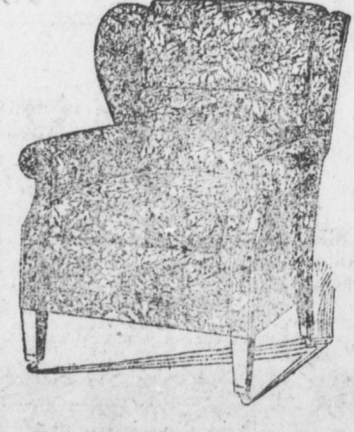
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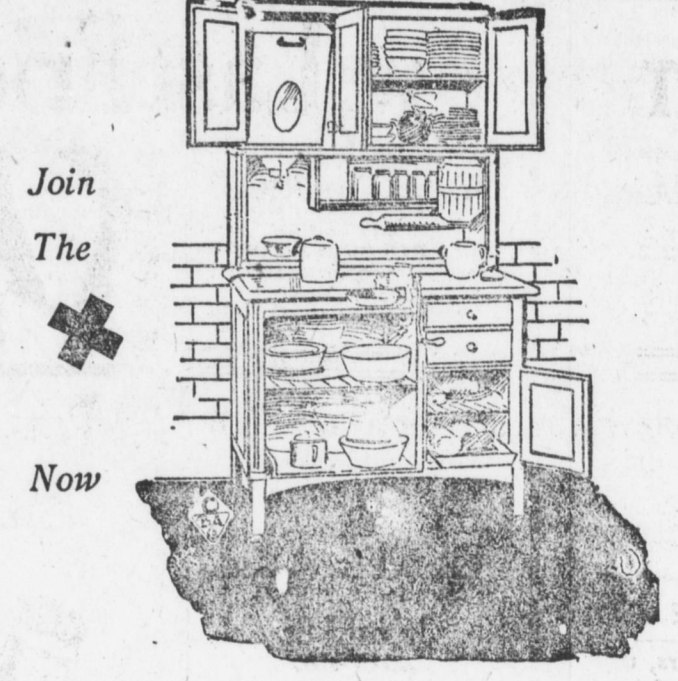
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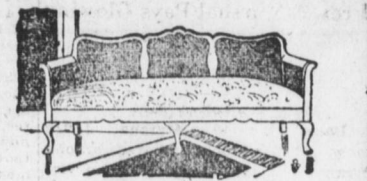
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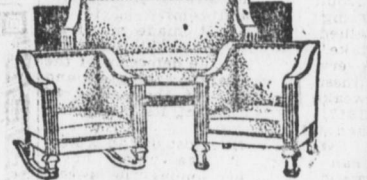
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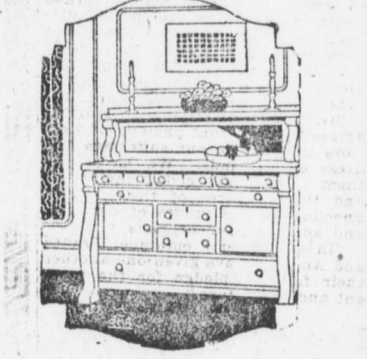
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