

BRAZIL LOOKING TO FUTURE

Important Industries of the Country Are to Be Encouraged by the Government.

The secretary of agriculture of Brazil recently presented a lengthy memorial to the president of the republic explaining the necessity of encouraging the coal and steel industries, which has resulted in the publication of two decrees of the federal government.

The secretary's report states that until there are at least ten coal mines in active operation in the country the effect of this industry will not be felt in the conservation of the wood supply, which is now being rapidly consumed to meet the needs of the railroads and of domestic industries. The steel industry is so largely dependent upon suitable fuel that, in the secretary's opinion, it should also receive the attention of the Brazilian government.

The secretary points out that the present lack of sufficient domestic coal of suitable quality should not interfere with the establishment of a steel industry, which could temporarily use wood, and that for more than 300 years Sweden was obliged to depend upon this kind of fuel. He also says that in the United States some 400,000 tons of pig iron are produced annually by the use of charcoal as a fuel.—Commerce Reports.

CARRY FOOD TO TRENCHES

French Employ Canine Couriers to Take Supplies to the Men in Most Exposed Positions.

French warfare certainly interferes with the fighter's meals. After capturing the enemy's position in particular, is the fighter at a loss to know how he will get his regular rations; for no sooner does the enemy find himself dispossessed of his original trenches than he opens up with an intense barrage fire designed to prevent ammunition and food from reaching the new occupants.

The French army believes it has solved the problem of carrying food to men in isolated trenches. In its lunch dogs, says the Scientific American. Carrying light lunches and coffee, and even cartridges for the men in the first line trenches when the combat is hot and protracted these splendid trained dogs are more certain to get through barbed wire than men. Each dog is equipped with a sort of double bag, strapped tight over its body, and provided with numerous pockets for food, coffee cans, ammunition and other supplies.

It is at the military dog-training grounds at Paris that dogs are prepared for this service. Not only are these four-legged couriers taught to avoid the enemy and beware of tricks, but also to crawl on their stomachs in order to escape flying bullets. Special masks are provided for these dogs when they must pass through a poison gas area.

To Be Pitched Only in the Morning.

Many years ago, when Connie Mack was the Milwaukee catcher and manager, the club opened the season with several score-arm veteran pitchers. There was one youngster with the club who did not complain of this trouble, so they sent him to the slab. Milwaukee was beaten something like 16 to 4. The kid pitcher was downcast. "The umpire didn't give me any the best of it," he said by way of an alibi. "No," replied Joe Cantillon, who had overheard the remark; "neither did the opposing batters give you any the best of it."

"The kid walked off in a huff. Connie Mack turned to Cantillon. "Tell me this for the boys," he said, "I've worked out with him every morning for the last two weeks, and he looked mighty good."

When a Prisoner is Exchanged.

Ivan Rosseter, captured by the Germans and later exchanged, says in the Farm and Fireside: "Then I lay down, not to sleep but to think. I thought of the day when I enlisted in Canada, of leaving home, the training camps, the trip overseas to England, the training in England, going across the channel to Flanders, the terrific fighting at Ypres, of the many friends who fell on that bloody battlefield, how I was wounded and captured, the inhuman treatment I received at the hands of the German soldiers, who had four husky Germans hold me down while they cut five bones out of my wrist and amputated my middle finger at the second joint when I was wounded in the palm of the hand, the kicks and the cuffs from prison guards and the terrible stuff the Germans called food in the prison camps."

Looked Like Decorations.

A huckster drove out into one of the suburbs with a load of produce late the other night and his horse wandered into a road where repairs were being made. The horse was on the edge of a deep sewer trench when a suburbanite called to the driver and warned him of his danger. "Didn't you see the red lanterns?" the suburbanite asked. "Yes," replied the huckster, "but I thought they were part of the decorations."—Detroit Free Press.

CARE FOR SOLDIERS' FEET

Army Authorities Particular That There Shall Be Little Trouble in That Respect.

"How is Uncle Sam able to raise sufficient funds to shoe his children?" we might ask just now, when the prices of shoes are soaring almost above the average purse.

This question was, however, answered at a recent meeting in Atlantic City of the American Leather Chemists' association, which was also attended by several members of the American Chemical society. Their discussion on this subject proved most conclusively that the boys in service are being provided with the finest quality leather in their army shoes and that it is surpassed by none.

Another interesting fact developed in their discussion—that the army shoes are made with the flesh side of the hide outside. In this way grease may be readily applied to the leather from time to time in order to keep it waterproof.

It was most gratifying to learn that in every first-aid kit the soldier carries a tube of paste to apply to the feet in order to prevent trench sores, which were so common in the early days of the war. These sores are caused by the alkaline water in the trenches, but if the feet are promptly protected by an inert grease no such bad effects result.

Thus we see that Uncle Sam is dealing with the question of the army shoe from the soldier's viewpoint of comfort and protection, as well as from his own standpoint of the wearing qualities. The government recognizes that the soldiers' feet are his best friend and it is doing everything to help to keep them so.

SAYS BERLIN IS FORTIFIED

Vast Defense Work Has Been Built, According to Statement Made by Swede.

Monster guns, hidden in pits 40 and 50 feet deep, and 125 to 150 feet apart, form a labyrinth of defenses around Berlin, according to John Erickson, a native of Sweden. For five years, beginning with 1907, Erickson says he worked on the outer defenses of Berlin, and prior to that time worked for the Motta gun works of Sweden, turning out heavy ordnance for Germany.

Guns surrounding Berlin, according to Erickson, range from 22 to 42 inches in diameter. Many are of the larger type. Some are over 200 feet long. Their foundation is set in seven feet of solid granite, sunk in the bottom of the pits in which the guns are hidden, surrounding the city. Two circles of these guns surround Berlin. One is seven miles from the city's outskirts—the other is 11. A screen roof is now laid over these guns. A layer of two feet of dirt covers the top. Grass, trees and even the season's crops are planted over them.

Electricity controls the huge guns, Erickson says. When the guns are needed the roof may easily be thrown off and the guns hoisted to position.

Conan Doyle as a Doctor.

Asked recently why he gave up the practice of medicine, Sir Conan Doyle said the work was too hard, and to prove it he went on to tell of his first case, says an exchange. Called in the middle of a bitter winter's night to a house three miles away, where a child was reported to be seriously ill, the creator of "Sherlock Holmes" tramped through the rain and sleet only to find the place in darkness, and bolted and barred into the bargain.

He knocked and rang again and again. No answer! At last a head stuck itself gingerly out of a third-story window.

"He you Dr. Doyle?" it said. "Yes," said Doyle, "let me in."

"Oh, no need to come in now," said the man. "The child's all right; sleeping quite peacefully."

Doyle buttoned his coat and started off homeward. But suddenly the window was raised again and the same voice cried: "Doctor! I say, doctor!"

He hurried back, thinking that the child had suddenly taken a turn for the worse.

"Well, what do you want?" he asked. The voice made answer: "Ye won't charge nothin' for this visit, will ye?"

Recognized Only One.

The conversation in the lobby of a Washington hotel turned to the subject of signs when the following story was contributed by Representative Edward H. Watson of New Hampshire:

An esteemed party named Pat established a livery stable in a rural New England town, and wishing an appropriate sign, he had one painted that pictured a man riding a mule. Just after the sign was put up Pat's friend, Mike, rambled along.

"O! see," pleasantly remarked Mike, gazing at the new creation, "that you have put up a foine sign."

"Yes," responded Pat, with some show of pride. "That do you think av it?"

"Shure, an' O! loike it," replied Mike, with an expansive smile, "but who is the man that's on yer back?"—Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

Face Task With Confidencs.

Take it for granted that whatever work is given you to do, you can do. Nothing undermines efficiency like the feeling of apprehension regarding your task. Whether you are a business worker, or a student, or find your occupation about the house, train yourself to think of it always with cheerfulness and confidence.—Girl's Companion.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

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