

### LOUVAIN IN RUINS, POMPEII OF TODAY

Professor of University There Pictures Desolation Left by the Invaders.

GRAVES NEARLY EVERYWHERE  
Writer of Letter Says Prussians Officers Stole Everything They Could Conveniently Carry Away.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—A graphic description of the wreck and desolation of the ancient city of Louvain, Belgium, is given by Prof. E. Gilson of the University of Louvain, in a letter to the Belgian minister of justice, Henry Carton de Wiart, one of the Belgian high commissioners who recently presented a statement of Belgium's case to President Wilson. The letter says:

"I enter the city, coming from Tervuren, Belgium, at Berthem. I see numerous burnt and crumbling buildings; the nearer you come to the gloomy and silent city the more the number. I pass through the St. Eprit street, the St. Jacques square and Brussels street, where only a few houses are in ruins, although most of them are sacked and pillaged.

**Smoking Heap of Ruins.**  
"At the Sept Coins Louvain reveals itself to my eyes, like a luminous panorama in the shade of a forest. The center of the city is a smoking heap of ruins. Houses are caved in, nothing remains but smoking ruins and a mass of brick. It is a veritable Pompeii. But how much more tragic and vivid is the sight of this new Pompeii.

"An oppressive silence. Everybody has fled; at the windows of cellars I see frightened faces and timid corners. Prussian sentinels, stolid, immovable and silent.

"In the center stand the walls of St. Peter's now a grinning silhouette, roof and belfry gone, the walls blackened and caved in. In front stands the Hotel de Ville, dominating everything and almost intact. Further on, the remains of Les Halles, entirely destroyed except for the arcade of big pillars of the Salle Des Perles.

**Libraries and Treasures Gone.**  
"The library and its treasures are entirely gone. Entering St. Peter's by the Rue de Malines I find what was the big bell among the ruins. The vaults are for the most part caved in; there is a continuous stream of stones falling, so that we could not enter it without danger.

"Everything is burnt. As the paintings by Boett and Vander Weghe have not been saved, they must have perished. The jubilee in the choir is standing. I walk all over the open space where the city used to stand. At the Sept Coins everything is lying on the ground. The Rue Des Ecorchers is burnt; to the right, the Audiance is burnt; the upper part of the Rue Du Canal is burnt, including the house of the dean and the students' house.

**Nauseous Odors.**  
"The Rue De Diest up to St. Peter's is a heap of ruins, bricks, scrap iron and charred beams; no trace of a sidewalk is visible, and from the ruins the most disgusting odors are arising and enveloping everything. Rue De La Station is entirely burnt; but the fronts of the modern houses have resisted the fire and the sight there is not as tragic as elsewhere.

"I now approach the statue of Just Lips; everything burnt. The house of David Aeschbach and the house of Mr. Desagher, fallen to pieces, and in the Petite Rue Louis Nelsens everything is destroyed. At the foot of the statue, on a flower bed all trampled underfoot, there is an irregular hillock covered with a few dead leaves.

**Killed by Shrapnel.**  
"An old woman, coming to me, comes out of her cellar and tells me, 'Monsieur, this is the grave of Monsieur David and his son, the best people that ever lived,' she cries. They were killed by the shrapnel fired upon them as they were leaving their house. The Capuchin brothers buried the dead and made temporary graves for them. Graves were found nearly everywhere. In front of the statue near a house I find traces of fire. 'In this place,' the old woman tells me, 'the Prussians burnt a body after soaking it in petroleum. Some men buried the charred remains.' I pick up a key which must have belonged to the dead man.

**Everything is Burned.**  
"The greatest part of Rue Leopold is burnt; the houses of Van Geuchten, Le-maire, Debaisieux, and many others among them. In the Place du Peuple everything is burnt, except one house, which is riddled with bullets. At the Marche Aux Grains the house of Mr. Gilbert is destroyed, as well as the first houses to the right, towards Boels. The lower part of Rue de Triemont is also razed to the ground; the military hospital and the pharmacy of Mr. Rauwes are reduced to ashes. A section of the Rue de la Monnaie, the whole block facing Les Halles, the house of Mr. Van Grunder-bee, the optician, the book store of Mr. Peeters, etc., and the whole Vieux Marche, except the college of the Josephites, form an entangled mass of ruins of many shapes.

big avenues converging in the center have also greatly suffered; the roads leading in to the adjacent cities are burnt wherever the barbarians passed through. Thus, for instance, on the Route de Malines, everything is in ashes, right and left, and within a circumference of eleven kilometers, that is as far as Campenbout, where the shrapnel of the Belgians arrested the torch of the incendiary villains, everything is laid bare.

**Sixteen Shot.**  
"The village of Herent has been practically the object of attacks; it is half burnt; sixteen persons were shot and a number of men sent into captivity, including the old priest and his two vicars and the old retired priest.

"These two observations I made in the course of my exploration of this modern Pompeii.

"First, the ashes of the ruins leave no doubt that the incendiary operations were carried on systematically in a well-thought-out manner, and beyond doubt by some one's order. Each house was set on fire separately. This fact is particularly noticeable on the Chaussee de



Miss Francis Hochstetler, queen, and Charles D. Beaton king, are seated on the throne. The others, from left to right are: Standing—Eleanor Mackay, Janet Hall, Dorothy Black, Ida Darlow, Nan Murphy, Blanche Deuel, Ben Gallagher, Frederick A. Nash (pass), D. J. O'Brien, W. D. Howford, P. W. Judson, Joseph Brester, Stirling-Halcyon Cotton, Harriet Metz, Stella Thummel, Alice Jacquith, Gould Dietz, Everett Buckingham, G. E. Black, Charles H. Pickens, J. DeForest Richards and Louis C. Nash.

### When King Ak-Sar-Ben XX Was Crowned



Standing—Eleanor Mackay, Janet Hall, Dorothy Black, Ida Darlow, Nan Murphy, Blanche Deuel, Ben Gallagher, Frederick A. Nash (pass), D. J. O'Brien, W. D. Howford, P. W. Judson, Joseph Brester, Stirling-Halcyon Cotton, Harriet Metz, Stella Thummel, Alice Jacquith, Gould Dietz, Everett Buckingham, G. E. Black, Charles H. Pickens, J. DeForest Richards and Louis C. Nash.

### Czar Near Troops as They Surprise Town of Prussia

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PETROGRAD, Oct. 10.—(Special Cablegram to New York World and Omaha Bee.)—The czar was within a dozen miles of his troops when by a night attack they captured the town of Biiala. Biiala is five miles inside the Prussian frontier and twenty miles southwest of Lyokpy. The commander-in-chief afterwards issued an army order declaring the czar's visit will inspire everyone to new exploits such as Russia never yet has seen.

The army besieging Prussia has stormed and captured the outer fortifications. The spirit of the army is heightened by an intense affection for their general. He sleeps on straw under the sky like his soldiers, shares their hardships and moves among them daily, helping their comforts.

The Germans in the section of Poland

### CHRISTMAS SHIP'S MISSION OF CHEER

(Continued from Page One.)

constructed by man. These men are the fathers of the children of Europe, and every time one of them is shot down in battle he leaves a home without a head, children without a father.

**Plan that is Winning.**  
Knowing that ever so many children would be left fatherless, and with only poverty and distress before them, it was the thought of a great newspaper editor in Chicago that the school children of America be asked to assist in providing a real Christmas for those of Europe.

**Philanthropic.**  
"Second, another observation: I enter consecutively ten houses which had not been set on fire, but which had been pillaged. Among others I visited the house of Baron Descamps, and the impression which I gathered from my examination of the house, immediately after the passage of the German troops, is the following: Pillage, as well as incendiarism, has been methodically carried on. It was not the work of a drunken trooper, who all at once breaks from his bonds, but a careful, methodical and minute ransacking of the house from the cellar to the attic. Drawers were everywhere pulled out and their contents looted. Closets which had been left open were not broken, those that were found locked were ransacked and their contents strewn over the floor.

**Officers Also Steal.**  
"It is proved that the Prussian officers were stealing no less than their own men. As an example, on the Chaussee de Tervuren, a villager noticed a carriage stopping in front of a house whose inhabitants he knows; two officers entered the house and came out shortly afterward with packages and a clock, a small but artistic and valuable piece of art, and worth about 800 francs. They took time to pack everything into the carriage and to run off.

**What a Pastor Writes.**  
Rev. W. L. Gaston, pastor of the First Baptist church at Broken Bow, Neb., writes his approval of the plan as follows:

**Broken Bow, Neb., Oct. 7.**—To the Christmas Ship Editor of the Bee: Relative to the proposed Christmas Ship, that is to say, our Christmas chest and good will to the destitute families of the "war mad" nations, permit me to extend congratulations upon the prompt and generous response from the secretary of the navy that one of our sea fighters will be sent to shoot Christmas cheer into the arms of homes that are destitute and sad because "daddy" is out in the trenches with the fighters, or with the dead.

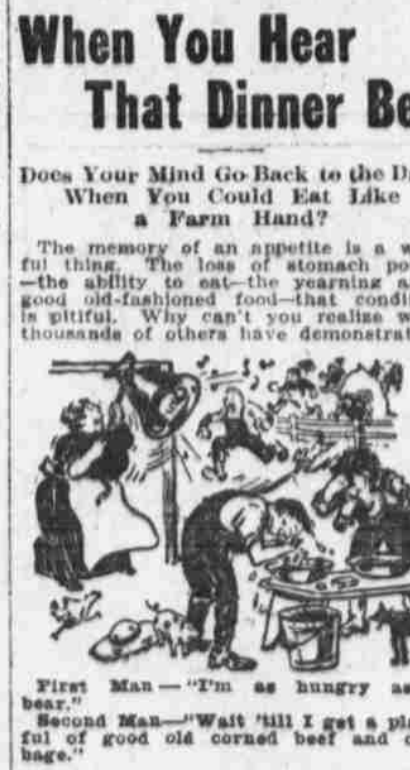
### Three Frenchmen Take Quick Firers, Rout Two Companies

(Continued from Page One.)

**Two corporals and a private, in reconnoitering, crawled within ten yards of the German trenches. Most of the German soldiers were away to get their ammors and the officers were some distance back of the guns.**

**Superintendent Graff Assists.**  
Superintendent E. U. Graff of the public schools, endorsing the Christmas ship plan, by which the little girls and boys of war-devastated Europe will be cheered on Christmas day by gifts from American children, has given the plan his approval, and Secretary Daniels has promised a ship of the American navy to carry the cargo to Europe. Many other eminent people have endorsed the movement.

**Does Your Mind Go Back to the Days When You Could Eat Like a Farm Hand?**  
The memory of an appetite is a wonderful thing. The loss of stomach power—the ability to eat—the yearning after good old-fashioned food—that condition is what you can't get rid of. Fancy thousands of others have demonstrated?



**First Man—**"I'm as hungry as a bear."  
**Second Man—**"Wait 'til I get a plateful of good old corned beef and cabbage."  
Look at the above illustration. Most every one remembers such a scene. Fancy yourself able to eat as one of these men can eat.

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Ak-Sar-Ben Festival is over, carnival grounds are closed. Now let us make preparations for a nice comfortable winter.

A RADIANT HOME BASEBURNER AND A QUICK MEAL

Range will do much towards making the winter seem short and comfortable. Come in and see them.

A FEW SPECIALS FOR THE STOVE OR FURNACE

Furnace Scoop—Regular 75c; Monday 49c	Coal Hods—Regular 25c; Monday 19c	15c Stove pipe only ..... 10c
Furnace Poker—Regular 75c; Monday 49c	15c Stove Polish ..... 10c	15c Stove Pokers only ..... 10c
Galvanized Baskets—Regular \$1.35; Monday \$1.00	20c nickel polish ..... 15c	10c Fire Shovels ..... 5c
	All sizes —MICA— all sizes	Oil Heater, Special ..... \$3.25
		Gas Jet Heaters, only ..... 50c

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