

"How Goes the War? The War Goes Well and Kaiser Will Know It"

BY JAMES H. COLLINS.

Says James H. Collins in a Review of America's Gigantic War Program Which Is Running Very Much on Schedule "and Will Be There on Time"

"The War Is Being Managed With Very Definite Policies Governing Every Important Activity—Doubt and Criticism Are Based on Personal Views and Local Conditions."

THE Major had been in Washington two months. His friend had never seen him so gloomy before. Up in New York, as a system man for a big corporation, he had always been ready with a quip and a story. But today gloom hung over him thick and dark. There was no light in his eye, and his skin was almost the color of the khaki uniform which he wore, which was new to the friend just arrived from New York.

"We are not winning the war!" declared the Major.

The New Yorker's face lengthened. Here was a man he knew who had been two months in a big Government bureau helping outfit the Army. What he said about the war ought to be pretty close to the real facts.

"We are not winning the war!" repeated the Major, gloomily. "And we don't realize that we are not winning. Look at the Russian situation! Look at the Italian—in three days they have lost what it took two years to gain."

That was at the very height of the Italian crisis.

"But those things are just the fluctuations of the news," insisted his friend. "War news changes from day to day. Much of it is based on opinion. The real military situation is not known. Russia was probably discomfited weeks ago, and the allies are hurrying to help Italy. Disaster pulls people together. In there something wrong here in Washington, George, that makes you so despondent?"

The Major insisted upon being gloomy as they walked along to lunch. He denounced the country and the Administration freely, for he was with a friend.

But, sifted to the bottom, his depression proved to be entirely general, based largely upon the morning paper. The only local causes of anxiety that his friend could find by sympathetic questioning were that the Major's new stenographer did not know how to spell, and that office help in Washington was not trustworthy, and that he had been working until midnight five days a week the last month and grudging time for meals.

The Mental Change.

A week later when the Italian situation was reversed and the Major got a new stenographer he wrote his friend a cheery note, apologizing for his grumpiness, and said he thought the prospects for winning the war looked better. A typical, and curious fact about the war—that people view it largely from the angle of their own immediate affairs.

In Florida the grapefruit grower wakes up some morning with the horrible conviction that the war is being run wrong because there is a temporary sugar famine, and as sugar and grapefruit are eaten together, that has hurt his market. When the Cuban crop relieves the sugar shortage he will be optimistic again.

Throughout the West weather has made cattle feed scarce and high, and livestock owners face difficulties in labor and finance. In an ordinary year most of their very real troubles would be laid upon the weather. But this year there is a war, and they blame the Administration and assume that the war is not being properly managed.

Congress meets, full of criticism. The Senators and Representatives have been back home talking with their constituents and return to Washington primed with pregnant questions about the conduct of the war—everyone of them, however, personal and local. The Congressman from a big industrial center wants to know what policy the Government means to follow with reference to laboring in the war. The agricultural state means to catch the Administration about the methods of marketing farm products. Others have questions relating to coal and coal, and army rifles. Each brings his particular bit of war criticism, and insists upon using it as a measure for the general conduct of the war.

During the last six months the writer has been constantly in Washington serving as a volunteer in a Government department that is only charged with the conduct of one of the major activities of the war, but which also happens to be a center in which the opinion of the country crystallizes. His conclusions are: First, that the war is being well managed with very definite, far-sighted policies governing every important activity; and, second, that doubt and criticism of war policies are almost invariably based upon personal views and local conditions—details that can in no sense be taken as a measure of efficiency in the broad war programme.

Shortsightedness.

Even in Washington itself men seem to suffer from a chronic shortsightedness in viewing war matters. The worker in Washington is also dealing with personal and partial values. The fact that he is right in the apparent center of war management really brings him no nearer the war as a whole. Instead, the tendency is just the other way, for he goes to his office in the morning and is occupied all day long attending to details apparently so remote and even superfluous that often, on his way home on a Saturday night, when the tanned infantrymen throng in from the camps for their evening out under the bright lights of Ninth street, he is inclined to envy them men who have at least got definitely linked up with the real war organization.

Nine months have passed now since the country declared war and it is time to look back and review the whole programme.

In April we had made no war preparations at all, except a start in shipping. Army, Navy, aircraft, artillery, food and war finance were as yet all to be. No nation drawn into a great conflict started with less organization and plan.

Two essentials then stood out above everything else in our coming war preparation. First, completeness and speed. The very first step was to consult our allies and profit by their costly experience, and through their advice we laid down a definite programme calculated to bring our fighting force on the western front nearly one year later. That programme was shaped from the bitter lessons learned by England and France. Taught through error and haste, which had wasted their own energies and appreciated the strength of America in men, materials, money and food so well that they were determined to apply those factors to the best advantage.

Our Biggest Enterprise.

Speed was possible in drawing up legislation to provide men, money and materials, and Congress worked upon those stupendous laws at such a rate that major measures were passed on the average every two weeks, and on the whole with skill.

There was plenty of criticism of Congress while it debated through the Summer, and there has been plenty of criticism of its work since. But this criticism dealt almost entirely with details—questions of how this part of a given act should be interpreted or what the effect of some other section may be upon a certain industry. Compared with the legislative performance of any other Congress, that of the great war session was phenomenally quick and remarkably accurate and comprehensive.

With legislation under way, it only remained for the building of war material and ships, the raising of money



"The Major's New Stenographer Did Not Know How to Spell, and He Had Been Working Until Midnight Five Days a Week."

and food and the never-ceasing adjustment of peace-time industry to war ends which will land our forces on the Western front next Spring, ready to strike their blow.

This war, for us, is the biggest enterprise we have ever undertaken. In the confusion of its personal and local adjustments men seem to become hypnotized by details and lose sight of the enterprise as a whole. It is a war arranged to run upon a long-distance schedule, and it is running pretty much on time.

Critics complain from time to time that the war is going badly; that we are not building ships fast enough; that the soldiers in a certain cantonment lack rifles; that the Administration is secretive; that there are too many bureaus and boards in Washington; that we do not know how the money is being spent, and so forth and so forth.

Such criticisms are invariably questions raised about some detail that, when compared with the magnitude of our real war task, seem almost petty and lacking in their nature, sifted to the bottom, one usually finds a purely local view or difficulty, if not a frankly partisan motive. How can the war be going badly when for us it has not yet begun?

Ships have been an outstanding point for criticism because our shipping programme began with a heated controversy between two estimable gentlemen who persisted in throwing bricks at each other while the world was on fire. Each week, when the British authorities report the number of sinkings by submarines and the butcher bill happens to be a little stiff, there is a rising protest against the slowness of our shipping programme and entire forgetfulness that this programme, too, was laid down upon a long-haul schedule. Considering the task we faced a year ago of creating a merchant fleet and manning it out of nothing, the shipping programme is traveling on time.

The criticism of small-arms shortage is only a minor detail in the vast work of training and equipping our army, and rifles are being supplied as fast as the Army is ready for them.

Criticism of secretiveness has not been well-founded, while the complaints that there are too many Government bureaus and that money is being spent without supervision are almost invariably based upon isolated facts and snap judgment. The military censorship has at times leaned back so far that it came near falling over, and has provided innumerable amusement in its camouflaging of undimmed ships arriving at "an Atlantic port" to land their passengers on Broadway.

Some of this secrecy has served real war ends, and some of it has doubtless been in the nature of precaution that may or may not have been necessary. It is easier to separate the necessary from the superfluous after the fact than before. Far from being secretive in the main work of the war, however, the Administration has used every resource of the publicist's art to fairly shout war statements to the Nation.

Bureaus have multiplied at Washington, and money has been spent lavishly, but these activities all represent the urgent need for haste. This was a field of war preparation in which forces could be mobilized first as they were organized, and it is the present writer's observation that everything superfluous in the way of committees, boards and administrations—volunteer or regular—has a tendency to automatically revise itself out of existence, and that the elaborate—sometimes too elaborate—checks and safeguards thrown around Government expenditure in the past are working now to sharply eliminate extravagance.

Personal and local criticism of the war is entirely right and commendable, but only for correcting in so far as possible, the local and personal war difficulties under which the critic is laboring.

The Spirit of 1918.

War brings tremendous readjustments. It takes the worker out of the field, sweeps the goods off the shelves, stops credit at the bank, shuts down the powerhouse. When these things happen to the farmer, the merchant, the financier and manufacturer they mean not that the war is going badly, but that it is going well—that the country's resources are being diverted to war purposes. Criticism is not only right, but a duty, so long as it is confined to one's own immediate difficulties without self-pity. For only in that way can the countless local problems be brought up for study and adjustment.

The country has learned much in nine months. It started unanimously last April with a patriotic determination to throw all its energies into the war, not knowing how intimately every man, woman and child was to be affected. This spirit quickened Congress in passing the conscription, food and revenue measures. Then, week by week, as day by day, the demand for sacrifices was put squarely upon individuals in family and livelihood. Sometimes the demand came so suddenly and so exactly that it caused momentary alarm, but only for a moment. The writer has seen men hasten to Washington, anxious about the unknown effect upon them of business changes which it seemed impossible to make to-day, and tomorrow has seen them cheerfully go to work with competitors and strangers to make the required adjustments.

The spirit of April, 1917, was all for energetic prosecution of the war in the belief that most of the burden would fall on some one else. The spirit of January, 1918, is for vigorous prosecution of the war on the greatest scale of magnitude and for whatever period may be necessary, with a full understanding that the burden falls upon oneself perhaps even more heavily than on the other fellow.

The difference in spirit is that men since last April have been through the strain and pressure of war adjustment. They find that they have lived and that the world has held together, and that they are stronger than they ever suspected, and that the pressure and strain have brought benefit along with hardship. During 1917 the main trend of war preparation involved centralization at Washington. Men left their desks and hurried to the capital, and all the energies and resources of the Nation were brought for readjustment.

During the coming year the main trend of war activities will be away from Washington. Decentralization has already begun, and will undoubtedly continue as long as the war lasts. For now the results of the organization effected in Washington begin to be felt throughout the Nation, and the broad policies laid down at the capital are

being worked out in detail through the states and the industries.

The General Programme.

War finance, for instance, began with the need for billions in the Treasury and a broad scheme for raising the money. Two liberty bond campaigns have created 10,000,000 bond purchasers over the land with organizations in every state and city. War finance for

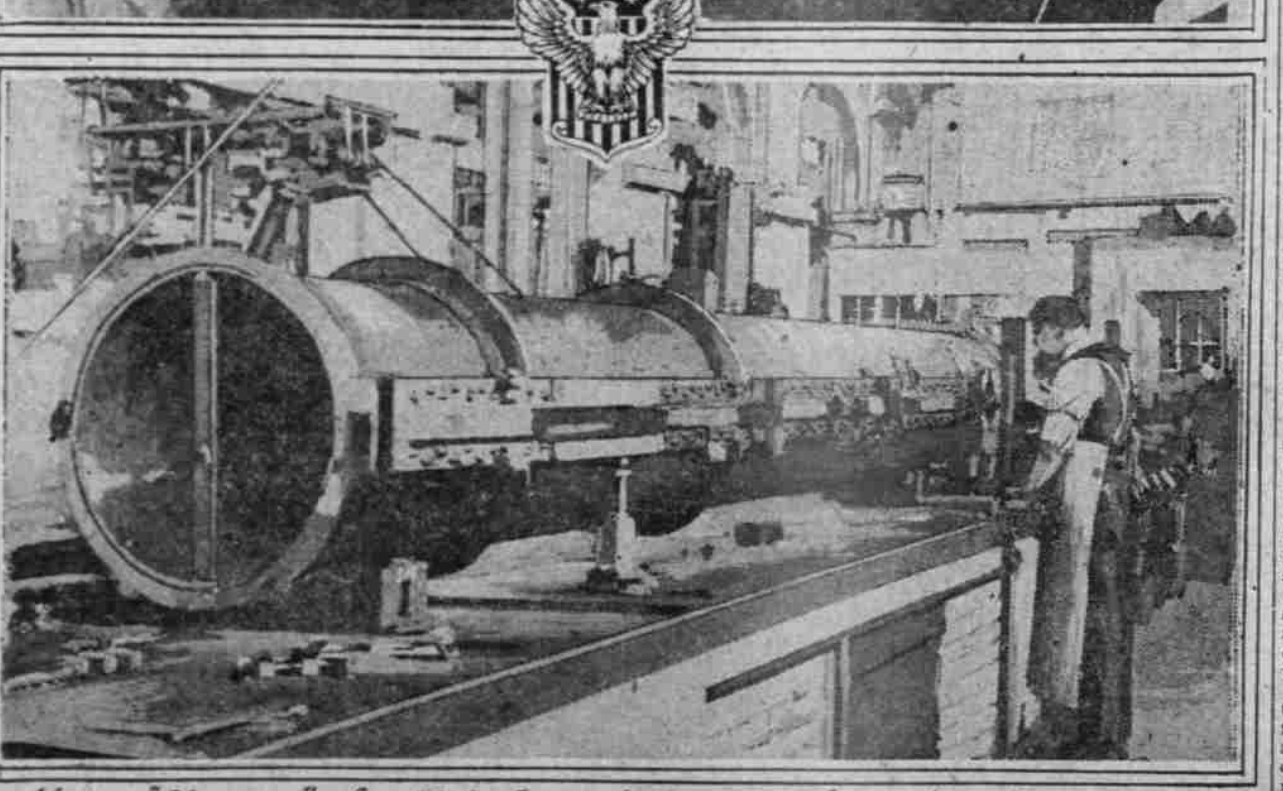
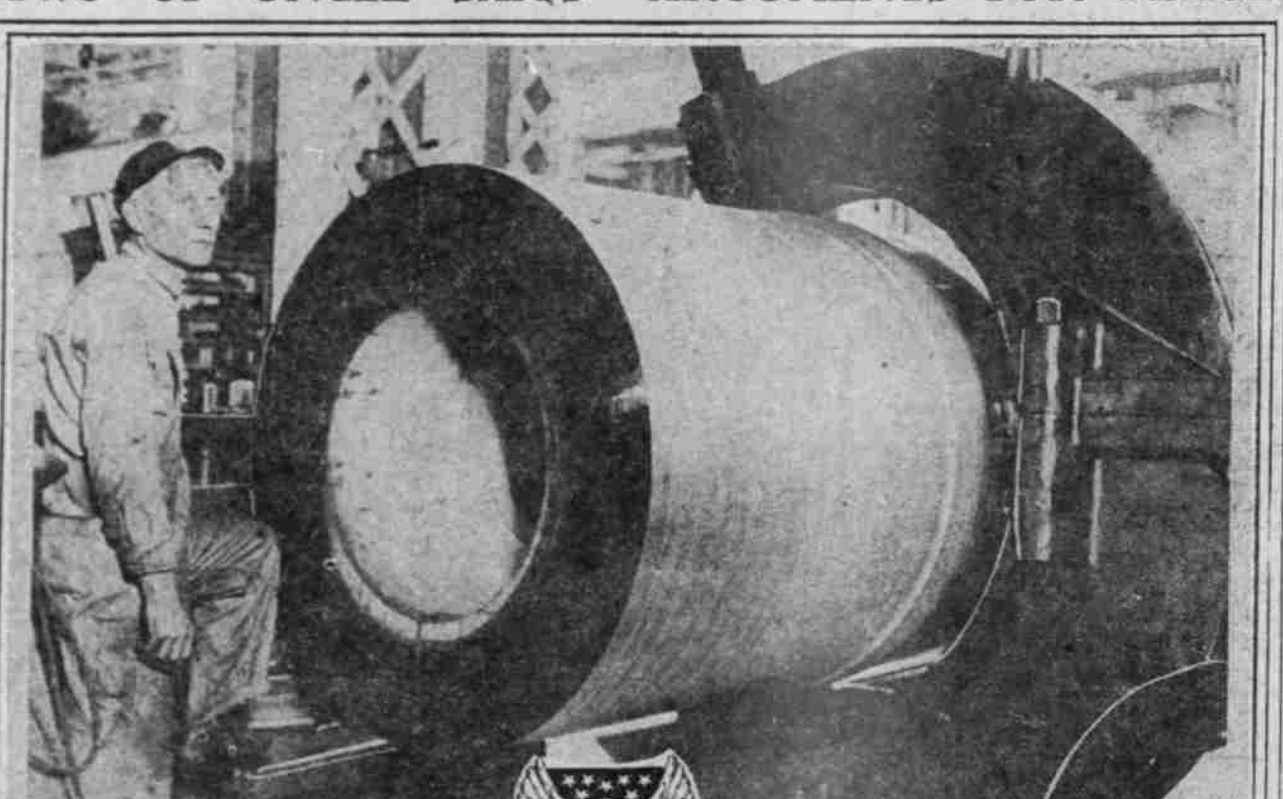
the Army has been a matter of detail through the states and the industries.

On the whole the war goes well. In its details there may be room for criticism. This part of the programme may seem behind schedule, or to have been overlooked, or something else might be speeded up or done with less waste, motion or more thriftily.

But the war goes well as a whole. It is a whole so stupendous that perhaps not more than one dozen men in the country clearly see the entire programme and keep it ever in view. It has sometimes seemed to the writer in Washington as though amid all the distractions of doubt one's individual bit, even departmental heads occasionally lost sight of the whole war in carrying out its details, and that only the President stood sufficiently aloof to constantly see it all, and know how the gigantic programme was going, and where and when it would arrive.

Viewed in its entirety, apart from how details may happen to be affected, one's interests and oneself today; viewed regardless of the weekly successes and defeats on the battlefield; viewed as something more than a daily planned for the long haul on a schedule of months rather than hours and days, and timed to arrive as a whole on the 12th of November, 1918, the war goes well. It will be there on time. And the Kaiser will know it!

TWO OF UNCLE SAM'S ARGUMENTS FOR PEACE



Above—Close-up of a 14-inch gun in process of construction at a Government arsenal. Below—At work on a torpedo tube.

LEGAL SIDELIGHTS FOR LAWYERS AND LAYMEN

By Reynelle G. E. Cornish, of the Portland Bar.

WOULD You Tell the Truth if You Were Dying?—The law seems to think that you might. At least the admission of dying declarations as evidence in a court of law has been put upon the ground that a realization that death is imminent impresses on the witness a sense of responsibility equivalent to that resulting from a solemn oath.

The trustworthiness of such declarations have, however, been frequently doubted. It would seem that the weight to be given to such declarations would depend largely upon the reliability of the declarant.

The case has been well put in a recent case by Justice Stephens, who says in part:

"I have heard that in the Punjab the effect of it is that a person mortally wounded frequently makes a statement bringing all his hereditary enemies onto the scene at the time of his receiving his wound, thus using his last opportunity to do them an injury. A remark made on the policy of the rule by a native of Madras shows how differently such matters are viewed in different parts of the world. 'Still,' he said, 'ought never to be admitted in any case. What motive for telling the truth can any man possibly have when he is at the point of death?'

It should be remembered that the admissibility of dying declarations is confined to cases where the cause of the death of the declarant is under inquiry. It will be recalled that in the notorious Becker case, People vs. Becker, 215 N. Y. 126, a declaration of one of the actual perpetrators of the crime made just before his own execution for the murder was excluded from the trial of Becker (under trial for procuring the murder).

To the argument that the near approach of death made the declaration admissible, Justice Bartlett replied: 'Unless numbers of innocent men have suffered capital punishment in this country many criminals have gone to the gallows with a lie upon their lips.'

Driving a Blind Horse.—Is it negligent to drive a blind horse? Suppose he falls into a hole in the road, can the driver recover damages from the county?

"Of course not," you say. Wrong again! Read the case of Clark vs. Sioux County, 153 N. W. 664. It appears from the facts of this case that the woman injured was not only driving a blind horse, but that she was "visiting" with her woman companion and admiring the scenery, and yet the court refused to hold that such conduct was necessarily negligence, saying in part:

"Mrs. Johnson did not know of the existence of the defect, and did not discover it until the horse had fallen. She had with her another woman with whom she carried on more or less conversation, and together they noted the fields through which they were passing. Counsel says she did not look ahead at all nor take any pains to ascertain whether there were any obstructions in the highway, but she does not so say, and no other witness attempts to speak concerning the fact in this respect."

She does say she was visiting with her companion and noting the country scenery, but this is by no means inconsistent with the exercise of reasonable care in driving along a county road.

1918 involves enlarging and strengthening those local organizations.

Food administration began with broad policies for the control, conservation and production of staples like wheat and meat, which follow National and international lines of distribution. When the general programme was clearly defined close contact with the consumer, farmer and distributor in each section became necessary and local adjustments to local conditions and needs. So food administration for 1918 means skillful and direct dealing with local problems by men on the spot—the weeding out of distributors who violate food licenses, the adjustment of trade supplies to local consumer habits, the publication of local fair prices, the prevention of local wastes and the stimulation and financing of local production on the farms and in the war gardens.

Ships centered in Washington while the programme was being laid out, and the organization got together, and the contracts let. But today clear around our coasts from Maine to the Gulf, and from San Diego to Seattle, countless shipyards are building both steel and wooden vessels, and the Shipping Board is sending out its field forces of production experts to teach contractors not merely how the hull ships quickly and well, but how to build a ship industry and continue in it after peace comes.

The Army was centralized at Washington until drafted men began to come in early Autumn. Now its organization is spreading out over the country and overseas, and the staff organization in Washington, which six months ago, was like a band without a body, now corresponds to a brain coordinating a body that extends over half the world.

"Cheer Up!"

Even in minor activities, such as that of the publicity organization, Washington no longer sits at a distance handing out its daily bulletins, but works through local representatives who interpret information for local needs, and also transmit local views to the capital. This decentralization is seen even in auxiliary war organizations like that of the Red Cross, which a few weeks ago reduced its staff at National headquarters by several hundred workers as a result of enlarged activities throughout the country.

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Pinex is a highly concentrated compound of Norway pine extract, and is famous the world over for its healing effect on the membranes.

To avoid disappointment ask for "215 ounces of Pinex" with full directions and don't accept anything else. A guarantee of absolute satisfaction or money promptly refunded goes with this preparation. The Pinex Co., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

AGED WOMAN HELPS CAUSE

Mrs. Sarah Famous, 96, Knits Wristlets for Soldiers.

NORRISTOWN, Pa., Dec. 29.—Mrs. Sarah Famous, of Norristown, celebrated her 96th birthday anniversary recently knitting wristlets for a grand-son-in-law in the service of the United States. She lives with her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Samuel Famous, of Astor street, and is the widow of William Famous.

Mrs. Famous was born at Valley Forge, where she spent the greater part of her life. Three of her 11 children are living. They are John C. and Augustus, of Norristown, and Mrs. Rebecca Albeaugh, of Providence, R. I. She has 32 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Cough Nearly Gone in 24 Hours

That's the usual experience with this home-made cough syrup. Coste little—try it.

Anyone who tries this pleasant tasting home-made cough syrup, will quickly understand why it is used in more homes in the United States and Canada than any other cough remedy. The way it takes hold of an obstinate cough, giving immediate relief, will make you regret that you never tried it before. It is truly dependable cough remedy that should be kept handy in every home, to use at the first sign of a cough during the night or day time.

Any drugist can supply you with 2½ ounces of Pinex (50 cents worth). Pour this into a pint bottle and fill the bottle with plain granulated sugar syrup. The total cost is about 65 cents and you have a full pint of the most effective remedy you ever used.

The quick, lasting relief you get from this excellent cough syrup will really surprise you. It promptly heals the inflamed membranes that line the throat and air passages, stops the annoying throat tickle, loosens the phlegm, and soon your cough stops entirely. Splendid for bronchitis, croup, whooping cough and bronchial asthma.

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