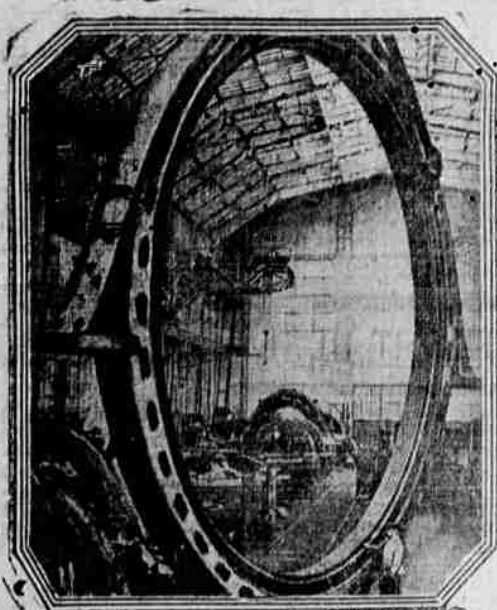


Shall Uncle Sam Scrap His Umbrella



By GARRET SMITH.

SHOULD a man, caught in a heavy shower without an umbrella and forced to buy one, as soon as he thinks the shower is over, break up the umbrella and drop it in the nearest rubbish can?

In other words, should the United States, having learned during the World War a much needed lesson in military preparedness, slump back again into its old defenseless state?

To say that Uncle Sam was caught recently practically without umbrellas in a heavy shower and that he succeeded in buying on short notice and at great cost a pretty good assortment of these protectors is old stuff.

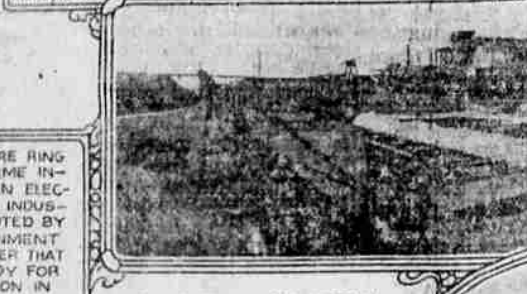
Now there is a pretty general feeling that these umbrellas should be preserved and read for use. Certainly that is the purpose of the War Department. But that purpose seems to be no clear in minds of some of our citizens. Proposals have been made in certain quarters, which if carried out, would be equivalent to scrapping one of the most important of Uncle Sam's umbrellas but to making it almost impossible to replace it.

Forty foot armature ring product of war time industry of a German electric company—such industries were promoted by the imperial government in peace time in order that they might be ready for military production in war time.

case of need. It is proposed to strip off the cover and ribs and use it as a sort of inferior fair-weather walking-stick. At the same time measures would be taken that would put the makers of umbrellas out of business.

The particular umbrella in question is the ammunition supply, specifically the domestic production of nitrates for the manufacture of high explosives.

ONE OF NEBRASKA'S NUMEROUS POTASH REDUCTION PLANTS—AN INDUSTRY LESS THAN FOUR YEARS OLD WHICH IS FREEING US OF DEPENDENCE ON THE FOREIGN SUPPLY OF THIS FERTILIZER INGREDIENT.

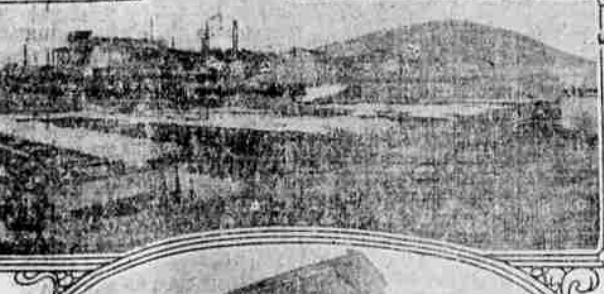


VIEW OF BIG CHILEAN NITRATE PLANT—OUR CHIEF RELIANCE FOR RAW MATERIAL FOR NITRATE EXPLOSIVES WAS FORMERLY ON THIS FIELD 4,500 MILES AWAY.

ous a pretty important military umbrella in case of a sudden heavy war shower.

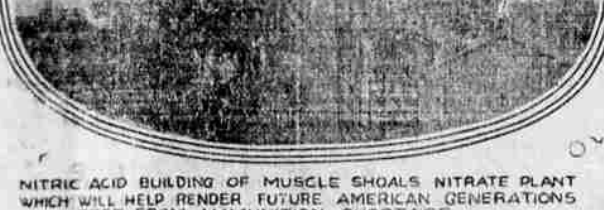
When the World War broke the United States was exactly in this position. It was dependent almost entirely upon a single foreign country for a chemical—nitrate of soda—from which to produce nitric acid. This nitrate of soda had to be brought from Chile over a sea route 4,500 miles long by way of the Panama Canal or 9,000 miles by way of the Straits of Magellan.

The Government, therefore, when we became involved in the World War, found it necessary to provide for the manufacture of a quantity of nitrate within our own territory. Adopting a process by which nitrate



NITRIC ACID BUILDING OF MUSCLE SHOALS NITRATE PLANT WHICH WILL HELP RENDER FUTURE AMERICAN GENERATIONS FREE FROM AMMUNITION SHORTAGE.

trates for fertilizer purposes were being made from the atmosphere by an American company, the Government contracted with the Air



trates Corporation, which had been formed for the purpose, to build a plant at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, on the Tennessee River, for the man-

DUMPING COKE FROM A BY-PRODUCT COKE OVEN—AN IMPORTANT NITRATE PRODUCING AUXILIARY IN CASE OF WAR.

ufacture of ammonium nitrate, an explosive for bursting bombs and shells. On this site in less than a year was completed and put into operation a huge ammonium nitrate plant, the largest in the world, at a cost of over \$10,000,000.

Nevertheless, great as has been the cost of the plant so far, it has been worth it from the standpoint of military preparedness. If it should cost as much more to keep it in a state of preparedness it would be worth it, in the opinion of the War Department.

Now, part of the process of manufacturing ammonium nitrate is identical with part of that used in manufacturing a valuable fertilizer ingredient. The suggestion has been made, therefore, that the plant be used during peace times for the manufacture of fertilizer materials and kept in good running condition, ready for its original use at any time with a minimum of alterations.

But the question arises whether the Government can afford to go into the fertilizer business in competition with private enterprise. This is the proposal, which, as I have said, was equivalent to making a walking stick out of this important umbrella and at the same time would put out of business pri-

vate enterprises which would be able to manufacture new umbrellas in case of a sudden storm. Certain well meaning persons who believe that Government operation of industries is a panacea of all economic ills thought they saw a great opportunity to benefit American agriculture by converting this enormous plant into a fertilizer factory, owned and operated by the Government, which would produce fertilizer for the farmers of the country at a much lower price than that at which private corporations had found it possible to sell it. In other words, by Government competition they would practically put out of business the present makers of fertilizer and permanently discourage any future developments of private industry along that line. They lost sight of the sole purpose for which the Muscle Shoals plant was built.

The Muscle Shoals plant, huge as it is, can produce in case of war only a fraction of the high explosives necessary to make this country safe through a long conflict with a nation that would control the sea. Any proper policy of military preparedness, therefore, should aim to encourage rather than discourage all private enterprises whose plants engage in the production of those products that could be turned in time of war to the production of high explosives.

In fact, this policy is the one that has been followed by the other big powers of the world. Germany in particular saw the folly of endeavoring to rely entirely upon government owned and operated plants for her military supplies and for a long time made it a point to encourage in every way private industries, which could be called upon in case of war to make munitions.

In view of the purpose for which the Muscle Shoals plant was built, it seems hardly likely, then, that any proposal to turn it into an agency for crippling private enterprises will gain any headway.

It is pretty evident, at any rate, that the proposal to operate the Muscle Shoals plant as a Government fertilizer project is not popular, although the chief argument against it, as outlined above, has not been very generally understood. The newspaper editors of the country have voted overwhelmingly against the Government entering the fertilizer business and have given it as their opinion that the majority of their readers are equally opposed to the Government entering into any kind of competition with private capital. To a questionnaire on the proposition of Government ownership and operation sent out recently 5,154 editors replied. Of these 4,493, or 86 per cent, gave it as their judgment that the people of their community were overwhelmingly against the Government competing in business with its own citizens. In addition to the question on the general proposition, the editors were asked for their personal opinion as to the advisability of the Government taking over the fertilizer business. Eighty-six per cent of the editors gave an unqualified "no" to this question.

WILL STUDY BREAD MANUFACTURE AT CHEMISTS MEET

PORTLAND, Apr. 26.—Bread manufacturers will be the topic for discussion when Oregon chemists meet at Reed College, April 30, according to Dr. Ralph K. Strong, head of the Reed chemistry department, who is president of the Oregon section of the American chemical society. The club will visit the Portland Flouring Mills and United States bakery in the afternoon, and after a dinner in the Reed college commons, will hear talks on the chemistry of the flouring industry and baking by I. O.

Juvrid and F. B. Ward, of the Portland Flouring mills, and J. S. Jones, of the Oregon Agricultural College. The meeting is the third in a series dealing with Oregon industries.

UNION MOTOR ELECTS ITS DIRECTORS FOR YEAR

At the annual meeting of the Union Motor company directors for the ensuing year were elected this morning. All but two of the new directors served on the board during the past year. The new members are T. B. Johnson, who succeeds the late J. W. Chandler, and C. A. Galloway, who succeeds R. A. Mar.

France has 800,000 men under arms.

LACK OF FUEL IS CAUSE OF FIRE

Fire early this afternoon damaged the A. O. Chapman residence at 2707 North Depot street to the extent of \$100. The fire was caused by a stovepipe going through the roof setting fire to the roof. There was no fire. Insurance to the extent of \$100 was carried on the building. The fire department was out 25 minutes, the call coming in at 1 o'clock. The chemical extinguished the blaze. This was the eighth fire during the present month.

Many a train of thought carries no freight.

One More Credit Given China.
Capt. Stanley Flower, director of the zoological gardens at Giza, Cairo, Egypt, has prepared considerable data on the subject, which he obtained from authoritative sources. According to Captain Flower, though the ancient Egyptians kept wild animals in captivity, the first zoological garden of which there is definite knowledge was founded by the first emperor of the Chou dynasty, about eleven B. C. In China, it was called the "Intelligence Park" and had a scientific and educational object.

Much Better.
Better to put your best foot forward than to depend on the left hand foot of a rabbit.—Boston Transcript.

Placing of Furniture.

To make your friends at their ease in your home you must first make them comfortable. Many persons are embarrassed and put at a disadvantage, through no fault of their own, by careless arrangement of furniture. Rugs and footstools so placed as to trip the unwary make many an entrance so awkward as to spoil all pleasure from the start. A fragile table holding a costly Chinese lamp and placed too close to a lounge invites disaster.

Babylonian Division of Time.
The Babylonians gave us an hour with 60 minutes. They divided the sun's path into 24 parings, a measure equal to about four and a half miles, or the distance a Babylonian soldier could hike in an hour with full pack. The astronomers of that day somehow worked it out that the sun made the same progress. They divided the sun's whole course into 24 parings, or 240 degrees, each paring, or hour, being divided into 60 minutes, and then, having fallen on evil days, they banded the system down to the Greeks, who passed it on.

Certain Books.

Certain books seem to be written, not that we might learn from them, but in order that we might see how much the author knows.—Goethe.

Health Before Everything.

Health is the essential factor in productivity, prosperity and happiness, and hence in the advancement of civilization.—Sir Frederick Treves.



Beautiful Lake Tahoe

LAKE TAHOE lies on the California-Nevada line in the Sierra Nevada Mountains—fifteen miles south of Truckee and two hundred miles east of San Francisco. The marvelous color of Tahoe varies from the deepest indigo to brilliant emerald. Surrounding the lake are lofty peaks—some seven thousand to over ten thousand feet high.

The motorist may reach Tahoe by many routes, which has given rise to the slogan "All Roads Lead to Tahoe."

And whether you go to Tahoe from the east, west, north or south, you will always find a service station or garage displaying the Red Crown sign.

Look for that sign when you need gasoline. It is your assurance of getting an efficient gasoline—with a continuous chain of boiling points.



STANDARD OIL COMPANY
(California)
The Gasoline of Quality

You Don't Need To Wear Yourself Out Getting Supper Ready.

Instead, let expert chefs cook the meat for you. You will find—as many other women have—that Package Meats are a great help in saving your time and strength.

When you buy these you will be delighted with the fine quality and the economy of these meats (as there is no bone or gristle to throw away), whether it is Corned Beef, Dried Beef, Veal Loaf, Vienna Sausage, or one of the many other delicacies that you are serving.

Full Line Carried By

PATTISON BROTHERS GROCERY

PHONE MAIN 80

—THE HOME OF AMERICAN MEAT FLOUR—

SUPERFINE BREAD

Made with milk



Butter Horns, 10c each
Crisp and flaky, and filled with delicious Butter Scotch filling. Tied with Egg Nog icing.
Eccle Cakes, 3 for 10c
A delicious flaky paste, bun, filled with Eccle's filling. Nice for afternoon tea or with fruit
Coffee Cakes. Made with Sweet Milk and

Eggs. Large filled with 20c each, small filled 5c each
60 dozen 100lb flour sacks \$1.00 doz while they last

Macpherson's Bakery

NEW TODAY

PLAIN—sewing done. Call Red 291. 4-28-21p

FOR RENT—Strictly modern seven room furnished house. Phone Red 2191. 4-28-21p

WANTED—Good used electric washer. Phone Black 4092. 4-26-21

FOR SALE—No. 1 potatoes, \$1.00 per sack. Call Black 202. 4-26-21p

WANTED—Furnished or partly furnished house. Phone Red 1181. Walter Lees. 4-26-21p

FOR RENT—Furnished apartment for couple. Inquire 2001 Second St. 4-26-21

FOUND—lady who left chamois gloves in Red Cross Drug Store around the 12th of April may have same by calling at Observer and paying for this ad. 4-26-21

NOTICE
Clifford George and R. K. Ford have moved to 3121 1/2 K. Ford St. Phone 2191. 4-26-21

New MAY Records just in. W. H. BOHNENKAMP CO. 4-26-21