Belgium Sketches

In Government Service

By Katharine Eggleston Roberts

(Copyright, 1920, Western Newspaper Union)

The striped cat sat on a broken stone in an old Flanders battlefield. She fluffed her tail and glared across her whiskers at Bibi, the pup. "Everybody's always talking about a 'dog's life,' as though it were the hardest in the world. Huh! I wonder how they'd like to be a government cat out here in this devastated country. The rest of you animals don't have anything to do except sit around,"

The gloomy dog didn't attempt to answer. His drooping eyes stared down the street of newly built huts.

"Oh, stop it, Mina; you're always fussing." Siska, the goat, wrinkled her nose in disgust. "Why do you suppose the government gives all of us animals to these people who've come back to rebuild Dixmude and her head. other places if we aren't good for something?"

"It's all very well for you to talk, Siska. There's no effort in merely giving milk; and as for Bibl, all he does is bark if he hears a stranger coming at night."

Bibi got up and turned around a few times and dropped down on another spot. He was tired of being responsible for everyone's safety, but he didn't feel like arguing about it.

"When I was drafted," continued Mina after a pause, "my mother said: 'Mina, it's a fine thing to serve your country, but I hate to see you going to live in those awful places.' Even on, "They work from dawn till night, then she thought I'd get a little milk and we reconstruction animals were once in a while. But no! No!" Mina sent here to help. I suppose we

gan a new conversation.

"No; how many?" "Five."

"I wish they'd send more goats," ioaned Siska miserably. "I'm lone ly. There's no society at all. It's hard on a well-born goat."

"Well, I like that!" Mina's stripes stood out. "I'll tell you, I'm not used to associating with goats. I hope the next obus you nibbie is loaded. Certainly-"

"Now, Mina, you know I didn't mean that. I'm really fond of you and Bibi; but a goat's different, that's all. There are certain things peculiar to a goat-"Thank heaven, yes," interrupted

"Oh, let Siska finish what she's saying.

"Well, as I was saying, I have ideas and desires with which you have no sympathy, because those things hold no interest for you. Now another goat would understand my attitude toward those red flags that mark the ammunition piles. There's an irresisti-

ble fascination in them-"I heard the captain of the camp over there say that the next time you ate one, and left the explosives unmarked, he was going to feed you a grenade," Bibi warned.

"That's just it-no one understands a goat. I'm homesick," Siska bowed

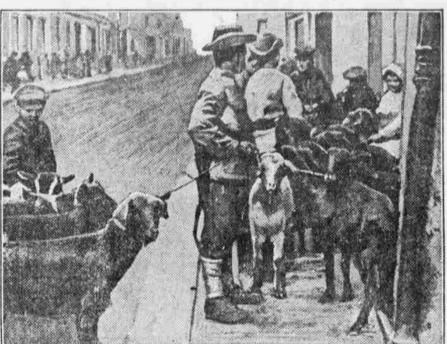
"Poor old Siska; so am I." Bibl confessed, the tears running down his long brown nose.

"Oh, well, I guess that's why I'm grouchy. I simply can't forget my home, and be content." Mina blinked.

"I heard Jan Struyf say that's why he came back here. It's where he used to live. His home was down there where the old tank stands,"

"Uh-huh, I know, He's clearing up the place to build again. Imagine being homesick for this scrambled land!" Siska wagged her beard from side to

"Still they're all allke," Bibi went



Goats-Reconstruction Animals Read y for Great Task

milk to the people. There's none for a poor, hard-working cat. Hard-working-that's it! I'm overworked. Do they expect me to catch all the rats and mice in Belgium? These shell holes are full of them. Talk about their underground tunnels. I don't know which has made the most of them, the rats or the Germans. And the homes they've made in those dead trees!-I mean the rats. I tell you I'm just worn out, working night and day.

"Well, at least you can eat them. You don't have to live on what little food people can give you, as we do," Bibi finally spoke. "You're not always hungry."

"Ent them!" Mina snarled. "They are all I get to eat. I'm sick and tired of mice-and such poor quality, too. Ugh! You've no idea."

"Yes, yes, I know. It's the same with what little grass I find. It's rank and weedy. The best kind grows on the edge of the shell pits, but even a



Where He Used to Live.

goat has trouble to keep from slipping over the brink into the water. The ground is so loose around here. I wish they would raise some vegetathe earth, I guess it's impossible. How I would love a good cabbage! As for work-you talk about working! Don't you know I'm supposed to help clean up the place, as well as give milk? Buck home I used to be awfully fond of shirts and shoes, but I simply can't here."

all the time. Have you seen the new ! tional industry.

grew oratorical. "Siska gives all her | shouldn't fuss. Wasn't it some old Greek who said, 'The world is only my idea.' If that's the case-

"He's getting philosophical; I'm going to leave." Mina stretched her long, slim body. "Oh, look!" The joy of living re-

turned to Siska's eyes. She flirted her short tail and ran. "It's a nice new red flag!"

"Do you know," observed Mina to the pup, "sometimes I think that Siska must be Russian."

GRAVE HUNTERS STILL BUSY

Gangs of Searchers Wander About in Quest of Overlooked Bodies of Fallen Heroes.

Ypres is today as she was in 1918. To the east, south and north stretches an ugly, shell-chopped lifeless terrain, where gangs of "body snatchers" (the Tommys' name for grave hunters) are still wandering. Now and then, in some out-of-the-way, grass-stuffed crater they still find a weather-scaked uniform, gray or khaki, with a human skeleton inside it. They gather the bones together in a sack and carry

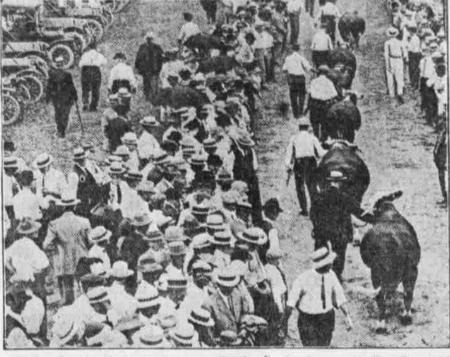
them back to headquarters. Or, they find a forgotten grave, probably marked by a little rain-blackened wooden cross. The battle area is dotted with these crosses-the only epitaph, on some being a rusty trench helmet. The "body snatchers" job is to dig up the bodies, put them in sacks, too, and bring them away for reburial,

Wrecked tanks, wagons, trucks, ammunition dumps, pill boxes are scattered up to the horizon. Four miles down the Menin road from Ypres many British tanks lie in one field, called the "tank cemetery."

Shortage of American Leather.

There is much complaint on the part of Belgian shoe manufacturers because of the recent heavy purchases from abroad. At the same time local manufacturers are greatly handlcapped bebles, but with all this iron cluttering cause of a shortage of all materials, particularly of American leather. With view of ameliorating the situation the Syndicate of Shoe Manufacturers of Belgium has taken up with the government the question of producing a national standard shoe at a standard price. It is thought that in this way make myself swallow those I find out | the home manufacturer may be able to produce an article to sell at not "Now don't go getting morbid. You | more than 50 francs, thus fulfilling an always get morbid. As if things aren't | urgent public demand and at the same had enough without talking about them | time stimulating and protecting the na-

pigs that came yesterday?" Bibl be FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES ASSIST CATTLE GROWERS IN MARKETING



Selling Surplus Animals From a Herd of Purebreds Under Favorable Circumstances-Listing Purebred Stock With County Agents Puts the Owner in Touch With Many Buyers.

(Prepared by the United States Depart- that they may examine a large number ment of Agriculture.) Yes, raising of purebreds is all right for the fellow who has lots of them, but how are the chaps who have only a few animals to sell going to get rld of them? The big fellows have reputations, and know the blg buyers personally, but "farmers like me who have a small surplus of purebreds for

sale are often up against it." This is substantially what William Brown told his county agent one afteraoon while discussing difficulties he experienced in getting a fair price for a few of his fine Herefords. Fortunately the county agent was able to tell him of a marketing service designed to make the selling of purebred animals easier for the large and small breeders allke. The agent showed Brown that the United States department of agriculture, in co-operation with the state agricultural colleges, county agents, and local co-operative associations, has undertaken the task of introducing breeders-buyers and sellers-to each other. And the introductions are not confined to stockmen in the same county or state.

Listing Purebreds in Counties. Already in a number of counties he location, age, number and breed of file in the office of the county agent. In some cases monthly reports are prethe state agents in marketing. An essential to the plan is the co-opera-Usually the farm bureau or county igent's office is the headquarters for the county agent acts as its secretary, of this country. Thus a working unit is formed which can be readily fitted into the state and

in raising purebred stock. arrange trips for out-of-town buyers, purebreds to improve their herds.

of animals at the least expense. The benefit of this system is enjoyed by breeders, large and small, and will increase as a larger number of county and community organizations ally themselves with it.

A Near-By Market Overlooked.

A Florida stockman desiring to purchase some Herefords, after making what he considered an adequate inquiry indicated his desire to buy a carload of these cattle in central Montana, 2,500 miles away! Later he found from information supplied by the bureau of markets he could secure cattle sired by an international grand champion bull within 150 miles of his home. Purchase of animals from the latter herd would have meant not only a great saving in freight, but acquiring cattle more acclimated to the South. Furthermore, the risk involved In transportation would have been considerably less.

With the aid of the data regarding purebreds-and it is being added to continually-the bureau of markets is able to give valuable assistance to prospective foreign, as well as domestic buyers, of purebred animals, This branch of the United States depurebreds is tabulated and placed on partment of agriculture recently demonstrated the value of its information by alding a group of South Americans pared, showing the number of animals in locating herds in various parts of for sale and these are published by the country, and also in arranging for the exportation of the cattle purchased. Not the least valuable feation of breeders within the county, ture of their assistance was due to the fact that the bureau representatives understood the methods of South the local co-operative association and American marketing as well as those

More Associations Should Help.

While in many countles co-operative national system of listing all purebred breeders' associations are already acmimals. Many a farmer living in a tively sharing in compiling data recommunity where such information garding the location of purebred anihas not been collected is unaware of mals, much remains to be done. Counpersons within a comparatively short ty live stock associations are urged to radius of his farm who are engaged keep definite, up-to-date information on file and to inform the state field The state field agents of the bu- agents in marketing and, through them, reau of markets, co-operating with the the Washington office of the bureau of animal husbandman of the state col- markets, United States department of lege, are a second important factor in agriculture, of this fact. In this way the general plan. They aim to assist they will render a much-needed servbuyers either inside or outside the ice to their members, to the live stock state. They also aid county agents in industry as a whole, and to foreign finding animals for club members and buyers who come to this country for

ESSENTIALS LISTED FOR STOCK RAISERS Young Animals Should Be Taken

Means Outlined for Bringing Down High Cost of Meat.

Specialists of United States Department of Agriculture Give Some of Most Essential Items in Raising Cattle.

General improvement in the type and quality of beef animals the country over is one of the means urged by the United States department of agriculture for bringing down the high cost of meat to the consumer and, at the same time, increasing the profit of the producer. Some of the most essential items in growing beef on the farm. specialists of the department say, are: Plenty of pasture and feed.

The right kind of cows-those that will produce good calves regularly. A good, purebred registered bullone that will sire good calves persist-

A large calf crop. This means that all cows shall drop calves, and that the calves shall be properly cared for at birth.

Proper care of the breeding herd and the calves. Selection of good helfer calves to replace old or inferior cows.

Prevention of disease among the breeding herd and the younger stock. tle from both severe cold and ex- the farm. tremely hot weather.

cattle for market. Marketing to advantage.

There is a Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1073, on growing beef on the farm to the division of publications. United them especially valuable in the ewe's States department of agriculture.

WEANING FALL-BORN CALVES

From the Mothers After Being Placed on Pasture in Spring.

Fall-born caives should be weaned after they have been placed on pasture in the spring, and then a gradually increasing allowance of grain should be given them, with hay and silage added later in the summer, according to the United States department of agriculture. For baby beef they should go into dry lot for finishing at the end of the pasture season, and be ready to market in December or January.

CROWS ARE SERIOUS MENACE

Green Poisoned Almonds Found to Be Satisfactory Bait for Extermination of Birds.

In Klickitat county, Wash, where rows have been a serious menace to the almond crop, green almonds polsoned with strychnine were found to be a most satisfactory balt in exterminating the birds, by a representative of the biological survey in that



The hog is the most important animal to raise for meat and money.

Straw for hog bedding in the winter Shelter sufficient to protect the cat- is the best thing a man can have on

A practical knowledge of fattening Straw stacks afford a good bedding material and this is a use for them far more profitable than burning.

Legume hays contain a high per that may be had free on application cent of lime and protein which makes

ration.

SWEET, OF THE NEW YORK ASSEMBLY



Thaddens C. Sweet, speaker of the New York assembly and the man responsible for the suspension and "trial" of the five Socialist members, entered a long defense of his attitude at a New York city public banquet.

Mr. Sweet not only condemned the Socialists and defended the action of the assembly, but he referred to the action of Charles E. Hughes in the early stages of the case as "hasty and Ill-advised." He said there was no room in this country for "traitors" and that he could find no difference between the Socialist party and the Communist party, and referred to the Socialists as "these five undesirables," He also contended that the proceedings at Albany had been misrepresented to the people. Speaker Sweet in part said:

"I have always held to the belief that the time to smash a riot is at its inception. Americans have always

done themselves great harm through their leniency. It is a national failing. "There has come a time when these splendid qualifications can no longer be permitted to form a part of a national program in dealing with our enemies. Support of this understanding is found in the action of the assembly of this state whose position a few weeks ago, in joint party declaration, resulted in the suspension of five assemblymen, members of the Socialistic party, accused of acts as individuals and in conjunction with their organization which were felt to be inimical to the best interests of the state and federal government."

SURGEON GENERAL HUGH S. CUMMING

Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, (portrait herewith) succeeding Surgeon General Rupert Blue, becomes head of the bureau of public health service of the treasury department and not the surgeon general of war department, that position being filled by Maj. Gen. M. W. Ireland.

The act approved August 14, 1912, changed the name of the public health and marine hospital service to the public health service, and considerably increased its powers and functions. The bureau of the service at

Washington comprises seven divisions. The division of scientific research conducts the scientific investigations of the service. Intensive studies of diseases of man, including hookworm disease, maiaria, pellagra, trachoma, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis, of school, mental, and industrial hygiene, of rural sanitation, of public health administration, of water supplies and

sewage, and of coastal waters are carried on from special headquarters in

the field in co-operation with state and local health authorities. Through the division of marine hospitals and relief professional care is taken of sick and disabled seamen at 22 marine hospitals and 123 other relief

Through the division of domestic (interstate) quarantine is enforced the two relating to the prevention of the spread of contagious or infectious discases from one state or territory into another. This includes the suppression of epidemics and the sanitation of interstate carriers,

JOHN BARTON PAYNE SUCCEEDS LANE



John Barton Payne of Chicago, is doubly in the limelight-or in two spotlights. He is to be President Wilson's new secretary of the interior, succeeding Franklin K. Lane. Mr. Payne has served as chairman of the shipping board since last August, previously being general counsel of the railroad administration.

Mr. Payne's appointment came as a surprise and attracted more than usual attention because of the manner in which he has been brought into the limelight in connection with the sale of former German passenger ships. Mr. Payne said that he would, of

course, accept the appointment if confirmed by the senate, but that he had requested the president to allow him to remain where he was until the German ships were sold. He also desired to complete the reorganization of the shipping board and Emergency Fleet corporation which was then

dropping several hundred employees and saving thousands of dollars. John Barton Payne, a native of Virginia, is sixty-five years old, and has been prominent in Chicago life for many years. He was judge of the superior court from 1893 to 1898, has been president of the board of south park commissioners since 1911.

HOWZE CONSIDERS MEXICO HOPELESS

Conditions in Mexico were de scribed as intolerable by Gen. Robert Lee Howze, commander of the El Paso district, when he testified before the senate subcommittee investigating the Mexican situation. He expressed opinion that affairs in that country had grown steadily worse in the last ten years, and that, "left solely in the control of the Mexicans," the future of that country was "hopeless." He said, among other things:

"The intolerable conditions which have covered a period of nearly ten years have continually grown worse and I am convinced the apex of shamefulness and horror as viewed from the American conception of justice and decency was reached last fall, a condition which still exists.

"The Mexican government during this ten years of critical time has never, as far as I can determine, done one genuinely friendly thing toward

our government. On the other hand, the Mexican government, or its people, has done no end of discourteous, contemptuous and offensive things of large importance toward our government and our people. The result has been an increased estrangement and an increased hatred against the people of the United States."

