WORLD'S GREATEST VIOLINIST TELLS OF WAR AS HE SAW IT

Fritz Kreisler, Early in Conflict, Joined His Regiment and Went to Front-Describes Terrible Life of Soldiers in the Trenches.

Shortly after the outbreak of the European war news was received in this country that Fritz Kreisler, the world's greatest violinist, had joined the Austrian regiment of which he their responsibility. It began to get vas a member and had gone to the country, and the news was received with great regret, which was intensi-fied when a report came that he had been killed. Although this was only in the form of a rumor, there were many people who believed it, and the thousands of music lovers who did not quite credit it were nevertheless confirmed in their anxiety for the safety of the artist. Later came the definite news that he had been wounded before Lemberg and re-moved to a hospital, which, under the circumstances, was good news, says an article in the New York Times.

article in the New York Times.

Fritz Kreisier and his American wife walked down the gangplank of a Dutch steamer last Tuesday and landed safe in New York. The artist leaned on a rubber-tipped cane and walked slowly, with a limp, because his hip had been torn by the lance of a Cossack who rode him down in the trenches, and there is a slight stiffness in the right shoulder, where he was lamed, probably by the leg of the horse that knocked him down.

But he is to all intents and pur-

But he is to all intents and pur-ses able to appear on the concert platform and play as usual. His shoul-der does not bother him, and the arm and wrist that draw the wonderful virile tone from his violin and the fingers of the left hand that mold its tones have escaped through great for-tune, even though they were risked as readily as the leg whose injury makes him carry a cane.

The interviewer who was sent to ask
Mr. Kreisler to tell his war experi-

ence was not altogether a stranger to the artist and his personality, conse queetly be ostlined on his way to the Hotel Netherland just what difficul-ties he would be confronted with, and Kreisler is one of the men about whom it can truly be said that he is

unaffectedly and innately modest; also, that he is hugely sincere—in other words, not at all the man to get, a good story out of when he is the That phrase is pattered off, it a good many men. It hapto be true of Kreisler.

Tists. Kreisfer is an upstanding man of sturdy figure, with heavy shoulders and neck and an easy gait, who gives the impression at first sight that he has as followers of the fistic art would say, a "wallop in either mitt." He looks as if he would have

the better of the average man in strength and endurance.
All these things should be remem-bered as the story of how the worldfamous virtueso turned soldier at a moment's notice is considered. One other thing should also be borne in mind, namely, that Mr. Kreisler is ions of such a man, pointed as the are by the vision and imagination of a highly sensitive actist, should af-ford some interesting first-hand evi-dence on the psychology of the bat-

As nearly as it can be pieced to-gether, this is what Fritz Kreisler fold of his experiences as a soldier and his resulting reflections.

Ordered to the Front.

"After having given concerts in rance and Germany during the summer I was on my way from Switzer-land with Mrs. Kreisler when I learn-ed of the declaration of war between Austria and Servia. As I am an of-ficer in the Third Infantry Regiment of the Landsturm, I immediately went Vienna and reported. We spent two weeks there and at Gratz in preparation and then my regiment was ordered to the neighborhood of Lem-berg, in tindicia. We got to the fighting line about August 16.

"Our orders here were to hold our positions at any cost—and you know what that heans. We were two army corps to seven of the Russians, and our task was to hold them back until our reinforcements came up. That meant fighling day and night withis all a vague blurred impres

sion in my mind. I cannot call it even a nightmare, for it lacks the definite impression that a nightmare sometimes creates. You will see what mean shortly. For instance, when you hear the first shell hurst it is a terrible thing; the whining in the air, the deafening crash, and the death it spreads around it. That is what you think of your first shell. But think less of the second and third, and after that they pass out of your

The first man you see die affects you terribly. I shall not forget mine. He sat in a trench and suddenly he began to cough-two or three times like an old man. A little blood showed at his mouth and then he toppled over and lay quiet. That was all.

"Very shortly none of these things affect you. It has made me mournful when I have thought how quickly we all threw over everything the centuries have taught us. One day we were all ordinary civilized men. Two or three days later our 'culture' had dropped haide like a clock and we were brutal and primeval.

"I was in the trenches three weeks, r instance, without a single change of clothes of any kind. But I never thought of it. For all of us the things that were considered necessities in civilization simply dropped out of existence. A toothbrush was not imaginable. nable. We ate instinctively, we had food, with our hands, had stopped to think of it at all, it would have seemed ludicrous

to bother using a knife and fork.
"A certain flerceness arises in you, an absolute indifference to anything the world holds except your job of You are eating a crust of d a man is shot dead in the trench next to you. You look at him calmly for a moment and then go on eating your bread. Why not? There is nothing to do. In the end you get to taiking of your own death in the trench with as much excitement as you could get up over a function en-

Vhy? Because there is nothing left in your mind but the fact that hordes of men you belong with are fighting with other hordes and

their responsibility. It began to get very hard for us to hold back our men, for instance. We had been in a Trench in a swamp for three days.
The water gradually drained in and
finally reached our knees. We resorted to bailing with our hats, but that
did not help much. Under these circumstances it became difficult to con-vince our men that it was wise to stay intrenched, rather than try a

"On the modern field of battle th soldier of infantry is a small unit. We could look out and see the clouds of smoke and hear the thunder of the guns, but there was little else' except now and then the sight of an earo-plane. You could hear the whirr of the motor, but they generally flew so high we dared not fire at them for fear that the hall of bullets would fall back among our own men. "Amid this absence of all signs of

'Amid this absence of all signs of ife it was hard to convince our boys that their time had not yet come. As I have said, we were then outnum-bered by the Russians about three to one and our aim was to hold our posi-tions until the reinforcing troops could be brought up in the rear and form permanent lines.

"In the trenches we were generally without food, several times for three days at a stretch. I have more than once licked the dew from the grass to moisten my throat because I could get nothing to drink. The roads were im-passable and the supply trains moved only with great difficulty at the out set of the war. Now and then a cow would be found, shot, butchered on the spot, and then we could roust portions in the trenches and cat where we were. In the night time they would bring the field kitchens hp. when they were available, and then we would have soup.
"Somehow the physical discomfort

that is a tame word to apply—does ou no harm, Indeed you feel better you no harm, Indeed you feel better physically. I am of a nervous tem-perament. I would never have given myself credit beforehand for being able to get through what I went through. But when I was in it, I found it did me no barm. On the con-trary it improved me in some ways. pens to be true of Kreine.

For the benefit of any one who does the pens to be true of Kreine.

For the benefit of any one who does not in the better on the Batteure her that the violinist does not in the remotest way resemble the type that for long distances, better than I cap now. My nerves disappeared. The horrible, shocking sights that were horrible, shocking sights that were anusled virtuoso. Those who go to see hourly did not affect me as much as some letters I get now from a

> has been more of a shock to the ner yous system than I suffered while was fighting. And I dread my first concert appearance here, where fread friends, more than I did the shelbs of the enemy. I think you can under-tand what I mean on the mental side. "On the physical side does it mean On the physical side does it mean that we moderns under civilization do not live rightly? Do we eat too much, do we get too much sleep, do we fail of profer exercise? For my experience has shown me that the soldier or the battlefield, suffering crippling physical discomfort and mental shock hat must almost have a pathological effect is really a healthler man than even the one who uses civilization's best hygienic experience under the most favorable conditions.

"That is part of what goes with the primeval condition that war reduces is to, I suppose. I have learned my esson in the trenches. When we have war the centuries roll away and we are back at beginnings at a bound. "But there is another side to the

picture. War may bring unspeakable horrors but it does not fall to unfold the finest flowerings of humanity. "From the moment war was de-clared, all ranks disappeared in my country. No one knew who the other was. He was satisfied that they were brothers in their devotion

country. That is why it has made me angry sometimes when people have said. How could they take an artist and let him fight? They should rather not think it wethy of any com-ment. I am an Austrian. As seen as war began the last thing I thought of was a violin or that I had ever played "Next to me in the trenches were

a Prince, a sculptor, a mathematician, and a professor, and nobody asked them who they were, or cared. We forgot everything except the work we had to do. Why should I claim immunity as an artist?

munity as an artist?
"I have seen people whose houses stood in the way of our artillery fire and therefore Bid to razed put the torch to the houses cheerfully themselves. I, too, lost everything I had invested in the regions touched by the dighting. fighting.
"Before the war we thought the

human race had deteriorated. We often said so. We though it had gone tango mad and destroyed itself frivolities. But the war proved the race is just as sturdy as it ever s. There is that side to it. Hatred for Foes is Impersonal.

"I have seen acts of the most tender sympathy and kindness, and rea heroism, with my own eyes, go hand in-hand with grim, stalking war. "For instance, it was good to se that the hatred of one foe for anothe was only an impersonal thing. In the mass we hated our enemy, but as soon as we were confronted with him in person, all was kindness to the in dividual. I have seen emaciated Austrian soldiers and I well knew how long it had been since they had had enough to eat-hand a crust of bread

"And we know from Austrians who were taken prisoners that the Russians had exactly the same feelings. Ofte had exactly the same feelings. Often our wounded would be captured and removed to a Russian field hospital. Then a sudden temporary change in the battle line-up would force the Russians to abandon these prisoners and they would come back to our hands. So we well knew how the Russians acced and felt toward us.

Then there were innumerable litbravery in a foe. We took one trench, for instance, after the enemy had pur tor instance, after the enemy had put up a galiant fight. The first set was a salute to the fou in acknowledg-ment of his bravery. And there were the little things like returning the arms of an officer who had fought well but been forced to surrender by

the fortunes of war.

There were all those fine flowers of courtesy to show that, perhaps, after all, it was not utterly brutal that hordes of men you belong with are fighting with other hordes and primeval, but that finer feelings had not seen fit to mention and primeval, but that finer feelings had not seen fit to mention and primeval, but that finer feelings had not seen fit to mention that before.

At the doorway the interviewer, and the doorway the interviewer. At the doorway the interviewer, who had caught thrus, kreisier had not seen fit to mention that before.

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At the door

pieces of bread and gave them to him.
ite stumbled back to his lines. He
had spoken to us and we to him, and
I remember we gave him a handful of
cigarettes for his comrades. When he
got back to his trenches the firing was
resumed, but there had been an usofficial truce for twenty minutes.

The next morning, I am sorry to
say, I stumbled across his dead, body.

"Another incident of pure human
kindness being brought out on the
battlefield copperned a soldier who
was in charge of one of the horses
that carried our ammunition. The sol-

that carried our ammunition. The sol-dier had become deeply attached to the animal be was in charge of. One day a fragment of a shell hit the horse and made a deep gash along its side. The man also was wounded.

The man also was wounded.
"He stopped a civilian surgeon ar asked him to bandage the horse's wounds. The surgeon gasped amazement at being asked such wounded men, and refused. There-upon the soldier drew his bayonet and forced the surgeon to bandage the animal. They were in a hellish fire all the time and the man was wounded, but he asked no attention for him

merable, of course. I remembe a case where three soliders were sent with a very important message to the di-vision commnader, in the hope that one of them would get through. They had to cross an open space where they were exposed to a heavy fire, and progress was impeded by barbed-wire entanglements charged with electric They had to through this with insulated wire cut-ters. Two of them were shot dead. The third found himself nearly through when his arm, which had been shot badly, caught in the entan-glement and he could not get it out. Thereupon the soldier drew his bay onet and finished the work the en arm himself. He got clear and de-

Saved by His Orderly.
"I have seen artillery caught in an exposed place and the horses killed. The men who tried to work the guns were shot down; then the non-com-missioned officers went, and, finally, there were none left but the officer to fire the guns. But they kept at it. The instances of devotion of soldiers to officers under fire were numerous "Without doubt, I owe my life

livered his message

my orderly. The trenches my regi-ment was holding were rushed by the Cossacks on the night of Sept. 6. The cavalry only dares attack in-trenched infantry at night, when they have some protection from rifle fire. was about 11:30 when they at-

tacked in.
"I can remember being hit by one horse and knocked dewn: While I lay I saw a second Cossack reach down to finish mp. He got me in the hip, but as he struck me I fired my revolver. I remember seeing him fail and the riderless, horse gallop on. Then I became unconscious.
"My orderly retired with the

"My orderly retired with the rest of the company. After the fighting had moved on he came back and started to look for me, using a pocket fash lamp to examine the faces of the dead and wounded. He says that several times he was nearly caught by Cossack patrols, but escaped by dropping to the ground, where he was taken for wounded or dead. He found

k who had wounded me, and that I must have grappled with him and then used him for a pillow. He gave the some brandy and revived me and then assisted me back to our lines and to a field hospital. I was wounded near Komarano, a village a little way to the southwest of Lemberg. After being in the field hos-pital I was taken to Vienna. "During the three and a half weeks

my wife, who had been acting as a Red Cross nurse, had not heard a word from me. The first word she had was that I was dead. That was probably the same report which reached this country. She says that when she heard I was dead, she re-ceived that as good news, for at least Vienna's War-Time Mood

Vienna's War-Time Mood.

The report of my death originated through a mistake of the surgeon. Next to me in the hospital was lying a man who was dying. After the surgeon had looked at him an officer in the hospital said, 'Did you know that was Kreisler, the violinist?' The surgeon thought he referred to my neighbor, and when he unfortunately died, reported my death, "I was in the hospital three weeks

"I was in the hospital three week after reaching Vienna. Then I took the cure at the sulphur springs near Carisbad. After this a commission of After this a commission of surgeons examined me and pro-nounced me unfit for further military My trampled right shoulder healed and does not bother me much now, I suppose I will always remain at least a stiffness in my leg

however.
'I shall always remember my days

"I shall always remember my days in Vienna after I was invalided. I think it was impossible to have lived in Vienna in war time without loving it. There was an air of seriousness, of solemnity, of dignity, and yet thorough resolution that was striking. Perhaps, after all, if war can bring about that feeling of unity that was so apparent through all the classes of Vienna, it may have a great value as a purifier of the dross of human sentiment.
"It is my fond hope that after the

war has ended we artists will be in a position to carry first the message of peace through all the countries Surely art and religion will be the first forces that will set about the great reconstruction of world sym-

for instance, the dignified "11. tigure of Ysaye were seen on the con-cert stage of any country which had been hostile to his in the war, would there be any one equal to expressing animosity? I don't know what I my-self will be able to do, because I have foesht, and they may not be able to foeght, and they may not be about forgive me at first. Can we tear down the great walls of hatred that have en erected between the nations? It ill be a gigantic task. "I fear art will suffer. When peace

comes, although art will try to speak its message, will not all the energies of the nations be devoted to reestablishing the material things that are of first urgence? I fear all other things will have to wait for these Then there are so many artists who have fallen. They may not be world-They may not be worldfamous, but, after all, the art country is the sum of what all the artists are, and the individual does not learn large."

. Mr. Kreisler now seemed to have exhausted his ability to answer ques-tions. His manager had come for a visit, and with Mrs. Kreisler was fingering over the huge mass of letters of welcome that lay on the table, far too many to hope to catch up with for the present. In the conversation that ensued it came out that the violinist had been advanced in rank one grade on the day before he was dis-charged and told by his regimental commander that he was to be men-tioned for distinguished service. Kreisler had not seen fit to mention

Raw Material Resources Plentiful in United States; Conditions Favorable

PROSPERITY NEAR AT HAND

South Has Its Happy Combination of Coal and Iron Ore. West Its Hydro-Electric Pos-

Extracts from address by Geo. Otis Smith, Director, United States Geological Survey, before American Institute Chemical Engineers, Philadelphia, Pa).

Four constituents enter into the re action that we term industry. Two of these, brain and brawn, are organic ompounds and two are perhaps to be regarded as inorganic—money and material. None of these components is wanting here in the United States and in fact their abundance affords more easily transported generally than the crude materials upon large ton-nages of which the industry must de-Thus, cheap coal attracts manfucturers just as cheap land attracts farmers.
With distribution of raw material

is linked the influence upon the location of industry. The development of transportation sys-tems makes the problem of markets a most complex one. The industrial in-dependence of the simal community of a century ago has given way to the system under which your dinnertable may represent the tribute from several continents. Even in a coun-try so diversified as ours in its natural bounties domestic production ural bounties domestic production of everything consumed is not desirable nor profitable. Exchange of com-modities with foreign countries be-comes necessary, so it follows that industrial independence is the gnal to-ward which a nation should face, but not a goal which it should have either the intention or desire to at-tain

this country needs to export finished rather than crude products and to import raw materials rather than manu-factures. It is the product of Ameri-can labor rather than the bounty of our natural regources that preferably should go into the world's marketa. As the engineers of America study this matter of expansion of manufacturies. matter of expansion of manufacturing. becomes evident that the of raw material and of power is key to industrial opportunities.

Petroleum and natural gas in their distribution in some degree supple-ment coal. Thus the largest oil field both in present production and prob-able reserve is in California, a State with only negligible coal resources. Taken together, these mineral fuels constitute a national asset comparable ed streets, no sewerage system, no with the soil resources of this country, public water supply but the larger part of the value of the Plans for sewers, water supply and natural gas, petroleum, and coal to street paving flad already been prenatural gas, petroleum, and coal to the nation is in their relation to manufactures.

The wide distribution of ores of the principal metals sufficiently rich and extensive to be mined in large quanti-ties means that the metallurgical industry is important on both the Pa-cific and the Atlantic seaboard, in most of the Rocky Mountain States as well as in several of the Middle States. Even in the two metals which at once suggest to us centralization copper and steel—there is widespread production. In the mining of copper production. In the mining of copper last year twenty-three States contributed, and no less than twenty-eight States furnished iron ores to the fur-

naces of the country. The raw material country are so widely distributed that industry has been developing at this rapid pace at many points. The tendency is away from geographic centralization of industry rather than to-ward it. A few opportunities for expansion need only to be suggested: the South with its happy combination of coal and iron-ore in the same dis-tricts makes pig-iron production pos-sible at minimum cost; the West with its hydro-electric possibilities available as a source of relatively cheap power for chemical and metallurgical power for chemical and metallurg industries; the Rocky Mountain gion with its vast unutilized sources of sulphuric acid and equally great un-mined stores of phosphate rock.

The ingredients necessary for pro ducing prosperity appear at hand. The new financial system already promises more mobile credits. A more sympathetic attitude of the public ward big Edustrial operations is in-dicated. The efficiency of American dicated. The efficiency of American labor and American engineering was never questioned

In any estimate of American ability to make the most of the present op-portunities for industrial expansion. portunities for industrial expansion, no better measure of the inventive genius of this country can perhaps be found than in a moment's review of what is making the European war so terrible. Strictly neutral may we be, yet from the height above to the deptha below we find American inventions "at the front". tions "at the front"-the aeropians the magazine rifle and machine gun the barbed wire, and the submarine and its torpedo. Can not our nation and its torpedo. Can not our nation lead as well in fashioning the tools of peace as in designing the machines of war!

SANITARY VIGILANCE

Mobile Fights Disease Before Reaches Her. "Mobile has no plague and does not

propose to have any is the slogan re-cently adopted by the officials and commercial organizations of that city, according to the Weekly Health Re-ports of the United States Public ports of the United States Public Health Service. To make good her purpose, Mobile is doing something that has never before been done. She is fighting disease before it has reached her. She is undergoing a municipal house cleaning and renovation that will leave plague a poor chance to establish itself even if it enters the city's doors.

city's doors. city's doors.

Plague is advancing. Its appearance in New Orleans has brought home to every city, and especially to those on the coast, the fact that this. disease is a real meriace. Plague is brought in by rats, and rats can be controlled only by rat proofing; that

habit of doing outpost duty for some of them. There were several other own request, and on the march he own request, and on the march he carried the equipment of another. He argued that they were under a disadvantage in having heavy kinapaacks to carry, and he was stronger and better able to bear fatigue anyway." All of which adds something to the picture of the world's greatest violinist as a soldier,

s by building them out; changing buildings so the rats cannot find shel-er from their enemies and to rear

Many cities are catching rats and are examining them in their laboratories in order to assure themselves, that they have no plague as well as to catch the infection early if it comes but only infected cities and Mobile are rat-proofing their buildings.

Early in August, the city authorities asked the United States Public Health Service to send them an experienced officer, who could advise them what to do, and could organize and begin the necessary work. Dur-

and begin the necessary work. During the six weeks this officer was on the ground, ordinances were drawn up and passed, the work of cleaning out the accumulated trash of years, of arousing and instructing the peoof arousing and instructing the peo-ple, of rat catching and examination, and rat?proofing was organized and A squad of ten men are catching

West Its Hydro-Electric Possibilities; Ročky Mountain Region' Its Vast Unutilized Supply of Phosphate Rock

A squad of ten men are catching for the squad of ten men are catching for th tailed instructions are being issued which require that the changes ordered must be begun within 48 hours. Absolute rat-proofing is required in that part of Mobile which is between Mobile river and Royal street. This street runs in the same general direc-tion as the water front and about four blocks from it. Everywhere tion as the water front and about four blocks from it. Everywhere within the city limits, stables must be rat-proofed as well as fly-proofed, and all new buildings or substantial re-pairs must be of rat-proof construc-

A rat proof city is a plague proof city, and Mobile is setting an exam-ple of taking a step because she be-lieves it to be a wise sanitary prethe best reason for an optimistic out-look upon the present industrial sit-uation. Of these four constituents, labor and capital and brains are all She is finding that it will help in other ways. Other diseases will be dec ed, her insurance rates should be ed, her insurance rates should be less and flimsy structures requiring fre quent repairs will be replaced by during ones.

The Federal Health Service has al ways urged that prevention is better than cure. While it helps to cure the than cure infected city, it is glad to help the city that is willing to protect itself

A PUBLIC MISSIONARY

Eradication of Yellow Fever and Malarial Fever in Iquitos, Peru. How a doctor of the United States Public Health Service was able to ac

complish remarkable results in reduc-ting the death rate of a discase-ridden South American City, is told in the last issue of the Weekly Public Health Reports. When the government of Peru was authorized by its Congress in 1912 to contract a loan for the sanitation of lquitos, a town of 13,000 inhabitants authorities of that government re-quested our State Department at Washington to recommend a man who could do the work. Dr. George M. Converse, of the Public Health Service, was the man recommended, and

he was given leave of absence to undertake the task.
Upon arrival in Iquitos, in January,
1913, Dr. Converse found a population afflicted with a death rate which averaged 40.56 per 1,000 inhabitants for ten years preceding, and which had risen in 1912 to 49.52. The death rate in an average American city is from 10 to 15. He also found yellow from 10 to 15. He also found yellow fever prevalent, with an utter lack of knowledge or disbelief of the method of its transmission. Hookworm was almost universal. There were no pay-

y an American engineer. E. Bayless, but just at the law market price of Peruvian rub ber and these engineering improve-ments had to be abandoned. So Dr. Converse set to work to see what could be accomplished by purely sani-tary measures, in spite of the lack of

species of mosquito, and every mos-quito passes through the early stages of its development in standing water. The problem was to destroy the mos-quito in its larvae state, and this was by methods employed in the Canal Zone and elsewhere. All water containers were screened to prevent the laying of mosquito eggs. These operations resulted in the entire disappearance of yellow fever within a short time, and the scople, who had been skeptical at first, became saits fied that real efforts were being made for their welfare when month after month passed and no cases of this

liness appeared among them.

The campaign against hookworm vas one of education, assisted by the medical treatment of nearly two thousand cases. It was explained to the people that the disease resulted from walking barefoot on polluted soil, and picking up through abrasions in the skin the hookworm para site. A curious feature of the dis-ease is that it produces in persons the desire to eat unusual things, and it was found to be common practice cakes of baked clay, sand, and even pieces of clay plastering picked from the walls of their humble houses. Sanitary toilets were installed, and the wearing of shoes or other foot cover-ing encouraged wherever possible. By these means and other general

sanitary measures, good results were rapidly attained. During the first year of the work the death rate fell from 49.52 per 1,000 to 28.88. For from 49.52 per 1,000 to 28.88. For the first six months of 1914 it drop ped further to 21. The people seeined to have awakened to the importance of these matters, according to Dr. Converse, who has just returned to this country, and he is of the opinion that the campaign will be permanent.

RUN DOWN BY BEST MAN. Interrupted a Roneymoon With An

Auto Collision.

New York Times.

It's hard luck when a man stands

upas your best man one night, and then, less than two days later, runs you down with an automobile, ac-cording to C. H. Nulle, room clerk at the Biltmore, who, with his bride. the Biltmore, who, with his bride formerly Miss Josephine Schmidt, of the Waldorf, is spending his honey-moon at Holliswood Hall, Hollis, b. I. Nobody was seriously inthred. Mrs. Nulle was somewhat bruised in the accident that occurred about half a mile from Hollis lat yesterday afternoon Dr. Herbert Straub, of East Orange,

who was best man at the wedding on Wednesday night, thought resterday afternoon he would take a run in his car to see how Mr. and Mrs. Nulle were getting along. Some time after he had made that decision the bride and bridegroom decided they would

IOFFRE, THE SILENT, ON WHOM THE WHOLE OF FRANCE RELIES

Leaves Nothing to Chance—Determined Supporter of the Policy of Attack for a Commander-Beautiful Home

ent war, it was announced that sucommand of the French army was in the hands of General Joffre there were many who asked, "who i

They had forgotten that three years They had forgotten that three years ago he was appointed chief of the general army staff, which carried with it the supreme command of the army in time of war, the result of the unanimous decision of the French cabinet, a decision which met with not one word of disapproval throughout France. Only the monarchists would have preferred General Pau, but on political grounds only, and even Gen-eral Pau himself declared that the one man in France for the position was General Juffre.

Prench Generals All From South.

It is a curious fact that all the French generals who have signally dis-tinguished themselves are southerners. General Joffre was born at Riversaltes. a little town in the Pyrenees Orien tales, famous for its cordials and hav-ing the reputation of "producing nothing but artists and orators." Obviously that is not the case. region can also show natures that are calm. cold, and silent. Joffre's great friend, General de Castelnau, is also meridional and comes from evenes. General Pau was born in Montelimar, and General Gallieni also is from the farthest south of France General Joffre's family was founded a traveling auctioneer about 100 cars ago. This ancestor went from

illage to town from town to village n a showman's van, loaded with all forts of goods, which were trumpeted by him as bargains. "J'offre" such by him as bargains. "J'offre" such sed such an article at such and such price, he would cry from his van in he mayoralty square or market place of bory or village. Beginning at a high figure, he came down gradually But his Catalonian name proclaimed him as a foreigner, and he adopted the nickname the country folk had given him of "Joffre"—"Le Pere

Breaks Thigh in Escaping Breaks Thigh in Escaping.

The general in whom so much faith
is now reposed very early acquired a
desire to become a soldier. It was
in this way: As a child he was fond of bathing in a rather deep and impetuous Pyreenean stream. His parents fearing he would be drowned, locked him up in a second-story room a night, and kept him under guard in the daytime. The boy pined and fret-ted. He then proceeded to act. He went to the press where his mother stored her house linen, borrowed the strongest and longest sheets he could find, and made with them a ladder whereby he could escape from his bedtill one morning the way and he broke his thigh.

While the limb was in splints young

Joffre acquired a taste for study, wen to the Lycee and chose the army for

was not yet 17, he was fourteenth on the list of those admitted to the Ecole Polytechnique, where the great gov-ernment engineers and the officers of the artillery and engineering corps are

His whole military career was assed in fortifications or ob colonial expeditions. As a young man he la-bored at the outerworks at Paris and Pontarlier. Later he constructed the fortresses at Tonking, organized the defense of the Island of Formosa during the war in China, and built the whole of the huge stronghold of Diego. Sumares in the Island of Madagascar. Later still he went on the Dahomey expedition to Africa. On his return finally to France, he was professor at the Ecole de Guerre, and filled othe important positions, but it was not till 1905 that he obtained the epaulettes

of a brigadier general.

Though he became later chief of the general staff, he was no more commander-in-chief. while peace than the chief of the general staff is "war lord" in Germany. The supremo-commander of the French army and navy is the president, who exercises that command, as far as the army concerned, through the minister of war. But Joffre soon became dictator The war minister is said to have remarked that if he drove his automo bile into the war area without G

turned out.
Makes Generals Resign. Perhaps the first thing that made France realize that she had found a dictator was the dismissal of certain generals, which followed last army maneuvers. In easy-going when a general made mistakes at maneuver, it had been usual for the criticising authority to say. "I me would have been better so and so and to make mental notes not to ploy the said general after was up.

General Joffre however called for resignations on the spot. Among the retiring officers were one or two men of great energy and devotion to duty For them it was a hard blow. But General Joffre had been put in office to make the French army as near perfection as it could be brought and in this as in other things, no consideration would make him swerve from Hebearsal of the Real Thing.

He remembered, doubtiess, that German victories in 1886 and were the logical sequence of their peace maneuvers. He regarded mapeace maneuvers. He regarded ma-neuvers as a rehearsal of the real thing, and the members of his company who did not know their parts There has been no the comfortable feeling that be all right in the end" since Joffre took control of the army.

This may seem less than fair to his predecessors, who were strong, hard-working men of the highest ability, and in fact created the army which General Joffre has simply tuned up. And it may hurt them in think opportunity of handling that army has come after their time.
Moore made the army that Wellington was to lead: Carnot the troops of Napoleon: McClellan the army with which Grant crushed the

Coefederacy. So fate ordains, and will ordain to the end of time. It is primarily as a man of character and action, fortified by the theory begun and practiced in the new doctrines of war that the intelletonal

and bridegroom decided they would do a little automobiling.

Just as they were about to turn a corner. Dr. Straub's car. coming from the opposite direction, turned is. Both drivers put on their brakes, but the cars met, and Mrs. Nulle was flung out. Her husband jumped after her, but the occupant of the other cars met, and met. Nulle was flung out. Her husband jumped after her, but the occupant of the other cars met, and met. The party went back to the bride suffering only from shock and bruises that her husband recognised his best man of Wednesday night. The party went back to the hotel in one car and discussed the coincidental accident over tea.

The man who put heels down heavily usually not set the frequiator toward "slow keep it from gaining. One of the mysterious sides subject is that watches seldon to set the individual quality of his leadership stamped upon a great battle. His picture may not yet be completely painted and signed; but if one pletely painted and signed; but if one pletely painted and some other great leader of history, one would probably choose Grant as his nearest equivalent; except that in technical still Grant was incomparably above in one car and discussed the possible for the French general to his possible for the French doc-

Alexander Baird, in Washington trine. It is in type more than in circumstance that the two men seem to cumstance that the two men seem to resemble each other quiet, ruminstent war, it was announced that suing, both perhaps a little slow to move, certainly never "run away with by their ideas, absolutely clear as I what duty is and what it is not, pow-erful "prime mevers" and resolute

fighters A Domesticated Citize

Both, too, were domesticated citizens, and this has its importance in the case of Joffre. For no man whose civisme was not above repreach would have been, or could have been, in-trusted with dictatorial powers by a republic to which three distinct par-ties of monarchists lay claim. There is a wonderful letter in existence writ ten by Lincoln to one of his arm commanders who had been telling the world that "the country needs a dis-tator." "Only those commanders who gain military success," wrote the great President, "can set up as dictators. Give me success, and I will risk a dic-

An Organizer of Victory.

And the French republic has shown how it believes in the axiom today. It has been said that if France had had a Joffre in 1870 the probability is that the Germans would not have won. Like Lord Kitchener, Joffre in an organizer of victory. He does not believe in flashes of genius. He knows that long and careful preparation is necessary. Never for a single moment during the three years that he has been at the head of the army has he forgotten the purpose for which he was appointed—to prepare for the struggle in which France is engaged today.

engaged today.

Now 62 years of age, General Joffre is a man of medium height, stout, with a massive head, fair hair, and with a thick drooping mustache, and heavy eyebrows nearly concealing

Fis will the outstanding feature of his character, is that under the kindest, quietest, most unaffected, most easy-going manner is the steel determination that can shut tight like a vise upon its purpose. "Good Head for a Watchdog."

good head for a watchdog but always iready to bite," i calm. one of the first descriptions I ever heard of the French commander-in-chief. There is more truth in this than in most epigrams. You have only to see how that calm, slow manne flashes into energy as he refuses a suggestion. He looks like wiping it out of existence with one decisive movement of his hand. General Joffre is the most determined supporter in France of the policy of attack for a commander. "The only tactics" is what he calls the offensive

He is a general, too, who has the utmost confidence in his troops. "The French are warriors by temperament, is one of his sayings; and, though in the course of his career he has seen the luxuries of life increase and multiply, so accordingly he believes that the young men of today are as good the young men of today are as go soldiers as those he commanded a boy lieutenant 44 years ago.

Vast Capacity for Silence. He is known to few. His friend M. 'unde recently referred to him in an irticle in the Matin as "Joffre the article in the Matin as "Joffre the Taciturn." Those who have met him in the corridors of the war office have noted his heavy pachydermatous tread and his peculiar garb. It was a short jacket and a tall hat. He never wore a uniform.

Like his coadjutor, General Sir John French, he is a "silent man." He talks little. He does not ever write. Yet, vast as is his capacity for silence, you never feel that he is slient because he has nothing to say. You feel he is silent because he has too much to talk about. And when he speaks what he says is pithy and to the point, the result of quiet reflec-tion, spoken with studied expression, in slow, straightforward sentences. There is no eloquence about what he

says, no flummery.

But, of course, it is the man of as tion that France has wanted, and she

Leave Nothing to Chance. "That's the man we need," said M. Briand to the president before his ap-pointment to the chief of staff. He leaves nothing to chance. The mobilization of the French army took place in admirable order. In ame way his plans for the campaign possible precision. In the field, as in his office at the ministry of war, he is "hard as nails." He gives his or-ders and expects them to be carried out exactly. If they are not, there is trouble. Affable, kindly and considerate to all under him, he may sympathise with incompetence, but he cannot overlook failure

His Home Life.

If, a few months ago, you had visited him at his quiet home at Auteuil. you would have found him apparently living the life of a peaceful gentleman with his wife and two daughters; his principal indoor relaxation bridge, at which he is, as he has said himself an indifferent player.

Now the blinds are drawn, but pa

eraby notice a modest little bunch of lowers placed on the doorstep. Thes flowers are reliewed each week. For some time it remained a mysters where these bouquets came from undenor was "Pere" Jean Garland, a veteran of 1879, who was wounded three times while serving with the oy lieutenant Joffre, and who works a linkman at the Auteuil railway station.

WATCHES' NERVES.

Some People Have Queer Influences on Timekeepers They Carry, Pearson's Weekly. One of the troubles of watchmak-

ers is the man who gets who gets on his There are lots of watch's nerves. There are lots of customers on whom a good watch is wasted. A good second-hand watch that has kept perfect time for other ple will with certain other peo-go irregularly when it is not standing atill— it is common knowl-edge in the trade that watches are greatly influenced by their owners. Nobody knows the reason. xplanations have been offered. One is that watches are sensitive to per-sonal magnetism, the natural electri-city that human beings contain in

varying quantities. rarying quantities.

The other is that a watch may be disturbed by the vibrations set up by a footstep which is heavier than the The man who puts his ordinary

One of the mysterious sides of the subject is that watches seldom keep good time on people of nervous excit-able temperaments.

The potato crop of Germany one of the largest on record. The official statistics place the figures at 50,200,000 metric tons, as against 24,200,000 metric tons in 1913. Quite a high percentage of the polatice were diseased and could not be kep