

UNITED STATES IS NOW EXPERT IN MAKING MUNITIONS OF WAR

America the Unready, Is America the Unready No Longer—Rich in Machinery and Experience, This Country Can Now Turn Out War Material in Staggering Quantities—High Efficiency Reached in Big Plants.

By SYDNEY BROOKS.
(New York Times.)

New York—America enters the great war better equipped on the industrial side than at any moment of her history. Yet when it broke out she was virtually innocent of the art of making munitions. Of all that vast industry, which today employs capital by the hundred million and men by the hundred thousand, there was, 30 months ago, practically no trace whatever.

A few companies here and there were engaged in the manufacture of war material as a side line to their normal business; and that was about all.

Thanks to the war orders of the British government, America the unready is America the unready no longer. Indeed, when I think of Bethlehem, with its output of 800,000 complete three-inch shells a month; of the DuPont company, with an annual production of 375,000,000 pounds of military powder, of the Baldwin Locomotive company, which is turning out 800 12-inch shells a day; of the American Locomotive company, which is making 600,000 loaded time fuses a month—an incredibly intricate component of which when the war began it knew nothing whatever; of the Midvale Steel company, which is equally at home with howitzers and light and heavy shells; of the great rifle factories at Bridgeport, Illon, Eddystone, and elsewhere, which have now a capacity of 15,000 rifles a day—about 10 or 12 times the output of the government arsenals; of the 75,000 9.2 shells a month, representing from 10,000 to 12,000 tons of steel, and filling ten freight cars a day, that one firm is manufacturing; of the 20 other firms that are turning out each from 12,000 to 75,000 shells a month in all the heavy grades between 6-inch and 12-inch, and of the 1,250,000 loaded time fuses a month that are likewise being produced here—when I think of these and many similar achievements, I am tempted to say that the war has been not only the commercial but the military salvation of America.

Demand for Machines.

The first effect of the war was to raise among the manufacturers in the allied nations a hungry demand for machines to make the munitions. The American machine tool manufacturers found themselves on a sudden swamped with orders. It was the first trickling of the stream that was soon to become an unprecedented, overwhelming flood. Very quickly the allies discovered that, even if they could get the tools, their own manufacturing resources would not for many crucial months, possibly not for a year or more, enable them to overtake Germany's enormous lead. The call for American tools was followed therefore with another and wider call for the American finished product, for American guns, American rifles, shells, cartridges, and powder. There ensued a literally frantic scramble for anything American could produce in the way of war material and equipment, not merely for munitions but for foodstuffs, wagons, tools, shirts, blankets, barbed wire, horses, motor-cars, trucks and lorries, railway ties, canteens, harness and saddles, cotton and knit goods, overcoats.

And this catarrh of orders came pouring over the American continent just at a time when all the signs pointed to a period of severe commercial depression. Its effects were felt not merely by the firms that actually received the orders, but by an extraordinary variety of contributory industries. In the last year, while going over some of the principal munition factories in the United States, I have been struck by nothing more forcibly than by the extent to which the manufacture of military material is interwoven with and dependent upon the productive energy of innumerable other industries and interests.

All Sections Drawn Upon.

Take, for instance, a concern like the Midvale Steel company of Pennsylvania. When it entered the munition business on a large scale and secured contracts for guns, shells, and rough forgings, its first care was to provide itself with new facilities. It needed buildings; it needed machine tools, and it scoured the country to get them; it needed lathes and drill presses, grinding and milling machines, forging presses and blooming mills; it needed electric cranes, hydraulic pumps, heating furnaces, draw benches, electric motors, generators, and boilers; and it needed ores and minerals in prodigious quantities. On these and a thousand other necessities it authorized an immediate expenditure of some \$6,000,000, and to trace where the money went you would have to travel from New England to Oregon and from Georgia to North Dakota.

Or to go to one of the colossal rifle factories such as have been erected at Eddystone, a few miles outside of Philadelphia; at Bridgeport, Conn., and at Illon, N. Y. Ask them where they bought their raw material and machinery, and you will receive in reply a comprehensive lesson in the geography of the United States.

When, therefore, war orders began

to come in, first in rivulets, then in spates, and at last in a torrential flood, the whole country was fertilized. The purchase of horses and the demand for meat and grain in unheard-of quantities filled to overflowing the pockets of the farmers. The boot, woolen, clothing, and implement manufacturers were soon working overtime. Such raw materials as brass, nickel, and copper put on an amazing spurt. Indeed, for a while it almost looked as though the American industrial machine would be subjected to a strain it might not be able to bear.

Bid Against Each Other.

So little in the early days of the war was the business of purchasing American supplies reduced to a system that not only won England, France, and Russia competing with one another, but the army and navy departments of all three countries had their separate representatives over here covering the same ground and bidding fiercely for the same commodities.

If things had gone on like that the results would have been bad for the allies, but, I think, worse for America. There would have been much ill-feeling, constant misunderstanding, and more than a little litigation. American manufacturers would have got, and were, in fact, rapidly getting, a bad name in Europe; and it might easily have happened that the shortcomings of a comparatively few American contractors would have proved a boomerang to all American prosperity.

Nor could the United States have reached its present level of uniform well-being under the haphazard system of buying and selling that obtained in the first months of the war. Some corporations would have profited abnormally; others would have been left out in the cold, and while trade in any event would have revived, its revival would have been much less diffused, much more uneven, and much more liable to sudden setbacks. War business in those days was practically the only business the United States was doing; it was the mainstay of the whole industrial fabric, and while it was important for the allied governments, it was even more so for America, that it should be handled with judgment by responsible agents, and in a way that would bring in the utmost benefit to all parties.

Appoint Purchasing Agent.

The British government in January, 1915, selected the house of J. P. Morgan & Co. to act as its representative in America, to safeguard it against the men of straw, supervise its purchases, and bring order and common sense into the business of making contracts. The firm was to receive a commission of 2 per cent on the first \$50,000,000 of the purchases it was authorized to make, and 1 per cent thereafter. It was not an exclusive contract. That is to say, the British government might buy through other channels and agencies to any extent

WALKS 25 MILES TO "DEFEND NEW YORK"

Newark, N. J.—Hearing that the Germans were bombarding New York, Andrew Miller, a farm hand, dropped his milking pail and walked 25 miles as fast as he could hike to the marine recruiting station here.

"Just give me a gun," he told the recruiting officer. "I don't need a uniform—these overalls are good enough. Let me draw a bead on those Prussians and it's good night to them!"

Miller was quite upset to learn that the beautiful girl angel was still perched on New York's municipal building and the Germans hadn't even declared war.

"Well, I ain't going to hoof those twenty-five miles back again, anyway," said Miller. So he filled out a recruiting blank, and soon was on his way to Charleston, S. C.

A H. C. OF L. COSTUME



This high cost of living costume won a prize for originality at a masquerade in Boston. The costume is tailor-made from burlap, vegetarian necklace of beans and wrist bag of burlap with onion ornaments.

It pleased, providing it informed Morgan & Co. of the character and amount of its purchases, such information being, of course, very necessary, to prevent any overlapping of orders. The only other points of importance in the contract—to which the French government became a party four or five months later—were that it was terminable by either side at any time and that Morgan & Co. engaged to disclose the extent of their holdings in any firm they might recommend to the British government.

Since the war began the allied governments have spent in America on munitions and raw material alone about \$2,500,000,000—rather over half being for munitions and rather under half for raw material. Some 75 per cent of this sum, or nearly \$2,000,000,000, has been disbursed on the advice and under the guidance of Morgan & Co. I suppose no firm in the whole history of commerce has ever been placed in such a position or intrusted with such a task.

The great boom, of course, is over. No new orders for munitions are being placed here now by the British and French governments, and very few, if any, repeat orders. In a few weeks from now practically all the existing foreign orders for American munitions will have run out, though the purchases of raw material will continue. We are nearing the end of one of the most wonderful chapters in American industry, and its lessons and its advantages can be treated now almost in a historical spirit.

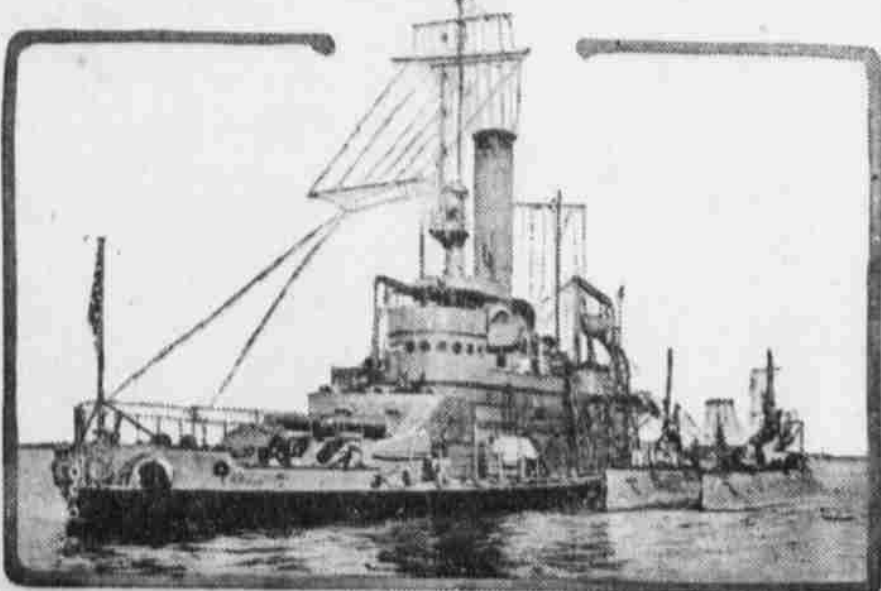
It makes a really great record, and one on which all Americans may look with equal gratitude and pride; gratitude because it has been the means of equipping the nation with some of the most vital factors in industrial preparedness, and pride because American manufacturers, when put to the test of a new and highly technical business, have justified all that has ever been said in praise of their versatility, their enterprise, their big and efficient ways of doing things.

MOUSE CLIMBS TO FATAL END

Starts at Pretty Foot in Church at Merchantville, N. J., but Grip Is Deadly.

Merchantville, N. J.—A harmless little mouse came near creating a sensation at one of the church services Sunday morning. The mouse started to roam around the auditorium and found himself surrounded by beautiful scenery in the midst of which he soon discovered a neatly booted foot belonging to one of the young women of the congregation. Without a moment's hesitation he started to climb. The owner of the boot grabbed the mouse in the middle of his journey, getting a strange hold. She exerted so much pressure that the creature fell to the floor dead. An obliging usher removed the carcass.

UNITED STATES SUBMARINE TENDER



The Tallahassee, a submarine tender, a type of the United States navy's floating submarine bases.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Washington Society Women Are Ardent Patriots

WASHINGTON.—If you happen into either one of two of the city's best-known garages, and find a girl, or matron, perhaps, under a car, with grease dripping upon her fair face, and getting all smeary, you will appreciate the earnestness of nearly a hundred of Washington's best-known society women in preparing as motor mechanics to aid the nation in time of war.

A school for mechanics has been started by the Red Cross corps of woman ambulance drivers recently organized by Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, Mrs. Augustus P. Gardner, Mrs. Larz Anderson, and others.

Ninety-three of the city's best-known girls and matrons are enlisted for service with the armed forces of the United States as soon as the call comes from the war department through the Red Cross.

More than a score of the drivers, many of them prepared to donate cars, are qualifying as mechanics to make field repairs. They are being schooled by experts in two big garages. The women are qualifying rapidly, and there are several who have won "diplomas" for skill in motor mechanics. They can take down and reassemble a three-gear car without a lock washer or cotter pin left over. They know the parts and can call them by name, even to all of the gears and pins in the transmission and differential. Furthermore, it is declared, they show surprising skill and strength.

The women interested are "going at it" with a vim. A garageman facetiously said he was getting frightened, because if many more of the women showed such skill the day might come when society women would do their own automobile overhauling.

The corps has been divided into companies of ten each with a captain. Each Sunday morning the companies go to Fort Myer and practice handling army motortrucks over rough ground. Each one enlisted is a skilled driver of one or more types of passenger cars, electric or gasoline. Each is being instructed in the handling of heavier vehicles over difficult ground.

The drivers will handle all motor units of the medical and Red Cross departments, supply wagons as well as ambulances behind the lines, according to present plans.

Army officers are co-operating in the instruction of the drivers, but some of the women are giving instruction to fellow corps members.

Purchase Not Altogether a Matter of Charity

"PUSSY WILLOWS, pussy willows, lady? Ficentserbunch?" Everybody loves pussy willows, but no lady could possibly be expected to waste a nickel on switches bumpy with close-fisted buds and all tied around with a dirty string. Still when you come right down to it, a child's fight with life is just as formidable if not so scripturally important as David's combat with Goliath, so the woman, who has to grub around for small yarns, started a conversation:

"Selling a whole lot, son?"
"None. Ain't sold nair bunch."
"That's bad. Where did they come from?"

"I guethered 'em yestyday down yander in Mun'gumry county, where I lives. I haster tramp round' everwhereway an' can't hardly never sell a thing, counter the mash mahket, but mammy she say I gotta keeper comin', 'cause how's we gwine buy sugar an' tea an' stuff, when aigs ainter laying free yit, 'cept'n to set with? I'm like pappy. I druther work in the country, where I knows how to do whatter I got to do. He's ben dald mos'n two years now."

"I like the country, too. Why don't you get a regular job down there?"
"Cause I ain't big enough to hire for a man, an' they all don't give child'en nothin' but bode an' close—but I gotta job ahead runnin' arrens and freshin' the grass for a white lady that's boughtin a house down yander to live in when warm weather comes—an' I mout hepper in the garden."

"Fine! I reckon I might as well take those other two bunches and then you can run along home—and give my love to Montgomery county."

The boy started off as spry as a lizard, and the woman took her switches home and put them in water.

Charity? Of course not—business. The woman put the little incident on a pad and got paid for it—and a story is always worth its price.



President Caused Flutter in Navy Department

PRESIDENT WILSON'S recently formed habit of dropping in on Secretaries Lansing, Daniels and Baker in the state, war and navy building, opposite the White House office, for informal war preparation conferences, has inspired the officials in these three important branches of the government to put forth their best efforts to have everything in readiness for the clash with Germany.

The president bobs up at unexpected moments at all hours of the day and is in thorough touch with the work in every bureau. The other day Mr. Wilson arrived at the navy department while Secretary Daniels was giving his regular afternoon audience to Washington correspondents. About 40 newspaper men were crowded around Mr. Daniels' desk, plying him with questions. The president slipped quietly into the room, accompanied by a secret service man, took in the situation with one glance and stepped softly to a couch, where he sat down to await his turn.

The president was not noticed at first. He was discovered by a newspaper man, who apprised the secretary in a stage whisper. Instantly the correspondents separated. Lieutenant Commander McCandless jumped to a salute, and the president, laughing at the confusion he had caused, arose to his feet, greeted Mr. Daniels in cordial, but businesslike fashion, and apologized for having broken up the conference.

Before the room was cleared the president and the secretary of the navy had their heads together and were earnestly discussing plans of naval preparedness. The president looked the picture of restored health, his color was good and his step springy.

Illumination of Capitol Dome Pleases Many

OWING to the continued illness of Elliot Woods, superintendent of the capitol, no definite steps were taken for some time toward the continued lighting of the capitol dome. The cost of this lighting has not been figured, but no special appropriation or legislative authority is necessary. There is plenty of current on tap in the capitol power house, and all that is required is to direct the flow of current to the lighting units necessary to outline the dome in white each night. The installation of the flood-lighting system for the inaugural ceremonies was paid for out of money appropriated by congress and the system installed is a permanent one.

Now that it is ready for use, the electric light bills do not have to be reckoned with, any more than if those in charge of the capitol grounds determined to put an extra lamp post in a dark spot in the park.

Although there seems to be no possible objection to lighting the dome each night, Superintendent Woods desires to have the proper authorities give their sanction formally. Scores of letters from citizens of this city, as well as from inaugural visitors, have been received at the capitol, expressing delight and appreciation of the lighted dome.



BIG RUSH NOW ON

For Western Canada and the 160-Acre Homesteads.

"In a war like this, they also serve and serve effectively who till the fields and gardens.

"It cannot be repeated too often that the world needs every ounce of food it can produce this year, and that the growers of that food are sure of good prices. When men now of middle age were casting their first ballot, 'dollar wheat' was the farmer's ideal of prosperity. Today, we have two-dollar wheat, with other grains and meats and vegetables in proportion; and indications that any shift from these prices is as likely to be up as down. "Every acre must work. The farmer who increases his crops is performing a national service, as well as assuring prosperity for himself. There cannot be too much, and unless a united and consistent effort is made, there will not be enough."—Chicago Journal.

Now that the United States has joined with the Allies, the sentiment of the past has merged into the personal interest of the present. The duty of the loyal and patriotic citizen is to bend every effort to bring the great World's War to a satisfactory conclusion, to assist in all ways the forces that have been fighting at tremendous odds the giant power of autocracy. Victory is now assured; the union of the great fighting force of the United States navy, its military, its financial co-operation, its full and complete sympathy, will eventually bring about a peace that will be solid and lasting. Canada, just across the border line, that has no mark of fortification, no signs of defense, welcomes the assistance that the United States is rendering, welcomes this new partner into the arena that is battling for a disruption of the forces that breed and beget tyranny and oppression, and fighting for a democratic and free world. What a sight it will be to see the American and the Canadian, with the Stars and Stripes and the Maple Leaf of Canada emblazoned in one fold and entwined in their effort to rid the world of an incubus that has disregarded all laws—human and divine.

There is a necessity for the greatest effort ever was made, not only on the battlefields of Europe, not only on the mined and submarined seas, but in carrying out on the peaceful fields of agriculture, the plans so urgently requested by those at the head of the departments of resources. The recent reports by the Government show a great falling off in the amount of grain that may be expected from the crop as of recent date, being only a little over 60 per cent, 16 per cent less than the average. Every patriotic American will lend all his effort towards increasing this. He may not shoulder a musket, but he can handle a hoe, he can drive a team and manage a plow. He will be doing yeoman service in this way, and assist in a wonderful manner the man who is fighting in the trenches. If he does not now own a piece of land, by all means get one—rent it, buy it—get it. There is lot of vacant land that will give ample return for his labor.

The desire to possess a home, to improve it and to prosper, is natural to every American, and today unprecedented offers are being made to secure the residence of the home-hunter. The war condition is draining the continent of its foodstuffs and economists are endeavoring to meet the rapid depletion of the nation's stores of grain and other farm products. Western Canada has proven her claim to being the natural producer of economically grown foodstuffs and is endeavoring to overcome a world's shortage in necessities by offering her lands, practically free, to anyone who will take them and produce. Labor is scarce in Canada, and is now being bonused. Good wages are offered and the time a farm hand is drawing pay in 1917, is considered by the Canadian Government, the same as residence duties on one of the free 160-acre farms, that this Government is giving away, in order to settle the fertile prairies and bring about within a few years a half billion annual crop of wheat.

The most conclusive evidence is available to any inquirer, that Western Canada farm lands will produce more wheat of a better quality and at a lower cost of production per acre than has heretofore been known in grain-growing countries. It is no idle statement to say, that yields of fifty bushels to the acre of wheat are grown in Canada; the statement is made in all seriousness and is backed up by the letters and affidavits of reliable farmers in Western Canada. These farmers are enjoying the same home comforts that their neighbors to the south participate; they have the same good houses, the same good horses and cattle, the same good roads and communication, as well as the same good social conditions, and, best of all, they own their land and what they earn they own for themselves, being a foundation for greater wealth and independence.—Advertisement.

A plow driven by a motorcycle has been invented to keep the lee on skating rinks smooth.

After the Marine is for Tired Eyes. Movies Had Eyes—Sore Eyes—Inflammation—Redness—Itching—Bleeding—Mucin in a favorite treatment for eyes that feel dry and smart. Give your eyes as much of your loving care as your hands and with the same regularity. CARE FOR THEM. YOU CANNOT BUY NEW EYES! Write for full and complete information or by Mail. Ask Marine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago, for Free Book.