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AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE NUMBERS OVER HALF MILLION.

Secretary Baker Announces That Forecast Made in January Has Been Surpassed—Browning Gun Delay Still Unexplained.

Washington, D. C.—Newton D. Baker, secretary of War, announced on Wednesday that his promise to the Senate Military Affairs Committee made in January regarding the number of men that the United States could send to France early this year had been more than fulfilled. When the Secretary of War appeared at that time before the committee he stated that 500,000 men would be available early in the year. Although Secretary Baker gave no numbers on Wednesday his reference to his statement in January leaves no room to doubt that at least half a million United States soldiers are now on French soil.

Mr. Baker's statement was as follows: "In January I told the Senate committee that there was strong likelihood that early in the present year 500,000 American troops would be dispatched to France. I cannot either now or perhaps later discuss the number of American troops in France, but I am glad to be able to say that the forecast I made in January has been surpassed."

When Mr. Baker made his promise to the nation and to the committee, it will be remembered that he made its fulfillment contingent on a forthcoming supply of tonnage. Through the help of the British Government, shipping has been made available and the War Department appears to have reasons for hope that the showing made so far in the mobilization and transportation of man-power will not only be maintained but surpassed during the coming months.

Despite the disappointment in the production of aircraft, machine guns and heavy ordnance, it would appear that there is no doubt that the United States Army in France is well equipped and able to take its place beside the armies of the Allies.

Little light has been thrown thus far on the causes which operated to delay the production of the Browning heavy machine guns. It is suspected that more difficulty was experienced in putting the gun on a quality production basis than was ordinarily expected either by the War Department or by the companies engaged in its manufacture. According to statements made on Wednesday, the light Browning gun production is proceeding satisfactorily.

When the Military Committee of the House was informed that the Colt Company had failed to meet expectations in the production of heavy Brownings, nothing whatever was said of the progress made by the Westinghouse, and the Remington companies. It is thought probable, however, that quantity production is no farther ahead in these two companies than at the Colt plant. In the meantime the House committee is waiting for a report from the War Department before taking up its investigation into the causes of delay.

With reference to the heavy Browning gun situation, Mr. Baker has declared: "Early manufacturers estimates as to the production of the heavy type perhaps were more optimistic than was justified. The estimate of the Ordnance Department in January has been met and is being met. Some of these heavy guns have been produced, and there is every indication of forthcoming production in increasing and substantial numbers."

The Senate Military Committee is investigating the actual state of gun carriages for heavy ordnance. A subcommittee, of which Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska is chairman, considered the question in executive session on Wednesday. No figures were given out by the committee but it was stated that great delay had been caused through the effort of the War Department to perfect a new gun carriage, which however, after the loss of much time, had failed to materialize. The Ordnance Department has decided to put the British and French models into quantity production.

A study is being made of the formulae and manufacturing processes of medicines requiring glycerin, and plans for the curtailment of the quantity now used in case it becomes necessary will be submitted to the general medical board of the Council of National Defense.

SIR JOHN FRASER SAYS RUSSIA WILL NEVER BE FREE

Distinguished British Knight Gave his audience clear Conception of the Political Conditions in Europe.

Greensboro News, May 12th. Sir John Foster Fraser, distinguished British subject, who spoke here last night at the chautauqua, made one of the finest addresses heard in Greensboro. He spoke to the largest audience which has gathered in the chautauqua tent and his message was inspiring, giving one something of an understanding of what is going on in the different countries, and on the front. It was a message of optimism for the most part and of a belief that the right will prevail.

Sir John's subject was "The Check-board of Europe." He pointed out the issues in the Balkans, showing the start of the war, and how the other countries must play the parts of elder brothers to these small states after the war, to make certain that other trouble will not start there and to keep other nations from encroaching on their rights. He reviewed the situation in Russia, told what is being done in England, France and Italy, and reminded Americans of what their part will be.

Russia Democratic. "Russia is the most democratic country in the world," said Sir John. "Autocracy is only the crust over the people." The people, he said, are naturally democratic. It is in the rural districts of Russia that one finds real Russians, and only 15 per cent of them live in the towns. They are patriotic people, for with them patriotism is akin to religion. They are a brave people, and when the war came they lined up with the common purpose and went to meet the enemy. When weapons were not to be had, they went with scythes. It is the German influence in Russia that has caused the trouble, said Sir John, and told of the large number of Germans in Russia where they have taken high places in the government. It is believed, he said that Rasputin the infamous priest was hired by Germany to use his influence over the neurotic, emotional empress, who in turn had great influence with her husband. What Germany can not accomplish by force of arms, she accomplishes by underhand methods.

In characterizing the czar, Sir John described him as well meaning man of high principles, but weak. Always he had the good of his people at heart. It might be said that Russian officials were pro-German, but such a thing could never be said of the czar.

"Impractical Boy" The Russian, said Sir John, a big impractical boy, with high ideals, and with no desire to work. The Russians had a fantastic notion of what a revolution would mean, that they would work less and get much more money. It was the Jew who started the revolution, he said, a race with sharper wits, more ingenuity, and more scheming mind. Sir John assured his audience that he greatly admired the Jew, and that he realized that the lands that have treated the Jews well have prospered. The Jew is one of the best citizens of the world when he is well treated, but the Russian Jew has not been well treated, because the Russian is afraid of him. Lenin, Trotzky and other leaders are Jews. "Russia will never be free," he said. It will again be under alien influence, "and the Jew has nothing to thank Russia for."

Italy suffered, said Sir John, principally because of German propaganda and all other countries of the allies are having this problem to deal with. France, he said, is not bled white. "The spirit of France today is as bright as it ever was."

Great Britain, with her "contemptible little army," held the army of Germany for two years, while she was raising another army. It is said "there are no young men in Scotland. They are all in France."

Work of Women. Sir John paid a splendid tribute to the women of Great Britain. He told of their splendid work, and of their determination. "God help the kaiser if the women get hold of him," he said. Sir John said that of course he realizes that the Americans are the most humorous people in the world, because they have told him so. He also realizes that the Englishman can't see a joke for 20 minutes. However, he had some stories to tell of British humor in the war. He said the boys at the front don't want sympathy. "They are not poor boys, they are fine men." Once a "dignified dame" one doesn't work herself but wants to tell everyone else how to do it, saw a Bri-

tish soldier, who was rather badly damaged. She said, "Oh, my dear man, have you been wounded in the war?" "No ma'am. I was cleaning out the canary's cage and the bird bit me." The English say least when they are doing best, he said. They have borne 76 per cent of the casualties.

Sir John said he is not at liberty to tell how many American troops there are in France, but he did say that the difficulty of transporting the troops has been solved, by Great Britain sending her ships. "You will have in France this year," he said, "1,500,000 men. You have done magnificently in this war." "Do not talk peace," he said, "the proper time to talk peace is when Germany is beaten and is suing for peace."

Mr. Churchill on Battle in France.

London, England (Wednesday)—The Anglo-French front in France will stand firm and husband its strength throughout the summer while waiting for aid to come from the United States, says Winston Spencer Churchill, Minister of Munitions, in reply to a resolution to the executive of the National Brass Workers and Metal Mechanics Union. The resolution exhorted all workers at home to help the soldiers in the trenches, not only by sympathy, but by doing their utmost to increase the supply of war munitions and to swell the fighting forces.

Colonel Churchill, in his reply, after expressing appreciation of the worthy part played by the metal workers, says:

"Although the crisis is grave and will continue so for many weeks, I have profound confidence that we shall not be beaten down; that right and freedom will not be beaten down."

"In the present battle the Germans are attempting to destroy armies nearly as numerous as their own and quite as well armed. We are seeking only to maintain ourselves against them, which is a very different thing. I do not believe the German reserves are sufficient for their ambitious program."

"Although the German commanders declare their readiness to sacrifice a million men, or if need be a million and a half, the French and British armies will not be overcome. They will maintain a firm front throughout the summer, using their deadly weapons upon the German masses and husbanding their own strength. Meanwhile, our kith and kin from the United States are coming to our aid as fast as ships can steam; our navy is coping with the submarines and our airmen see mastery of the air in view."

"If we hold, we win. If we win, the cruel system which let loose those horrors on the world will perish amid the execrations of those who are its dupes and slaves. Then, and then only, will there be lasting peace."

Not to Use U. S. Small Army Immediately.

Ottawa, May 12.—So confident is the entente of its ability to withstand any drive the Germans can launch that it has been decided not to use the American army until it becomes a complete and powerful force, according to a cable summary of operations on the western front received here tonight from the war committee of the British cabinet.

"The position now is," said the summary, "that the Germans, determined to concentrate every available unit on the enormous offensive, are draining their country dry to force a decision before it is too late, while the entente are so confident that, having been given the choice of a small immediate American army for defense or waiting till they are reinforced by a complete powerful, self-supporting American army, they have chosen the latter."

Asheville Students to Boycott German Goods

Asheville, May 11.—Three hundred Asheville high school students have formed a liberty league pledged not to buy or use German made goods for 10 years. For every month after May 1 that the war lasts the league will add one year to its proscription of Hun commerce.

The league, originate here, is inviting 25,000,000 public school children in the United States to join the movement. Every member of the student body owns a liberty bond, thrift stamp or war saving stamp; some own all three.

DR. M. D. PHILLIPS SON WRITES FROM FRANCE

Dalton Physician receives Long Letter From Boy Who Went Over Last Year.

Winston Sentinel. Dr. M. D. Phillips, of Dalton is in receipt of a letter from his son, Prof. M. D. Phillips, who is now in the service of his country in France. Prof. Phillips, before entering the army last year, was a member of the faculty of the high school at Elizabeth City. The father sends The Sentinel a copy of the letter, which recently appeared in an Elizabeth City paper:

The letter follows: Things have been moving rather rapidly with me of late. I have been unusually lucky, too. It looked for awhile as though my squadron, like quite a lot of others, would be left for an indefinite period of time far back of the lines. Some squadrons have to remain at these bases, and I thought we would be one of them. So I asked for a transfer to the "Zone of Advance," under Lieut. W. of the Engineering Department, along with Albright and Reed, who had done civil engineering work. But just as we were hoping to get out, the order came for the squadron to go to the front.

Imagine our delight when we learned that we were to become the new LaFayette Escadrille. Excepting one we now have all the flyers of that famous escadrille who are left after three years and a half of fighting. Major William Thaw, of Pittsburgh, who founded the Escadrille in the early days of the war, is commander. Among the flyers is Captain Rockwell, a cousin of Kiffin Rockwell, who was killed. Kiffin Rockwell and James McConnell, whose work we followed with so much interest and who had just written the account of Rockwell's last flight for the "World's Work," were killed at about the same time. McConnell fell behind the German lines, north of St. Quentin. His body was recovered in the battle that regained the territory on the following day.

There, too, is Norman Hall, who is a survivor of the machine gun company, of whose part in the terrific fighting in Flanders during the early days of the war he has so well described in that well known book, "Kitchener's Mob." It is one of the finest books of its kind that the war has brought forth. He is the sole survivor of one gun squad, which was filled up time and again.

Captain Collins, one of the finest of the fliers, is here. In a raid which the Germans made across our lines the other day, all our machines were run out of the hangers and were off like a shot. Collins came in with his machine shot up from a lively fight, and his machine gun jammed. He had a nose dive on his man, and but for the jamming would have added one more Boche to his list.

Nungesser, who has shot down thirty-five planes, was here the other day. Our camp is situated on ground once held by the Germans. On front and back are lines of barbed wire entanglements just as they were placed during the fighting here. These entanglements are many yards deep and woven in a hundred different directions so that it takes ten minutes to crawl a few feet, and then you will get stuck once in awhile so tight that you can't move.

All day long the heavy roar of the big gun sounds along the front north of us. At night the cannonade rises at times to a point where the buildings shake. Along the front we can see scores of star shell flare up hour after hour. They are used to illuminate the area between the lines to prevent surprise attacks or to give a chance to get in the machine gun fire on the charging parties.

Our camp, like everything on the war front, is camouflaged to hide it from the eye of the German fliers. There are protection trenches into which we duck when the Boches come over. The other night they passed over and then the fun began. We could see the shells breaking around the Boches planes about 2,000 metres up, while the ground trembled under the shock of exploding bombs. One passed exactly between me and the moon and I got a good look at him. The others I did not see, but one passed directly over our position about 2,000 metres or 7,000 feet up. The French planes were up too with their green and red signal lights which keep the home batteries from bringing them down.

There are quite a lot of old trenches around the camp. This letter is being written in a dugout twenty-five feet below, from which passages go

to other dugouts in the system. We do not live in these, however, but in barracks. Things grow pretty interesting at night especially. The signal rockets, dropped by our own planes when they get within range of home batteries to prevent being fired on, the star shells that I spoke of before, which rise a quick succession, the flare from the big guns, and the flash of shells that burst too high, due to incorrect timing (they should explode in the trenches,) all go to make it anything but a monotonous existence. The Germans make a good many raids in the broad daylight, too. We spent most of our leisure time during one whole day recently watching the shrapnel break around German planes, flying at 2,000 to 3,000 metres. We can see the black smoke of the German shells breaking around our planes too.

There are several North Carolinians here. Capt. Rockwell of the LaFayette, Baugham of Washington, N. C., who is in a neighboring escadrille and others. I have talked with Baugham lately and will see more of him as time goes on. He has been here between one and two years.

A few days ago some of our fellows found a little French boy wandering about near the camp. He had come with a French regiment but they had gone away. He came with them to the camp. His mother was killed by a German in 1914. He went up to the front line trenches with his father, a French lieutenant, and was there for two years. In 1917 a shell fell in among the men in his trench, killing his father, and wounding him. Since then, he has wandered about, going with any regiment that would carry him along. He has been fitted out in a uniform which a French tailor cut down for him and he looks quite like a U. S. soldier. He was very quiet at first, but he is having a great time now. He is the Squadron mascot. We tell him that we are going to get an extra rifle and pistol and make him stand retreat with us, but he says we may keep them, "thank you."

We went into the shelter trenches during a raid the other night. He woke up, and then got ready to go back to sleep. We insisted on his going too, but he said "I no run at all." The boys laughed at him, but picked him up, blanket and all, and carried him along. He is nearly fifteen but quite small. He has been thru some heavy battles.

I have been out today at the machine gun pits where the guns are tested before being mounted. They are great guns. When put over on the automatic setting, they will fire 600 shots a minute. When mounted, the pilots fly across the field, then point the nose of the machine down and let go. The target is shot up in short order. How anyone lives thru a charge on a machine battery is a mystery to me. But I have talked with many who have done so. Going at 600 per minute a man would be shot 12 times before he fell to the ground. Today's New York Herald and London Mail give a list of men who have taken "pill boxes" or machine gun nests, using hand grenades to clean them out. One man took two singlehanded on the same day and added a bar to the D. S. O. medal which he wore.

One meets some remarkable interesting characters. The pocket knife I carry on a belt hook, which is over twelve inches long when blades and dagger are open, is one I bought from a boy in England. He was an Anzac, a member of that famous corps of whirlwind fighters, the Australian and New Zealand army corps. The initial letters, A. N. Z. A. C. of this corps have given its name. This boy had been in Gallipoli, Saloniki and the Dardanelles and had been wounded repeatedly. He was suffering then from shell shock.

After I bought the knife I went to a canteen to try to buy a belt hook, on which to wear it, but they were all sold. A young fellow standing by spoke to me as I started away and said "Hold on mate I'll give you one." He took his knife and pried off a hook from his belt and gave me. I would not accept it at first until I found that he had another on his belt. This boy was in the famous charge on Arras in northern France. His tank went into action among the first and had cleaned up six or eight pill boxes machine gun blockhouses or dugouts as they found them, when a cannon was blown to pieces. Of the eight in the tank six were killed, and mortally wounded, and he escaped, the badly wounded. He had been in the hospital and was on his way back to the front when I saw him.

One meets men from every corner of the globe, enlisted in the service

of the Allies. Men from South Africa, India, Persia, Australia, Madagascar, Algeria, Morocco and countless other corners of the world. One of the interesting men I have recently met was a very intelligent Algerian from a Zouave regiment who was wearing a red cord on his left shoulder. It is the highest honor that can be accorded a regiment and shows that they have been cited in army orders six times or more.

Wednesday, March 9th, p. m. The big guns are thundering away again tonight. As Seales, one of the boys, says, "They are going up like the hammers of hell." The sky reddens up with the flashes, while the rockets and fuses keep the horizon lighted up for miles.

It's a great life. I would not be out of it for anything. It's a game that grows on one all the time. We all hope to come back but we won't come back till it's over, over there.

Remember me to all the boys, especially to my Baraca Class.

P. S. One of the boys who was on the machine guns told me that our little French mascot handles a machine gun like an old timer. How's that for a fourteen year old?

BREWERIES GIVEN BIG FREIGHT SPACE.

Chicago, Ill.—Tremendous totals in rail transportation used in hauling beer, wines and liquors in these days when transportation is such an urgent necessity and a national problem by no means as yet solved are given in Interstate Commerce Commission statistics. In 1914, the last year of world peace, beers, wines and liquors used up 7,771,970 tons of railroad freight facilities. More than 500,000 cars it is estimated were used in the transportation of beers, wines and liquors in the year ending June 30, 1914.

The year before the world war was not a particularly exceptional year for alcoholic transportation. The previous year exceeded it in the amount of rail facilities used. The total for that year was 7,858,107 tons. The country's total tonnage in 1913 was larger than the succeeding year, and therefore the percentage to the total that beers, wines and liquors held was slightly lower—39 per cent exclusive of some 28,400,000 tons of unassigned tonnage. The year 1912 finds the same percentage, 4 of total holding, with 7,011,674 tons of wines, liquors and beers.

While beer production is decreasing the brewers are making and shipping great quantities of near-beer, near-beer production keeping up fairly well with the falling off in regular beer production according to brewery trade papers so that the brewers are in 1918 consuming certainly a great amount of the freight tonnage they used in 1914.

If one inquires of any of the beer-handling railroads of St. Louis, Milwaukee or Chicago how much beer they happen to be hauling nowadays you are likely to get an unsatisfactory answer. They report they don't classify it. Now there are three railroads running through Milwaukee and most of the wines, liquors and beers they report to the Interstate Commerce Commission it is safe to say, consists of Milwaukee beer. For the year ending June 30, 1915, these railways carried wines, liquors and beers as follows: Tonnage originating on road, 683,557 tons; total tonnage, 759,290 tons.

St. Louis has more railroads, and figures on their wines, liquors and beers shipments are as follows: Tonnage originating on road, 428,472 tons; total tonnage, 668,389 tons. This develops a very probable use of upward of 30,000 cars. This number of course includes cars of Chicago and other beer and liquors just as the Milwaukee roads' tonnage did. How far short of the actual amount of freight cars used in hauling St. Louis beer and the materials for St. Louis beer this figure is, which as noted contains other beer, is well indicated in a recent United States Supreme Court decision. This decision involved the Anheuser-Busch Brewery of St. Louis. The Supreme Court stated that the railroad tonnage used by this brewery, inclusive of everything—grain cars, car coming back, etc., was 40,000 cars a year. The court adds that this was approximately one-thirtieth of the total inbound and outbound traffic of the entire city.

St. Louis it might be observed is a city of 750,000 and Anheuser-Busch is not the only brewery there. If the breweries of Milwaukee be added to the breweries of St. Louis, the total inbound and outbound beer tonnage of the two cities will easily run over 100,000 cars, on the basis of the Supreme Court's Anheuser-Busch figure.