

## GREAT AMERICAN ARMY WILL BE SENT TO FRANCE.

(Continued from page 1, column 3.)

so that an immediate plan should be made in the United States for conducting war against its adversary, but we were coming into a war which had been going on for two and one-half years, in which the greatest military experts, all the inventive genius, all of the industrial capacity of those greatest countries in the world had for two and one half years been solving the problem of what kind of war it was to be and where it was to be waged.

"It was not a thing for us to decide where our theatre of war should be. The theatre of war was France. It was not for us to decide our line of communications. Our line of communications was across 3,000 miles of ocean. It was not for us to decide whether we would have the manoeuvring of large bodies of troops in the open. There lay the antagonists on opposite sides of No Man's Land in the trenches at death grapple with one another. Our antagonist was on the other side of that line and our problem was to get over and get him.

"It was not the problem of doing it our way and letting everybody else take care of himself. In the first place we were going to fight in France not on our own soil and not on our adversaries' soil and therefore at the very beginning it was obvious that the thing we had to do was not to map out an ideal plan of campaign, not to have the war college with its speculative studies of Napoleon and everybody else map out the theoretically best way to get at some other country, but it was the problem of studying the then existing situation and bringing the financial, the industrial and the military strength of the United States into cooperation with that of Great Britain and France in the most immediate and effective way. That problem could not be decided here. I fancy in this audience there are men who have been in the trenches. The altogether unprecedented character of that problem is the thing which every returning visitor tells us can not be described in words, cannot be put down in reports; it is a thing so different from everything else that ever went on in the world, so vast in its desolation, so extraordinary in its uniqueness that it must be seen and studied on the ground in order to be comprehended at all.

### Study From Beginning.

"So that from the very beginning it was not a question of abstract speculation here but a question of study there to find out where our shoulders to the wheel could best be put.

"They realized that. And so great Britain sent over to us Mr. Balfour and General Bridges and a staff of experts. They came over here and saw Mr. Balfour in the house of congress and at the white house and at public meetings, but the group of experts whom they brought over with them you did not see much of and yet they distributed themselves through the war department and their ordnance experts sat down with General Crowder, their supply experts with General Sharpe and his assistants; their strategists sat down with the army war college and all over this city there were these confidential groups exchanging information, telling how the thing was over there, what we could do, what they advised us to do, what experience they had had in developing this, that and the other implement of supply, how certain plans which one might naturally have evolved out of the past experiences of the world had been tried there and found not to work at all.

"They were exchanging information, giving us all that they thought was helpful. And then came Joffre, with his wonderful reputation and his great and charming personality and he made a great figure here and we welcomed him. It was a tremendous inspiration to see the hero of the Marne; but with him came his were constantly being changed so that men fresh from the front could be here to advise with us, and in addition to that every one of them had to be a university professor, going out into the life of the community and selecting men who had mechanical experience and knowledge and trying and adding to his original equipment the scientific training, that finishing touch which made him available for use as a military scientist.

### Trained Ordnance Officers.

"As a consequence this little group which stayed here have built up the greatest special departments of the army. The ordnance department, starting, I think, with 93 or 96 officers has now grown as I recall the figures, to something like 3,000 officers. They have had to be trained, they have had to be specialized and that has had to go on contemporaneously with this tremendous response to the changing conditions on the other side.

"In the meantime when we started into this war I think it was commonly thought throughout the country

that our contribution at the outset might well be financial and industrial. The industries of the country were largely devoted at that time, the appropriate industries were largely devoted to the manufacture of war materials for our allies.

"As I suggested this morning when we went into that market we found it largely occupied, so that our problem was not going to a shoe factory and saying 'make shoes for us,' but it was going to a factory which never made shoes because all the shoe factories are busy making shoes for people from whom we could not take them, and saying 'learn how to make shoes in order that you may make them for us.'

"Now, of course, that is not true of shoes, but it is true of machine guns, it is true of other arms, it is true of ammunition, it is true of forging capacity, which was the greatest defect in the country and all of this time we had not merely not to disturb the programme of allied manufacture in this country but we had to shut off the supplies of raw material to our allies and we had not to disturb the industry of the country to such an extent that products upon which they depended for the success of their military operations would be interfered with both agricultural and commercial and industrial products.

"At the outset the idea was that we would be a financial and industrial assistance to our allies during the year, 1918, and I think I can probably read from the Metropolitan Magazine for August a suggestion which will show what the current expectation of the country was. The editor of the Metropolitan Magazine was protesting against what he believed to be the intention of the government at that time. This magazine came out in August 1917, and this editorial says: 'Since it is our war, we want to put everything into it so as to finish it in the shortest possible time; so that the world may be restored. To our mind the whole plan of the war department has been flavored with a desire to hold off until the allies finish the war for us.'

### Met Expectations.

"You see the editor was dealing with what he supposed to be the intention of the war department at that time; that we were holding off so far as actual military operations were concerned and letting the allies do the fighting.

"What he says we should have done and I ask your particular attention to it, is this: 'We should have strained every energy to have gotten from 50,000 to 100,000 men to France this year.'

"That is, the year, 1917. I tell no secret but it is perfectly well known to everybody in this group that we have far exceeded what in August, 1917, was regarded as a programme so ideal that the editor of this magazine refers to it as a thing which we ought to have strained every nerve in a vain but hopeless effort to accomplish.

"And then the editor goes on. 'And by next year, 1918, we could have had 500,000 men which we could send.'

"Now, instead of having 50,000 or 100,000 men in France, we have many more men than that in France and instead of having a half million men whom we could ship to France if we could find any way to do it in 1918, we will have more than one-half million men in France early in 1918 and we have available if the transportation facilities are available to us (the prospect is not unpromising) one and one-half million who in 1918 can be shipped to France.

"I have here a statement from Field Marshal von Hindenberg in which he is quoted as saying in a German newspaper in contemptuous fashion of us that we have advertised our preparations for this war in an unworthy manner. If I may rely upon the confidential information which we get from confidential sources, the German government is still mystified as to the number of men we have in France or have had there at any time.

"I am saying this now because you have asked me why I have held back these facts until now. I am saying to you that you could not get from Great Britain at this minute—I don't know whether I could get the number of soldiers Great Britain has in France or at home. I could get an approximation; I could get whatever information might be deemed helpful to the immediate military object to be accomplished, but I could not get from Great Britain or France the actual number of troops they have at the front.

"It may be that that precaution is unnecessary and yet that is the precaution which military men have observed, and I have no further point to make in the matter of the number of troops there than to show, as I was showing when I read that extract, that our original intention was to make our military effort in 1918; and in August, 1917, a zealous advocate of immediate activity laid down as the maximum obtainable programme

a thing which has been multifold exceeded.

"Why did we decide to send so many troops to France in 1917 is no secret. When Marshal Joffre came to this country from France, when the British mission came they told us of the situation which we had not up to that time fully appreciated. There had been in France recently conducted before that an unsuccessful major offensive. The French people had suffered, oh, suffered in a way that not only our language is not adapted to describe, but our imagination cannot conceive. The war is in their country. This wolf has not only been at their door but he has been gnawing for two years and a half at their vitals, and when this unsuccessful offensive in France had been met there was a spirit not of surrender but of fate about the French people, and this mighty military engine which they had seen prepared to overthrow them for 40 years was at them, and their attitude was that no matter whether every Frenchman died in his tracks, as they were willing to do, or not, that it was an irresistible thing, and so they said to us, 'Frankly, it will cheer us; it will cheer our people if you send over some of your troops.'

### "We did send some troops.

#### Division Was Sent.

"At that time we had a choice. We could send over as Great Britain did, our regular army and in a very short preparation have put it into action, and suffered exactly what Great Britain suffered with her 'contemptible little army,' as it was called by their adversaries. Our army would have given as good an account of itself as the British army did, but it would have been destroyed like the British army, and there would have been no nucleus on which to build this new army that was to come over a little later, and it was deemed wiser to send over a regular division, but not to send over our whole regular army at that time.

"Then what happened was that the regular division went over and the people of France kissed the hems of their garments as they marched up the streets of Paris; the old veterans wounded in this war, legless or armless, stumping along on crutches, perhaps, as they went up the streets of Paris with their arms around the necks of American soldiers. Not a single man in the division was unaccompanied by a veteran. American had gone to France and the French people rose with a sense of gratitude and hopefulness that had never been in them before.

"Of course, they welcomed the British but their need was not so great when the British went. They welcomed the British but there were ties between them and us which there had not been between them and the British and so when our troops went there was an instant and spontaneous rise in the morale of the French, but an equally instant and spontaneous insistence that these soldiers who came from America should continue to come in an unbroken stream.

"And, so we made the election. We decided not to send the regular army as a whole, but to send regular divisions and National Guard divisions selected according to the state of their preparation and keep back here some part of our trained force in order that it might inoculate with its spirit and its training these raw levies which we were training, and one after another these divisions have gone over until in France there is a fighting army, an army trained in the essentials and in the beginning of military discipline and practice, and trained seasoned fighters in this kind of a war on the actual battlefields where it is taking place.

### Army Behind Lines.

"Early in this war, when Joffre was here and Balfour was here, they said to us 'it may take you some time to get over to us a great fighting army, but you are a great industrial country; our man power is fully engaged in our industries and military enterprises, send over armies and special engineering regiments and troops of technical character' and although it was not contemplated at the outset, and only a phrase in the emergency military legislation shows that the thing was thought of as a possibility, yet in a very short time we had organized engineering regiments of railroad men and sent them ever there and were rebuilding the lines of the British and French, the railways which were being carried forward with their advance, reconstructing their broken engines and cars, building new railroads, both back of the French and British lines and those regiments were of such quality that at the Cambrai assault, carried on by General Byng, when the Germans made their counter-attack, our engineer regiments threw down their picks and shovels and carried their rifles into the battle and distinguished themselves by gallant action in the war itself.

"Very early in this war Great Britain through Balfour and his assist-

ants and France, through Joffre, said to us: 'Send us nurses and doctors.' Why, when we were scarcely in the war, Americans organized in advance and anticipation by the Red Cross, which was taken over into the service of the United States through the surgeon general's office, were on the battlefields, and there are tens of thousands of men in England and France now who bless the mission of mercy upon which the first American appeared in France.

"Our surgeons have set up hospitals immediately behind the lines. They have been made military in every sense of the word. They have been especially fortunate in escaping attack from the air, and our early losses in this war, the losses of Red Cross nurses and doctors and orderlies and attendants in hospitals and ambulance drivers who were sent over to assist our allies in these necessary services, thus not only rendering assistance but acquiring skill and knowledge of the circumstances and surroundings, so that when our own troops came in large numbers they could render like service to our own forces."

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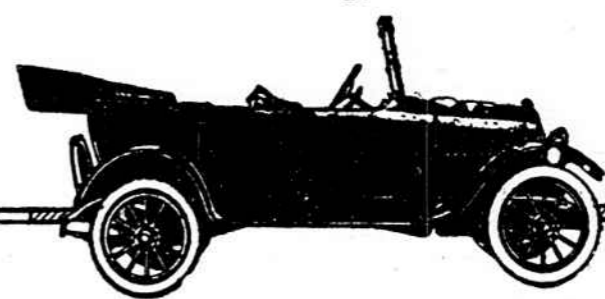
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18	Augusta and intermediate stations ..... 8:43 a. m.	18	Branchville, Charleston and intermediate stations ..... 8:43 a. m.
35	Charleston and intermediate stations ..... 10:57 a. m.	35	Augusta and intermediate stations ..... 10:57 a. m.
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