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AMERICA BECOMES A GREAT PART IN THE WORLD'S STRUGGLE

By CARL D. GROAT
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
WASHINGTON—America found itself today on the anniversary of President Wilson's request for war on Germany, a great part of the world struggle, with a remarkably vast record of achievement.

More thousands of men are now in France than army men a year ago dreamed could be put there; American naval vessels, cruising the submarine zone, are doing their bit—and a big one—to stamp "schrecklichkeit" out of the world; a vast army has been trained and is now being seasoned; another is about ready to enter camp; American war wheels are whirling, grinding out ships, guns, shells, rails—a tremendous stream of material to back a growing, enthusiastic army.

And, there is abroad in the land of war spirit, deep-seated and fervent, a spirit born of the realization that Germany is now controlled by militaristic plunders, who in their madness are stretching forth their hands to crush the weak and the strong and to make the world unfit and unsafe for democracy.

Some of America's mighty task is

still in the making. There have been, and still are delays in the war work. Some of our expectations were exploited too boldly, and there are disappointments ahead.

But, all in all, the conversion of the country from a peaceful land to the biggest single reservoir of strength to back up the Allies has been a story of progress upon which history will doubtless look with praise.

Voluntary censorship forbids that the press shall indulge in figures revealing the number of forces abroad. But it is recalled today that Secretary of War Baker predicted 500,000 men in France "early in 1918," and it is known that troops and supply transports, while hampered during the coldest weather, have been maintaining a prearranged schedule recently. For some time, American forces have had a part in the Lorraine fighting, and their work has shown that America will never need to have other than pride in the men she is sending forth to war. Valor, vigor, and an enthusiastic eagerness have marked each encounter with the Hun.

While a portion of the overseas force has been fully seasoned for front line

service, a considerable force is still training behind the lines.

In this country the camps and cantonments have ground out their men until now a second draft call is imminent. The last increments of the first draft are still training, and the second call will be for 800,000 men.

The pacifist has been driven, skulking, to obscurity. While the nation has sought to separate peace with Austria through a political offensive, there is now no peace talk. The Russian collapse, followed by Germany's robbing of the corpse, showed her without a mask—a nation bent on conquest.

This has done much to cement the American people into a stern determination to fight on vigorously. It has stirred up war industry and war training.

The war department has passed through many tribulations, and congress has raked it thoroughly over the coals. The result has been that a reorganization, started before congress undertook its probe, has been completed and now the departmental wheels run smoothly and with more vigor than before. Chief of Staff March has pumped pep into the organization. Younger men are at the helm. Chiefs such as Gen. Goethals, quartermaster, have the important posts.

The navy, with less reorganization to accomplish, has met such transition as it needed with less difficulty because of the smaller scale of its needs. The navy's biggest contribution has been the navy's biggest contribution has been

vessels and their craft have aided substantially in destroying or warding off the Teuton U-Boats. Now, the navy is engaged on a vast destroyer building program, which with the Ford boats, the submarine chasers, and the anti-submarine devices of American genius will take an added crimp in Fritz upon the seas.

America has poured forth her money in lavish streams. This fund running not in six figures but in nine and tens is being converted into war material rapidly and, for the most part, efficiently.

The ordnance bureau, for instance, has placed contracts running far past a billion dollars, while aviation has had more than a billion and soon wants millions more. Secretary Baker estimates that the ordnance bureau had averaged contracts of \$6,000,000 a day. Production of machine guns is now ahead of schedule except for the Browning heavy type, and while France and England are supplying the primary needs of the U. S. in big artillery, the nation is producing the large type guns, too.

The ordnance bureau anticipated that by the end of the year it will have more than 60,000,000 shells produced in American factories.

Figures on the war make the brain fairly reel. For instance, the army itself has grown from a handful of men and officers—say 210,000 to about 1,600,000. Officers alone number close to 120,000 at this time.

Supplying such a force has been a

trying problem. Delays marked the earlier work and there were complaints of lack of warm clothing in many camps during the winter. This situation was remedied, however, and the reorganized quartermaster branch stated today that it has now collected a reserve which will obviate any shortage hereafter. The reorganized bureau has also seen to it that sufficient supplies of meat and other goods are stored at convenient places so that there shall be no tieups as occurred when the railroad congestion was at its worst.

The clothing supply task is a tremendous one. Not only must a current supply be maintained but reserves must be created. This means for instance that during the winter the organization bought its underwear by the 10,000,000, stockings 40 more than 30,000,000 pairs and so on.

American aeroplane development, one of the most secret of all war preparations, is one of the many romances of business involved in our work. Perfection of a Liberty motor, surpassing anything known in the motor line to date, has provided America with a substantial basis for its work. Difficulties in obtaining spruce and other materials has tended to slow down construction of aircraft, but the first shipment of aeroplanes went a broad nearly two months ago. More than 100,000 men are now training for the air service, and thousands of planes of various types—training and combat—are under contract. That we will be able

to supply 10,000 battle planes together with the needed men this year is problematical, but production of all types is now progressing satisfactorily.

Construction work abroad and in this country have involved expenditure of millions and has engaged a tremendous volume of labor. The first big construction task the nation faced was that of building 16 cantonment cities. These were ready in September.

Other task of enormous importance and volume have been the laying of tracks in France—there are 600 miles for American transportation needs most of which is new—construction of a big ordnance depot in France, enlargement of overcrowded dockage facilities abroad; building of shipyards, expansion of plants making was supplies.

American war work has hinged largely on shipping.

The first two months output of ships was unsatisfactory, amounting to less than 200,000 tons, but shipyards are now proceeding at a far better rate, and it is estimated that the last half of the year will find production at double the rate of the first six months. The Hog Island plant at Philadelphia is the biggest of all the new shipyards and has fifty ways.

The submarine destruction has progressed ahead of construction the past year, but if the war goes into next year—as it now seems destined to do—American and British yards will be well fixed on output. In addition to this meeting of the submarine menace, the de-

velopment of anti-submarine devices and the constant addition of new destroyers is having a strong effect on the U-Boat situation. In fact, it is such that American-Allied officials believe the U-boat will be "held" this fall.

Food, fuel and transportation problems have vexed the nation and caused disturbances to the war program on both sides of the water. The nation responded willingly to appeals for food conservation to help in adding to supplies abroad. Railroad congestion and cold weather, however, hindered movements of food and munitions to sea-board temporarily but now this has been cleared, and the overseas transport service is running on schedule.

On the diplomatic side, the Japanese problem has been foremost. Conclusion of the Lansing-Ishih agreement wiped out the ill effects of German propaganda in Japan and this country. In March, Japan sought America's views as to Japanese intervention in Siberia, and this resulted in a statement showing that this government was opposed, though its opposition was based not on any unfriendliness to Japan but upon the ground that necessity did not compel the move and that the effect would be a reaction against the Allies and America.

On other than strictly the military side, America developed a political offensive against the central empires. Efforts to separate Austria from Germany were attempted and peace terms were pronounced. These gained little

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