

AMERICANS LEAD IN WAR WEAPONS

Engines of Destruction Invented in This Country.

LONG LIST OF GENIUSES

For a Peace-Loving People Americans Have Been Quick in Giving to World Most Powerful and Ingenious Weapons—Airplane, Submarine and Lewis Gun Devised Here.

The invention of the airplane, the submarine, the Lewis machine gun and other destructive agencies of war emphasize the fact that though Americans may be a peace-loving people they have been quick in bringing into the world the most powerful and ingenious weapons.

Away back in the days of the American Revolution American small arms were famous, and these guns caused General Howe to write home about "the terrible guns of the rebels."

In the colonial days the residents of the Atlantic seaboard were the greatest users of guns of their period, and gunmakers' shops were in every city and town.

From about 1800 until a period near the time of the outbreak of the Civil war the Jager rifle, made at the United States arsenal and rifle factory at Harper's Ferry, and generally known as the "Harper's Ferry rifle," stood at the head of the list for efficiency as a military rifle.

It was an American who invented the revolver. Colonel Samuel Colt's first vital patent was taken out in 1835, but at the beginning the arms and navy officers looked with suspicion upon the device.

It came into use in large numbers during the Mexican war in the hands of Texas Rangers. The revolver of that period was far different from the type of today.

Then there was the invention of Richard J. Gatling, who brought forth the first serviceable machine gun of the world. A writer on military weapons has said that "in the Yankee group of inventors ranks Eliphalet Remington, Jr., of the same period as Colt; Maxim of Maine, the inventor of England's best rapid-fire gun, and Parrott, who made the great smoothbores of the last century."

Among Americans who did much in the development of heavy ordnance were Dahlgren and Rodman, inventors and designers of the most effective big guns of the Civil war, and Colonel Bamford of New York, who designed and superintended the building of the great columbiads.

AIRMAN DROPPED WREATH

German Flyer Asks That Flowers Be Placed on Brother's Grave.

A German airplane was brought down back of the British lines in France, after a battle lasting nearly an hour, and the next morning a German machine hovered over the same spot and maneuvered for a position.

Two British soldiers, who were sent to find out what had been dropped, returned with a beautiful wreath nearly three feet in diameter.

"The officer you have buried was my brother," the note said. "I spent six happy years working in a London bank. I know you honor the dead. Please do this little service for me."

DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT WAR

Sheep Herder From Western Texas Had Hazy Recollection of Hostilities.

Tom Whitt, sheep herder on a ranch in northern Texas, knew nothing about the war until a sheriff arrested him for failure to register.

Whitt said that he had a hazy recollection of fighting that was going on somewhere, but had no idea that the United States was mixed up in it.

He had not seen a newspaper for more than a year and the few Mexicans he had seen told him nothing of the out-look of the world.

CHICKENS FOR EMPTY CANS

Trading of Discarded Tins and Bottles for Food Is Common in Tibet, Explorer Reports.

Bringing with him an extensive collection of small mammals, reptiles and birds, Roy C. Andrews, head of the Asiatic zoological expedition, has arrived in New York, after a year and a half in the remote provinces of China.

The expedition spent much of the time in the mountains of Yunnan and progressed as far as Tibet. Mr. Andrews' adventures included everything from hunting "blue" tigers to buying chickens at the rate of two for one empty condensed milk can.

Politically China is in a chaotic state, Mr. Andrews reports, as most of the provinces are so far removed from the central government at Peking that any change of authority does not make itself felt.

In many places he found traffic by water impossible because the army has a habit of using small river boats for target practice.

The expedition found the border of Tibet an ideal place to live in. Food may be bought with old bottles and cans. There are plenty of servants and no rumor of the war has penetrated that far.

MOVIE OF MODERN BOOKWORM

Student Would Not Be Influenced by Any Pleasures the World Could Offer Him.

Now behold the student coming up the street! He is clad in rubber and shining black. He is thin of shank and becomes a scholar. He sags with knowledge. He hungers for wisdom.

At last he turns, Charles S. Brooks writes in Yale Review. He pauses on the curb. Now desire has clutched him. He jingles his trousered shillings. He trends the gutter. He squints upon the rack. He lights upon a treasure. He plucks it forth. He is unresolved whether to buy it or to spend the extra shilling on his dinner.

Now all you cooks together, to save your business rattle your pans to rouse him! If within these ancient buildings there are onions ready peeled—quick!—throw them in the skillet that the whiff may come beneath his nose! Chance trembles and casts its vote—scentie meenie—down goes the shilling—he has bought the book. Tonight he will spread it beneath his candle. Feet will beat a snare of pleasure on the pavement grid cries may pipe across the darkness, a fiddle may scratch its invitation—all the rumbling notes of midnight traffic will tap in vain their summons upon his window.

18-Cylinder Engine

Experiments and bounds the stationary airplane engines are increasing in power rating in the stern competition between the central powers and allied nations. In England Louis Breguet has been doing commendable work along these lines, and among his latest products is the 18-cylinder Sunbeam-Caterpillar engine, which develops 175-horse power, and has no fewer than half a dozen magnetos and an equal number of distributors, says the Scientific American.

Too Busy to Help

Even in war times a heroine is often without influence in her own home. A young woman nurse gave up a paying place and offered her services to her country. She is now nursing "Jackies" in a naval hospital, and finding how much pleasure the convalescents take in music, she wrote home to her father to put a notice in the local paper asking for records if anyone had duplicates or discards.

It is a place of about 8,000 inhabitants, but not one record did she receive in answer to her appeal. "Probably they are all too busy with work," she commented, humorously.

China Is on Guard

While China has not provided for the internment of Germans and Austrians, even those of military age, all citizens of the central powers are required to register and are forbidden to travel. They may engage in peaceful occupations with China's permission.

Leaves It to Audience

One of the small Paris theaters has set about proving that dramatic critics are not infallible. Every evening the United States was mixed up in it, for the rise of the curtain on an ad-vice had not seen a newspaper for more than a year and the few Mexicans he had seen told him nothing of the out-look of the world.

HAIR-RAISING STUNTS IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN



Italian soldiers are often required to climb a mile straight up, as shown in the picture, to get into the fighting line.

30,000 MEN RUSH WORK ON U. S. SHIPS

Forty Shipyards Are Now Rushing Work on 250 Wooden Hulls for Ships.

Thirty thousand men at 40 shipyards along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts are now rushing to completion 250 hulls for ships which will compose the initial unit of Uncle Sam's great wooden fleet to "bridge the ocean."

Many of these ships soon will be ready for sea, and from that time of the American government will be able to add to the allies' ocean tonnage, as long as needed, a new tonnage ship of 3,000 to 3,500 tons working day in and day out.

New yards are springing up at many points to meet the requirements of the United States shipping board which has announced its determination to build all the ships of both wood and steel that can be produced during the period of the war.

Four hundred million feet of southern pine timber will be needed within the next 12 months to complete the government's wooden shipbuilding program, according to W. J. Haynes, emergency fleet corporation, who has recently made an extensive tour of the southern pine-producing territory.

"The Emergency Fleet corporation first called for the launching of a hull in November, 1917," says Mr. Haynes, "but the majority were to be launched after January, 1918. We are now trying to advance the 1918 program from 30 to 60 days."

MARRYING PARSON QUILTS

Rev. S. R. White Leaves Place Where He Wedded 2,000 Couples.

Rockville, Md.—Couples visiting Rockville, Md., on matrimonial missions no longer find Rev. Samuel R. White, known far and wide as "Rockville's Marrying Parson," on the job.

Age has so enfeebled the venerable divine that it was thought wise for him and his aged wife, who have for a number of years lived alone, to where they could be well looked after and they went recently to Poolesville, where they will make their home with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Hill.

Dr. White is about eighty-five years old. He lived in Rockville nearly 40 years, and during that time married more than 2,000 couples, a large majority of them being from the District of Columbia and Virginia.

Woman, 53, Is Mother of 28 Children

During 38 years of married life Mrs. Paul Argular of Chico, Cal., has become the mother of 28 children, only two of which have died. The youngest son was born a few days ago. The mother is fifty-three years old. The parents and the 14 children who are at home live on the father's dairy of \$2.50.

Seventh Son Went to War

Christopher J. Haughey of Reading Pa., a railroad man, whose six brothers were already serving the United States, recently purchased a service flag containing seven stars gave it to his mother and then enlisted in the navy. The mother and two sisters are the only ones left at home.

London Mob Fires Pacifist Church

An angry London mob attacked the Rev. F. R. Swan, pacifist, when he attempted to speak in a church on Kingsland road. After hurling the speaker from the church, the edifice was burned to the ground.

HOW GREAT WARS ARE WON

It Is Very Rarely That Conflicts Are Victorious Because of Superior Valor, Says Writer.

The vulgar idea of war is that the victory is won by superior valor or other moral virtue, writes H. Sidbotham in the Atlantic. This, however, has very rarely been the case; almost all Western nations, at any rate, are equally brave, though the valor of some excels in obstinacy and endurance and of others in daring and plan.

Sometimes (to take the domain of tactics) it is a new weapon that wins victory on the battlefield, or at any rate contributes to the ease with which it is won; sometimes, as in the Roman and in Frederick's armies, it is superior discipline, greater physical fitness, and practice in maneuver that win the victory.

Not a great deal of this matter is being unearthed, but this fact does not tend to cause a relaxing of the vigilance of the federal officers, who are constantly on the alert, and daily increasing the scope of their search. Everything that is discovered in the mails is being promptly forwarded to the secret service bureaus of the government for such action as the instance in some districts and with less merit.

WISH TO CONTROL CEMETERY

Foreigners in Rome Urge Italian Government to Take Over Rural Ground Owned by Germany.

War has drawn attention to the fact that the great Protestant cemetery in Rome, where are buried many distinguished foreigners including the poets, Keats and Shelley, is the property of the German government, and the rentals for plots therein are still paid to German agents.

More than a century ago Prussia was the only non-Roman Catholic power represented at the Vatican. Therefore, it was Prussia which obtained the concession for a cemetery to be used for the bodies of those not of the Roman faith, and the property still remains in the hands of the German government.

Prominent foreigners now are urging that the Italian government should take over the cemetery and place it under British protection.

The Serious Side

The summer is past, the harvest at its end. What have you to show for your work? The days speed, quickly, capacity for every working day in the year. This is in addition to almost at no get it now," are trite mottoes, but useful admonition.

Cloudy and chilly days come occasionally, reminding one that another season is at its close. What have you gained from your summer days? Is your body stronger, your mind fuller, your store of knowledge, your soul grown to wider appreciation of the true things of life? Are you more human, more understanding of the rights and needs of the government's wooden shipbuilding program, according to W. J. Haynes, emergency fleet corporation, who has recently made an extensive tour of the southern pine-producing territory.

Recreation and entertainment have recently made an extensive tour of the southern pine-producing territory. Not to advance means depression, time must be given to the high things in life. To what end are you spending? What are your aims, your purposes?—Milwaukee Journal.

WILLIAM HAD A POSER

"Good morning, children," said the arithmetic teacher. "How many of you have prepared an original problem in multiplication, as I requested?" Only one hand went up.

"Well, William, you may give your problem and the rest of the class may solve it." "If my baby sister is a year old now and weighs twenty pounds, and keeps gaining two ounces a day until she is sixteen years old, and if the price of living doubles again in the next ten years, how much will my sister's graduation outfit cost?" Mother says she would like to know.

Was Expecting It

It was his first-time under fire. He had expressed his terror to comrades a few moments before. They had tried to cheer him, and as they rushed into the fray they kept him within their observation. When the enemy opened fire he fell. They quickly bent over him and hastily tried to determine the extent of his injury. No wounds were visible.

Fuel From Peat

A company has been formed in Norway for making fuel from peat by the Rosendahl method. The raw material for the new industry will be chiefly peat from the extensive Norwegian moors, but any other material may be used which is sufficiently abundant in the neighborhood of the factory, particularly wood waste. The product is said greatly to resemble English coal.

Air Routes

The Italian press is boasting that one of their airmen flew from Turin to London, 700 miles, in 72 minutes. When the war is over it will be due to travel in an aircraft that can make the trip from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles in the hour.—Los Angeles Times.

WATCH PEACE DERIVISHES

Activities of Undesirables Throw Immense Amount of Work on Federal Officers.

The German propagandists and the peace-at-any-price promoters are creating an immense amount of additional labor for the office of William H. Lamar, solicitor for the post office department. The activities of these undesirable citizens in the pursuit of George, for one, condemned the match their fanatical fancies have made the post office department an important adjunct of the national police system.

Immense quantities of all classes of mail are now daily going through the process of government scrutiny, with a view to apprehending all literature contained in newspapers, magazines, circular letters and even first class mail that presents the slightest suspicion of sedition and disloyalty.

Not a great deal of this matter is being unearthed, but this fact does not tend to cause a relaxing of the vigilance of the federal officers, who are constantly on the alert, and daily increasing the scope of their search. Everything that is discovered in the mails is being promptly forwarded to the secret service bureaus of the government for such action as the instance in some districts and with less merit.

POLAND SUFFERS FAMINE

German Denials Asserted to Be at Variance With Truth.

In an effort to contradict statements made by the Warsaw town council and a Danish relief expedition the German government has issued an official denial of reports that famine exists in Poland. A representative of the Warsaw council is in Copenhagen trying to arrange for the sending of food supply by way of Denmark, and has painted an appalling picture of conditions in his native land.

Even the reichstag is in possession of facts proving the fallacy of the German statement. Mortality in Polish cities, due to lack of nutrition, is asserted to be frightful. Poland still is compelled to feed the army of occupation.

BIG COAL LAND DEAL

Tract of 54,000 Acres in Tennessee Changes Hands.

Purchase of a tract of 54,000 acres of coal land in Scott county, near Oneida, by A. B. Day and John E. Shea of Knoxville has been announced as the largest single coal property in the South and more than \$500,000 is involved in the deal.

Five coal operations already have been opened on the tract and additional development work is in progress. The tract is near the Glen Mary oil gushers and the new owners expect to sink oil wells that will yield a productive flow.

CONVICTS MAKE GOOD

Win Snug List of Honors in the British Army.

Convicts in the royal armies seem to be making good. If the list of honors won by these men is a criterion, they are indeed second to none in valor and fighting spirit. Almost 7,000 have enlisted since the beginning of the war. Of these, three received the Victoria Cross, twenty-five received the D. S. and twenty have been mentioned in dispatches. The former convicts have consistently shone in the greatest battles and it is reported that over half of them have been killed, and a high percentage of the remainder carry wound stripes on their arms.

COTTON PICKERS PROSPER

Makes From \$3 to \$4 a Day in Many Sections of South.

Cotton pickers are making \$3 and \$4 a day in many sections of the South. A few years ago such amounts would have represented pay for a week. Thousands of cotton pickers are needed to gather the fleecy staple. Cotton is commanding more than 20 cents a pound, compared with ten cents a few years ago. Times was when 75 cents to \$1 a hundred pounds was considered high wages for picking, but today pickers are paid from \$1.50 to \$1.75 a hundred.

GET MARRYING CRAZE

Teachers in Chicago Public Schools Become Brides.

Matrimony in the ranks of Chicago school teachers has almost doubled since last year, when there wasn't a year. The number of "school-ma'am" brides this year is 106, as compared with 61 last year. Clerks who have talked to the teachers claim that the kaiser and his war are to blame.

Fewer Horses

Despite the growth in population and increased areas under cultivation, the horse population of Los Angeles county, California, is now less than one-half as much as in 1900. The automobiles and motor trucks have increased from 6 to 79,146. The 47,000 horses in the county in 1900 were valued at \$5,000,000. In 1910 the drop in number was to 31,000, and in the ensuing six years to 20,000. The present automobile valuation is nearly \$100,000,000. Excellent road conditions are considered largely responsible for the above figures.

Positive Signs

Even some public signs seem to point to the fact that the war will feel about it. In a garage is posted: "Don't smoke around the tank. If your life isn't worth saving, please don't." Two hundred thousand people were made homeless by the typhoon and flood which swept across Japan, causing 2,174 deaths and injuries to residents in towns along the coast.

HOW MATCH FIGURES IN WAR

Scarcity of Brimstone-Headed Matches Results in Special Controller Being Named in England.

No commodity has had more adventures than the match. The announcement of the appointment of a special controller all to itself is a fitting climax to a checkered history, says the Manchester Guardian. In the memory of our grandparents the cumbersome "Prometheans" that sought to displace aluminite and steel were a high-priced luxury impossible to the poor.

In the memory of our fathers Henry George, for one, condemned the match as one of the articles that were "too cheap." He had in mind, of course, the sweating and the poisoning of workers that for too long went to the making of cheap matches.

Yet the popular insistence on cheap matches turned out of office a British chancellor of the exchequer and coined an immortal epigram; and the superficiality of the matches that can normally be bought in this country over the flimsy, lifeless, expensive sort sold across the channel under government control has given the free-trader and vigilance of the federal officers, who of his most homely and incontestable arguments. The British match was now suffer control.

Such matches as there are will be fairly apportioned at fixed prices. It is being promptly forwarded to the secret service bureaus of the government for such action as the instance in some districts and with less merit.

SACRIFICES OF ARMY DOCTOR

Home Practice and Other Advantages Relinquished to Serve Country During the War.

One-fifth of the total number of physicians in the United States will have to enroll for military duty if the war continues for another year, estimates the Medical Weekly. All but a small percentage of them must enroll voluntarily. All but a small percentage of them have families to support and these and others are wholly dependent upon the income of the head of the house for this support. The physician from 35 to 45 years of age, the age of greatest usefulness for military service, is at that critical period of his professional and financial development that two years of forced absence is liable to affect disastrously his whole career.

Measuring Time

The refinements of modern time-keeping are illustrated in an investigation recently carried out by F. D. Urie, under the direction of the United States naval observatory, to determine the "lag" between the Arlington and Great Lakes time signals, both of which are received by wire from the naval observatory and converted automatically into wireless signals. Between Washington and the Great Lakes station there are 800 miles of telegraph wire, involving several make-shifts since the beginning of the war. The lag between the two radio stations was found by a series of tests to average 0.005 second, and twenty have been mentioned in dispatches. The former convicts have consistently shone in the greatest battles and it is reported that over half of them have been killed, and a high percentage of the remainder carry wound stripes on their arms.

Lafayette Flying Corps

Considerable confusion exists in the minds of many persons about the difference between the Lafayette Escadrille and the Lafayette Flying Corps. This famous aeronautic body was the Section d'Aviation of the Legion d'Étrangers in the early days of the war. To mark the number of American aviators who were sharing the dangers and the glory of the Franco-American Flying Corps, the United States was not then at war with Germany, a complaint was made to gather the fleecy staple. Cotton is commanding more than 20 cents a pound, compared with ten cents a few years ago. Times was when 75 cents to \$1 a hundred pounds was considered high wages for picking, but today pickers are paid from \$1.50 to \$1.75 a hundred.

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