

# WOOL SOCK BANK TO THE RESCUE

Hard Earned Gold of the French People Comes in Handy When Call is Made.

## THE POOR MAN'S BANK

Nearly Everybody Had a Gold Piece or Two Saved Up and This Was Freely Offered.

[By William Philip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent.] PARIS, Sept. 1. (By mail.)—It was the famous family "bas de laine" or "woolen sock bank" which saved France when she faced the five million franc Prussian war indemnity nearly half a century ago. It is to this poor man's bank, replenished through years of toil in the sweat of many brows, that France turns in the present financial crisis.

If the poor had not contributed their mite; if the widow, the small tradesman, the laborer, the plain living man-in-the-street had not come forward, each with twenty, or forty, or a few pitiful francs of their savings, France couldn't have gotten her share of the half billion American loan. At least, this is highly probable.

Before the present war began the gold secreted in the woolen sock was the secret joy and boast of every family in France. Today it is the bank's emptiness that makes the head of the French family proud.

"There is not a piece of gold to be found in my house today" is the boast of the rich, the bourgeois and the peasant alike. He shows with glowing satisfaction the little receipt issued to him by the Bank of France, showing that he has turned in for the national defense his little hoard of gold and willingly accepted in exchange the flimsy French bank notes which look like cigar papers.

July 1, this year, Minister of Finance Ribot pointed out that if the French families would turn in to the Bank of France the gold they had hidden away, it would enable France to negotiate all the loans necessary for the conduct of the war without impoverishing the country by the exportation of the country's reserve gold. No request was made; merely the suggestion.

Within two months thereafter the people of France had emptied their woolen socks to the extent of 500,000,000 francs of gold. The golden stream is still pouring in. It is confidently expected the total will reach the billion mark.

Some philosopher who knew French life, thoroughly, declared that the French family has but two passions—its only son and its hoard of gold.

When the war came, France piled her sons on the altar of national defense without a murmur.

When the pockets of the Bank of France opened the first day for the reception of gold offerings, there were but two persons in line. One brought 500 francs in gold; the other forty. An hour later sixty persons were in line. Two hours after that a hurried phone call was sent to the police for guards to come and keep the line in order.

During the first week the bank's president received this letter:

"Papa, when he left for the war gave mamma three Napoleons (20 francs each in gold), telling her to guard them carefully. We know nothing more about poor papa, but we are sure that he would be well content to have us give our three pieces to the government which has asked for them. I am sure, too, that that would bring us good fortune. How does one do, Monsieur le President, to send them?"

The great bulk of the gold offerings consist of only two or three twenty franc gold pieces. It is the average hoard for the working man in France. Thousands bring merely a ten franc piece, which is the smallest French gold coin.

The largest contribution from an individual was made in the early days of the offerings, or precisely on July 16. The patriot was an old man of the most dignified French type. He came to the bank with his valet following at a respectful distance. The valet staggered under a heavy valise which he at last succeeded in depositing at the bank window. It contained 200,000 francs, (\$40,000) gold.

A typical French peasant woman, after waiting patiently in line her turn, finally arrived at the "ticket" Laying down her two twenty franc gold pieces with a sigh of relief she hurried away.

"But Madame, Madame," the clerk called, "you haven't got your bills yet."

The woman turned in stupefied amazement.

"What?" she exclaimed, "you give money in return?"

She had merely understood that the "patrie" needed gold and she had brought hers.

For nearly a month now there has been an almost universal demand in France that the government accept gold jewelry. So far this has been granted only to the extent of gold medals.

In the mail box in the Rue de La Villiere, a woman dropped her gold marriage ring with the following note attached:

"I have no other gold because I gave all I had to my husband when he left for the trenches. I beg to be excused for not offering more than my marriage ring, but little as it is, I hope that Monsieur le Directeur de la

Banque will be kind enough to accept it." One father has put away every month for twenty-three years a twenty franc gold piece. The total was to constitute a "dot" for his son. The latter went to the front at the first call to arms and was killed. The father turned in the gold.

## WHAT THE WAR MOVES MEAN

(Continued from page 1.) any importance. Von Hindenburg was compelled to abandon about ten miles of fortified positions near Dvinsk, but by counter attacks, the lost ground was recovered by the Germans within forty-eight hours. The Galician situation continues quiet with the Russians still unable to follow up their successes of last month.

Premier Asquith in the house of commons, gave this week a fairly frank review of the progress of the war. His most important statement was a grave warning that without greater economy by the government, and the people alike, the British empire could not continue the financial burdens of war. It would be a serious mistake to interpret Asquith's confession as meaning that the British people are in a more serious financial condition than any of the other belligerents. Rather it applies to the teutonic powers and to France, Italy and Russia as well. All the warring nations are alarmed at their increasing indebtedness and this is the most important general factor now working for peace.

## GERMANY

(Continued from page 1.) ans and was all smiles when he called on German Foreign Minister Von Jagow in the course of the day. The city was by that time gaily bedecked with bunting in honor of the Bulgarian victory.

Concerning relations between Bulgaria and Turkey, Touthcheff said: "They are of the very best. Every Bulgarian hopes Constantinople will remain Turkish to all eternity."

His comment on the Greek situation was: "It is not impossible that Venizelos will become premier again. This, if it happens, will be dangerous for Greece because it will mean abandonment of Greek neutrality."

American Ambassador Gerard was another caller on Foreign Minister Von Jagow today. His visit was to recommend an additional supply of overcoats and blankets for Germany's prisoners of war, several of whose camps he has inspected recently. The ambassador presided at noon over a meeting called to form an American club in Berlin.

The German press continues to publish almost unlimited discussions of the food situation. Today the newspapers reproduced the milk cards which the government will begin issuing November 15.

Nish's fall into Bulgarian hands is regarded here as solving Germany's food problem. Recent anxiety felt both by officials and the people have been entirely relieved. It was for this reason that Berlin is so gay and so flagrant.

Although the railroad through Serbia from Austria to Bulgaria is now virtually all in German possession, it for a few weeks because of the enormous demands for the troops.

The statement is made on reliable authority that Bulgaria's storehouses are groaning with supplies of food-stuffs and that a single German buyer in Roumania has been offered a ten year accumulation of such stores.

Besides the Bulgarian finance minister and Ambassador Gerard, Foreign Minister Von Jagow conferred today with Greek diplomatic representatives here as well as with other ministers and ambassadors.

Despite the expression of the Bulgarian visitor's opinion that Venizelos may become Greek premier again, I am given to understand that Germany is not worried concerning Greece's attitude, feeling certain she will remain neutral.

## DENY PEACE RUMORS.

[By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent.] BERLIN, (via Amsterdam and London) Nov. 6.—"Is there any chance of peace?"

"Are any plans under way to end war?"

I asked these questions tonight of a high German official.

"There are no signs of peace," he answered. "Germany is just beginning to fight."

"Does that mean," I asked, "that correspondents can soon journey with the German army across Suez into Egypt?"

"The campaign goes that far," was the answer.

Berlin officials, who are accustomed to extend considerable confidence to correspondents, assure me to the same effect. The German press, including the well informed North German Gazette, has also been publishing during the entire week a series of denials all peace rumors.

## PLENTY OF FOOD.

BERLIN, (via Sayville wireless) Nov. 6.—Declaring Germany has plenty of food and that price increases are the work of "users," German socialists issued a demand today for vigorous steps to combat them.

## CREW INTERNEED.

THE HAGUE, Nov. 6.—The Netherlands government decided tonight to intern the crew of the German submarine recently found damaged in Dutch waters.

## HELD THEIR OWN.

BERLIN, (via Sayville wireless) Nov. 6.—The Germans have held their own against heavy Russian attacks in the Dvinsk region on the Russian front, the war office reported today.

The repulse of the Russians to the eastern bank of the Strypa at the southern extremity of the eastern line, was reported as one of the most recent Teutonic successes in that fighting zone.

## BALKANS.

(Continued from page 1.)

an election six months ago having resulted in a vote by which he (Venizelos) was returned to power, though he recently resigned because he could not agree with the king.

One account from Athens was that Constantine had asked Zaimis to retain office, that Zaimis refused and that Constantine finally accepted the resignation which Zaimis tendered when parliament voted against him. Another version was that Zaimis was trying to reconstruct his ministry with most of the old members, but with two portfolios in the hands of war party members as a sop to their group. There was a third rumor that parliament had been or was just about to be dissolved.

Military plots were reported. It was said there had been many arrests. The truth seemed to be that chaos reigned and nobody knew what the outcome would be.

The British, French, Russian, Italian and Serbians were exerting tremendous pressure at Athens on one side; the Germans, Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian representatives were exerting equal pressure on the other. Sometimes the balance tilted in the entente allies' favor; some times in that of the Germanic powers.

The issue was doubtful and Constantine's throne was believed here to be in grave danger.

## DANUBE IS NEUTRAL.

LONDON, Nov. 6.—Despite earlier statements that Roumania considers the Danube free to all navigation, a Berlin wireless tonight asserted that the government had definitely ordered the internment of all belligerent ships venturing into its waters. Its action, if really taken, cuts Russia off from helping the allies in the Balkan campaign except by violating Roumanian neutrality, which is not expected, or by landing on the Bulgarian Black sea coast if it can be accomplished.

## KING GOES TO FRONT.

LONDON, Nov. 6.—King Peter of Serbia, seventy-one years old and very feeble, has left southern Serbia where he was safe, for the front. A News agency dispatch stated tonight. He wants to die in the trenches with his men, he said.

## BULGARIANS RETIRED.

ATHENS, Nov. 6. (Via London).—Beaten back from the Prilep region, Bulgarians attacking the French front west of the Vardar river between Kabadeve and Krivolak today, were met by a terrific artillery fire, to which they responded for eight hours and then retired with enormous losses. It was stated tonight in dispatches from Salonika.

## CRISIS UNRELIEVED.

LONDON, Nov. 7. (Sunday).—The Greek cabinet crisis was unrelieved this morning, according to a delayed message from Athens, received here late tonight. The king conferred with the retired ministers and leaders of the party opposed to them in the course of the forenoon, but their conversation led to no solution of the difficulties the country faces, and the meeting broke up without an agreement.

## PERSONAL ANIMOSITY.

ZURICH, Switzerland, Nov. 6.—Feroocious street fighting in the outer suburbs of Nish between Bulgarians and Serbs accompanied the former's capture of the city, it was stated in a dispatch received here from Sofia tonight. Casualties on both sides were very heavy. Serb and Bulgar soldiers were described as showing a savage personal animosity toward one another. Reports have been received of many fights in which no quarter was shown and numerous charges of shocking atrocities have been made by each side against the other.

## Did Not See Him.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ROME, Nov. 6.—Monsignor Marzetti, the pope's representative in Switzerland who recently arrived here with a report for his holiness, which rumor said related to peace negotiations he had been conducting with ex-Chancellor Von Bulow of Germany at Lucerne, did not even see Von Bulow. It was asserted in the Osservatore Romano tonight.

## Lumber Yards Burned.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] MONMOUTH, Ill., Nov. 6.—Fire of unknown origin tonight destroyed the Terry lumber yard at Roseville, ten miles south of here. The loss is estimated at \$25,000.

## No Fun Like Work.

Fremont Tribune: After all is said and done there is more fun in good, hard, productive work than there is in all the fun you can ever hope to have when you don't have to work any more.

## One of the Crimes of the Age.

Marshalltown Times-Republican: Each succeeding story of school children burned and crushed by jumping from windows is an accusation against our method of building schoolhouses or our lack of proper training for such emergencies.

## THE WEATHER.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Nov. 6.—Weather forecast: Illinois-Missouri: Fair Sunday; Monday partly cloudy; not much change in temperature.

Iowa: Partly cloudy Sunday; probably becoming unsettled Monday; not much change in temperature.

## Local Observations.

Nov. 7 a. m.—29.96 54 SE Lt. fog 7 p. m.—29.92 71 S Clear

River stage 7 a. m., 5 feet. Change in 24 hours, fall .4. Mean temperature, 66.

Highest, 79. Lowest, 54.

Lowest Friday night, 50.

FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.

**ODELL'S**  
Wemakit  
250 Gold Filled Waldemar Knives  
Direct From the Factory To Your Pocket at  
About 1/2 Regular Price

See Them In Window **\$1.00** We Make It QUALITY

This Sale Is For 1 Week Only, Monday  
Nov. 8th to Saturday Nov. 13th.

During this month, we will have a number of factory to pocket sales—watch this circle and select your Christmas presents early in November, from the newest things direct from factory to you, at about 1/2 usual prices.

**ODELL & HOAR**  
JEWELERS  
404 Main St. Keokuk, Iowa  
5 Stores

**SAY BIGGEST SHADE TREE IS ALSO BEST**  
Foresters Declare Sycamore, Prize-Winning Species, is Especially Suitable for City Planting—New Records Made.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—That the largest shade tree in the United States, as brought to light by the prize contest held by the American Genetic association, should turn out to be the eastern sycamore is not surprising, say government foresters. The sycamore has long been regarded as the largest deciduous tree in North America and its range of growth is hardly second to that of any other broad-leaf tree; for it can be found from Maine to Florida, and as far west as Kansas.

The bestowal of the prize on a sycamore at Worthington, Indiana, which is 42 feet 3 inches in circumference and 150 feet tall, draws attention to the fact that foresters are nowadays recommending the species especially for city planting. They say that long experience with sycamores planted in city streets has shown that the species is peculiarly able to withstand the smoke, dust, and gases which are usually an unavoidable complement of urban life. In addition, the sycamore is as resistant to attacks of insects and fungi as almost any species, and is a quick grower; at ten years of age, a healthy sycamore usually is already large enough for shade as well as for decorative purposes. As for the latter, there is hardly any eastern species which is generally held so picturesque as the sycamore. With its strikingly mottled bark and magnificent stature and conformation, the sycamore has a marked individuality and can not be mistaken for any other species, either in the summer when the foliage conceals its structural form, or in the winter when the leaves are absent.

A common objection to the sycamore as a lawn tree is its habit of dropping its leaves before autumn. From this characteristic it is some times called a "dirty tree." Recently the forest service received a letter from a suburban resident who has a sycamore on his lawn. "My sycamore tree is very beautiful," said the writer, "until about the first of August, when its leaves begin to fall. Is there any remedy that I can apply to the tree to keep it from dropping its leaves so soon?" It was necessary to tell the correspondent that this was a characteristic habit of the tree. This drawback, however, is practically the only failing that the sycamore has, and it is offset by many desirable qualities.

On the other hand, there is little prospect of popularity, foresters say, for the valley oak of California, which was decided to be the largest nut-bearing tree in the United States, the contest unearthing a specimen in San Benito county, which is 37 feet 5 inches in circumference and 125 feet high. The valley oak is a very beautiful tree, but it attains maturity only after three or four hundred years; its wood is too tough, knotty, and otherwise imperfect to be good for lumber, the tree grows too slowly to be planted for shade or decorative purposes, and, being found only in California, it would have a small field of usefulness. Horticulturists say that the valley oak is not popularly considered a nut-bearing tree; for its acorns are not generally used for food, although, of course, they are edible. Foresters say that the chestnut and the black walnut are the largest nut-bearing trees in this country, and the contest did, in fact, unearth a chestnut near Crestmont, North Carolina, which is 35 feet 4 inches in circumference and about 75 feet tall.

Just Received New Line of  
**ROCKERS**

Now is the time to buy for Xmas. Goods bought now can be held and delivered when wanted.

**Morgan-Lofquist Co.**

der conscription unnecessary, is much more popularly mentioned as Kitchener's successor.

In the meantime, Premier Asquith continues to handle the duties of the office in Kitchener's absence.

Reterring the denial that Kitchener has resigned, an official statement issued tonight said:

"On the contrary, he has gone in discharge of his war ministerial duty, which he does not intend to abandon."

It was denied, also, that Kitchener's recent visit to the king, related to his near eastern trip.

The public does not fall to note, however, that there was no denial of reports that the minister intends to take personal command of the Balkan campaign. It was recalled, too, that Admiral Sturdee was taken from an important admiralty command to make a special trip to the south Atlantic where he destroyed Admiral Von Spee's German squadron. The theory was widely expressed that Kitchener may have undertaken a similar temporary assignment from which he will return later to the war office.

The Globe is published by Grell Harmsworth, brother to Lord Northcliffe, one of the present cabinet's severest assailants. The weekly Dispatch, the Harmsworth interests Sunday edition, indulges in no comment editorially on the Globe's suppression, but prints the first page's double surmises evidently written before official admission was made—that Kitchener has gone to the near east. "It would not be a matter for surprise," says the paper, "to find him in Egypt, coordinating the military measures demanded by the situation."

"In this theatre and with his experience in India, where he was commander in chief of the army and where he may one day realize his ambition to be viceroy, he is qualified to advise the cabinet concerning the allies' conduct in the near east by a study of conditions on the spot."

The article suggests that his mission probably designs establishment of a central authority at Cairo or at Alexandria, where he can exercise personal supervision over Great Britain's varied activities in the near east.

**THE WAR IN MEXICO TODAY**  
(Continued from page 1.)

from executing the bribe takers. He is short of ammunition. Instead, he raised the soldiers' pay. The Carranzistas saw him and raised. The bidding became spirited. It is no uncommon sight now to see a ragged, barefooted soldado stroll into a can-

Huerta is Removed.  
EL PASO, Texas, Nov. 6.—The lano Huerta, former Mexican dictator who is facing a charge of violating American neutrality through the organization of another revolt, was moved from Fort Bliss late today. E. Crawford, assistant United States attorney, who authorized his removal, said Huerta was ill and that his apartments at the fort did not furnish the comforts his condition demanded. The old general was taken to his home in this city.

Crawford's action followed a physician's report that Huerta's condition demanded the attention of his wife and family. United States marshals will continue to guard Huerta's home.

Saved by Prayer.  
NACO, Ariz., Nov. 6.—Three men condemned to death by General Villa were saved by the intercession of General Rafael Nave, after they knelt in prayer on the battlefield at Agua Prieta. The four Americans who Villa personally declared were dead, were their thrilling experiences of their safe arrival here today. They were Dr. R. H. Thighen of Saffordville, Ga.; Dr. Charles H. Miller of Horeford, Texas, and J. D. B. chaffeurs, Al Wilson and J. D. Thighen. According to Thighen, the men were caught in the sweep of Villa's army toward Agua Prieta and were to do Red Cross duty in the town, which resulted in Villa's rout. Villa learned that Carranza troops had been permitted to cross the Mexican territory and that similar permission was refused the Villista would Villa egraged, ordered the Americans executed.

"Believing in prayer, I suggest we kneel," said Dr. Thighen. The Mexicans about us were impressed and General Nave interceded for Villa for us. He also saved the two other occasions, the third time Villa Verde where we had been taken.

The four tramped all night through mountains to reach here, after finally released them.

That Private Line.  
Marshalltown Times-Republican: But if any young business man's fiancée were to string the office telephone wire between the office and the lady's boudoir, folks would think their heads off.

Worse Than Dynamite.  
Chester Democrat: House gasoline make a dangerous mixture.