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NEW YORK CITY IS TAKING UP FARMING

Government Control of Railroads Is Not Seriously Disturbing—Home Guard of Red Cross Nurses—Prisoners Prefer Cells to Cold Freedom—A Strong Arm Woman Conductor—Commuters Move In Out of the Cold.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—Farming in New York City, except in some of the outlying areas of Queens and Brooklyn Boroughs, has long been a lost art. Its possibilities, even under the handicap of modern improvements and new transit routes, have been strikingly revealed in the report of the Mayor's Committee on food gardens, showing that nearly 12,000 small gardens and 1,535 acres in large plots produced this season a crop of vegetables estimated to be worth \$675,000.

Again the fertility of Manhattan Island's soil is proved. This generation had forgotten about it. But all the residents knew who who garden a hundred or so years ago. As far back as 1879 Daniel Denton, the first Englishman who penned a description of New York, wrote as follows:

"If there be any terrestrial happiness to be had by people of all ranks, especially of an inferior rank, it must certainly be here; here any one may furnish himself with land and live rent free, yea with such a quantity of land that he may weary himself with walking over his fields of corn and all sorts of grain; and let his stock of cattle amount to some hundreds, he needs not fear their want of pasture in the Summer, or fodder in the Winter, the woods affording sufficient supply. For the Summer season, where you have grass as high as a man's knees, nay, as high as his waist, interlaced with peavines and other weeds that cattle much delight in.

"Here you need not trouble the shambles for meat nor bakers and brewers for beer and bread nor run to a linen draper for a supply, every one making their own linen and a great part of their woolen cloth. And how prodigal, if I may so say, hath nature been to furnish the country with all sorts of wild beasts and fowl which every one hath an interest in and may hunt at his pleasure; where besides the pleasure in hunting he may furnish his house with fat venison, turkeys, geese, hoth-hens, cranes, swans, ducks, pigeons, and the like, and wearied with that he may go a-fishing, where the rivers are so furnished that he may supply himself with fish before he can leave off the recreation. If there be any terrestrial Canaan, 'tis surely here where the land floweth with milk and honey."

To the manufacturer and merchant concerned in civilian trade, domestic or foreign, the assumption by the Government of the rail transportation system of the country brings another uncertain factor. It is, however, not calculated to be as disturbing as it would have been had freight carrying been in recent months on anything like a normal basis. But the fact is that the delays in the carriage of both raw materials and finished goods during the greater part of the year have proved the most direct single deterrent to the efficient conduct of business enterprises, and the general opinion seems to be that any change must be for the better. Under the new centralized control there will be, at least, one person at the head who can be appealed to for aid in getting materials needed to keep important industries going and who is invested with the power to see that their railroads are carried out. That there will be a winnowing out gradually of supplies for certain industries which are not of prime importance seems plausible, but there will be no disposition to destroy the organization of any industry whose continuance after the war will be beneficial.

A home guard of Red Cross nurses is doing patriotic duty fighting the "enemies within" in our national encampments.

These nurses have been recruited by the Red Cross from its town and Country Nursing Service and from the ranks of public health nurses who have been doing rural nursing in other parts of the country. They are stationed in the sanitary zones about the encampments, and are being made responsible for the health of the community in these zones.

It has been found by United States health and army authorities that the best way to safeguard encampments against diseases which might be brought to them from the outside, is to keep the homes about the encampments free from such diseases. The nurses therefore are doing home to home work.

Their chief interests are tuberculosis, contagious diseases, and the sanitary conditions which breed them. They are doing infant welfare work, instructing mothers in the feeding and hygienic care of their children and striving to bring up the general health conditions of the districts about the encampments.

HUGE "SUBWAYS" AID BYNG'S DRIVE

Engineers Work for Months Preparing the Way.

PLAN ATTACK AS SURPRISE

Tunnels Constructed From Bases Many Miles in Rear Directly to Advanced Trenches—Batteries of Great Guns and Huge Trench Mortars Sent Forward by the Underground Routes—Attack Is Surprise.

Extensive developments in tunneling subways and other forms of subterranean passages contributed largely to the smashing success of the first phase of the British offensive conducted by the Third army, under General Sir Julian Byng, who was in command of the ill-fated forces at Gallipoli in 1915. Through indefatigable labor covering a period of several months the British army's engineering forces constructed a series of tunnels comparable to New York's four-track subway lines from bases many miles in the rear directly to their advanced trenches, at intervals along the forty-mile front selected for the attack.

It was deemed prudent to adopt this method of preparation in place of the hitherto invariably artillery bombardment. Several factors induced the adoption of the new formula for offensive tactics.

In the first place, one of the principal defensive features of the Hindenburg line was the fosse, or tunnel, running the whole length of the secondary defensive position, with antennae running rearward at intervals. This enabled the Germans to shift and transport troops, munitions and even light pieces underground.

Secondly, the condition of the terrain over which the battle was to be fought was such that it was infinitely better that it be kept solid, dry and firm for the advance of the attacking units, instead of being pounded to a bog of mud and slime by the tremendous hammering of thousands of shells.

Surprise Attack. Thirdly, it was of the utmost value that the thrust should be a surprise attack, as it was well known that the German high command believed firmly that Sir Douglas Haig's attention was concentrated on the Ypres sector.

General Byng's victory was won on the battlefield chosen by von Hindenburg when he retreated to the famous "line" which bears his name in February and March last. As the German troops fell back they systematically devastated the country, felling trees, blowing up whole forests, dynamiting villages and removing every crumb and vestige of cover for advancing troops from the map. They left the view of their observers on ridges in the rear, in captive "sausage" balloons and airplanes.

The British and French pushed forward their lines in contact with the enemy and dug in and entrenched last March when the German retreat stopped at the Hindenburg line, prepared months in advance and admirably protected by barbed wire entanglements on a scale never before seen.

During the early summer preliminary work was begun for the sudden smash which materialized on November 20. From points far in the rear—protected by ridges of villages destroyed during the battle of the Somme in the latter half of 1916, and from the cover of woods and forests which had sprouted new vegetation despite the axes and hatchets of the retreating vandals, the tunnels and "sand-hogs" began their work.

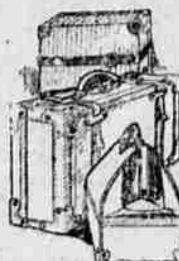
The underground routes leading toward the front were no tortuous subterranean passages with tiny, narrow gauge railways and little cars hauled by mules pulling a few shells to each load. Instead they were fine, large, well ventilated and lighted subways, with standard gauge railways inside and hole trains, propelled by electricity, carrying shells, food and other munitions up toward the front.

By Underground Routes. Entire batteries of the greatest guns ever used in history, as well as the gigantic trench mortars evolved by position warfare, were sent forward by the underground routes, and men in the trenches were relieved by fresh divisions, who traveled in style on the subway trains. Later, on the eve of the attack, whole regiments of cavalry were sent through the tunnels on the heels of the great tanks that lumbered through and held themselves in readiness to start forward.

It was no wonder that the German units occupying the Hindenburg line sectors opposite the front chosen for the British attack, dubbed their line "Eben." No British shelling bothered them in the daytime, and if a few shells were lobbed over during the night, the enemy regarded it as nothing more than the daily "sprinkle." The British had good reason for withholding their artillery fire during the months of preparation. They knew that every shell they fired would call a Krupp projectile in reply, and they did not want too many enemy pieces sprinkling their rear lines, for there would be danger that the subways—even though they were bored deep—how far underground I may not say—would be wrecked by a penetration shell. The underground lines were cut in various places at different times, however, but always repaired.

Plain Clothes for "Cops." With the exception of the traffic squad, Wichita policemen will no longer appear in uniform. Safety Director S. W. Zickler has issued the order and explained that "he did not want to advertise his officers to those who wanted to keep out of the way of the law."

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INSPIRES SPIRIT OF LOYALTY AMONG WOMEN

Patriotic League of the Y. W. C. A. Is Doing Splendid Work.

"The woman's committee is being much encouraged in its work of enrolling the assistance of all American women to help the country, each in her own way, by the work of the Y. W. C. A. in its patriotic league," says Mrs. Phillip North Moore, head of the department of health and recreation of the woman's committee.

"This is a laudable made up especially of young girls, and its idea is to inspire them to adopt the highest standards of womanliness and loyalty to their country. The pledge which they sign reads:

"I pledge myself to express my patriotism;

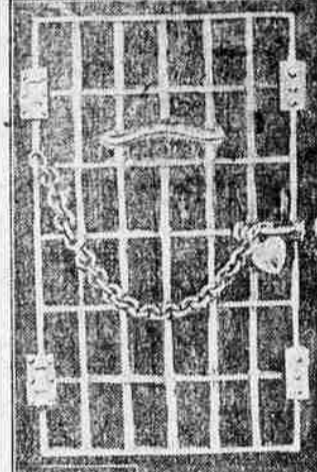
"To do my better than ever before

MEET NEW U. S. OIL ADMINISTRATOR



Mark L. Requa, San Francisco mining engineer and independent oil man, has been named oil administrator under Fuel Administrator Garfield. Requa has been in charge of the commercial relations division of the food administration.

AS BADGE OF HONOR



whatever work I can do, "By rendering whatever special service I can at this time to my community and country. "By living up to the highest standards of honor and by helping others to do the same" "Especially in connection with the dangers arising from the large training camps all over the country, it is valuable to have organizations of young girls who can be reached by information and advice as to their proper conduct in these unusual conditions. An appeal to the honor and patriotism of the girls themselves will give them a very much clearer idea of their own obligations than any number of warnings, or than the ordinary safeguards and restrictions.

"It is an exceptional privilege so to direct the spirit of youth and patriotism that it may be a power and not a peril in these days of trial."

Generals Average Sixty Years.

The ages of generals on the new war council average about sixty years. The ages of some of them are as follows:

Chief of Staff Hines, sixty-four; Major General Crozier, sixty-three; Major General Weaver, sixty-three; Major General Sharpe, fifty-seven; General Scott, sixty-four; General Black, sixty-two.

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A Gloom Chaser "A HERO'S FALL"

STAR THEATRE

WILSON IS BLINDED SAYS CHAMBERLAIN

President Himself Does Not Know Existing Situation, Is Claim.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Senator Chamberlain today said to a newspaper representative:

"This fight against me by the president is precipitated without justice and mainly, I believe, the cause is that the president himself does not know the existing situation.

"Secretary Baker has been insisting publicly since last December 1 that the army was fully equipped and prepared. Now our investigations and reports from division commanders have shown that shortage in equipment ranging from 1 to 100 per cent existed. Investigation has shown that the army was wholly devoid of howitzers, trench mortars, machine guns and, until recently, rifles. Our heavy ordnance has been supplied by France and we will not get heavy guns for several months.

"Investigation has shown the entire work of the quartermaster's corps with \$8,000,000 available was turned over to Samuel Eliotman, chairman of the supplies committee of the National Defense Council, who also reduced the wool percentage in army uniforms from all wool to 50 per cent wool and 50 per cent shoddy which, in my opinion, deteriorated the uniform in warmth and durability.

"Substantiating my charge of inefficiency, the heads of the ordnance and quartermaster's corps, Generals Crozier and Sharpe, have practically been retired from their duties and placed on inactive duty.

"So my statement that the mili-

RUSSIAN WOMAN IS HOSPITAL HEAD



MME. DE SLOECKL, Russian society leader in London, is in charge of the hospital at Harrogate, England, which was founded by the Grand Duchess George of England, and is prominent in other war relief work.

tary establishment had broken down across correct, and so our committee believed and authorized the introduction of a bill providing for a coalition head controlled by law, and a war council to handle, not the conduct of the war, but of supplies. The president objects, evidently because it takes away his own power, while in a matter of fact it takes no authority from him, as commander-in-chief of the army. The president says I distorted the truth, therefore I did not tell all the truth. This compels me now to tell all the truth, and some of it will not be entirely creditable to the war department.

"I don't blame the president, for I don't believe he knows the situation developed by the committee of investigation. It is not a difference between the president and me, but between him and our military committee."

Senator Chamberlain would not predict the outcome of the fight, which evidently will be taken up in the senate Thursday, to sidetrack his bill and refer it to the naval affairs committee, where it would be buried.

Joina Reserve System. PORTLAND, Jan. 24.—(Special.)—Another Oregon bank operator under state charter has become a member of the Federal reserve system. It is the Enterprise State Bank, at the metropolis of Walla Walla county.

The Observer desires to secure the names of every Living County man in the United States Army or Navy service. Send their names and correct address, name of company and division to The Observer.



Preparedness

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