

WAR WIND BLOWS IN THE SHAPE OF

Shoes and Other Supplies
Demanded of Us by
Fighting Nations.

THE trouble with us is that we are too rich; too many of us have so much money we wouldn't know what to do with more if we had it. That's why we haven't more readily grasped the opportunities offered us through the European war." This was the opinion expressed by Thomas A. Edison in an interview in Cleveland.

At the same time there appeared in the New York Times articles showing orders given in America for war supplies and other materials by the warring nations of Europe. Some of the biggest of these are given here:

New England manufacturers of shoes have already booked orders for 2,200,000 pairs for export to the European belligerents. Negotiations are under way for further orders, but some manufacturers hesitate because the profit is hard to calculate.

France, which has already placed large orders, desires hobnailed boots for her soldiers. These must be made by hand, and it is a question as to how expensive the hobnailing process will be. One manufacturer has installed special machinery for this purpose.

A company which received an order for 200,000 pairs for France recently has had the order increased to 500,000 pairs. It is debating whether to increase its facilities and accept an order for 1,000,000 pairs of boots. Another company is making 500,000 pairs of boots for Greece.

Boom in Leather Also.

There is a corresponding boom in leather. One company, with an annual turnover of \$12,000,000, is running its factories day and night at 125 per cent capacity. Before the war it was running at 40 per cent capacity. Most of the leather is for England and is to be made into boots there for the army. So far England has bought no boots in the United States, but is expected to place orders soon. Its demand for leather has put up the price 4 to 6 cents a foot.

Twenty thousand additional head of horses are to be purchased in Missouri and southern Illinois by agents of the British, French and Russian governments, according to reports in live stock circles in St. Louis. It is said that the agents of the various governments have been instructed to make the purchases.

A uniform price of \$270 is being paid for each horse.

The French agents also have bought 100,000 barrels of flour and great quantities of other provisions in St. Louis, and orders have been placed with local shoe factories for thousands of pairs of shoes.

Germany Buys Horses.

The German government is said to be offering \$600 to \$800 a head for horses delivered in Germany.

War orders for clothing, trucks, harness, tinned meats, and the like in the Chicago and neighboring markets amount to between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000, and purchasing agents of the British and French governments are still buying. England has \$3,000,000 gold in a Chicago bank to be used for purchases. The meat packers have enough European orders on hand to keep them running full time for a year.

The opposing governments have agents watching the purchases of each other in this market. They begin by apparently sincere correspondence about prices and quantities, but their queries invariably lead to details of transport. With this information their warships are kept on the lookout for shipments to hostile governments.

From Hartford, Conn., within a few weeks, 1,700 machine lathes of moderate capacity, such as twelve to fourteen inches, have been shipped to Europe. One thousand more of these lathes are required, the whole to cost \$1,500,000. The order will exhaust the present stock of such lathes in the United States. Arms and cartridge plants are working overtime on machine guns, pistols and ammunition, and these eventually find their way to Europe, though the manufacturers deal only with their regular American agents.

The effect of the war upon Pacific coast staples is shown in a tabulation prepared in San Francisco by the chamber of commerce.

Barley this year was a bumper crop. The exports from San Francisco for the last three months reached the unprecedented total of 3,785,452 quintals, as against 332,801 for the corresponding period in 1913.

For canned fruits the figures are 789,003 cases this year, against 523,039 in 1913, and for canned salmon the tally stands 694,987 cases this year, 206,803 cases last year.

Big Order For Canned Meats.

An order for 15,000,000 pounds of canned meats, valued at \$1,500,000, to go to Europe, has been received by a packing company of Oklahoma City. Additional orders for dry salt pork amount to more than the supply in sight.

While admitting the existing depres-

GOOD TO AMERICA ORDERS OF GOODS

Trouble With Us Is That
We Are Too Rich, Says
Thomas A. Edison.

son in the iron and steel trade, due to the war in Europe, Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel corporation, addressing the American Iron and Steel Institute, in session in Birmingham, Ala., declared himself an optimist and predicted a considerable improvement in the next three months.

Further, he declared that this country, with its vast wealth and resources, should become the financial, industrial and commercial center of the world. Opportunities, he added, never were better.

"Without particularizing," said the speaker, "it would seem safe to predict that in many important respects business conditions in the United States for the next three months at least will be better than they have been for the last three months. I do not hesitate to say, with emphasis, that the opportunity for success and progress in this country is greater than ever before."

War Loss Predicted.

Incidentally, in discussing the war and its effects, Judge Gary expressed the opinion that if the conflict should be maintained with its present violence for eighteen months the loss of life would be 4,000,000 and the property loss \$35,000,000,000.

"Undoubtedly," he said, "it would be to the best interests of all the nations engaged in the present war and to the world at large if the integrity and geographical lines of each of these nations could be substantially preserved."

About 200 members of the Iron and Steel Institute, of which Judge Gary is president, heard the address.

Discussing conditions in the iron and steel industry, Judge Gary said:

"I am an optimist in principle as well as in practice. There is always a bright side, although it may be temporarily obscured. However, nothing is to be gained by closing our eyes to well known and clearly recognized facts, and at present we are not very prosperous in our lines. This is reflected in the published reports of some of the larger companies. The president of one declares that 'earnings from Jan. 1 to Oct. 1, 1914, on the tonnage produced have been at the smallest margin of profit since the formation of the company.' It is sufficient to say at this time that the volume and prices of iron and steel sold in this country were very low, comparatively speaking, during the months immediately prior to the commencement of the European war, and with respect to the volume, there have been substantial decreases since that time.

"But what of the future? We are always comforted by the fact that the productive capacity and actual production of wealth in the United States is growing year by year, and this ability to produce will not and cannot be diminished. Besides, at the present time the exports of a large variety of commodities are increasing. Although not equal to the volume reported just prior to the commencement of the war, they are yet much larger than just after the beginning of the war. This will have a material influence upon other lines. All are stimulated and brought into service."

EDISON'S "MORSE" BOTHERS.

Telegraph Operator Finds It Hard to Read His Dots and Dashes.

Thomas A. Edison, the inventor, who has been visiting scenes of his boyhood near Detroit, took a trip to Port Huron, Mich., and once more tried his hand at the operator's key. He even went so far as to take the wares from a newsboy and sell them among his friends.

As a boy Mr. Edison sold papers and worked as an operator for the same railroad over which he traveled to Port Huron. His last trip, however, was in a special train.

As the inventor passed through Mount Clemens he stepped into the telegraph operator's office and tapped off a message to his children in New Jersey. The message was interrupted, however. The Mount Clemens operator turned to Mr. Edison with a smile and said:

"An operator on the line is complaining. He says there is a boy on the wire whose practicing is gumming things up."

At Port Huron Mr. Edison's host insisted on equipping his guest with all the necessary equipment of a "news butcher."

Mr. Edison appeared to take keen delight in the situation and was soon selling fruit and candies to his friends. Gum brought as high as 50 cents a package, and when the inventor stepped off the train he poured the proceeds of his day's business into the hat of a grinning porter.

Cossack Cloak and Joffre Hat.

The Joffre hat and Cossack cloak are definite features of Paris winter fashions. The hat is made of dark velvet, is round and flat with a peak. The cloak is heavy and loose, ending at the knees, and gathered at the waist with a belt.

Little Odd Bits Of War News

Announcement was made that the British war office requires immediately for service on the continent a thousand chauffeurs and motor truck drivers between the ages of twenty and forty-five.

At a meeting of the Dancing Masters' academy in Paris a letter was read from President Le Fort, now a soldier at the front, proposing that all Austrian and German dances be suppressed.

A correspondent of the Paris Matin in Berlin says Americans speak French in the streets of Berlin on account of the degree of hatred against the English and the comparatively mild feeling against France.

General Joffre, the French commander in chief, entertained at a luncheon at headquarters certain important politicians, one of whom asked him what his plans were. General Joffre replied in military slang, "For the moment I am just nibbling at the Germans."

The feeling between the German soldiers and the British is extremely bitter. Wherever the Germans oppose the British the fighting is reported to be incessant. Between the Germans and the French there is a more cordial feeling. Near Courtrai the French soldiers in the trenches signaled a message to the opposing German soldiers—"This is our colonel's birthday." The Germans passed the word along the trenches and replied: "We won't shoot much today. Let the colonel enjoy the day."

"RIVER OF DOUBT" NOT EASY FOR ROOSEVELT'S PARTY.

The Descent of Uncharted Brazilian Stream Was a Difficult Task.

The following description of the descent of the "River of Doubt" by Colonel Roosevelt and his party is taken from his article in the November Scribner describing his journey in the Brazilian wilderness. The article is copyrighted, 1914, by Charles Scribner's Sons:

"Next day, the 3rd of April, we began the descent of these sinister rapids of the chasm. Colonel Rondon had gone to the summit of the mountain in order to find a better trail for the burden bearers, but it was hopeless, and they had to go along the face of the cliffs. Such an exploring expedition as that in which we were engaged of necessity involves hard and dangerous labor and perils of many kinds. To follow down stream an unknown river, broken by innumerable cataracts and rapids, rushing through mountains of which the existence has never been even guessed, bears no resemblance whatever to following even a fairly dangerous river which has been thoroughly explored and has become in some sort a highway, so that experienced pilots can be secured as guides, while the portages have been pioneered and trails chopped out and every dangerous feature of the rapids is known beforehand. In this case no one could foretell that the river would cleave its way through steep mountain chains, cutting narrow clefts in which the cliff walls rose almost sheer on either hand. When a rushing river thus 'canyons,' as we used to say out west, and the mountains are very steep it becomes almost impossible to bring the canoes down the river itself and utterly impossible to portage them along the cliff sides, while even to bring the loads over the mountain is a task of extraordinary labor and difficulty. Moreover, no one can tell how many times the task will have to be repeated or when it will end or whether the food will hold out. Every hour of work in the rapids is fraught with the possibility of the gravest disaster, and yet it is imperatively necessary to attempt it, and all this is done in an uninhabited wilderness or else a wilderness tenanted only by unfriendly savages, where failure to get through means death by disease and starvation."

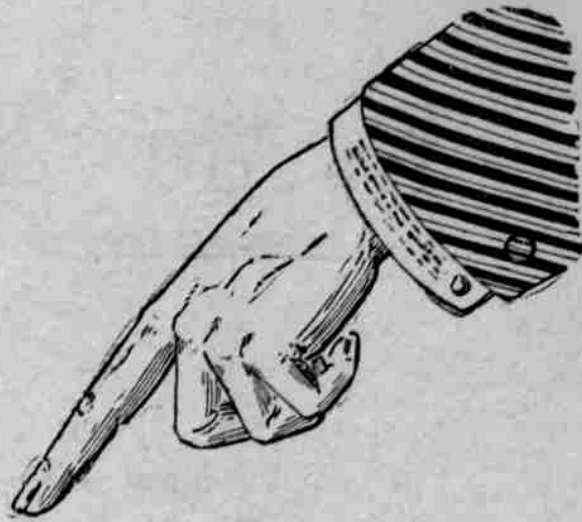
MADE CARNEGIE REJOICE.

"Happiest Man in the World" When Morgan Took Steel Off His Hands.

"Pierpont, I am the happiest man in the world. I have unloaded the burden upon your back; now I am off to Europe to play," said Andrew Carnegie to J. P. Morgan when the deal was closed by which the Carnegie properties passed to the United States Steel corporation, according to David A. Reed of Pittsburgh in his argument before the federal circuit court in Philadelphia in the suit of the government for the dissolution of the Steel corporation for alleged violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Mr. Reed is counsel of the corporation. He said he got the quoted words from his father, James H. Reed, who is a director of the corporation and overheard them.

"Mr. Carnegie's one thought," Mr. Reed said, "was to retire from a long business career and devote his time to philanthropy, and he rose to the opportunity most magnificently. Counsel for the other side have referred to Mr. Carnegie as a conspirator. In the light of what he has done with his fortune for the good of mankind, to refer to him in terms applied to wretched criminals in the dock is unworthy of the government."



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