

THE OBSERVER

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WAR PROFIT FOR THE HEN.

The American hen is accustomed to praise. Every once in a while some enthusiast, bating upon statistics, proves her to incomparable biped, superior far to the goose that laid the golden egg. The figures do not lie; the fact is that all our hens combined, fancy and scrub stock, mother and incubator reared, lay 30,000,000,000 eggs a year, or 80,000,000 eggs a day.

These figures may not interest the American who cracks an egg between looks at his morning newspaper or the housewife who stirs eggs into a cake without thought of her good fortune. But they are at once a lure and a dismay to the egg eaters of Britain who realize that by comparison the British hen is scandalously inefficient. The British are also full of remorse at the

neglect of the hen in the days of prosperity, when they bought their eggs of Scandinavia and Russia rather than turn their shooting parks into henneries and their ruins into incubators.

As egg imports from Scandinavia decrease the British look across the water at the American hen which, as the English said early in the war, is doing "business as usual." Yet a little while and life producing shells will join the death dealing kind in the export list. Of course we never have more than enough eggs for ourselves and foreign egg buying is sure to raise the price, but who is mean enough to deny the hard working farmer's wife who runs the poultry end of the farm a chance at war profits.

POWDER AND BREAD.

The two problems of the warring nations is tomorrow's powder and tomorrow's bread. Outside of the strategy of the battle line, the chief study of both groups of belligerents has been to produce and secure their own supplies of ammunition and food and to cut off, or interfere with, the supplies for the enemy.

Curiously enough, powder and bread, these two oddly assorted essentials of humanity at the present time, contain large percentages of nitrogen. It is the more difficult to produce, carbon being comparatively easy to secure. Hence when they talk of a food or ammunition supply, it is largely a question of nitrogen. At the present time it is a scarcity of nitrogen that confronts the countries of Europe.

All the most important indispensable foods are combinations of nitrogen, carbon and the war elements in

various proportions. By a singular and grim paradox, all the most violent and lifedestroying explosives are born of the same elements, from the familiar nitre and charcoal of the old fashioned black gunpowder to the most murderous and destructive melinite and shimose. So nitrogen bulks largely in our future happiness as well as our present misery.

Only a few years ago Sir William Crookes raised the warning that the human race was in danger of coming to an end by nitrogen starvation and he made an eloquent argument for his theory.

One of the most important elements in the richness of the soil is the amount of decayed and decaying vegetable or animal matter contained in it, whether in the form of humus from the slow decay and accumulations of hundreds of years of grass or brush and trees, or in the form of barnyard manure or other refuse rich in vegetable and animal remains, or in the shape of some form of commercial fertilizer, such as guano. The accumulation of nitrogen from decayed vegetation is a slow process, but it can be exhausted in 30, 20, yes even in 10 years of persistent cropping and cultivation.

Europeans speak of us as "mercenary." Witnessing the kindly, charitable and unselfish acts of Europeans this criticism should cause us deep humiliation.

Our plant wizard is trying to grow a seedless watermelon. Please don't let it become heartless.

There is said to be a scarcity of goats in this country. However, we have several in mind who are still on the job.

A man in Kansas has just written a book "How to Keep Prosperous." It ought to have a large circulation among ministers and newspaper men.

When the telephone is improved to the extent that one can see the talker there are likely to be fewer morning visits over that instrument by some of the housewives.

Many people say they have stopped reading the dreadful war news, but it may not be so much on account of the horrible details as because they like sentimental love stories.

A woman is as old as the man she wishes were her husband thinks she is.

Chicago authorities will break up all fox trot parties as immoral. Some time ago they regulated saloon closing hours and arrested folks who flirted on the streets. Looks like the Windy City is going to die and was trying to ease its conscience.

Today's Oddest Story

Cleveland, O. Feb. 10.—H. K. Knapp, prone to do what his name implies after the alarm clock rings in the morning, used to get up, shut the thing off and go back to bed and oversleep so much that he got three more alarms, put one in each corner of the room and now, by the time he has made the rounds and shut them all off he's ready to stay up.

Little Boys, Circus Crazy, Lost

Bluffton, Ind. Feb. 10.—Somewhere in the United States two lost little boys are wandering around looking for the circus they dreamed and read and played about so much on. The home place of John Wolverton, near here. Ever since early in June of last year the boys Abner, 15 and Russell, 13, have been gone. Their father and older brother Archie have spent a great deal of time and money running down vague rumors of lost little boys in cities all over the middle west. It is almost a year since they ran away and the little boys have not been found.

John Wolverton is not a rich man. He has a pretty good farm and works hard to keep it up in the right kind of crops. His wife died several years ago and after that Wolverton's interest all centered in his boys and his home. Wolverton doesn't talk much about Abner and Russell, but he watches eagerly for newspaper reports of lost boys, and he keeps much to himself. He has in the last year by his neighbors been looked upon as a heartbroken man.

A neighbor lad who had traveled as a Razor Back, or roustabout with a circus is said to have fired the lads' imaginations with his wonderful stories of life with a circus. It was not long after this boy's return that Abner and Russell slipped out of the farm house one night and ran away. Both the boys are fair, with brown hair and blue eyes and a trifle undersized for their ages. Wolverton offers a reward of \$25, all his resources will allow, for information that will lead to the finding of the boys. His address is in Care Archie Wolverton, 826 West Wiley Avenue, Bluffton, Indiana.

Iowa Newspapers Meet. Des Moines, Ia. Feb. 10.—Nearly 1,000 newspapermen are here today for the opening of the two days' session of the Iowa Press association

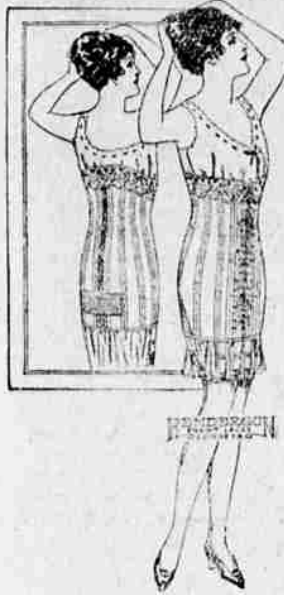
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Watch Developments in This Paper!!!

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Placer Gold Along Snake River.

first of its kind in the middle west. So rapidly has the association grown that it was found necessary to divide the first meeting into sections, one for daily men, one for the weeklies and another for job men.

War News of a Year Ago Today

Six great battles were raging in the Carpathians. The Russians retreated from Czernowitz when the Germans forced a way into Bukovina. Premier Asquith announced that an absolute blockade of all German ports is being considered.

Burial Customs of the Hittites.

Although the tombs of the necropolis had been rifled at an early date, a great deal that is new was learned about the burial customs of the Hittites. Graceful vases, simple in design and undecorated, held the ashes of the cremated body, together with any trinkets the person was wearing at the time of death. A small vase about a foot high was inclosed in a footed vessel of cylindrical shape, which was beautifully decorated in patterns like those of Crete and Cyprus. Around the middle vessel were grouped various dishes containing burial gifts or oil, most of them plain, but some of beautiful shape and as thin as modern china, though unglazed. It can well be seen that these two vessels would protect the ashes from dampness from below, but as both were open at the top there was a large cover, like an enormous bowl, inverted over the other two vessels.—Christian Herald.

Coffin Pasties.

Mince pies now are generally round, but there was a time when they were of a long, coffin shape and were, in fact, often referred to as "coffin pasties." But this somewhat ghoulish name and shape do not appear to have detracted from their popularity. Scogin, for instance, in the edition of his "Jests" published in 1626, is reported to have said on his deathbed, "Masters, I tell you all that stand about mee, if I might live to eate a Christmase pye I care not if I dye by and by after; for Christmase pyes be good meat."—London Chronicle.

Couldn't Get at Him.

Grubbs—Young Blower tells me that at the trial of the last case in which he participated he moved the jurors to tears. Stubbs—Yes, so one of the jurors told me. He said that they were hemmed in by a high railing and two balliffs were constantly on guard. The tears were tears of rage.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

flakes having an average fineness of .945. About \$149,000 has been produced since 1902, the earliest date for which records are available. A little platinum occurs with the gold but not in commercial quantities.

Many dredges and "process" machines have been tried on Snake River, most of them depending on amalgamation for the recovery of the gold, but the sluice and rocker, the sluice supplemented by burlap tables, have proved the most successful.

An account of this region and a bibliography of the literature pertaining to it, with descriptions of a number of typical localities, has been published by the United States Geological Survey in Bulletin 620-L, by J. M. Hill, which may be obtained by addressing the Director of that Survey at Washington.

Most of the gold is in very small

Advertisement for Tru-Blu Grocery featuring CHINAWARE. Text includes: 'HAS A GREAT BARGAIN IN CHINAWARE', 'THIS WEEK. Now is your chance to supply your home with a very nice set of high grade China ware, at the right price. Just think of the price, only \$3.80 for a 36 piece set while they last.', 'CALL MAIN 16.', 'C.J. Black's Grocery Corner Adams and Fir Street Main 16'