

MRS. WILSON INTERESTS HERSELF IN TROOPS

(Correspondence Associated Press) PARIS, April 16.—Mrs. Woodrow Wilson is showing much interest in the welfare and comfort of American soldiers on leave in Paris. Recently she visited the American Red Cross tent city on the Camp de Mars, where accommodations have been established for 1600 of them.

The wife of the president made a thorough tour of the Red Cross camp, making inquiries of the Red Cross women concerning the preparation of the food and the methods of serving. When a canteen loaded with fresh, warm apple pies arriving from a Red Cross kitchen Mrs. Wilson sampled the pastry.

During her tour a bouquet of flowers tied with the French national colors was presented to Mrs. Wilson. A French soldier with an armless sleeve and a happy smile made the presentation, speech Mrs. Wilson carried the flowers in her arms during the remainder of her visit. She

showed an enthusiastic interest in everything, giving special praise and commendation to the recreation lawn, where dances are held, the reading and writing rooms, and the arrangement of the fifty large canvas dormitories.

She was received by Major Francis Boyer, manager of the northeastern zone of the Red Cross, Miss Ethel Barnes, director of the tent city, and Miss Lila McClellan of Texas.

Noticing the number of men gathered to salute her as she left, Mrs. Wilson expressed the wish to greet them personally. An informal reception was held in front of the same the soldiers forming in line and shaking hands with the president's wife as they filed past.

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BANKS BECOME FOOD MAKERS

(Correspondence Associated Press) WASHINGTON, May 13.—An announcement that the war has made the banks of the country headquarters for information on "how to produce food" is the subject of a chapter made public today of the war department's history of the "material side" of winning the war.

The story of machine gun production about which such a hot controversy was waged in congress as a result of the failure of the American army to adopt for standard general use the Lewis weapon used successfully abroad, is told as follows:

"The manufacturing facilities for machine guns in this country were much more limited in extent than the public had any notion of them (when the United States entered the war) or today. We had at the outbreak of the war only two factories which were actually producing machine guns in any quantity at all.

"It was therefore evident that we had to build up almost a completely new capacity for production. Nevertheless, we took advantage of what facilities were at hand, and at once, in fact within a week after the declaration of war, were placing orders for machine guns. In this connection the reader should bear continually

SMALL ARMIES AND TANKS AND THEIR PART IN WAR

(Correspondence Associated Press) WASHINGTON, May 13.—Machine guns and small arms produced by the billions, ammunition turned out by billions of rounds and tanks built by thousands when the armistice ended hostilities, furnish the subject of chapters made public today of the war department's history of the "material side" of winning the war.

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in mind that throughout the development of machine gun manufacture we utilized all existing facilities to the limit in addition to building up new sources of supply.

"In other words, whenever concerns were engaged in the manufacture of machine guns, whatever their make or type, we did not stop the production of these types in these plants and convert the establishment into factories for making other weapons; but we had them continue the manufacture in which they were engaged, giving them orders which would enable them to expand their facilities in their particular lines of production.

The statement shows that the two Browning guns, the heavy and the light automatic rifle (of the type now in use by the troops in France) were pronounced by the special test board which held a conference in May, 1917 "the most effective guns of their types known to the members," in addition to being designed for the purpose of quantity production. At the same time improved Lewis guns also proved highly efficient and were recommended by the board. Subsequently the Lewis guns were shifted to aircraft work because of special adaptability and on recommendation of General Pershing's staff.

is declared to have been so spectacular as compared with any existing weapons of this character that when they were demonstrated in France the officers of the American expeditionary forces promptly decided to increase the equipment of infantry troops by 50 per cent, adding enormously to the production burden at home. The heavy Brownings functioned so well that an official report is quoted telling of the work of 17 guns which were tested immediately after they had been engaged with the enemy in a severe action and while they still were encrusted with rust and mud and bearing shrapnel scars. Without being cleaned in any way each gun fired a belt of 250 cartridges without a malfunction.

The demand for light Brownings was so heavy that when the armistice was signed the department was driving forward production to the end that British, Belgian and French troops might be equipped with this weapon, these three nations having asked for supplies of this latest American weapon to the fighting equipment.

Up to November 11 the production of Browning rifles was 52,238, a majority of which were in France. In addition 29,000 Chauchat guns had been purchased, so that enough light automatic rifles were on hand to supply 100 divisions or an army of 3,500,000 men. In the same time 41,804 heavy Brownings and enough Vickers guns had been produced to make the Hotchkiss weapons purchased from the French a total of 54,827 of this type, or enough to equip 200 divisions or an army of 7,000,000.

Other production struggles described in today's chapters include items varying in size from trench knives to the 45-ton Mark VIII tanks of British design of which 1500 were being constructed in co-operation with the British and 1450 additional wholly by American enterprise. Only one of these had been delivered up to January 1, 1919, but it is noted that the work on each program on component parts was 50 per cent complete when the armistice was signed. Orders for all but 100 of these tanks have been cancelled.

On November 1184 tanks of the French sixteen type had been delivered and by January 31 of this year 291. Of these six were shipped abroad. Orders for 1000 Mark I light tanks were cancelled as were orders for 15,015 three-ton tanks, fifteen of which had been completed on November 11.

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