

REACH LIMIT IN ABSORPTION

Small Things Like the Turmoil of a Great War Cannot Disturb Chess Devotees.

To its devotees chess is the most absorbing of all mental activities, the game that above all others brings complete forgetfulness of the world to those who play and those who watch the moves, observes a writer in the New York Herald.

A striking example of this self-absorption has been shown recently in the rooms of a local chess club when distinguished experts struggled for supremacy in the minute field heedless of the stupendous four-year struggle that was fast drawing to a close on Europe's shell-torn, blood-soaked board. What was the reckless slaughter of thousands of German soldiers in comparison with the sacrifice of a single ivory pawn standing guard before its queen? Which one of those who moved the pieces or of the greater number who watched them with furrowed brows and fast-beating hearts thought of the Kaiser's peace offer while the queen's gambit was passing before their eyes? The pope may lift his voice in words of solemn counsel, but they heed him not. The only ecclesiastical power that they recognize is that of the mitred bishop sweeping into the heart of the enemy's country and smiting the rock as it stands.

To read the printed accounts of this tournament is to recall the old Fock picture of two chess players carried in their chairs from a burning building with the board between them. Nor do we wonder at the fact that it was only while absorbed in his daily game that the exiled Napoleon could forget Sir Hudson Lowe.

EPIGRAPHS PROVE A PUZZLE

Explanation of Hieroglyphics Admittedly Very Old Will Surely Be of the Greatest Interest.

Amateur archeologists of California are endeavoring to interest professional scientists of the East in the epigraphs which abound on the rocks of Round Valley, not far from the city of Bishop, and which are believed to be as old, if not older, than the hieroglyphics of earliest Egypt, to which they bear a strange resemblance.

It is believed by many that the strange markings constituted the names by which ancient tribes marked the source of water supply for the benefit of those of their number who lived roving lives.

These hieroglyphics have never been deciphered, although they are matters of record in the leading museums of the country. It is said, The Indian tribes now living in the vicinity declare they are the work of the Indians of North America and that they antedate all aboriginal lore.

Some who have examined the strange markings in the flinty bowlders say the hieroglyphics closely resemble those of earliest Egypt and may replace the latter as the first written language of humanity.

They are found always in the vicinity of water supplies, the same markings discovered near Bishop appearing also on rocks extending through the Canadian border, down through Washington, Oregon and California to the Mexican line and beyond. This fact, it is argued, indicates that prehistoric tribes marked a highway for their migrating members or for their armies, giving specific directions as to the best water supplies along the way.

French Live Stock on the Decline.

The United States food administration has called attention to the large decrease in live stock in France since the beginning of the war. In cattle this decrease amounted to 2,599,000 up to December, 1917; in sheep the decrease amounted to 6,238,000 head; in hogs to 2,809,000 head. In the period since owing to the food shortage there has been a still further shrinkage. Figures like these indicate that there will be a large and insistent demand for live stock from this country for the foreign trade for many years after peace is finally established.

Good American Family.

Thirty years ago a girl came to this country from Russia to marry Louis Fleisher, an immigrant from the same country. They settled in Springfield, Mass., and when the United States entered the war they had four sons, the oldest 23. All of them entered the army and the eldest has distinguished himself in battle. He is the young man who, having lost an arm and an eye while carrying ammunition through shell fire, optimistically exclaimed: "I'm the luckiest Jew in the army. Any other man in my place would have been killed."—American Israelite.

"Olive" Oil.

Over 500 different types of husked rice or paddy were under examination last year at one of the government agricultural farms in Burma, and over 200 types of sassaum were grown at another. Hitherto much of the sassaum, grown in Burma has been exported to Europe, where it is used for the production of the so-called "olive oil" for which France and Italy have long been famed.

Try a Tricorn.

Stop to think how often a certain clerk in the bakery department of a certain downtown store helps you to decide on a round marshmallow cake or a square chocolate in preference to a three-cornered devil's food.

"Look at the tricorners left again," snickered the white-aproned diplomat. "Never catch me rootin' for tri's; too hard to wrap."—Indianapolis News.

RECORD PRICE FOR SPEECH

Chauncey Depew Tells of Occasion When a Few Spoken Words Were Worth Much Money.

In commenting upon the death of Mrs. Russell Sage, Chauncey M. Depew, who knew Mrs. Sage for 40 years and was an intimate associate of her husband for a longer period, told how he made a \$120,000 speech at her suggestion.

Mr. Depew stated that although Mr. Sage accumulated a vast fortune he rarely gave away any money, adding that the reason for this was the confidence which he reposed in the judgment of his wife as an able and experienced philanthropist. He said that years ago he received a letter from Mrs. Sage inviting him to make an address at the Emma Willard school, at Troy, N. Y., upon the occasion of the donation by Mr. Sage to the school of a large sum of money for use in erecting a building. This was the school of which Mrs. Sage was a graduate.

"I replied," said Mr. Depew, "that I was so overwhelmed with engagements to speak that it would be impossible for me to accept the invitation. In answer I received by special messenger a note from Mrs. Sage, saying: 'Russell is going to give \$120,000. He will not give one cent unless you make the speech. This is Russell's first excursion into this field. Don't you think he ought to be encouraged?'"

"My immediate reply was: 'I will make that speech.'"

COMPLETE CHAOS IN RUSSIA

Inevitable Anarchy as the Result of Insufficient Supplies of Food for the People.

By far the most terrible toll of the Russian winter will be taken in the peasant villages, the home of nine-tenths of Russia's 180,000,000. Oliver M. Saylor writes in the Saturday Evening Post. The sullen and defiant muzhik, who has planted for himself and only for himself, hasn't taken into account the possibility that superior force from the city or from his own or a neighboring village may seize his grain. When the calamity befalls, an endless train of disaster and bloodshed and starvation will follow in its wake.

Reprisal on some weaker peasant will be the next step, and from that the flame will spread to virulent border warfare with whole villages on the trail to plunder the grain bins of others or entrenched to protect their own. In some districts, even before I left, this most cruel form of civil strife had broken out.

I contemplated returning from Petrograd to Moscow by sleigh overland in case the German advance enveloped the railroad outlets. Careful investigation, however, disclosed the fact that machine guns, brought home from the front, were mounted on all the roads leading into many villages and travelers approached them at their peril.

World's Greatest Troopship.

One of the devoted women who have not spared themselves at the emergency aid rooms told this story among the flying needles the other day to her co-workers. A letter from the front has brought the intelligence:

A pompous German major had fallen into the hands of our valorous Pennsylvania troops, and after they had questioned him, he ventured to ask them for information.

"How many men have you on this side of the water?" he inquired.

"Two million," answered a young lieutenant.

"How did you get them over?" was the incredulous query of the Hun.

"One boat brought them all over," was the answer.

The German stared. "How so? What boat was that?"

The American gave the German a searching look. "The Lusitania," he answered, quietly.—Philadelphia Leader.

Tallow Dips in Denmark.

Denmark has a lighting problem so serious that the Danish government recently purchased 400 tons of tallow from which to make candles, Commercial Agent Normal Anderson reports from Copenhagen.

"There is a scarcity of kerosene also, and electricity is, of course, not available to the isolated farmhouse," says Mr. Anderson, who quotes from the Tidsskrift for Industri, which, in discussing the possibilities of acetylene and alcohol illumination, states: "Acetylene may now legally be used and may be included in fire insurance risks. As a result the manufacture of acetylene lamps has flourished greatly and at the end of the year 190 types had been put on the market."—Exchange.

Yperite, New Poison Gas.

J. Bandoline and J. de Pollakoff (Bulletin de l'Academie de Medicine) call the reader's attention to the efficiency of hot air in the treatment of burns caused by yperite, a gas used by the Germans in their offensive of March, 1918. These burns, even when very small, cause extremely sharp pain and sleeplessness. A number of cases were rapidly healed by hot air after various treatments had failed.

Oh, Boy!

The war department recently invited bids for the following to supply 125 regiments: Seventeen thousand five hundred sets of boxing gloves, 7,000 baseball bats, 21,100 baseballs, 35,000 playground balls, 3,000 rugby footballs, 7,000 soccer footballs, 350 volley balls and 1,750 medicine balls.

IN THEIR LAST LONG SLEEP

Beautiful Spot in Which Have Been Laid American Soldiers Who Died in Liberty's Cause.

On the wooded slope of a steep hill that rises high over a great bend in the River Seine lies a little plot of earth that is as much America as is the national cemetery at Arlington or the hallowed ground of Gettysburg. It is a quiet and peaceful spot, for although Paris is near—the slender pinnacle of the Eiffel tower is in plain view over the trees—the city is separated from the American cemetery at Surmesnes by the green expanse of the Bois de Boulogne. The heart of the city that is the heart of the world is not five miles away; you would think it at least fifty. It is a spot far removed from war, and yet there are enough of the accoutrements of war about it to remind the visitor that the 700 graves here are the graves of soldiers—mostly of soldiers who died of their wounds on the journey in from the front or at one of the hospitals in or near the capital. Further up the slope from the ramparts of the fort of Mont Valerien, one in the chain of defenses that surround Paris. During hostilities planes flew from field to field, the drone of their motors never so clear as in this quiet countryside. And more warlike still, an occasional cannon shot echoed from a testing ground in the neighborhood. The little cemetery itself, with its well-aligned rows of white wooden crosses, will some day be as green and fair a God's acre as any in France. It is becoming so as fast as the loving hands of the living can convert it into one. Even in these fresh fall days, the graves are all abloom, and hardy shrubs add a touch of somber beauty to the little corners and round points.—Stars and Stripes, Paris.

WAR DEMAND FOR PLATINUM

Is Essential in Production of Sulphuric Acid, Indispensable in Manufacture of Explosives.

Two universally known products—one a rare metal, the other a common acid—have lately assumed importance that is mystifying to the laity. Platinum has become virtually the king of metals, and sulphuric acid the king of chemicals. The reasons for this are most simple. Platinum is obtained chiefly from the Ural mountains. Owing to chaotic conditions in Russia, little of it is being mined. It is absolutely essential in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Without a small amount of it being present, oxygen, water and sulphur dioxide will not unite chemically. Sulphuric acid, on the other hand, was probably the most indispensable product used in the prosecution of the war. Its tremendous affinity for water made it vitally important in the manufacture of high explosives. For instance, one obtains a fairly harmless liquid by mixing glycerin and nitric acid. If sulphuric acid is added, it combines the two chemically by taking an atom of hydrogen and one of oxygen from the nitric acid, an atom of hydrogen from the glycerin, forming water, and taking it unto itself. One then has nitroglycerin. In a similar manner sulphuric acid is needed for the manufacture of gunpowder and TNT. Thus we had the peculiar cycle of circumstances that made it unpatriotic for an American to have in his possession more than an ounce of platinum in the form of jewelry. Incidentally, however, there is said to be good reason for the belief that a very large proportion of the so-called platinum in modern jewelry is composed wholly or at least in part of cheaper metals.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Substitute for Tea.

It is said that there are now on the market as a substitute for tea the leaves of a plant which Niebuhr described as long ago as 1775. The plant is the Catha edulis, or Arabian tea, which is cultivated or grown wild on the East African coast from Abyssinia to Natal, in the Nile valley, and in Arabia. The leaves are called by the natives "kat," and when boiled give off a liquor which is said to be a powerful stimulant. The natives drink this tea before starting on long marches or other strenuous labors. The tea is said to have a pleasant aroma and to be useful against neuritis, while in many regions the plant is considered to be a protection against plague.

All He Had Left.

The conjuror was giving a sleight of hand performance. One of his feats was to make a marked dollar bill disappear in the sight of the crowd, which he did successfully.

"That marked dollar bill will be found in the vest pocket of that gentleman," said the conjuror, pointing with his magic wand at Sam Lawsing. All eyes were riveted on Sam, who advanced to the front, took some money from his vest pocket and said: "Boss, here's your change. Ah've had two beers and a cigar out of that dollar you told me to keep in my pocket till you called for it."

Peace Ambassadors.

General Mangin possesses a vein of sardonic humor. When, in the autumn of 1918, he had helped to undo in a few days the work for which the crown prince during eight months had sacrificed the flower of the Kaiser's army, at Verdun, Germany launched a peace offensive. Reviewing his men one day, Mangin eyed them over and remarked with a grim smile, "Ah, you're the sort of peace ambassadors the republic wants."



Compare the Food Energy Content of Various Food Products with

COLUMBIA BRAND OLEOMARGARINE

"THE THRIFT SPREAD"

Porterhouse Steak.....	1100 calories per lb.	Entire Wheat Flour.....	1650 calories per lb.
Mutton Chops.....	1415 calories per lb.	Rice.....	1620 calories per lb.
Cream Celery Soup.....	235 calories per lb.	White Bread.....	1290 calories per lb.
Chicken.....	305 calories per lb.	Granulated Sugar.....	3750 calories per lb.
Salmon.....	915 calories per lb.	Potatoes.....	295 calories per lb.
Eggs.....	635 calories per lb.	Tomatoes.....	100 calories per lb.
Milk.....	310 calories per lb.	Apples.....	190 calories per lb.

(The above figures taken from U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bulletin 142)

Columbia Brand Oleomargarine Contains 3410 Calories to the Pound

and saves a worth-while sum on your grocery bill. Tastes good on bread—fine for frying and baking—sweet, pure, wholesome—not touched by hand in manufacture or packing.

CHURNED FRESH DAILY—PUT UP IN WAXED ODORPROOF CARTONS

A QUALITY PRODUCT OF THE

UNION MEAT CO.

PORTLAND, OREGON

HUNGER DRAWS THE MAP



A food map of Europe today shows not a single country in which the future does not hold threat of serious difficulties and only a small part which is not rapidly approaching the famine point. With the exception of the Ukraine only those countries which have maintained marine commerce have sufficient food supplies to meet actual needs until next harvest, and even in the Ukraine, with stores accumulated on the farms, there is famine in the large centers of population. Belgium and northern France, as well as Serbia, appear on the hunger map distinct from the rest of Europe because they stand in a different relation from the other nations to the people of the United States. America has for four years maintained the small war rations of Belgium and northern France and is already making special efforts to care for their increased after-the-war needs, which, with those of Serbia, must be included in this plan, are urgent in the extreme and must have immediate relief. The gratitude of the Belgian nation for the help America has extended to her during the war constitutes the strongest appeal for us to continue our work there. The moment the German armies withdrew from her soil and she was established once more in her own sent of government the little nation's first thought was to express her gratitude to the Commission for Relief in Belgium for preserving the lives of millions of her citizens. Germany, on the other hand, need not figure in such a map for America because there is no present indication that we shall be called on at all to take thought for the food needs of Germany. Germany probably can care for her own food problem if she is given access to shipping and is enabled to distribute food to the cities with dense populations, which are the trouble centers. England, France, the Netherlands and Portugal, all of which have been maintained from American supplies, have sufficient food to meet immediate needs, but their future presents serious difficulties. The same is true of Spain and the northern neutral countries—Norway, Sweden and Denmark—whose ports have been open and who have been able to draw to some degree upon foreign supplies. Most of Russia is already in the throes of famine, and 40,000,000 people there are beyond the possibility of help. Before another spring thousands of them inevitably must die. This applies as well to Poland and practically throughout the Baltic regions, with conditions most serious in Finland. Bohemia, Serbia, Roumania and Montenegro have already reached the famine point and are suffering a heavy toll of death. The Armenian population is falling each week as hunger takes its toll, and in Greece, Albania and Roumania so serious are the food shortages that famine is near. Although starvation is not yet imminent, Italy, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Turkey are in the throes of serious stringencies. In order to fulfill America's pledge in world relief we will have to export every ton of food which can be handled through our ports. This means at the very least a minimum of 20,000,000 tons compared with 6,000,000 tons pre-war exports and 11,820,000 tons exported last year, when we were bound by the ties of war to the European allies. If we fail to lighten the black spots on the hunger map or if we allow any portions to become darker the very peace for which we fought and bled will be threatened. Revolt and anarchy inevitably follow famine. Should this happen we will need in other parts of Europe a repetition of the Russian debacle and our fight for world peace will have been in vain.