

COUNTRY'S DEBT TO CRIMINAL

Notorious French Swindler Responsible for Development of Most Famous Fighting Airplane.

The most successful fighting airplane in the world today is without question the Spad. It was, of course, the mount of the late Captain Guynemer, who, it will be remembered, accounted for 53 machines before being shot down last September just behind the German front line. The most proficient pilots in the Lafayette escadrille also use this machine.

The history of the Spad is curious. It owes its origin to Armand Deperdussin, a former silk merchant of Lyons, who amassed a large fortune by a series of swindling operations. In 1910 he proceeded to sink most of his gains into aviation, establishing a huge flying field and factory near Reims and engaging a brilliant young engineer named Bechereau. The result was that the Deperdussin monopolies acquired an international fame, winning the Gordon Bennett cup at Chicago in 1912 and at Reims in 1913—the latter event at the rate of 124.5 miles an hour. This speed was made possible largely by the monocoque construction of the fuselage, greatly superior to the rectangular body section then in vogue on other machines.

After the arrest of Deperdussin some time before the war the directors of the firm retained Bechereau as designer and changed the name to Spad (Société pour Aeroplanes Deperdussin). This was again changed quite recently to "Société pour l'Aviation et ses Derivés," keeping the same initials as before. Deperdussin's trial finally took place a few months back and a merely nominal sentence was imposed on account of the great services to the cause of French aviation rendered by the defendant.

CONTROL YOUR OWN KITCHEN

Ring Message Addressed to the Women of American by One of Their Best-Known Writers.

Margaret Deland, the well-known writer, says in the Woman's Home Companion:

"This is a brave world just now, and it shames us to admit, even to ourselves, how we hate to face some domestic guns; we hate to ask about left-over dropped eggs; and still more do we flunk the going back to the good sense of mothers and grandmothers, and do our own ordering! There is, however, one thing that would help us poor housekeepers immensely, namely, a community effort. If groups of women—the women's clubs, the women of a parish, the women of a street—would get together, and pledge each other their moral support, the domestic situation would be immensely helped; we would cease to be bullied by our kitchens. Once let Mary realize that not only Mrs. A. is 'mean,' and Mrs. B. 'snoops around in the refrigerator,' and Mrs. C. 'gives ye a calldown about yer potato parings,' but that the whole alphabet of housekeepers will not permit waste, Mary, too, and all her kind, will finally fall into line!

"You know the fable of the old man and his sons and the sticks? The single stick was easily broken. The single housekeeper is easily cowed. The fagot is unbreakable! If we women, all together, insist upon a moral, social, economical course, our kitchens will join us."

Turkey Takes Census.

For the first time in the history of Turkey, says an Amsterdam dispatch, a complete census of the whole empire is to be taken. A German statistician has been appointed to superintend the preliminary formalities. The Turkish newspaper, Sabah, says: "We are the only nation in Europe, not excluding even the Balkan states, which possesses no official statistics of our population." The estimated population of Turkey before the war was roughly 21,000,000, of which 7,000,000 were Turks, 9,000,000 Arabs, 1,500,000 Armenians, 1,500,000 Greeks, 1,500,000 Kurds, and the remainder Druses, Jews and the smaller tribes. The Turkish newspapers have recently shown some anxiety as to the large decrease in population lately caused by the war and the prevalence of disease and have urged the government to take steps to decrease mortality and increase the birth rate.

Greatest in the World.

The New York Connecting Railway bridge, which is better known as the Hell Gate bridge, with its three miles of elevated approaches, constitutes one of the greatest engineering projects of the world, overshadowed only by its importance as a trade route and public utility for passenger and freight traffic.

It is the world's heaviest bridge, of steel arch construction, accommodating four tracks. It is ready to bear the live load of 12 tons per linear foot while sustaining 26 tons of structure per linear foot. It is calculated that this live load may be likened to the weight of 45 of the biggest and heaviest of modern locomotives in motion.

Teeth Frozen.

This all happened when zero weather prevailed and the victim was Clifford Allhands, county recorder of Clark county. When he woke up one of those cold mornings, his teeth were certainly not chattering with cold, he says, for they were frozen tight and he could not move them until they had been thawed out. You see he placed them in a glass of water and the water was a solid cake of ice.—Indianapolis News.

WHAT YOUR MONEY IS WORTH

Comparative Value of Coins of Different Countries of the World Explained.

How much is a franc? A ruble? A mark? To be well posted a man should be familiar with the money in circulation in foreign lands, observes the Columbus Dispatch. And if the man is of military age or inclination there is no telling how soon he may be called upon to exchange his perfectly good American dollars for the medium of circulation in France, England, Russia, Germany or other European countries.

Of course values are changing almost daily, as regards the exchange of foreign money for Uncle Sam's dollars, but under ordinary conditions it can be figured that in Germany the mark is worth 23.8 cents in United States money. The German thaler is equal to three marks, and the krone (a gold piece) equals ten marks. In England the sovereign (gold) is worth \$4.8665, a pound sterling; the penny equals two of our cents, the crown \$1.21 and the shilling 24 cents.

It is interesting to note that the franc of France (worth 19.3 cents) is also the unit of currency in Belgium and Switzerland, and that it is equal to the peseta of Spain, and lira of Italy, the drachma of Greece, the leu of Roumania, the dinar of Serbia and the bolivar of Venezuela. The Russian ruble, normally, is worth 51.5 cents, the piaster of Turkey 4.4 cents, the Japanese yen 49.8 cents, the Mexican peso (silver) 49.8 cents and the Chinese tael 75 cents to 83 cents. And there's no wonder that "Chinese money" is tossed about so carelessly, for the copper cash (China's monetary unit) is worth a United States dollar when you have 1,750 of them.

In British East India "pie" (the popular coin) is cheap. An American penny buys four.

FOUGHT IN SERBIAN RANKS

Bravery of Irish Woman Rewarded by Highest Decoration Crown Prince Could Bestow.

Sergt. Maj. Flora Sandes, an Irish woman who for two years has been serving with the gallant Serbian army, is now in London on leave of absence for a few weeks.

"In August, 1914, I went to Serbia as a nurse," she said, when asked to tell something of her war experiences. "After the terrible retreat in which I took part I joined the regimental ambulance. When cut off from that I obtained permission to join the Serbian army as a private. For two years I was in the thick of most of the fighting. At the taking of Hill 1212 (Macedonian front) a hand grenade exploded near me and I fell badly wounded. My company, which was in advance of my main body, was outnumbered by the Bulgarians, but they refused to fall back when ordered to do so, declaring they would not leave me to the mercy of the enemy."

"When I was being dragged off to safety through the snow they remained behind, fighting a rear-guard action. The next day our troops attacked again and drove the Bulgarians out of their trenches. In them they found the bodies of a number of our men, each one with his throat cut. That is the favorite method of disposing of prisoners." It was after the capture of Hill 1212 that the Irish Amazon, while lying in hospital, was awarded by the Serbian crown prince the Kara-George decoration, which is the Serbian equivalent of the British Victoria Cross. Three other decorations she has received for bravery in the field.

The Line in Lorraine.

Lorraine means "Lothair's Kingdom," but certainly its most famous figure was that duke of Lorraine, Godfrey of Bouillon, the hero of many fabled exploits, who was said to have cloven asunder the body of a Moslem emir with one stroke of his good sword, who was leader of the first crusade, who saw the deliverance of Jerusalem and became the ruler of that Holy City wrested from paynim hands. The American soldier might do worse than swear "By Godfrey!" Whether we now hold a mile or five miles will presently be of no importance, for our expeditionary forces have but made a beginning. A look at the map will satisfy any American how much of the front line our men should be defending before many months have passed.

Use for Clothespins.

Clothespins make an excellent plaything for babies. They can be used for babies or soldiers, or to make fences, trees, log houses and many other interesting things. Playthings that can be taken apart and put together again are good to have; also blocks with which the child can build all kinds of objects—engines that he can push along the floor, balls to bounce and throw, doll carriages, washing sets, etc. Dolls with clothes that button and unbutton and come off may be used to teach the children how to dress and undress themselves.

Tommy's Curious Callings.

The British Tommy has always been famous for the brilliance of his powers of romance, if asked questions he did not want to answer by people who had no right to know. The latest illustration is afforded by a repatriated soldier of a Welsh regiment. He had been a prisoner in the camp at Gutrow, where the German authorities, with a view to securing skilled labor, were anxious to learn the occupation of the prisoners. But surely never before were there such callings—a treacle bender, watchmakers' striker, a milestone inspector. The Germans gave it up.

DESTINED TO BECOME DESERT

Great French Colonial Territory in North Africa Seems to Hold Out Little Promise.

Wadal was the last point of colonial expansion of the French before the European struggle drew their energies and attention homeward. The great African territory was added to the French Congo only a short time before the war broke out.

Very few white people have actually visited Wadal, but tales of the region are numerous both in upper Egypt and in Tripoli. Occasionally some of the inhabitants of the little-known region can be seen in the bazaars of Khartoum or Algiers. Wadal lies at the head of caravan routes that cross the desert both from the Mediterranean and the Nile. It bears a bad reputation, even for North Africa.

It is known as one of the last strongholds and sources of supply of the slave trade. Its people are divided into conquerors and conquered—the former belonging to a powerful native tribe that holds the Mohammedan faith and the latter including all manner of very primitive savages. Up to very recent times these savage people are known to have been captured and sold as slaves along the Barbary coast. The French only established a protectorate in 1912, so that they had little opportunity to break up the trade before the European war.

In physical appearance Wadal is described by the caravan men as a vast, low-lying plain. Great tracts of it have never been explored. It seems to have once formed the bed of a great inland sea, of which Lake Chad, in the southwest, is the shriveled remnant. In fact, the Sahara is steadily encroaching on it from the northward. It is crossed by the old channels of several rivers, but without a single flowing stream. At no very remote geologic epoch of the future Wadal will apparently become a part of the great desert to the north.

OUTSIDE PALE OF HUMANITY

That German Spies Can Be Classed Only as Dangerous Reptiles, Is Opinion of One Writer.

It is not dishonorable to be a spy, says the Santa Fe New Mexican. One of the Americans we most revere, whose only regret was that he had but one life to give to his country, was shot as a spy. The spy must be most daring and courageous, must face extraordinary perils, must have remarkable nerve and resourcefulness.

That, at least, is the conception of the spy which we had until the German spy got into the game and made the word synonymous with all that is most execrable in treachery and cunning, dishonor and all forms of evil. A spy has come to mean an incendiary and murderer, an assassin of women and babies, a poisoner of food and water, a dynamiter and train wrecker, a coward and a human reptile.

The fate which made Capt. Nathan Hale immortal is much too good for the men whom America has suckled and who have become vipers at the bosom of their adopted mother. The sooner government values charity and leniency and drops hesitation and half-way measures the better for all concerned.

The German who breathes a word of disloyalty should be interned, no matter who he is; the one who conspires against the government or its work should be promptly put to death. We are at war. The traitor to home helps kill our boys at the front. Why should the government parley with him?

Changes in Men's Clothes.

Fashion is doing its bit too. The International Custom Cutters' convention ruled out patched pockets, belts and turned-up trousers. If they would only go back to the old-fashioned shirt cuffs, sew the buttons on the trousers on the outside of the waist band, and take off a yard or two of the four-in-hand neckties we would get somewhere near where the weary are at rest. They already have made overcoats fit more closely in order to save material, but they dissipate that saving by making sack coats a trifle longer. Of course, there is a sort of economy in a long sack coat, for in ruling out the patched pockets all other patches are, doubtless, included. It is quite hard for a fashion convention to make a mistake if it only changes the styles.—Ohio State Journal.

Educated Finland.

The new republic of Finland starts its career with one invaluable asset—a highly efficient system of education. Finnish elementary schools are models of excellence, and in an international competition some few years since Finland won the coveted distinction of having the highest educational standard of any country in the world, beating even the United States and Germany. Particular attention is given to the teaching of languages. The two state languages, Finnish and Swedish, are taught in the elementary standards, and until recently Russian also. A knowledge of five or six languages is reckoned nothing exceptional among even middle-class folk in Finland.

Truth Will Out.

In the schoolroom the teacher was trying to illustrate a phrase found in the reading lesson, "a debt of gratitude."

"Jimmie, think of the care your parents have given you and all that they have done for you. Don't you think you owe them something?"

"Well," said honest Jimmie, "I don't know about that, but I do know that my dad owes me 50 cents."

Lend Him A Hand!



OVER there in the trenches today a boy in khaki is stretching out his hand to you. He has left everything he holds dear and is risking death



itself because he believes in fighting for the principle of right.

He will fight for your rights as long as there is a spark of life left in him.

But he can't do it with his bare hands. He must have guns, shells, tanks, aeroplanes. He must have help.

You can lend him a hand by simply lending your money to Uncle Sam.

If you do your share, Uncle Sam can equip him with everything he needs.

Subscribe for Third Liberty Loan Bonds in money as the boys "over there" are subscribing in blood.

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Loyalty Is First Duty of Every Citizen of United States Today

By JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS



In the present emergency it behooves every American citizen to do his duty and to uphold the hands of the president and the legislative department in the solemn obligations that confront us.

The primary duty of a citizen is loyalty to country. This loyalty is manifested more by acts than by words; by solemn service rather than by empty declamation. It is exhibited by an absolute and unreserved obedience to his country's call.

Both houses of congress, with the executive, are charged and sworn to frame those laws that are demanded by the present crisis. Whatever, therefore, congress may decide should be unequivocally complied with by every patriotic citizen. The members of both houses of congress are the instruments of God in guiding us in our civic duties. It behooves all of us, therefore, to pray that the Lord of Hosts may inspire our national legislature and executive to frame such laws in the present crisis as will redound to the glory of our country, to righteousness of conduct, and to the future permanent peace of the nations of the world.

British National Anthem.

The authorship of the British National anthem furnishes one of those evergreen subjects of dispute which delight the soul of individuals whose joy it is to write letters to the press, observes a British exchange. Probably there will also be conflicting evidences on the question, but the common opinion now is that Henry Carey, who died in October, 1743, was the author. At any rate, Carey sang the song as his own composition at a dinner party in Cornhill, while shortly afterwards he approached a publisher with the manuscript. It was not at once accepted, and seems to have been first sung in public in 1745—two years after Carey's death.

Oil From Melon Seeds.

A genuine American invention originated at Rocky Ford, where a melon-grower named Burrill, with the faculty of inductive reasoning, found out that a clear, rich oil can be expressed from the seeds of cantaloupes, notes the Chicago Tribune. He submitted samples to government chemists at Washington, who notified him that their tests indicated a new table oil of the same texture and color as olive oil, one which needed no refining process. There is wide significance in this discovery, which indicates melons, squash and pumpkin seeds, as perhaps those of citrus fruit as well, as a prolific source of oil supply.

Oldest College Sorority.

The oldest of the women's college sororities is the Alpha Delta Pi, which was founded at Wesleyan female college in 1851.

FIRST HALL MARKS

Hieroglyphics Stamped on Gold and Silver in 1300.

Guild Formed in Early Days to Protect the Buyer in the Matter of Purity of Metal.

What are the strange hieroglyphics stamped on the back of silver articles in England, and what do these marks signify? This is a question which has often puzzled the inquisitive. A tedious and technical subject, you say. On the contrary, a most absorbing and appealing one. Read here what an expert in the matter of these markings has to say, and be convinced.

"The first hall mark was used in Paris in 1300. It was employed for both gold and silver, principally the former. Some goldsmiths had been underselling others and as there was no difference in labor or perfection of detail, it was obvious that much inferior metal was being used. So a guild was founded to protect the buyer in the matter of purity of metal. The guild specified the 'Paris touch,' which meant that a certain standard of metal was to be maintained.

"About 1327 a stir took place in England for a slightly different reason. Privateering off the coast was frequent, the result being that silver vessels were brought back and made either into coins or other vessels. As the product was of a lower grade than the English standard, a goldsmiths'

guild was established there also, with the rather awe-inspiring title of 'Origin and Mystery of the Fellowship of Goldsmiths.' The guild specified that standard metal must contain 925 parts of silver and 75 parts of copper. Its members had authority to travel through the provinces of the United Kingdom assaying silver vessels, and if any specimen was not up to standard it was confiscated or a fine of double its value was imposed on the maker.

"When a piece was made it was the custom to send it to the guild-hall. There it was assayed and if found to be of the proper proportion it was stamped with the English hall mark, or as it was then called, the 'guildhall mark,' commonly referred to as 'the king's touch.'

"A leopard's head was the first mark employed in England and the maker also was privileged to place his own stamp upon it, which generally consisted of the first two letters of his surname. As so few people were able to read, most of the tradesmen had signs which they placed on their productions, hence the modern trade mark. In 1459 the guildhall added a letter marking the year that a piece was made, but as the full alphabet was not used, the date is very difficult to determine. Later the leopard's head was changed to a lion passant, which in turn gave way to a lion's head erased with a figure of Britannia.

"The collector of old silver must look out for the method of 'glorifying' used by unscrupulous dealers who cut the hall marks out of old spoons or forks and fit them into a big piece to mislead the unwary. It is extraordinary that so much good old English silver has survived, considering the vicissitudes through which it has passed. In the Wars of the Roses, for instance, much plate was confiscated and melted into coins for carrying on the strife."

Stones in Form of Cross.

Staurolite is a curious mineral, stone, found only in Virginia and North Carolina, not very valuable but interesting on account of a legend that attaches to it. The name is from the Greek stauros, a cross. The stone is found in the form of a cross, or sometimes a double cross. Another name for the stone is the "fairy stone," and this also relates to the legend that the fairies living in the caves of the mountains, on hearing the sad tidings of the death of Christ fashioned these crosses as mementos of him. There has always been some commercial demand for the stones as curious and they are worn as watch charms or on chains with locketts.

"Sez Ole Cliff Fox.

No man's so dishonest but what he considers his next door neighbor men so. Lots o' women marry homely men so, they won't have to worry over some other woman tryin' to win 'em.—Cleveland Leader.