

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



Army Ordnance Experts Find Deadliest War Bomb

WASHINGTON.—Army ordnance experts after many experiments with about a score of aerial bombs. It is reported, have found a bomb of high explosive power, combined with the use of deadly gases, the invention of an American, which is said to excel in destructiveness any similar weapon known here or in Europe.



The tests proved so uniformly satisfactory, it was said, that the war department has been urged to adopt the bomb for use in the aviator service. F. E. Barlow, an employee of the Frankfort arsenal, Philadelphia, the inventor, has offered its exclusive use to the United States government.

The Barlow bomb is six feet in length and approximately five inches in diameter, shaped like a torpedo. In addition to an explosive charge of T. N. T., it contains a gas chamber in which a new and secret combination of gas is used.

It is estimated that the bomb has a fatal destructive radius of at least 100 yards.

One of the chief features of the bomb in which it differs radically from bombs which depend for bursting force on contact with the earth or other object, is that it may be exploded in the air with full power. This is said to enhance its destructive power to a much larger degree than any known form of contact bomb, as it may be exploded over the heads of troops and spread gases earthward over a larger surface.

By means of an electric timing device the operator of an aeroplane, it is asserted, will be able to regulate to a second the time of the explosion of the bomb. Another unique feature of this weapon permits of its use as an aerial torpedo when not desired to use it as a "drop" explosive. The bomb may be made with a new type of electric motor and propeller, which would enable the aviator operator to fire it horizontally, or to direct it toward a target at any angle. The bombs are arranged for attaching to the under sides of aeroplanes, to be released by foot pressure on a trigger.

Feathered Summer Residents of Capital Leaving

AS THE thousands of Washingtonians who deserted the city with the approach of the summer months for the seashore and mountain resorts of the North begin to return to their homes, thousands of visitors who annually make their summer homes here are leaving for the South.

Not everyone in Washington has noticed it, but ever since the first chilly night they have been quietly slipping away, and already many thousands of Washington's summer residents have left.

They form the army of songbirds that make their homes in the shrubs and trees that adorn the parks of the national capital. They are the robin and the wren, the modest wood thrush, known far and wide for his sweet song—the bluebird, who brings happiness; the downy woodpecker, who excavates his home in the dead limbs, and the many other members of the feathered tribe who furnish song and sunshine to city dwellers.

It is the common observation of persons who are interested in birds, and even the observation of many other persons who have no particular interest in the subject, that the bird-protection laws of the federal government and of the various states are producing the results which are the aim of these laws. A great increase is noted in the number of song birds, game birds and especially in the number of birds of gay plumage.

This comment is often heard among the Washington people who are interested in birds. Last spring they noted that bluebirds, indigo buntings, goldfinches, redstarts, orioles, scarlet tanagers, summer tanagers, cardinals and the yellow warblers were more numerous than in preceding years, and the increase in the numbers of these gay and beautiful birds is apparent to nearly everybody, and particularly to persons who live in the suburbs of Washington or on the edges of the city, and who have gardens and yards with shrubbery in them.



Lineage of the Lamp Shown in Museum Collection

A COLLECTION of all the various illuminating devices used throughout the history of the world is now being prepared by Dr. Walter Hough of the National museum here, and will be placed on exhibition as soon as space can be found for it.



Stowed away in large airtight cabinets in Doctor Hough's office is the complete record of man's development as shown by his lighting appliances from the days of the primitive campfire to the present tungsten filament. Here is the fire brand by which our aboriginal ancestor transferred fire from tribe to tribe; here is the animal's skull which constituted the first attempt at a lamp, and the greased stick that was superseded by the candle. A part

of the collection is already occupying three cases in the museum, where it attracts a great deal of attention among visitors.

Ultimately, Doctor Hough hopes to broaden the collection into a complete history of fire rather than a history of illuminating alone. Among his present specimens are many curious old stoves and bellows and foot-warmers, and one curfew which is said to be the only one in America. It is the popular opinion in this country that the curfew was a bell, but instead it is a sort of brass lid which was used to cover the fire. At one time in England a law was passed requiring every light to be out at a certain hour in the night, presumably nine o'clock, and in order to comply with the letter of this law people had to suppress their fires. Thus the hour when the fires were covered with curfew came to be called the curfew hour.

President Must Be Able to Use Any Kind of Pen

SOME men prefer soft pens. Some prefer hard. Some couldn't write with out a fountain pen. And there are still some elderly men surviving who insist on using quills. The president of the United States has got to accustom himself to using all kinds of pens to gratify the vanity of those who want to keep as souvenirs the pens with which certain measures in which they are interested are signed.

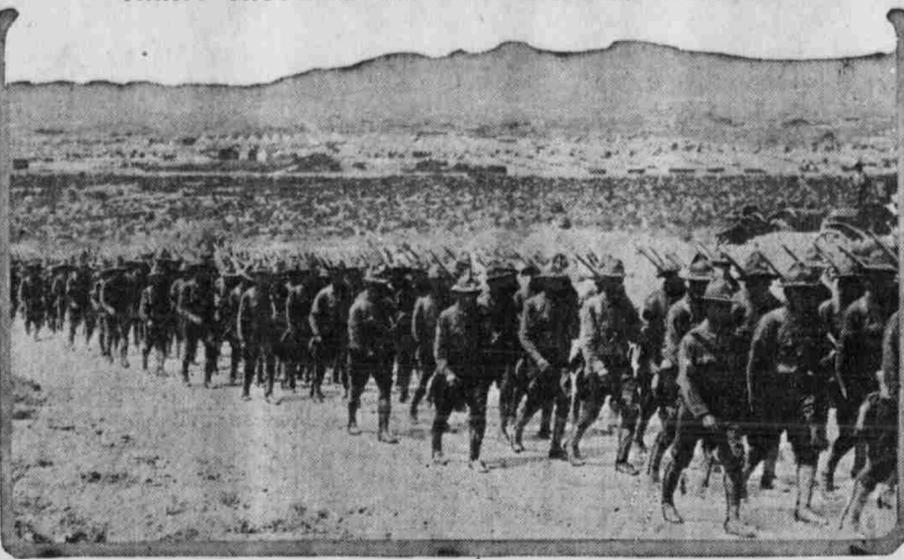
Ordinarily the president uses a soft-pointed fountain pen, but lately in approving important measures of legislation he has used every variety of pen. The eight-hour railroad bill he signed with four ordinary pens with steel points and black wood holders. In affixing the name, "Woodrow Wilson" to this act, he signed one syllable with each pen, his intention being to forward one pen to each of the heads of the four brotherhoods.

In signing the Philippine bill he used a pen furnished for the occasion by Manuel Quezon, the resident delegate from the Philippines. It was gold-pointed and ornate.

In signing the bills of lading act, he used a pen made from the quill of a porcupine, which Senator Pomerene had provided.



THIRTY THOUSAND AMERICAN TROOPS IN REVIEW



Down at the Mexican border recently 30,000 American troops were reviewed by the commanding officers. It was the longest line of United States soldiers seen since the review of the Grand Army in Washington at the close of the Civil war.

ITALIANS GO TO FRONT IN FRANCE

About 260,000 Will Aid Allied Campaign Among the Vosges Mountains.

PORTUGAL SENDS SOLDIERS

Transports 40,000 Troops to Western Battle Lines in Face of Trouble at Home—Will Japanese Go to Europe?

Paris.—Before winter sets in it is expected there will be 260,000 Italian troops fighting on the French front. Already two contingents comprising 25,000 men each have arrived in France and soon are expected to take up their positions in the Vosges. All of the Italians will be sent to that region, the mountainous country comprising the extreme end of the fortified line in Alsace.

The Italians will comprise regiments of the Alpini, the men recruited from the mountainous sections of Italy, skilled in mountain warfare, and inured to work in the rarified air of high altitudes.

Soon to Be Sent to Front. That the first contingents soon will be on the actual firing line on the French front is believed here, and it is further thought this fact had something to do with Italy's declaration of war against Germany, as Italians will be engaged in actual conflict with the Germans.

Besides these troops Italy will furnish special mountain artillery for its contingent, the guns being of the same caliber as the light French—75 millimeters—but capable of higher angle fire and mounted on different type wheels and chassis, making them more adaptable for hauling up grades. Some of these guns are mounted on skids, so that they can be dragged up steep mountain trails. Italian Red Cross hospital units also will accompany the Alpini.

Besides the Italians there will be still another nationality represented in the trenches on the western front. Portugal is sending 40,000 men to this front, and it is believed that they al-

EVER SEE BABY CHAMELEON?



As you know, the chameleon is a small, harmless lizard that can change its color at will. Some folk keep chameleons for pets. This is a picture of the only one born in captivity, so far as records show. The youngster posed on the thumb of an attendant at the London zoo.

ready are landed in France. Just what portion of the line these troops will be sent to has not been divulged. More troops may be forthcoming from Portugal during the winter, although it is reported the internal condition of affairs in that country requires the presence there of many soldiers. The recent strike outbreaks and other labor and Socialist manifestations have been such that troops are patrolling and guarding railway lines and bridges throughout the country.

Lack of Officers Hampering. Lack of trained and experienced officers is acting as a handicap to the new British army in France, as neutrals and enemies agree that the millions poured in the field from England are of the highest fighting material. Yet their lack of expert leadership is costing them enormous losses and for a long time prevented Sir Douglas Haig from keeping up with his French allies in the Somme offensive.

France, next to Germany, is perhaps better off for officers than any of the countries at war, and it is because the republic, like the fatherland, saves its commissioned men as far as possible. It is well known that snipers on either side pay little attention to ordinary soldiers, being under orders to pick off officers only. And therefore it is highly necessary that officers be difficult to differentiate from the men in their trenches in order that enemy snipers may not spot them too easily.

British Officers Easily Spotted. The British officer wears a collar on his tunic like the collar of the jacket of any ordinary sack suit. He also

wears a khaki collar and khaki tie. The German sharpshooters have not been slow to find that out, and the British losses of officers show the price that they still are paying for this glaring and distinguishing mark.

Every French officer from a sub-lieutenant up carries, swung over his shoulders, a pair of binoculars in a black leather case. The German snipers know this perfectly well, so that when they ensconce themselves in a convenient shell hole, or other place of vantage, they take no chances on revealing their whereabouts for the sake of bagging an ordinary polli; they wait until they can draw a bead on the wearer of a pair of field glasses and then try to pot him.

But what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, as all German officers carry field glasses too, and the French sharpshooters lie in wait for them in identically the same way.

French Method of Charging. When the French charge and the officers are forced to take to the open with their men, they are not permitted to carry their field glasses with them.

The Germans in some cases have adopted a ruse exactly opposite. In sending out a "wave of assault" in storming a position the German officers carry their binoculars slung over their shoulders, and every private carries a "dummy" pair of glasses, made of cardboard or paper mache to resemble the binoculars, so that the real officer is indistinguishable. The French have captured a number of Germans so equipped with "fake field glasses."

Meatless Days for Britain, Too

London.—German meatless days, so much ridiculed here, may soon be copied by Great Britain.

A suggestion that the consumption of meat be stopped for one day in the week is contained in the recommendations of the official departmental committee appointed by the board of trade. Only those engaged in severe manual labor should eat meat seven days a week, the committee urges. It also recommends the opening of municipal shops in districts where retailers are obtaining excessive profits and the revision of pay rolls to improve the position of those who have not benefited in the general upward trend both of commodity and labor prices.

Other recommendations include the speeding up of building of merchant ships, especially those intended for the conveyance of refrigerated meat, and provision for adequate labor at the docks. Seven members of the committee further recommend that there should be public control of prices of primary foodstuffs produced at home. In many cases, it is stated, far too much profit is being made by home producers.

Live Stock Not Wanted. The committee reports against the proposal to import live cattle from Canada. It says:

"Without going into the vexed question of the alleged danger of disease, we have to report that there seems to be at present no likelihood of any considerable supply of cattle from that source, even if the scarcity of shipping did not make the importation of live as against dead meat uneconomical."

With regard to the first suggestion the report says:

"We urge all those who are not engaged in severe manual labor and who at present eat butcher's meat every day to refrain from consumption one day each week. We believe a large number of patriotic citizens are only waiting for clear and authoritative guidance and that such voluntary abstinence on the part of the more fortunate, while it will have no harmful effect on health, will appreciably enlarge the supply of meat available for poorer members of the community."

Poor People Well Off. The committee touches on the vital point in the meat problem when it recommends that "in disposing of meat which it purchases for the civil population the government should impose such conditions not only on wholesale merchants but also on retailers as

would tend to secure the sale of such meat to the ultimate consumer at reasonable prices."

A table of retail food prices shows that since the beginning of the war they have increased on an average 65 per cent. Evidence taken by the committee showed there was less total distress in the country than in an ordinary year of peace, the majority of the classes which suffer chronically from distress being in unusually regular employment. This, together with higher wages earned by, and the greater needs of, so many workers employed in the production of munitions has tended to increase considerably the total demand for food.

BABY 'GATORS LATEST FAD



Fashionable women at Florida resorts last winter and spring started the fad of wearing baby alligators as ornaments. Now you may see women in New York, Chicago and other northern cities wearing them with silk ribbons or gold chains. This is a picture of Miss Amparita Farrar and two reptilian babies 28 days old.

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Big Demand for Pneumatic Tires. How many people realize the sensational development that the pneumatic tire business has experienced? The first company to undertake the manufacture of pneumatic tires was the Dunlop Company, organized at Dublin, Ireland, in 1889, with a capital of about \$75,000 to make tires for bicycles, and it rapidly grew to be a great business. Then came the automobile to add its demands, and today, only twenty-seven years later, the pneumatic tire business of the world is estimated at the enormous sum of \$650,000,000.—Scientific American.

SUFFERED FOR FOUR YEARS.

Mr. J. M. Sinclair of Olivehill, Tenn., writes: "I strained my back, which weakened my kidneys and caused an awful bad backache and inflammation of the bladder. Later I became so much worse that I consulted a doctor, who said that I had Diabetes and that my heart was affected. I suffered for four years and was in a nervous state and very much depressed. The doctor's medicine didn't help me, so I decided to try Dodds Kidney Pills, and I cannot say enough to express my relief and thankfulness, as they cured me. Diamond Dinner Pills cured me of Constipation."



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Dodds Kidney Pills, 50c. per box at your dealer or Dodds Medicine Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Dodds Dyspepsia Tablets for indigestion have been proved. 50c. per box.—Adv.

Meat More Heating Than Sugar.

Recent experiments at Bellevue hospital, New York, show that 750 calories of dextrose, or 200 calories of protein, increase the heat production of the body 12 per cent during a period of three to six hours. In fact, they show the stimulating effect of protein upon tissue activity to be three times as great as that of sugar. These observations confirm the experience long ago noted by thinking people that meat is a heating food. Under the influence of the stimulating effects of meat the tissues expend in its digestion more energy than they receive from it.

Headgear in War.

The German army was equipped with steel helmets long before the war was begun. After the conflict was well under way the French discovered that the percentage of head wounds sustained by their soldiers was much greater than the percentage in the German army. The French adopted the steel helmet. The British followed suit, and now even the slow-moving Russians have equipped a small part of their forces with the best form of protection against head wounds. After Russia comes the United States with an announcement through the war department that steel helmets for American soldiers are being "considered."—Washington Herald.

In the Museum.

Manager—What's the matter with the "Human Ostrich?" Assistant—Swallowed a fishbone at breakfast this morning.

Marriage is seldom a failure if neither party to the contract has any relations to interfere.

POSTUM HELPS WHERE COFFEE HURTS

"There's a Reason"