

### CUT TIME ON SHIPS

#### New Record for Rapid Construction Is Set.

Baltimore Shipbuilding Company Reduces the Present Average by Half.

Washington.—In its effort to set a new record for rapid ship construction the Baltimore Dry Dock and Shipbuilding company has cut in half the present average time for construction of contract steel ships. This average for the 12 contract steel ships built to date is 130.56 days.

In previous days a year was regarded as fast time for building a steel vessel of or above 6,000 tons.

The ten fastest built vessels for the shipping board have averaged 99.510 days between keel laying and delivery. The 5,500-ton collier Tuckahoe, record holder in this or any other year, was built in 37 days. On the list of the ten fastest built ships the slowest time was 149 days. Here is the list:

- Tuckahoe, 5,500 tons, New York Shipbuilding Company, 37 days.
- West Linn, 8,800 tons, Skinner & Eddy corporation, Seattle, 75 days.
- West Alsek, 8,900 tons, Skinner & Eddy corporation, Seattle, 82 days.
- Oswego, 8,751 tons, Skinner & Eddy corporation, Seattle, 108 days.
- West Duffee, 8,800 tons, Skinner & Eddy corporation, Seattle, 111 days.
- Chicago, 8,548 tons, Skinner & Eddy corporation, Seattle, 112 days.
- Westmore, 8,800 tons, Columbian River S. B. Co., Seattle, 112 days.
- Western Queen, 8,800 tons, Skinner & Eddy corporation, Seattle, 113 days.
- Lake Huron, 8,100 tons, American S. B. Co., Chicago, 117 days.
- Lake Forest, 8,100 tons, American S. B. Co., Chicago, 119 days.

On the Pacific coast the five vessels built in the fastest time have averaged 100.15 days between keel laying and delivery; on the Great Lakes, 124.25 days; on the Atlantic coast, 209.15 days.

### WEST POINT GRADUATE



Keng Wang, from China, a member of the class of 1910, recently graduated a year ahead of schedule at West Point, stood twelfth in his class.

### ICED DRINKS UNDER BAN

State Food Administration of Arkansas Rules Out Cooling Beverages.

Little Rock, Ark.—The girls may continue to wear \$90 gowns, \$25 boots and hose that cost more than a pair of shoes did a generation ago, but in this town they will not flirt among the round tables in the soda joints, sipping soft drinks at the expense of soldier boys or loving swains. The state food administration has knocked these good times on the head. The girls must learn that the country is at war. No more, according to the order of the food administration, shall soft drink stands serve iced tea, sherbet and water ices. An order has also been issued denying manufacturers of soft drinks who have used their 1918 sugar allotment more sugar for the remainder of the year.

### Eagle Attacks Woman

Franklin, Va.—A bald eagle that has made frequent excursions into this part of the country made a vicious attack on Mrs. Anna Simmons while she was walking to her home near this city. Three deep wounds were made in her face where the eagle's talons had gouged into the flesh. Will Halterman, who ran to her assistance, was also attacked and forced to seek shelter.

### PLAY-GIRL OF WESTERN FRONT

#### Wonderful Part Played by Elsie Janis in Keeping Up Morale of Troops.

### SINGS TO BOYS OVER THERE

Many a Company Has Marched to First Night in Trenches With More Gallant Swing Because Elsie Cheered Them on Way.

By ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT. Paris.—The theater was no theater at all. It was just the great train shed which serves as the work-shop and headquarters for a small army of American engineers who are lending the P. R. R. touch to the astonished landscape of France. Though retreat had sounded an hour or so before, it was packed to suffocation with Yanks, for all that day rickshaws, lined out in the company painter's best style, had intruded the eye with the modest announcement:

### ELSIE JANIS—AMERICA'S GREATEST ACTRESS—FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

And at last, with warring-foots from a distant whistle and a great wave of laughter as the order was passed along to clear the track, a locomotive trundled in out of the night. In its cab a pair of stout and grinning engineers, on its cowcatcher Elsie Janis. A moment later and the engine was near enough to the stage for her to clear the space at a single jump and there she was, with her black velvet tann pushed back on her tossing hair, with her eyes alight and her hands uplifted, her whole voice thrown into the question which is the beginning and the end of morale, which is the most important question in the army:

### "Are we downhearted?"

The Thunderous Response. You can only faintly imagine the thunderous "No" with which the train shed echoed. And it is the whole point of all the mummings now being booked to play for the A. E. F.—that whatever the spirit of the boys before her coming, they really meant that "No" with all there was in them, that any who might have been just a little downhearted before, felt better about it after seeing and hearing her. For, like the rare officer who can inspire his men to very prodigies of valor, so the flashing Elsie is compact of that priceless thing which, for lack of a less pedantic phrase, we must call positive magnetism. More than one company has marched off to its first night in the trenches with brighter eyes, squarer shoulders and a more gallant swing because, at the very threshold of safety, this lanky and lovely lady from Columbus, Ohio, waved and sang and cheered them on their way.

That is why, when the history of this great expedition comes to be written, there should be a chapter devoted to the play-girl of the western front, the star of the A. E. F., the forerunner of those players who are now being booked in the greatest circuit of them all, the Y. M. C. A. huts of France.

For her, and for her like, there is always room. And work aplenty to do. There are troops to be fired-up by martial music—on the edge of the advance.

Elsie Janis (and mother) are having the time of their lives, and she meant every word of it when she cabled back to all her brothers and sisters of the stage to come of they would never know what they had missed.

### Barn-Storming With Veilance.

For Elsie it has been barn-storming with a vengeance, a tour of tank towns in more senses than one. It has meant traveling without a maid for once in a way, playing a whole season with a one-dress wardrobe, bivouacking in strange and uninviting hotels.

It has meant warbling as a cabaret singer among tables of some officers' mess or mounting a bench to sing through the windows of some contagion barracks where the isolated doughboys had been tearing their infected hair with disappointment because they had heard she was in the post and knew they could not get out to see her.

It has meant lingering for an extra performance at some but because a whole new audience was coming through the starlit heavens from the aviation camp down the lines.

In all her years on the stage she has known no such tumultuous, heart-warming welcomes as are her nightly portions in the biggest time a booking office can offer to a player in the year 1918.

The boys swarm up on the stage and slap her on the back and vow there never was such a girl since the world began. They cheer her until they are hoarse, and she is dizzy with pride.

### TAKES DAUGHTER TO CAMP

Virginia Drafee, Sole Support of Child, Carries Her With Him to Cantonment.

Camp Lee, Va.—A. W. Carpenter, a Virginia drafee, arrived at the camp with his three-and-a-half-year-old daughter. He claimed he was the sole support of the child and had brought her to camp, hoping to keep her with him. The nurses at the base hospital will "adopt" the child if the father gives his legal consent.

### WOULD GUARD STATUES

#### Paris Protests Against Neglect of Art Treasures.

#### Allowed to Stand Exposed to Air Raids—Promise of Aid Falls.

Paris.—Protest has arisen in many quarters here against the deliberate neglect of many of the priceless statues and works of art in Paris, which have been permitted to stand unprotected against possible damage from enemy air raids and bombardments. The special commission charged with the duty of providing protection for public monuments of art has been severely criticized.

Last year when the danger of air raids seemed comparatively remote a dozen or more monuments and statues were ordered to be protected with sand-bags. Some time afterward "loaded" sacks were placed at a distance from the monuments or statues waiting to be put in place. There they were allowed to remain, nothing further being done. The bags lay about the statues for weeks.

In the meanwhile there were several air raids. Fortunately no monument or statue was hit. On the initiative of a group of citizens work on the protection of some of the masterpieces was begun and many historic pieces like the Vendôme Column, the Obelisk the Strasbourg Monument and the art works in the "Luxembourg" gardens were given some adequate protection. Street vendors anxious to play "in the trenches," climbed up among the bags, causing a loose one to slip, with the result that thousands of bags fell in an avalanche about many of the statues. It was thereupon found that the bags were filled with stones or clinkers.

Art lovers protested and called the attention of the commission to the fact that stones and clinkers afforded no protection against German bombs. The Paris municipal council is now taking measures to remedy the present condition and promises that every valuable piece of statutory and historical art will be reasonably protected.

### RED MEN WILL SAVE FOOD

#### Ask for Expert to Teach Squaws How to Save Wheat by Using Substitutes.

Omaha, Neb.—Indians are not one whit behind the white man when it comes to food conservation. They want their squaws to have a "food mation" just like their white brethren. Fifty leaders of the Omaha Indian tribe called on State Food Administrator G. W. Wattles and asked him to introduce with the "great white father" at Washington to have Food Administrator Hoover appoint a mission to explain to the squaws how to save the wheat by using substitutes. In the past nothing but wheat has ever been used on the reservation, but the Indians have not only sent their boys to fight for Uncle Sam, but they want to do their bit at home.

### OPEN EMERGENCY HOMES FOR WIVES OF SOLDIERS

Des Moines, Ia.—Two emergency homes which will care for the wives of soldiers after leaving a maternity hospital have been established here by the civilian relief department of the Red Cross. The plan is to keep the mothers in the homes until they have regained their strength. They will be taught to care for their babies and for themselves. After leaving an effort will be made to see that they are located in homes.

### PRICES SOAR IN LONDON

#### Saloon Keepers Make Up for Profiteering Brake on Whisky and Spirits.

London.—The whisky and spirit prices have limited the power of the saloon keeper to profiteer in these articles, with the result that the prices of wines have gone up with a run. A glass of port, which at one time was 8 cents, is now 24 cents. Mixed vermouth has risen to 24 cents a glass, or even to 36 cents in some West End establishments. By the bottle prices have been increased in the case of Italian vermouth from 40 cents the liter to as much as \$1.80, and the price of inferior French vermouth is \$2. Other wines are double or treble pre-war prices.

### TAKE SHRAPNEL FROM HEART

#### Remarkable Operation Performed on a British Soldier Proves Successful.

London.—A remarkable operation has been performed on a soldier at Leeds Infirmary. A piece of shrapnel weighing 61 grains was extracted from the anterior walls of the heart. The patient is Private John Britland, who was wounded at Arras on April 11 last year. After receiving treatment in several hospitals he was taken to Leeds Infirmary, where a radiograph established the fact that he had a piece of metal in the wall of the heart itself. He is making steady progress to recovery.

### SEA RISK FOR ARMY IS SMALL

#### Infinite Care and Secrecy Attend Transport of Troops to France.

### MOST TRIPS ARE UNEVENTFUL

#### Elements of Danger Are Anticipated and Reduced to Minimum—No Uniform on Deck Seen When Ship Leaves Harbor.

London.—No greater care and secrecy could attend the shipment of royal jewels than is observed in shipping American troops to France. To safeguard his boys Uncle Sam takes every possible precaution, from the time they embark until the transport has reached its destination. He leaves no loophole for the machinations of enemy agents.

Usually, as a result of this elaborate protective system, the trip from "An Atlantic port" to the French or English coast, as the case may be, is remarkably uneventful. All elements of danger have been so carefully anticipated that the risk is reduced to the lowest minimum.

Until the troops and civilian passengers have reached the pier they do not know the name of their ship. It is only a number to them. On the regular trouphips it is difficult for a civilian, unless he is engaged in war work, to secure a passage. Those who manage to do so are subjected to close scrutiny, and their credentials and luggage are thoroughly examined.

### Embarkation Begins Early.

Embarkation often begins several days before the transport sails. All good-bys have been said before the troops start for the ship. No relative or friend may accompany them to the pier. This rule applies to the officers as well as to the men.

Once aboard, there they remain, no shore communication being permitted other than inactivity. Until all troops have been assigned to quarters and organization has been effected, the men are left pretty much to their own devices.

No restriction is placed on writing and bags are kept open for soldiers' mail up to almost the hour of sailing. This privilege gives many a chance to get off neglected letters and postcards, although these, as a matter of precaution, are not put into the mails until the ship has passed through the submarine zone.

The troops also take advantage of an arrangement devised by the government for the sending of "safe arrival" messages. Telegrams or post cards advising family and friends that the writer had made the trip in safety may be prepared in advance and left in charge of the authorities at the port of sailing. As soon as word is received by cable of the ship's arrival on the other side, the telegrams and cards are released to the wires and mails. Not only is much time saved by this plan, but the soldiers are spared the high cost of cabling from Europe.

With the exception of the ship's executives and the officers in military command, no one aboard knows the hour fixed for sailing, and this becomes a favorite topic for speculation among the men. But finally the last soldier has come up the gang plank and the last piece of freight has been stowed away. A busy little tug appears alongside and begins to nose the vessel like a terrier investigating a greyhound.

### Soldiers Ordered Below.

Suddenly there is a blast from the ship's whistle, and then are enacted a few details of the familiar scene which before the war was witnessed whenever a transatlantic liner left its pier. The comparison, however, is extremely limited. The call of "All ashore that are going ashore" affects only a few stevedores and perhaps an official or two, who move leisurely off to those on the ship. There is none on the pier for the reason that it is now empty and its great doors are closed. Only a blank wall looms there.

On deck the movement, instead of being toward the transport's rails, is away from them. Orders have been given for the troops to go to their quarters, so that when the ship is leaving harbor no uniform may be visible to any prying eyes on shore.

Slowly the big vessel is coasted by the tug into the stream, and majestically she gets under way. A few civilian passengers, to the envy of officers and men, hang over the rails and watch the city's skyline fade away.

Soon the port is only a blur in a veil of mist. It is safe now for the troops to appear. They rush out on deck, boyishly eager for the sight—strange to many—of the open sea. A glance is cast toward the vague line on the horizon that is home. Then they turn and peer forward into the mystery of the unknown, toward the scene of the great adventure—over there.

### Likes Hotel; Buys It.

Hillsboro, Ore.—William McQuillar liked the Tualatin hotel here. He boarded there for twenty years. So when the proprietors decided to go out of business McQuillar bought the hotel for \$10,000 so he could keep on living here and enjoy the cuisine.

### STICK WITH OFFICER

#### Men Carry Dead Lieutenant Miles During Fight.

#### Striking Example of Devotion of Soldiers of French Army to Superiors.

With the French Armies.—One of the most striking examples of the men's devotion to their officers in the records of the French army has just become known, although it occurred on May 28.

Among the units of French African fighters are several battalions of "joy suit" youths whose records before entering military service were bespattered and who are now given a chance to redound themselves on the battlefield. During a recent action the "joy suit" fought with remarkable ardor. Their motto is "death is necessary." Assailed by overwhelming numbers one battalion fought hand to hand with the enemy until forced to retreat to conform their line with the units on the left.

It was here on May 28 that a group of "joy suit" saw their lieutenant fall in a ravine. Four of them refused to retreat and fought off the enemy with grenades until one of them could shoulder the dead man. With the body on their shoulders the four retreated twenty kilometers during the night of the 28th though the dead weight was agonizing. Weary and fatigued with lack of sleep, they tenderly carried their officer until they found time in the morning to bury him.

### CHAMP CLARK'S GRANDSON



Mrs. James Thomson of New Orleans, formerly Miss Genevieve Clark daughter of the speaker of the house and her baby, Champ Clark Thomson. She and the baby are spending the summer in and near Washington.

### TAKE SAVINGS OF LIFETIME

#### Sailor and Wife Did Not Know They Could Not Take Gold Out of Country.

San Francisco.—The savings of a lifetime of a sailor and his wife have been seized by federal officials because the couple did not know of President Wilson's order forbidding the taking of gold out of the country.

Because Mrs. Ricardo Rodriguez feared banks, she persuaded her husband to carry their entire fortune, \$1,855, with him on a trip to Central America. The officers found it and took possession. Because of the nature of the case permission is to be asked of Secretary McAdoo to return the money.

### DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE WAR

#### Miner Comes in With \$25,000 Stake, Invests It in Bonds and Goes Back to Work.

Reno, Nev.—For five years Charles McNeale has been working a placer claim in the mountains of the Powder River country in Oregon, happily unconscious of the fact that virtually the entire world was at war. McNeale came out of his mountain retreat with \$25,000 in gold. On learning the news he had made the universe his enemy the prospector attempted to enlist. He was too old. He then invested the \$25,000 pike in Thrift stamps and Liberty bonds, ordered a grub stake and returned to the hills.

### UNFEELING SERGEANT GETS HEAVY SENTENCE

Little Rock, Ark.—Here is how the United States protects her private soldiers. William L. Taylor, an enlisted man at Camp Pike, was ill and sent word to his sergeant, George W. Reubling. "I don't care, let him die," said Reubling. Reubling was tried by court-martial, convicted, sentenced to five years in military prison, forfeits all pay and allowances and is dishonorably discharged from the army.

### Boy Named "Liberty Bond"

Moundsville, W. Va.—A male child, born to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Sleime, has been named "Liberty Bond Sleime."

### SCRAPS OF HUMOR



Explained at Last. Mr. Flatbush—Why in the world does a woman always get off a street car the wrong way. Mrs. Flatbush—She doesn't. "Of course she does. Instead of facing the way the car is going, she faces the other way."

More Impertinent. "Mrs. Diggs is going to read an important paper before her literary club." "Ah! In that case, Professor Diggs will have to drop his scientific investigations for a while." "He won't be compelled to hear her read it, will he?" "No, but he'll probably have to write it."

Probably. The old colored man had climbed into the dentist's chair. "Shall I give you laughing-gas, uncle?" queried the tooth doctor. "Not till the tooth am out, boss," replied the old man. "Reckon mebbe Ah'll feel mo' lak lakka den."

Vernacular. "Why did you discharge your cook?" "She said she wouldn't be reprimanded." "Did she express herself to that effect?" "Yes, but what she really said was, 'I won't take no sass often nobody.'"

Point Blank. Jack—And when I proposed at the dance she asked for time to think it over. What do you suppose she did that? Boss—Well, a girl naturally hates to think of disagreeable things while enjoying herself.

A Hint. Father—Agnes, is that young man still there? Daughter—Yes, papa. Father—Then ask him to bring in the morning paper before he goes, will you, dear?



Exactly. By substituting he got away from cops on the qui vive, and so became, as one might say, a subterfuge.

A Proud Declaration. "I miss the well-rounded periods you used to employ in your orations." "I may be shy on well-rounded periods," replied Senator Sorghum, "but you will notice that I come to a full stock quicker."

A Final Opinion. "What did you think of the technique of the prima donna last night, Mrs. Compu?" "Why, it was all old style. It even was buttoned down the back."

Mutual. Grace—Percy says his dog is as intelligent as he is. Dolly—Oh, there's no doubt about it. Percy is proud of the dog and the dog is proud of Percy.

Nowadays. Beggar—Could you spare a hungry man a nickel? Cholly—Yes, if you'll tell me where a man can buy anything to eat with a nickel.

Rustic Plutocracy. "Thousands of dollars pass through bank teller's hands daily." "That's nothing. Think of what passes through a farmer's hands who milks twenty cows."

In These Days. "It's as useless as the fifth wheel to wagon." "That adage is out of date. All automobiles carry extra tires."