

# UNITED STATES IS NOW EXPERT IN MAKING MUNITIONS OF WAR

### America the Unready, Is America the Unready No Longer—Rich in Machinery and Experience, This Country Can Now Turn Out War Material in Staggering Quantities — High Efficiency Reached in Big Plants.

By SYDNEY BROOKS.  
(New York Times.)

New York.—America enters the great war better equipped on the industrial side than at any moment of her history. Yet when it broke out she was virtually innocent of the art of making munitions. Of all that vast industry, which today employs capital by the hundred million and men by the hundred thousand, there was, 30 months ago, practically no trace whatever.

A few companies here and there were engaged in the manufacture of war material as a side line to their normal business; and that was about all.

Thanks to the war orders of the British government, America the unready is America the unready no longer. Indeed, when I think of Bethlehem, with its output of 800,000 complete three-inch shells a month; of the DuPont company, with an annual production of 375,000,000 pounds of military powder, of the Baldwin Locomotive company, which is turning out 800 12-inch shells a day; of the American Locomotive company, which is making 600,000 loaded time fuses a month—an incredibly intricate component of which when the war began it knew nothing whatever; of the Midvale Steel company, which is equally at home with howitzers and light and heavy shells; of the great rifle factories at Bridgeport, Ilion, Eddystone, and elsewhere, which have now a capacity of 15,000 rifles a day—about 19 or 12 times the output of the government arsenals; of the 75,000 9.2 shells a month, representing from 10,000 to 12,000 tons of steel, and filling ten freight cars a day, that one firm is manufacturing; of the 20 other firms that are turning out each from 12,000 to 75,000 shells a month in all the heavy grades between 6-inch and 12-inch, and of the 1,250,000 loaded time fuses a month that are likewise being produced here—when I think of these and many similar achievements, I am tempted to say that the war has been not only the commercial but the military salvation of America.

#### Demand for Machines.

The first effect of the war was to raise among the manufacturers in the allied nations a hungry demand for machines to make the munitions. The American machine tool manufacturers found themselves on a sudden swamped with orders. It was the first tramping of the stream that was soon to become an unprecedented, overwhelming flood. Very quickly the allies discovered that, even if they could get the tools, their own manufacturing resources would not for many crucial months, possibly not for a year or more, enable them to overtake Germany's enormous lead. The call for American tools was followed therefore with another and wider call for the American finished product, for American guns, American rifles, shells, cartridges, and powder. There ensued a literally frantic scramble for anything America could produce in the way of war material and equipment, not merely for munitions but for foodstuffs, wagons, tools, shirts, blankets, barbed wire, horses, motors, trucks and lorries, railway ties, canteens, harness and saddles, cotton and knit goods, overcoats.

And this carapace of orders came pouring over the American continent just at a time when all the signs pointed to a period of severe commercial depression. Its effects were felt not merely by the firms that actually received the orders, but by an extraordinary variety of contributory industries. In the last year, while going over some of the principal munition factories in the United States, I have been struck by nothing more forcibly than by the extent to which the manufacture of military material is intertwined with and dependent upon the productive energy of innumerable other industries and interests.

#### All Sections Drawn Upon.

Take, for instance, a concern like the Midvale Steel company of Pennsylvania. When it entered the munition business on a large scale and secured contracts for guns, shells, and rough forgings, its first care was to provide itself with new facilities. It needed buildings; it needed machine tools, and it scoured the country to get them; it needed lathes and drill presses, grinding and milling machines, forging presses and blooming mills; it needed electric cranes, hydraulic pumps, heating furnaces, draw benches, electric motors, generators, and boilers; and it needed ores and minerals in prodigious quantities. On these and a thousand other necessities it authorized an immediate expenditure of some \$6,000,000, and to trace where the money went you would have to travel from New England to Oregon and from Georgia to North Dakota.

Or to go to one of the colossal rifle factories such as have been erected at Eddystone, a few miles outside of Philadelphia; at Bridgeport, Conn., and at Ilion, N. Y. Ask them where they bought their raw material and machinery, and you will receive in reply a comprehensive lesson in the geography of the United States. When, therefore, war orders began

to come in, first in rivulets, then in spates, and at last in a torrential flood, the whole country was fertilized. The purchase of horses and the demand for meat and grain in unheard-of quantities filled to overflowing the pockets of the farmers. The boot, woolen, clothing, and implement manufacturers were soon working overtime. Such raw materials as brass, nickel, and copper put on an amazing spurt. Indeed, for a while it almost looked as though the American industrial machine would be subjected to a strain it might not be able to bear.

**Bid Against Each Other.**  
So little in the early days of the war was the business of purchasing American supplies reduced to a system that not only were England, France, and Russia competing with one another, but the army and navy departments of all three countries had their separate representatives over here covering the same ground and bidding fiercely for the same commodities.

If things had gone on like that the results would have been bad for the allies, but, I think, worse for America. There would have been much ill-feeling, constant misunderstanding, and more than a little litigation. American manufacturers would have got, and were, in fact, rapidly getting, a bad name in Europe; and it might easily have happened that the shortcomings of a comparatively few American contractors would have proved a boomerang to all American prosperity.

Nor could the United States have reached its present level of uniform well-being under the haphazard system of buying and selling that obtained in the first months of the war. Some corporations would have profited abnormally; others would have been left out in the cold, and while trade in any event would have revived, its revival would have been much less diffused, much more uneven, and much more liable to sudden setbacks. War business in those days was practically the only business the United States was doing; it was the mainstay of the whole industrial fabric, and while it was important for the allied governments, it was even more so for America, that it should be handled with judgment by responsible agents, and in a way that would bring in the utmost benefit to all parties.

#### Appoint Purchasing Agent.

The British government in January, 1915, selected the house of J. P. Morgan & Co. to act as its representative in America, to safeguard it against the men of straw, supervise its purchases, and bring order and common sense into the business of making contracts. The firm was to receive a commission of 2 per cent on the first \$50,000,000 of the purchases it was authorized to make, and 1 per cent thereafter. It was not an exclusive contract. That is to say, the British government might buy through other channels and agencies to any extent.

### WALKS 25 MILES TO "DEFEND NEW YORK"

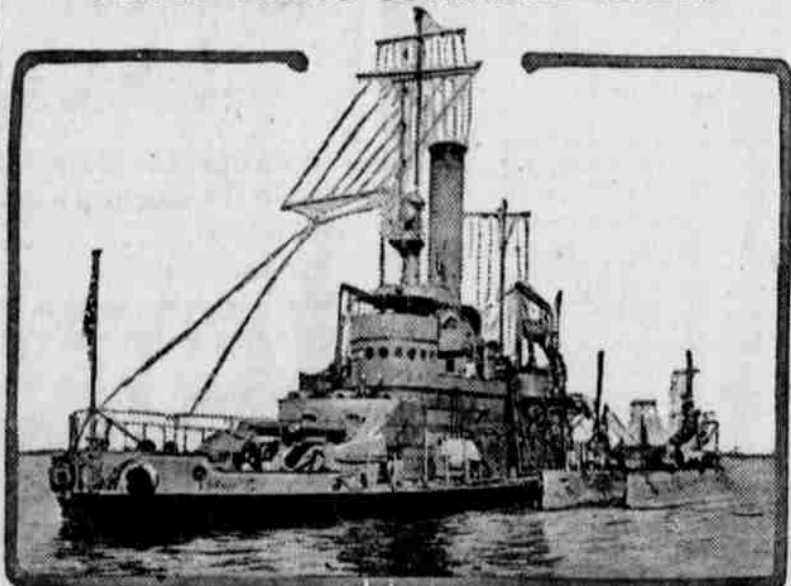
Newark, N. J.—Hearing that the Germans were bombarding New York, Andrew Miller, a farm hand, dropped his milking pail and walked 25 miles as fast as he could hike to the marine recruiting station here.

"Just give me a gun," he told the recruiting officer. "I don't need a uniform—these overalls are good enough. Let me draw a bead on those Prussians and it's good night to them!"

Miller was quite upset to learn that the beautiful girl angel was still perched on New York's municipal building and the Germans hadn't even declared war.

"Well, I ain't going to hoof those twenty-five miles back again, anyway," said Miller. So he filled out a recruiting blank, and soon was on his way to Charleston, S. C.

### UNITED STATES SUBMARINE TENDER



The Tallahassee, a submarine tender, a type of the United States navy's floating submarine bases.

The tender growth is gathered and the roots picked off, the leaves and young stems remaining. The alfalfa is cooked as other greens with a little seasoning meat. A dozen neighbors have followed Crawford's lead, and are pleased with the new edible.

**Claims Three Cans of Jewels.**  
Marysville, Cal.—Three cans of jewelry found recently in the crevice of a rock in the hills near Wheatland by a trapper were claimed by A. A. Renting of Southside, Omaha, in a letter to the

### A H. C. OF L. COSTUME



This high cost of living costume won a prize for originality at a masquerade in Boston. The costume is tailor-made from burlap, vegetarian necktie of beans and wrist bag of burlap with onion ornaments.

It pleased, providing it informed Morgan & Co. of the character and amount of its purchases, such information being, of course, very necessary, to prevent any overlapping of orders. The only other points of importance in the contract—to which the French government became a party four or five months later—were that it was terminable by either side at any time and that Morgan & Co. engaged to disclose the extent of their holdings in any firm they might recommend to the British government.

Since the war began the allied governments have spent in America on munitions and war material alone about \$2,500,000,000—rather over half being for munitions and rather under half for raw material. Some 75 per cent of this sum, or nearly \$2,000,000,000, has been disbursed on the advice and under the guidance of Morgan & Co. I suppose no firm in the whole history of commerce has ever been placed in such a position or entrusted with such a task.

The great boom, of course, is over. No new orders for munitions are being placed here now by the British and French governments, and very few, if any, repeat orders. In a few weeks from now practically all the existing foreign orders for American munitions will have run out, though the purchases of raw material will continue. We are nearing the end of one of the most wonderful chapters in American industry, and its lessons and its advantages can be treated now almost in a historical spirit.

It makes a really great record, and one on which all Americans may look with equal gratitude and pride; gratitude because it has been the means of equipping the nation with some of the most vital factors in industrial preparedness, and pride because American manufacturers, when put to the test of a new and highly technical business, have justified all that has ever been said in praise of their versatility, their enterprise, their big and efficient ways of doing things.

### MOUSE CLIMBS TO FATAL END

Starts at Pretty Foot in Church at Merchantville, N. J., but Grip Is Deadly.

Merchantville, N. J.—A harmless little mouse came near creating a sensation at one of the church services Sunday morning. The mouse started to roam around the auditorium and a found himself surrounded by beautiful scenery in the midst of which he soon discovered a neatly booted foot belonging to one of the young women of the congregation. Without a moment's hesitation he started to climb. The owner of the boot grabbed the mouse in the middle of his journey, getting a strange hold. She exerted so much pressure that the creature fell to the floor dead. An obliging usher removed the carcass.

### FARMERS ON MILITARY BASIS

#### Secretary of Agriculture Urges State to Prepare for National Protection.

#### COLONEL TO EACH COUNTY

Foremen Would Rank as Corporals, and Companies Would Number Fifty Laborers—Proposal That Farming Be Done on Shares.

The idea of organizing farmers on a military basis, of creating an agricultural army along the lines of England's industrial army, was outlined here by Charles E. Patton, State Secretary of Agriculture, as a means of securing an increased food production, a better distribution of labor, economical handling of seed, supplies and other matters, together with systematic harvesting and shipping at the end of the season.

A statement issued at the Capitol says that the national Department of Agriculture will ask Congress to authorize the formation of an organization along this line. "The members of this organization," the statement adds, "will receive the same recognition as those persons who enlist for service at the front. It is just as patriotic to enlist in the agricultural army to help raise the needed food for the army and for the people at home as it is to go to the front."

The plan suggested is for township agricultural organizations with a captain, who would be a business man, and organize the farmers and the work needed according to the demands for foodstuffs and the specialty of the district in the way of production. There also would be a lieutenant, four sergeants, 19 corporals and 50 privates. The non-commissioned officers would have charge of the men who enlist for work and would distribute them to farms from which requests for help come, the sergeants having certain territory and the corporals being the foremen.

Through the captain, it is stated, plans can be made for the taking over of farms on a half-share basis or for furnishing of labor at specified rates. Arrangements are also suggested for the gathering and sale of crops and the purchase of machinery.

The township companies, it is suggested, should be organized into a county organization headed by some prominent citizen to rank as colonel, and to have a staff whose business it would be to see that the proper details are made from each township and distributed so as to do the most good. Continuing, the statement says:

"The enlistment can include men over the military age, boys from 14 to 19 years old and men who are unable, on account of some slight physical incapacity, to enter the army or navy ranks."

Secretary Patton has requested that details of organizations effected be sent to the Capitol and has asked bankers, business men and others to unite with farmers so that the men necessary to raise the crops can be secured.

Governor Brumbaugh appointed C. F. Preston as chairman of the Committee on Mobilization of the Agricultural Industries of Pennsylvania for Chester County; Clarence S. Kates, vice-chairman, and Colonel F. M. Holden and W. W. Ridgeway as the third and fourth members of the committee, respectively, whose functions the Governor said are to be duplicated under the farm bureau system in every county in the State.

The Governor received Mr. Preston, who is charge of the Chester County Farm Bureau under the auspices of the Pennsylvania State College and the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture. A list of fifty-nine names of men whom he has approved to act as chairmen will meet to ascertain from every farmer of their respective townships his precise needs respecting farm labor, machinery, seeds, fertilizers and available acreage for the planting of the largest crops in the history of Chester County.

Governor Brumbaugh approved the recommendations of the delegates of the Chester County farmers, whom he saw at the State Capitol, that the schools and colleges of the entire state be closed during April in order to aid the mobilization on the farms and gardens of the state of hundreds of thousands of pupils.

Further, the Governor approved the enrollment in the service of the United States of an "agricultural division of the industrial army," consisting of farm operators, their sons engaged in farming and other farm labor, this enrollment to serve in lieu of military enlistment.

**Students on War Footing.**  
The Pennsylvania State College student body was placed on a war footing. More than 500 upper class men who have had two years' intensive military training joined a special class to equip them for commissions in the officers' reserve corps. Dr. Edwin E. Sparks, president, will allow these students to substitute military studies for their regular academic work. College credit will be given. Captain A. E. Ahrends, the regular army officer detailed, will examine the applicants for commissions about June 1.

**New Coal Fields to Be Developed.**  
Important developments are to be made in the coal fields of Elk county during the next few months. The most important mines to be opened will be those located at Trout Run and owned by the Hall Kaul Company, which contemplates building a railroad from the mines to St. Marys. During the past winter vast areas of coal lands have been leased at Beneteez, Rathum and Beechwood, and many mines will be placed in operation in the vicinity of these towns. Most of the coal lands are owned by Elk County farmers.

### PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFS

Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, secretary of the State Game Commission, issued letters to the game wardens, calling upon them to report promptly any acts of disloyalty which may come to their notice in addition to vigorously enforcing the game and weapon laws as applying to aliens.

Blair's war strength is 19,955 men of military age.

Sparks from heavy railroad engines started forest fires on Locust Mountain west of Shenandoah.

All land not used for golf links at the big tract of the Hazleton Country Club is to be farmed this summer.

Blood poisoning from a splinter lodging under a thumb nail caused the death of Martin Killinger, aged 65, of Mechanicsburg.

As a war measure, the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. has put steam shovels at work loading up old culm banks at Yorktown, which will be run through the Jeaneville breaker.

Twelve of the Hazleton High School graduating class want to enlist in the army or navy.

The Reading Coal and Iron Company will at once build a model miners' village of 48 houses near Pottsville.

Carl Dyne, 14, a bicyclist, was dragged to death under an automobile owned by Frank Rizzo, a Mt. Jewett merchant.

Schuylkill's Patriotic League has arranged to support families of recruits, and will even pay the railroad fare of those enlisting.

Mahoney City High School students have taken over a plot of ground in East End and will cultivate it for profit and instruction.

"Guard against a return of infantile paralysis to the Main Line this summer by cleaning up now," was the slogan of the opening meeting of the Main Line Citizens' Association's "Clean-up and Paint-up" campaign, at Bryn Mawr.

George H. Rea, of Brookville, was appointed to the place of chief apiary adviser of the Department of Agriculture. He has lately been in the United States service.

Lemoyne has closed and disinfected its schools for a case of smallpox.

George Kufsky choked to death at Shenandoah when a piece of meat lodged in his throat.

At the close of the scholastic year President H. M. Reeser will resign from Irving College, Mechanicsburg, and Dr. E. E. Campbell, a predecessor, will succeed him.

En route from her home at Coal-dale to attend the funeral of a relative in Philadelphia, Mrs. George Phillips, 72, was stricken with heart failure on a trolley car at Tamaqua and died at the Coal-dale Hospital.

Elmer Kice, charged with using contemptuous language concerning the American flag, pleaded guilty when taken before Judge Staples at Stroudsburg, and was severely reprimanded and held for a further hearing.

A Mexican, Pasquale Gonzales, a railroad laborer, in Police Court, Reading, was fined \$21.25 by Alderman Cooney, charged with spitting on an American flag. He was unable to pay and was sent to jail for 30 days.

The Berks County Court at Reading in view of the need of crops and the fact that they did not have anyone to take care of their farms, excused four farmers from jury duty.

Flag buttons have been supplied their workers by Madeira, Hill & Co. at the Harleigh, Brookwood and Colonial collieries, and by the Thomas Collieries, and by the Thomas Collieries Company.

The flag factory at Oaks is swamped with orders for "Old Glory."

An addition 94 by 200 feet is being built to the foundry building in Emaus.

Hope Rescue Mission, the \$300,000 home for Reading down-and-outs, was dedicated.

The Schuylkill Fire Company, Reading, presented a silver trumpet to Oakbrook Fire Company.

Reading brewers are going to advance the price of beer at least \$1 a barrel and 25c a case.

The Pottstown Steel Plate Products Company will construct a plant on the four acres it recently purchased.

Twin colored babies left on a sofa at the home of Allen Mason, Reading, by two women, while a third one was engaging Mrs. Mason in conversation, were sent to the Berks County Home. Jackino Miraco and Mary Miraco, his common-law wife, of Marcus Hook, who were convicted March 23 of murder in the second degree for the death of a boarder, Peter Gerage, were sentenced at Media by Judge Herbert Cummings, of Sunbury, who heard the trial, to not more than 20 nor less than 18 years in the Eastern Penitentiary.

Women of Hazleton, under the leadership of Mrs. W. C. Gayley, have organized an auxiliary of the State Public Safety Committee.

James Miller, of Geryville, sold a four-week-old calf for \$26.33, which 15 years ago was the price of an ordinary cow.

The Department of Fisheries issued a statement requesting all fishermen, in view of the state of war, to co-operate with the military authorities and remain away from protected watersheds. These bodies of water are guarded by the national guardsmen and fishing is prohibited. Oxford has decided to employ a guard day and night at the town's water plant.

Stanley Knorr, a farmer living near Elkview, lost two horses from an attack of spinal meningitis.

The Presbyterian congregation at Juniata is preparing to build a \$35,000 church.

Every ward in Altoona will have a play plot and thrift garden, if the plans of the Chamber of Commerce Playgrounds and Gardens Committee are carried out.

Work has been started on a new Schwenkfelder church at Lansdale.

### BIG RUSH NOW ON

#### For Western Canada and the 160-Acre Homesteads.

"In a war like this, they also serve and serve effectively who till the fields and gardens.

"It cannot be repeated too often that the world needs every ounce of food it can produce this year, and that the growers of that food are sure of good prices. When men over of middle age were casting their first ballot, 'dollar wheat' was the farmer's ideal of prosperity. Today, we have two-dollar wheat, with other grains and meats and vegetables in proportion; and indications that any shift from these prices is as likely to be up as down.

"Every acre must work. The farmer who increases his crops is performing a national service, as well as assuring prosperity for himself. There cannot be too much, and unless a united and consistent effort is made, there will not be enough."—Chicago Journal.

Now that the United States has joined with the Allies, the sentiment of the past has merged into the personal interest of the present. The duty of the loyal and patriotic citizen is to bend every effort to bring the great World's War to a satisfactory conclusion, to assist in all ways the forces that have been fighting at tremendous odds the giant power of autocracy. Victory is now assured; the union of the great fighting force of the United States navy, its military, its financial co-operation, its full and complete sympathy, will eventually bring about a peace that will be solid and lasting. Canada, just across the border line, that has no mark of fortification, no signs of defense, welcomes the assistance that the United States is rendering, welcomes this new partner into the arena that is battling for a disruption of the forces that breed and perpetuate tyranny and oppression, and fighting for a democratic and free world. What a sight it will be to see the American and the Canadian, with the Stars and Stripes and the Maple Leaf of Canada emblazoned in one fold and entwined in their effort to rid the world of an incubus that has disregarded all laws—human and divine.

There is a necessity for the greatest effort ever made, not only on the battlefields of Europe, not only on the mined and submarined seas, but in carrying out on the peaceful fields of agriculture, the plans so urgently requested by those at the head of the departments of resources. The recent reports by the Government show a great falling off in the amount of grain that may be expected from the crop as of recent date, being only a little over 60 per cent, 16 per cent less than the average. Every patriotic American will bend all his effort towards increasing this. He may not shoulder a musket, but he can handle a hoe, he can drive a team and manage a plow. He will be doing yeoman service in this way, and assist in a wonderful manner the man who is fighting in the trenches. If he does not now own a piece of land, all he means get one—rent it, buy it—get it. There is lot of vacant land that will give ample return for his labor.

The desire to possess a home, to improve it and to prosper, is natural to every American, and today unprecedented offers are being made to secure the residence of the home-hunter. The war condition is draining the continent of its foodstuffs and economists are endeavoring to meet the rapid depletion of the nation's stores of grain and other farm products. Western Canada has proven her claim to being the natural producer of economically grown foodstuffs and is endeavoring to overcome a world's shortage in necessities by offering her lands, practically free, to anyone who will take them and produce. Labor is scarce in Canada, and is now being bonused. Good wages are offered and the time a farm hand is drawing pay in 1917, is considered by the Canadian Government, the same as residence duties on one of the free 160-acre farms, that this Government is giving away, in order to settle the fertile prairies and bring about within a few years a half billion annual crop of wheat.

The most conclusive evidence is available to any inquirer, that Western

Canada farm lands will produce wheat of a better quality and lower cost of production per acre than heretofore been known in growing countries. It is an investment to say, that yields of fifty to the acre of wheat are grown; and the statement is made by letters and affidavits of reliable persons in Western Canada. These are enjoying the same home comforts that their neighbors to the west enjoy; they have the same houses, the same good roads, the same good roads, the same social conditions, and, best of all, they own their land and what they own for themselves, being paid in full for greater wealth and independence.—Advertisement.

The cork oak of Spain grows best in poorest soil.

**Getting Old Too Fast?**  
Late in life the body shows signs of wear and often the kidneys are first. The back is lame, bent, and the kidney action distressed. Don't wait for dropsy, gravel, or Use a mild kidney stimulant, Doan's Kidney Pills. Thoroughly daily folks recommend them.

**A Virginia Case**  
Mrs. R. H. Slater, 2801 Roanoke Ave., Newport News, Va., says: "My back pained so badly, it felt as though sharp knives were piercing me. I used ten I had to scream with the pain. I could hardly take a deep breath without having sharp twinges across my kidneys. Hearing of Doan's Kidney Pills, I tried so highly, I used some and they relieved the trouble. Whenever I have used them since, they have helped me."

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### USE ALFALFA LIKE SPINACH

Superior Court Clerk at Atlanta Solves the High Cost of Living.

Athens, Ga.—E. J. Crawford, clerk of the superior court, is solving the high cost of living and the scarcity of "green truck" by having alfalfa served at his table, declaring it a most succulent and palatable substitute for turnip greens or mustard greens and spinach.