

ARMY HEALTH RATE BEST EVER KNOWN

DEATHS FROM DISEASE REMARKABLY FEW, BOTH AT HOME AND IN FOREIGN LANDS.

TWO NAVY HEROES ARE CITED

Rowed Through Flames to Rescue Men From Burning Spanish Steamship—Work of Children's Year is Proving Very Effective.

A health rate which as far as known has never been surpassed has been established by the American armies both here and overseas, according to reports received by Surgeon General Gorgas.

For a recent week the combined reports of the American expeditionary forces and of troops stationed in the United States show an annual death rate for disease of 1.9 per 1,000, less than two men per 1,000 per year. The annual death rate from disease of men of military age in civil life is 0.7 per 1,000.

This new rate is based on approximate strength of 2,500,000 men, and includes men living under abnormal conditions. The overseas record was made while American soldiers were participating in the heavy fighting in the Marne salient, when they were compelled frequently to sleep and eat under the most primitive conditions.

That this record is truly representative of the general health of the troops is shown by the combined reports which indicate the figure of 2.8 per 1,000 as the average death rate from disease during the past two months.

An idea of the progress being made in military sanitation is gained by a comparison with the following: During the Mexican war the annual death rate from disease was 100 per 1,000. During the American Civil war the rate in 1862 was 40 per 1,000, while during 1863 the rate jumped to 60 per 1,000. The disease death rate for the Spanish-American war was 25 per 1,000. As far as available records show the lowest figure heretofore recorded was 20 per 1,000 during the Russo-Japanese war.

Two men of the American navy proved themselves heroes and won commendation from Secretary Daniels for the rescue of seven men from the burning Spanish steamship *Serantes* July 13 last. They are William E. King, seaman, and Clarence E. Ready, machinist's mate, second class, U. S. N. R. E. of the U. S. S. *Isis*.

The two men took the port launch of the *Isis* to the side of the burning ship and rescued from the burning forecastle seven men who were hemmed in by flames and who were too panic stricken to jump into the water.

The launch's trip to the *Serantes* was made through an area of burning gasoline and the rescuers were in constant and imminent peril. Their commanding officer reports that the conduct of King and Ready during this time was cool and courageous. They probably owe their own lives and the lives of those they rescued to their steady nerves and cool judgment. Their commendation was for bravery and their initiative in undertaking the rescue.

The army general staff has completed plans for expansions at some of the camps and changes at training centers. Additional plans are being worked out and will be put into effect.

Camp Hancock, Georgia, is to be a machine gun center and will be enlarged to accommodate between 55,000 and 60,000 men. The officers' training school now housed in tents at this camp will be provided for in barracks and quarters similar to those at other cantonments. These improvements outside of enlargement of the camp, will cost about \$2,000,000.

It has been decided to make Camp Grant an infantry replacement camp to accommodate between 55,000 and 60,000 men. The present capacity of this camp is about 42,000. The alterations and changes necessary will be made after the division now located there has been removed.

Field artillery firing centers are to be located at West Point, Ky., Camp Jackson, S. C., and Fayetteville, N. C. Options on sufficient land for this purpose have been secured at all these places. It is planned to locate six brigades at Fayetteville, six at West Point and four at Jackson.

It has been decided also to erect permanent buildings for the officers' training schools at present housed in tents at Camps Lee, Gordon and Pike. These schools have a capacity of about 9,000 men. The estimated cost of these improvements is about \$6,000,000.

As a result of the immediate and growing needs of the army for trained nurses, Miss Jane A. Delano, director of the department of nursing of the Red Cross, has sent an appeal for enlistments from this year's graduating classes at 3,000 nurse training institutions throughout the country. It is expected that about 13,000 students will be graduated as nurses between now and October 1, and it is hoped many of these graduates will be enrolled so they can be assigned to the nurse corps before that date.

The work of children's year is proving to be an effective Americanization measure. The children's bureau of the labor department has as its goal 100,000 baby lives saved this year. According to reports received, foreign mothers are as eager as the native mothers, if not more so, to learn all they can about the proper care of their children.

The Japanese women of Seattle are asking for pamphlets on prenatal care, the Italian women of Wallace, Idaho, 1,500 strong, have arranged to study a standard book on the care and feeding of children, with the aid of an interpreter. The foreign mothers of the remote lumbering regions of Washington and of the manufacturing cities of New England are united by the common desire to learn everything possible about safeguarding the health of their children.

This desire is resulting in the breaking down of the barriers of alien language and old-world superstition that have long stood in the way of the health of little Americans born of foreign parents. It has been necessary in many cities to employ interpreters at the weighing and measuring centers to answer the questions of mothers who do not speak English. Classes in the care of baby being conducted in Seattle and Pittsburgh are made a means of teaching mothers to speak and read English.

Perhaps the most important educational measure that has been adopted is the provision of public health nurses whose function it is not only to give care and service to the sick but to advise mothers how to keep their children well. As a result of Children's year activities many communities have succeeded in obtaining public or private funds for public health nursing. Wisconsin has adopted the slogan, "A Public Health Nurse for Every County," and in Washington state an active campaign for school nurses is being carried on.

The work of the state councils of defense has been so valuable to the country that it has drawn public commendation from President Wilson with an accompanying suggestion that its unique and widespread organization be utilized by all government departments and agencies so far as practical.

Secretary Baker, chairman of the council of national defense, which brought the state councils into existence, reported to the president: "It is difficult to estimate the importance of the service rendered, since our entrance into the war, by these state councils, their county councils and the multitude of workers banded together under them, whom we estimate to number at least one million. I feel sure that you, Mr. President, as their commander in chief, will be proud of their unique contribution in the war and will use your authority to broaden the scope of their activities as conditions permit so that they may go on to still greater achievements."

The state councils, says Secretary Baker, have active county, or equivalent, councils of defense under them, while in nearly every state the organization of community councils in the school districts, bringing the government to the people and the people to the government, is progressing rapidly.

The president replied: "I shall be glad to have you express to the state councils my appreciation of the service they have so usefully rendered. I am particularly struck by the value of extending our defense organization to the smallest communities and by the truly democratic character of a national system so organized. I believe in the soundness of your contention that in the interest of economy and efficiency such machinery as that provided by the state council system for the execution of many kinds of war work should be utilized as far as possible by federal departments and administrations."

A recent proclamation by President Wilson puts into effect provisions of the shipping act making it impossible for foreign interests to obtain control of American shipping or shippers.

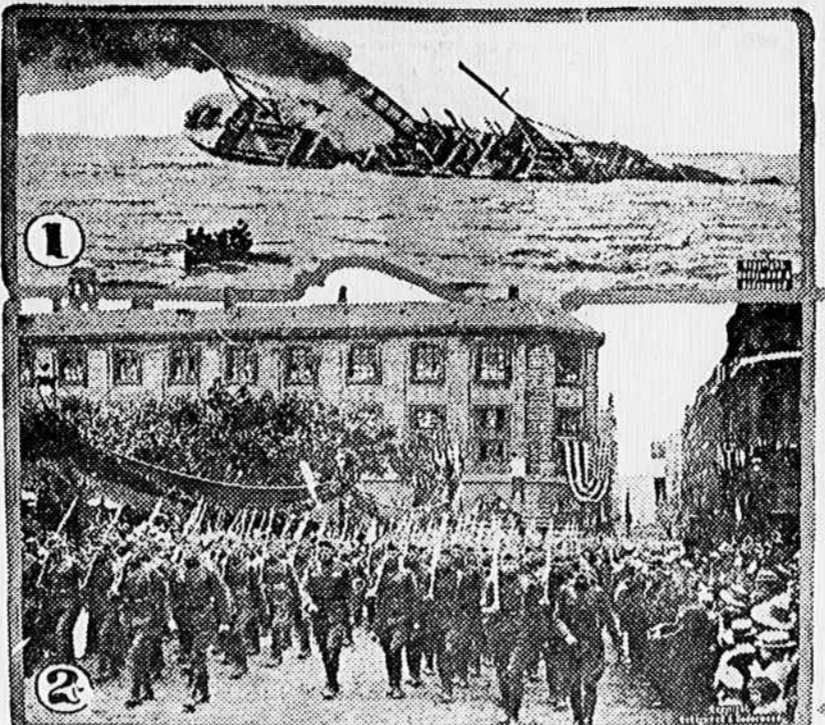
Chairman Edward N. Hurley of the shipping board explains that the new law provides that during war or national emergency proclaimed by the president, it is a criminal offense to sell, mortgage, lease or deliver an American ship to a foreigner without the consent of the shipping board, or to make any agreement by which control of a ship is turned over to a foreigner. The prohibition applies not only to completed ships, but to ships under construction.

It is made illegal, without the board's consent, to make any contract for ship construction for foreign account, unless the contract expressly provides that construction on the ship shall not begin until after the war or the emergency has ended. Shipyards, also, cannot be transferred to foreigners without the consent of the shipping board.

The act has provisions which it is believed will prevent all attempts to evade the ship-transfer sections of the law by means of dummy directors and stockholders in corporations nominally American but actually dominated by foreigners.

Farmers who have been placed in army service deferred classifications to stimulate production are organizing throughout the country and reporting to Secretary Houston of the department of agriculture. "We are ready with 110 per cent increase of wheat, or whatever else you may call upon us to do to help win the war," is their message to the secretary.

The shipping board has allotted a vessel to bring coffee from Brazil to the United States to prevent a possible coffee shortage.



1—Remarkable photograph showing the last plunge of a torpedoed steamship. 2—American troops at the dedication of the new Wilson bridge at Lyons, France. 3—Ruins of the beautiful Albert cathedral which the Huns have been using as a site for their guns.



NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

Advances of Allies Threaten Whole German Line From Ypres to Reims.

FRENCH CAPTURE LASSIGNY

Fall of Noyon Made Certain by Victorics of Humbert and Mangin—Haig's Forces Give Huns Several Hard Blows North of the Somme.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Blow after blow was delivered at the Germans last week along the 120-mile front between Soissons and Ypres, and with each blow their resistance grew weaker and their definite retirement in Ypres more certain. At no point did the allies gain any great expanse of territory, but everywhere they struck they gained ground that was of vital importance to the defensive system of the Huns. When the week closed it appeared likely that the enemy must withdraw from the entire Picardy salient and that he probably would be forced back to the Chemin des Dames before long. Marshal Foch was not only "picking the pockets" of the Hun, but he was turning them inside out. More than that, he was forcing the Germans to fight where and when he chose instead of awaiting their attacks in sectors of their selection. Thus he made it almost impossible for them to reorganize their battered divisions and prepare for a counter-stroke that might be effective.

The severest blow sustained by the enemy during the week was the capture of Lassigny, one of the key points of his defensive line. The town, which has long been but a mass of ruins, was taken by General Humbert's French army Wednesday. In the same attack Chiry-Oursenay was entered, Orval wood was taken with the grenade and bayonet and the plateau that dominated the valley of the Divette was occupied. During the succeeding night Humbert's men drove forward between the Matz and the Oise until they had reached the Ailette.

Humbert's troops occupied the height of Plémont on Thursday and then captured Thiescourt, thus completing the conquest of the hills comprising the Thiescourt massif.

This, in the opinion of competent observers, made certain the early fall of Noyon. To make assurance doubly sure, General Mangin with another French army was steadily forcing his way up the left bank of the Oise, not only helping to surround Noyon but endangering the German lines north of the Vesle. In this Oise-Aisne triangle the Huns were retiring rather rapidly and General Mangin took many thousands of prisoners. At some points, however, notably Vezaponin, they brought up re-enforcements and counter-attacked heavily, with no result except to increase their own losses.

Earlier in the week Mangin's troops had won a brilliant victory in that neighborhood, in the Vessens valley, overcoming very heavy gas attacks of the Huns. Still nearer Soissons, on the extreme right of this battle front, the French took Laval and reached advantageous positions on the plateau north of the Aisne.

On Wednesday General Byng with a British army hit the Huns with one of his sudden blows, attacking on a ten-mile front north of the Ancre facing Bapaume and driving the enemy back in disorder for several miles. Starting at dawn in a heavy fog, the British took Von Below's troops completely by surprise and before the day closed they had captured villages, guns and prisoners in large numbers and had inflicted heavy casualties. Close behind a sweeping barrage the tanks and then the infantry rushed forward until they were almost within reach of Bapaume. The Germans put up stout resistance at some places, especially Courcelles, but the tanks rolled over them remorselessly. Meanwhile the "whippets" tore about the field, clean-

ing out the numerous machine gun nests. The prisoners were in good condition, but seemed very glad to be captured.

Next day Marshal Haig delivered another blow, this time immediately south of the scene of Byng's success, between the Ancre and the Somme. Satisfactory progress was made there also.

On Thursday Haig let loose a third attack, in the Albert sector extending south to Bray. The town of Albert was taken and the British rushed forward for a gain of several miles despite desperate resistance by the enemy.

Meanwhile the Germans were slowly getting out of the salient between Ypres and La Bassée under steady pressure by the British. The fighting here was continuous and sharp for the Huns did not wish to be hurried, but when they moved too slowly they were prodded with vicious attacks, as north of Bailleul and near Merville.

News from the Americans chiefly concerned those holding the center of the Vesle river line. These men made no special efforts to advance, but successfully held on to all their positions, despite the great activity of the enemy artillery. Their aviators did much excellent work during the week, especially in the line of bombing. This seems destined to be their particular duty, and it will prove to be of utmost importance. The arrival at the front of American-made planes caused great rejoicing in the army.

In the Woivre the Americans, by quick work with rifle and grenade, frustrated attempts to raid their trenches.

All of the Japanese troops for the Siberian expedition have been landed at Vladivostok, and more of the American contingent have arrived there. Despite rumors to the contrary, these two nations and China are operating there in complete harmony and their forces are getting into action at once to assist the Czechoslovaks and to maintain control over the trans-Siberian railway. The enemy, opposing the Czechs in eastern Siberia, made up of soviet troops and Teuton war prisoners, has a strength of 40,000 men with 70 big guns and 200 machine guns. In trans-Baikalia, also, the Czechs are fighting against heavy odds and haste is needed to secure Irkutsk and western Siberia. In Russia the Czechoslovaks captured Shadrinsk, an important railway junction east of the Ural mountains and between Ekaterinburg and Kurgan.

No definite news came from Archangel and the Murman coast, though German dispatches asserted the allies had withdrawn beyond range of the bolshevik artillery.

Petrograd has been the scene of bloody battles between Lettish guards and plotters who demanded food. Hundreds were killed and wounded, and finally martial law was proclaimed. In Moscow there is a veritable reign of terror and several hundred of the 15,000 officers arrested have been shot.

Scarcity of rice caused serious riots in Japan, the trouble spreading to many parts of the empire. The government took forceful action to stop the disorders. The rice people are breaking up by the provisions of provision and inflation and speculation.

The situation in the Pacific is still chaotic. The American navy has captured a number of German submarines, but a large number of them are still at large. The Japanese navy has captured a number of German submarines, but a large number of them are still at large. The American navy has captured a number of German submarines, but a large number of them are still at large.

STEADY PROGRESS MADE BY ALLIES

NO ABATEMENT IN STRENGTH OF OFFENSIVE ALLIES ARE PRESSING ON THE ENEMY.

HARDEST KIND OF FIGHTING

Successes Gained Render More Secure Lines Outflanking Alsace and Other Points.

There has been no abatement in the strength of the offensive the British, French and American troops are throwing against the German armies from Arras to the region of Soissons. And as yet there is no indication that it is the purpose of the seemingly demoralized enemy to turn about and face their aggressors or to offer more resistance for the present than through the activities of strong rear guards.

Not alone have the allied troops all over the battle front from Arras to Soissons gained further important terrain, but to the north the British have advanced their line materially in the famous Lys sector—and apparently without much effort on the part of the foe to restrain them.

Of greater significance than any of the other victories achieved in Friday's fighting is the gain of the French with whom Americans are brigaded in this general sector north of Soissons. The latest French official communication records the capture by the French here at Chavigny, three miles northwest, and Cuffies, a mile and a half north of Soissons, and the entry into the outskirts of Crony, a short distance to the northeast.

These victories, gained only after the hardest kind of fighting, make more secure the allied line running northward and outflanking the Alsace and the Chemin-Des-Dames positions.

Also bettering this general situation has been the crossing by the French of the Ailette river at Champs.

BIG SHIPBUILDING PLANT TO BE ESTABLISHED AT NEW BERN

Washington.—New Bern has been selected as the site of a big shipbuilding plant. Several million dollars will be spent there. The West Coast Shipbuilding Company of Everett, Washington, which has several large plants on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, will build the yard. Harry B. Spear, the Washington representative, will reach New Bern next week to begin preparations. Five hundred to one thousand men will be employed at the outset in construction of the yard. In reality it will be two plants, as both wooden and concrete ships are to be built.

The emergency fleet corporation, through General Manager Piez, approved the site, which was really selected by the war department, since the vessels to be built are for that department. Five 265-foot car ferries will be the first products of the plant. Tugs, concrete schooners, river steamers and transports will also be built there.

PREACHER CHANGES HIS OCCUPATION TO SAILOR MAN

Washington.—Rev Paul Plunkett Boggs, of Greenwood, S. C., soon will "ship out" aboard a merchant ship as an ordinary seaman. Quitting his pulpit recently, he signed a contract to remain in the merchant marine for the period of the war, and he is now among the recruits in training at Boston. Scrubbing paint and polishing brass are a part of his sea education that he had gone through.

"I thought I knew human nature, when I was preaching, but I am just beginning to see the real meaning of life," he says. "Thousands of boys, whose uncomplaining spirit is one of genuine and willing sacrifice, are helping save democracy and I am proud to be among them in that work."

AMERICANS' POSITIONS ARE PERHAPS NOT SO GOOD

With the American Army in France.—The positions of the Americans are perhaps not so good and the contest seems to have narrowed down to one of comparative merits of officers and men of the two organizations. Before the day was over the Germans had begun to show signs of weakening and observers reported troop movements which appeared to indicate a regrouping and perhaps retirement.

RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER ARMY CAPTURES BLACK SEA PORT

Amsterdam.—A Russian volunteer army has captured the Black sea port of Novorossisk, according to a dispatch from Kiev. When the Germans captured Sebastopol, the base of the Russian Black sea fleet a part of the Russian fleet escaped to Novorossisk. In May the Germans threatened the port with submarines and airplanes, but it apparently remained under control of the trans-Caucasian government.