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WEEKLY WAR NEWS DIGEST

Gen. Pershing Wants Nine Pairs of Shoes a Year for Men Serving in France

Gen. Pershing has requested shipment of 18,500 pairs of shoes for each 25,000 men monthly, which is approximately nine pairs of shoes per man per year. This quantity is in excess of actual consumption and is being used to build up a reserve for all troops in France. When such a supply is accumulated, the quantity per man will be refused.

The Quartermaster General's Department now has on hand and due on outstanding contracts, 7,564,000 field shoes and 7,873,000 marching shoes. It will be necessary to secure more than a million additional shoes during the year.

Food and Fuel Supplies Are Short in Many European Countries

A Swiss commercial paper states that there is a great shortage in coal of all kinds, an insufficient supply of wood for fuel, and small reserves in oils and grease throughout Switzerland. Fresh eggs have disappeared from the market. Dry vegetables are becoming more scarce. A project to manufacture flour from potatoes had to be abandoned because sufficient

supplies of potatoes could not be secured.

In Holland coal and coke prices have been advanced. In American terms, the maximum price for anthracite is about \$22 a ton; coke, \$10 a ton; coal briquets, \$25 a ton. Distribution is carefully regulated by cards, in specified quantities. The amount allowed, especially to residences, is much smaller than in peace times.

New French food regulations forbid eating houses to serve or consume fresh or packed butter otherwise than in the preparation of food. Curdled or sour milk is prohibited as well as cream and specified kinds of cheese. The making of pastries, biscuits and confectionery is prohibited. Only in dining cars, canteens and railroad stations may fresh or condensed milk or cream be served after 9 in the morning, by itself or mixed with coffee, tea or other preparation. No solid foods may be served between 9 and 11 in the morning and between 4:30 and 8:30 in the evening. When the price of a meal exceeds \$1.20 the customer may be served with not more than two dishes with or without vegetables, or more than one small loaf of ordinary bread. The bread is limited to about 3 1/2 ounces. All grain which may be used for making bread is reserved for human food.

The amount of sugar consumed in 1917 in the United States was about

88.3 pounds per capita, according to figures issued by the Department of Agriculture. The average annual consumption for the five-year period ending in 1916 was 84.7 pounds per capita.

There were about 1,500,000,000 pounds of commercial stocks of sugar on hand August 31, 1917, compared to 2,000,000,000 pounds on the same date in 1916. New York reported the largest stocks, followed in order by California and Louisiana.

Production of Rifles and Ammunition Meets All Requirements

Rifle and cartridge production in the United States has developed in volume and in quality on a scale assuring the satisfactory equipment of the Army, according to a statement authorized by the Secretary of War.

To achieve the rifle and ammunition production program the Government has expended or has obligated itself to expend, during 10 months of war, \$400,000,000 and 200 officers, 80,000 men, and 10,000 women have been engaged exclusively in the manufacture of rifles and cartridges. Two government plants and three privately owned plants are engaged in making rifles and one Government plant and nine privately owned plants are engaged in cartridge manufacture. Ordnance experts in this country and in Europe are in agreement that the

United States Army is being equipped with two of the best three rifles in the world.

Selective Service Boards in Oklahoma Serve Without Pay

Of the 261 members of local selective-service boards in Oklahoma, 97 per cent have served without pay.

The cost per man certified for service in Oklahoma was \$1.57, less than in any other States, according to figures made public by Postmaster General Corder. The cost of operation of the selective-service law ran high in Delaware, \$19 per man. The average cost per man certified throughout the United States was \$4.93.

Men at All Camps Receive Instruction in Gas Defense

At each cantonment in the United States a school has been established where every officer and man receives instruction in gas defense. The American gas mask, similar to the British, is as mechanically perfect as the best exports have been able to produce. The face piece, with glass or celluloid eyepieces, is connected by a flexible tube with a canister carried in a knapsack. The incoming breath comes through the canister, which is filled with several layers of chemicals which neutralize or render harmless the gas-laden air. Outgoing breath passes outside the face piece through a small valve.

The student in gas defense soon learns to get his mask on in a hurry, six seconds being the standard time when the knapsack containing the mask is hanging at his chest in the "alert" position. After intensive training a gas attack is arranged. The class is put in trenches, and without warning, clouds of smoke and chlorine are liberated by the instructors, masks are hurriedly put on, alarms sounded, and sleeping men in dugouts aroused. When the attack ceases the trenches are cleared of gas, the air is tested, and permission is given to remove masks.

Airplane Motors Tested in "Altitude Room" at Washington

When the first Liberty motor was ready to be tested it was taken to Pike's Peak that it might be studied while running under atmospheric conditions obtaining at high altitudes. This difficulty of bringing the motor to the mountain is now overcome at the Department of Commerce Bureau of Standards at Washington, by bringing the mountain to the motor.

Airplane motors are now tested at the Bureau of Standards in a laboratory where various conditions corresponding to high altitudes and low-temperatures are secured. The engine is placed in an air-tight concrete room provided among other things with refrigerator coils and a large pump to reduce the pressure of the air. By use of this apparatus motors may be observed under conditions similar to those at different altitudes, which might otherwise be done only by actual airplane flights.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest to the World

Plans of the American Library Association include the establishment of book and library service in Army and Navy hospitals in America and France.

Exports of corn to Canada for feeding and manufacturing purposes have been limited to those varieties and grades which are not suitable for seed purposes.

Divisional athletic directors who have received commissions will accompany their contingents to France, according to the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities. Boxing instructors will not be sent with the troops, as at present the need for these men is considered greater on this side.

The Government is today the greatest employer of labor in the United States, not considering railroad employees. In normal times approximately 400,000 civilians are employed, and in the last year the number has increased to 600,000. In comparison one steel corporation employs 300,000 men, and one railroad 250,000.

"Stars and Stripes," is the name of the weekly newspaper being published in France for American troops, under the direction of the intelligence section. Practically the entire paper is devoted to American news, including a daily radio report of about 1,400 words supplied by the Committee on Public Information to the French Government.

A new publication issued by the United States Health Service is the 250-page book, "Prevention of Disease and Care of the Sick," with a supplement on first aid work. The book has 200 illustrations, and covers subjects relating to disease prevention, care and treatment of sick persons, and emergency measures in the event of accidental injuries.

In an announcement by the Food Administration the cause for advance in rice prices is attributed to the fact that most rice mills have been running to full capacity in order to supply the demand for 1,000,000 bags for American and allied fighting forces. As a result the normal supply for home consumption has been temporarily reduced. Lower prices are forecasted.

FARMERS BOUND TO WIN

The record of farmers last year, made in the face of obstacles, is ground for confidence on their part that with equal application and organization they can overcome the difficulties this year, according to Secretary Houston. Unquestionably there will be difficulties to surmount—difficulties in respect to labor and in respect to fertilizers, both as to price and quantity. Prices of farm machinery also, with other things, have risen. In some respects the farm-labor situation may not be quite so difficult as last year, although it will continue to be especially acute in certain sections of the country. The cantonments have been built and there will not be a renewal of urgent demands in many sections for labor for such work. The draft regulations provide for the deferred classification of skilled farm labor. The population of the country has increased somewhat within the past year. The Secretary of War has

asked Congress for power to furlough soldiers of the National Army for agricultural service if necessary.

KEEP UP BIG POTATO CROPS, SAY FEDERAL SPECIALISTS

The normal acreage of Irish and sweet potatoes should be maintained in 1918 notwithstanding the large crops in 1917, the Department of Agriculture believes. This is especially true in view of the necessity of releasing more wheat for export. Potatoes, both Irish and sweet, are the most popular and most generally used of the perishable staple crops. The Department, through its extension and publication activities, is encouraging their greater use, especially the use of the Irish potato, as a partial substitute for wheat in bread making.

The yield per acre can be made more certain by greater attention to the selection of disease-free potatoes of good varieties, by treatment of seed potatoes immediately before planting, and by the use of sprays to prevent loss from blight.

ASKS \$6,000,000 TO BUY SEED

The Secretary of Agriculture has asked Congress for an appropriation of \$6,000,000 to enable the Department of Agriculture to buy and sell seed to farmers at cost at a reasonable price. It is the purpose of the Department, if the sum suggested is made available, to take immediate steps to secure, test, and store at least a portion of the supply of these seeds that will be needed for this season. The seed will be sold to farmers only for cash at a reasonable price and it is provided that the fund may be used as a revolving fund until the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the emergency contemplated by the appropriation no longer exists. Under the circumstances it is believed that it will be possible to return to the Treasury the entire amount appropriated or at least the greater portion of it.

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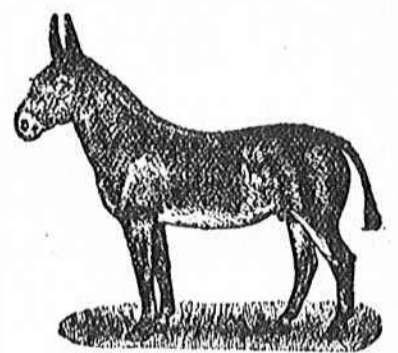
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