

The Sun AND NEW YORK PRESS.

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The Cost of the War Department Then and Now.

The aggregate strength of the United States army, including both regulars and volunteers, in August, 1902, was stated as being 1,135,413. This covered every department of military activity from the Major-Generals to the artificers and wagoners and teamsters.

Nevertheless, the military establishment nominally consisting of 1,133,000 men had to be paid for by the people; and we turn with interest to the figures of expenditure for that year.

The actual cost of the United States army for the year 1902 was \$389,173,562. These figures are taken from official sources and were compiled by AINSWORTH R. SPORROW, long the historian of Congress. The old "Tribune Almanac" for 1903 puts the actual and estimated expenditure for the War Department in 1902 at \$394,938,407.

The two statements nearly coincide. On a basis of \$400,000,000, let us say, in round numbers, the cost per capita of the Union soldier in 1902, the year of Seven Pines and Fair Oaks, of Malvern Hills, of the second Bull Run, of Antietam and Fredericksburg, was a little more than \$350. But, as we have said, the statistical exhibit greatly exaggerates the real strength of the army and the people were paying much more than \$350 for each effective unit.

In 1903 the maximum force was roughly stated at 1,200 regiments, with an aggregate of about a million and a quarter men. Here again there is confusion and overstatement. The methods of the military statistician were extremely crude until Provost Marshal General Fay, later in the war, reduced them to something like modern accuracy. Owing to the practice of counting enlistments without taking proper account of reenlistments it was extremely difficult at that time to determine the number of men actually in service. Nevertheless, much that was only on paper was paid for by the taxpayers then as it is now. The actual expenditure for the War Department in 1903, the year of Chancellorsville, of Vicksburg, of Gettysburg, of Chickamauga, of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, was \$608,314,412. The cost of the military unit, effective or non-effective, would thus be about \$500.

In 1904, with a nominal force not very different, the army expenditure mounted to \$600,301,641. This was the year of the battles of the Wilderness, of Winchester, of the march through Georgia toward the sea. The cost of the soldier in 1904 on that basis was nearly \$560.

It was not until 1905 that we get more satisfactory material for this sort of computation. Although the war lasted only four months of the year the Treasury was paying for a greatly enlarged and perfected scheme of military operations. For the first time the annual expenditure on account of the War Department exceeded a billion dollars. The official record is \$1,030,690,400. We also have at hand for the first time a close approximation to the number of men actually in service. The most careful and generally accepted estimate of the total strength of the Union armies on May 1, 1905, is that which JAMES G. BLAINE presented in an appendix to his "Twenty Years of Congress," the figures being derived from the Provost Marshal General's statistics. The aggregate stated as of that date was 1,000,516. The cost per capita of the force of a million men under arms was about \$1,000.

Now group the War Department expenditures for five years of appropriation covering the four years of the actual war:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1901: \$22,001,531. 1902: 389,173,562. 1903: 608,314,412. 1904: 600,301,641. 1905: 1,030,690,400.

For five years, \$2,238,570,944. Stupendous as this expenditure seemed at the time, and stupendously

unprecedented as it really was in comparison with the similar outlay of any Government in any preceding war, its total dwindles to insignificance in the presence of Secretary BAKER'S estimate of from thirteen to fifteen billions for corresponding expenditure in the conflict in which we are now engaged.

More than five times as much for our War Department in a single year of war with Germany as was spent during all five years of the war for the Union! Three thousand dollars per capita, even supposing that we shall have next year five millions under arms—three times as much as was spent for each soldier of the million which GRANT commanded sixty-three years ago this month! Three times as much, or nearly, for one year of land fighting to make the world safe for democracy as the entire valuation by the census of 1900—true valuation, not assessed—of all property, real and personal, in the eleven States which the war for the Union kept under the flag at a total cost, direct and indirect, of perhaps ten billions in all kinds of expenditure!

We have come so readily in the present emergency to think and vote and act in billions that the enormous significance of the Arabic numerals can scarcely be grasped except by the aid of some such historical comparison as the foregoing, confined, as it is, to a single department of the Government. Thus considered, the new figures stagger the imagination. Could there be better evidence of the nation's patriotic resolve than is found in the fact that though they stagger the imagination they will not stagger the American purpose to win the war at any cost which the proper legislative scrutiny may certify as necessary to the success of the cause?

Financial Ignorance and Hysteria in Washington.

Senator SIMMONS had a feeble comprehension of what the Government is now doing in this war and what still more it has to do when he said the other day that there probably would be no need of further bond issues until next winter. Anybody taking notice of the rising disbursements by the Treasury from day to day would have known better. Anybody at all familiar with the working out of our war programme would have realized that the ships we expected to pay for in the first half of this year but did not pay for because they were not built were now being turned out in swift succession and would need to be paid for in the second half of the year. The same thing is true about cantonments, hospitals, rifles, gunpowder, shells and all the material covered by the Government's stupendous war contracts.

On the other hand, if Senator SIMMONS and Representative KITCHIN, one the financial leader in the Senate and the other the financial leader in the House, have suddenly awakened to the fact that vast deliveries of war material are now to be paid for because at last they are coming to hand, there is no reason for them or for anybody else to go up in the air about the revenues that the Government will need in the next fiscal year.

To talk about \$31,000,000,000 in the next fiscal year, or \$20,000,000,000, or \$25,000,000,000, is nonsense as utter as it was only the other day to say that we didn't need anything more at all for the next six or eight months. If there were no limit on the capacity of this country to raise cold cash for war purposes—and there decidedly is a limit—there is to be considered the physical power of the nation to turn out the supplies to be paid for in cold cash. It was not possible in this fiscal year to create, deliver and put into operation all the war machinery that we wanted. It would be no more possible in the next fiscal year to achieve the maximum of our wants in soldiers and sailors, in ships and guns, in aircraft and various munitions.

We need not insist that the Germans shall adopt the English parliamentary system; but we must insist that we can deal only with a Government that will tell the truth and keep its word. The new Junior Senator from the State of Wisconsin, the Hon. IRVING L. LENOX, in addressing the National Security League in this city on Wednesday evening declared that before we offer or consider any terms of peace to end the war with Germany we must have assurances that the German Government will be reformed; "that at least there shall be such a parliamentary system as England enjoys," and that we will not consider any terms of peace with a monarch such as the Kaiser, "who has violated every law, human and divine."

We should state the position of the United States a little differently. Senator LENOX manifests the right spirit; but he is a trifle too specific. We need not insist that the Germans shall adopt the English parliamentary system; but we must insist that we can deal only with a Government that will tell the truth and keep its word. Modern civilization has made near neighbors of all the nations of the world; and no one nation can be allowed to maintain a system of government which makes it a continual source of apprehension and peril to its neighbors.

The pardon of CHARLES F. STIZLOW, on the ground that he is not guilty of the murder of which he was convicted, does not call for condemnation of the jury which convicted him or of the reviewing court which found that no legal error was committed on his trial. The case does show, however, that there are chances of mistake even in the most carefully administered system of judicial procedure, which can be guarded against only by the maintenance of the pardoning power. The evidence adduced against STIZLOW convinced twelve honest and fair minded jurymen that he was guilty beyond any reasonable doubt. Judge CUTHBERT W. POTTS, the Supreme Court Justice who presided at the trial, was satisfied with the verdict. Judge POTTS'S ability as a lawyer has been recognized by his subsequent promotion to the Court of Appeals, and he is known among his friends as a kind disposed man who would naturally be disposed to give the defendant the benefit of every doubt. The Court

of Appeals reviewed the case upon the facts as well as the law, and found that the evidence was not inherently incredible and that if believed by the jury it was quite sufficient to warrant the verdict. Indeed, STIZLOW'S counsel hadly disputed its sufficiency, but he insisted that it was not true and that extraneous disclosures made subsequent to the conviction of his client pointed conclusively to another person as the murderer. This person made a confession which he subsequently retracted; and there was no way in which his wavering admission of guilt could be utilized in court for the benefit of STIZLOW. It could be considered by the Governor, however, on an application for a pardon or a commutation of the sentence of death, and it brought about the investigation which has satisfied Governor WHITMAN that STIZLOW is innocent.

The Attack on Ostend.

Among all the fine exploits of the British navy none have called for greater valor or professional skill of a higher order than the attack against Zebrugge and Ostend, which, it was announced yesterday, had been completed by sinking the obsolete cruiser Vindictive at the entrance of Ostend harbor. The operation began with simultaneous raids on the two bases on April 23. A shift in the wind, by dispersing the smoke or fog screen behind which the British approached, prevented the success of the plan to block the Ostend channel at that time. The enterprise now recorded practically fulfils the plan. It will not do to regard such operations merely in the light of the actual damage they do the enemy. The obstructions in the channels may be removed. The vessels sunk to bottle up the U-boats may not go down in the exact positions selected. But the moral and political effects of the raids are of great importance.

Despatches from Dover tell us that "participants in the naval raid on Ostend returned here this morning and were greeted with the greatest enthusiasm." It must be remembered that a faction in England has been urging the navy to greater activity and criticizing it for not assaulting the Germans more audaciously. Much of the criticism has been uninformed and without merit; the policy and accomplishments of the British naval establishment need no defence; but exhibition of energy like the attack on Zebrugge and Ostend are useful in reminding the public that the spirit of the service is unimpaired, despite the fact that the crews of the capital ships have had to endure many weary months of waiting.

Moreover, the effects produced in Germany are not to be measured by the difficulties put in the way of outgoing and incoming submarines. The intrusion of the enemy in ports supposed to be absolutely secure from attack and the successful escape of the main body of assailants do not contribute to the equality of the population. The distinction between the British sallies against heavily fortified naval bases and the German bombardments of unfortified coast towns, which were at one time quite common but are not now reported, is sure to be drawn, and comparison of the exploits will not greatly comfort the German people.

A German Government That Will Keep Its Word.

The new Junior Senator from the State of Wisconsin, the Hon. IRVING L. LENOX, in addressing the National Security League in this city on Wednesday evening declared that before we offer or consider any terms of peace to end the war with Germany we must have assurances that the German Government will be reformed; "that at least there shall be such a parliamentary system as England enjoys," and that we will not consider any terms of peace with a monarch such as the Kaiser, "who has violated every law, human and divine."

The Tuckahoe Water Boy.

The unsung water boy who was constantly on the job in the Tuckahoe, the prize that is due him.—The Sun. Build dem ships, yo' white man! Build dem quick, yo' heah? Heah de sun get frichten? Heah all cold wit' feah. (Water boy's Comin', Boss.) Drive dese rivels smaltly! Hustle up dat steel! Leave no job done pabity—Cap'n's bridge to keel. (Right eye, all cold!) Gwine to take our lighters, Shlape in—heah me say? Heah de sun get frichten, can't heah in (censored) heah. (Comin' along wit' a pat.)

Debouching the Old Coo' Man.

To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: Unscrupulous second hand clothing men rent suits to soldiers who wish to be thus enabled to buy liquor. T. S. New York, May 10.

Thoughts From a Son of Mars on His Way to the Front.

To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: I am an officer of many years service. I arrived at San Francisco the other day. The public is entitled to cooperate with us in the conservation of food. What they mean by cooperation is for the public to accept half a portion at double prices. Here is an example: I paid 30 cents for an orange, 35 cents for two eggs and a single rubber of bacon. The public is entitled to what was called coffee. It was not coffee. They then had the audacity to charge me a dime for two miserable corn muffins about the size of doorknobs and quite as hard; total, \$1.50 for about 40 cents worth of food none too well prepared. Of course the waiter demanded his tip. I find it even worse in New York, and in conversation with an officer just returned from France I am informed that he paid 40 per cent. less for food in Paris restaurants three weeks ago than he does in New York to-day.

Discontinue German in Churches.

From the Living Church. Following the disuse of German in the public schools in Evansville, Ind., the German language papers have ceased publication in that language and several Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran and Evangelical churches on Monday last in April discontinued their last services in the German language.

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SPURS FOR SOLDIERS.

Let Civilian Patriots Keep to the Wear of Non-Fighters. To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: The letters appearing in The Sun show a growing dislike of the Government military titles on persons not actually engaged in the war.

This feeling is natural. Most every family now has or will have, as the war goes on, some member at the front. So the vast majority of the people it concerns are non-combatants, officers, whose duties are purely civil and in many instances merely clerical, in uniform.

It may be that some men of draft age obtained commissions to evade service at the front. It is a matter that the War Department should take into account and sift to the bottom. Such action is but just; for if there are officers wearing the uniform of our army who are using it to shield them from active service, the public should know it, and on the other hand those innocent of such dishonorable motives should be exonerated.

But why the Government should increase the number of its officers, in many instances well advanced in middle life, who are rendering valuable services to the Government in managerial and clerical work should want to bear a title and wear a uniform is a mystery. It would seem as if these men, could see that the Government could not increase their efficiency or patriotism, but on the contrary brings their labors into ridicule, and what is worse, it is likely to take from the respect that should be shown to the uniform of the officers of our army.

At times of peace the fascination that betrays some men for wearing military titles and decorations who have no right to title or decoration, the people pass over with a laugh, but in these days when the flower of our manhood is fighting that civilization may be saved, anything that lessens the highest respect for the uniform of our army breeds a disgust that is not good for the morals of the country.

Mr. Schwab has not been decorated with a military title, nor is he wearing spurs, although he is performing vastly more important services for the army than are all the decorated knights who are standing about to be saluted by real soldiers.

FRENCH CANADIANS.

Denial of a Serious Charge Against Them. To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: I have just read with great amazement the startling article by Frank Matland published in The Sun of May 5. Among other incredible statements occurs the following:

But to-day the doctrine is being preached that English made no headway in the battle of the Marston in France and Flanders, while the cradles of Quebec assure the domination of the Dominion in the near future by a race that refuses to take any part in the struggle for the preservation of the liberties of the world.

What nonsense! Such language is rank injustice to French Canadians. Nothing in their whole history justifies an iota of the statement made by Mr. Matland. There is no statement of French Canadian domination in Canada that there was of the Albatians and Lorrainers controlling Germany after the war of 1870.

THE FOOD PROFITEER.

To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: I am an officer of many years service. I arrived at San Francisco the other day. The public is entitled to cooperate with us in the conservation of food. What they mean by cooperation is for the public to accept half a portion at double prices. Here is an example: I paid 30 cents for an orange, 35 cents for two eggs and a single rubber of bacon. The public is entitled to what was called coffee. It was not coffee. They then had the audacity to charge me a dime for two miserable corn muffins about the size of doorknobs and quite as hard; total, \$1.50 for about 40 cents worth of food none too well prepared. Of course the waiter demanded his tip. I find it even worse in New York, and in conversation with an officer just returned from France I am informed that he paid 40 per cent. less for food in Paris restaurants three weeks ago than he does in New York to-day.

THE BATTLEHOLE.

To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: The time honored chevrons of the non-com, has to go back to the days of the wool. War economy might eliminate some waste of time by abolishing buttons. They are a nuisance anyway, time wasting to make, and when they rip spoil a perfectly good coat. The well tried Chinese belt button with cord loop is far better than even the hooks and eyes which fasten the blouses of officers of the navy in time of war or peace times. Buttons do not help southerners, especially when distinctive like those of every individual British regiment. W. GOLD. New York, May 10.

Troubles of the Mutual Critic in Kansas.

From the Mutual Critic. A newspaper is seldom popular with the average local musical talent. The pianists expect the pianists to be half so popular as the vocalists must equal Meib and Carl Carl, and the violinists must have an art on a par with that of Kreisler. A newspaper is unwilling to stand up before the public with such statements. What is the result? Local talent says: "With such a paper it is impossible for me to create an artistic atmosphere in this town."

THE FALSE "EXTRA."

Its Vendors Shout of Things That Have Not Happened. To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: Is there no way of stopping it? Is not the practice of a certain class of newspaper sellers, both men and boys, who go about the streets shouting "Extra!" when there are no extras published?

In times of peace their petty thieving by misrepresenting their wares and their purposely untruthful cries were common enough. But now, when we all realize that at any minute the cables may flash from "over there" news of such import that the most conscientious editor would feel fully justified in issuing an extra edition, their deliberate lies are, to say the least, pernicious.

SPANKING ADVOCATED.

A Police Matron's Remedy for Girls Who Stay Out Late. To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: The recent arrests in New York of girls of from 16 to 20 years in the Tenderloin cafes, coffee joints and back rooms of saloons ought to bring about a little better training and discipline in some homes.

Girls who willfully lie to their mothers about their absence at night and their companions are in need of proper disciplining. I venture to say that lack of discipline is prevalent in the homes of many New York girls. Discipline ought to be practiced and obedience demanded by parents.

Girls who are obliged to be at home at 10 P. M. if not on business of necessity. Mothers of girls between 14 and 20 should look after them and find out about their companions and amusements and forbid any pastime which would lead to evil consequences.

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A WORD TO WORKERS.

The Way to Freedom Lies Through Germany's Defeat. To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: Workers! The best way to help yourselves during the war is to cut out strikes which only react by raising the cost of living. If you feel that you must fight the capitalist, get laws passed to compel the rich to give up all the unnecessary luxuries that they are still flaunting in our faces, and release their servants, especially the men, for some more useful occupation than opening carriage doors and handing visiting cards on silver platters.

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KEEPING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN IN THE WAR FACTORIES.

America Must Profit by the Mistakes Which England Made and Is Now Correcting—A Woman Mutilation Maker's Letter. The active part of the fair maiden long ago in war seems to have been to buckle on the harness of her beloved when he went forth, and to stand on the ramparts waving a kerchief to welcome him home. "If she brought her warrior dead," "she died wept and pined and just. So romance tells us. What will history make of the thousands of girls who are now working in the war factories? Is there any romance in the making of high explosives, the worker clad in fireproof overalls, wooden soled shoes, cap and goggles and exposed to poisonous gases? Exact for the thought of patriotism, there is certainly not much romance, but there is danger, a danger now so clearly recognized in England that the doctors here are already planning to avert it.

Chief of the dangerous compounds used in trinitrotoluol, commonly known as TNT, which causes harmful changes in the blood. The first symptoms are rather like alcoholic poisoning; sometimes the skin becomes a bright yellow; vertigo and mental excitement are present, also cramps and diarrhoea. The poison can be absorbed through the skin for the mouth and nose, which necessitates respirators, gloves and overalls and thick wooden soled shoes, as the poison will work through leather. On quitting the women should have a warm bath in running water, if possible, and put on clean clothes. They should have plenty of good milk and never be allowed to eat in the factory. It is easy to see that, without strict supervision, many of these measures will be neglected until the whole nervous system is ruined. The mere fact of overfatigue predisposes to quick recurring symptoms, overfatigue which would not be noticed, just as if all the workers went home to comfortable, quiet surroundings and not to lodgings or restaurant feeding.

Perhaps a letter from a young widowed sister, whose only boy has been at the front for three years and twice wounded, give a better glimpse of actual conditions in England: "Woolwich, April, 1918. "This, thank heaven, is my last night on duty for a while. I may feel like a boiled owl, because I cannot sleep during the day owing to the testing of guns in the neighborhood. I am still in the 'danger' build-

ing, superintending the filling of high explosive and chemical shells. I am twelve hours on duty and have three-quarters of an hour walk each way. I also work every other Saturday and Sunday until 5 P. M., so I am not a slacker. I am thoroughly pumped out when off duty, because it means getting up at 5:45, and you know how I once thought it hard to get up at 7:30! I always have such a dry mouth and skin, and I understand why the men are always drinking beer. Some of the girls here are drinking beer, we call them 'canaries.' Working here in this atmosphere gives one lassitude. I spend my Sunday off as I led.

"I have sixty women and some men under me, and you should just hear these gentlemen, who have never been to war, or working in Flanders mud or Eastern sand, grouse, although they have 15 to 16 a week and keep a whole skin. I sometimes wish, as we all, assemble and pack ready for the front all the eighteen pounders, that I could make some of these men into sand and shelling, or working in Flanders mud. Perhaps the worst time I have had when I hear the guns in Flanders and think my boy may be in the fight. You become very sympathetic here, for every day some one hears of the death or wounding of some relation, and they come to go on strike. In teaching, I am sure that when you can imagine that, when you are in the condition, the air raids, although, of course, we are not cowards, do not help to steady nerves. We hear the alarm whistles and all have to fly to the shelter. As Kaiser Billy is particularly apt at blowing these things works up, so to feel even less secure than most Londoners. I am going this Sunday to see my boy. He is able to walk now. Now I must get some lunch, but nothing tastes very good when you have been working here."

Profiting by England's mistakes, which are now being corrected, America is planning to have a board of doctors who will devote all of their time to the health of the women workers, and here it is that some of the wise and willing women might help in seeing that the girls get decent lodgings, in establishing places, in teaching them the vital necessity of obeying rules made by the health officers. It would not be pleasant work. It would not be mentioned under "Society Notes," but in sustaining the arms of those who make ammunition and blowing up explosions, moral and physical, would be a heavy cross on the neighborhood. I am still in the 'danger' build-

THE BLASTED PRIVET.

Its Sap Runs Slowly, Hence Disaster to the Hedges. To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: My well grown and sturdy privet hedge is among the sufferers described in The Sun of to-day. I have cut it back to the ground and hope the new shoots will replace the fine growth I have pruned away.

One of my neighbors tells me that while the privet is hardy as to roots, the sap dries slowly in the branches, and that when we had the severe sleet storm of December, followed by many days of freezing weather, the shrubs were consequently frozen solid above the roots and the blasted. Other shrubs which dry out more quickly did not suffer from this and therefore survived.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Wood cellulose has been used with considerable success as a substitute for cotton in the manufacture of this product is being encouraged by the Government. Vice-Consul Charles H. Heister reports that there is a demand in the Cape Town, South Africa, consular district for imitation leather. While the amount of this product purchased annually is not large, the market is worth developing, as genuine leather is being replaced by the more expensive substitute. An agency for the entire Union of South Africa should be established. Firms interested in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Custom House, New York, and refer to File No. 93057.

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Perhaps a letter from a young widowed sister, whose only boy has been at the front for three years and twice wounded, give a better glimpse of actual conditions in England: "Woolwich, April, 1918. "This, thank heaven, is my last night on duty for a while. I may feel like a boiled owl, because I cannot sleep during the day owing to the testing of guns in the neighborhood. I am still in the 'danger' build-

ing, superintending the filling of high explosive and chemical shells. I am twelve hours on duty and have three-quarters of an hour walk each way. I also work every other Saturday and Sunday until 5 P. M., so I am not a slacker. I am thoroughly pumped out when off duty, because it means getting up at 5:45, and you know how I once thought it hard to get up at 7:30! I always have such a dry mouth and skin, and I understand why the men are always drinking beer. Some of the girls here are drinking beer, we call them 'canaries.' Working here in this atmosphere gives one lassitude. I spend my Sunday off as I led.

"I have sixty women and some men under me, and you should just hear these gentlemen, who have never been to war, or working in Flanders mud or Eastern sand, grouse, although they have 15 to 16 a week and keep a whole skin. I sometimes wish, as we all, assemble and pack ready for the front all the eighteen pounders, that I could make some of these men into sand and shelling, or working in Flanders mud. Perhaps the worst time I have had when I hear the guns in Flanders and think my boy may be in the fight. You become very sympathetic here, for every day some one hears of the death or wounding of some relation, and they come to go on strike. In teaching, I am sure that when you can imagine that, when you are in the condition, the air raids, although, of course, we are not cowards, do not help to steady nerves. We hear the alarm whistles and all have to fly to the shelter. As Kaiser Billy is particularly apt at blowing these things works up, so to feel even less secure than most Londoners. I am going this Sunday to see my boy. He is able to walk now. Now I must get some lunch, but nothing tastes very good when you have been working here."

Profiting by England's mistakes, which are now being corrected, America is planning to have a board of doctors who will devote all of their time to the health of the women workers, and here it is that some of the wise and willing women might help in seeing that the girls get decent lodgings, in establishing places, in teaching them the vital necessity of obeying rules made by the health officers. It would not be pleasant work. It would not be mentioned under "Society Notes," but in sustaining the arms of those who make ammunition and blowing up explosions, moral and physical, would be a heavy cross on the neighborhood. I am still in the 'danger' build-

THE BLASTED PRIVET.

Its Sap Runs Slowly, Hence Disaster to the Hedges. To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: My well grown and sturdy privet hedge is among the sufferers described in The Sun of to-day. I have cut it back to the ground and hope the new shoots will replace the fine growth I have pruned away.

One of my neighbors tells me that while the privet is hardy as to roots, the sap dries slowly in the branches, and that when we had the severe sleet storm of December, followed by many days of freezing weather, the shrubs were consequently frozen solid above the roots and the blasted. Other shrubs which dry out more quickly did not suffer from this and therefore survived.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Wood cellulose has been used with considerable success as a substitute for cotton in the manufacture of this product is being encouraged by the Government. Vice-Consul Charles H. Heister reports that there is a demand in the Cape Town, South Africa, consular district for imitation leather. While the amount of this product purchased annually is not large, the market is worth developing, as genuine leather is being replaced by the more expensive substitute. An agency for the entire Union of South Africa should be established. Firms interested in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Custom House, New York, and refer to File No. 93057.

THE BATTLEHOLE.

To the Editor of The Sun:—Sir: The time honored chevrons of the non-com, has to go back to the days of the wool. War economy might eliminate some waste of time by abolishing buttons. They are a nuisance anyway, time wasting to make, and when they rip spoil a perfectly good coat