

SELLING ALLIES BILLIONS A YEAR IN MUNITIONS

Great Stream of Business Flows Into United States as Result of War.

PLANTS TAXED TO UTMOST

Most of the Contracts for Supplies Run for Two Years or Longer—Goods Sold for Delivery Here—Shipment at Buyer's Risk.

New York.—A common estimate of the war's length is three years. In the first six months of the conflict the United States sold about \$100,000,000 in war supplies, not taking into consideration foodstuffs designed for civilian populations. By August 1 our trade will reach \$1,000,000,000; and unless something occurs to check this phenomenal business, \$2,000,000,000 will have poured into the United States before the treaty of peace is signed.

Even if the war should stop right now our trade in the materials of war would soon reach a billion for most of the great contracts are written to be fulfilled without regard to the course of the war and run for two years or even longer.

Our gain would be even larger could we supply both sides. As it is, almost nothing is going to the Teutonic allies.

The United States government officials are unable to give anything like correct figures of the trade in war supplies. A large proportion, however, goes to Canada first and is shipped from there to England, France, Russia or one of their allies.

There is no penalty for misbilling exports. Much gunpowder is going out in cases marked sugar or salt, especially through Pacific ports to Russia by way of Vladivostok.

In the most authoritative circles it is estimated that the principal items in the four billion of dollars worth ordered here in the last six months were: Motor cars, \$250,000,000; arms, explosives and the like, \$150,000,000; iron and steel, \$100,000,000; rubber, \$50,000,000; chemicals and fuel, \$40,000,000; and other supplies, \$30,000,000. Soldiers' shoes, harness and other leather goods, \$15,000,000; automobiles, \$10,000,000; and other supplies, \$5,000,000.

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Many of these contracts do not know they are turning out goods for a foreign power. They may not know it, but they do not care. They do not care.

Goods are sold for delivery here and shipment is at the buyer's risk. The buyer enters a security bond for the goods and the plant. The manufacturers surround their plants with high fences and troops of armed guards in order not only to cooperate with the buyers in maintaining secrecy, but also to prevent meddling by agents of governments hostile to the buyers.

The 75 firearm and ammunition factories in the United States ordinarily employ 20,000 persons. Now their forces number 50,000 and are increasing.

The enormous demand for high explosives has forced prices to high levels. Picric acid, used in making explosives, has risen from 25 cents to \$2.50 a pound and the entire supply on hand has been bought up. Those who still have gun cotton on hand which can be delivered within 30 days are asking 78 cents a pound. The usual price is 20 to 25 cents. In February the French government tried to buy 24,000,000 pounds of gun cotton, offering 65 cents. It was unobtainable, so contracts were placed with a number of mills running over two years.

More than 10,000 automobile trucks have been shipped to England and France since August 1, but from the way new orders are coming in, this branch of trade is only just beginning. The French war authorities figure the average life of an auto truck is only seven days.

Thousands of Buyers. There are thousands of buying agents for the foreign governments all over the country, but the two largest blocks of contracts are coming through Charles Schwab of the Bethlehem Steel company and J. Pierpont Morgan, head of the great banking firm.

Schwab has made two visits to Europe since the war began and has obtained contracts amounting to more than \$50,000,000. His Bethlehem works are making even 12-inch guns for the allies, but in addition to what is turned out here he has sublet or deeded a dozen general cities. Morgan is now the general purchasing agent of the British government and all orders for the British government.

Every section of the country where

manufacturing is a large feature of business is benefiting from war orders, although these orders in many cases are not large enough to offset the depression in domestic trade. Many orders are from governments which never before bought in the American market and American business men believe they can hold this trade after the war is over. They argue that much of the work now being done here for Great Britain, to take an instance, has previously been done in Germany, and that the bitter feeling after the war will preclude its being done there again.

A Philadelphia factory is making swords for the British army. Such a contract had never before been received in this country. In the past British swords have been made in Germany.

In the Pittsburgh district, which includes Bethlehem, many Germans who formerly worked for the Krupp are employed. They are now making war material for the allies, although, of course, they do not know this definitely. The men in the factory are not informed for whom a particular kind of material is being made.

Some odd items are reported. The French government has paid New England manufacturers \$200,000 for snowshoes. One concern in Philadelphia is turning out a folding saw with wooden handles for cutting wire entanglements. When the war started the armies used steel pliers for this work, with the result that many men were shocked to death by high voltage electricity.

Factories turned to New Uses. All sorts of factories have been pressed into commission to make things useful in war. A company in Bridgeport, Conn., which usually makes cemetery monuments of bronze, is now turning out forgings for an auto truck concern which has a large order from the allied countries. Bridgeport, by the way, is enjoying huge prosperity because most of its industrial concerns are working on war orders.

All through Massachusetts and Connecticut war orders are helping to overcome the depression of the first six months of the war. The Ferry River Shipbuilding company is very busy. It is generally reported it is making ten submarines for the British navy to be delivered at the end of the war. In addition, it is making about 25 other submarines.

Demand for many particular articles has been so great that the allied governments have signed contracts at prices most attractive for manufacturers. In addition, it is being well established that middlemen, brokers and agents are gathering in millions in commissions, some of which are exorbitant.

It is said by a Chicago merchant, or instance, that there is a well-organized band of extortionists, with agents in all the big cities on both sides of the Atlantic and in New York, which is exacting a toll from 15 to 20 per cent on practically every shipment of war supplies that leaves the country.

The general agents of each country attempt to obtain that their nation's business while stating a belief that other nations are being deceived.

A well-known Russian agent of New York city says the Russian government is suffering the most heavily of all. He has seen a report for wide publication in Russia in which it was stated that \$20,000,000 had been lost through the exploitation of American commissions and brokers.

FEELING FOR THE ENEMY



French lookouts in the most advanced position along the French line of trenches.

HIRES PRISONER TO WIFE

Wards of Wisconsin Sheriff Earn \$10,376.81 for Their Families.

Janesville Wis.—Letting out his prisoners to work for wages that go to their families instead of making them hammer stones, C. S. Whipple, Rock county sheriff, is demonstrating the possibilities of the Wisconsin commitment law.

During the two years the statute has been in force \$16,775.55 has been earned by prisoners in this county. Of this amount dependents of paroled persons received \$10,376.81 and the county \$1,210.41.

One man was paroled for a year to his wife to conduct a clothes pressing establishment.

How Long They Last.

London.—An American expert just returned to London from the fighting zone estimates that the average life of a war horse is 20 days, and that of a war automobile only ten.

GET UNDER YOUR OWN UMBRELLA



U. S.—There may be room enough for both, but it's your fault if I get wet.

TOOK TWO MEN OFF WITH HIM.

Chief of Police Patillo of Burlington Gets Two Prisoners Here—Much Wanted Lawbreakers.

Constable S. H. Garrard and Patrolman Charlie Markham this afternoon arrested John Griffin, colored, charged with being an accomplice of John Graves in robbing a store at Burlington.

Graves was arrested yesterday on a local charge and held for the Burlington authorities. Griffin was implicated and later fell into the hands of the officers.

Chief of Police Patillo of Burlington returned home with his two prisoners this afternoon.

Graves is also charged with the larceny of a shot gun. His brother is already in the lock-up at Burlington on a charge of helping in the store robbery and a variety of other crimes.

According to Chief Patillo, Burlington has been overrun with petty crimes and especially robberies during the past few weeks. He told of a young lady's purse being snatched from her hands last night and of numerous other incidents of a like nature. —Durham Sun.

YOUNG GASTONIA MAN DESERTS YOUNG WIFE WHILE ON HONEYMOON.

Charlottesville, Va., March 23.—Search is being conducted for Frank Stockton, a young man from Gastonia, who is alleged to have deserted his bride of few days while the two were spending their honeymoon at a hotel here. It is also alleged that when he departed he took all of her money with him.

The pair were married March 18th at the bride's home in Orange county, and they came from there to Charlottesville. Mrs. Stockton, who is seven years older than her husband, formerly taught school at Gastonia, and she is now with her relatives there.

Though Stockton is reported to have been married once before, this has not been proved.

The Only Curse.

Shakespeare said, and Shakespeare is good authority, Ignorance is the only curse and knowledge the wings wherewith we fly to Heaven.

It sounds extravagant. But Isaiah, who is better authority, had much the same thing in mind when he said, Israel doth not know; Israel doth not consider. The people perish for lack of knowledge.

So they did in Judea; so they do in Orange, and everywhere else.

In 1910, there were 1,448 illiterates in Orange, the home of the State University; 625 of them were white and 292, or more than a ninth of them all, were white males of voting age.

Curing the curse of illiteracy is a main concern of the county campaign that has begun in Orange county.

CAKES and CANDIES

Reduced In Price, All Twenty-Cent Cakes and Candy now 10c - - - Ten Cents - - - 10c

Fresh Roasted Peanuts, full line of Fancy Groceries. When you trade at this store you do not have to pay other people's debts. Nothing delivered, Nothing charged. Your patronage solicited.

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"THE LADIES' STORE."

Try the Merits of the Dispatch Ads.

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Gents' Furnishings. Ladies' and Children's Shoes. Full line Boys' Clothing.

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Are Your Hens Laying?

If not, try some of our chicken chowder, if it don't make them lay, they must be roosters. Alfalfa meal fed with chicken chowder will do the work. Why not let them work for you? We guarantee results. What it has done for others, it will do for you.

Butter Is Mighty Scarce.

Dairy Feed, Wheat Bran, C. S. Meal and Hulls together with beet pulp will produce results, the dairymen feed this, why not you? They usually know what they are doing, why not profit by their knowledge.

Don't Take Chances.

Getting the same quality somewhere else, come where you know what you will get. Appler and 90 day cats, Genuine Maine grown seed Irish potatoes of all varieties.

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POOR