

AMERICAN RIFLE IS BETTER THAN HUN'S

QUICKER FIRING, EASIER SIGHTING AND GREATER ACCURACY CLAIMED FOR WEAPON.

BIG SUM FOR MOBILE CANNON

Bureau of Ordnance Program Calls for \$2,000,000,000 Expenditure by Gun Division—Employment Service Plans to Supply Farm Workers.

(From Committee on Public Information.)
Washington—American troops are armed with a faster 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. One military critic and writer claims the German Mauser does not permit the most skilled user to get more than 50 per cent of the firing speed of the modified Enfield adopted for the United States service.

The superiority claimed for the American weapon is supported on three counts: Quicker firing as a result of bolt-handle design, easier and quicker sighting as a result of sight design, greater accuracy of bullet flight resulting from bullet design and greater mechanical accuracy of chamber and bore.

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 under way.

Expenditure of approximately \$10,000,000 for plant facilities to manufacture artillery cannon, with an estimate that \$300,000,000 will be spent for cannon alone within two years after the beginning of the war.

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

Conservation of the supply of ammonium nitrate and acids and construction at government expense 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.

A special farm-service division is being established in most of the 100 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 55,000, 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.

The use of gas as a substitute for gasoline for motor traction 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 gasoline of 3,000,000 gallons a year.

Over 20 large companies are manufacturing airplanes, 16 are producing engines, and more than 400 are producing spare parts, accessories, and supplies.

Naval training camps have a capacity of 102,000 in summer, 94,000 men in winter.

In 16 cantonments 650,000,000 feet of lumber were used.

Paymaster general of the navy drew checks for more than \$30,000,000 in one day—February 23—for munitions; total advertised purchases for the navy for 1915 were \$19,000,000.

During February, with 23 business days, \$13,878,811 were loaned to farmers by the federal land banks, according to a statement of the farm loan board. This is \$2,001,204 more than the January total.

On March 1 the total amount of mortgage loans placed since the establishment of the federal land banks is \$64,532,343, covering 28,495 loans.

Since the declaration of war 1,501 employees of the department of commerce have entered military and naval services.

The following statements are from the official review of the first year of war, made public by the committee on public information.

The total estimated expense of the United States government in the first year of war, without loans to the allies, is \$12,067,278,679.07.

During the first year of war the United States army has increased in actual strength from 9,524 officers and 202,510 enlisted men to 123,801 officers and 1,528,924 enlisted men. Strength of the navy today is nearly 21,000 officers and 330,000 enlisted men; strength a year ago was 4,792 officers and 77,916 enlisted men. The total number of persons now in the naval establishment exceeds 425,000.

The first contingent of the expeditionary forces landed safely at a French port 88 days after war was declared. American troops went on the line for their baptism of fire 187 days after war was declared.

Nearly 73,000 mechanics and other civilian employees are working at navy yards and stations.

More than 700 privately owned vessels have been purchased or chartered by the navy.

Some 300 wooden mills are working on army contracts.

Over 20,000,000 pairs of shoes have been ordered for the army.

Treasury department floated \$6,616,532,300 subscriptions to Liberty bonds.

Loans to a total of \$3,882,000,000 had been made to co-belligerent nations to end of 1917.

Total weight of steel thrown by a single broadside from the Pennsylvania today is 17,508 pounds; maximum broadside of largest ship during Spanish-American war was 5,600 pounds.

Two weeks after war was declared contracts had been made covering the requirements of an army of 1,000,000 men, this material comprising 8,700,000 items.

More than 11,000 manufacturers bid for navy business.

Total deaths in the army from April 6, 1917, to March 14, 1918, for all causes was reported by the Adjutant General's office to be 1,191. Of this number, 132 were reported as killed in action and 237 died or were lost at sea. The total number wounded in action was 404. Thirty-five men have been reported as missing; 28 of them are said to have been captured. Casualties in the navy and marine corps from April 6 to December 31, 1917, include 5 naval officers and 139 enlisted men, killed or died from wounds. No officers were reported as wounded in action, but 10 enlisted men were so reported.

Government now operates 200,000 miles of railway, employing 1,000,000 men and representing investment of \$17,500,000.

Bonds, certificates of indebtedness, war-savings certificates, and thrift stamps is issued by the treasury up to March 12 totaled \$8,560,802,052.96.

The United States government had loaned to foreign governments associated in the war on March 12, 1918, \$4,436,329,750.

To March 12 the war-risk insurance bureau had issued policies for a total of \$12,465,116,500 to the armed forces.

Aliments and allowances to soldiers' and sailors' dependents paid by the government in February amounted to \$19,976,543.

The ordnance department manufactures about 100,000 items. One type of gun with its carriage has 7,000 parts, exclusive of accessories.

For training troops in cantonments 1,000,000,000 rounds of ammunition have been bought.

The navy has developed an American mine believed to combine all the good points of various types of mines, and is manufacturing them in quantities.

Army medical training schools have been created with capacity of 21,000 officers and men—15,000 enlisted men and 6,000 officers already trained and graduated.

Naval communication service operates all radio service; 5,000 youths are studying radiotelegraphy at two naval schools.

Medical officers numbering 1,675 are members of the medical department of the navy. Navy maintains 12,000 hospital beds and 5,000 are being added.

Of 63,203 candidates for officers' commissions at two officers' training camps 44,578 were successful; a third series is now in progress with 18,000 attendance.

During the year the latest type of naval 16-inch gun was completed for our new battleships; it throws a projectile weighing 2,100 pounds.

When war was declared, 123 naval vessels were building or authorized, and contracts have been placed since that time for 949 vessels.

Before the war a total of \$1,500,000 had been appropriated for air service. Congress has made \$691,000,000 available for aircraft production in first year of war.

There are now 180 firms employed in Germany in the manufacture of whole wood shoes for new footwear with an output of 400,000 pairs weekly. Beechwood has been chiefly used, but any hardwood with the exception of oak, will serve equally well.

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.

The Australian wheat crop for the season of 1917-18 is estimated at 114,020,000 bushels, compared with last year's yield of 152,565,000. The 25 per cent decrease is a result of reduced acreage and unfavorable conditions.



1—The University of Paris, opened as an army club for college men and their friends.



2—American bluejackets going aboard one of the Dutch steamers taken over by the American government.

A CHILD DOESN'T LAUGH AND PLAY IF CONSTIPATED
LOOK, MOTHER! IS TONGUE COATED, BREATH FEVERISH AND STOMACH SOUR?
"CALIFORNIA SYRUP OF FIGS" CAN'T HARM TENDER STOMACH, LIVER, BOWELS.



A laxative today saves a sick child tomorrow. Children simply will not take the time from play to empty their bowels, which become clogged up with waste, liver gets sluggish, stomach sour.

Look at the tongue, mother! If coated, or your child is listless, cross, feverish, breath bad, restless, doesn't eat heartily, full of cold or has sore throat or any other children's ailment, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," then don't worry, because it is perfectly harmless, and in a few hours all this constipation poison, sour bile and fermenting waste will gently move out of the bowels, and you have a well, playful child again. A thorough "inside cleansing" is oftentimes all that is necessary. It should be the first treatment given in any sickness.

Beware of counterfeit fig syrups. Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly printed on the bottle. Look carefully and see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company."—Adv.

Gas is always shut in when it is turned out.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Great German Drive Slowed Up and Allied Counter-Thrust Seems at Hand.

AMENS THE HUN'S OBJECTIVE

British Speedily Check Diversion Attack on Arras—French Stubbornly Hold Line on Oise—Americans Acquit Themselves Well—Ukrainians and Bolsheviks Recapture Odessa.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Another week of the bloodiest kind of fighting failed to bring to the Germans the real victory on which they had so confidently counted, for though the British and French armies had been forced to yield further territory, their lines were unbroken and their spirits undimmed. As the German military authorities, General Ardennes, says, it is not the capture of territory that can bring a decision, but only a victory over and through the shattering of the enemy's armies. So far from being shattered, the allied forces, weary and battered as they are, are full of confidence, and as this is written are but awaiting the opportune moment to strike back with the big army of maneuver which was placed at the disposal of the supreme war council.

Amiens, a most important link in the British line of communications, appeared to be the real objective of the Germans, and they were able during the week to push forward toward that city, along the line of the Somme, as far as Hamel, and a little farther north they took Albert and were holding it against fierce counter-attacks by the British. To the south they had pushed a salient forward a little beyond Montdidier, but there the French came back at them with such elan that they were checked and lost several commanding positions. East of this sector the French troops held stubbornly to their lines along the Oise and on Thursday attacked dashing south of Noyon and drove the enemy back two miles at the point of the bayonet. It was along this east and west base of the German salient that the allied world expected the great counter-thrust of the army of maneuver to be made. Any considerable advance to the north there it was pointed out, would force the Germans to draw back to save their lines of communication, which already are so badly stretched out that they have great difficulty in bringing up artillery and food.

What looked like a diversion rather than a serious threat was the attack of the Huns in the middle of the week at the northern extremity of the line of battle toward Arras. There the British, after giving some ground, repulsed the enemy with terrible slaughter. Presumably this thrust at Arras was made to keep the British from sending men and guns to the sector where their lines join those of the French, but it was so quickly blocked that it failed of its purpose. Extraordinarily bold and successful was the work of the British and French aviators. In their low-flying battle planes they flew in swarms continuously over the battlefields and back of the German lines, playing havoc with the enemy's transports and inflicting heavy casualties in his reserves. Battles in the air were innumerable, but the allied aviators maintained the upper hand always. The artillerymen also distinguished themselves, striking to their firing to the last moment and usually saving their guns when forced to fall back.

On the whole, the developments of the week were such as to restore confidence among the allies, for though the situation was still critical, it seemed that Premier Clemenceau was right when he said that whatever might happen in the next few days, the enemy could not win the path to the sea nor the path to Paris.

Just what part the American troops have been playing in the Somme battle

had not been made clear at the time of writing, but testimony to their excellent fighting was given by a wounded French captain who arrived in Paris. "Entirely new in this warfare," said he, "the Americans worked like the best veterans."

Some of Pershing's men, at least, were moved over to the sectors left by French troops who were sent farther west to stem the German advance. In their own sector near Toul they had a rather lively week of it, for the German artillery shelled them continuously and seemed to be preparing for an infantry attack. The American guns made effective response, and on occasion drenched the enemy positions with gas shells.

There were increasing evidences during the week that the Italian front is to be the scene of another Teuton drive. Airplane observers reported that heavy re-enforcements to the Austrian forces were being brought up daily from the Roumanian front, together with numerous new pieces of heavy artillery. In the mountain section the artillery duels grew in intensity, and everything pointed toward an early effort to break through to the plains in that region. It was supposed the Austrians believed the Italians would be dispirited by the German successes in France.

The "miracle gun" with which the Germans have been shelling Paris from a distance of 76 miles turns out to be a product of the Krupp works, as is proved by the Kaiser's message to Doctor Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach congratulating him on the success of the new weapon. A German ordnance authority says these extraordinary guns are merely being tested on Paris and have been built for the purpose of bombarding London.

Another considerable victory was scored last week by the British forces in Mesopotamia, the entire Turkish army in the Hitt area being captured or destroyed. In Palestine Allenby's men continued their advance beyond the Jordan, approaching the Hedjaz railway on which they heavily bombed troop transport trains.

The revolt of the Russians against the brutal pillaging of the Germans who have penetrated their country is beginning to bear fruit. Troops of the Ukrainian rada are co-operating with the bolshevik forces and already have recaptured Odessa after a bloody battle, in which naval forces took part. Before that the red guards and armed civilians had retaken Kherson, Nikolayev and Znamenka from the Teutons. In some places the peasants killed the German soldiers who were taking away their foodstuffs. The Ukrainians were angered by attempts of the Germans to go far beyond the terms of the peace treaty and strip the country of its stores of grain and sugar. It is said a council of German officers decided to continue operations in Ukraine until the power of the bolsheviks there had been eliminated.

Trotsky, speaking in Moscow, declared Russia will never be an enslaved country, though the soviet government is now weak and poor. He said they would introduce compulsory military training for the workmen and peasants and create an army of 300,000 men within eight or ten weeks. The allies still stand ready to support all elements within Russia which will oppose the German invasion.

However, as Gilbert K. Chesterton says, it is plain that the bolshevik philosophy does not prevent a man from fighting; it only prevents him from winning.

Probably it was inevitable that politics should enter into the debates and doings of congress this year, but it has taken a particularly unfortunate turn owing to the senatorial election in Wisconsin. The president, because of his effort to bring about the election of Mr. Davies, is accused by the Republicans of going out of his way to confuse partisanship with loyalty, and for this he was attacked by Senator Smoot and others, who assert the Republicans have not sought to secure party advantage from the war. Senator Williams really started this row by a speech in which he charged that revelations of the failure of the airplane program and of the backwardness of shipbuilding were "poisoned gas" directed by the Republicans against the administration. This was

vigorously denied by Senator Jones and others, who contended that the public should be told the truth and not fed on misleading statements of the Progress of our war preparations.

In a follow-up speech Thursday Senator Williams bluntly declared that Senator La Follette should be expelled from the senate, and that Victor Berger, Socialist candidate for the senate from Wisconsin, should be interned. Mr. Williams' colleagues appeared to be startled by this, but not one of them had the nerve to indorse his suggestions.

As to airplanes, it was admitted in the senate that instead of the 20,000 or 12,000 planes the aircraft board had promised to send to France by July 1, only 37 will be shipped, according to the present schedule. Testifying before the senate committee, Gen. Leonard Wood told of the crying need for airplanes for the American expeditionary forces now on the other side. Mr. Cress' publicity committee came in for a sharp reproof for sending out misleading captions on photographs of airplane construction.

On Thursday Senator Overman aroused the senate by making the positive statement that German spies were employed in the Curtiss airplane plant at Buffalo, and that their work had delayed the making of planes for months. These spies, he said, had weakened joints in the planes so that they collapsed, and he exhibited one of the parts so tampered with to prove his assertion. Mr. Overman advocated that the government commander the Curtiss plant and turn out every one of its present employees.

Following the debate in the senate the shipping board issued a statement of its work, showing that since it began its activities 188 vessels have been launched, of which 103 have been completed and put into service. Of the launchings, 103 were requisitioned vessels and 23 were built for the board on contract in new yards. Eleven of the launchings were wood. "Quantity production will win the war, and that is what we are getting," said Chairman Hurley. Negotiations for the transfer of 150,000 tons of Japanese shipping to the United States have been completed, and it is understood much more will follow.

The government, and Great Britain and France as well, continue to emphasize the fact that the basis of victory for the allied cause is an adequate supply of shipping, for America's armies must be transported to France, food and munitions for them and for the allies must be taken over, and for these purposes ships must be provided much faster than the German U-boats can sink them.

The latest report of the British admiralty shows an increase in the number of larger vessels sunk by submarines.

As a spur to American activity and enthusiasm, Premier Lloyd-George sent to Lord Reading, British ambassador, an appeal for urgent haste in American troop movements to France. This Lord Reading read at a banquet in his honor in New York. "It is impossible," said the premier's cablegram, "to exaggerate the importance of getting American re-enforcements across the Atlantic in the shortest possible time."

In the German-infested regions of the country the enemy aliens and traitors were unable to restrain their joy over the German drive, and in consequence there were many arrests. It is to be hoped that at least some of the seditionists will be severely punished, but in view of the mild treatment given most of them the hope is rather faint. Americans the country over are growing decidedly impatient with the kid-glove method of handling the spies and traitors who are caught. The feeling that many of them should be stood up before a wall and shot is prevalent, and the action of impulsive patriots in certain sections makes it plain that it would be easy to revive the Vigilantes of the old days on the Pacific coast and clean up the whole unsavory crew. The genuine spy commands a certain amount of respect, his work being recognized in a certain measure as a part of warfare, but there can be only contempt for the disloyal American citizen, whether he be pacifist, I. W. W., senator or politician.

Had To Quit Work

Gave Up Hope of Recovery, But Doan's Restored His Health. Has Been Well Since.

J. B. Ragless, carpenter, 210 W. 60th St., Chicago, Ill., says: "My back gave out completely and I had to quit work. I could hardly endure the pain in my back and nights I tossed and turned, unable to sleep. Often in the morning my back was as stiff as a board, so that I couldn't stoop to dress myself. When I did manage to bend over, everything before me turned black. My head seemed to be whirling and sometimes I was so dizzy I had to grasp something to keep from falling."

"The kidney secretions were irregular in passage, getting me up at night and the passages burned cruelly. I lost my appetite, was weak and listless and went down twenty-five pounds in weight. When I had almost given up hope, Doan's Kidney Pills cured me. Soon after, I passed an examination for life insurance and I'm glad to say my cure has lasted."

Sworn to before me, GEO. W. DEMPSTER, Notary Public.

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HAVE YOU A SWEETHEART

Son or Brother in training camps in the American Army or Navy? If so, mail him a package of ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE, the antiseptic powder to be shaken into the shoes and sprinkled in the foot-bath. The American, British and French troops use Allen's Foot-Ease, because it takes the friction from the shoe and refreshes the feet. It is the greatest comforter for tired, aching, tender, swollen feet. Soldiers use and gives relief to corns and Foot-Ease bunions.

The Plattsburg Camp Manual advises men in training to shake Foot-Ease in their shoes each morning. Ask your dealer to-day for a 2c. box of Allen's Foot-Ease, and for a 2c. stamp he will mail it for you. What remembrance could be so acceptable?

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We are the largest handlers of Eggs and Poultry in the South. WHAT HAVE YOU TO SHIP? The highest market price guaranteed with quick returns. Give us a call. References, 1st National Bank, Richmond, Va. WOODSON-CRAIG CO. Commission Merchants, RICHMOND, VA.

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