

# French Orchards Devastated by Germans

**A**TENTION has been directed recently to the havoc which has been wrought by the Germans among the orchards, fruit farms and nursery gardens of the devastated portions of northern France, Belgium, Poland, Serbia and Roumania. The manner in which the Teutonic forces deliberately and systematically carried out their policy of destruction has been disclosed in those portions of France which have been released from German occupation during the past year. Not a tree was left standing or alive in the beautiful orchards which were the pride and at the same time the means of livelihood of the people of this devastated country.

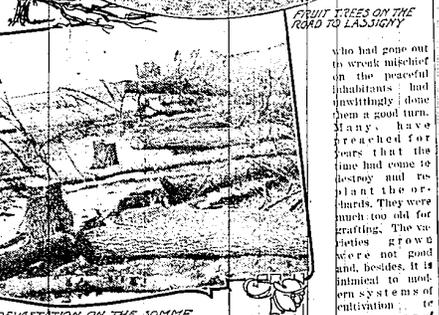
The inclosure of these conditions has resulted in the formation of plans in London for the raising of funds to be used in the restoration of these orchards and nurseries. It is estimated that about \$5,000,000 will be needed to complete this work of reconstruction. Some thousands of trees have already been dispatched to France for planting in the district which has been wrested from German control.

The destruction of the orchards is described by a writer in Country Life who went to France to learn what plans were being made to restore to prosperity the regions that have been laid waste in war.

"No description in the newspapers brought home to me so vividly as a personal visit did the heavy hand which has been laid upon these regions," says the writer. The one phrase which kept rising in the mind and ever coming to the lips was the horticultural one, "There shall not be left one stone standing upon another." Before the war the region was one of the most fertile in France. Agricultural authorities assured me that the best crops of wheat in the country were raised on the wide flat plains. The land at present is growing only thistles and other weeds. The ruins differ entirely from that seen in the long-battered towns of Reims and Verdun. These have been smashed and knocked about by shells and bombs till they are but ruins of what they once were. Still, there are houses standing untouched amid the general destruction, and they still are at least the shells of towns. But, to take for example the district around Noyon, not only have the streets been wrecked by fire and shell, but before leaving the Germans went methodically through a course of destruction, blowing up roofs, gathering up implements into a heap, for burning, and employing a kind of battering ram for breaking down the walls. So that to recur again to the phrase that keeps welling up like the burden of a song, there is really not one stone left to stand upon another.

"More may be said about that hereafter. The main point today is to direct attention to what has actually been done by the Germans in the way of leveling gardens, orchards and nurseries. Those who have been in the country in peacetime will remember the rows of apple and pear trees that were grown along the straight roads; running between the fields. They will remember, too, the groups of plantations of trees in the fields, as well as the orchards and gardens near the pretty rustic houses characteristic of that French district. In preparation for evacuation, the German soldiers appear to have been ordered out with ax and saw to level these trees with the ground. What is it that nobody has found time to remove them or that the ruined trees are preserved as a monument to German brutality, there they are lying as they fell, some and these, the most slender, have been given away through; others cut with the ax; a few have been attacked with both ax and saw. But there they lie dead. Whatever there was of nursery or garden has been swept away. Even the bushes where the rabbits were kept have not escaped destruction.

If one recognizes that these represent the chief elements in the production, in which a considerable proportion of the inhabitants were engaged, it will not come as a surprise that the French officer commanding



In the district told me nothing had so angered and embittered his Poles. They accepted the rest as a natural outcome of the war, and what an extraordinary "rest" it was. One has to go far back to find anything to compare with it. After Bannochburn the Scots used to raid the adjacent parts of England, so that for years it was impossible to raise crops, and the houses were so systematically destroyed that the buildings of wood and stone were ultimately replaced by turf and wattle. The desolation there in the fourteenth century must have been comparable to the desolation produced in the twentieth century by a nation which counts itself cultured beyond measure. And what was worse than damage to property was the carrying away and depopulation of the whole population, excepting such as were too old to work. Into what various regions they have been scattered no one knows. Very few have found their way back. It was, however, the preparation for subsequent misery that inflamed the soldier. I could see their eyes hardened and their lips set at a grimace, and one effect has been that the French army will not be content with any end of this war which is not consummated on the further bank of the Rhine.

## OUR FAIR WEATHER FRIENDS

**Young Woman Who Was Almost Destitute, Learned True Meaning of the Well-Known Phrase.**

One I knew a girl who was the spoiled and only daughter of a rich family, Margaret E. Saenger writes in the Christian Herald. She had always been in the position of a fairy princess with a wishing ring. Anything that she desired was brought to her as if some magic genie waited for commands.

And then her father fell in lust and died, and her mother broken in health and spirits, soon left her alone. And the girl was left alone with a few friends who accepted her queer invitations and her concert tickets. But when she lost her money and was left alone, the girl found that her friends were all mysteriously busy—that they were too busy to see much of her, to give her such advice and help. With a little money left from the wreck of things she took a secret trip to Europe for three weeks, much money, so she finished the course in half the prescribed time. Now she has a very responsible position and a very interesting one.

Talking so me not long ago, she laughed in a not very humorous way and said:

"You know, I never knew the meaning of the phrase 'fair weather friends' until my friends and then, when I needed friends so very badly—when life was so hard and unfortunate and sorry for me—I found that they were very few who really showed up in a real way. In a time of trouble character really shows."

"I've known you for a long while," I answered; "very long while. When I knew you first you were a butterfly, with about as much feeling and as much responsibility as a butterfly. I never thought you would amount to anything! And then sorrow came, and there wasn't any money. And I thought again, 'That girl will go to the wall.' When you finished ahead of time, we would scarcely believe it. And now we are still surprised—but we're getting gladder about you every day!"

The girl looked at me quite speechlessly.

"In a time of trouble," I quoted, "character certainly shows!"

**MUCH IN LITTLE**

For modern requirements concrete piles having a section less than 14 inches square or equivalent area should never be used if more than 30 feet long.

The South station at Boston has about 12,000,000 square passengers a year from the North station.

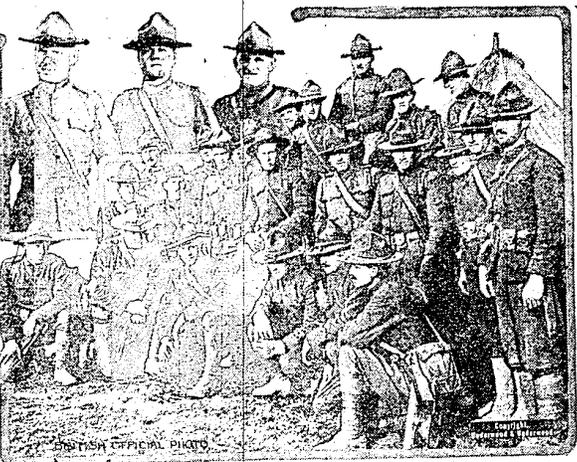
Manufacturers of rubber shoes in Sweden have notified their customers that no more of these goods can be delivered for this winter's trade.

A new spare tire rim is being put out by the fact that it can be folded and carried in an automobile tool box.

"The messenger girl," for the first time in the history of the government, has made her appearance on the government pay roll at Washington as a result of the shortage of boys and men in the capital for that work.

Mrs. William Nickerson of Orwell, Vt. has a hen which in the last few weeks has laid two dozen eggs each with a double yolk, the weight of the two dozen being six pounds.

## AMERICAN ENGINEERS WHO FOUGHT IN BATTLE OF CAMBRAI



These American engineers were part of the force that fought the Germans during the battle of Cambrai. They were busily engaged in laying a railway for the advancing British forces when the Germans made a surprise attack, cutting them off from the main force. Dropping pick and shovel, the engineers engaged in a furious hand-to-hand combat with the Teutons, finally fighting their way through to the British lines. Some of their number were captured, but not one was taken unwounded. Field Marshal Haig commended the bravery of these American engineers as an official communique. Above, at the left, are the captain and the lieutenants.

## ITALIAN TROOPS HOLDING THEIR LINE ALONG THE PIAVE RIVER



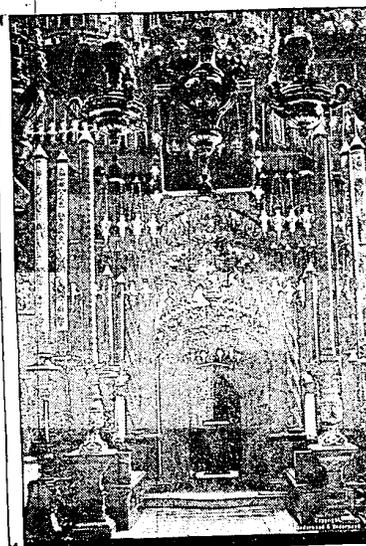
Some of the Italian troops who are so bravely and stubbornly holding back the Teutonic invaders along the Piave river line.

## BRITISH AIRMAN'S HELMET



This consoling helmet has recently been adopted by the British Royal Flying Corps for the use of its airman. It is much warmer than the helmets that have been in use.

## HOLY SEPULCHER JEWELS SENT TO KAISER



An official dispatch received from France says that the Turks before surrendering Jerusalem to the British carried off the famous treasures of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, valued at millions of dollars, and sent to Berlin. In the center of this great edifice, the church's celebrated treasury of brilliant, in the center of this great edifice of marble, gigantic candlesticks are in front of it and innumerable tables, the gifts of worshippers, surround it, and hang everywhere.

## MUCH IN LITTLE

The navy department announced recently that armament of merchant vessels under the American flag has been completed and a gun crew of from 16 to 82 men for each ship has been provided. The men were available, but they had to be trained when the armament was in effect, the guns were wanted and had to be provided.

## MUCH IN LITTLE

The tobacco industry is one of the most important in Algeria. In 1915 55,000,000 packages of cigarettes were manufactured for interior consumption and 96,000,000 packages for export, especially to French Indo-China. The production of cigarettes has increased from 593 metric tons in 1901 to 1,574 in 1915. The Algerian market, therefore, offers a quite extensive field for cigarette machinery.

**Humor Over the Wires.**

Much has been heard of late concerning cipher messages; and if you were in mid-Atlantic and wished to send a "wireless" to your husband and tell him—with all respect to economy—that the weather was perfect, your health good, food satisfactory, cabin comfortable, passengers congenial, what cipher would you invent? Could it be packed into two words?

A lady who crossed from New York lately, on some war mission, did the trick. The husband she had left behind the knew would be playing poker every evening at the club, so she chose a thick of it to send him the all-inclusive message of perfect satisfaction: "Royal Flush," which is the best hand a poker player can hold.

**Clear-Conscience.**

Say, old fellow, don't carry the joke too far. Send the umbrella to Room 11, Fraternity Building. If the owner is not in just set it up beside the door. Or if you have that weak feeling and are in need of a coat, and not able to climb the stairway, you can just pitch the shower stick in at the lower door entrance and return home, or any old place you like, carrying a clear conscience of not having done a good and worthy deed. Try it once.—Wise chatterer Sam.