

LITTLE STORY OF BIG JOB BUILDING CITIES FOR ARMY

First Work Begun on June 15, and September 1 Sees Completion—Permanent Towns Built—Buildings Good for Fifty Years—Each Cantonment Has 2000 Buildings.

By GILSON GARDNER.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—Two men and a stenographer were all the war department had May 28 to build the sixteen cantonments now practically completed. The men were army officers in the quartermasters' division, to which the job was assigned.

A swarm of contractors, agents and speculators, who had heard some fine, fat government contracts were to be let, came to them. And all the two officers could do was to ask their visitors to pass in single file and leave their names and addresses.

As this did not build cantonments, a new plan was tried. Secretary of War Baker told General Scott to tell Colonel Kelly to tell these business men to get together and do business with themselves. The emergency was pressing, the task great, and the government (to be quite frank) unprepared.

So Colonel Isaac Littell was detailed by General Scott and given a rubber stamp on which was engraved something like this:

"Gentlemen, the government will treat you liberally. Only go ahead for your country's sake and get these cantonments built."

Starrett a Leader.

Colonel Littell assembled the swarming business men in the Munsey building. Here they conferred four days and nights, and then went and rented the old Adams building at 1333 F street. And in a few days they had this building filled to the roof with 250 folks at desks and typewriters. This is the office machine that has run the cantonment's business.

A man named Starrett—W. A. Starrett—seemed to crop out as leading organizer of the contractor swarm. He got appointed chairman of a committee on "emergency construction of building and engineering works," and as such has been sort of big boss.

At first he had with him Frederick Law Olmstead, architect and city planner; C. W. Landoff of Crowell, Landoff, Little & Co. of Cleveland, and M. C. Tuttle of the Averbach Construction Co. of Boston. But soon the committee sifted down to Olmstead and Starrett and later Leonard Metcalf of Boston, an authority on sewage, and George W. Fuller of New York. This is the committee which, with Colonel Littell, nominally at its head, has built the cantonments.

Hurry Calls Issued.

A hurry call was wired to all the biggest contracting firms. Their best men were dragged into the organization in the Adams building. Each was constituted a special lieutenant in charge of some special job and given stenographers and desks.

From this shop on F street contracts for \$150,000,000 worth of work have been given out.

There was no effort to advertise for bids and let to the lowest bidder. Instead of this, a census was taken of the big firms and each was notified it would have certain work to perform, and would be compensated on the basis of cost plus 7 per cent or larger per cent if the job was small. But no single firm or individual would be permitted to drag down more than \$250,000.

The contractors were told that they could pay the best wages paid in the community, with certain advances when necessary to draw labor. So they were satisfied and there was no scarcity of labor.

Work Started June 15.

June 7 the first contract was approved and June 15 the first work started.

At each cantonment job an average of 5000 men were employed. At the beginning there were less and at the "peak" from 8000 to 10,000. The men worked eight hours and were paid half wages extra for overtime.

At the last minute it was decided to have the barracks two stories. This saved roofing, lumber and land space and reduced the cost \$12,000,000.

Each cantonment is approximately two miles long and a mile wide. The lumber used, four billion feet, is equal to the year's cut in the United States. A carload of tacks were consumed in tacking tar paper on the roofs.

PEACE POSSIBLE STATES CHARLES IN PEACE REPLY

Austrian Answer to Pope Shows Anxiety for War's End, But Vague in Terms—Seconds Suggestion for Abolition of Armed Might and Rule of International Justice.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 21.—Peace would come from the recent proposals of Pope Benedict if the belligerent nations would enter into negotiations in the sense of the pontiff's suggestions, Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary says in his reply to the Vatican note. The emperor sees in the pope's peace plan a suitable basis for starting negotiations toward a just and lasting peace and expresses the hope that the nations opposing his own may be animated by the same idea.

The Text of Reply

The text of the reply follows:

"Holy father:

"With due veneration and deep emotion, we take cognizance of the new representations your holiness in fulfillment of the holy office entrusted you by God, make to us and the heads of the other belligerent states, with the noble intention of leading the heavily tried nations to a unity that will restore peace to them.

"With a thankful heart, we received this fresh gift of fatherly care, which the holy father always bestows and from the depth of our hearts we greet the moving exhortation which your holiness has addressed to the governments of the belligerent peoples. During this cruel war we have always looked up to your holiness as the highest personage who, in virtue of his mission, which reaches beyond earthly things and thanks to the high conception of his duties laid upon him, stands above the belligerent peoples and who is inaccessible to all influence, was able to find a way which may lead to the realization of our own desire for peace, lasting and honorable, for all parties."

Justice to All

"If, as we most heartily desire, agreements should be arrived at between the belligerents, which would realize this sublime idea and thereby give security to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy for its unhampered future development, it can then not be difficult to find a satisfactory solution of the other questions which still remain to be settled between the belligerents in a spirit of justice and reasonable consideration of the conditions for existence of both parties.

New Prosperity

"If the nations of the earth were to enter, with a desire for peace, into negotiations with one another in the sense of your holiness proposals then peace could blossom forth from them. The nations could attain a complete freedom of movement on the high seas, heavy material burdens could be taken from them and new sources of prosperity opened to them.

"Guided by a spirit of moderation and conciliation, we see in the proposals of your holiness a suitable basis for initiating negotiations with a view to preparing a peace just to all and lasting, and we earnestly hope our present enemies may be animated by the same ideas. In this spirit, we beg that the Almighty may bless the work of peace begun by your holiness."

Always for Peace

"Since ascending the throne of our ancestors and fully conscious of the responsibility which we bear to God and men for the fate of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, we have never lost sight of the high aim of restoring to our peoples as speedily as possible the blessings of peace. Soon after our accession to the throne it was vouchsafed us in common with our allies, to undertake a step which had been considered and prepared by our exalted predecessor, Francis Joseph, to pave the way for a lasting and honorable peace.

End to Blood-shed

"We gave expression to this desire in a speech from the throne delivered at the opening of the Austrian Reichsrat, thereby showing that we are striving after a peace that shall free the future life of the nation from rancor and a thirst for revenge, and that shall secure them for generations to come from the employment of armed forces. Our joint government has, in the meantime, not failed in repeated and emphatic declarations, which could be heard by all the world, to give expression to our own will and that of the Austro-Hungarian peoples to prepare an end to bloodshed by a peace such as your holiness has in mind.

"Happy in the thought that our desires from the first were directed toward the same object, which your

holiness today characterizes as one we strive for, we have taken into close consideration the concrete and practical suggestions of your holiness and have come to the following conclusions:

Basis of Peace

"With deep rooted conviction we agree to the leading idea of your holiness that the future arrangements of the world must be based on the elimination of armed forces and on the moral force of right and on the rule of international justice and legality.

"We, too, are imbued with the hope that a strengthening of the sense of right would morally regenerate humanity. We support, therefore, your holiness' view that the negotiations between the belligerents should and could lead to an understanding by which, with the creation of appropriate guarantees, armaments on land and sea and in the air, might be reduced simultaneously, reciprocally and gradually to a fixed limit, and whereby the high seas, which rightly belong to all the nations of the earth, may be freed from domination or paramountcy and be opened equally for the use of all.

TRAINS OF TROOPS GOING THRU CITY TO CANTONMENT

The heavy movement of drafted soldiers passing thru the city from California to American Lake, Wn., is now fairly on and about 8000 of the new soldiers will pass thru the city Saturday, Sunday and Monday on a number of special trains. None of these trains stop at Medford but a number stop at either Ashland or Grants Pass for breakfast.

On account of so many military specials passing over the road the freight and passenger schedule is somewhat disorganized and all trains more or less late. John M. Scott, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific, who is dividing up his time between Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass looking after the military movement and the general passenger service, said today that everything considered the train service was satisfactory. According to Mr. Scott it is the feeding of the soldiers at various points that is causing most of the trouble in delaying trains.

Several of the military trains passed thru the city Friday and last night bearing hundreds of lusty young men fairly aching to get to France as soon as possible to do their bit.

Two coaches of drafted soldiers from Nevada were attached to north bound passenger train 14 this morning and from the second the train came to a stop at the depot the irrepressible young men made known their presence with lusty cheers and noisy good nature. Most of them left the train and paraded along the parkway. There were a number of Mexicans and Indians and half breeds among the drafted soldiers and they were the most enthusiastic in the crowd. A young Mexican, fairly bubbling over with life, led the parade and in the shouting.

The Nevadans seemingly could not get it thru their heads why the Medford crowd at the depot did not join in with their cheers and songs, and began to call this city "German town." They did not know that Medford is used to seeing soldiers and recruits passing thru, while the experience was a new one for them.

The two coaches were chalked all over with inscriptions, the largest reading: "From Reno to France to get the Kaiser's goat." Another inscription read: "If you want to see the Kaiser come to Reno for we'll soon have him there."

AIRSHIPS ACTIVE IN OFFENSIVE ON FLANDERS FRONT

LONDON, Sept. 22.—The following official statement dealing with the activities of the British aviation corps during the British offensive in Flanders was issued tonight by the war office:

"During the first two hours of our attack on Thursday low clouds and a drizzling rain made flying almost impossible. However, our airplanes flew out at low altitude and dropped bombs on a hostile airdrome near Courtrai, besides firing at bodies of German infantry. As soon as the weather improved our aerial activity became great and contact was kept with our advancing troops and both airplanes and balloons gave observation for our artillery. On several occasions the location of enemy troops preparing for a counter-attack was reported to our artillery, which successfully dealt with the situation.

"While the attack was in progress airplanes fired from their machine guns over 28,000 rounds from heights ranging between 100 and 1000 feet at German infantry in their trenches and shell holes, at reinforcements coming up to the battle, at bodies of troops on roads and working behind the lines and at hostile batteries, machine guns and transports. During the day sixty-eight bombs were dropped on the Ledeghem railway station, ninety-six on two airdromes northeast of Lille and 103 on billets and ammunition dumps in the battle area. At night, in spite of unfavorable weather, bombs were dropped on two towns, on the Ledeghem-Roulers and Menin railway stations.

"In the middle of the day German aircraft became active, attempting to interfere with our artillery and our bombing and low-flying machines. In the evening, when the weather improved, they kept well to the east of the lines and were not inclined to fight. Ten hostile machines were destroyed and six were driven down out of control. Ten of our machines are missing."

BRITISH REPULSE SAVAGE ATTACKS FLANDERS FRONT

By the Associated Press, Sept. 22.—In the field of hostilities the British campaign in Flanders alone commands widespread interest at the moment. Today's report shows General Haig to be holding fast to all the valuable ground he gained in the great attack of Thursday in the face of most persistent German counter attacks. The Germans heavily increased their losses in these efforts, the British official statement notes, but failed to achieve any compensating gain.

The only section at which the Teutonic thrusts were even temporarily successful was east of St. Julien and here the Germans were immediately driven out of the small section of ground they had penetrated.

Three counter attacks in all were delivered last evening by the Germans. Apparently they had become exhausted by the failure of the first two efforts for the third attack, made east of Langemark, did not have to be faced by the British infantry, the artillery alone being able to cope with it.

PEACE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTABLE TO CENTRAL POWERS

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nevertheless, he broken, it would be in a position to win it with honor. The Kaiser has, by his acts, fulfilled the promise he then made in 26 years of happy rule, despite provocations and temptations.

Worked for Peace

"In the crisis, which led to the present world conflagration, his majesty's efforts were up to the last moment directed toward settling the conflict by peaceful means. After the war had broken out, against his wish and desire, the Kaiser, in conjunction with his high allies, was the first solemnly to declare his readiness to enter into peace negotiations. The German people supported his majesty in his keen desire for peace.

"Germany sought within her national frontier the free development of her spiritual and material possessions, and outside the imperial territory, unhindered competition with nations enjoying equal rights and equal esteem. The free play of forces in the world in peaceable wrestling with one another would lead to the highest perfecting of the noblest human possessions. Disastrous concatenation of events in the year 1914, absolutely broke off all hopeful course of development and the deplorable war resulted.

Received With Sympathy.

"Appreciating the importance of His Holiness' declaration, the imperial government has not failed to submit the suggestion contained therein to earnest and scrupulous examination. Special measures which the government has taken in closest contact with representatives of the German people, for discussing and answering the questions raised prove how earnestly it desires, in accordance with His Holiness' desires, and the peace resolution of the reichstag on July to find a practical basis for a just and lasting peace.

"The imperial government greets with special sympathy the leading idea of the peace appeal wherein His Holiness clearly expresses the conviction that in the future the material power of arms must be superseded by the moral power of right. We are also convinced that the sick body of human society can be healed only by fortifying its moral strength of right. From this would follow, according to His Holiness' view, the simultaneous diminution of the armed forces of all states and the enforcement of obligatory arbitration for international disputes.

Share Pope's Views.

"We share His Holiness' view that definite rules and a certain safeguard for a simultaneous and reciprocal limitation of armaments on land, on sea and in the air, as well as for the

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(Continued from Page One.)

points of conflict which are still undecided in such a way that conditions of existence will be created which will be satisfactory to every nation and thereby a repetition of this great world catastrophe would appear impossible.

"Only on this condition can a lasting peace be founded which would promote an intellectual approach and a return to economic prosperity of human society. This serious and sincere conviction encourages our confidence that our enemy also may see a substantial basis in the ideas submitted by His Holiness for approaching nearer to the preparation of future peace under conditions corresponding to a spirit of reasonableness and to the situation in Europe."

The document is signed by the imperial chancellor Michaelis and is addressed to Cardinal Gasparri, papal secretary of state.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their kindness shown us during the illness and death of our beloved wife and mother, Susana E. Harnish.

S. H. HARNISH AND FAMILY.

true freedom of the community and high seas are the things, in treating which the new spirit that in the future should prevail in international relations, should find first hopeful expression. The task would then of itself arise to decide international differences of opinion not by the use of armed forces but by peaceful methods, especially by arbitration, whose high peace producing effect we together with His Holiness fully recognize.

The imperial government will in this respect support every proposal compatible with the vital interest of the German empire and people.

"Germany, owing to her geographical situation and economic requirements, has to rely on peaceful intercourse with her neighbors and with distant countries. No people, therefore, has more reason than the German people to wish that instead of universal hatred and battle that a conciliatory fraternal spirit should prevail between nations.

Sees Peace Basis.

"If the nations are guided by this spirit it will be recognized to their advantage that the important thing is to lay more stress upon what unites them in their relations. They will also succeed in settling individual

points of conflict which are still undecided in such a way that conditions of existence will be created which will be satisfactory to every nation and thereby a repetition of this great world catastrophe would appear impossible.

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FIVE STEAMERS, TWO DESTROYERS BAGGED BY U-BOATS

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Sept. 22.—Passengers who arrived from England today on an American steamship brought circumstantial reports that five British steamships and two destroyers out of a convoy fleet of six which left Lough Swilly, Ireland, September 3, were sunk by a German submarine within a few hours of the port of departure.

The story was told among others by shipwrecked seamen who were survivors of other submarined vessels and by the merchant ship officer who had been in Lough Swilly.

The five vessels, it was said, conveyed by the destroyers, put to sea after midnight and they were attacked by massed submarines the following morning at daylight. News of the disaster was learned when the destroyers which escaped put back to port, bringing survivors of the torpedoed merchantman and war vessels.

"The closest secrecy was immediately thrown about the incident," the merchant ship officer said. "The survivors were given positive instructions to say nothing about it, and no details as to the names of the ships or the extent of loss of life could be learned. It was reported that one and possibly two of the U-boats were sunk by the destroyers."



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