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ALLIED FORCES CHECK BIG GERMAN DRIVE

Situation Is Still Very Critical But French, British and American War Officers Saw Ground For Confidence in Final Outcome.

The battle in France, extending fifty miles or more southeast of Arras, seems likely to go down in history as the greatest battle ever fought on this blood-stained globe. It is already called "the crisis of the war."

At the present time the furious onslaught of the Germans appears to have been checked for the moment, though none can say that it will not break out again.

British Fought Splendidly.

The British troops, though hopelessly outnumbered from the first, fought with a cool courage that won admiration even from the German generals. Gen Ludendorff was fair enough to acknowledge it publicly. The brunt of the fight fell upon the British, but after the first few days the French were drawn in.

Americans Forestalled Attack.

From all accounts that can be obtained, the Americans on the battle front escaped a furious attack which had been planned against them. They did it by taking the lead themselves. They did not wait, as the British seem to have done, for the enemy to attack them at his convenience.

While the Germans were massing for the attack behind their defensive works, the Americans opened a furious artillery fire against them and the attack did not come off. It is very disconcerting to German strategy to have plans interfered with in this way. They like to have their enemies wait until all is ready. But the Americans seem to have preferred to follow Napoleon's maxim: "Never do what the enemy wishes you to do."

British Strike Back.

Even in their retreat the British and French troops had inflicted terrible losses on the enemy. When at last they were able to halt the crushing masses they took the initiative themselves, and again to strike hard. Field Marshal Haig's army, still in good order, drove the enemy back five miles between the Ancre and the Somme and recaptured several villages.

The latest British report of casualties gives the German losses in this battle at 90,000 men, including killed, wounded and prisoners.

What the Germans Gained.

The chief gains to the Kaiser, as they appear at the present writing, are two. The Germans have captured a great deal of booty, including perhaps 1000 cannon, thousands of machine guns, vast stores of ammunition and food. They have advanced to a point within twelve miles of Amiens. That city is a great railway center, where the lines supplying the lines supplying the French and English armies join. This seems to have been what the Germans were striking for. But Marshal Haig was still between the Germans and their prize. As at the Marne, and again at Verdun, the slogan was adopted, "They shall not pass."

Americans in the Battle?

The press has been unable to learn much about the part taken by the Americans in the great battle. The infantry were not where they would be drawn into the fight in its earlier stages, but reports said that two regiments of the American engineer corps dropped their work and went to the assistance of the British. Berlin bulletins insisted that American infantry was in the battle and was badly defeated. The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says that the Americans learned a "severe lesson which is especially gratifying to us." Another German writer says the admitted bravery of the Americans proved no match for "Teutonic fury." It is likely that if we had soldiers in the battle they were few in number. "Nothing to report" was Gen. Pershing's reply when asked by cable to report on the matter.

Britain to Replace the Men.

Premier Lloyd George sent a message to Field Marshal Haig, telling him that Great Britain would at once replace the men and guns lost in the battle.

Many people asked the question, where are the new men to come from. Almost every able-bodied Briton is already in the army or else is doing other necessary war work.

There are said to be 2,000,000 soldiers in England, whose training is nearly finished. They could be sent; but to keep up the supply of men their places in the training camps would have to be filled.

Two suggestions are made in the press. First, the military age limits might be fixed lower and higher, as has long been the case in other warring countries, so that younger and older men might be used. The other proposal made by British papers is that the draft might be extended to Ireland, which has thus far been exempt from it.

JOKES ARE GRIM AT 8000 FEET

War jokes usually have in them other elements than humor. In the Independent Irving Batcheller tells of "the merry jest of the little flying captain" whom he met recuperating from a broken thigh in a British hospital.

The young officer had been chasing a German machine away over the enemy lines. Suddenly his engine began to miss, sputtered a minute, and then quit. He came down a stone's throw from a German camp. A crowd of soldiers surrounded him.

"They marched me up to headquarters," he said, "where a colonel began to pump me in good English. The things they didn't learn from me were numerous. Soon somebody got a brilliant idea. They were going to send my machine over the lines with a photographer. In came a short, stout officer, and announced that there wasn't an aviator to be had.

"The officer went out, and left me with a guard at the door. By and by the latter beckoned to me. I went out. The short young officer stood with the guard. He said that he and I were going over the line to take some photographs. He showed me a big revolver and said I would have to take his orders. "All right," I answered.

"They had got the engine going, and had set their cameras. We got in, and away went the old bus. She rose like a bird. We had gotten up to 8000 feet when there was a burst of shrapnel just ahead and a few pieces of junk rattled against my left wing. That was lucky. It gave me an excuse for good elevation, and that was what I wanted. "We must go up or get our heads blowed off," I said.

"We were up about eight thousand feet. He held a sheet of paper before me on which he had scribbled the words, "High enough; begin to go down."

"'Say, maybe we didn't. I slide-slipped a thousand feet and turned somersaults and spun down a thousand feet so quick the old bus creaked like a ship in a gale.'

"'Did he shoot?'

"'Shoot? I should say he did, but not me—didn't have time. He shot out of the fusillage on her second turn-over like a bullet, and struck a gravel bank head first near the Ypres Comines Canal. I think he is the only man I ever knew who killed and buried himself and erected his own tombstone. Everybody in the line has been to look at that one boot sticking out of the gravel.

"'It was the best joke of the summer.'"

WILMINGTON PLANTS 2800 WAR GARDENS

Wilmington, March 31.—As a result of its combination "War garden and Clean-up" campaign, the city of Wilmington has increased the number of its war gardens to 2800, and 2,050 loads of rubbish and trash were hauled to the incinerator and city dump. The local food conservationists, health department, Rotary Club and others who co-operated challenge the other cities of the State to make anything like this showing.

IMPORTANT WAR DUTY OF SOUTH FOR 1918

If the South neglects this year to provide her own food and feed, she is likely to suffer serious privation, and she will put a burden upon the nation which may prolong the war even imperil our victory.

I am aware that these are strong words, but they are none too strong. I am not expressing an alarmist personal opinion. I am sending through the eyes of 48 agricultural colleges and county agents in nearly every agricultural county. I have recently crossed the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I have studied the reports gathered by the Department's 18,000 representatives and as many more employees of the Agricultural colleges. I have considered the conclusions of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome which has reports from all the world.

The plain, hard truth is that with 40 million people withdrawn from productive industries and engaged in the business of destruction, it is not humanly possible for production on the whole to exceed normal demand. The question is whether production can equal necessitons demand.

England, France, and Italy must be sustained or their populations can not stand the strain. They have been on scantry rations for more than three years. The chief cause of Russia's collapse was hunger. Soldiers can not fight when their wives and children are starving.

Secretary McAdoo has given warning that transportation may be lacking in 1918 to haul food and feed to States and communities that do not provide for themselves. Many cattle have been sacrificed in the drouth regions of the Northwest and the Southwest during the last few months because railroad cars could not be obtained as needed. Military movements must have first consideration, and military movements will be greater in 1918 than in 1917. The prime question for the farmer is not what product will bring the highest price, but w hat products will insure food for his family and feed for his livestock, and the answer is: a vegetable garden, a milk cow, a brood sow, a poultry flock, ample corn, oats, peanuts, etc., and then as much cotton or tobacco as he can cultivate well.

It is the highest demand of patriotism—it is the first requirement of loyalty—it is the first requirement of living—that in 1918 every State, every county, every neighborhood, every farmer, be as nearly self-sustaining as possible.

For the South to plunge on cotton or tobacco or any other speculative crop and to depend upon the corn belt for bread and meat will be [illegible] may cause privation to its people and disaster to the nation. For any man now to determine his business operations from the standpoint of profit alone, without regard to the nation's needs is for him wilfully to profiteer in the blood of his fellows who are fightnig in France for the preservation of the republic. No man can be excused for not taking his share of the responsibility.

My whole life has been spent in the South. I know the Southern farmer. He will do his duty as he sees it. I am appealing to every man in the South to make known these facts—to consider it his business to make them known—and I shall have no doubt of the results. If they are not made known in a way to impress the crisis that confronts us, there may be hunger in this bounteous land, or hunger over yonder in Europe where it will spell ruin for all that is worth while in America.

CLARENCE OUSLEY
Assistant Secretary

AND TEACHER FAINTED

"Good morning, children" said the arithmetic teacher. "How many of you have prepared an original problem in multiplication, as I requested?"

Only one hand went up.

"Well, William, you may give your problem and the rest of the class may solve it."

"If my baby sister is a year old now and weighs twenty pounds, and keeps on gaing two ounces a day until she is sixteen years old; and if the price of living doubles again in the next ten years, how much will my sister's graduation outfit cost? Mother, says she would like to know."—The People's Home Journal.

STATE'S [illegible] ON [illegible] METAL

[illegible]

OFFICIAL NEWS OF WAR ACTIVITIES

Items of Interest Pertaining to the War and Training Camps Published Weekly in This Paper.

—WSS—

Employment Service Plans to Supply Farm Workers

A special farm service division is being established in most of the 500 offices of the United States Employment Service as one of the plans for meeting the labor requirements of the farmers. Special field agents are being sent into districts where acute farm-labor shortage exists or where unusually large numbers will be needed.

A weekly bulletin will be issued in which opportunities for farm employment and the needs of certain districts will be listed. Posters announcing the location of Federal and State employment offices are being hung in post offices, railway stations, and other public places.

All third and fourth class post offices, of which there are 56,000, are now authorized farm-labor employment offices. During the harvest season in certain states temporary offices will be opened in a number of cities for the purpose of furnishing accurate information as to where harvest hands are needed.

A weekly report of farm-labor conditions is being sent to the main office at Washington by all the branch offices and by many State employment offices.

—WSS—

American Army Rifle Superior to Rifle Used by German Troops

American troops are armed with a better firing and more accurate rifle than used by the Germans, according to our expert designers, manufacturers, and marksmen, says a statement by the Bureau of Ordnance. Another critic and writer claims the German Mauser does not permit the most skilled user to get more than 40 per cent of the firing speed of the modified Enfield adopted for the United States service.

The necessary ammunition for the American weapon is supplied on three counts: Quality firing as a result of bolt handle design, action and quick extraction; as a result of sight design greater accuracy of hold, sight reflecting from bullet design and greater accuracy of chamber and bore.

—WSS—

Great Fire Loss in Forests

Losses from fires in national forests last year amounted to $1,355,606, according to figures compiled by the Forest Service. While the loss was larger than for several years, it was measurably light considering the dry season conditions. Protracted drought and periods of high winds made conditions virtually the same as in 1910, when $25,000,000 worth of timber on national forests was destroyed.

Careless campers were responsible for 1,388 fires. Railroads partly through failure to comply with the law set 1,000, while the number of incendiary fires is given as 952. The total number of fires fought was 7,814. All but 2,182 set by lightning, were caused by human agencies.

—WSS—

Gun Division of Bureau of Ordnance May Spend $2,000,000,000

A summary of the work of the Gun Division of the Bureau of Ordnance shows it has been necessary to equip 16 large plants for manufacture of mobile artillery cannon. The total program of the Gun Division calls for an expenditure of nearly $2,000,000,000.

The major projects have included:

Construction of smokeless powder plants in face of the necessity of doubling the present output. These are now underway.

Expenditure of approximately $40,000,000 for plant facilities to manufacture artillery cannon, with an estimate that $900,000,000 will be spent for cannon alone within two years after the beginning of the war.

Preparations for the erection of plants to extract toluol from the illuminating gas being furnished cities by private gas companies.

Conservation of the supply of ammonium nitrate and acid, such construction at Government expenses of a plant for the fixation of nitrogen and its final conversion into ammonium nitrate.

Construction, now undertaken, of a gas filling plant to cost approximately $1,500,000 and five large shell filling plants with a total cost of $25,000,000.

—WSS—

Use of Coal Gas in Motor Vehicles Increases in England.

The use of gas as a substitute for gasolene for motor tractica is increasing in England. According to a report to the United States Department of Commerce about 4,500 commercial vehicles have already been equipped to run on coal gas, with an estimated saving of gasolene of 3,000,000 gallons a year.

As a provision to maintain the supply of gas in districts where it is urgently needed for national work an order has been issued under which the use of gas manufactured or supplied by any specific undertaking may be prohibited in motor vehicles other than those used by the undertaking itself.

ADMINISTRATOR PAGE JUMPS THE VIOLATORS

Jobbers and Retailer Disciplined by Mr. Page and Others Are on The Rack—Red Cross Benefits.

Raleigh, N. C., April 3.—Dealers in foodstuffs in North Carolina are beginning to find that food control law and the orders and regulations of the Food Administration have teeth. One reputable wholesale house in North Carolina was guilty recently of violating a rule of the Food Administration which prohibits resales within a trade. Food Administrator Page gave the firm a hearing to show cause why its license should not be revoked. The dealers were apparently honest in their belief that they had done no wrong. Mr. Page did not see it that way but upon a tender of $200 to the Red Cross he let the firm off with an admonition instead of the revocation of its license.

J. Habit, a Syrian grocer at Edenton, was not just clear as to what control the Food Administration has over his business and he sold some sugar for more than 10c. a pound and some flour without the accompanying cereal substitutes. Mr. Habit was given a hearing and a "blacklist" order was issued against him. Facing the gradual disintegration of his business as his present stock was exhausted, Habit woke up to the fact that every individual in this country has some responsibility to the country and to humanity in the present emergency. Becoming deeply penitent and making promises of earnest and effective co-operation with the Food Administration, Mr. Habit has been allowed to contribute $100 to his local chapter of the Red Cross and the "blacklist" order has been withdrawn.

A small number of other merchants, millers and other handlers of food commodities in North Carolina have appeal and investigations and hearings are in process or are pending. Marse Henry is on the job and wilful violators of the orders, rules and regulations o the Food Administration need expect no mercy at his hands.

CORN-MEAL RISSOLES.

Mix one teacupful of corn-meal with one teacupful of ground rice, add four cupfuls of milk and cook slowly until quite stiff. Add four tablespoonfuls of Lutter substitute and two tablespoonfuls of fine bread crumbs. Fry four sliced and skinned tomatoes and two [illegible] of the mixture. Cook for a few minutes, stirring constantly. Now add two well-beaten eggs, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of salt, one half teaspoonful of pepper and one-half tablespoonful of chopped parsley. Turn out to cool. Form into neat rounds, brush over with beaten egg or milk, roll in corn-meal and fry smoking hot fat. Drain and serve garnished as desired. — The People's Home Journal.

The war garden will be just as big and as good as your patriotism will let it be.

HOW TO STRETCH A POUND OF BUTTER

In this day when the price of butter is soaring around 60 cents per pound any suggestions for making it do more are most welcome to the housewife. Mrs. Josephus Daniels has tried the following plan of increasing the family butter supply with the happiest results and has turned it over to the Division of Home Demonstration Work. This Division has also tried it, states Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon found it good, and in turn hands it to the public that it may enjoy a thickly buttered slice of bread almost at the same cost it did a thinly buttered one.

Here is the receipe. Cut a half pound of butter into small pieces and put into a bowl and place in a warm place until soft but not salty. Heat one cup of milk just to the boiling point, remove and cool until luke-warm. Beat the milk into the butter with an egg whip, pouring in a little until all has been taken up. The resulting mass will be light and creamy and will taste very much like butter fresh from the churn. The color of this butter will, of course, be much lighter than the original pat and will be less salty. If a salty flavor is desired more may be added.

It is useless to say that this product will not stay fresh very long. It is advisable therefore, to keep it up on ice and to whip up only as much as will be consumed in one or two days. Butter balls cannot be made of this product as they will fall to pieces in the making but it can be moulded and cut in squares. Try it; you will find it good and economical.

FOOD MENACE WILL BECOME GREATER

In a recent statement by the British Ministry of Food occurred the following which is just as applicable to the United States as to Great Britain: "War is making bad the world's cupboards; the granaries are being emptied, the flocks thinned, the herds shattered; the mines scraped. War is more exacting than ever; humanism like the destructive monster is consuming more food essentials than it is producing. Want follows hard in the wake of the chariot wheels of Mars and the whole world is threatened with hunger, the menace of which will become greater with the prolongation of hostilities. Victory will go to the combatants who are best fed and best equipped. The food problem is as essential to victory as shot and shell. The sands and the sea must befriend the rifle and the bayonet."

NEED TO CONSERVE WHEAT, ROOT THINKS

Washington, June 29.—Robert ob to 29 for Cuba to feed Allies and keep wheat prices down at home, Secretary Root, head of the food Administration, insisted today that the most concerted effort must be made to conserve wheat, whether meats and fats from Saturday need not be observed during the meat conservation period, the conference was told that there might be a lull in the campaign for wheat flour. On the contrary Food Administration officials announced that some more stringent regulations that conservation of wheat flour must be made if our people are to eat nothing of our grains and our allies are to be fed, for a period of nine months before the next harvest.

There will be no flour famine if the conservation of the Food Administration is followed, it was the opinion of wheat flour manufacturers, but to do so the most intensive application is absolutely necessary. The Food Administration is already urging the substitution of other cereals in making the wheat flour last longer, but is reluctant to compel consumers to eat less bread.

It will be many years before the men tribe will cease boasting of the great age attained by their ancestors who nourished during the world War.

NEVER BEFORE DID THE FARMERS HAVE
So Great Opportunity As They Have Today to Make Money. Never Before Could They Use IMPROVED Farm Implements to Such Great Advantage. And Never Before Was the Need For Labor Saving Implements so Great.

FARM LABOR HAS BEEN CALLED TO THE COLORS BY THE MULTIPLIED THOUSANDS. THE FARMER MUST MAKE UP FOR THIS LOSS BY USING LABOR SAVING MACHINERY.

WE ARE PLEASED TO SAY TO THE FARMERS OF PITT COUNTY, THAT WE HAVE A FAIRLY COMPLETE STOCK OF THESE IMPLEMENTS AND TAKING THE PRICE OF FARM PRODUCTS IN CONSIDERATION WE ARE SELLING THEM CHEAPER THAN EVER BEFORE.

A COMPLETE STOCK OF JOHN DEERE AND AVERY CORN AND COTTON PLANTERS; N. P. AND NEW FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTERS; DISK HARROWS, SMOOTHING HARROWS, PLOWS AND THE FAMOUS JNO. DEERE RIDING AND WALKING CULTIVATORS. THERE ARE NO BETTER FARM TOOLS MADE THAN WE SELL AND OUR PRICE IS RIGHT. WE ALSO CARRY A LARGE STOCK OF BUILDING MATERIAL, DOORS, WINDOWS, BLINDS, PORCH COLUMNS, MANTELS, ROOFING, PAINT, LOCKS, HINGES, NAILS, LIME, CEMENT, AND PLASTER.

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