

# LABOR-SAVING DEVICE IS INVENTED BY BLIND WEAVER OF CANE CHAIR SEATS

### John Auer Does Not Desire Patent Because He Thinks Afflicted Brother Workers Should Have Chance to Benefit Also in Making Livelihood—Tin Tube Makes Work Faster.



Upper—Section of the industrial department at the employment institution for the blind, where the inmates earn a livelihood by their daily task of repairing furniture. J. F. Myers, superintendent, stands in the foreground with an overcoat on. Lower—John Auer and his tools, which he invented to lighten the work of the blind people who toil in the employment institution at the only skilled work they know—that of cane chairs.

In spite of the fact that the work of replacing cane bottoms in chairs has been carried on for years, it has remained for an inmate of the blind employment institution of Oregon to perfect the first labor-saving device for use in the industry. True, the appliance does not eliminate hand work entirely, but it does manage to lighten the work for the blind weaver who would even prove a time-saver for the more fortunate workers who are still in possession of their vision.

No patent has been awarded Mr. Auer, the blind worker who has invented the little appliance, and no patent has been applied for either. John Auer does not seek a patent because he does not think that any blind man should be deprived of the use of the time-saver and, as he himself explains, even if he did wish to commercialize his discovery, he hasn't the money to apply for a patent. For years Mr. Auer and his fellow inmates have toiled in the same room, canning chairs, and a cheerful conversation is carried on by the two as they labor. Mrs. Clara Persons, whose hair is tinged with gray, waves little banknotes and toy affairs which are added to the many articles of handwork to be sold to visitors and people of Portland who patronize the annual Christmas sale of the institution, which are held annually in a downtown department store.

A cheerful note pervades the atmosphere and little snatches of popular song ring out with the laughter of the unfortunates. It will not be long until the cramped and unwholesome quarters where they labor day after day will be cast aside and the inmates of the institution will be housed in the new building which the state is to construct at once at East Eighty-fifth and East Gilean streets.

With the institution in its new and commodious quarters, there will be more diversified tasks for the unfortunates to perform. While they are housed in the dingy building at 424 East Burnside streets, however, they must be content to cane chairs and make little articles of handwork to be sold at their annual Christmas sale.

The High School club of the Ellison-White Conservatory of Music gave a program Friday night at the conservatory studio. Those who appeared were Elaine White, Virginia Danforth, Ruth Osborne, Leah Spelman, Pauline Worum, Lyle Garrett, Gordon Geary, Donald Geary and Martin Geary.

**German Newspaper Reappears.**  
SHANGHAI.—The Deutsche China Nachrichten (German China News) which recently made its appearance in Shanghai is said to be the first German newspaper to be published in China since the world war. The publication is in magazine form, printed in German, Chinese and English. Initial issues of the paper announce that an outstanding aim of the publication will be to promote German trade with the Chinese industries while fostering good will toward Germany.

**Civil Marriage Increase.**  
VIENNA.—Civil marriages are on the increase here. In 1919 there were only 231 such ceremonies, while in the past six months there have been 1725, and this in spite of recent decisions of the courts to nullify such contracts.

# The Citizen Veteran

### BY HARRY R. CRITCHLOW.

THOSE who would contend that the French started the war need to examine the records of the early days of the conflict. The attack of the Germans on Liege found the Belgians entirely unprepared. However, with forts too weak to stand long against the terrific artillery of the enemy, the defenders held out for several days and stayed the crush of the Kaiser's troops. Namur, almost as well fortified as Liege, held out but for a short time, and then fell with its former defenders fleeing for their lives.

During those days the French had been mobilizing and putting their forces in position. Joffre, supreme commander of the French, had been slowly advancing his forces. The Belgians had expected the French to arrive and aid them at Liege but their expectations were disappointed. The French had been expected by General Michel at Namur, but here again was disappointment. The nearest approach to Namur was Dinant, 18 miles distant. Namur was the pivot of the French position and its fall was a serious blow to the allied forces along the entire line.

On August 20, 1914, which was the first day of the siege of Namur, the French were still struggling to hold the position. General Lanrezac, who was commanding the French fifth army, had urged upon General Joffre the necessity of a speedy advance into Belgium and the subsequent relief of the struggling armies of Leman and Michel. However, Lanrezac did not receive orders from his superior to cross the Sambre until the day of August 20. Military critics are of the opinion that it would have been possible for Lanrezac to cross the crossing earlier, due to the fact that it had become necessary for him to send troops to General Lanrezac in the Ardennes beyond the Meuse.

Friday, August 21, a part of Lanrezac's army was still concentrating in the Ardennes. The French had been in position for August 23, due to the fact that by this time the English would be in position on the left bank of the Meuse, north of Dinant; the tenth corps held the heights south of the Sambre between Charleroi and Namur, and the third corps was before Charleroi. The 15th corps, which was not up as yet, was to be placed on the left of the 10th. The reserve divisions of the French army were not in place.

It may be said of Lanrezac that he was not in a position to do anything. The reserve divisions of the French army were not in place. Von Bulow had reached the base of the river at noon the German guard made an attack on the bridges of Taminies and Auvellais, before which the French retreated. Later in the afternoon the French troops were driven back, the bridges fell into the hands of the Germans and an advance was made to the south. In the meantime, other portions of the German attacking force had crossed the Sambre east of Charleroi.

On Saturday, August 22, came the main battle of Charleroi. The French, starting the struggle early in the morning, retook the fallen town of Arismot, held it for a time, but fell back when the weight of German artillery made itself felt. The French west there were severe fighting in the streets of Charleroi, where Arisotans met the Prussian guards and inflicted a great loss. However, the French army was forced back by a better prepared and better equipped force. Von Bulow freed his corps from the German attack around Charleroi and was in position four miles to the south.

Communications were not well established. Lanrezac was of the opinion that he had only Von Bulow to deal with and as a consequence sent a message to Sir John French, commanding the British forces on the extreme left and asked him to strike to the northeast at Von Bulow's flank. The British commander knew of the forces of Von Kluck and declined to aid in the attack against the forces of Von Bulow.

The following day, which was Sunday, the forces of the French attacked from the right wing. The center of the line was in a bad way and the British forces of the 11th corps were rapidly giving ground. In the afternoon when all along the French line the troops were being pushed back, the British forces had fallen. Then followed word that Ruffey and Langie had failed utterly in the Ardennes. While these events were taking place, the army of Von Kluck had shown itself to the British and the army of Sir John French was in dire straits. Joffre ordered Lanrezac to send Sorde's cavalry to the British.

That night Lanrezac ordered a general retirement which was to extend as far as the river. The first battle of the French forces was lost to the enemy.

The fighting had taught the French several things. They were weak in entrenching tools and were not as well equipped in artillery. They had the 75 which, as a small gun, was never equalled by any other, but they lacked heavy artillery with which to combat the Austrian siege guns and howitzers in the hands of the Germans. These weapons had a range and carrying power far greater than the French artillery experts had ever dreamed of. It was the battle of Charleroi that proved to be a lesson in the necessity for more and better equipment with which to combat an army trained and equipped as no army ever had been before.

Military leaders are almost unanimous in their praises for Lanrezac. He led his forces in a gallant fight and had been pitted against Von Bulow alone the results of the battle might have been different. The French intelligence department was a weak one but the French did receive little information of value. Besides the general was forced into battle before his troops were in readiness. Joffre, Stufenes of himself, for he was responsible for the loss, afterward declared that the battle of Charleroi should have been won but critics agree that could not have been won on the plans that he had mapped out and had given Lanrezac to follow.

The day following the defeat at Charleroi General Joffre issued his "General Instructions No. 2." He had been outwitted and outgeneraled by the Germans, and it was time for him to make a record other than of weakness if France was to be saved. Shortly after the issuance of his instructions 33 army corps and divisional commanders of the French army were removed. This included two army commanders, seven corps leaders and 24 divisional commanders. The order was sweeping. It took from the service of the French the innocent as well as the guilty. Lanrezac, upon whose shoulders was placed the responsibility for Charleroi, fell with the

# Linn Records of 60 Years Ago Uncovered.

### Marrriages and Preachers in Early Days Mentioned.

BROWNSVILLE, Or., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—An old General Record book now in the possession of the Brownsville Methodist church contains much information as to conditions and affairs in Linn county a half century ago. The book itself is 63 years old, as it was printed in 1859. The earliest record in the book is for the year 1862 and the period covered ends with the year 1875. The volume gives records of marriages, pastors, church members and professional men for that great part of Linn county which in 1862 was named by the Methodist church the Calapooia circuit.

The itinerant minister at that time had in charge the following schoolhouses: Diamond hill, Prairie schoolhouse, Diamond hill, Prairie schoolhouse and Rumba's schoolhouse. Pastors and preachers named in the old book as having charge at Brownsville in the period indicated are: T. B. Sanderson, L. T. Woodward, J. B. Calloway, Gustavus Hines, Phillip Starr, James Pearl, J. H. Rovik, N. Doane, J. Hoberg, S. H. Mann.

So far as known not one of the 28 men and women who were members of the church at Brownsville in 1862 are now living. Three members of the Brush Creek class of 1864 are now living. They are Charles P. Bishop of Salem, John Rebban of Brownsville, and Mrs. Clara Starr of Brownsville. If the three couples listed in marriage in 1864 by Rev. T. B. Sanderson are living, their whereabouts are not known. They were John Lewis and Ann M. Lathan, Samuel M. Kees and Elizabeth Coyle, Elie Walker and Sarah Denton.

Members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Brownsville in 1862, as shown by the record book, were John F. McKinney, Melissa McKinney, Rev. James Pearl, Elizabeth Pearl, Mary Pearl, Columbus A. Deal, Lydia Deal, John Pearl, Martha Pearl, John Pearl, Cora Pearl, John Montgomery, H. J. C. Averill, Sarah Averill, Alexander Kirk, Mariah Kirk, James Jack, Peter Wycoff, Alvin Wycoff, Thomas Kelo, Nancy Kelo, William Kelo, Harriet Frost, A. B. Ellis, Ida Ellis, William Lewis and Slater Lewis.

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From left to right—Albert Krautaur, bride bearer; Loretta Krautaur, flower girl; Michael Edward Hayes, bridegroom; Miss Anna Cecilia Kirby, ring bearer; John Kirby, best man; Margaret Kirby, maid of honor; Mrs. Sheridan.

SHERIDAN, Or., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—The recent wedding here of Miss Anna Cecilia Kirby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Kirby, native residents of Oregon and prominently known throughout the Pacific northwest, to Michael Edward Hayes, was a brilliant church event, solemnized in the Good Shepherd Catholic church. The invitations list of 150 included some of the best-known families of Oregon and Washington, and Sheridan was filled with motor parties from outside points for the occasion.

Following the double ring ceremony, Father Deronis officiating, a wedding breakfast was served at the Sheridan hotel and the couple departed on a wedding trip, later to go to Dubuque, Iowa, where the bridegroom is engaged in business and where they will make their home.

The bride was attractive in a gown of white satin with oversleeves. Her wreath and silk net veil were caught with orange blossoms. Her going-away suit was blue tricotine.