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NEW FRANCE IS BORN OF WAR

No Longer Has Any Doubt of Outcome of Conflict.

ENTIRE NATION IS STANDING TOGETHER

French Were Entirely Unprepared For War In 1870—Treason Then Was Everywhere.

By William Phillip Simms.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

PARIS, July 27.—The great doubt has been lifted from the heart of France.

The accomplishment of this was the grandest deed of French arms in all the year of Armageddon which began a year ago this week. In history the feat will be known as the victory of the Battle of the Marne.

Not only did this victory probably

decide the fate of France geographically, but its influence upon the spirit of the country was, and still is, incalculable. For notwithstanding the "solidarity" accomplished instantly and spontaneously on August 1, the day the general mobilization order was posted, a great doubt weighed like lead on the hearts of those who marched away singing as well as those who stayed behind and wept.

Everybody remembered 1870.

The old remembered the swift defeat in the Franco-Prussian war and the horrible nightmare of blunders. The young had heard the story time and again. The French, in 1870, were totally unprepared for war, were badly equipped and badly led. Their plans lacked cohesion. Generals fought independently, one of the other. Treason was laid at the door of one and altogether it was a terrible mess in which the poor soldiers never had the slightest chance of withstanding a courage which wrung from even the Prussians the exclamation, "Oh, what brave fellows!"

So, last August, when the soldiers started for the war, each one bore in his heart a burden heavier than the knapsack on his back. Would history repeat itself? Would 1914 be another 1870? Was France better prepared this time? Would she be better led? Were her generals equal to the great task ahead? If not, then—

The troopers dared not let their minds run beyond this point. Individually the most intelligent soldiers in the world, they have the other curse and blessing of civilization, an imagination; so they sang and quit thinking; they joked with one another, never admitting even to themselves—let alone to their companions—that the doubt was there.

Back home the hearts of mothers, fathers, wives, sisters and sweethearts were troubled by the same unexpressed dread lest 1914 prove another 1870. And if such should prove to be the case—

They, too, smiled and talked cheerfully of a new and irresistible France.

All knew, those who remained waiting as well as those who went to war, that for 44 years Germany had been living, eating, sleeping, drinking, dreaming war and that this war had come. What about France? Who was General Joffre? Who were the other generals? Newspapers had but recently declared that France was unprepared was this true? And all went on being troubled in secret lest France should again prove unready.

After vague news reached Paris that General Joffre was in retreat from Charleroi, the 1870 bugaboo loomed bigger and bigger. Maubeuge was invested; Lille was occupied. Then there came silent tense days, without any real news. The government moved to Bordeaux; the Germans were now in Maubeuge, Compiègne, Soissons, Reims, Chalons, Epervain, Lunéville, Verdun and Nancy were seriously menaced. Paris it seemed, was doomed and Ublans were reported to be at the gates. The worst fears of soldiers and homelike seemed realized. It looked like another 1870, only

worse.

Still there was no panic. There was the exodus of thousands of people who objected to living in Paris during a German occupation, but the city was calm. France's "sacred union" held firm.

But the doubt instilled into the mind of France by 1870, was there, galling and real. The people could not know that General Joffre was later to be called a genius. They could only wonder if his retreat was strategy or incompetency. The censorship was strict and they had few facts to base opinion on. They did not know the Battle of the Marne was being fought, nor that Joffre had performed, by winning a victory there, a sort of eighth wonder of the world. Yet this was true. General Bonnal said of this battle:

"This is the first time to my knowledge that a great army, retreating and fighting at the same time and for eight days in succession, was able to furnish the effort by itself to transform instantly its long and painful retreat into an irresistible offensive."

Yet that is what the French army was able to do. Through this victory a new France was born. The great doubt was lifted, the 1870 bugaboo banished. The people were given confidence in the army, the army in itself.

Henceforth, whatever may happen to the French soldier, he will refuse to be discouraged. He can advance, retreat or leggedly hold what he has won, in himself. He knows the war may be long, but he grins and grits his teeth: "We'll get 'em at last!" he says.

The ghost of 1870 has been laid.

WAR REJUVENATES LEAD TOWN IN MISSOURI

FREDERICKTOWN, Mo., July 27.—While the European war, in the words of one of the current crop of war ballads, is "Making widows out of mothers" and "Butchers out of brothers," in a way that rhymes conveniently, it is doing things for Fredericktown in the way of prosperity that Fredericktown never before dared dream could be done. Fredericktown is just one of the hundreds of "lead towns" in Missouri and its case is typical.

Before the war was declared Fredericktown was voted a good town to avoid. Lead was "dropping like lead" in all markets. By the ton the product sold for less than \$20. There was no big demand and there was a whole lot of the mineral already brought to the surface waiting to be used. Stores closed up, boarding houses reduced their demands on the markets and gradually were closed, patches of vacant houses appeared and gradually enlarged until they merged. Fredericktown was so nearly dead that nearby towns facetiously inquired of the coroner when he was going to hold the inquest.

Then it happened. The soldiers used up all the bullets they had and there was demand for Fredericktown's product. Laborers flocked back to the city. The shutters were removed from store and boarding house windows. Machinery began to move again, creaking at first and then developing a business-like industrious hum. Lead jumped from less than \$60 a ton to \$90 in leaps of from two dollars to five dollars and the men underground produced



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Now Fredericktown is thinking of sending to some big city for a civic expert to develop the beauty of the city. The war has boomed the lead country.

SOME DAY HE'LL GET OUT

LOS ANGELES, Cal., July 27.—John Lapique, a lawyer of this city, is an unfortunate man. Because of his strenuous efforts in a recent will contest case, the judge sent him to jail for 250 days for contempt of court. On top of that 19 charges of criminal libel were filed by persons against whom he made accusations during the litigation. He has just been convicted on one charge and awaits trial on the others. He hopes to get out of jail some day.

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THE NEWS

THE DOG AND THE KICKER.

A dog sat out in the midnight chill and howled at the beaming moon; his knowledge of music was strictly nil and his voice was out of tune. And he howled and howled as the hours went by, while dodging the bricks we threw, till the moon was low in the western sky, and his voice

was split in two. And there wasn't a thing at which to howl over which a pup should weep, and the course of the dog was wrong and foul, for people were wild to sleep.

There are plenty of men like that blamed fool hound, who yell when there's nothing wrong, disturbing the country with senseless sound—the knocker's doleful song.

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