

GERMAN RETREAT BLAZED BY TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

American and English Correspondents Working Separately Agree in Reports of Ruin.

BURN SUPPLIES FOR THE POOR

Wells Poisoned and Defiled—Fruit and Shade Trees Cut Down—Houses Burned and Contents Looted and Wrecked.

London.—The skeptic who is unable to believe the reports of the absolute ruthlessness with which the Germans are doing their best to blot out that part of France from which they are retreating should compare the following dispatches, written by correspondents at the front, which supplement the official announcements of the British and French war offices.

These dispatches were sent by different correspondents, two American and two English. Of these one of each, an American and an Englishman, was with the British army, one of each with the French army. What they write about they saw with their own eyes. These men are experienced war correspondents and can differentiate between military damage, which every army must inflict to hamper the enemy, and malicious pillage.

A few of the things the Germans have done and are doing in Picardy and Artois, two of the loveliest of the provinces of France, are these: Burning supplies furnished for the starving population by the American relief commission, supplies bought by American gifts to help people impoverished by German invasion; poisoning and defiling with filth all the wells; cutting down all the fruit trees and shade trees; burning every house, regardless of its lack of military value; smashing pictures, crockery, furniture that they could not take off with them from the homes of the peasants; leaving these peasants, women, old men, children, with nothing to eat.

Looting Officially Ordered.

The first of these dispatches is from the Associated Press correspondent who advanced through this scene of desolation with the British troops. He is an American. This correspondent saw with his own eyes captured German orders for the looting, which ordered among other things that filth was to be assembled near all the wells abandoned to contaminate the water. He refers to the wanton destruction of the trees, which is more fully described in another dispatch. He writes:

"Wherever the British troops penetrate territory formerly held by the Germans they encounter the same conditions of destruction and devastation as in Bapaume and Peronne. Only a few villages have escaped, the Germans in these instances having been compelled to leave before their plans to lay waste could be carried out.

"The use of cavalry by the British and French seems to have taken the Germans by surprise, upsetting some of their calculations. In one village supper, which had been laid out, was abandoned, together with much ammunition, and in other places newly opened boxes of high explosives were found, with which the Germans had planned to destroy the villages before leaving. That the wholesale destruction was systematized in a manner characteristic of German thoroughness was shown by captured orders on the subject.

"These directed the blowing up of all houses, wells and cellars, except

those occupied by rear guard outposts, the rear guard being held responsible for making their shelters uninhabitable before falling back. Farming implements were all burned or destroyed. Wherever a building was spared, it was first rendered filthy. The orders also directed the assembling of filth in the neighborhood of all wells for the purpose of contaminating the water.

"The destruction of fruit trees now apparently covers the entire belt of evacuated territory, even those clinging to the walls having been stripped off."

Wanton Destruction of Trees.

The wanton destruction of the trees is described also by the second American correspondent, who represents the Associated Press with the French army. In describing the following touching incident:

"Continuing our visit in Roye we encountered on the summit of the city an old man, tall, with white hair and mustache. He waved his arms, being incapable at first in his emotion of saying a word. He lived in the last house of the town, where he had spent the existence of a savage for two years, deciding not to see the Germans. Two days ago, realizing that something new was in preparation, he went up to the roof of his house and from afar saw masses of soldiers in blue, their helmets scintillating in the sun.

"I was waiting for the French," he said. "I looked for their red trousers, but saw only men in unknown uniform. My blood turned. I said to myself: Are they more Germans? But suddenly from the small groups moving across the country came detonations. I understood they were the French warriors, the French clothed in blue, who had arrived."

"We left the village under the guidance of this old man. The Germans, said he, had revenged themselves even on the fields. In fact everywhere the trees were cut down, all the apple trees from Roye to Champien, and the fine trees along the Roigilae road suffered the same fate."

Lust of Destruction.

The correspondent of the London Times with the French army tells of the destruction wrought in Chauny, which was excusable for military reasons, and then continues to describe that which was not:

"But for the rest of their conduct there is no possible defense. In village after village, especially in Chauny itself, they burned whole rows of houses for no reason whatever except for pure spite and lust of destruction.

"House after house was pillaged, stripped as if by burglars. In every room that was not fired they had taken all the contents away, or more vilely still had smashed them to atoms.

"I have written these things before, when I myself have seen them in other sections of the line. I write about them again because I cannot impress too strongly the rest of the world that the power for this particular form of evil-doing must be taken away from this uncivilized race. Even now, even in England and in France itself, people who have not seen with their own eyes seem not to realize what is being done here.

"One fact may bring it home to them. It is the latest invention of this generation of house breakers, the newest refinement of doing mischief. In the fields between Noyon and Chauny, many of which—a sure sign that the German retreat had not been foreseen until comparatively lately—had been carefully plowed and even sown, there were a considerable number of fruit

trees. Every one of them within a certain distance of the road had been killed. They either have been sawed through a couple of feet from the ground and left lying where they fell or gashed and hacked three or four inches deep.

"This massacre of trees must have been carried out by at least three or four companies acting under the orders of their officers just before the retreat began, when the troops were in such a hurry that they even left behind stores of old metal which they had carefully collected. I want to insist upon this point, that it is clear that it is the officers of the German army who are responsible for this particular crime of tree mutilation."

Burned Supplies for the Poor.

The correspondent of the Times at British headquarters writes as follows:

"Old men, women and children, to whom the British were only a myth, welcomed the advance guards with tears.

"Are you many? asked one woman doubtfully of a staff officer.

"We are two million now," said the officer.

"The woman's relief and joy were fine to see.

"What these people wanted was food. They had hardly had any meat, butter or fat for months. They say the German soldiers are getting less to eat now and grumble a good deal.

"When the French troops arrived at Tergnier, where the Compagnie du Nord had large workshops and locomotive sheds, they found everything destroyed by dynamite.

"A Berlin telegram which describes the movements of the German withdrawal, says the greatest consideration was paid the inhabitants. The road from Chauny to Noyon was one continual stream of refugees from the villages beyond Chauny. They had been sacked and burned by the Germans. These poor refugees consisted exclusively of women, babies and small children. For weeks past the Germans had expelled them from village after village in preparation for the retreat. When the final moment came their houses were sacked and then burned before their eyes. The refugees were left helpless without food to await the French advance.

"At Noyon, owing to the fact that the Germans had concentrated there 10,000 women and children, they promised to leave the American relief commission sufficient supplies to feed them. Nevertheless, the last German patrols to leave Noyon completely sacked the American relief storehouse of everything eatable, and then dynamited the building. Finally they turned the canal water with which they had flooded the city into its ruins."

LIST TEN VIRTUES FOR OREGON PUPILS

Portland, Ore.—The highest ten virtues are to be taught the school children of Oregon. State Superintendent of Instruction J. A. Churchill has completed listing answers of more than 1,000 teachers in Oregon as to what they consider the ten virtues that should be given foremost place in the moral instruction planned for the common schools of the state. The virtues receiving the highest number of votes in the order of preference are:

Honesty, truthfulness, cleanliness, obedience, respect, courtesy, patriotism, kindness, industry and punctuality.

Expensive Car Ride.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—A street car ride cost Harry Sokolow \$900.05. He got into an argument with the conductor over the jitney and the jury tacked on \$900 to the fare.

Tell What Clothes Cost.

Boston.—Statistics gathered to show how much the girls at Wellesley college spend a year, aside from their tuition and board, reveal several interesting features. By classes the juniors have the highest average, \$396.27, for expenditures on clothes, amusements and travel for the first semester. The maximum for clothes reached the sum of \$650, while the minimum is \$20. The freshmen class shows the lowest figures on average outlay for pleasures, \$3.67, and both this and the junior class demonstrated that certain of their members could do without spending a cent.

Foreign Experts Aid China.

China employs nearly 4,000 experts from Europe and America to run her railways, post offices, etc. There are 1,105 British and 174 Americans on the job, many of the latter in the most important offices.

Well Informed.

Billington—"I understand his wife has money." Stillington—"He understands it, also."

PISTOL THREAT HOLDS MAID

She Decides She Will Not Leave Evanston Mistress for Place Offering More Money.

Evanston, Ill.—The practice of old feudal Kentucky of shooting those who invade your home in search of something you own will be staged in staid old Evanston unless other women cease enticing away the maids of one society leader, late from "down South."

Annie, maid extraordinary, is the bone of contention. "I am leaving Saturday night," said Annie, after a talk with one of her mistress' friends. "Mrs. Jones will pay me higher wages."

"Down where I come from," drawled the mistress, "they shoot people for taking things of a whole lot less value than servants. You can go with Mrs. Jones if you want to. But some day I am going to call on Mrs. Jones. Either she or you is going to answer the door. I am going to shoot the first one of you I see. That's all."

Annie is holding down the old job and Mrs. Jones is not nearly so anxious to hire her as she believed she was.

KIPLING QUILTS IN PROTEST

Leaves Society of Authors Because of Charity Books Published in Aid of War.

London.—The Times re-prints from the British Weekly the following extract:

"Rudyard Kipling, inclosing his check for \$500 toward the pension fund, has sent his resignation from the Society of Authors, on the ground that the action of the committee and its acceptance by his fellow members prove that he is altogether out of sympathy with the present views of the society.

"Mr. Kipling's resignation, which apparently is caused by a difference of opinion as to the charity books published in aid of the war, is greatly regretted by the committee. He has been a member of the society for 25 years."

SPECIALIST WINS SUCCESS



Miss Helen Hammond improves each fleeting moment, and when she is not entertaining or participating in various works in which she is interested, she is busy devising new designs and decorations, for she is one of New York's most gifted and exclusive decorators, her price exhibition and glory being the incomparably beautiful tea garden on the roof of one of the leading New York hotels.

The talented lady touches with her magic mind everything—grand halls, reception rooms, galleries, rooms and most of all most distinctive furniture.

PROFIT BY CHANCE REMARK

Two Poor Families in Ireland Will Get \$6,000 as Result of Hint Dropped by Woman.

San Francisco.—For twenty years Mary Dougherty worked in the steward's department of a big hotel here and in all that time she mentioned her personal affairs only once. That was to tell a close friend that she had never married because she couldn't find a man as fine as either of her two brothers in Donegal.

As a result of that chance remark two poor families in Ireland will get \$6,000.

When Mary was killed in an accident two years ago her locker in the hotel was found to contain \$1,500 in cash and a bank book showing \$4,000 deposits.

The woman's friend told the public administrator about the two brothers in Donegal and, working through the British consulate, he learned that the brothers were Patrick and David Dougherty. David is dead, but his five children will divide the \$6,000 with Patrick.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

As far as the state of Oregon is concerned, the crime of treason does not exist, regardless of war. At least there is no penalty for such crime, according to lawyers who have examined the law.

Edward Hummel, a native, but of German extraction, was found guilty at Tillamook Thursday of uttering treasonable language before war was declared.

Protection of animal stock as a factor in the conservation of the country's food supply is strongly urged in an appeal made by letter to President Wilson by Governor Withycombe.

Secretary of State Olcott has advised the heads of various charitable institutions, which receive support or financial aid from the state, that the claims for the last quarter cannot be audited and paid until such time as an agent of the State Board of Control makes an investigation.

The Public Service commission has issued an order vacating its suspension order of February 17 as to an increase in class and commodity rates on the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railroad for transportation of merchandise between Astoria, Seaside, Fort Stevens and points between.

A report filed by Sheriff Burns, of Clatsop county, shows that \$432,351.53 has been collected on the 1916 tax, leaving \$431,172.88 to be collected. More than 50 per cent of the latter amount is composed of second half of taxes, which will not become delinquent until next October.

Armond Patreau, who has been in Hood River for the past two weeks with his parents in the Mount Hood district on furlough from the French trenches, has gone to Portland, where he will call on the French consul and try to arrange for extension of the leave, which will expire next Friday.

For a consideration of approximately \$54,000, J. N. Scott, of Athena, has purchased 360 acres from W. R. Taylor. The land is situated one and a half miles west of Athena and adjoins the quarter section recently purchased by Mr. Scott from Mrs. Josephine Stone. Both transactions were made on \$150 an acre basis, and set a new record for farm land in Umatilla county.

The State Water Board heard testimony in the matter of the adjudication of water rights on Trout creek, in Harney county Monday, but will make no decision immediately. Three groups claim water rights on the creek—one a number of homesteaders, another Thomas & Walter, and a third E. B. Hill, who has a filing on a reservoir site and has an interest in certain lands which he wishes to irrigate. The group of homesteaders are opposed to the Hill project, saying it is not feasible and never can be completed.

Contractor P. M. Tully, of North Bend, has been awarded the Standard Oil company construction, which involves the erection of a waterfront oil depot, office buildings and docks, half way between that city and Marshfield. The site was purchased from the Southern Oregon company. Several large tanks will be placed there.

The food preparedness campaign to be waged for the next two weeks by the O.-W. R. & N. company under the auspices of the Oregon Agricultural College extension service, begun at Hood River Monday afternoon, when lectures and demonstrations were given on poultry raising, vegetable growing, food preparation and home canning.

The huge 150-ton stack of flax which was stacked and roofed over last October by the Gaston Gardens company at Gaston, has come through the winter in good shape, according to the local manager. Stacking flax over winter is unusual in this country. This experiment has been watched with interest by the flax industry in Oregon.

H. G. Rich, a mechanical and electrical engineer, of Marshfield, has invented what he believes to be an improved submarine net which he is offering to the United States government without price. Mr. Rich has also drawn and planned a submarine chaser which, he says, has great merit, and this is also being offered to the government gratis.

The first two weeks the rural credits amendment has been actually in operation show that 67 applications have been made for loans from that fund, and out of this number 44 have been approved. The loans asked for average about \$2000, although some run as high as \$5000 and others as low as \$300. Approximately \$90,000 worth of loans have been approved out of the \$140,000 worth applied for.

MANY COLLEGE MEN LOST

More Than 35,000 German Students Have Been Killed or Taken Prisoners.

Berlin.—Since the beginning of the world war over 35,000 German college students have been killed or taken prisoners in the different theaters of war and more than 40,000 are still at the front.

According to an official report just published, the number of students enrolled in the 22 universities of the empire for the fifth war semester is 60,041. Among them are 5,757 women and 1,400 foreigners. Of the enrolled male students, 12,657 are attending the lectures. The rest are in the field. Many of those who are able to pursue their studies have been wounded on the battlefield and received their discharges for partial disability. Almost every third one of them wears the iron cross.

Toothed tongs of much power have been patented by a Washington inventor to pull weeds.

Talent and Work.

A talent does not relieve us from the necessity of working. It only shows us the line in which we can work most effectively. The girl who thinks that because she has a natural taste for music, she can dispense with the practice of scales, will find herself worse off than another who owns that she has no talent, but is ready to plod.

Statute of Limitations Applies.

Now somebody is claiming that America was discovered by Buddhist monks in 458 A. D., but it is too late to attempt to put anything like that across. Columbus has already made way with the goods and a motion to reconsider is no longer in order.—Houston Post.

Vain Regrets.

Do not regret that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself what you wish to be.

Electric locomotives gradually are replacing steam on the state railroads of Italy.