

# WAR WAS GREAT STIMULANT TO THE INVENTOR

Remarkable Work of Bureau of Patents.

## WHERE RED TAPE IS NEEDED

More Than Million and Quarter Devices Have Passed Through Complicated Channels Necessary to Get Patents—High Explosives Play Important Part in Ideas Developed by War—Many Freaks Offered:

Any government bureau that has done what it was established to do more than a million times has accomplished a vast amount of work. Practically the entire machinery of that bureau has revolved each single time. At the close of business November 12, 1918, the United States patent office had registered 1,284,956 patents, and any one who has ever gone through the complicated channels of getting one thing patented will realize what it means to have recorded a million and a quarter of them. On an average, about 500 patents are issued weekly. Red tape attains a very luxurious growth in patent office business, but necessarily. When more than 1,000,000 machines and chemical compounds and whatnots have been recognized as being different from one another, some care must be taken that the machines and compounds that arrive daily are not duplications in some important feature of those already on hand. And care in a government bureau unavoidably requires the use of a lot of red tape. There is a book issued by the commissioner of patents containing one hundred and sixteen pages of printed rules, draftsman's symbols, and legal forms, all a part of the procedure to be followed.

**War Stimulates Inventors.**  
Naturally the war has been a great stimulant to the efforts of inventors and many man-killing devices have been conceived or reached a high stage of development within the last few years.

This has been a war in which high explosives played a leading part, and it is along that line that many American inventors turned their minds. For instance, many applications have been received for the issuance of patents on hand grenades, all of which are simply based upon a pound or so of some powerful explosive in a metal container. The important part of a grenade, the part on which a patent is asked, is its timing mechanism, by which it can be set to explode at a certain time after it is thrown. Then there are men who have sent in drawings of rifle grenades, practically the same as the hand variety, save that they are fired from a rifle; and "minenwerfer" or trench mortars—small, squat cannon which throw a tremendous and very destructive charge of high explosive over a short distance. German surrendered 25,000 of these minenwerfer to the allied forces by the terms of the armistice, which indicates that the allies have a pretty high opinion of their usefulness.

These are old ideas. It required a war like this one to furnish an incentive for developing them to a high degree of effectiveness. The same is true of the depth bomb, another war-time favorite of the inventors, which put the fear of the Lord into German U-boats. Dropped from the rear of a torpedo boat destroyer, primed to explode at a certain depth, it was the most effective weapon the allies had for combating the submarines. Patents had been taken out on depth bombs years before this war broke out, but not until the submarine menace became grave was the "ash can," as it is lovingly called, really taken up, developed and given a chance to show what it could do.

**All Were Failures.**  
Then there have been patents granted for aerial torpedoes. Sad to say, none of them has turned out to be practical, but there is no doubt that a successful aerial torpedo will be a reality before very long. The patent examiners do not doubt it. They have seen so many inventions perfected which at first sight looked impossible, that they hesitate to laugh at any "freak" idea. Another aerial problem for which men have tried to find the solution is a device which would allow an aeroplane to remain stationary in the air. The advantage of such an achievement in connection with bombing expeditions can easily be imagined.

Naturally, since the war began, there has been a steady stream of freak ideas into the old gray building at Seventh and G streets in Washington, which houses the patent office. Many of them are of no value and never will be; others, as mentioned before, may have the germ of a long forward step in the science of war making. In the case of impractical ideas, a polite letter is usually written to the inventor, asking him to furnish a working model of his machine or contrivance, and that settles it. He cannot furnish a working model, because it won't work. This is the invariable method followed in connection with perpetual-motion machines, those wonderful conceptions that are expected to run forever without any power other than their own.

**Use Enemy Patents.**  
Possibly the most interesting phase of the relations between the war and

patents lies in the "Trading With the Enemy Act." Under that law's provisions American firms or individuals can obtain licenses to use patents issued to Germans and Austrians before the war. Nearly 20,000 such patents have recently been listed and classified by the federal trade commission. Many of them would be of considerable value to American industry. There are any number of processes for making dyes and drugs, as well as many scientific formulas—treating old rubber, for instance, so that it can be remade into automobile tires and other articles of commerce. At the time the armistice was signed only about 100 applications had been made for permission to use any of these 20,000 different patents, partly for the reason that many firms did not know there was such a law, but mainly because, as the law now stands, American firms would have to stop using the processes when peace was ratified. However, efforts are being made to have congress amend the act so as to make its provisions permanent. In that case there probably would be a rush for many of the 20,000.

Most patents of real value are taken out by people who make a business or hobby of invention. It very seldom happens that a man stumbles upon a valuable invention by accident. Most of the worth-while ones are the result of long and patient study and experimenting.

It is a popular belief that Thomas A. Edison has patented more inventions than anyone else, but officials say this is not true. He has taken out a great many, however, and as one of the examiners put it, "Not more than anybody else, maybe, but a long way better than anybody else."

### TREATED GENERAL FOCH

An American Physician Gave French Leader Aid.

How a Richmond (Va.) physician saved the life of Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch, allied generalissimo, became known when it was learned Dr. Robert C. Bryan rendered emergency treatment to the great soldier. The account obtained here follows:

One day in June, 1918, while the allies were planning the Battle of the Somme and the French were making their last great stand at Verdun, Doctor Bryan received an emergency call at his office in the American hospital at Jullily, near Paris. He was told that a "distinguished French general" whose name was not given, had been seriously injured in his automobile at Plessis, Belleville, and was thought to be dying. After treating the injured man Doctor Bryan motored back to Jullily satisfied that Foch was dying, and the next morning went over to Meaux again in order to express his regrets. Inquiring at the hospital for General Foch, he was told by the head surgeon: "The general has gone."

"Yes," Doctor Bryan replied, "Gone beyond."

"Oh, no," the Frenchman protested. "Gone back to the front. The attention given him was in time to save him."

### WILL HELP CHEER UP OUR BOYS OVERSEAS



Mrs. Ballington Booth, wife of Gen. Ballington Booth, president of the Volunteers of America, has gone abroad in the costume of the Y. M. C. A. to spend the winter with the American expeditionary forces in order to cheer up the boys who will be mighty homesick on the cold winter nights. Mrs. Booth is a very talented singer and in the past thirty-two years has visited almost every town in this country.

**Entirely Harmless.**  
Water strainers are in demand at Hamilton, Ont., following the appearance of some lively specimens of aquatic animals in the city mains. Great alarm was caused at first, but Doctor Jaffray, city analyst, classified the wrigglers as "cyclopes" and explained that they are entirely harmless.

**City Had 4,800 War Plots.**  
Lowell, Mass., had 4,800 war gardens this year. More than 467 acres of land were cultivated. The value of the garden products was estimated at \$140,000.

## 'MID BURSTING BOMBS AND ROCKETS' GLARE

Heroism of Two Red Cross Doctors and Two Women Canteen Workers During Bombardment.

Just outside the French town of Compiègne stands the Chateau of Annel, an ancient structure dating back hundreds of years. Its walls and vaulted rooms could tell many a tale of mediaeval adventure—perchance of violence—of romance and sorrow.

Today it can tell the story of two surgeons—American Red Cross doctors—who for a day and a night and a second day saved hundreds of lives—operating by candle light upon wounded French soldiers, the while shells crashed and the ping of machine gun bullets resounded—the while the enemy was advancing steadily until he got within five miles of the little hospital.

The chateau had been used as an advance hospital under direction of the French Service de Sante. Major Tarnowski and Major Morehead, two Red Cross doctors, were in charge, the personnel being French. When the enemy came within six kilometers the French authorities ordered the evacuation of the place, the patients being removed at night in canal boats.

The two Red Cross doctors were at their wits' ends. Their labors were circumscribed by human limitations. There were just four hands and no assistance of any kind. But somehow fate usually intervenes when the need is direct. So in the nick of time two American canteen women came over from Compiègne.

Stills, supplies were lacking, and again fate proved kind. Five heavily laden Red Cross camions arrived within an hour after the women, each with two men, so that the personnel now consisted of two doctors, two women and ten men.

Inside two begrimed human beings, spattered with blood, tense of face, but alert and ready for any emergency. Two brave women are handling them—the instruments as they are needed—the bandages, the other surgical paraphernalia. Other men are holding candles, administering anaesthetics, carrying in the wounded, carrying out those whose wounds have been bound up, playing hospital angels in an unknown tongue to the fellows lying in the wards.

### CONDENSED MILK FOR LITTLE SICILIANS

The problem of caring for the babies of Sicily was one which the Red Cross workers were almost at a loss to solve until the shipment of sweetened condensed milk came to their rescue. A can of condensed milk would last a baby a week, for one spoonful, put in a cup of boiling water, was sufficient for a feeding, and so, to many a Sicilian family the terms "America" and "condensed milk" will always be synonymous.

Last February a list of fifty families of Italian soldiers was given to the Red Cross workers in Italy. The families were carefully investigated and registered and the milk was given to them for the little children, especially the babies. Mothers came for the cans and were grateful beyond expression.

But with the coming of warm weather it was necessary to give out the milk daily, as it would not keep sweet. The mothers brought their own containers, and the milk was prepared, sugar added, and they were instructed carefully as to its use. Absolute cleanliness of receptacles was insisted upon, and the homes were visited in order to make sure that the milk rations were being backed by healthful conditions.

Aside from the saving of the lives of the children, the soldiers are happier and they are better soldiers now that they know that their loved ones are being cared for by the Crossa Rossa.

### FOOD AT LOW COST FOR BELGIAN FAMILIES

Through the combined efforts of the American Red Cross and the Belgian Government, food is now supplied at low cost to the families of those Belgian soldiers who are at the front or have been killed or taken prisoner. The Commissioner for Belgium of the Red Cross recently advised the Belgian Government that the American people were ready to undertake this work and that the Red Cross would provide 20,000 francs a month for it.

The Belgian Minister of Supplies has a chain of sixty-five stores in France and at the front, which sell goods to the families of Belgian soldiers working in munition plants or other places in the rear.

### FAITH IN THE RED CROSS.

A young American soldier recently arrived in France tried to locate his brother, who was also in the army and who had preceded him "over there." It was like hunting for a needle in a haystack. After many difficulties and long waiting, however, he at last located the company to which his brother belonged.

Then he learned that his brother had been wounded and was in some hospital. That was all he could find out. With the faith of a little child in his eyes he told this to a hospital searcher belonging to the American Red Cross and then with the faith of a little child he added: "But the Red Cross will find him." And the Red Cross did.

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### Order of Publication.

State of Michigan, the Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Corunna, on Friday, the 30th day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate. In the matter of the estate of Harry Wilson, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Alice Wilson, praying that administration of said estate be granted to Gustave F. Frier, I, the undersigned, do hereby order that said Frier be and he is hereby appointed administrator of said estate, to take effect on the 10th day of January, A. D. 1919.

It is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,  
Judge of Probate.

### Order of Publication.

State of Michigan, the Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office in the City of Corunna, on Wednesday, the 4th day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate. In the matter of the estate of Noah D. DeLamater, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Martin W. Jones, the Administrator of said estate, having rendered a final account to this Court.

It is ordered, that the 6th day of January, next at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate office, be appointed for examining and allowing said account.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,  
Judge of Probate.

### Order of Publication.

State of Michigan, the Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office in the City of Corunna, on Wednesday, the 4th day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate. In the matter of the estate of Noah D. DeLamater, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Martin W. Jones, praying for license to sell real estate for distribution.

It is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,  
Judge of Probate.

### Notice For Appearance.

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF SHIAWASSEE, IN CHANCERY

George Hall, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Esther Hall, Defendant.

Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Shiawassee, in Chancery.

In this cause it appearing from the affidavit on file, that the defendant, Esther Hall, is not a resident of this state, but resides at Louisiana in the State of Missouri.

On motion of George W. Pardee, attorney for plaintiff, it is ORDERED that the appearance of the said defendant, Esther Hall, be entered in this cause within three months from the date of this order; and that in case of her appearance that she cause her answer to the Bill of Complaint to be filed and a copy thereof served upon the attorney for the plaintiff within fifteen days after service on her, or her attorney, of a copy of the said bill, and in default thereof that said bill be taken as confessed by the said defendant, Esther Hall.

And it is further ordered that the said plaintiff cause this order to be published in THE OWOSSO TIMES, a newspaper printed, published and circulating in said county and that such publication be commenced within twenty days from the date of this order and that such publication be continued therein once in each week for six weeks, in succession, or that the said plaintiff cause a copy of this order to be personally served and a copy to be sent by registered mail on and to the said defendant, Esther Hall, at least twenty days before the time above prescribed for her appearance.

JOSEPH B. O'CONNOR,  
Circuit Judge.

GEO. W. PARDEE,  
Attorney and Counselor for Plaintiff,  
Business Address, Owosso, Mich.

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