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ACHIEVEMENTS OF U. S. TEN MONTHS CONFLICT.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Just what, today, after ten months in the war, is our situation with regard to rifles, machine guns, heavy ordnance, ammunition aircraft? What quantities of each have we under order and what quantities delivered?

What is our program in the war? Just how does our war organization fit into the Allied fighting machine?

How did the Russian collapse and the Italian defeat affect our war plans?

How much of an organization have we built up in France to handle our men and supplies?

Things People Should Know About.

These are all matters about which the American people should know actual facts, not vague generalities!

Lack of information at home with regard to most of our war activities may be much more dangerous than giving this information to the enemy. United and intelligent co-operation will do more to speed up the war and force it thru to a speedy and victorious finish than any other one thing, and the more intimately the people understand just what is being done and what is to be done, the more diligently they will pull together to finish the job in the shortest possible way. For this is the people's war. And no people with which American people are familiarly in the dark!

Compared with Panama Canal.

This war, expert observers agree, is as much an industrial and engineering work as a purely military undertaking. To gauge just what we have done, then let us measure our war work in terms of the biggest single engineering job previously undertaken one with which American people are familiar—the building of the Panama Canal.

The United States took possession of the Panama Canal Zone on May 4, 1904. Work of sanitation and actual construction was pressed from the start. Uncle Sam was out to set a new record in engineering feats.

The canal was opened to commerce August 15, 1914—ten years and three months later. Its total cost was \$344,477,813.01, which included \$40,000,000 paid the New French Canal Company for its works and equipment, \$10,000,000 paid the Republic of Panama \$20,053,000 for sanitation, and \$7,382,000 for civil administration of the Canal Zone. Leaving in the cost of sanitation and administration as part of the construction expense the expenditures on the Panama job netted \$294,877,813.01.

Infinitely Bigger than Canal.

As measured in volume of expenditure, in variety of resources called upon and in engineering and technical skill required, Uncle Sam has had an infinitely bigger job in preparing this country for war with Germany than he had in building the Panama Canal. And the problem has not been one of years, but months!

The Ordnance Bureau alone between April 1, 1917, and February 1, 1918 spent \$2,305,550,573.85—or approximately eight times the total construction cost of the canal—in providing rifles, machine guns, artillery tractors anti-aircraft guns and mounts special artillery railway cars and scores of highly technical instruments of warfare. Of this sum \$534,322,651.33 has been paid out to cover work already done; the remaining \$1,771,274,922.52 represents obligation on contracts still running.

Big Population Housed and Fed.

The quartermaster-general's bureau, which is charged with clothing and feeding our growing army of fighters and which handled the construction of cantonments which housed a population greater than the states of Delaware, Nevada, Wyoming and Arizona combined with Alaska thrown in for good measure, has since April

1 last directed work involving the expenditure up to February 1 of \$2,483,446,417.46—also eight times greater than the construction cost of the Panama Canal. Of this sum \$1,925,209,158.84 has been paid out for work completed, outstanding contracts covering the remaining \$558,237,258.62.

Next consider aviation. The aviation section of the signal corps has had even more if possible, than other branches of the army, to build from the ground up. Overnight it was called upon to undertake the most ambitious airplane program ever projected. It has literally been on the job 24 hours a day since has designed and produced the best airplane engine known turned scores of factories from normal production to specialized aircraft work, and has delivered and under contract aviation supplies and equipment aggregating \$478,796,079.48, with purchase requests approved and pending involving an additional \$255,294,154.08.

Other signal corps development, including work of the radio section and balloon division, brings the total work undertaken in this branch up to \$899,908,380.21—or more than three times the money cost of the canal.

Building Transportation System.

Army engineers, in providing railway tracts, docks, wharves, cranes and trucks for handling supplies both in this country and in France, and in developing lines of communication for the American expeditionary forces abroad, have handled a job involving to date expenditures of \$225,485,206,27. Of this sum \$120,300,000 has been spent by the director-general of military railways in providing terminals and lines of communication abroad, and on equipment for them.

Then surgeon-general's office, to provide for the sick and wounded, has spent \$103,906,850 on hospital equipment and medical supplies. Small compared with expenditures in other departments, you may think. But remember that the greatest amount spent in any one year in the building of the Panama Canal including administration and sanitation expenses, was only \$46,000,000.

Spending 20 Times Cost of Canal.

In terms of money expenditure then these five war department bureaus have undertaken a work involving an expenditure of \$5,892,413,954.31, or twenty times the total construction cost of the canal. And they have undertaken to handle this job in 10 months.

There were just 15 officers attached to the ordnance bureau of the department on April 1, 1917, and the civilian employes of the office numbered 237. On February 1, 1918, more than 800 officers and 5,336 civilian employes were engaged in the Washington office of this bureau alone, in addition to all those on duty at arsenals and at factories engaged on ordnance work thruout the country.

On April 1, 1917, the strength of the Quartermaster's corps was 277 officers, 6,640 enlisted men and 12,683 civilians—a total of 19,600. This had been increased lately to care for our troops mobilized on the Mexican border. On January 1, 1918, the Quartermaster's corps contained 6,225 officers, 102,206 enlisted men and 58,871 civilians—a total of 167,336, or an increase in officers alone of 5,972 and in total strength of 147,736.

The expansion in the signal corps, engineers and surgeon-general's bureaus has been similar to that in the ordnance and quartermaster-general's departments. Our aviation section has developed, from less than 100 officers to 5,100 officers and 83,000 enlisted men; our engineers from 4,125 officers and men to 104,283. The executive and clerical force in the office of engineers alone grew from 127 to 2,084 between April 1, last and February 1. And the surgeon-general's organization has expanded from less than 5,000 officers and 84,700 enlisted men.

A further difficulty has been that

these bureaus, at the same time they were tremendously expanded their personnel, were required to develop new sources of supply for a very large part of their requirements. They were unable to go into the market and pick and choose their purchases.

Allies Already in Market.

America's productive capacity for war-making equipment was virtually pre-empted by our allies. We could not take over or divert to our own uses plants engaged in war contracts for France and England. France and England were in the trenches, in actual contact with the enemy. Their needs, of necessity, must be met first.

It was necessary, therefore, before we could provide equipment for ourselves, to secure the construction of great new plants and of big additions to existing plants. Factories engaged in peace-time manufacture had to be converted and reorganized for making instruments of war. Industries of the most technical nature had to be brought from absolutely new beginnings.

War Materials Beginning to Flow

Today the wheels of this machine are gathering momentum. Plants that were not dreamed of one year ago, and plants that were engaged in turning out peace-time trifles, are beginning to pour forth a volume of war materials that will increase progressively to meet any increasing demand.

From a few thousand per month our production of rifles has this month touched 8,000 a day—or 208,000 a month. Which means that our rifle needs are met, for each man in the army now has been supplied his rifle and from now on we can supply rifles faster than we can train new men for transport to France.

In July, 1917, the entire productive capacity of all the arsenals and ordnance shops in the country was less than 3,000 pieces of artillery a year, of all calibres. This capacity has today been more than tripled, and by July of this year we expect to be turning out artillery at the rate of 25,000 guns a year.

300,000 Machine Guns a Year.

Last year, including chops making machine guns for the allies, the limit of our machine guns production was less than 50,000 annually. This capacity already has been doubled, and new plants just beginning quantity production are scheduled to increase our production by April 1 to 200,000 a year and by July to more than 300,000 a year.

—W. S. S.—

Twenty-one Big Ships are Turned Over to America

An Atlantic Port, March 2.—Twenty-one of the world's largest sailing ships, ranging in size from 2,800 to 5,000 tons, all bargs of full riggers, have been turned over the United States shipping officials by the French government for use in the South American trade. The vessels are arriving in this port in weekly divisions of two to four, and, it is expected will relieve a number of steamships for the trans-Atlantic trade. They will operate to Chile via the Panama canal, carrying down coal cargoes and bringing back nitrate of soda for American munition plants. Captain Louis Bégand of Paris, is here to direct the sailings of the vessels.

—W. S. S.—

Spend Nine Million For Houses

Norfolk, Va., March 2.—On account of the crowded conditions in Norfolk and Portsmouth as a result of the immense influx of workers on Government projects the government will spend \$9,000,000 here for houses. This announcement followed a conference of business men of the two cities, Rear Admiral F. R. Harris and General Grote Hutchinson, United States engineers corps. The government favors building its own community settlements, but this view is not in harmony with the ideas of the local people.

ACTIVITY ALONG FRONTS DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Weekly Review Issued by War Department Indicates Hard Blows Are Expected at any Moment Now.

Washington, March 4.—Continued preparatory movements on the part of the Germans along the western front are noted today by the war department in its review of the military situation for the week ending March 2.

"The momentum of battle is increasing" the statement declares, citing three attempts by the enemy to reach the lines held by American troops as an example of what is taking place on a larger scale along the entire western front. The definite announcement is made that the American troops have taken over a sector northwest of Toul and that a number of detached units are in action in the Champagne.

Operations in the eastern theatre are expected to affect even this in France thru a modification of German plans, the review intimates. Six Teuton columns are operating in Russia and to only one of these—the column moving towards Vitebsk—is any opposition noted.

Turkish forces advancing in the Caucasus are meeting with little resistance and are massacring Armenian residents of the districts retaken from the Russians:

The review follows: "The third month of relative quiescence on the western front has come to a close. During this period both belligerent groups have been massing their forces.

"There is evidence that the enemy continues to bring up fresh units. Owing to transportation difficulties this has been a slow and laborious process.

"The allied war council is now in continuous session assuring complete unity and flexibility of control.

"The British have extended their front.

"Our own forces have taken over a sector northwest of Toul. In addition a number of our detached units are in action in Champagne and the momentum of battle is increasing.

"We have to but note the occurrence of the past week in our own sector in Lorraine in order to gain an idea of what is taking place. Patrols have been very active. Early in the week the enemy made two attempts to reach our lines, but was driven off by machine gun fire. On March 1 the enemy developed a sharply driven attack. After a short struggle the hostile detachment was repulsed.

"The Germans are now using gas along our front. Our men are becoming accustomed to this weapon. Our gas masks are efficiently protective. Our artillery was very busy shelling enemy dispositions and inflicted considerable damage to gun and mortar emplacements.

"Important troop movements took place behind the German lines opposite our front.

"In spite of the low visibility hostile aircraft continued active and made frequent incursions over our lines.

"In the region of the Chemin des Dames lively encounters took place. A French raid against the German outposts in which a number of American volunteers participated was very successfully carried out.

"On February 24 the French executed a coup de main, destroying hostile defensive works and shelters near Aspach in Upper Alsace. Small raids in Champagne and Lorraine were also recorded. The enemy also was driven back while attempting to react in the vicinity of the Butte du Mesnil and the Chemin des Dames.

"The boldest enterprise undertaken by the enemy during the week took place north of Dixmude. Here, after prolonged artillery preparations, the

enemy endeavored to throw a bridge across the Yser. The Belgians successfully prevented six consecutive attempts to push this operation to a successful conclusion.

"The new trend of events in Russia has no doubt modified German plans to a certain degree. For the time being the enemy continues to advance eastward. Following the highways and railroads six columns of invasion along a 700 mile front are operating in careful co-ordination. In Estonia the enemy has reached a point approximately 100 miles from Petrograd. In Livonia, Jurgv, 160 miles east of Riga has been entered. The column moving no Vitebsk is advancing at an average rate of sixteen miles daily and has passed beyond Paov. This force has met with some opposition. After the capture of Minsk the hostile army operating in this area continued its advance and is apparently headed for Smolensk and its ultimate objective should it continue to find its course unimpeded would be to cut off and possibly to occupy Moscow.

"The fifth column operating in the Pripiet sector is also converging on Smolensk with Moscow as a final objective. The sixth column composed of Austrian forces operating in Volhynia has been able to advance more than 200 miles into the interior and is reported to be within sixty miles of Kieff.

"The Russians are believed to be preparing to stem the tide of invasion. Petrograd is being prepared to withstand a siege.

"In the Caucasus the region from the Lake of Van to the Black Sea is again in Turkish hands. In the districts re-occupied by the Turks it is stated that they are massacring the Armenians.

"In Palestine the British are in pursuit of the Turks who are retreating northward thru the valley of the Jordan. In Mesopotamia the British are advancing up the Euphrates and have arrived in the vicinity of Hit, which is reported to be evacuated by the Turks."

—W. S. S.—

MORE ATTENTION PAID TO POULTRY.

Order of Food Administration to Increase Number of Eggs in Country—Raising Chickens Urged in All Back Yards

It seems like a very drastic measure when National Food Administrator Hoover stopped the sale of hens and pullets for market until the 1st of April. In many parts of the country it is difficult to get grain enough to feed one's hens, and still the sale is not permitted. On the whole, though, the Food Administrator's order is justified by the necessity of increasing the number of eggs in the country. For a year past farmers have been selling off their hens until the situation had become alarming. The shortage was not evident to the public because the cold storage plants were filled, and prices were not particularly high. Next year, with the surplus disposed of market conditions will be quite different. Already eggs are being imported from foreign countries, even as far away as China.

Because of the order compelling poultrymen to maintain their flocks, the egg yield of the country will be kept fairly normal although, of course much depends upon the way the hens are fed and cared for. Nearly \$5 is now being paid for grain which cost \$1.75 before the war. In some parts of New England the sale of oats for poultry is being forbidden because the oats are needed for horses. Barley, however, makes a fairly good substitute, and barley is more plentiful. As a matter of fact, American poultry keepers are learning that many of the theories about poultry feeding are breaking down under war time conditions. It is reported for example that in an egg-laying contest in Kansas, excellent results are being obtained by feeding an exceedingly simple ration

from which wheat is entirely excluded. A dry mash consisting of wheat bran, shorts, beef scraps, and charcoal is kept before the birds at all times, while cracked corn is fed once or twice a day. When oats are obtainable they are sprouted and help to reduce the total cost.

The British Government has sent Edward S. Brown, the leading poultry expert of England, to this country to organize a plan for supplying English breeders with thoroughbred stock after the war. Mr. Brown says that in this country the fact has been learned that poultry do very well on much less highly concentrated foods than was thought necessary to keep them in high production. They substitute green feeds, potatoes, turnips, and even banana peelings, at a great saving of grain. According to Mr. Brown, eggs were selling at 12 cents apiece when he left England, with a likelihood that home consumption would be wholly forbidden in order that every egg produced might be used for the wounded. He says that England and other European countries are looking to the United States to reestablish them in the poultry business after the war is over. In France and Belgium, as well as in England, poultry interests have suffered greatly and comparatively little good stock is left.

Last year the pessimistic attitude of American poultry keepers reached a climax. The tide seems to have turned now, and increased activity can be noticed in poultry plants everywhere. Only a few days ago one man placed an order for 10,000 day-old chickens to be used in establishing a poultry business.

Probably more flocks have been broken up in New England than in the Middle West, where grain is easier to obtain. The result is that those poultry men who remain in business will have an unlimited sale for their products. Even in normal times Massachusetts produces only \$7,000,000 worth of poultry products a year, while it consumes over \$36,000,000 worth.

The Food Administration has inaugurated a campaign for poultry keeping similar to that which it conducted last year to increase the number of back yard gardens. The slogan is, "A flock of hens in every back yard." The fact is pointed out that even a dozen hens will keep the average family supplied with eggs. It is only necessary to have a lot 25x30 feet to accommodate a small flock. Such a flock can be started by buying laying hens, or by purchasing day-old chicks. If the latter plan is to be followed, the chicks should be ordered at once, delivery to be made early in April. Early hatching is important in order to have pullets which will begin to lay next fall.

The necessary for more hens is also recognized. Another slogan is being presented to the farmers. It reads: "A hundred hens on every farm and a hundred eggs from every hen." Farmers can do much to relieve the feed shortage by growing more corn, oats, buckwheat and sunflowers. There is no reason why practically enough grain cannot be produced on the average farm to keep a hundred hens the year through.

Poultry can be raised for market quicker than any other kind of meat. Mr. Hoover appreciates that fact, which is the reason why he is placing so much emphasis on poultry as a source of meat supply. Truly the American hen has come to occupy a position of importance such as she never knew before. It is important, too, that American poultry keepers give increased attention to breeding, because upon them will devolve the necessity of supplying the world with breeding stock when the war clouds have passed.

LIME AND SULPHUR solution in both liquid and powder form—now is the time to buy. F. L. Smith Hardware Co.