

ST. THOMAS PICKS UP

American Port Regains Former Marine Standing.

Improvements Slow During the War, but Ships Are Now Calling Regularly.

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.—This American port is beginning to regain some of its former maritime importance. Owing to the war, improvements in this direction have been slow since the Virgin Islands were purchased from Denmark, but now, after considerable agitation by business men of St. Thomas, American steamers are beginning to call here.

The islanders feel that American steamship owners, and especially the shipping board at Washington, have heretofore overlooked the facilities of the harbor of St. Thomas for providing coal, fuel oil, and other stores.

While few American steamers have been calling at St. Thomas for supplies, many have called at the neighboring British Islands, where facilities are not considered as good as here. The price of coal is cheaper at St. Thomas than at the British Islands.

To bring this matter before the shipping board and to obtain all the help possible from the American people and congress, a meeting of the inhabitants of the Virgin Island was held here. Resolutions were adopted calling the attention of the shipping board to the facilities of the port, such as a pier 3,000 feet long with thirty-one feet of water alongside and all up-to-date appliances for the quick dispatch of vessels wanting coal, water, fuel oil and other stores.

The resolution was carried to Washington by Darwin O. Curry, collector of customs, who laid it before the shipping board. Mr. Curry has since returned and reports that that board, members of congress, and American business men have promised to do all they can for the island.

Another oil depot is being erected here to meet increased demands. The people of St. Thomas believe it possesses far better facilities than most other West India islands, and are determined to make known its availability as a port of call for supplying steamers.

THE FLYING FISHERMEN



But a few minutes of skimming over the water at an average speed of 77 miles per hour brought this prize for the pioneer "flying fishermen." The men are Earle L. Ovington and J. V. Forse. The plane in which they made their successful flight is known as the Sengull, the latest pleasure flying and passenger-carrying craft produced by the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor corporation. The machine can carry a useful load of 700 pounds which is a sufficiently large amount of baggage and camping paraphernalia for any angler.

Advertisement for 'BOUGHT YOUR SUPPLY OF W-S-S THIS WEEK' with a checkered background.

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X-Rays in Industry. Apart from their use in medicine, X-rays are steadily extending their field of usefulness. With new types of tube a ray powerful enough to show up the minutest flaw in a four-inch thickness of steel can be produced.—Chicago Journal.

Boy From Mountains of Kentucky Rivals Deeds of Sergeant York.

VOUCHED FOR BY PERSHING

Cleaned Out Three Machine Gun Nests Which Were Holding Up Line, Kills 24 Germans and Captures Six Guns.

The exploits of this mountain boy are vouched for by General Pershing himself, who pinned the Congressional Medal of Honor on his breast.

The official citation of the war department is as follows: "Sergt. Willie Sandlin, Serial No. 2078103, Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-second Infantry.

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy at Bois de Forges, France, September 26, 1918.

"Sergeant Sandlin showed conspicuous gallantry in action at Bois de Forges, France, September 26, by advancing alone directly on a machine gun nest which was holding up the line with its fire. He killed the crew with a grenade and enabled the line to advance. Later in the day Sergeant Sandlin attacked alone and put out of action two other machine gun nests, setting a splendid example of bravery and coolness to his men."

Given Other Honors. Sergeant Sandlin enlisted in Jackson, Breathitt county, April 16, 1913, and served out his term of enlistment, being in Nogales, Ariz., when discharged. On the following day he re-enlisted.

His discharge shows that he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the French Croix de Guerre and Medal Militaire for heroic action September 24. The discharge is dated May 30, 1919, Camp Grant, Ill.

On September 26 his division, the Prairie, was advancing through the Argentine forest, fighting its way step by step. Sandlin was in command of a platoon of 57 men when the advance started.

The line had been fighting for hours, advancing slowly, when they were suddenly held up by a machine gun nest about 100 yards in front. Sandlin charged up the slope at the machine gun nest, with bullets from the machine guns and automatic pistols of the Germans whistling by him. He was 100 yards in front of his men when he stopped and threw a grenade at the nest. This fell short and he ran forward and threw two more grenades at the midst of the Germans.

He then charged the nest with his bayonet and found five dead men and three men still living. These he bayoneted.

When the line advanced and came up with him he rejoined his platoon and borrowed four more grenades. The line then advanced again, going up the slope of the hill with very little protection from the trees. At the crest of the hill another machine gun nest halted the line, but Sandlin kept right on going. When he was within 20 yards of the machine gun nest he threw two grenades, both making clean hits, and again charged with his bayonet. This time he found four dead and three wounded Germans, and he bayoneted the latter. Two machine guns were captured.

Destroys Third Nest. After the line had again come up with him they advanced over the crest of the hill and down the other slope toward the Meuse river.

When they had proceeded about 500 yards another nest stopped the line, which was advancing down the slope toward the river. But it did not stop Sandlin; he kept right on under fire from the machine guns and the pistols of the Germans and threw three grenades into the nest, killing eight men, the entire German crew, and capturing two more machine guns.

Sandlin had thus far killed 24 men by himself while his companions were taking cover and captured six machine guns.

Later in the day he was slightly wounded by shrapnel on his right hand and forehead. A small piece of shrapnel is still in his forehead just under the skin and the hand bears scars.

Bear Leaves Cuba. Williamsport, Pa.—M. O. Welshans, a farmer living in Nippenose valley, was walking with a neighbor when the dogs with them began barking and acting in such an unusual manner that they investigated and found them before a large hole, from which protruded the head and forepaws of a bear. They withdrew and called off the dogs. The bear made a break for liberty as soon as the coast was clear. Going back to the den, the two men poked it with poles and discovered a litter of cubs, but, being unarmed, they did not attempt to remove them. That the bear should leave its young unprotected is considered unusual.

Italy, in her new budget, is proposing to tax bachelors.

Not a Complete Success. Edward was a timid boy. He tried hard to overcome his timidity, but with little success. One day his father came home and brought him an Indian suit. After Edward had it on his father told him that he would be brave now, for Indians always were. Edward went out in the front yard to show it to a neighbor playmate when the big collie dog from across the street came bounding up on the front porch, crying, and barked out: "Take the suit back; it don't work on me."

CLEAN HOUSE.

The Anglicization of the immigrant, and, indeed, his complete readjustment to American life, does not even touch the fringes of the problems in hand. The task before us is of quite another sort. What confronts America is the need of convincing the newer peoples of the genuineness and sincerity of her mission and her professions, says New Republic. You may give an alien evening schools and continuation schools; you may teach his wife in the home and his daughter in the factory; you may flood him with reprints of the Declaration of Independence and the speeches of Lincoln, and when you have finished you will be no farther along the road of winning his heart and his co-operation than when you began. I say winning advisedly, because that, as I see it, is distinctly our problem. To readjust himself to the American environment is the task for the immigrant, and no one can do it for him. But it is the first principle of hospitality to clean house thoroughly when guests are coming. Only so can the impression we make upon him be both effective and lasting.

The trend of business conditions in the United States is shown by the fact that in May there were only 531 commercial failures, a new low record for any month since monthly records were first compiled by R. G. Dun & Co. in 1894. The figures show that the number of insolvencies has declined every month this year. The number of failures was nearly 40 per cent lower than for May, 1918, and 59 and 64 per cent lower, respectively, than in 1917 and 1916. Contrasted with the high record of May, 1915, a decline of about 69 per cent is shown. During the war many merchants in all parts of the country discontinued the credit system, principally because the government urged it. The credit system undoubtedly has been the cause of many commercial failures. Business men during the war also learned the value of conducting their business so as to yield a safe margin of profit, says Indianapolis News. It may be reasonably presumed, in light of the steadily declining number of commercial failures, that business generally is in better condition now than for some time.

The American Scandinavian foundation announces the names of ten American college students who will receive \$1,000 each to study in Sweden in exchange with ten Swedish students who will study in the United States. All twenty, it is declared, would have gone to German universities if conditions had remained as before the war. Some first class schools are getting a chance of which an unreasonable tradition had deprived them.—Springfield Republican.

The young British midshipman who, armed with a rifle, boarded three of the German destroyers and forced their crews to close the sea-cocks and keep them afloat, ought to be promoted to a high position. In these times of emergencies, the men capable of meeting them do not appear to be so numerous that any of them can be overlooked or wasted.

France will not long be behind the procession in transoceanic flying, if her progressive men have their say. The offer of \$400,000 in prizes made personally by Henry de la Moerthe Deutsch, president of the French Aero club, means something doing.

A boost of 25 to 30 per cent in the price of food is anticipated by restaurateurs, so will someone please tell the man who is getting along now on coffee and a roll for breakfast, how he is going to retrench?

Poles are breaking up German meetings. Times have changed. It has not been so long ago that Germans were fogging Polish children for saying their prayers in their own language.

An American newspaper, taken across on the R-34, was delivered to King George four days after it was printed. That's quicker mail service than a good many of us have in this country.

The interesting information comes from London that King Edward I bought 400 eggs for 37 cents. Which is some justification for the laments over the good old times.

Bank clerks are organizing to secure better hours. The old popular fallacy that bank clerks work only from 9 to 5, with an hour off for lunch, is due to be thoroughly exposed.

Perhaps the geese that saved Rome were the forerunners of the geese that furnished the quilts that put the finishing touches on the saving of democracy.

Don't worry about the departing aliens or the money they will take with them. Wave them a glad farewell.

HOTELS AS HOMES.

The apparently unlimited willingness of capitalists to invest millions upon millions of dollars in the erection of magnificent hotels makes natural the speculation as to whether we are on the way to becoming a country of hotel dwellers. As fast as each new hotel, with its thousands of rooms and ingenious refinements of comfort and service, is completed it is instantly filled, starts a waiting list, and only regrets that it has not a few hundred more rooms to be let at a minimum of \$5 a day. Americans who can afford such luxuries—and there are more in this class than ever before—are flocking into hotels because living conditions, particularly in the greater cities, are abnormal. The Spokane Spokesman-Review, if the abnormal conditions become permanent and therefore normal, the hotel dwellers will increase and the American home will become a new sort of thing entirely. The multiplicity of new fortunes has intensified the search for luxurious living conditions and made consideration of expense negligible. Then there is a great shortage of suitable houses, created by the suspension of building during the war years. Finally we have the servant problem. It is this last more than any other factor that is hastening the trend toward hotels.

Farmers throughout the United States paid for mowers in 1918 prices that were 72 per cent above those of 1914, when the war began, and similarly above the former prices for other articles as follows: Harrows, 123 per cent; plows, 90 per cent; tedders, 81 per cent; axes, 83 per cent; chains, 76 per cent; corn knives, 97 per cent; cream separators, 50 per cent; hoes, 73 per cent; 10-gallon milk cans, 133 per cent; milk pails, 104 per cent; pitchforks, 85 per cent; scythes, 60 per cent; shovels, 92 per cent. So reports the bureau of crop estimates.

Hundreds of American youths who enlisted in the British forces and fought as Jewish legionnaires are to make permanent homes in the Holy Land. An emergency fund is being raised by the American 'Reb Mogen David so that they may receive winter equipment and that their families may be able to join them. They are to be supplied with an emergency ambulance by the Pittsburgh chapter and expect to do work among the suffering. They may Americanize Jerusalem before they feel that their full duty to the land of their ancestors is accomplished.

A famous convict, recaptured after various sensational escapes, complains that nearly all the big hauls he made by his robberies was spent in blackmail extorted by a fellow-criminal, who betrayed him when the money was gone. The convict seemed to feel a great wrong was done him by the blackmailer in taking the money he himself had taken from its rightful owners, which emphasizes one of the curious-traits in human nature.

American physicians have started a movement to make New York the medical center of the world. The wonders performed during the war by American surgery uphold this claim, and it is the more feasible since the fetish of Germany as the supreme center of science and musical art has been largely destroyed in the general wreck of the empire by the world war.

Time has shown that Bret Harte's old poem overestimated the shrewd trickery of "the heathen Chinee." The Chinese are now singing, "For ways that are dark and trick that are vain, the highly civilized Europeans and the Japanese are peculiar."

The annual controversy over whether tomatoes are a vegetable or a fruit has started in certain Eastern papers. The solution is simpler than usual, this year. If tomatoes are vegetables, why do the dealers charge fruit prices for them?

Judging by recent reports, about the only difference between aviation on a war basis and on a peace basis is that the daring young aviators, who now come to grief are listed as fatalities instead of casualties.

In view of the ascending price of food, if the army doesn't sell the surplus foodstuffs that were stored up for this summer's campaign pretty soon, the government may have to declare a dividend.

Youth with too much precocity and age burdened with adolescence are not calculated to win much favor among people who are basking in the sunshine of the middle-age spread.

The penny taxes on luxuries are so numerous and persistent that many people are finding it difficult to have money to put in the church collection plates.

Trains and interurbans still lead in the contest with the automobile as to the right of way at crossings.

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