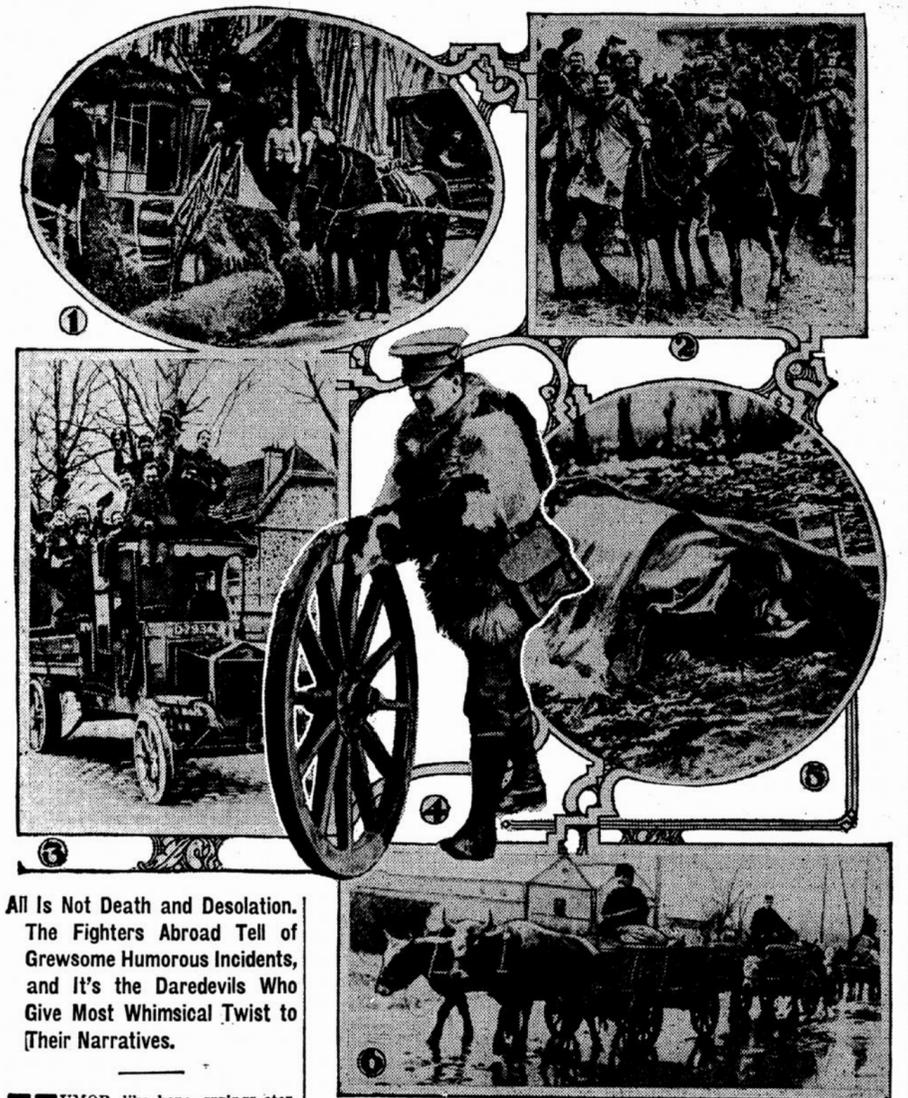


War Has Some Bright Sides Too



All Is Not Death and Desolation. The Fighters Abroad Tell of Grewsome Humorous Incidents, and It's the Daredevils Who Give Most Whimsical Twist to Their Narratives.

HUMOR, like hope, springs eternal in the human breast even when it is serving as a target for the enemy's bullets. One of the most interesting features of the world war is the fact that it has actually stimulated and increased the production of humor, amateur and professional.

A keen sense of humor is the dominant note in most of the soldiers' letters from the front, while in conversation I have noticed that officers, as well as men, instinctively tell you the lighter incidents, passing up the horror of the grim reality, and that the sense of humor becomes keener and more frequent the closer you get to the front and the hotter the fire, as if this safety valve of nature opened up automatically. I noticed, says a correspondent on the German front, that invariably the men who had the most dangerous jobs—cavalry officers who had come back alive from daring patrol rides, aviators who had not made their last flight, pioneers—were thus gifted, and if in spite of their modesty they could be prevailed upon at all to talk about themselves they would invariably give a whimsical twist to the narrative.

The Headless Enemy.

Many good war stories are, of course, obviously apocryphal, as the famous Irish bull attributed to the Bavarian landsturm man who was asked by an enemy officer to carry him to the field hospital, as he was wounded in the leg. The Bavarian packed his prisoner and carried him pig-a-back, but on the way a shell flying low carried off the enemy's head without the Bavarian noticing it. He deposited his headless burden before the astonished field surgeon with the request to have the fellow's leg attended to. The surgeon says tart things about what he considers a "bum joke" in being asked to try his skill on a headless man. The nonplussed Bavarian finally sees a great sight and explodes: "What liars some people are! The fellow told me with his own lips that he was wounded in the leg. Not a word about his head being gone."

Some of the best stories, however, have the merit of being true. General von Heeringen, the venerable commander in chief of the army, told me a sprightly narrative of how they had recently taken prisoners of an entire French company, with its captain. The company, cut off by the German advance, had managed to maintain themselves for two months in hiding in a wood eight miles in the rear of the German lines. They were discovered, said General von Heeringen, only by a fluke, for the French captain's boots wore out, and he sent them into a nearby village to be resoled. A sharp-witted landsturm man who noticed the native shoemaker repairing foreign looking boots reported the matter, and the clew led to the discovery of the French garrison in the woods at the Germans' rear.

"That Frenchman was a splendid, competent officer to have been able to keep his company together for two months under such conditions," was the general's admiring comment.

Zouaves Desert to Germans.

A German war correspondent vouches for the truth of the following story: At one of the trenches between Rheims and Laon four deserting zouaves came

running over to the German lines. A young lieutenant sent them scurrying right back again with the words: "If you only come by fours that doesn't do us any good. Run back and bring some more; then you'll get something good to eat and warm to drink."

It was a comic sight to see the dark, grotesque figures go bounding over the snow, arms raised in the air from fright, says the narrator. But, sure enough, in an hour's time the four came back and brought thirty-eight other zouaves with them.

An ultra modern war ruse was employed by some Germans, who placed a phonograph in an empty trench and turned loose on the midnight air a many voiced Maennerchor record, themselves withdrawing to safe shelter, taking turns to crawl out to keep the phonograph going. The French promptly sent over a shower of bullets in an attempt to break up the supposed Maennerchor brazenly singing under their very noses, and finally one freak bullet smashed the phonograph. But the horn escaped damage, and afterward was used as a megaphone to "reproach" the French, 250 feet away.

How Garrison Got a Dominion.

The Bavarian General Zoellner, who is the great general staff's specialist on Americana, told me the following human interest story: One of the phenomena of the war, he said, was the marked increase in the need of and demand for spiritual consolation, so that the demand for field chaplains often exceeds the supply. The landsturm garrison of a town in France wasn't the lucky possessor of a preacher of its own, and there was none left in town to minister to them, so when they just couldn't stand being without spiritual consolation any longer they sent out patrols to look for some and bring it in. One spiritual scouting party finally returned in triumph with a venerable Jewish rabbi. And the rabbi made good. He has been engaged for the entire season to conduct Sunday night services for the landsturm garrison.

Another story was told me about a Bavarian landsturm company that got tired of leading the simple life in a village close to the front and went on the rampage to get into some real fighting on its own hook. The old, bearded Bavarians stormed the front German trench, told the youngsters to go back and sit down and took their places in the firing line, continuing to have a beautiful time until rounded up and gently coaxed back to the village. The Bavarians are the wild Irishmen among Germans and can always be depended upon to add to the gaiety of even warring nations.

The Neutral Calf.

The war has produced a crop of good stories, many wearing a strong family resemblance, usually of a cow or pig that wanders around between the battle lines and precipitates a bloody hand to hand fight for its possession. Here is an interesting minor variation. At one point where the hostile trenches were 250 yards apart a calf came wandering down the line, and both sides

promptly stopped firing, each hoping that the potential dinner would come its way. But the calf chose to remain neutral. Finally one of the German soldiers could not stand the agony of suspense any longer and, taking up one of the new steel protective shields, draped it with greenery and further arming himself with a long rope rigged up as a lasso stealthily stalked the neutral calf. He managed to rope it and was slowly drawing it back toward the trench when the French, who discovered the maneuver as they noticed the calf developing marked pro-German tendencies, opened fire. The calf fell, pierced by fourteen French bullets, but the soldier got back into the trench unhurt and drew the dead calf in after him. That night the Germans had roast veal.

A French infantry officer gives information of the German bomb throwers that have been mentioned frequently of late in the official bulletins:

"What we most fear are the German 'sausages,' or 'minenwerfer' (mine throwers), hurled through the air by special machines. They turn upon themselves like big sausages and fall with an enormous noise. They are even amusing, for they go slowly and give one plenty of time to run a few yards after they are seen. After the first day one learns to recognize the sound of the explosion. Every one lifts his nose, and the first to perceive the direction of the danger cries, 'Sausage to the right!' 'Sausage to the left!' 'Sausage behind!' or simply 'Ours' when he believes himself in the direct line of the trajectory.

"This little game sometimes lasts two hours, until the artillery gets the range and silences the German 'sausage makers.'"

Walked into Foes' Camp.

An English eyewitness of the war operations in France relates an occurrence illustrating the situation due to the nearness of the combatants and the frequently changing possession of the trenches. He says:

"Wishing to find out whether certain trenches were occupied after our troops had been fighting during the day, two officers set out at night to get in touch with our men. They came to a communication trench which appeared to run in the right direction and walked down it. The first thing they came upon was a dugout with candles burning and German equipment scattered about. Thinking it might have been captured, they continued down the trench, taking the precaution of blowing out the candles.

"Presently they came to another trench running at right angles to the one they were in. No sooner had they entered than they were challenged sharply in German. They fled, and a shower of bullets pattered after them. A race for the exit followed, the pursuers and pursued floundering in the mud and dodging around the traverses. Fortunately the night was dark, and the Englishmen escaped unhurt after several minutes spent under the fire of the enemy in trenches surrounded on all sides by Germans."

The Sunday School Lesson

SENIOR BEREAN

Golden Text.—Whoso putteth his trust in Jehovah shall be safe (Prov. xxix, 25).

The Lesson Explained. Verses 1-3.—A friendly warning.

The greatness of David's character is seen in the way he behaved after his great victory over Goliath. He did not become puffed up, but kept modest while his praises were being sung. So we read concerning him during these days: "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways, and Jehovah was with him" (chapter xviii, 14). Again, "David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by" (chapter xviii, 30). The result of all this is stated in verse 16, "All Israel and Judah loved David." In a recent novel entitled "Unto Caesar," by Baroness Orczy, the character of the insane Nero is strikingly depicted. It gives us a good idea of how Saul must have behaved when the spell was on him. It was certainly not to his advantage to have attacked David as he did, but he was so unfortunate that he could not help himself. He even went so far as to issue instructions to "Jonathan, his son, and to all his servants" that they must not fall to kill David. Poor Saul was certainly in despair, and he saw enemies where there were none. "Delighted much in David," the king's son was a close friend of David, and Jonathan lost no time in warning him of the recent move taken against him by the king. "Abide in a secret place and hide thyself." He instructed David to remain in hiding at an appointed place until he sounded his father and found out how he really felt toward him. "What I see that I will tell thee." He would thus be able to inform him promptly, so that if Saul really determined evil against David he could keep out of the way and not risk his life.

Verses 4-7.—A splendid service. "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Jonathan was such a one to David, and he pleaded his cause so eloquently that he won his father over. "Spake good of David." Jonathan must have realized that David was of the utmost value in this critical period of national life when the Philistines and other peo-

ples were waiting to seize an opportunity to attack Israel. He thus showed true patriotism and large disinterestedness when he made this plea, as well as a concern for the honor of his father and a care for the welfare of his friend. "To theeward very good." David's behavior up to the present time had been consistently honorable, and he had not failed at a single point to further the interests of Saul, whose obedient servant he had all along shown himself to be. "Put his life in his hand." He reminds Saul how David had exposed his life in the encounter with Goliath. "The Lord wrought a great salvation." He is careful to ascribe the victory to the proper source. "Sawest it and didst rejoice." Saul himself had joined in the celebrations and congratulations. "He shall not be slain." He was thus persuaded to think differently concerning David and to change his purpose. "In his presence, as in times past." A reconciliation was thus effected, and David was restored to his rightful place as heretofore through the intercession of his faithful friend Jonathan.

Verses 8-12.—A narrow escape. The time again came when David was called upon to fight the Philistines, and again he scored a signal victory. He was certainly a formidable opponent and more than a match for the Philistines, who "fled from him." This was the occasion for another demonstration in his honor, which incensed Saul, whose jealousy continued to grow daily. While "David played with his hand" on the harp, accompanying it with song, the king was listening "with his javelin in his hand." He impulsively flung this weapon at David, and had he not been alert he might have been seriously wounded if not killed. "To watch him." Saul became desperate, and so David was compelled to make his escape by strategy and to get out of his own home "through a window," with the assistance of his wife, "Michal," a daughter of the king. Thus the "messengers" failed in their attempt, and Saul was defeated in his insane attack on the life of the man who more than any other had saved the honor of the nation on several critical occasions.

Gossip of the World of Sport

Rowland Knows the Game Well.

Clarence Rowland, the new manager of the Chicago White Sox, is convincing those who have come in contact with him that he is a well versed baseball man. Theoretically Rowland seems to answer every purpose, but it remains to be seen how he will show when the season opens and there are things to do which show on the surface.

The present baseball season is Rowland's first in a major league. His record in the minors is of the best, but



Photo by American Press Association. Clarence Rowland, New Pilot of the White Sox.

things are quite different in the big leagues. To begin with, he is now opposed by masters of the art of managing, and his strategy is also opposed by men of much experience. Rowland may be capable of accomplishing wonders. His friends predict he will, and he seems to have been placed in charge of a team which is stronger than ever.

Wagner Won't Retire.

According to H. Wagner those persons who imagine for a moment that a certain German resident of Carnegie, Pa., won't stick with the Pirate lineup this season are fit subjects for the brain factory. In an interview recently Wagner said:

"I wish those fellows who are trying to retire me would let up for awhile. They go after me every year, but just as long as I can stand on my feet and Mr. Dreyfuss is willing to give me a chance I'm going to play with the Pittsburgh club."

Honus vows that, despite the fact that he is forty-one years of age, he doesn't feel older than he did ten years ago. "I am not going to become an old man," he said. "Lots of younger fellows than your Uncle Dudley are older than I am, and, what's more, I'm going to stay young all the time."

"As for me not going to play with the Pirates this season, that's a joke. What else could I do in the summer? I can't fish all the time. In the winter I can play basketball and do other stunts, but the summer time was made for baseball."

Kauff a Sticker.

Benny Kauff, outfielder of the champion Indianapolis Feds and king batsman of that league, will not desert it, he says, to cast his lot with Johnny McGraw's Giants, as has been intimated in reports from alleged reliable sources. It is unlikely that the Federal



Photo by American Press Association. Benny Kauff, Indianapolis Federal Crack Outfielder.

league would allow O. B. to outbid it for the services of so bright a star—the very brightest, in fact, in the out-law circuit.

Benny is the Ty Cobb of the Federal league and recognized by his employers as such. Could the Federal league put up enough money to win over the great and only Ty? Perish the thought!

Food For the Farmer's Brain

GROW A FEW ACRES OF EARLY CORN FOR ECONOMY

The Chances Are That Prices Will Be High in July and August.

The chances are that corn will be high priced next July and August, believes C. C. Cunningham, assistant in co-operative experiments in the Kansas State Agricultural college. He believes that many farmers where the corn crop was short in 1914 will find the planting of a few acres of early corn profitable this season.

Growing a quick maturing variety of corn for early feed is sometimes a good practice. The farmer who is out of grain and has to buy high priced corn may cut down expenses by growing a few acres of early corn. An early variety planted as soon as seasonable conditions will permit will produce feeding corn from three to five weeks before the heavy yielding varieties of corn are ready to feed.

The larger growing, later maturing varieties of corn normally grown usually outyield the small growing, quick maturing ones because of the longer growing period of the former varieties. A considerable increase in yield must be obtained to make the growing of early corn under these conditions more profitable than planting the entire corn acreage to the varieties usually grown.

Ordinarily in eastern Kansas a standard variety of Kansas corn, which matures in 115 to 125 days, will outyield a ninety to ninety-five day corn ten or more bushels per acre, and on the average the growing of the larger varieties pays best because of the larger yield. It is only when the July or August price of corn is abnormally high and the following crop large, causing a decided decrease in price, that the early corn planting practice is recommended.

The usual practice in obtaining seed of early corn is to get it from the northern states. Early corn has to be grown in northern states because of the short season. In western Kansas a quick maturing variety of corn is necessary because of the low annual rainfall. Acclimated varieties of corn grown in western Kansas are hardy and vigorous growing. The indications are that these early varieties of western Kansas corn are better suited to eastern Kansas conditions than varieties similar in size and maturity from further north.

Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat.

The Indiana experiment station (central Indiana) finds that spring wheat yields half to two-thirds as much grain as winter wheat on the same soil. The time to seed is as early as possible, the quantity about six pecks per acre.

Keep the Bull in Bounds.

The bullpen is a necessity on every farm. It is unwise and injudicious to allow the bull to run at liberty with the cattle.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

Can you look at an egg and tell if it will hatch? Probably not, but you can greatly increase the hatching power of the egg by following these suggestions, which are offered by W. A. Lippincott, professor of poultry husbandry in the Kansas State Agricultural college: Select eggs which do not weigh less than two ounces, rejecting all exceedingly large and abnormally shaped eggs. The unusual shaped eggs will probably hatch, but pullets raised from such eggs will probably lay abnormal eggs.

Never wash eggs before setting them. Keep the eggs in a dry place at a temperature between 55 and 65 degrees, turning them at least once every other day. An egg in which the germ has become fastened to the shell will seldom hatch. The germ spot is always in the uppermost part of the egg, and if the egg is not turned the germ will stick to the shell if evaporation takes place.

The eggs should be gathered at least twice a day unless they are to be put into the incubator immediately.

Contagious Ophthalmia.

The disease is due to a specific germ, says Kimball's Dairy Farmer. Isolate the affected animals in a darkened stable and feed them light, laxative rations. Twice daily bathe the eyes with a 10 per cent solution of boric acid applied each time with a fresh swab of absorbent cotton. Every other day dust the eyeballs with a mixture of finely powdered calomel and boric acid. Substitute Iodoform for calomel in the worst cases. After inflammation subsides wet the eyeball once daily with a solution of two grains of nitrate of silver in an ounce of distilled water, to be kept in a blue glass bottle to prevent chemical changes. The latter treatment is for opacity of the eyeball. Keep the cattle off low, wet pastures. Clean up, disinfect and whitewash the stables, fences and feeding racks and troughs.

Alfalfa For Pasture.

There are many known instances where alfalfa has been used for pasturing both horses and cattle without any injurious results, but as a matter of fact there is always a little danger in pasturing cattle on alfalfa. They should become accustomed to the crop gradually, and they should never be turned into an alfalfa field when they are hungry. When cattle are pastured on alfalfa one must always be prepared to find a case of bloating.—Iowa Homestead.

Weight of Peking Ducks.

Peking ducks should weigh more than five pounds. The standard weight of the duck is seven pounds and that of the drake eight. They are creamy white, with bright orange colored beaks and legs. A well bred, well cared for Peking duckling should weigh five pounds at ten weeks of age.