

Pictures of World Events for News Readers

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.

The Publican

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TEXT—And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.—Luke 18:13, 14.

The Pharisee thanked God he was not as "other men," or as the Revised Version reads, "the rest of men;" he thought he was the best man in the world. But the publican prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner," or, as the Revision has it, "the sinner;" he thought he was the worst man in the world. Yet, our Lord declares this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.

Certainly, our Lord was not blind to the sins of the publican any more than he was to the excellencies of the Pharisee. The publicans were a hard lot, unjust, rapacious, cruel. A story is told of a publican who restored a necklace to a merchant from whom he had taken it by fraud. A Rabbi, commenting on the incident, said we might now expect wolves to drop from their mouths the lambs taken from the flock; yet, the man in the parable took such an attitude toward God that, spite of his sin, he was justified.

The prayer he prayed has probably crossed more lips of dying men than any other prayer. It is so direct, so brief, that it has been called "a holy telegram."

The story of a man belonging to such a class, feeling his own sinfulness and praying such a prayer, will always be of interest to saints and sinners.

How it illustrates the beauty of penitence! True, a man's repentance does not commend him to God. Even the publican seemed to feel that "God be merciful" means, literally, "God be propitiated." The publican felt he needed a sacrifice of blood even though his heart was broken and his eyes tear stained. This is always the case. Again, the appropriateness of deep feeling on a sinner's part is illustrated in the publican's cry, "God be merciful to me the sinner." The very fact that some who have heard the Gospel many times are still unmoved should lead them to feel deeply. Heathen people, have been moved to cry with the publican for mercy, the very first time the message of the cross has been presented to them.

Conversion of a Cannibal.
The son of John G. Paton, the famous missionary to the New Hebrides, tells a story which illustrates this point. He came unexpectedly one night upon a group of cannibals. His fellow missionaries advised that he retire, for their lives were in imminent danger. But Mr. Paton argued that the missionary should tell the story of the cross, danger or no danger. He took his place before the cannibal chief and told of the coming of God's son to the world, of his life and his death. As he spoke, the Spirit of God "rought and the heart of the savage before him was broken. When the story was finished, the chieftain raised a wooden knife and said, "Missionary, this knife has entered the bodies of a thousand men of whom I have eaten at feasts. But I never heard before of the love of God which sent his son to die for us. It has broken my heart. Take this knife as a token that I become this night a follower of Jesus Christ." Yet some have heard the story many times, but have never cried, "God be merciful to me the sinner."

We need not say that a penitent heart is ready to accept a Saviour. As already pointed out, the publican prayer, "God be propitiated to me," (See R. V.) The doctrine of Christ as a substitute is distasteful to many in this age, but is radiant with glory to those who feel their need of a Saviour. They require no proof of it but accept it with the eagerness of a famished man to whom water is given. Spurgeon in one of his sermons, pictures the messenger of mercy journeying in search of a resting place. He lusted by many a hostelry and tarried not till at length he came to a little inn which bore the sign of The Broken Heart. "Here," said mercy's messenger, "I would fain tarry, for I know by experience I shall be welcome here."

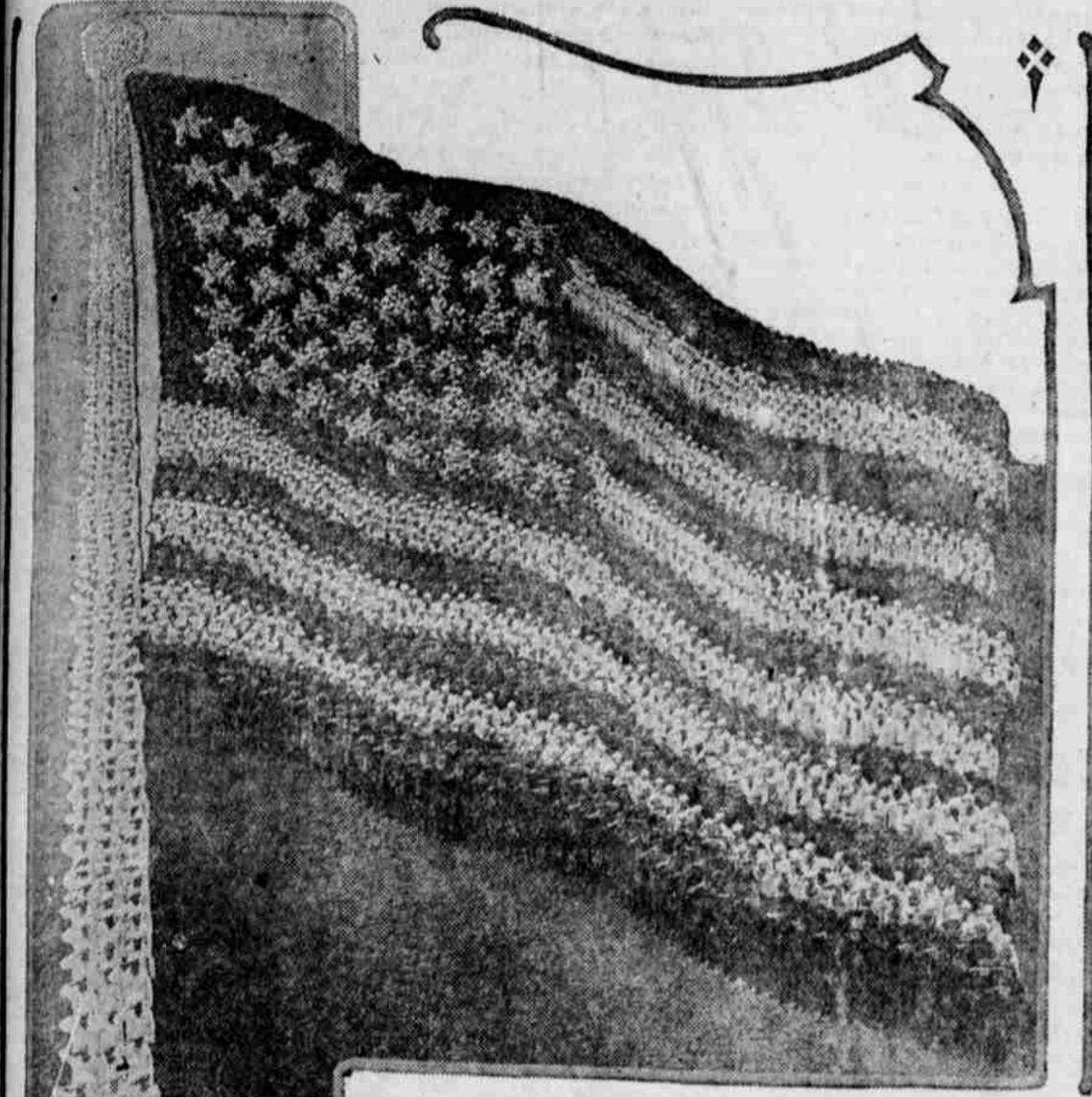
Justification Versus Pardon.
Finally, this parable illustrates the blessedness of justification. Many Christians are content to believe their sins are pardoned, for man can conceive of nothing higher than pardon for the guilty. In human courts only the innocent are justified. But in the court of heaven, the ungodly are justified and sent away as if they had never sinned! Through the cross, God is able to be just and yet the justifier of the believer in Jesus. How marvelous!

Surely, there should be no need to urge men to accept such a blessing. Rather let us take our places at once with the publican, crying, "God be merciful to me the sinner."

Beauty.
We have become so accustomed to consider flowers beautiful and every flower beautiful that we are unreasonable enough to believe all gardens are beautiful if containing enough flowers. But this is equivalent to saying every house is beautiful if it contains many works of art. A phosphorescent light is beautiful but is produced either by an ugly worm or a decaying piece of wood.

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.—Bacon.

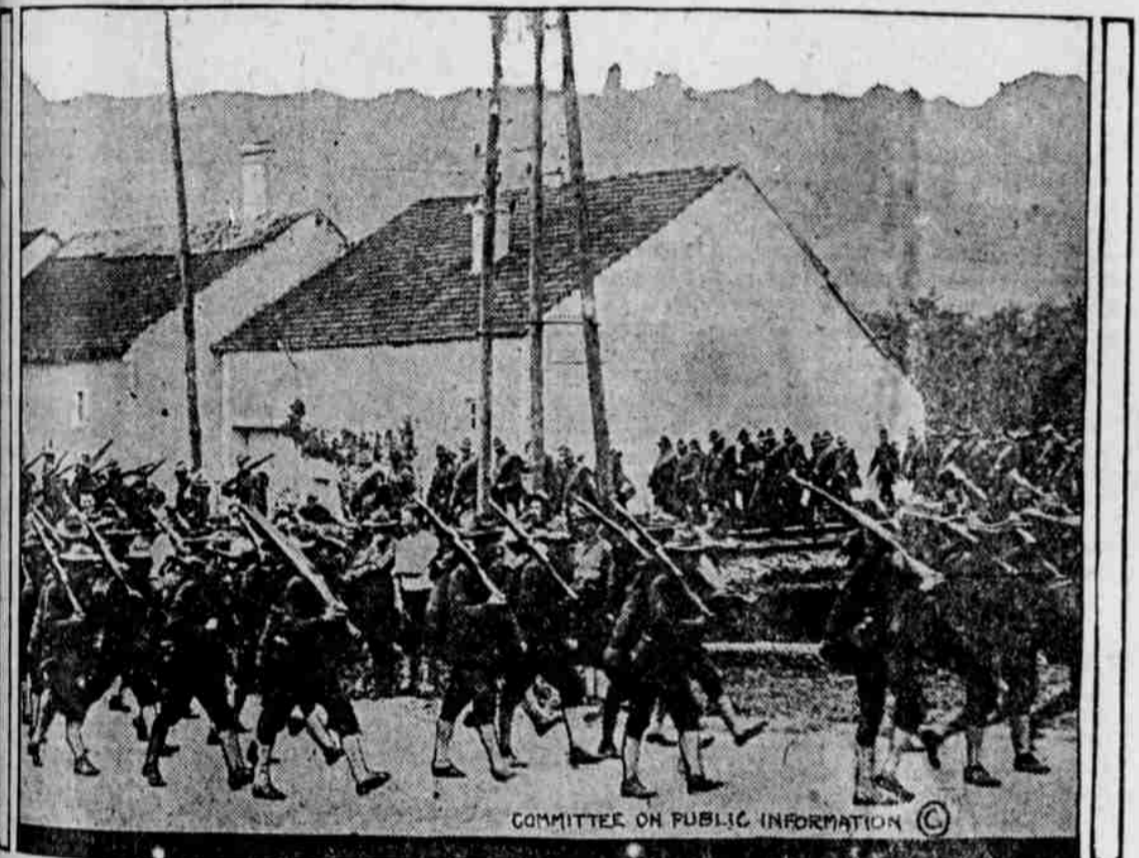
TEN THOUSAND BLUEJACKETS FORM MONSTER LIVING FLAG



This immense living flag, complete in every detail, was formed by 10,000 bluejackets at the naval station at Great Lakes, Ill., a few days ago. It was laid out with consideration of the law of perspective so that when photographed it stood out in proper proportions. There were 290 men in the ball and 560 men in the pole. The flag itself measured 233 feet in length at the top and 72 feet at the bottom. Grouped in the stars were men from nearly every state in the Union.

GREAT LAKES RECRUIT 1917

AMERICAN TROOPS WHO ARE NOW FIGHTING IN FRANCE



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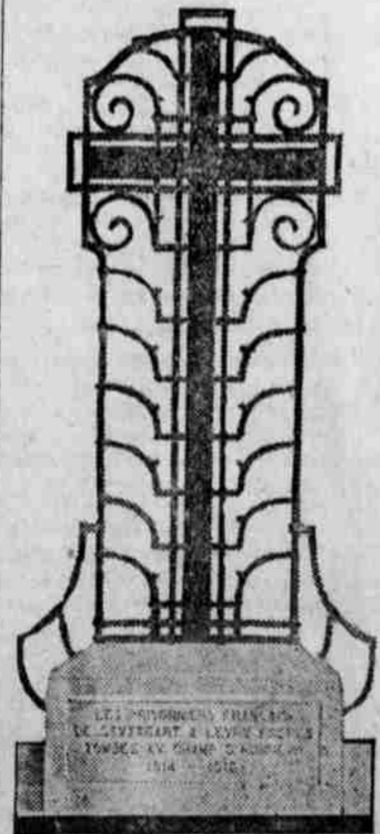
Marching group at a double-quick, with their super-abundant vitality expressed in their easy marching stride, a detachment of our soldiers is marching through a French village on the way to the front. Our soldiers are bringing to France a vigorous vitality that is helping our allies as much as their work in the trenches.

GEN. MANN AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF



General Mann, commander of the Forty-second or "Rainbow" division, the 101st Airborne Division, is shown at the head of his troops, who are now in France. Col. Douglas McArthur, chief of staff of the "Rainbow" division, is shown in the foreground from this side and the arrival in France of the Guardsmen was a closely guarded secret.

MADE BY FRENCH PRISONERS



This unique monument was made by French prisoners of war in the camp at Stuttgart, Germany, as a tribute to their comrades who have died in battle for their beloved country.

Kissing.

An optimist holds this pleasant prospect out to engaged couples: "Unmarried couples kiss and forgive. Married couples kiss and declare a truce while the heavy artillery is being moved up."—Kansas City Star.

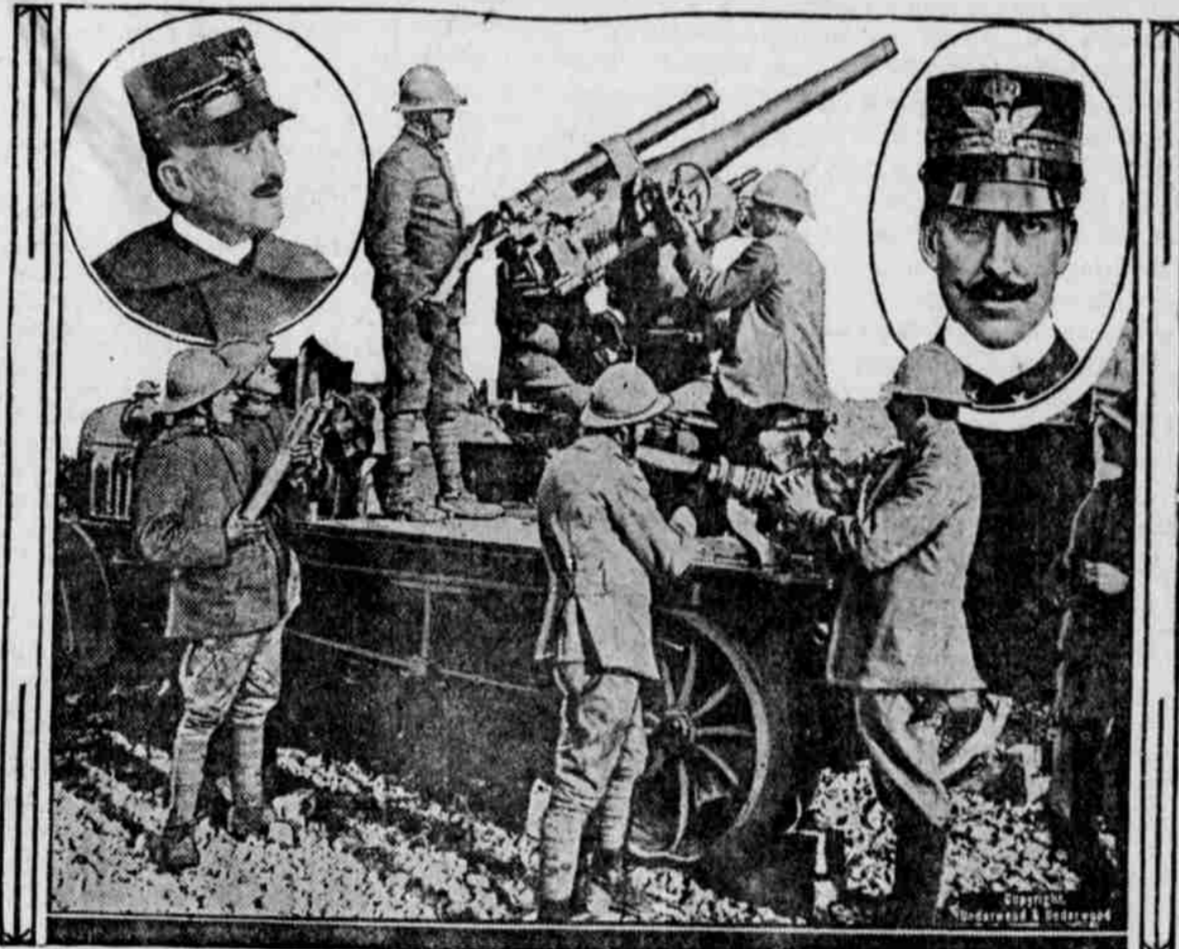
FIRST VESSEL LAUNCHED BY FEDERAL SHIPPING BOARD



The Seattle, steel steamer of 8,800 tons, the first vessel launched under auspices of the federal shipping board, at Seattle, Wash., where it was built. Inset is Mrs. Ernest Lister, wife of the governor of Washington, who christened the big ship.

Photo From Western Newspaper Union

ITALIANS FIGHTING HARD TO SAVE THEIR COUNTRY



Italian mobile anti-aircraft gun in action north of Venice, where, as all along the line from the Adriatic to Lake Garda, the Italians are fighting heroically to hold back the invading Austro-German hordes. At the left is General Diaz, who replaced Count Cadorna, as commander in chief; at the right is the count of Turin, cousin of the king, commander of the Italian cavalry that fought so nobly during the retreat from the Isonzo.

SAYS WE WILL "CLEAN UP"



Major Gen. Charles G. Treat, U. S. A., photographed at an Atlantic port upon his return from the western front. He said mud, cold and rain are the worst enemies of the boys over there. He added: "We are going to take our time about getting into this fight, but when we do get in, we will clean up."

FOOD FOR OUR SOLDIERS SERVING IN FRANCE



This scene in a dock at an Atlantic port gives some idea of the immense quantities of foodstuffs that are being shipped to France for the American troops now there or soon to be sent across.

Translation of Y. M. C. A.

W. Gordon Griffiths of the Y. M. C. A. told an audience at Cebu that he was proud to be a Welshman although he was unable to speak the "language of Paradise." He had, however, learned one thing in Welsh and that was that the letters Y. M. C. A. may be translated to mean "Yma Mae Cylle Ardderchog" ("Here is a splendid opportunity.")

Women Catch Fish With Hands.

Fishing in Samoan seas is often done by the women, and without nets, boats or hooks. They simply wade into the water and form themselves into a ring. The fishes being so plentiful, they are almost sure to imprison some in the ring. These women are very quick and active, and every time they catch a fish with their hands they simply throw it, alive, into the basket on their back.

Photo From Western Newspaper Union

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