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CHAMPAGNE, COUNTRY OF FAMOUS WINES, IS NOW BIG BATTLEFIELD

BEFORE PRESENT WAR PRODUCED ABOUT NINE MILLION GALLONS EVERY YEAR

WASHINGTON, April 29.—The Champagne district, where the French are wresting their offensive while the English are making magnificent gains against von Hindenburg's line in the Arras region, is the subject of the following war geography bulletin from the National Geographic Society:

"While Champagne no longer exists as a province or department of France, its independent existence under its own counts having come to an end at the beginning of the fourteenth century, the name is generally applied to that portion of France which now includes the departments of Ardennes, Aube, Haute Marne, Marne and parts of the Aisne et Meuse, Marne and Meuse. Aisne, Aube and Meuse are now one mile long and one mile broad embracing nine hundred square miles.

"Champagne derives its name from the Latin campania, meaning a country of plains and referring to the extensive chalk beds in the middle of the three important cities of Reims, Châlons and Troyes the last named being now the capital of the district.

"Dairy and tillage are the chief occupations in Champagne, wheat being the principal crop. In the Reims district is found the famous Champagne wine, the production of which is a very large industry, the annual output being about 9,000,000 gallons, nearly half of which is sold in the United States.

"Champagne is the principal wine district of France, and the production of the Champagne vineyards is the most important industry in the district. The Champagne vineyards are located in the department of Marne, in the valley of the Marne, and in the department of Aube, in the valley of the Aube. The vineyards are located on the slopes of the hills, in sheltered valleys, and on the plateaus. The vineyards are small, the average holding being about 2 acres, and the average production about 1,000 gallons. Some of the vineyards are located in the region of the Vin Fraise in the third century, at Epernay, Dormans, Ay, Reims and other towns. It was not until the last decade of the 19th century, however, that the champagne industry became of importance. At present, however, it is a very flourishing industry, employing about 100,000 persons and producing about 9,000,000 gallons annually.

"The United States has never in any year imported the quantity of any foreign product allowed by the war regulations to make it necessary.

"Lake Erie forms a means of defense for all Eastern lake residents. Lake Erie will be quite safe as to the protection of their property and money and that will be free from serious thoughts of the Germans as to the best of the state and the welfare of the city.

"A generally improved feeling of the entire home people, particularly of the business men, is the direct result of the recent visit of the Commercial Club of Cleveland, which was a very successful one, and we are now looking for a very large increase in the business of the city.

"Cleveland is now in the front rank of the cities in the matter of the development of the city