

AMERICANS UNDERSTAND.

PRESIDENT WILSON, in his message to Field Marshal Haig, expresses truly the belief and confidence of the American people. They understand. They know that the forces of democracy cannot be beaten.

The latest news of battle is eloquent with facts that prove the enemy is slackening in his effort, that days of fighting, loss of blood and much slaughter are making his progress slower.

The bulk of his conquest came in the first hours of his drive; then he took the bulk of his prisoners, guns and territory. As the days go on, fewer men are taken, less territory is acquired, and the shaded portions of the map are diminished.

As the British retire, their fighting power stiffens. They go toward their resources, as the enemy comes away from his.

The enemy has not recaptured the ground he voluntarily abandoned only a few months ago.

Every news report is dramatic with the tale of slaughter inflicted upon the Kaiser's soldiers.

During the fighting before Templeux la Foisse "two batteries of British field guns fired for four hours at ranges from 600 yards down into the masses of the enemy." What a killing was inflicted by a mere handful of men, who afterwards withdrew, but leaving their guns behind them!

And such incidents recur in one phase or another throughout all accounts of the battle.

Those facts which discourage the reader of war news are the seizure of territory, the capture of prisoners and the taking of guns.

These elements are not sufficient to show the course of victory. Each of them is a relative fact. The enemy takes territory, but what is the territory worth to him? He takes prisoners, but how many casualties were incurred thereby?

As for guns, it is set down as a part of the elementary rules of war that guns used for repelling an attack at close quarters cannot usually be recovered if the attack reaches its immediate objective. It is ever a doubtful question with commanders, what portion of his artillery shall be set with the object of its removal and what shall be stationed with the view that it may have to be sacrificed.

If the Germans have taken 600 guns, they have obtained no more than might be anticipated. A gun used in the face of an attack must be used to the last instant of effectiveness, or removed at an earlier period. Fancy saving out ten or fifteen minutes to save a gun which is firing "point blank into the massed enemy at 600 yards and under." That gun must be used up to the last second, as the surest way to get its value as an instrument of slaughter and of victory.

The Germans have moved forward somewhat, but the British line is before them, and will be before them until the Kaiser yields.

America knows by its tense and anxious mind that this is indeed her war. There is no American of imagination but inquires of himself, what would happen if the British line should fail, and rout should be followed by German conquest.

Americans almost intuitively know, in the presence of the ordeal, that never again through many a long year could the United States be anything but an armed camp, in which science and industry would engage in endless toil against the day when the forces of Germany and her vassals should be launched against American shores.

Then too is the selfish consciousness that the more Germans the British destroy, the fewer will remain to be destroyed by American soldiers, and the fewer the American lives that will be sacrificed in the process.

If the Germans lost half a million men before Verdun, what will they lose in this offensive. Every Prussian down is one less for American boys to down.

The American heart swells with pride because of the British line that bends but does not break.

ENGLISH THE LANGUAGE OF THE U. S.

THE SECRETARY of the interior has invited the governors of the states, the chairmen of the state defense councils and some 300 industrial leaders to meet him to consider the national plan for Americanization, projected by the department of the interior.

"English the language of the United States," is the slogan adopted for this campaign. Under the selective draft 1,275,000 aliens were registered, many of whom were accepted. On account of their inability to speak English, some of these cannot understand military orders, and their training in cantonments is made difficult.

Five million persons of foreign birth in the United States do not speak English. Three million males of military age, that is from 18 to 45, are unnaturalized and owe no obligations of loyalty and support to the United States.

The foreign populations of America will welcome the effort of the government to teach them English. Most of these foreigners are anxious to speak the tongue of the land, for the reason that their economic condition is improved because of the knowledge of English.

A great deal of work in this direction is done in the schools, both public and parish. But the elders, those beyond school age, are neglected.

Among the questions that will naturally be considered are those relating to foreign language newspapers and publications. This is probably the only country in the world that permits the continued existence of foreign language newspapers printed in an enemy tongue. It is likely that the question will come into being of the existence of societies having for their direct object the preservation of foreign nationality. These are at least part of the whole problem of Americanization, and, of course, any institution which tends to perpetuate a foreign tongue, is against the slogan of the movement, "English the language of the United States."

HOW MANY MEN ON A SHIP?

SOME yards put but 125 men on a ship. Some as many as 500 men, at the peak of the work. This represents a vast difference in method, and in the speed with which ships are launched.

The government is using the Ferris standard plans, which have been provided, by experience, to be so accurate, that wood can be sawed to size, without leaving several inches to be cut away after the timbers are in place.

Mr. Heyworth, manager of the division of wood ship construction, requires that the wood ship builders in each district shall form an association, where information as to best methods may be interchanged.

"Real co-operation among ship builders," says Mr. Heyworth, "can double ship production within six months."

Such production wipes out the secret methods and other means by which the more able, or the more fortunate ship builder had an advantage over others in his trade.

Great improvements have been made in the construction

of wooden ships, which are less due to shipbuilders, as they worked before the war, than to the suggestions of many minds, concentrated upon the best means of producing what the government needs.

LONG RANGE GUN.

BERLIN announces that Paris is under bombardment by long range guns and Paris-announces that nine inch shells have been falling at intervals of twelve minutes.

It would seem to be fairly conclusive that there is such a gun, and that it is dropping shells into Paris. The authorities at Berlin are not above putting their hall mark upon the facts that they prefer shall be believed.

But one thing is indubitable. Shells are falling into Paris that have the appearance of being shot from a gun. Such shells might, however, be dropped from air ships, high enough to be out of sight. We may be certain there are not many of these guns, and reasonably certain that the construction of any that exist is costly, beyond the normal cost of great guns.

IMPORTANT RULING

EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, packages weighing 70 pounds are received for transmission within the first postal zones, and packages weighing 50 pounds within all other zones. The increased weight limit is particularly advantageous in marketing farm products. It permits, for instance, a bushel of potatoes to be shipped in a suitable container, from surrounding territory, within a radius of several hundred miles. This ruling makes the postal service a really effective means of serving the public. The twenty pound package was entirely too small for most purposes.

WHAT FRANCE WANTS.

Telling what France wants General Wood speaks the simple truths that are within the minds of nearly all Americans. We must build ships faster, send more men, and cast more cannon. The voice of General Wood is but the stimulation by which effort is energized. He speaks nothing the country did not know before he spoke; asks for nothing the country is not determined to do. America, months since was bending every bit of her gigantic power to attain these very ends.

AMERICANS TAKE RECREATION IN AIX-LES-BAINS SUPERVISORS TO BE PAID BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

Chambery, France, March 25—American soldiers on leave now are being sent to the department of Savoie, one of the most picturesque regions of France, to obtain rest and healthful recreation after their arduous work in the trenches and behind the lines. The department was selected by officers of the American army. It is beautifully situated about 350 miles from Paris in the Alps in southern France, having a mild and agreeable climate, fertile valleys, high and well-timbered mountains and pretty mountain streams and lakes.

Aix-les-Bains, Chambery and Challes-les-Eaux are three towns in the department to which the first American soldiers are being sent. The first contingent of soldiers was sent to Aix-les-Bains, known to tourists as "The Pearl of Savoie." This town with a normal population of less than 10,000 inhabitants is located but one mile from the Lake of Bourget on a small plain surrounded by mountains.

Aix owes its fame and importance to its warm mineral springs, known to the Romans. The baths are operated under government supervision. The water is supplied by two springs, yielding daily over a million gallons. The treatment, prescribed chiefly for rheumatism and skin diseases, is supplied to American soldiers at a very nominal cost.

Chambery is a town of 22,000 inhabitants about nine miles from Aix-les-Bains. It is the capital of the department of Savoie and an important center of learning and industry. The Grand Duke of Savoie made his headquarters in Chambery and built there a great old castle, parts of which still stand. Old Roman ruins are also found in the neighborhood.

Challes-les-Eaux is another well-known hot springs station located a couple of miles southeast of Chambery and at the foot of the Buisson mountains. The baths there are said to have virtually the same mineral properties as those at Aix-les-Bains. A large casino and a theatre have been leased in Challes by the Young Men's Christian Association for the benefit of the American soldiers.

SWEDISH PAPERS PUBLISH FALSE STORIES OF U. S.

Stockholm, March 25—The pro-German newspapers in Sweden are printing fantastic stories regarding conditions in America. This propaganda is designed obviously to awaken hostility toward the Entente Powers and the United States and to offset the effects unfavorable to Germany caused by the sinking of Swedish ships and by the Luxburg affair.

The Nya Dagligt Allehanda prints an alleged interview with a Swede lately returned from America. According to this unidentified voyager American soldiers are committing suicide by the hundreds through fear of submarines; American provision shops are being plundered and the proprietors lynched by the masses; Swedes are faring hard in America, due to the Luxburg disclosures; the homes of 59,000 Germans in New York are being watched by the police and the inhabitants searched in the streets every time they leave their houses, and American newspapers "not owned by British capital" have disclosed that "the American Embassy in Budapest had been hoarding bombs."

\$150,000 FIRE IN CONCORD.

Concord, Mass., March 22—The fertilizer plant of the Whitcomb & Pratt Rendering Co. at Concord Junction was destroyed today by fire which started from an undetermined cause on the first floor of the main building and spread rapidly. All employees escaped. Representatives of the company said the loss probably would exceed \$150,000.

Paris, March 25—The American Red Cross supply service has created recreation centers at four hospitals, which have been installed for service, and moving picture machines have been supplied to three hospitals. Fifty-seven phonographs, five pianos and 38,000 periodicals, books and newspapers have been distributed among hospitals and camps. A band with a complete set of instruments was furnished an aviation camp. At a point near the coast a hospital was opened for the men of the navy.

GERMANS USED DIVISION FOR EVERY 2,000 YDS.

One Hun Division Against Each British Battalion in Thursday's Attack.

TAKING OF TOWNS REASON FOR ADVANCE

Enemy Renewed Its Assault on Friday With Increasing Vigor After Fighting.

British Army Headquarters in France, Sunday, March 24.—(By The Associated Press.)—The main thrust on the British right flank by the Germans on Thursday morning was south of St. Quentin and the enemy used a division for every 2,000 yards of the front, there being approximately one German division against each British battalion. The purpose of the attack here was to capture Urvillers and Esigny le Grand and thereby acquire high ground for a further advance. It now is possible to give more details of the early stages of this and other fighting.

On the extreme right of the British army the enemy crossed the river Oise at two places. One body of troops came out of La Fere and swung north, while another army crossed at Moy and turned south to from a junction the La Fere group. Throughout the day the battle raged in the low lands about the Oise. At Venduville a group of British held out until 4 o'clock Friday afternoon. A little farther north the Germans stormed Urvillers and Esigny. Just west of St. Quentin the British were forced to fall back but throughout the day they clung to the Holnon wood, a little northwest of the Oise.

South of St. Quentin a number of strong British redoubts made a gallant defense and it was not until before the last of them, with their machine gunners, had been reduced. The end of the first day found the British behind the St. Quentin canal.

Friday morning the enemy renewed his assault with increasing vigor and after desperate fighting in the region of La Fere, succeeded in getting across to the British side.

Farther north the British also withdrew from the Holnon wood. The Germans then drove at Ham, which had been cleared of civilians, and on Saturday morning, after obtaining a crossing of the canal, drove southward into the British positions. In the other main theater of operations, between Arras and Bapaume, the Germans made their first drive against the high ground between the Cojel and Sensee rivers. The German preliminary bombardment was terrific and their infantry outnumbered the British eight to one in some cases.

Early the Germans attacking southward, got into Bullecourt and the British withdrew to a line covering Vaux Vrancourt, Mochies and Baumetz le Cambrai. The hottest and most disputed point was Mory, which the Germans occupied only yesterday. During Friday the Germans overran St. Leger, Vaux Vrancourt and Henin. One company of machine gunners on Henin hill held up the German advance for a long time and doing deadly execution in the densely formed ranks.

The Germans have been bringing up artillery in the most able manner behind their shock troops and have been making full use of this arm as the advance continued.

DISLOYAL MEN ARE FORCED TO KISS OLD GLORY

Lima, O., March 26.—Accused of pro-Germanism, five business men of Delphos, a German settlement in western Allen county near here, were hunted out last night by a volunteer vigilance committee of 400 men and 50 women of the town, and were forced to publicly salute and kiss the American flag under pain of being hanged.

FIRST JAPANESE EMBASSY TO U.S. SENT 60 YRS. AGO

Tokio, March 26—The sixtieth anniversary of the sending of the first Japanese Embassy to the United States was suitably observed today by a commemorative ceremony at the annual meeting of the Federation of Marine Industries. The announcement was made by K. Hamada, vice president of the lower house of Parliament who said that the discovery was made in December in the Tokio Fiber Laboratory in the course of experiments on seaweeds.

The variety of seaweed is known as sagamo or gomo gomo. It abounds in Japanese waters and hitherto has been used as a fertilizer. The method of extracting the fibre is simply to boil the weeds in lye and then in water mixed with rice bran after which the released fibre is bleached. The whole process is so simple as to be easily possible for fishermen and farmers living near the sea.

MRS. STOKES IS TAKEN BY U. S.

Kansas City, March 23.—Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes of New York was arrested today in Willow Springs, Mo., by federal officers, on a charge of violating the espionage law. It was announced here by Francis M. Wilson, United States district attorney for Missouri. Mrs. Stokes will be brought here tomorrow.

RECREATION FOR U. S. SOLDIERS

Paris, March 25—The American Red Cross supply service has created recreation centers at four hospitals, which have been installed for service, and moving picture machines have been supplied to three hospitals. Fifty-seven phonographs, five pianos and 38,000 periodicals, books and newspapers have been distributed among hospitals and camps. A band with a complete set of instruments was furnished an aviation camp. At a point near the coast a hospital was opened for the men of the navy.

PLACE SPIKED CROSS ON DEAD HERO'S COFFIN

Honor Bestowed Upon Irish Lad Who Gave Life Rather Than Abandon Post

STAYED BY SIDE OF PLATOON COMMANDER

Entered Unoccupied Trench to Establish a Sniper's Post When Huns Arrive

With the American Army in France, Thursday, March 21.—(By The Associated Press.)—The French commander of a division with which American troops are doing training awarded to-day the cross of war to an American infantryman who two nights ago gave his life rather than abandon his post of duty.

The war cross was spiked to the coffin before burial. Two infantrymen entered an abandoned trench to establish a sniper's post when they observed several German soldiers in the wire before the American trenches. Other Germans arrived. There began an exchange of rifle fire, which resulted in a barrage from both sides. At the end of an hour the American gave up the attempt to enter the American lines, and withdrew. Then it was discovered that one of the two Americans had been killed.

There was plenty of cover within a few yards, but he remained at his post throughout the artillery battle. The distinguished service cross has been awarded to Corporal Charles H. Burke, infantry. His citation reads:

"Severely wounded while patrolling he refused to leave his post as a commander, who was also severely wounded. He stayed at his side during an intense bombardment and assisted on driving off an enemy patrol."

SIZE 15 FEET KEEP NEGROES OUT OF DRAFT

Dallas, Tex., March 25—While some exemption boards have been weighing the claims of objectors to military services who had revived long forgotten dependents, at least two Texans willing to serve have received honorable discharges because the army decided it would put too great a strain on the United States government to keep them in shoes.

The recruits recently were discharged from Camp Travis at San Antonio because of the high price of leather. Both were negroes from the Texas bottoms and both were valiant in their wishes to "get" the German Emperor. If either could have stepped on him, it would have ended the war. Each would have worn shoes number 15 if the army could have supplied them. It was estimated that shoes would have to be made to order for them at a cost of \$20 a pair and so they were sent back to the farms.

Some of the exemption claims have been freakish. In Dallas, a tearful claimant pictured the suffering of his grandmother if his support were removed. An investigation proved she had been dead 20 years, and in the opinion of the board members, it was the first time the objector had thought of it. He was arrested and is still in jail.

Only a few Texans now ask exemption on conscientious grounds. Training camp customs are becoming familiar to persons in all parts of the state and the "conscientious objector" knows he is sure of a safe, if not savory, job with the kitchen police.

A Dallas negro, suspicious of the virtue of written claims, took his evidence with him. When called before the board he headed in seven children and his wife, and professed a perfect willingness to serve in the army if the board would promise to take care of his family. He was granted exemption.

Another Dallas man asked the board members to read a packet of love letters in order to convince them of the acute suffering his wife would undergo if he left her to serve with the colors. The board was visibly affected and was weakened rapidly when an investigator brought in word that the man had married after the first call and that the letters had been made to order by a dutiful and obedient wife.

SUBSTITUTE FOR COTTON IS FOUND

Tokio, March 25—The discovery of a practical substitute for cotton was announced today at the annual meeting of the Federation of Marine Industries. The announcement was made by K. Hamada, vice president of the lower house of Parliament who said that the discovery was made in December in the Tokio Fiber Laboratory in the course of experiments on seaweeds.

The variety of seaweed is known as sagamo or gomo gomo. It abounds in Japanese waters and hitherto has been used as a fertilizer. The method of extracting the fibre is simply to boil the weeds in lye and then in water mixed with rice bran after which the released fibre is bleached. The whole process is so simple as to be easily possible for fishermen and farmers living near the sea. Hamada claims that the fibre in every respect is better than cotton.

HUNS ESTABLISH RAIL LINES.

Moscow, Tuesday, March 19.—(By The Associated Press.)—The Germans already have established through railroad connections between the districts they have occupied and Berlin and are flooding the occupied towns with German goods, especially clothing and hosiery.

GREAT SCARCITY OF FOOD EXISTS AMONG MEXICANS

Many of the Poor Are Starving and Even Well to Do Suffer From Lack.

COUNTRY ONE OF THE MOST FERTILE

Flour, Butter, Sugar, Sell at Double American Prices But Hard to Get.

Chihuahua City, Mexico, March 24.—Food is so expensive and so difficult to obtain in Mexico, one of the most fertile countries in the world, that the poor are suffering want and even starvation while the more prosperous Mexicans find it difficult to provide sustenance for their families.

Prices of food in the United States, even if considered by American housewives to be high, are to be compared with those prevailing in Mexico since the embargo was placed on the exportation of foodstuffs from the United States to neutral countries.

An opportunity to compare Mexican prices for staple articles with those obtaining in the United States is afforded by the following quotations from merchants here:

Sugar sell for 27 cents a pound, American money, and is very scarce at this price.

American butter brings 90 cents a pound, gold, and is the occasion for celebration in the Mexican homes when it can be obtained at this price. Butter is unknown among the poorer classes.

Flour sells for 16 cents a pound and is growing more expensive as the embargo restrictions are made more stringent. Little wheat bread is eaten by the middle and lower classes who use flour for making tortillas, a cake made of flour and water.

American brands of coffee sell as high as 75 cents a pound and is very scarce. Mexican green coffee brings 38 cents a pound and is roasted over charcoal fires as it is used.

Rice, used principally by the Chinese and Japanese living in Mexico, is worth 12 cents a pound. Lard is another article which has more than doubled in price because of the American embargo. It brings 95 cents a pound when it can be obtained. The principal source of supply is the smuggler.

Beans, which are a staple food throughout Mexico and are eaten three times a day, sell for 10 cents a pound. This is the highest in the history of Mexico. The red frijole bean is much preferred to the American white navy bean. No ham or bacon can be bought here at the present time. The last shipment received sold for 83 cents a pound.

Chile peppers, grown in all parts of Mexico, are the only foodstuff which has not increased in price. It sells for three cents a pound.

Small purchases are the rule in the small Mexican stores and shops. The centavo, or penny, formerly was the most used medium of purchase and exchange. It was not uncommon for children to ask for one cent's worth of sugar, lard or even flour. Because of the increased cost of such commodities the five-cent piece has taken the place of the cent as the most used medium.

Central markets supply vegetables, fresh and dried meats and other commodities. The Chinese gardeners have obtained a monopoly of the green grocery business and they raise quantities of vegetables on their well tended farms near this and other large cities. The Chinese also carry vegetables from place to place in big baskets suspended from a yoke which the peddler balances over his neck.

SEAMEN-FIREMEN REFUSE TO SAIL WITH DELEGATES

London, March 26.—The seamen's and firemen's union has decided that its members shall refuse to sail on any ship conveying delegates appointed to the inter-Allied labor conference in the United States.

An official of the union said: "Our opposition to these men is the same as that against Ramsay MacDonald. We will take no one who is opposed to the doctrine that Germany must make compensation to dependents of our murdered merchant seamen."

Camille Huysmans, Belgian Socialist leader and the French delegates to the conference have deferred their departure in view of the pending visit of the American delegates to Europe.

When the inter-Allied labor conference was held in England last month no American delegates were present. It accordingly was decided to send a delegation of workmen and Socialists from England, France and Belgium to the United States.

EXPLOSION KILLS THIRTY SOLDIERS

London, March 22—Thirty German soldiers were killed and more than 100 were injured and 500 munition wagons were blown up by an explosion at the Meuvriges station, near Mons, Belgium, according to an Exchange Telegraph Co. dispatch from Brussels.

The Germans had stocked enormous munition trains under camouflaged sheds in Meuvriges.

SUFFRAGE PAPER SUSPENDED.

London, March 23—After ten years' continuous existence as the organ of woman's suffrage in England, the periodical "Votes for Women" ceases publication with the February issue. "The time for an exclusively suffrage journal has gone," it says in its valedictory. "Votes for Women" did its work for ten years; it was a pioneer among women's papers. It comes to an end at a dramatic moment."