

RECONSTRUCTION OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

The Problem of Supplying the Material for Rebuilding the Industries of These Countries.

Washington, Oct. 1.—American manufacturers who plan to supply materials for the industrial reconstruction of northern France should prepare for co-operative selling, for a revolutionary change in French methods of buying is to follow the war. A small number of central purchasing agencies, representing groups of French manufacturers engaged in related industries and assisted by the credit of the French government, will deal with those supplying the material.

Scattered American selling efforts will not be able to meet the requirements of the huge buying power of several thousand French consumers, in the opinion of Pierce C. Williams, American commercial attaché at Paris, who reports that unless American manufacturers prepare for co-operative selling that they will be laboring under a serious handicap.

The Central Bureau of Industrial Purchases for the Invaded Regions, a French stock company composed of many manufacturers, has emphasized in a report that the task of restoring the destroyed industries is too large for individual and competitive buying. Its directors are reported as equally certain that it will be out of the question for isolated American firms, no matter how large or well equipped, to meet the demand. It is with groups of American manufacturers—each group being able to supply a certain industry with all materials and special equipment for its restoration—that the Central Bureau wishes to establish relations.

Although the French manufacturer in the past has been regarded as most individualistic, among business men, the size and complexity of the task of reconstruction has caused him to accept such a radical change in his business methods as collective buying. The industrial reconstruction in France alone is more than one nation can properly attend to, so the pooling of American interests involves solution of the question of whether American manufacturers will be able to hold their own in competition with other nations.

Although the area occupied by the Germans in France the last four years is small as compared with corresponding regions in the United States, northern and eastern France with Belgium were in 1914 one of the busiest workshops in the world. Nearly 26,000 factories and industrial establishments were in the invaded parts of France, and their output was more than thirty per cent of all of France. These factories' output in proportion to the country's total production follows:

Iron ore, 90 per cent; pig iron, 83 per cent; steel, 75 per cent; coal, 70 per cent; combed wool, 94 per cent; linen thread, 90 per cent; sugar, 67 per cent.

Owners of the factories of course have been shut off from normal communication with their properties, but workmen, engineers and others caught in north of France when the German army rolled through there have gradually worked their way to Paris as their repatriation has been accomplished by the allied armies. In many localities and in almost countless industries, nothing remains.

Coal mines have been flooded, and years will pass before coal will be hoisted from them again. Electric power stations and the transmission lines have in many places been dismantled, the machinery being carried off by the Germans, and the copper wire sold at auction. Practically all of the equipment in the metal working plants, all the cotton, linen and wool spinning machinery, together with wool-combing and textile looms have been systematically pillaged.

Repatriated workers report that machines have been skillfully taken apart and all the copper and alloys in the bearings sent into Germany for remelting. In many instances, after this was done, the iron frame was broken up and turned over to German scrap-iron dealers.

By the agreement the Bureau buys and distributes materials and equipment after proposed purchases have been approved by the Ministry of Commerce, and its accounts are subject to audit by the Inspector General of Finance. Other provisions of the agreement make the Bureau under strict government control.

Purchases are not now being made by the Bureau for before the work of repairing the war's damage can be undertaken, the war must first be won, and tonnage is too valuable for even the import of material necessary before industrial reconstruction can begin. Meanwhile the Bureau is preparing estimates of materials that will be needed by each industry. Of equal importance in the preparation is the work of establishing contact with prospective supply, so that all will be ready for the signing of contracts with the signing of a peace treaty.

The Bureau, according to advice received here, is anxious to get in touch with American manufacturers but has let it be known that it would be of little use for individual American firms to send catalogues, or enter into preliminary correspondence. A report issued by it declares that individual and competitive buying is out of the question, and the collective selling is favored to meet France's collective buying.

VAGRANTS SENT TO JAIL.

Two Able-bodied Negroes Fined \$100 Each for Loafing and Loitering.

The State. Robert McCray and George Johnson, two sturdy young negroes stood before the recorder yesterday morning wearing overalls. They had no credentials to show where and how they labored.

The defendants explained that they loved hard work. They were used to it and they frowned on loafing. The judge listened to the recital but failed to agree with their work propaganda. He sentenced them to pay a fine of \$100 or serve 30 days on the gang.

OUR SOLDIER BOYS.

Stars on High School Flag Changes to Gold.

Editor The Daily Item:

As this war progresses which is coming nearer and nearer to us every day, our Service Flag takes on a deeper meaning and suggests with each changing star heroic deeds and sublime service.

Since it was my melancholy privilege officially to record the deaths of Lieut. Purdy and Shaw, three others from among our old students have added their names to the long list of heroic dead: Lieutenant David Loring, Howard Archer, and Joseph Joye.

In his early boyhood David Loring gave rich promise of the kind of man he was going to be and as he grew into young manhood, all of these promises brought forth fruit in the development of those qualities that endeared him to a very large circle of admiring and enthusiastic friends. We who knew him from early boyhood and watched his subsequent development were not surprised to learn that he had almost forced his way into military service, that he won through merit official promotion that he procured almost instantly a full recognition of his many qualities, that he was true to the ideals of home and religion and made a deep impression upon all with whom he came in contact, that the glare and glamor of war did not make him lose his hold upon the ties of home but that in the most extraordinary degree he poured out his soul in tenderest devotion and solicitude, and that, since "the bravest are the tenderest, the loving are the daring," he crowned his whole life by a willing sacrifice of all that he held dearest on earth in order that through his death others might be spared and saved from suffering.

I find it very hard indeed to associate death with Howard Archer. In all the years that we have had boys coming to our schools, we have never had a boy whose disposition manifested on all occasions higher qualities of brightness, cheeriness and geniality. These qualities made him a general favorite and a very welcomed member of our student body. When after he had moved away from Sumter, he never failed to visit the school, and the teachers and pupils were always delighted to see him. Added to these qualities, there were loyalty, fidelity, and filial devotion. Whenever we looked upon Howard Archer we were impressed with his wholesomeness and with the presence of those final qualities that add so much to the sweetness and attractiveness of life. There was no malice in his make-up, and somehow we can picture him going into battle with the same sweet smile upon his face that was so characteristic of him on all occasions. With the same gladness and joy of spirit that marked his life, he made the supreme sacrifice for the cause he knew to be right and by his heroism he has added his name to the list of those who are not born to die.

Only a day or two ago the news reached us that another one of our boys had given his life for his country's cause. His death was not spectacular. He did not achieve his purpose amidst the carnage of the battle field but in prosaic surroundings, a victim of an ordinary illness, he yielded up his young life in devotion to a country and cause that he loved. He would have waited had it thus. He would have waited until he could see that he had done something for his country and her cause. It was not granted to him see any result of his sacrifice but we know that if he had been spared there would have been a manifestation of the same heroic purpose so eminently characteristic of our young men's unflinching souls.

Owing to the frequent changes that Joseph Joye was called upon to make among different schools he was not enabled to make the impression that he would have made if he could have been uninterruptedly in one school, but on more than one occasion, he showed his purpose to make something of himself, and, on more than one occasion, he revealed this purpose to me. His subsequent service has shown that this purpose was serious and firmly fixed and while his death was not spectacular, it was heroic and meant for him a sacrifice as supreme as if his young life had been poured out upon the battle field of France.

S. H. Edmunds.

NEW BUILDING RULE.

Classes of Buildings for Which Permits Must be Obtained.

The Sumter County Building committee of the State Council of Defense has been notified of an important change in the rulings for permission to erect buildings which puts a different face on things, but which the public will do well to read and be governed by.

The War Industries Board has sent the following telegrams to State Councils of Defense which reads as follows:

"Referring to circular No. 21, subdivision two, page two, is hereby amended by adding the following: "And new construction for farm purposes only involving in the aggregate a cost not exceeding one thousand dollars, and please be governed accordingly."

The practical results of this new ruling is as follows:

1. All new buildings except for farm purposes, only, whatever their cost, are to be passed on by the State Council of Defense.
2. New construction for farm purposes only involving in the aggregate a cost not exceeding \$1,000.00 does not have to be passed on.
3. Repairs or extensions to existing buildings involving in the aggregate a cost not exceeding \$2,500.00 need not be passed on.

The Sumter County Building committee which passes upon local applications for permits to erect new buildings or to make repairs or extensions in excess of two thousand and five hundred dollars is as follows: A. C. Phelps, Chairman; E. I. Rear-don, Secretary; R. O. Purdy, O. H. Colley, R. D. Epps.

NO LOAFERS OVERLOOKED.

"Work or Jail" Ordinance Goes Into Effect at Once in Charleston.

(Charleston Post, Oct. 1.)

"Go to Work or go to Jail!" is the mandate which has been issued by the city government, and which means that all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 50, inclusive, must be employed at a recognized trade, profession or occupation, not less than five and one-half days a week. Those who are found not to be so employed in violation of this law, will find themselves in jail or fined; and the enforcement of this ordinance commences today. Labor identification cards have been provided, and may be obtained at the Chamber of Commerce or at the United States Employment Bureau, 231 Meeting street. The police have instructions to ferret out all loafers and idlers. The possession of sufficient wealth or income to support oneself without working won't be sufficient to excuse one from working, the principle of the law being that during the duration of the war it is the duty of all available manpower to be usefully engaged.

Some persons have the mistaken impression that the ordinance passed by City Council last week and ratified by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson is a "work or fight" law; but it is in reality a "work, jail or fine" law. It is, of course, in harmony with the government's "work or fight" policy which is to be enforced by the draft boards, and which affects only men who are registered, whereas the city's law affects all men between the ages of 18 and 50, inclusive.

At any rate, until the war is over, loafers and idlers are under the ban in Charleston. Chief of Police Black stated this morning that he would begin an active round-up of all men not complying with the new ordinance, beginning at noon tomorrow. This will give ample time to allow all men to show whether or not they have qualified as useful workers for the week following the ratifying of the ordinance. If a man hasn't worked since the law went into effect, he will find it impossible to put in the required five and a-half days. Chief Black points out, for the first week during which the ordinance is effective, and consequently, he must either be able to show his working card tomorrow afternoon, when required to do so by a police officer, or will come under the workings of the law.

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

Washington, Oct. 2.—The great biennial "drive" in American politics—the congressional elections—is now impending.

September marks the conclusion of State primary elections and nominating conventions, leaving their train of "lame ducks" and other political cripples. Leaders of all parties, now are marshalling their forces for the campaign which precedes election day in November.

The lines of battle, already are fairly well defined. Upon the results of the balloting depends political control of the Sixty-sixth congress, which convenes in December, 1919, unless sooner summoned by President Wilson. Dependent upon the returns are the fates of aspirants for nearly two score seats in the senate and 425 in the house.

Like the presidential election of 1916, when California's votes, after a week's wait, finally determined the nation's president, the congressional result, according to private statements of prominent republicans and democrats in Washington, is expected to be close. The democrats now have 52 senators against 44 Republicans, while in the house the respective strength is 216 and 209. Seats of all of the latter are involved in the present campaign. While twenty-one democratic and fifteen republican senate seats are at stake.

For all practical purposes, the election is over in a number of States,—in the "solid South" where nomination on the democratic ticket is equivalent to election. Primaries and conventions in these States, however, although changing present personnel in senate and house from several States have not affected the final result. For some, republicans, without opposition, the primaries also have meant certain election in November; these also do not change present line-ups in congress, incumbents being named for re-election.

Already, however, the primaries have resulted in defeat of many present members of congress. Among them are Senators Vardaman of Mississippi and Hardwick of Georgia Democrats, who were opposed by President Wilson, and the following Representatives: McLemore, Slayden and Garrett of Texas; Shackelford and Borland of Missouri; Woods of Iowa and others.

Missing from their present places also will be found others who are not seeking re-election, or House members who have foregone renomination to seek election to the senate. Among them are Senators Smith of Michigan, Republican; Hollis of New Hampshire, Democrat; and Representatives McCornick and Foss of Illinois Republicans; Howard of Georgia, Democrat; Church of California, Democrat; and Caleb Powers of Kentucky, Republican.

On the other hand most of the representatives from the southern Democratic States have been assured of re-election to the Sixty-sixth Congress by virtue of their primary nomination.

In this election for the first time, women are seeking seats in the senate. Representative Jeannette Rankin, Montana is seeking election from her State while Anne Martin of the Woman's Party is a senatorial candidate in Nevada. New York also has a woman candidate for congress.

Socialist, prohibition and other parties also have their candidates in the present campaign. Coalition of Democratic and Republican forces against the Socialists has occurred in some localities, but the campaign now is being conducted largely between the two leading parties in an effort to secure unquestioned control of the senate and house without intervention of any "balance of power" from the minor organization.

GALLANT SOLDIER AND GENTLEMAN.

Comrades of Capt. Julius A. Mood, Jr., Write of His Service and Death.

Editor Daily Item:

The friends and acquaintances of Capt. Julius A. Mood, Jr., would like to know the way he died. The following letters will doubtless be of interest to them:

26th Infantry, A. E. F.
Aug. 28th, 1918.

My Dear Mrs. Mood:

I wanted to write you a word about Julius' death. From the day he entered the Citadel, I have watched him with a great deal of interest. I graduated the year before, but each year I came back and looked for men.

We were at Leavenworth together, came to France together in the same regiment and worked side by side together until that fatal day near Soissons, when he fell at the head of our line.

There is not a man in the regiment who did not know and feel that he was the finest Christian gentleman and soldier in our ranks. Our hopes and aspirations are high and idealistic as a rule at college. The world, and especially the army hardens one to such a point that few maintain them. Julius did and he was loved and admired for his character.

I am enclosing the citation of our Brigadier General which you will treasure as a memento of him. He paid the supreme sacrifice and laid down his life on the altar of our country. Greater love hath no man than this. I am, very sincerely,

Barnie L. Legge,
Capt. 26th Infantry.

Fance, Sept. 1, 1918.

My Dear Mrs. Mood:

Permit me to offer you my sincerest sympathies, in your recent loss.

I was a fellow cadet with Julius, and was always proud to have known him, and to have been associated with him.

Nothing I can say will serve to ease a mother's pain, but let me say that he met his end fearlessly, doing his duty, upholding his country's honor, and that of his school and his State. Surely there is not a more noble way, and there is not one of us Citadel men who would not willingly change places with him. I only hope I can do as well.

Let me again offer my deepest sympathies, and say that the nation's honor will never be dragged in the dust as long as we have men like Julius Mood.

Carl E. Cordes,

First Lieut. Hq. Co., 30th U. S. Inf.

2nd Brigade Headquarters,
France, August 2, 1918.
General Orders No. 2.

1. The Brigade Commander cites the following officers and men for conspicuous gallantry in action during the operations, 18-23 July, 1918, near Soissons:

Extract

Captain Julius A. Mood, 26th Infantry. For gallant devotion to duty during the operations near Soissons. He rendered great assistance to his Regimental Commander and was killed leading one of the battalions forward after its Major was wounded July 20.

B. B. BUCK,
Brigadier General, National Army.

RED CROSS WANTS DRIVERS AND MECHANICS.

Urgent Appeal is Sent Out by French Commission—All Automobile Association Members Asked to Find Men.

The Military Preparedness Committee of the Automobile Association of America, of which the Sumter Association is a member has sent out an appeal that members try to find mechanics and drivers for service in France. The appeal sent out is as follows:

"The American Red Cross is in need of 1,200 truck drivers and 300 mechanics at an early date. This call has been made by cable from the French Commission. It offers an opportunity for every member of the A. A. A. to help in a patriotic and highly important task.

"It is earnestly urged that every A. A. A. club according to its size make an effort to find one or more recruits for this service.

"The entire work of the French Commission is dependent upon its transportation system, of which the automobile service is a vital part."

"This is a call to every member of the Sumter Automobile Association to interest himself or herself in trying to secure drivers and mechanics for the Red Cross service in France. Any citizen can interest himself or herself in this, whether or not member of the Association. The lives of wounded frequently depend on how quickly they can be carried to the dressing station, and if the Red Cross is short of drivers to drive the ambulance, or mechanics to keep them in repair the fighting men are bound to suffer. This is but one of the many instances that show how we at home can help win a war three thousand miles away.

Candidates for this service must make their application to W. L. Peel, Manager Southern Division, American Red Cross, 424 Healey Building, Atlanta, Ga.

The authorities in Charleston are putting the work or fight regulation into effect with praiseworthy rigidity, and similar enforcement of the rule would be beneficial to every community in the land. In every town and neighborhood there are habitual loafers who never strike a lick of useful work and they should be forced to do their share of the work that is needed.

The Liberty Loan committees are making a thorough canvass of the city and everybody is being given the opportunity to buy a bond. If the country districts are as closely canvassed every man in the county will have the chance to show where he stands and to prove his loyalty.

"JUST TELL THEM TO SEE ME," SAYS THIS SUMTER MAN

"If Anybody Wants to Know What I Think of Dreco," Has Suffered From Kidney Trouble, Indigestion and Bad Stomach.

"If anybody wants to know what I think of Dreco tell them to call on me. I'll tell them what it will do for a case of kidney trouble or a bad stomach," says Mr. J. S. Anderson of Claremont, S. C., near Sumter. Mr. Anderson is sixty years old and has taken much medicine in his day but he claims that Dreco has been the best of all.

"I suffered from awful pains in my back right over the kidneys and it hurt me to turn around quick and to bend over. My liver was acting poorly and my stomach was out of shape causing indigestion. I was falling off right along and getting pretty weak, and my sleep was badly broken. I didn't know what it was to get a good night's rest.

"I have always believed in the old time root and herb medicines like my parents used to make. I think they are better than all these new remedies you see advertised, so when I read about Dreco I decided to give it a trial and it sure has done me a lot of good. I am feeling better than in many a day. The pains are gone

from my back, my liver is active and I sleep sound every night. My appetite is a'so good and I am gaining back my strength fast. I heartily recommend Dreco for troubles like mine."

Dreco acts on the vital organs and tones them up so that they act as nature intends them to. That is why persons who take Dreco stay well when they get well on it. It does not just patch you up for a while but by going to the bottom of the trouble and getting rid of it the results are permanent. The kidneys, liver, stomach, bowels and the blood in everybody needs a good tonic every once in a while.

Dreco is now sold by most all good druggists everywhere. In Sumter it is highly recommended by Sibert's Drug Store where the Dreco Expert is making headquarters and explaining the merits of this great herbal remedy. See him today.—Advt.

Cobb to Camp.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Tyrus Raymond Cobb, former star outfielder of the Detroit Americans but now a captain in the gas and flame service of the army, has been ordered to Camp Humphries, Va., for training. He will report this week.

Several Sumter boys are home from the Citadel on furlough until the epidemic of influenza in Charleston subsides.

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