

GERMAN VANDALISM.

Ambassador Reports Destruction of All Means for French Livelihood.

The systematic vandalism with which the retreating German forces have destroyed almost everything above ground in the territory they have been forced to yield along the French battle front is fully described in a cable report made to Secretary Lansing by American Ambassador Sharp, at Paris, dealing with his recent visit to the parts of France recently reconquered from the Germans.

This is the second detailed report that Mr. Sharp has sent explaining the wanton destruction. The text of the message was not made public, but the State department issued this summary.

"Mr. Sharp's report tells of the great distress which prevails throughout those districts because of the very wantonness of the retreating army in carrying out the destruction of everything which would contribute to the bare existence of the population, and also every means of earning a livelihood.

"In the houses every article of furniture was either destroyed or carried away. Buildings themselves were not actually destroyed, but there was manifest a systematic programme of destroying or removing every door and every window frame; in this way where lack of time prevented the destruction of the roof overhead the houses had been rendered utterly useless in an unusually severe stress of weather.

"Mr. Sharp quotes from a local paper the following description of these scenes written by a German correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger. Mr. Sharp states that from his own personal observation he can vouch for the entire accuracy of the description.

"All is a desert, across which the road is the last vestige of a vanished civilization and the road itself will disappear in a few days. All the crossroads are mined and the mine chambers charged. Motor-driven plows are at work in the fields rendering them impassable for the enemy's artillery and convoys. Troops on the march pass with wagons laden with provisions and utensils. They have left nothing in the positions evacuated. What has not been destroyed has been burned or smashed. The soldiers have blown up their shelters and rendered their wells and former quarters useless. The walls that remain standing after the fire will be destroyed with explosives. Even cellars have been blown up. All this was not done in a day. The work has been carried out methodically during weeks and months in order not to arouse the suspicion of the enemy."

War and Peace.

How can we sing the angels' song,
When half the world looms large
with fearful strife,
And where sweet Peace her blessings
once bestowed
Loud sounds the fierce demand of
life for life?

The lilies of afar France are stained
with blood.
Her peaceful fields are bristling
ranks of spears.
And low before her desolated altar
shrines
Sad mothers weep their unavailing
tears.

The stalwart German by the river's
side
Gives up his young life for the father-
land,
And thousands like him offer up
their all
To meet the dreadful toll of war's
demand.

Long shall the English maiden wait
for him
Who on some distant field shall bear
his part,
Leaving the glory of a deathless
name
To ease the anguish of her breaking
heart.

At sight of these the angels fold
their wings—
Lord, haste the time when war and
strife shall cease;
When Love shall rise triumphant
over Hate,
And Christendom rejoice in universal
peace!

—Maria Briscoe Croker in the Living Church.

One Girl's Reason.

Madge—You must still love him if it just broke your heart to return the ring.

Marjorie—Oh, no; but it was the loveliest engagement ring I ever had.—Record.

The Worst.

She—Is the quarterback a senior?

Him—No, Genevieve.

She—Oh, I thought he must be—he knows such a lot of numbers!—Record.

WAR CONFERENCES OPEN.

Gen. Joffre and Staff Confer With Secretary of War.

Washington, April 26.—Conferences between members of the French war mission and the American government officials for exchanges of views regarding the conduct of the war against Germany began here today after the leading commissioners had paid official calls upon President Wilson, Vice President Marshall and Secretaries Lansing, Baker and Daniels.

Of foremost importance was a long talk between Marshal Joffre and members of his staff and Secretary Baker, Gen. Scott, chief of staff, and several other American army officers. France is known to desire the sending of an American expeditionary force to cooperate with her armies and Marshal Joffre came to the United States prepared to give reasons for the French opinion of military experts that the sending of such a force is advisable. Information regarding the meeting between the military leaders was withheld.

Will Mean Victory.

Soon after the conclusion of the conference Rene Viviani, vice premier of France and head of the war mission, made a statement to the American press in which he declared that the cooperation of the United States in the war would mean not only a victory for France, which already was assured, but a victory of morality and right.

What \$7,000,000,000 Means.

What \$7,000,000,000, the amount of the bond issue voted by the house of representatives, means is set forth in the following comparison:

It could buy 374 of the most modern of superdreadnaughts and have enough left for torpedo boat destroyers.

It is more than three times the total investment of the telephone companies of the world.

It is a little less than a third of the entire manufacturing capital of the United States, given in the 1914 census.

It would pay the public debt of all the States, cities and counties in the United States more than twice over.

It is more than four times the total value of the school property of the United States, eight times the value of the wheat crop for 1916, and triple the value of the corn crop.

It is approximately fourteen times the value of the production of the automobile or the boot and shoe industry, and four times that of the packing industry.

It would buy more than 240,000 of the most modern all-steel Pullman cars.

If you had the \$7,000,000,000 and wished to distribute it, you could give each person living in the world today \$3.50 and still have money left; or you could give \$10 apiece to every inhabitant of the allied belligerent countries, including Japan, but excluding the United States.

The \$7,000,000,000 is a half billion dollars less than the total assessed valuation of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

It is one-fifth the value of all the farm land in the United States; one billion dollars more than the value of all the animals in the country and more than half the value of the farm products for 1916.

The national bank deposits are something over \$8,000,000,000, and the total supply of current money in the United States less than \$5,000,000,000.

It would practically pay the expenses of Great Britain in conducting the war for a year. It is more than the combined wealth of Spain and Portugal, and within a billion dollars of the total supply of gold of the world. It is three times the amount of silver.

Twenty Panama canals could be constructed for this amount.—Milwaukee Journal.

Cats Are a Menace.

That cats are a more positive menace to health than even houseflies—especially among children—is the conclusion reached by the Medical officer of health of Berwick Eng. Microscopic investigation demonstrated that there is scarcely a single disease spreading species of bacteria that cannot be isolated from the cat's fur, and in epidemics of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and pneumonia, these animals—if allowed to stray about—can hardly fail to carry in fection. A man dying of consumption in miserable surroundings was found to have nine cats, so poorly fed that they had become infested, which freely entered neighboring houses where there were children.

Putting On Airs.

"I hear the Comeups made a lot of fuss about their daughter's wedding presents. I didn't think they were especially handsome."

"Maybe not, but they hired a detective to watch them."—Baltimore American.

MONEY TO LOAN

I represent a company that is anxious to put out money in this county, and I am in a position to negotiate loans of from \$2,000 up on good farm property, at low rates and for long terms.

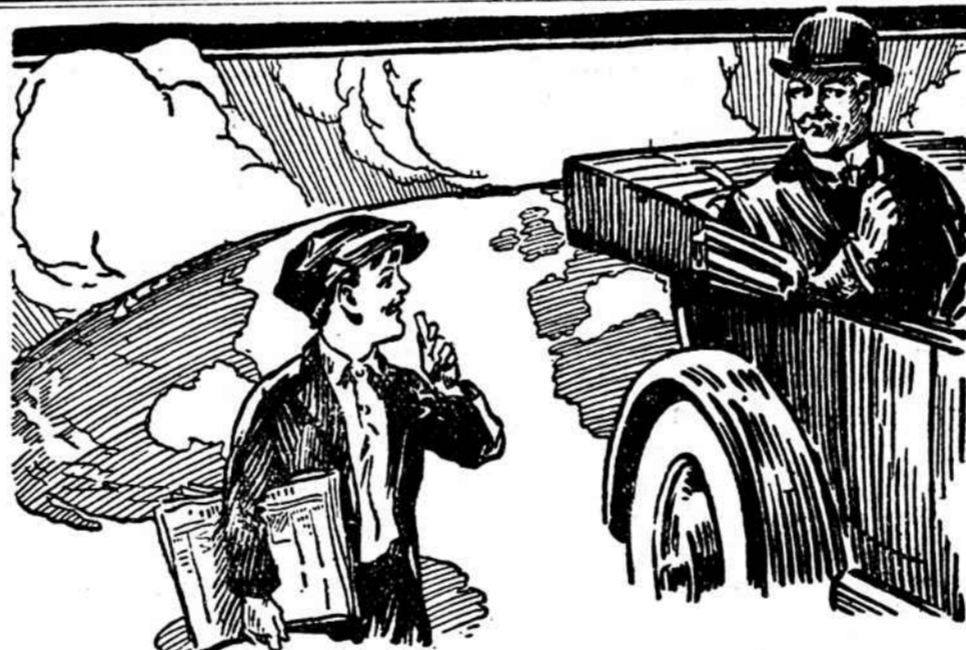
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Came Back to Me Again

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WRIGLEY'S
Makes the Whole World Kin!

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Fresh, clean, wholesome and delicious always.

It aids appetite and digestion, quenches thirst, keeps the teeth clean and breath sweet.



Three Fine Flavors

"After every meal"

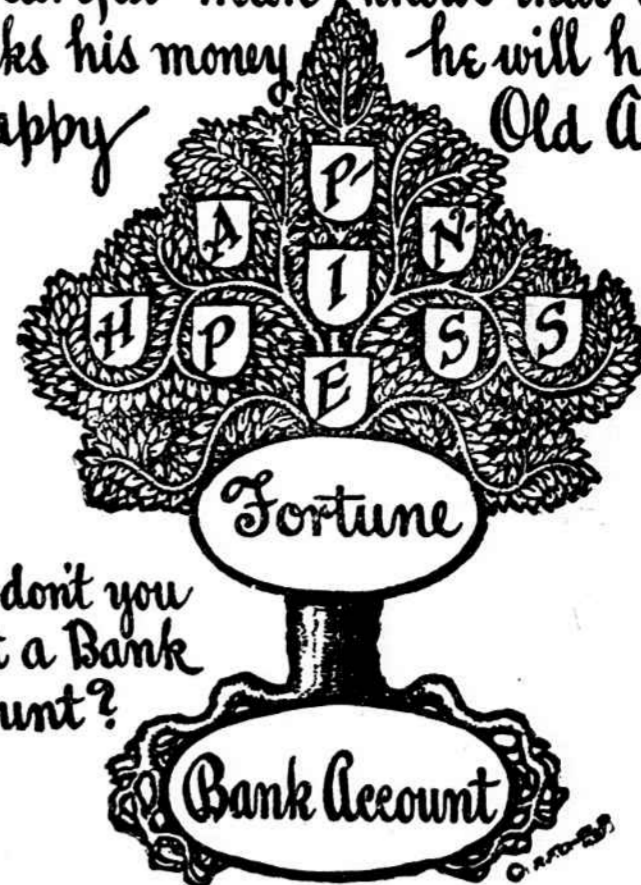
The Flavor Lasts



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START ONE NOW. BANK SOME OF YOUR EARNINGS. BANK WITH US

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The operators of the BELL System are trained to be patient and polite under all circumstances, but they will do better work if they meet with patience and politeness on the part of the telephone users.

The fact that you cannot see the operator or the other party should not cause you to overlook this. The best results come through the practice of mutual courtesy.

The voice with the smile wins

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