

The Second Discovery of America

"The war has been for all of us, for ourselves, for our allies, as well as for our enemies, an occasion for surprising discoveries of all classes, good and bad, little and great. But, unfortunately for us, the principal discovery and the happiest one will be that America."

This striking statement prefaces an eloquent tribute to the United States from the brilliant pen of Henri Lavedan, one of the forty immortals of the French Academy. Lavedan's comments on "The Second Discovery of America" is at once an appreciation and an apology. In setting forth the good qualities France has found in her youngest ally, he acknowledges with characteristic frankness the almost grotesque conception of the United States which have existed, even in the nations which have liked and admired the vigorous republic of the Western World. It was this misconception that caused France to wonder what role America would play in the war and which led Germany to believe that she could insult the American Government with impunity.

Europe's Misconception
All Europe, in Lavedan's opinion, looked upon America as a nation of money-grubbers who found relaxation from the fierce fight for dollars in a pursuit of bizarre amusements. This country was to France a land of the pistol and the eccentric millionaire. It was the home of emancipated young girls, or gaudily-clad cow-punchers, or of lovers of "conventions" that seemed ridiculous in the eyes of the French, or men of affairs who gave their very souls to the direction and operation of giant corporations and of reckless adventurers eager to make a fortune in any possible manner. This estimate of Americans was based upon casual observation of travelers from the United States and the curious failure of many French writers to penetrate the inner and probe to the heart of a people who still cherish deep-rooted gratitude for assistance from France when the American colonies were fighting for liberty. It was a conception, however laudable, that did not separate France from the tremendous transformation that has taken place in this country since Germany's insolent and sneering defiance of our carnal rights precipitated the divergence of national energy from peace war.

"The storm does not know in the evening what it will unchain in the morning," writes Lavedan. "The one thing applies to the setting up certain great moral and social relationships, where the maker goes further and higher than the original intention, no matter how daring. The chitric American therefore, by reason of the sureness of his well-rehearsed plans does not doubt what the future structure will be of which he is laying the foundation. But it will be much later—in after years, in fact—that his grandchildren and ours will be able to judge of the extent of the dizzy height of the edifice which he is erecting. For in this hour of activity, also, America will craze the skies."

"Comforting Discovery"
"Though we are but the passionate spectators of this extraordinary work, we are nevertheless overwhelmed and enthusiastic. For naturally we are interested more than the Americans themselves at this enterprise of liberation resolved upon by our superb ends. For is it not immediately to us that they, desiring to secure their own and the liberty of the world, we put their hands to this work? Is thought is of a nature to lead to endeavor to get some idea of their ways and the quality of their action. It is, therefore, in nothing at all that the Americans are doing among that we can obtain that sure revelation of their noble character, since, the face of the terrible dangers that menace us, America has taken occasion to come to our rescue, show in all its freshness its sense of loyalty and fraternity. And it is us, therefore, in the presence of this act, full of gratitude, to make this comforting discovery of just what price means."

Therefore, we have become aware day to day of the sudden and plentiful abundance of the multiplied virtues of this dear comrade, a magnificent associate. For the time we have understood America without the necessity of seeing it home; we have gotten at it in a documented manner, and we understand, through the spirit, the tremendous meaning of its activities. This prodigious activity embraces everything, and at the same time with gigantic amplitude; the actual portion of great armies, and all the necessary complements thereof; the filling of all sorts of depots, the

furnishing of materials, of munitions, the development of factories, docks, warehouses, railroads, telegraphs and telephones, supplies, airplanes, submarines, transports, merchantmen, trucks, cold storage warehouses, etc., the Red Cross and various works of aid and practical assistance by the thousands. And all this astounding activity starts up, moves on, rolls, transmits itself, navigates, discharges and precipitates itself and functions with due order, but without stopping; always better, always more effective and more powerful, and increasing from day to day, from hour to hour, its enormous extension and its possibilities.

Greatness and Nobility Revealed
"And such for many months past has been our happy and astonishing discovery. And this discovery has not only related to the incalculable material riches and the physical resources of our millioned and very powerful friend, but to the more deep-seated assistance which its genius and morals and its sentiments and intentions represent. We have discovered the greatness and the nobility which are America's; the imperious and splendid sense of duty of its mission and its role in the cause of humanity; of its public apostleship; its irresistible love of honor, justice, right; its thirst for liberty and the summation of the marvelous energy which it can put indefinitely at the service of and for the triumph of its ideals."

"And this discovery of America as a whole, shall it be made alone by us? Not at all, and happily for us, since Germany, side by side, in another fashion that bodes it ill, and, with other eyes and with another heart, which already beats with apprehension, already begins to subject itself to what will be for it an intolerable obsession. But she is only at the beginning. More and more she will understand what is this United States, 'without an army,' which she believed she could browbeat with impunity. It will cost Germany dear to have upset the business and the life of a people who do not pardon those who steal a minute of their precious time. And Germany in tears of blood and fire, for years and years to come, will bewail this thing that she has done. And then, in reciprocity, America, England and all the others among the nations who are our friends, not excepting those who hate and fight us, will discover through its merits, its heroism, its eternal virtues, recog-

nized perhaps a little too slowly, this other New World among us which we call—France."

Modest About France
Lavedan's voicing of his country's admiration and affection for the nation across the seas that has come to the assistance of France in her hour of need is peculiarly generous. He makes no reference to the days when France fought almost alone against the common enemy of civilization.

He does not allude to the heroic struggle against overwhelming odds that never wavered until, first Britain and now America, began pouring men and supplies into the ports of their hard-pressed ally. He is silent on the subject of his country's unostentatious proffers of every possible assistance to the first of the American Expeditionary Force, and he makes no mention of the unqualified hospitality extended to the men from the United States whose presence in a strange country has been robbed of the most disagreeable features by the simple courtesy and unflinching generosity of a people as gentle in their homes as they are stern in battle.

This French writer might have carried his reflections farther. He could add that the second discovery of America has been accompanied by a first discovery of France. This country has learned that popular theories about the men of France were farther from the truth than French visualizations of American "money-grubbers." We have seen the low-voiced, courteous defenders of the tri-color conduct themselves in battle with a contained fury and heroic bravery that has wrecked the onslaughts of overwhelmingly superior German forces. America has long entertained a very genuine affection for the French. That sentiment must now blend with richly-won admiration and profound respect.

PERSHING'S APPRECIATION

Col. Harry Cutler, chairman of the Jewish Board for Welfare Work, prizes the following cablegram which he recently received from General Pershing:

"The stirring message of greetings from the Jewish welfare board is much appreciated in the American expeditionary forces. The constant support and cordial assistance of our brothers of the Jewish faith, and the thought that all creeds are united under one banner give courage to our army and urge us on to victory."

The Army Men Who Have To Buy Women's Clothes

By MAJOR F. L. DEVEREAUX,

Chief of the Requirements Branch of the Quartermaster Corps

It is not easy to guess a woman's opinion of any particular group of men, but it is reasonably safe to say that there are in France at present a great many members of the fair sex who regard the Requirements Branch of the Quartermaster Corps as a peculiarly disagreeable atom of the United States Army. This regrettable attitude, if it does exist, may be attributed to the fact that the Requirements Branch has assumed the duty of buying clothes for army nurses and female civilian employees of the army. And, in performing this delicate task, the officers responsible for purchasing have put into practice some theories about sensible wearing apparel for women which are, to say the least, revolutionary.

There is, for example, the item of shoes. That detail of the feminine toilet was one of the first problems that created apprehension in the Requirements Branch when General Pershing cabled to Washington a few weeks ago his request that the Quartermaster Corps take over the job of clothing army women as well as the fighting men. We knew that it would be reasonably easy to eliminate high heels from the feminine army outfit, because the nurses and other women in France know from personal experience that high heels have no place in fields of endeavor that require unusual activity. But our shoe experts made another suggestion that was received with acute apprehension by all the married officers. They declared that practically all women wear shoes one or two sizes too short. For that reason, the feminine footwear purchased for use in France was deliberately scaled up above the average lengths demanded by women buyers. Unfortunately, we have no authentic reports from abroad, but some of us are optimistic enough to believe that if the women in the army wear low-heeled, sufficiently long shoes during the period of the war, they will never go back to the uncomfortable and unscientific foot-covering that is

the pet aversion of army medical men.

When the news reached the Requirements Branch that we would have to become purchasers for women as well as men there was, naturally, much speculation in the office about the details and responsibilities of the new job. General Pershing's request was accompanied by a list of the clothing needed by the feminine contingent. We were impressed by the fact that this specification called for silk as well as cotton waists. After dabbling in cotton and woolen shirts for soldiers in multiples of a million, we were a bit jolted by the request for silk waists. Silk was entirely out of our line. However, an appeal to feminine authorities cleared up the mystery. It was explained that silk waists last longer than cotton, are more easily washed, and are considered more sanitary in the field hospitals.

The period of experimentation has been safely passed, however. The Quartermaster Corps is now delivering regularly to Army Headquarters in France a full supply of all wearing material considered necessary for the women of our army. The list includes cotton and woolen blouses, skirts, waists, underwear, stockings, shoes, leggings, gloves, hats and various minor articles of wearing apparel. This material is given free to the women whose pay is less than \$75 a month, but is sold at actual cost to those who receive that, or greater, pay. The arrangement follows the army plan of outfitting privates and non-commissioned officers entirely at government expense and permitting commissioned officers to benefit by the Government's ability to purchase raw material at production cost.

There are many men in civil life who have the privilege of paying for feminine wearing apparel, but their wives, daughters and sisters generally insist on doing the actual buying to suit themselves.

No Liberty Bonds in Germany

They don't have Liberty Bond issues in Germany. They have just bonds which a large part of the population wears and also war loans. You know how Liberty Bonds are sold in this country. The bonds are simply offered to the American people and they buy. There is no compulsion. It is simply the desire of the individual who is patriotic to aid the soldiers and the country as much as possible.

But in Hunland there is a different process. The Government informs the large banking institutions and the large corporations that they should take such and such a proportion of the war loan. It is done. Our former Ambassador to Germany, James W. Gerard, who was in Berlin when we severed diplomatic relations with the Hun, states that there is never any refusal on the part of the institution which receives the intimation.

"They know perfectly well what would follow if they did refuse," says Mr. Gerard, "and they never do."

The bank in turn notifies a depositor that his balance is so many marks. The bank thinks that he should subscribe a certain percentage of his income. He does. He too knows what would happen if he didn't.

German soldiers are driven before a relentless system which aims at the suppression of their individuality. Everywhere is compulsion—nowhere freedom.

So it is that America is going to win this war. We go into the fight gladly because it is a struggle for freedom. The nation again will manifest more than ever before, through the Fourth Liberty Loan, that free institutions breed free men who, if they can't fight for freedom, at least provide their younger representatives with every needed means.

A HEALTHY ARMY

Statistics made public by the Surgeon-general of the United States Army show that the death rate from sickness among soldiers in camps in this country is just about one-third of the death rate among civilians. For a period of two months the death rate among soldiers was 2.8 per thousand, while in civilian life the death rate was 6.7 per thousand. Health conditions among the American soldiers in Europe are even better than among those at home, says the Surgeon-general. The reason for this is that only men in the best physical condition are sent overseas.

RED CROSS HOME SERVICE HELPS SOLDIERS' WIVES

When Joseph G— went as a selected man to a camp in the southeast, he supposed he was leaving his wife secure against poverty. Besides his allotment and allowance payments, she was to receive profits from a considerable sum invested in Indian lands in Oklahoma. He had purchased these through a company which was buying lands for its clients at government auctions, and he was expecting large returns.

It was very shortly after he reached camp that there came to his wife some information about the company which had her husband's money that made her wonder just how safe that money was. By the time word had reached Private G—, the affairs of the real estate company had been investigated by the Post Office Department, and they had been forbidden the use of the mails. Private G— was called upon as one of the creditors to furnish what evidence he could of their crookedness.

It was small comfort for him to realize that he was going to see the men who had cheated him punished. He was worried about his wife's funds. Through the Red Cross a lawyer was secured, a man of excellent standing who had volunteered as a Home Service worker, and this lawyer, because the man was in service, undertook to protect his rights. Mrs. G— was assured that in the meantime she would receive money or other help that she needed from the Home Service Section. Whatever can be saved of Private G—'s money will be saved by the Home Service lawyer.

THE HOME GUARD

Sentry—Halt! Who's there?
Voice—Commanding Officer, and eight children.
Sentry—Advance, Commanding Officer! Squad, halt!—Judge.

YOUR MOTHER

Wants to read everything possible about your life and activities in camp. The best way of furnishing her with the news is to send "Trench and Camp" to her every week.

