

The Evening Herald

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1921

THE THRESHING MACHINE

By David Elsworth

I think that I have never seen. As hungry a thing as a threshing machine. It stands all day with open mouth. Facing either north, east, west or south. Its iron jaws are never still. And its hungry mouth no one can fill. Its forked tongues reach out and feel. And its teeth are set in bands of steel. It chews its food with a rattle and roar. And is never content unless it has more. The faster you feed it, the softer its voice. The song it then sings makes its owner rejoice. It fills our fair land with music sweet. And it grinds out the food for its people to eat. Some call it dirty, but I call it clean. For what would we do, without the Threshing Machine.

MANY CORDS OF WOOD GO INTO LEAD PENCILS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Where do all the lead pencils come from, and where do they go? Although almost everybody has one, many folks never buy one, but even so, more than 750,000,000 are manufactured for use in the United States every year, using up many thousands of cords of wood.

But woods suitable for lead pencils are becoming scarcer and many manufacturers are turning to paper. Red Cedar and Red Juniper, says the American Forestry Association are the woods chiefly used in making lead pencils. A hunt is on for other kinds of wood that will take the place of these. In East Africa a kind of cedar has been found with which experiments are being made. The production in the United States is about 30,000 cases of pencil slats per year. From each case 100 gross of pencils is made. This results in about one billion pencils of American grown cedar. Since one fourth of this number is sent to foreign countries that leaves 750,000,000 pencils for the home market, which means an average of seven pencils per person figuring on the last census.

As far back as history goes man has tried to make things to mark with and to set down his thoughts. The Aztecs and the Pharaohs had crude marking devices. As early as 1750 Kalm, a Swedish naturalist, made experiments with American cedar. In 1812 William Monroe made 500 pencils at Concord and sold them in Boston but the war stopped his plans. In 1861 Eberhard Faber began making pencils on a large scale in this country.

The graphite which makes the mark is of course the important part in the manufacture of the pencil. Ceylon has furnished much of the graphite used in this country. Graphite is also found in Madagascar and in Mexico. Czechoslovakia contains deposits of both the amorphous and crystalline graphite. In the United States the chief deposits are in Alabama, New York and Pennsylvania.

2,500,000 TROUT EGGS FROM IDAHO HATCHERY

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho, Sept. 27.—The state fish hatchery here has sent out 2,500,000 trout fry this year, according to an official announcement made this week. The hatchery is now empty and Manager Clark is gathering spawn at Elk River. It is believed here that this season's record will stand as a high mark for the hatchery for a long time to come.

Sheriff Whips Wife Beater



The whipping post, idle for nine years, has been restored to action at Baltimore. Sheriff Thomas F. McNulty is shown giving five lashes with a "cat-o-nine-tails" to Cornelius Smith who beat his wife with a rolling pin. Smith is also serving two months.

WAR DOESN'T PAY

No Munitions Concern Can Live by War Alone, and When Conflicts Do Come They Are Much More Likely to Bring Such a Corporation Financial Ruin Than to Produce a Lasting Profit for It

By PIERRE S. DU PONT
 Chairman, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company

The popular conception of a munitions maker is a sinister individual with a deep hatred for peace and a contempt for the pursuits thereof. He is pictured as doing all in his power to fan the flames of distrust between nations, and to delight in the conflicts that ensue, since they create enormous and immediate profits for his corporation. I called this the popular conception of the munitions maker; in reality, it is the popular misconception. Consider the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., whose history is coincident in point of time with that of the United States. We have furnished a great part of the explosives used in all the wars in which the United States has engaged. Therefore we feel that our records should show conclusively what war will do for—and to—a maker of munitions.

No munitions concern can live by war alone. During the 139 years of the existence of the United States as a nation there were four major conflicts before the world war. They lasted about ten years in all, or about 7 per cent of the time. How could any independent corporation keep itself alive for 139 years by turning out a product that was only wanted ten years of that time? The manufacturer of war materials who was prepared to meet the emergencies of these years was not supported during the intervening time by preparations for the conflicts. Such manufacturers existed through the ownership of factories occupied in making peacetime products. In that way alone they could stabilize their business.

Most people—business men included—probably think that war has no dangers for the makers of munitions. The truth is that no one realizes as clearly as do we makers of war necessities the grave financial dangers of modern conflicts. Even for a company as strong and firmly established as our own, it is a gamble whether it can successfully weather the storm. There is the need for immediate and tremendous expansion; the steady, even flow of peacetime business gives way to a feverish rush for materials and labor. This expansion must be accomplished when there is a demand for money from a thousand sources. You might assume that our factories can turn to the making of war materials without changing their equipment. As a matter of fact, our plants that made powder for commercial purposes could not turn out the explosives used in modern warfare. New plants, then, must be erected, new organizations created when labor is hard to find and not over-conscientious.

Wars stop suddenly. The munitions maker finds that his market has vanished overnight. He is left with plants and organizations on his hands that are of little value during peace—and these difficulties are enhanced by the depression that follows conflict. Our company has attained its present position not because of, but

war were undoubtedly a determining factor in the final result. Our European allies concede that they would have failed to withstand the preparedness of the German nation had it not been for the assistance of the munition makers of the United States. Without these same munition makers our own government would have been powerless; in fact, it would never have had an opportunity to lend its assistance to the allies, who carried the burden in the early war years.

While the government of the United States showed wisdom in turning over the production of military explosives in small quantities during times of peace to the industrial manufacturers, still greater wisdom has been shown in the promotion of general industrial enterprise, so that the United States was prepared in many lines of manufacture necessary for war purposes.

It has not been many years since our European friends advised that the people of the United States should restrict themselves to the pursuit of agriculture, to which this country is well fitted, leaving Europe to manufacture from the raw materials won from American ground. Our government wisely turned a deaf ear to those proposals, and, through the levying of tariffs, gave to the United States industries without which the war would not have been won. The production of steel, of many chemicals and other products was fostered in the early days of protection that met such criticism, but this protection was a small price to pay for the development of manufactures.

Where Germany Outwitted Us.

In one industry Germany contrived to outwit our government, namely, in the production of dyes, which the German government recognized as the key to the manufacture of certain military explosives not generally useful in other industry. However, the hand of fate delayed the war sufficiently to enable the manufacturers of the United States to prepare. Had the United States been driven to war a few years earlier, there would have been total lack of preparation in a most necessary line of explosives and chemicals. No more cunning plan could be devised than to wrest from the United States the foundation that now exists for the establishment of the manufacture of dyes. In raw materials, the United States is not lacking. The skill of its labor and technical men is sufficient, but to establish the dye industry in competition with Germany, enough time must be permitted to work out economically the intricate processes that are required for the successful production of dyes. These latter can be made, in fact, have been made, in quality equal to and even excelling the German dyes. But to date economical production through improvement of yield and economical disposition of by-products has not developed sufficiently to enable the industry to withstand unaided the competition of Germany, whose years of unopposed development work give her temporary advantage. This same question has arisen many times before in the United States, and temporary increase in the prices of productive materials has been opposed by shallow think-

ers, but the result of proper protective tariffs has been the employment of many men and women at good wages and the production of manufactured goods of quality and price far more satisfactory than the imported article of earlier years.

In time of war it is not difficult to enlist the capital of the adventurer in war-time pursuits. These adventures are ready to take advantage of any situation. Their opportunities occur from time to time, not through their own making, and they are disregarded by the public as promoters of war. On the other hand, those industrial manufacturers who, through the production of similar materials, stand ready to help the nation in the hour of need, are frequently the targets of those who aim to promote discord.

Could anything be more unlikely than that old and well-established industrial corporations should encourage a condition of affairs calling for the gravest financial risk in the preparation of huge quantities of special products in times so uncertain as a period of war? Again the case of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. may be cited. At the outbreak of the war we had capital assets of about \$80,000,000, and employed about 6,000 men. Our business amounted to about \$26,000,000 per annum. Demands of war required the increase of this business to over \$300,000,000 per annum, the employment of 68,000 men, and the investment in factories for the production of special military explosives of \$220,000,000, equal to 270 per cent of the total assets of the company prior to the war.

The building of these factories and the production of 1,466,000,000 pounds of explosives required the purchase of an enormous quantity of materials in widely fluctuating markets, and in face of possible cessation of hostilities at any moment. Failure to produce on specified time would have entailed most serious consequences. Presence of explosives made the factories particularly liable to successful attack by the enemy, requiring constant guarding at all points. The introduction of thousands of untrained men not only caused grave risk with respect to the quality of product, but through possible carelessness or lack of information, introduced hazards whose consequences might amount to thousands of dol-

lars in a single accident. Witness the war-time destruction of several powder magazines in flares that lasted a fraction of a minute, where the value of material lost amounted as high as \$250,000 in one such accident.

I hope I have made it clear that we makers of munitions who survived the risks to life and capital are not among those anxious to repeat the experiment of war by preventing the establishment of permanent peace. I consider President Harding's move in calling the disarmament conference a long step in the right direction, as it will be held while people still have in mind the physical horrors of warfare, and while the nations still are suffering from economic wounds. Sentiment against war has always been strong; added to this sentiment now is the crushing burden of taxation, and a disarrangement of all the orderly channels of domestic and international commerce. The conference has an excellent chance to achieve the high aim for which it has been called.

THE STRAND

"Back of the Man," the Kay Bee drama which will be shown at the Strand Theater tonight tells one of the strongest stories of business life that Thomas H. Ince has presented on the Triangle program in some time.

Dorothy Dalton is starred at the head of a cast that includes Charles Ray, Margaret Thompson, Jack Livingston and J. Barney Sherry.

"Back of the Man" recounts the history of a youth of brilliant prospects who lets ambition lead his heart astray from the one woman able to guide him to the heights of life. But just when all that he has sought in the way of material prosperity seems within his grasp the young man becomes entangled in a murder mystery. The manner in which he is cleared of this crime and at the same time has his eyes opened to the real worth of the woman he had neglected makes the big thrills in a cleverly constructed plot.

The Lewis family will have an entirely changed program tonight.

YANKEES SLIP UP ONE NOTCH TOWARD PENNANT

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—A decided advantage was gained by the Yankees in the race for the American league championship yesterday when they defeated the Cleveland ball team by an 8 to 7 score.

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