

FRENCH FRONTIER FORTS READY FOR SUDDEN INVASION

Five Billion Francs Spent in Constructing Modern Fortifications — Descend 150 Feet Into Earth

By Waterley Lewis Root, United Press Staff Correspondent.

PARIS — (UP)—France's long line of reinforced concrete which follows the disposition of its northeastern frontier is stocked with a full supply of arms. The Maginot Line is ready for the next war.

Deputy Andre Beaugotte, just back from an inspection tour of the new fortifications with Minister of War Jean Faby, said:

"I asked last year: 'When will France finally be ready to meet a brusque attack with a brusque response?' Events have now answered my question. From now on we no longer fear a sudden invasion."

The armament of the frontier is not quite complete. Blockhouses have still to be constructed at Montmedy, Valenciennes and Mauberge. Then the last holes in the line which France hopes is impregnable will have been plugged.

Personnel Must Be Trained.

Technicians must be trained also to man the fortresses. Now understaffed. Two year military service will help do that. For France's modern defenses are not mere parapets behind which may be placed any man with a gun. They are factories of death, and they need engineers to insure production.

To the casual eye they would not seem imposing. Across the Rhine, perched on high fir-covered hills, are the forts of another age. Towering castles of medieval stone, thrown up on the highest hills, they were strongholds once, they would be targets now.

Obstructions Barely Visible.

On the French side of the Rhine are seen low sunken constructions of cement, barely protruding above the surface of the ground. In the soil of the frontier are sunk 5,000,000,000 francs of the French taxpayers' money. They are represented by those squat constructions—the lid of the hive underneath.

Approaching one of those lids—the visitor hears a humming sound beneath it. That is the voice of the great dynamo far down in the fort. It operates the elevators that descend 150 feet into the earth. It runs the narrow-gauge railway that circulates below the soil. It supplies power to the mechanical hoists and carriages that bring shells from the bottom of the works to the very breeches of the big guns.

Uniforms and salutes have not been abandoned here, but a suit of overalls and a handful of cotton waste is more at home. In these long galleries tunneled molelike under the earth, men are waiting for the inevitable wave of feldgrau. It may come when it likes.

Named After Hero of Line.

"From now on we no longer fear a sudden invasion."

The Maginot Line is ready. It is named in honor of Andre Maginot, minister of war who died in 1922. Maginot was the dominating French figure in the occupation of the Ruhr valley and was a strong adherent of constant surveillance of the Rhineland. His life after the world war was dedicated to making France strong. He defended military preparedness once with the statement: "We must not brandish our sword, but we must not break it across our knees."

Maginot's service as a poet in the war awoke in him strong militaristic impulses. He made constant demands for reinforced armaments and increased military equipment.

The veteran was a hero in the trenches as an enlisted man. Repeatedly he led raiding parties beyond the German lines. He won the Military Medal and was elected to the Legion of Honor.

Despite severe Japanese competition, American radio receiving sets have been able to maintain a strong position in the Manchurian market.

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PLUMB PROVES HER PERFECTION



Entrants in the perfect body contest in Hollywood, among other tests, must have shoulders and hips that align correctly, according to modern standards. A plumb line is used for the test. Dr. Gordon M. Goodfellow is shown grading Myra Bovard, while Evalyn Arden and Martha Schmidt await their turn. (Associated Press Photo)

DOVE PAYS VISIT ARNSPIGER HOME

A merry Christmas is in the offing for the Olen Arnspiger family; that is, if preliminary surveys on the part of Old Santa mean anything.

The Arnspiger family was surprised Sunday morning to hear a cooing behind the fireplace screen, which, when removed, disclosed a white pigeon that had fluttered down the chimney. A green band fastened around one of its legs lead the Arnspigers to believe that the pigeon was of the carrier variety, but as local stocks of carrier pigeons are few, it was undetermined where the little feathery chimney-faller-down had come from.

Unconcerned about its sudden sooty descent and apparently accustomed to frequent fireplace inspections, the pigeon contented itself for a while in the Arnspiger household, accepting the family's solicitations.

Mr. Arnspiger took it outside to release it and last seen, it was winging eastward. The rest of the family regret that they forgot to fasten a list of their Christmas wants to this apparent early bird messenger from Santa Claus.

THE DALLES TEACHER ENDS LIFE WITH GUN

THE DALLES, Ore., July 24.—(AP)—Frank Heckman, 32, instructor at The Dalles high school, died shortly after noon today as a result of a bullet wound, apparently self-inflicted. Death occurred at the home of his parents here.

A note explaining his despondency over ill-health was declared to have been found.

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STATE OF OREGON GREAT SHOPPER, IS PROVED BY LISTS

48,000 Orders Go Over Desk of Purchasing Agent in Year — Cadavers Cost \$15 Each—Skeletons \$75

SALEM, Ore.—(UP)—If there's anything the state of Oregon doesn't

buy, Purchasing Agent Daniel J. Fry would like to know what it is.

In a year 48,000 orders go over his desk. They list everything except diamond rings and fur coats. (The state does buy diamonds, through drills for the highway department.)

A cross-section of one day's purchases shows such variety as badminton and croquet sets for the state system of higher education, oshy shoes for the Fairview home, road oil, 15 rabbits for the University of Oregon medical school, hospital supplies, food galore, building materials, office equipment and auto accessories.

Cadavers Cheap.

Life is cheap, Fry has discovered. He buys cadavers for the medical school at \$15 each, and human brains for \$2.50. But skeletons are expensive. They're \$75.

Biggest purchase item every year is road oil. It runs to \$250,000. Yellow paint to center-stripe highways (10 gallons to the mile) costs \$40,000. The state once spent \$43,000 for a radio. That was the equipment for KOAC, bought second-hand.

In 1917 the state bought a paying plant for \$13,500 and saved \$1,000,000 by never using it. Very existence of the equipment forced contractors to cut their prices for building roads. The state later sold the plant.

Once Owned Railroad.

Few persons remember it, but the state once owned a railroad. The system included one engine, four box cars and four flat cars and tracks between The Dalles and Celilo. The line was the Celilo Falls railroad, sometimes known as the state portage railroad. The federal govern-

ment used it for two years. Then on August 23, 1917, the state sold it to the late H. Steinbock, Salem junk dealer, and D. Samuels for \$39,500. The story is that Steinbock sold the rolling stock to Russia, but because of the war and revolution never got a penny.

Biggest piece of machinery bought by the state are the \$13,000 snow-plows that cut through drifts on McKenzie pass. Smallest are microscopes for medical students.

Rowboats for state game warden fire engines for institutions, snowshoes for highway employes are some of the weird purchases.

And once a Chicago firm was ordered to ship 300 grasshoppers to Oregon.

Upholstering, repairing, P. O. Box 969-R, Tillamook.

Postcard Arrives Six Years Late

SALEM, July 24.—(AP)—Oregon's postal system may be slow, but sure. A postcard mailed to the secretary of state August 20, 1929 from Astoria, reached the office today, almost six years late.

The card, sent by J. D. Hallberg, acknowledged receipt from the then Secretary Hal E. Rosa, of a state warrant. Earl Snell, the third official since then, was the recipient.

McCracken county, Ky., ended its fiscal year with a cash balance of \$10,000 and all bills paid.

Ethiopia became independent towards the eleventh century, having been an Egyptian province before that.

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