

Pictures of World Events for News Readers

AIDED BY CONFLICT

WAR HAS CAUSED THE SPREAD OF ESPERANTO.

Instead of Injuring It, New Interest Has Been Aroused in the Language—Spreading Rapidly in the Far East.

At the outbreak of the European war Esperantists everywhere feared that the struggle would have an extremely unfavorable effect upon the progress of the international language. Great was our astonishment therefore when it gradually became apparent that just the opposite was true, remarks the writer of a letter to the editor of the New York Sun. The first important event that took place was the official recognition that Esperanto received from the government of Germany, which published an Esperanto translation of the original documents relating to the war and caused it to be widely distributed among Esperantists in the neutral countries. This was followed by a series of publications in Esperanto that history will show formed an important part of Germany's campaign of publicity in neutral lands. A few months later the Esperantists in France organized a society devoted to spreading an exact knowledge of the French "side" of the world war.

In all of the warring nations and in the few countries still at peace there has awakened a new interest in Esperanto, and it is now being studied by many who were not even aware of its existence a few years ago. This is particularly true of the soldiers of all the countries at war, prisoners of war and those interned in neutral lands. In the internment camp at Hardserwyk, Holland, for instance, where there are several thousand Belgians and French soldiers, hundreds have already begun to learn Esperanto, and this is also true of another important camp at Zeist, where Esperanto is said to be spreading "like wildfire."

But the most interesting reports of our progress come from the far East. There is now a large and flourishing society in China that has made thousands of "converts" to Esperanto; and Japan is much better represented than in former years. This is remarkable in view of the dissimilarity between Esperanto and the language of the Orient. I translate a paragraph from a letter I received some time ago from a friend in that quarter of the globe, Maj. R. L. Bush, who is stationed at Manila. Major Bush writes: "Last May and June I traveled through Japan and saw many beautiful places and beheld many wonderful scenes; it is a beautiful and interesting country. In Tokyo I met many fellow Esperantists, who were very hospitable and who did everything they could to make my visit a happy one. They guided me and treated me as a guest, and I made some very good friends." Major Bush now goes on to say that the Japanese Esperantists honored him highly as an American soldier, and that in recognition of this at a meeting of the Japanese Esperanto association he was presented with an ancient Japanese sword. He continues: "Esperanto was a great help to me in Tokyo; it gained me friends, through whose kindness I was enabled to see much more than I could possibly have seen by myself. I have always believed in the practical utility of the language, and I am now certain of it."

A language whose advocates are as widespread as the Esperantists must necessarily possess great commercial advantages. Business men in Germany, France, Russia and England are now making active use of it, and will increasingly continue to do so. A significant indication of the tendency of the times is afforded by the recent decision of the common council, Guildhall, London, that "whereas, England and her allies are preparing to act in concert in relation to future commercial affairs, it is highly desirable that one language be accepted as a commercial language, to be taught in all schools." And the resolution, which I have freely translated from an Esperanto version, goes on to recommend for consideration the languages of the allies, English, French and Russian and Esperanto.

Shortest Prison Sentence.

The shortest recorded sentence is that to which a woman was sentenced at the Cookstown (Ulster) sessions. The woman pleaded guilty to stealing a quantity of horse hair from her employer, who said she was a good worker, but addicted to the drinking of ether, which was the cause of her lapse. He did not wish her to be prosecuted. A previous record of six weeks' imprisonment for false pretences in 1913 barred her from being dealt with as a first offender. She was ordered imprisoned until the rising of the court, and as hers was the last case on the list, the length of her sentence was exactly two minutes and a half.—London Mail.

Nile's Floods Above Normal.

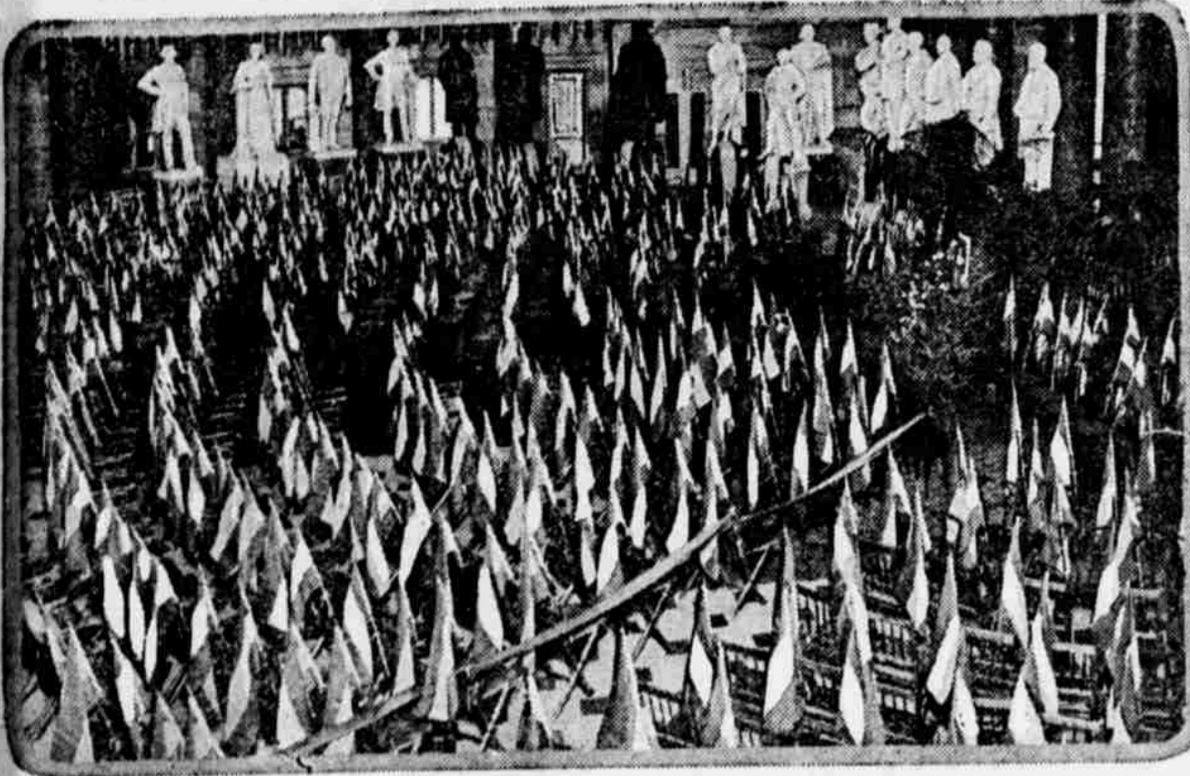
The River Nile reached an abnormally high level this year, though the annual floods form part and parcel of the national life of Egyptians, who are never taken by surprise when such events occur. The condition of affairs, however, proved sufficiently alarming to warrant the government in putting into effect the decree of 1887, which obliges all able-bodied men to assist in the protection of threatened regions under pain of imprisonment or fine whenever the stream of the ancient Pharaohs gets beyond control.

Shotguns and Rifles.

When a shotgun or rifle is cleaned, a cork of proper size should be inserted in the end of the barrel. By preventing the entrance of damp this will preserve its value as well as its usefulness. This practice is not followed to the same extent as it should be even among those who take special pride in firearms. It is said that a bit of camphor inserted in the barrel will also aid in preventing the accumulation of rust.

In This Department Our Readers in Fulton County and Elsewhere May Journey Around the World With the Camera on the Trail of History Making Happenings.

DECORATED IN MEMORY OF MRS. BOISSEVAIN



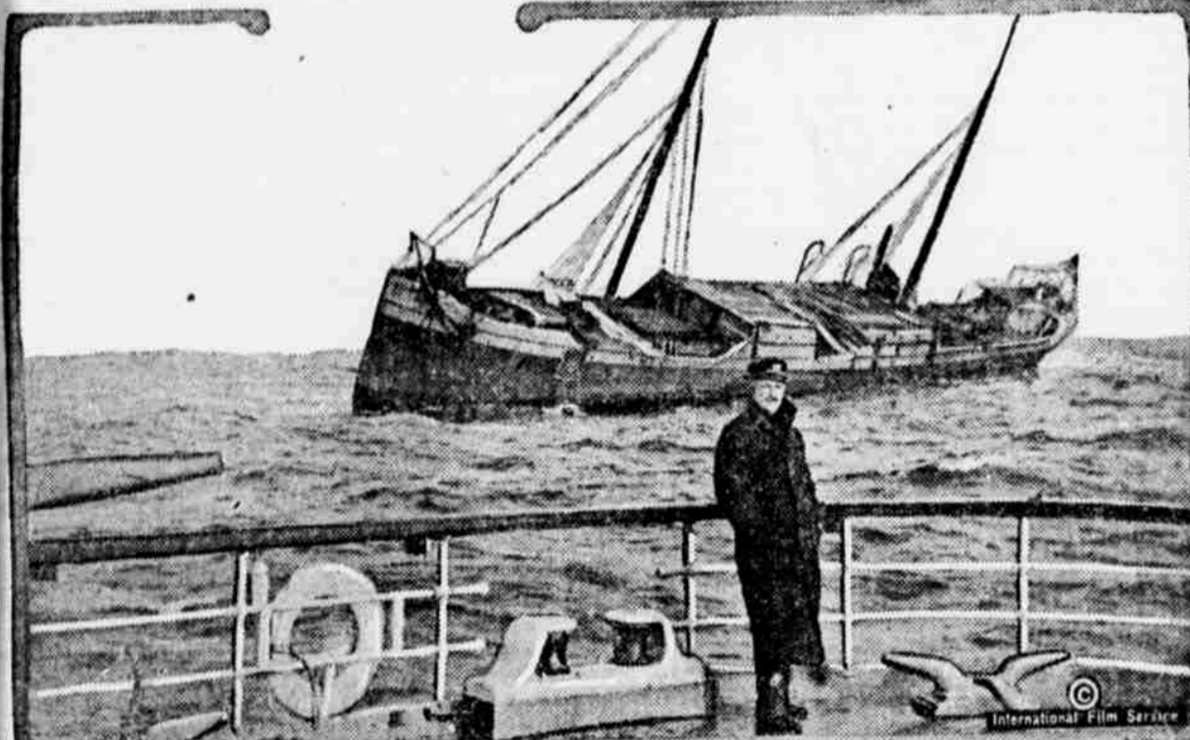
Statuary hall in the capitol at Washington, was swathed in the colors of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage on Christmas day, when memorial services were held in honor of Inez Milholland Boissevain. The services were preceded by a delegation march through the capitol grounds and a display of banners.

CHURCH PARADE OF TROOPS AT MONASTIR



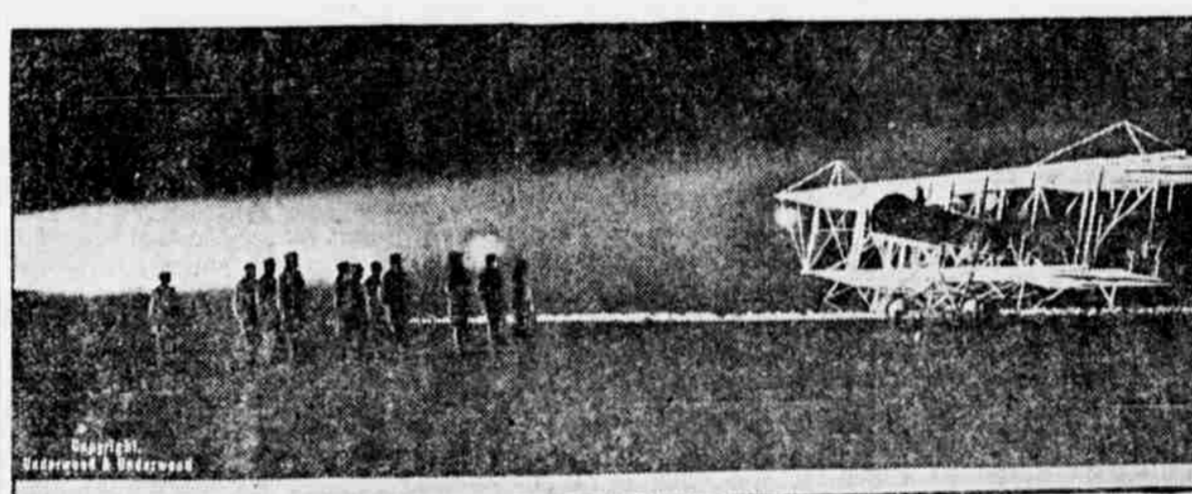
British official photograph taken at Monastir, showing a church parade of the troops. The chaplain of the regiment is holding the service. Religious services are held daily.

HOW AN OCEAN DERELICT LOOKS



All handsmen have heard of, but few have ever seen, that grave menace of ocean navigation, the derelict. This photograph, taken on Christmas day from the United States coastguard cutter Seneca, shows the wreck of the Brazilian ship Nephthys. The Nephthys got into trouble soon after leaving port. She was towed 5,000 miles, but finally abandoned in a storm when about 150 miles east of New York. The Seneca was then ordered out to bring the wrecked ship into port, and after a two-day search found her and got a line aboard.

SEARCHLIGHT SHOWS "HOME" TO NIGHT FLYER



This extraordinary photograph shows the return of a French Bourget plane after a night trip over the enemy's lines. It is not a simple matter, making a landing or finding "home" in the darkness of the night. The searchlight is powerful enough to illuminate the surrounding territory and show the way to the air pilot. The plane is shown making a landing in the full glare of the searchlight.

HIS MENTALITY PERFECT



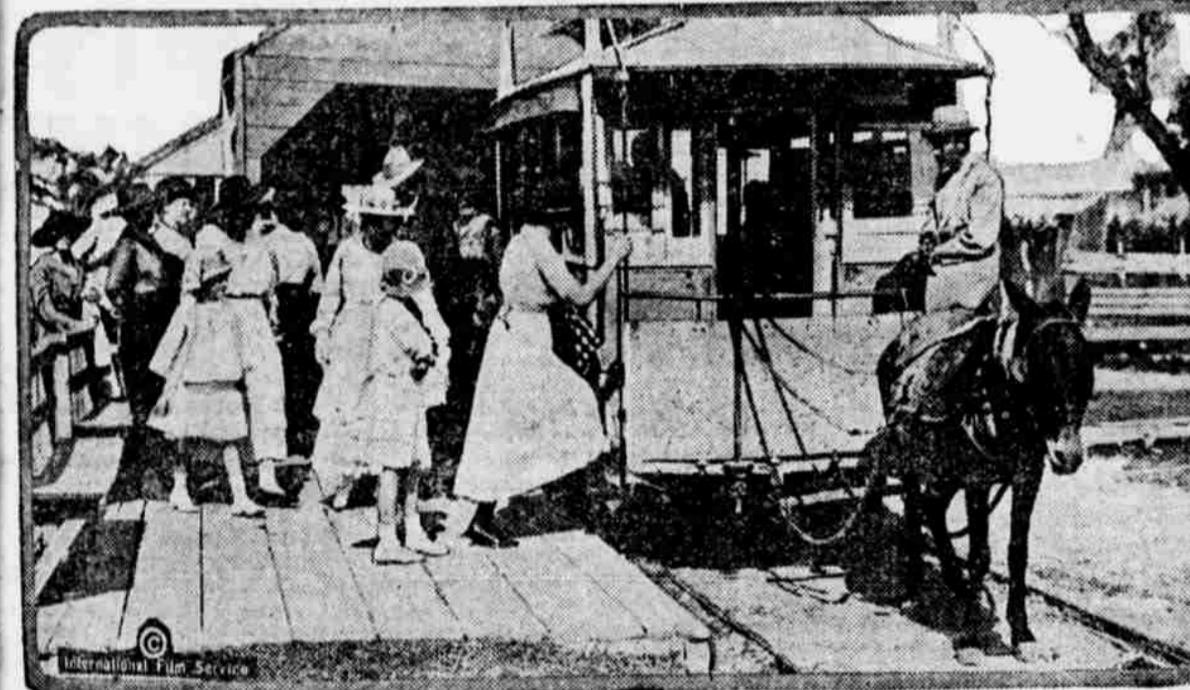
Thomas J. Abernethy of West Pembroke, Me., Harvard student, who was pronounced 100 per cent perfect mentally by Professor Munsterberg just before the latter's death. Abernethy was the only one of Professor Munsterberg's class of 340 in psychology to display perfection. Munsterberg put his class through 12 different tests in order to reach the different aspects of their intelligence. The attention, memory, combinatory, imagination and similar functions were called into play.

FIGURES IN WASHINGTON "LEAK" WRANGLE



Left to right: Robert L. Henry, chairman of the house committee on rules; Representative W. R. Wood of Indiana, author of a resolution to investigate the alleged "leaks" at Washington concerning the peace notes, and Thomas W. Lawson of Boston, who charges that he and others made large sums in the stock market by reason of the "leaks."

ARMY WOMEN SHOPPING IN MEXICO



Wives of American army officers stationed in Matamoros, Mexico, starting out on a shopping expedition by the only available means of transportation.

FRUIT STONES SAVED FOR GERMAN OIL



No fruit stones are thrown away in Germany. They are all collected and crushed. The oil is extracted for drugs and military purposes. The photograph shows the stones being packed to be sent to a crushing mill.

"PAPA" JOFFRE KISSES HERO



General Joffre, the "papa" of all the French troops and now marshal of France, is shown kissing one of the heroic French soldiers at a review. The honor of having been kissed by "Papa" Joffre was considered greater than receiving a medal for valor on the field.

LAND OF BORROWED DELIGHTS

Italy's Oranges, Lemons and Chestnuts Imported From Other Countries.

A large part of the beauty of the verdure and forest of Italy that attract the visitor's attention was unknown in the olden times, and is not properly Italian at all, but imported. The favored groves of orange and lemon, with their golden fruit glistening among the rich and sappy foliage, breathe of the Levant and the dark-skinned Sarcenic invades from the East. The cactus, with its prickly pear fruit, called the Indian fig, and the aloe came straight from Mexico on the heels of the Spanish adventurers into the unknown in the sixteenth century. So did the American corn or maize. Even the eucalyptus is an importation, a modern one, and the great groves of chestnuts that clothe the skaggy mountain sides so verdantly and give occupation to so many vendors of the hot and pasty boiled nut are believed not to be native.—National Geographic Magazine.

AN IDYL OF THE WAR IN FRANCE



This gay French soldier, on his way to the battle front, has stopped by the roadside for a chat with a pretty country maiden.