THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA.

PATHETIC FIGURE AMONG WAR RUINS

to do."

Lone, Aged Woman Is Sole Inhabitant Left in French Vil-

lage.

NAMED LA DAME INDOMITABLE

All Who Survived Hun Carnival of Rage and Rapine Which Swept the Place, Left Long, Long Ago.

American Army Headquarters in France.--In the charred village they call her La Dame Indomitable. Not a bad name for her, either. There is a great gun in the French army called think she ever told it before. Indomitable. The enemy has trained its heavy weapons on this giant cylinder of destruction, but old Indomitable still belches its deadly hall upon the Huns, and so the old lady of - was named after this famous gun, writes Don Martin in the New York Herald.

I saw her the other day in the reconstructed ruins of her once comfortable house. Two artillery officers-American-have billets with her. She takes care of their rooms, shines their boots and leggings and puts on a button now and then when they know nothing about it.

Then, when she is not busy at home. she washes dishes for the Salvation Army canteen or performs more laborious service, for all of which she receives ten cents an hour. That is DOWNS 22 BEFORE DEATH enough. She doesn't need much. She begins her daily routine at five in the morning and finishes at seven in the evening. Then she walks two miles to a shop to get her allowance of bread, and after ten o'clock, when her "boys" are in bed and asleep, she throws herself on a bed of boxes and old clothes, with one blanket for covering, and sleeps,

Village's Only Inhabitant.

La Dame Indomitable is the only inhabitant left in the village. It is no place for women. Children-all who survive the Hun carnival of rage and rapine-left long, long ago. The old folks dragged a weary way from the humble, aged stone buildings in which they and their ancestors had lived for many generations-yes, for hundreds of years. Soldiers occupied the town. Then the Germans came. Three times the quaint village was taken and retaken. The gaunt remnants of the old dwellings could tell frightful stories of slaughter and magnificent tales of valor. So can La Dame Indomitable. But she says little. She just works. She wants to help France. Officers told'her a long time ago she could go anywhere she wished. Even the grandeurs of Paris were pictured to her in the hope that she might be lured from the abode of danger in which she resides.

But why should she go? "No, I'm not old," she ways. "I'm

only sixty-five or maybe s

ginning," she said in French, "I had three sons. They hurried off to get their uniforms and rifles. Then I walted. One day our soldiers came pouring into the town. They had been driven back by the Germans. Many were injured. I took as many as L. could in my house and made coffee for them. You see my house was better before it was struck by shells.

"While I was making coffee a big shell struck this house and killed some of the soldiers. Another one had both legs taken off. I helped them all I could, but they went away and the Germans came. They are cruel, but I am old, so I am alive. Then our boys came again and I made my house a hospital. It was struck twice more and I was hurt a little, too, but not much. I-don't want to leave. I have lived here all my life and here is where I shall die." The eyes of the old lady glowed un-

gas drifts into the village. They have der the spell of a thought she had not nothing to do there. They just go to yet expressed. make sure that their hostess is safe. I had a cup of chocolate with her in her

"A French general came and thanked me for what I did for our soldiers," she said. "Then, long after, he wrote me a letter saying I was a brave woman and had brave sons. I have the "When the war was just at the be- letter -you may see it."

YOUTH IS VICTOR OVER NOTED HUN

English Boy Defeats Germany's Superfiver Voss in Desperate Battle.

seen away up on the brow of the hill

looking down on the German-held terri-

tory. One does not need glasses to see

it. She trudges along shell swept roads

"A shell may hit me-yes, perhaps,

Waves of deadly gas swept over the

stricken group of ruins from time to

time. La Dame Indomitable has her

mask. An officer gave it to her. It is

the best. The officers see that she gets

the best. Her two American artillery

officers hurry to their billets when the

house and learned her story. I do not

Thanked by General.

sometime. But we all have our work

when it is necessary, as it often is.

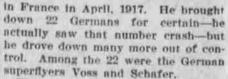
Lieutenant Arthur Rhys Davids Said to Be One of the Three Elect Among Bravest of British Airmen.

London .- When Voss, the intrepid German airman, was brought down there was considerable demand that Eton. the name of the British airman who accomplished the feat should be revealed. He was Lieut. Arthur Rhys Davids, an Eton boy of twenty. In

among his other feats he brought down nine enemy aircraft in nine weeks. But after much anxlety the boy's father, Prof. Rhys Davids, and his story. "He had a fearful fight with mother, both Oriental scholars of distinction, no longer have any doubt then my brother and Voss wheeled that their son, missing since last December, is dead.

In their home on Chipstead Downs the parents and sisters mourn the brave and daring boy, said to be one of three very elect among the bravest of British airmen.

brilliantly at Summerfield, where, a king's scholar, he won a Balliol exhi- Worse still, his gun jammed, and for bition and the Newcastle scholarship. took his commission in the Royal Flying corps in the autumn of 1916, leav- ing. Then suddenly, to his amazeing his civil service ambitions until ment, the Hun turned tail and went after the war.



The story of the defeat of Voss, who had been credited with being the greatest airman of all the armies, is thrilling. When Rhys Davids went up with a squadron of six and four Germans were sighted, it was not so ensy as it seemed, for Voss was among them, and he took on three of the British machines. Two of these he put out of action, causing them to return home with their engines full of lead. The third was the boy from

Voss and Rhys made a duel of it. The Hun was in a triplane, and there was a most tremendous fight. The story of it was afterward told to the the official Gazette it is stated that family by an officer acquainted with the facts.

"I want to give Voss all credit." says Miss Rhys Davids, sister of the brave young airman, in repeating the the three for twenty minutes, and round and round; and then, suddenly, Voss crashed to earth.

"Yes, my brother spoke of one or two narrow escapes. On the very first time he went up 'out there' something made him turn round, and to his astonishment he saw a Hun on his tail. Arthur Rhys Davids, after doing If he had not glanced round at that moment he would have been killed. ten minutes he had to get out of this machine's way by rolling and turnhome. That was one of the narro



SUGGESTIONS ON GOOD ROADS

Special Thought Should Be Given by **Builders to Road Crossings to** Avoid Accidents.

While highway engineers, commissioners and others are planning good roads and strong, durable bridges, they ought to give special thought and work to the road crossings and the newers or culverts placed at such crossings, says a writer in Farmers' Review, Such crossings are generally about 12 to 16 feet long, and it requires an

abrupt turn of a vehicle to take them at right angle. These are danger points on account of the short turn and narrow space to make the turn.

The remedy for such places is to make sewer or culvert as long as the width of the road will permit, say not less than 40 feet, and more if possible,



and then if vehicles meet, there is plenty of room to pass without interfering with the speed or rights of the

one going in the other direction. We have seen several narrow escapes from accidents in such places. and the watchword now is "Safety First." The automobile is here to stay, and we want room to spread out and avoid all danger of accidents.

Our counties are now paying large salaries to men who are supposed to be efficient, and good civil engineers, and the safety and comfort of the public largely rests on them. It is the duty of such men to catch up with the times and provide roads suited to the needs of present-day travel. Such improvements are not very expensive, and when properly made last a lifetime, and save time, trouble and accidents.



AN'YOU

DIDN'T

FEEL TH

EARTHQUAKE

2

"Wanted, Live Press Agent; Apply Mother Nature"

WASHINGTON .- Nature needs a press agent. If you were among the thousands who missed the recent display of the aurora borealis, you will agree with me that a little advance publicity for old Mother Nature would result in

larger audiences for some of her most choice displays.

Those who missed the "northern lights" have been kicking themselves because they didn't have the gumption to look out the back window and see something worth looking at.

But how were you to know anything about the aurora borealis being on the way? Nature needed a press agent, that was all. And now an earthquake!

Missing the Aurora borealis was bad

enough, but to miss an earthquake that shakes beneath your very feet is too much. When you failed to look out the window that night, it wasn't your fault, of course-how in the thunder were you to know the surora borealis was out there, anyway?

But that earthquake! If you were so absorbed in a book that you failed to feel the house quiver, it was your fault, and you feel it. You may forgive yourself for not looking out the window, but not for failing to note the earthquake,

When you went downtown the next morning there was Henry Jones waiting for you.

- "Did you feel the earthquake?" he asked.
- "What earthquake?" you said.
- He looked at you with pity,
- "Where were you, anyway?"
- You confessed to home.
- "And you didn't feel that quake?" "No.

"Why, it shook our house and ratiled all the dishes in the pantry-didn't hear the dishes rattling in your pantry?"

You had to admit that if your dishes rattled you falled to detect it.

And Henry Jones went away looking as if he felt sure the fault lay with you and not your dishes.

Yes, decidedly. Nature needs a press agent.

Washington Youngsters Ablaze With Patriotism

WASHINGTON has its patriotic boys and girls. Because a war requires the activities of grown men and women we are apt to forget all about our boys and girls, and how their young hearts bubble over with a real, although undeveloped, patriotism,

Their patriotism may appear su-perficial sometimes, and perhaps it is only a reflex of what they have heard their elders say, but it is real, tremendously real, nevertheless.

I know a little boy, so small you feel that you could pick him up and put him in your pocket with ease. But, as small as he is, his little brain is concentrated on the war. He is always thinking about it.



He doesn't think of it in terms of

men and guns, or ships and aircraft. He doesn't talk of this and that battlefield. He indulges in no speculation. Here is a sample of what he thinks and says:

His mother was talking to another member of the family concerning an article of food which she was cooking.

- "And do you know," she said, "it was red hot----"
- "Mother," chimed in the little boy.
- "Yes, dear?" said his mother.

"You mustn't say 'red hot,' mother," he replied. "You must say Red Cross."

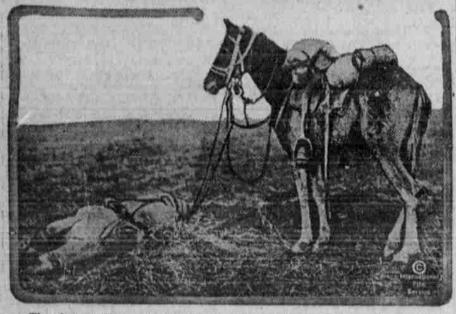


a strong woman yet, but when I carry water this long, long distance and then walk to the boulangerie for bread sometimes my heart beats too fast maybe, but that's all."

Brought Down Twenty-Two Germans. Young Davids had been good at

sports and he took to flying as though born to it. He won the M. C. with the So there she stays. She, has been bar and the D. S. O. after five months

CHARGER FAITHFUL TO THE END



The charger of an Austrian cavalryman standing guard over the dead body of his rider. The Austrian was killed on reconnoitering duty on the Italian front.

WORK OF THE Y.M.C.A.

Ministering to Soldiers.

Two Thousand Workers Are With Expeditionary Forces and 3,000 In American Camps.

Washington .-- In its work of ministering to the social, recreational and teer workers alone. An effort is now religious welfare of the boys and young being made to secure at least 1,000 men of this city and county who have business and professional men of high enlisted in the National army, the Y. standing who will go to France for all M. C. A. is now expending a total of sorts of Y. M. C. A. service before \$5,000,000 a month. These, together July 1. with other interesting figures on the It is estimated that \$,000,000 feet of

both in the United States and in Spends \$5,000,000 a Month in France. At the present time there are 2,200 Y. M. C. A. workers with the expeditionary forces in France and England and 3,000 other workers in American camps.

The Y. M. C. A. has been asked by General Pershing to take over the entire canteen system with the American army in France, and this will require the services of more than 3,000 volun-

scope of the work are contained in a film are being exhibited weekly to the bits. One of the wild cats raced up bulletin just received from the Nation- soldiers at home and abroad. A re- a tree and started to show fight when cent shipment of athletic equipment Wing discovered it. A shot brought According to the statement of the for the troops in France consisted of it to the ground. Its cries of rage council, the "home" side of army camp 73.080 baseballs, 19.000 bats, 10.000 and pain brought its mate to the life is being maintained among the gloves and mitts, boxing gloves, volley scene, and Wing dispatched the sec-

escapes he had. "My brother was inclined to fly

recklessly low, and that is probably how he met his death in October, last year. We knew he was missing, and we hoped and hoped for eight weeks before we had any practical certainty.

Shot "Painted Banana."

"He had very often been in a big fight of 25 on each side, and when he wrote home about such, he snid : 'All you can think of is pumping lead into any machine you see and looking out and avoiding collisions, just missing each other by perhaps a couple of, feet. He used to laugh when he saw the German machines painted up like an unripe banana. He described one of these machines, and said that when it came toward him he chuckled with laughter at the curious appearance of it, and then let fly. He brought the painted banana down." And now young Rhys Davids has

himself been brought down. But he lives a memory of schoolboy British pluck that can never die.

Among other raiders mentioned in the Gazette is Lieut, R. H. Ayre, R. F. C. who during one of his "many successful raids" bombed an enemy airship shed, and on another occasion bombed a railway station from a height of 500 feet. He also derailed part of a train and poured machine gun fire on its occupants. The milltary cross is awarded to him.

ratus for promoting the play spirit among the troops in their leisure hours.

The Y. M. C. A. has established a chain of huts and dugouts along the front lines occupied by American troops "over there" and is meeting the needs of the Sammles as they take their places in the Lorraine trenches, The Y. M. C. A. huts on the Russian front have been demolished by German guns and the 150 secretaries there have retired before the advance of the Huns and are now established in Siberia awaiting an opportunity to return to Russin.

Farmer Kills Wild Cats.

Live Oaks, Cal.-Wing, a farmer near here, recently killed two large wild ents along the Feather river while engaged in hunting jack rabhunfreds of thousands of soldier boys bails and various other kinds of apa- ond cat with a shot from his gun.

TEST OF TIRES ON HIGHWAYS

Results Obtained by United States Office of Public Roar's After Period of Years.

In its testing of tires on country roads during a period of several years the United States office of public roads has prepared the road prior to each test by plowing, grading and rollingthus, with further consideration of moisture and atmospheric variations, giving conditions as nearly identical as possible for each of the trips compared. It was found that the draft decreased with increase of tire width to a certain limit, beyond which it increased. As a result of the experiments, it is recommended that for ordinary farm work and general trucking, the standard width of tire for a one-horse wagon, with gross load of 2,000 pounds, should be two inches; light two-horse wagon, 2,500 pounds, two and onehalf inches; medium two-horse wagon, 4,500 pounds, three inches: standard two-horse wagon, 6.800 pounds, four Inches; heavy two-horse wagon, 7,500 pounds, five inches.

CONSTRUCT NEW HIGHWAYS

State of Illinois Expected to Expend \$3,000,000 in Improving Roads This Season.

pend \$3,000,000 this year on federalaid highways. The proposed road construction outlined by the Illinois state highway department has been approved by the national government, according to Secretary of Agriculture Houston.

The proposed work includes construction along the Dixie highway, the Lincoln highway, the highway from Chicago to the Wisconsin state line, the Chicago to Jollet highway and the road from Peoria northeast to Sparland. Federal-aid money for these roads is to be available shortly, it is announced.

Good Roads Campaign.

The good roads campaign is always on and will always be on until every road shall have been paved with the best of material and in the best of manner. And then there will probably he the establishing of more main roads, and so it will go on until the country is well supplied with roads that will he practicable 365 days in the year.

Gaining in Importance. The question of roads gains in importance and interest with every passing year.

Even when he goes to bed he carries the war with him, evidently. He takes with him, too, the phrases he has heard during the day. Strangely, with his baby wits, he turns them into telling phrases, more potent than he realizes.

"You must go to bed now," his mother said to him one night. "It is timefor you to go to sleep."

He looked solemnly at his mother with sleepless eyes. "I won't go to sleep till it's over over there," he said.

Illustrating Anew the Magic Power of Memory

SHE had dodged Father Time in the same fashion that a here-and-there Clover top excapes the farmer man's scythe. And she was standing before a millinery window with the jolly youngish woman who had her in charge.



"I used to wear a camelia like that in my hair to every ball I went toon the left side, below the ear. All thought it most becoming. Your Aunt Eliza wore flowers to match the colors of her ball dress, but I never appeared in anything but flounced white tarlatan, with a camelia in my hair-on the left side, below the ear. Your grandfather thought it most becoming. All said we were an extremely handsome young pair-your Aunt Eliza considered her figure more elegant

than mine, but it was not the popular opinion. The night I accepted your grandfather-my eleventh proposal to your Aunt Eliza's third-I wore a white camelia like that in my hair-on the left side, below the ear. All thought us an extremely handsome young pair-

"I bet you were a peach, Grammuh, and if it wasn't for the looks of the thing I'd shake you right here in the street for not handing down your good looks to the best grandchild you've got to your name-come along now, dear; there's a whole lot more to see."

Isn't memory a jollier? Except when she's a scourge.

Just One of Those Who Heard the Country's Call

F YOU shut your eyes and keep on for three squares you will come to a shop. You can't miss it, because outside the window there is a sign on which some amateur has gone into art paroxysms over shoes that no foot on earth could wear and angels wouldn't want to-

and above the door is lettered a grand opera name that only genius could SHOFS 2 SOLED spell.

Casually glimpsed, the shop standfor a very small pel-ble with which some venturesome David is fighting a big, strange-tongued Goliath whom he calls the New World-but you can't always depend on glhapses.

If you had seen David, the other day, sny, standing ip his open door with one foot resting over the other

as if it didn't have to work and wouldn't, with his shirt-sleeved arms folded in the official attitude of one who has downed his foe, and in his midnight eyes a something that would have been a smirk except that it was honest prideyou would have known right there that Goliath was as dead as the stoned car in the alley-that's the time you should have come across young David !

There was a reason, of course. A photographer on the pavement was taking a postcard snap for the folks back in Italy, where the crossed feet and folded arms with smile attached will mean success, and where, through the alchemy of affection, the youngster's desire to show off will be interpreted intoloyalty and memory and love.

P. S .- All that was until a month ago. Now the signs are gone and the door is locked and the dust has made brown ridges on the shutters.

You cannot be contented to sit at a bench and peg and sew and sing "Santa Lucia" when you have a country to fight for.



It is expected that Illinois will ex-