

The Herald

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FRIDAY, DEC. 10, 1915.

THEY ARE AFTER PEACE

Henry Ford and his peace commission are off for Europe. What they will accomplish remains to be seen.

Europe need pacification and there are some six million or more men who are out with their trusty guns trying to accomplish the job. The English are not ready and the French are reported to be laughing up their sleeves; however, if the great manufacturer can sell each of them an automobile and send them off on a pleasure trip, he may lead into the ways of peace. Hurrah! for "Our Ford," and here's hoping that he may win out no matter how small the chances.

Notes on the War

The Kiel and the Cape Cod Canals

Since the opening of the Cape Cod Canal nearly 3,000 vessels have passed through this waterway, including several Government ships. Thus, the submarines K-5 and K-6 made the passage by way of the canal from Boston to Newport at the rate of 11 miles an hour—a Government test which must be looked upon as most successful. The eight-mile trip through the canal was made in 45 minutes, and by using this passage the submarines saved sixty miles of distance and avoided much rough weather. The Kiel Canal was built by the Germans at a cost approaching \$100,000,000, mainly for strategic purposes; yet it is a fact that the reduction of distance between the German base in the Baltic and the North Sea by this canal is little greater than the gain to the American fleet, which would result from the enlargement of the Cape Cod Canal to accommodate our battleships, between those two important strategic centers, Newport and Boston.

Cast Iron Shells

In answer to a correspondent asking why the cheaper cast iron shells are not used in place of steel shells, *The Engineer* of London has this to say: In the first place, where shrapnel is concerned, the number of bullets is reduced because the walls of the projectile must be made thicker. This is not an objection in high explosive shells, which call for walls thicker than is necessary for strength, but there is danger of cast iron shells developing cracks during manufacture and there would be a risk of such shells bursting in the gun. Another objection is that a cast iron shell is liable to be inaccurate in its flight. The projectile must be in perfect balance with the walls, not only of the same thickness all around, but homogeneous. At the high speed of revolution, the slight difference in weight on one side

would cause irregular shooting. The steel shell is machined inside and out, to insure uniformity; but if a shell were cast on a core and the core were not absolutely concentric, the center of gravity would not lie exactly in the longitudinal axis of the shell. Furthermore, the making of a steel shell has been so perfected that such shells can be turned out more quickly than those of cast iron of equal reliability of accuracy. An 18-pounder shell can be completely machined from the bar in forty minutes.

Gun Elevation as a Factor of Range

The Scientific American was the first American journal to draw attention to the superior range of the German naval guns, due to the fact that they were so mounted as to be able to elevate to a maximum range of thirty degrees. We pointed out that at the battles off Chile, of the Falkland Islands, and between battle cruisers in the North Sea, the German 8.2-inch gun, because of its superior elevation, was able to reach the British ships when the latter were firing at the great ranges possible to their own heavier ordnance. We are gratified to note that according to a dispatch from Washington, the range both of our naval and military guns is to be increased by a change in the mounting and gear which will add greatly to their effectiveness. The present maximum elevation of our 12 inch coast-defense guns (which means the majority of our sea-coast guns) is only ten degrees, and hence their maximum range is 13,000 yards—sufficient to outrange any naval gun at the time the forts were designed. Today this range is greatly surpassed by that of the modern ships of war which can carry with accuracy to distances of from 17,000 to 21,000 yards. The shelling of Dunkirk, a distance of 22 miles, was done, it is believed, by a 12 inch naval gun firing a 1,000 pound high explosive shell and carried on an improvised mounting.—Scientific American.

War Losses We Do Not Grasp

There is not a person in America who really comprehends what is going on in Europe. We cannot grasp the situation. Figures simply roll off our tongues like so many ciphers with a numeral before them. They give no conception of the actual state of affairs. . . .

The British casualties to date—the actual losses from battle, capture and disease—are greater than the total number of soldiers who fought for the South during the Civil War.

The British losses in a single charge at Gallipoli, which was not given two inches of space in the dispatches, were greater than the combined losses of the federals and confederates at Gettysburg.

The British war loans now total \$8,000,000,000, and within two weeks will be \$10,000,000,000. The United States Government financed the Civil War on a loan of \$1,000,000,000.

British war expenses to date are greater than the total expenses of all wars of Christendom between the years of 1790 and 1860, including the entire

Napoleonic campaign, the Crimean war and the struggles of Prussia, Austria and Italy.

The war loans of Europe for one year were greater than the total cost of all wars of the last 125 years, these loans covering only a part of the cost of this war.

The German and French casualties in the recent offensive in the Champagne were 50 per cent greater than the total number of soldiers of both sides who fought in the battle of Waterloo. More men are killed every week in Europe than the total of northern soldiers slain in all the battles of the Civil War.

The German losses in the Champagne battle equaled the northern losses in the twelve greatest battles of the rebellion.

If all the men lost in the war were stretched out in rows, it would take the fastest transcontinental train a month to pass them, running twenty-four hours a day.

The losses in the European war, up to the present time, are equal to one person from every family in the United States, as the population stood in 1900.

The death list is greater than the total loss of life in all the preceding wars in Europe for 150 years.

But all this gives no real appreciation of what is happening. What one needs is to see a procession of the war cripples, hobbling past on wooden legs or swinging their ghastly iron hands. It would take them a year to pass a given point.—*The Des Moines (Iowa) Register*, November 13, 1915.

First Coast Hand-Press, Used In '46, is At State University

University of Oregon, Eugene, Dec. 7.—After going fully into the evidence, the Oregon Historical Society reports that the Washington hand-press in possession of the University department of journalism is the first press that was used west of the Rocky mountains.

This press is of the model patented by Samuel Rust in 1829, and was built by R. Hoe & Co., New York City. It was brought to Oregon in 1845. Its purchaser was George Abernathy, first provisional governor of Oregon and an Oregon City business man. The first paper printed on it was the Oregon City Spectator, Vol. 1 No. 1 of which was issued February 5, 1846.

The press was used more or less irregularly in Oregon City until 1863 when it was sold to H. R. Kincaid, who brought it to Eugene. On its way up the Willamette river it was shipwrecked and lay for sometime under water. At Eugene it was used for 46 years to print the Oregon State Journal, and when this widely known Oregon weekly was suspended through the retirement of Mr. Kincaid in 1909, the venerable hand-press, still as good as ever, was left in storage in the old plant until this summer, when Mr. Kincaid turned it over to the department of journalism, where it is now used as an auxiliary proofing press. It is good for probably another 69 years.

Most of this information was gathered by George H. Himes, assistant secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, who reports that the presses brought early to California were not put into use until after the first issues of the Oregon City Spectators.

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