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Your Flag and My Flag

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And oh, how much it holds—
Your land and my land—across within its folds!
Your heart and my heart beat quicker at the sight!
Sun-kissed and wind-tossed, red and blue and white,
The one flag—the great flag—the flag for me and you—
Crestles all its sides—the red and white and blue.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And how it fits snugly
In your land and my land and half a world away!
Red and blue—the stripes forever gleaming!
Sun-white and sea-white—the good fortune
drawn:

Red and true blue, with stars to gleam bright—
The glorious guidon of the day; a shelter through the night

Your Flag and my Flag! To every star and stripe
The drums beat as hearts beat and flares shrilly pipe!
Your Flag and my Flag!—a blessing in the day;
Your hope and my hope—it never hid a lie!
Home land and far land and half the world around,
Oh! Glory bears our glad salute and ripples to the sound!



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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

MAY FORM LABOR EXCHANGE

International Body Suggested at Annual Convention of the American Exchange.

The establishment of an international exchange of labor information was discussed by a committee of the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention at St. Paul.

President Samuel Gompers, in an address to the St. Paul Business Men's association, reaffirmed labor's loyalty and support of the government's war policy.

Women delegates warned against employment of child labor and urged the thousands of women who are now coming into the industrial field to join labor organizations "so that living wages may be maintained."

"We must not take jobs at lower wages than men and we must keep these jobs safe for the boys when they return from European battlefields," said Miss Melinda Scott of New York, representing the Women's Trade Union League.

Why They Are Arrested.

Says a government document: "Probation officers who have studied the child and street problem in Washington say that many arrests of newsboys for selling papers without a license are directly traceable to a lack of playgrounds." This accords with experience in Chicago, as reported by the Juvenile Protective association.

Khaki Overalls for Women.

Women workers in arsenals and government munitions plants will wear khaki uniforms consisting of blouse and specially designed overalls. These may be worn with a minimum of danger in plants where customary feminine garb would be likely to catch in machinery or pick up flying particles of powder.

Women Strike Breakers.

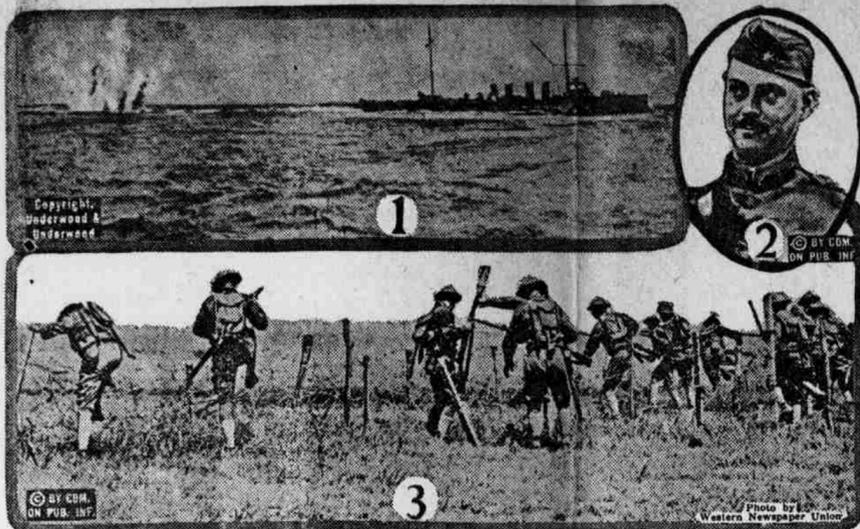
"Conductorettes" for the first time made their appearance at Newark, N. J., and in the role of strike breakers, when the failure of officers and men of the public service railway company to reach an agreement as to wage scale caused the suspension of service in that and six other cities throughout northern New Jersey.

Anti-Loafing.

Thirty-six hours a week for work is prescribed in the anti-loafing law in New York, and holders of official positions whose hours are from nine to four, with an hour out for luncheon and a half holiday on Saturday, are wondering how they can comply with it.

Child Labor Immoral.

In the brief recently submitted by the government to the United States Supreme court in the national child labor test case it is contended that the evils of child labor are immoral as well as unfair and harmful in interstate commerce.



1—Actual destruction of a German U-boat by a depth charge dropped by an American destroyer, the photograph being taken by an officer of one of the troopships attacked. 2—Major R. D. Paddock of the American army, acting division signal officer, who recently won the Croix de Guerre and wears a wound stripe. 3—American troops going through wire entanglements to meet the Huns.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

Huns Falling Back Toward the Vesle River Line in the Aisne-Marne Region.

YANKEES WIN NEW LAURELS

Defeat Best Division of the Prussian Guard in Desperate Fighting—Germans and Bolsheviki Face Revolts in the Near East.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The fifth year of the great war opened with the German forces in the Aisne-Marne region on the defensive after the collapse of the drive on Paris and the assumption of the initiative by the allies under General Foch; the British calmly awaiting the promised offensive by Crown Prince Rupprecht; the French and Italians driving ahead in Albania; Ukraine, Roumania and much of Russia rising against the tyranny of German domination; Turkey quarreling with Bulgaria and Austria with Germany over the spoils of war in the near East; the allies putting into execution their plans to help the anti-German elements in Siberia, and, above all, the American troops in the thick of the fighting in France and winning the plaudits of the world for their splendid work.

With the apparent intention of making a stand, at least temporarily, on the Vesle river line, the Germans slowed up their retreat from the Aisne-Marne salient last week and brought their heavy artillery into action. Despite the determined and dashing attacks of the allies from the south, west and east, the Huns had withdrawn in most cases with deliberation, choosing the ground for their rear-guard actions and saving probably the greater part of their supplies. The possibility of cutting off and capturing any very large number of them passed when it was found that their powerful resistance at the ends of the arc, near Soissons and Reims, prevented any considerable advance of the allies there. At the south front of the salient the Huns fought fiercely for days while their guns and munitions were being transported to the north, and then quickly moved back, the French and Americans following with a rush. This movement carried the battle up to and beyond the River Ourcq. There was evidence that the German commander intended to halt south of that river for a time, but he was not allowed to do this.

To the front between Fere-en-Tardenois and Passy were brought the crack divisions of the Prussian guards, to hold back the Americans, but the latter refused to be checked, and with a gallantry that aroused the cheers of the allied nations they met and defeated the best fighters of the kaiser's armies. These Prussians, unlike so many of the Huns, fight to the death when told to hold a certain position, and the Americans, also, do not know the word surrender. Consequently the combat was bloody in the extreme. It was centered in and about the villages of Nesles, Sergy and Clerges, and they changed hands repeatedly before the Yankees finally got the upper hand and established themselves firmly in the towns and then pushed on beyond the river, taking Seringes and making a salient in the German lines that threatened what remained of the enemy in the pocket between there and Ville-en-Tardenois.

That it was not an idle threat was proved two days later, when the American and French troops struck hard at this pocket, storming the heights between Sergy and Seringes. They were preceded by a rolling barrage and moved forward behind a smoke cloud. It was announced that this attack was for the purpose of straightening the allied line, but its possibilities were considerable. The advance, which was stubbornly resisted and was made difficult by miles of barbed-wire entanglements, carried the allies close

to Chamery, the town where Lieut. Quentin Roosevelt fell to his death with his airplane.

Between Fere and Soissons the French, with the assistance of certain Scottish units, made some progress toward the north and east in the face of powerful resistance. The Scots captured the park and chateau in the outskirts of Buzancy and held them against repeated counter-attacks; and the French occupied Grand Rozoy and Cugny and, in a brilliant operation, took by storm the Butte Chaulmont, a commanding height.

On the eastern side of the rapidly diminishing salient the French and British moved steadily northward until the entire Dormans-Reims road was in their possession; Romigny, Biligny were occupied and Ville-en-Tardenois was reached. Along here the Huns put up some of their most stubborn resistance and strongest counter-attacks, and infantry operations there came almost to a standstill, though the artillery continued its activity, as it did on all other sectors.

In the early days of the allied offensive the Germans were vastly inferior in the air, but last week many of their best pilots were summoned, and their machines swarmed over the allied lines and communication roads, fighting with remarkable daring and doing considerable execution. The allied aviators were by no means lacking and there were frequent air-battle combats in the air.

When General Foch relaxed somewhat in infantry action, perhaps to give his troops a bit of rest, perhaps in preparation for further important operations, it was expected the Hun would seize the opportunity to attack. But he did not do so, evidently not being anxious to meet the allies offener than necessary. Observers thought, from the movements of the enemy, that he would not stop long on the Vesle river line, but would retire to the plateau between that stream and the Aisne. This might be rendered compulsory by the capture of Ville-en-Tardenois, which would open the way for the allies to advance down the Ardre valley to Fismes.

Up to the time of writing, according to French estimates, the Germans had used 45 divisions on the Soissons-Reims front, some of them having been brought into action several times. Berlin claimed to have taken 24,000 prisoners, while those captured by the allies were said to number 34,000. The object of each army has been to kill as many as possible of its opponents.

German prisoners, it is said, are deeply depressed by the failure of the crown prince's drive and the success of Foch's offensive. They now realize the strength of the American arms, and the people in Germany also are beginning to learn the truth about that, despite the attempts of the leaders and the press to minimize it and to excuse the army's severe reverse.

On the other fronts there was not a great deal of action, though the British struck a swift blow in the north, surrounding and capturing the town of Merris and taking prisoners. There was little change in the Albanian situation, though Vienna claimed the Franco-Italian forces had met with a reverse. The Austrians are very sore over the repeated bombing of Pola and other bases and are threatening retaliation on Italian cities, especially Venice.

American troops arrived in Italy last week and were received with joy that was almost hysterical.

In the near East the best news came from Ukraine, where the peasants are reported to be in full revolt against the Huns. Field Marshal Von Elchhorn, the German commander in Ukraine, who had treated the people like slaves, was assassinated by a young Russian social revolutionist in Kiev, and it was said the life of General Skoropadski, the hetman—a tool of Germany—also was threatened.

German correspondents who have been traveling in Russia report that the feeling there against Germany is very strong and widespread and that the business men are all anti-bolshevik. Lenin and Trotsky admit that the bolshevik government is in peril and

call for "mass terrorism" against the bourgeoisie, and the repulse of the Czecho-Slovaks. A part of that remarkable force has penetrated to the south as far as the Black sea, capturing a port and vessels, and another body has taken Ekaterinberg, an important town in the province of Perm near the Siberian border, the center of a rich mining district. The allied powers were still negotiating concerning the extension of aid to the Czecho-Slovaks and other anti-German elements in Russia, but were going ahead with their military preparations for the proposed expedition, and it was said on Thursday that American, British and Japanese troops already had been dispatched to Vladivostok.

The soviet government of Russia is reported to have renounced all claims to the great provinces of Esthonia and Livonia, and these, together with Courland, probably will be united under a general government under German auspices.

From Copenhagen, the source of many lies, came the statement that Turkey had severed relations with Germany and Austria because of the disputes between the Turks and Bulgaria over territory taken from Roumania and Russia. There was every evidence that this was "greatly exaggerated," as Mark Twain said of the report of his death, but there is no doubt that Turkey is tired of the war and is getting all the worst of it. However, the Turkish government, in control of a vast empire and a command of Turkish armies, has the whip hand and probably will be able to keep the Turks to their alliance for some time yet.

General March, chief of staff, has been working out the details of a plan by which the American land forces are to be amalgamated into one army, the existing distinctions between the regular army, the National army and the federalized National Guard being wiped out. This will do away with many jealousies concerning promotions and every soldier will wear on his collar the letters "U. S.," the "N. A." and "N. G." being removed. The chief of staff also is beginning to "loosen up" some regarding information as to what American units are engaged in certain operations.

The war department prepared the country last week for the reception of long casualty lists. The casualties in the Aisne-Marne battle, though not excessive when the magnitude of the struggle is considered, may run as high as 10 per cent, it is stated. It is comforting to know that the vast majority of the wounded are suffering only from clean bullet wounds and will soon be back in the lines.

Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty, told the house of commons the naval situation was satisfactory and that the civilized world was gaining steadily on the U-boats, by reducing the sinkings and increasing the building of ships. He said America's program of destroyers and anti-submarine craft is beginning to come along and "will become a veritable torrent."

More trouble in realizing the American aircraft program came to light with the information that General Pershing had told the war department to send over no more of the De Havilland-Four planes it had been building, until changes were made, as they had proved useless. Secretary Baker half denied this and half admitted it by stating that improvements are being made in the plane that it is hoped will make it satisfactory, and that General Pershing has requested a large shipment of the De Havillands. The senate committee investigating airplanes heard testimony highly praising the work of General Kenly, director of airplane operations, but was told that John D. Ryan, in charge of production, was only beginning to get his bearings in the big task.

While Mr. Hoover is in Europe conferring with other food controllers, the food administration has cut the monthly allowance of sugar to two pounds per person, and warns the country is threatened with a serious sugar famine. The wheat situation is better and citizens are released from the voluntary pledge to do without that cereal.

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The Making of the Flag

by Wilbur D. Nesbit
Author of "Your Flag and My Flag"

How did we make the flag?
By rule?
By compass, and square, and line?
With pattern, and thread, and the sempster's tool,
To follow the plain design?
Was it only the lore that the draftsmen knew
That gave us the red, and the white, and blue?
How did we make the flag?
Not all
By measuring stitch and seam,
For part of it came from a country call
And part of it is a dream—
Is a vision that led brave souls aright,
And gave us the red, and the blue, and white.
How did we make the flag?
In peace
We fashioned it fold on fold,
In war it was blend with the grim caprice
The drums in their summons rolled.
'Twas the courage alike of the quick and dead
That gave us the blue, and the white, and red.
How did we make the flag?
'Twas thus
It came to its grace and worth,
Through all that is good in the souls of us
The banner has had its birth,
'Twas the holier strength of the purpose true
That gave us the red, and the white, and blue.
Thus have we made the flag?
Ah, no!
By colors that will not fade,
By sinuous sweep and by deathless glow,
'Tis us that the flag has made!
And it whispers today to each star-told state,
"You must hold me high and must keep me great!"

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