

DISSEMBLING MEN IS A MONSTER TASK

Record Time Made in Landing 36,000 Soldiers and Getting Them to Camp.

American Port, Western France (by mail).—Long lines of khaki clad men just embarked from American transport ships and now on the way to their first camp, packed the streets from curb to curb and stretched away for miles. It was four miles and up hill most of the way—through city, suburbs and country lanes, from the sea front to the great reception camp located outside the town, one of the largest camps in the world and capable of caring for the population of a metropolitan city.

Four hours after leaving from the morning until late in the afternoon the steady tramp of marching thousands had been going on, for this steady stream is the army of 36,000 just arrived on 13 American transports, making the record disembarkment from ship to camp within 12 hours.

With Major X, the engineer officer of the camp, we skirted alongside this moving stream, from the landing to the camp, and had an opportunity of seeing each stage in the huge movement, up to the time the tired marchers pitched their shelter tents on the soaked grounds and crawled inside to sleep. Stirling as it was to see these men come to swell the million men in the American ranks, yet there was a grimness and grayness to the scene suggesting the stern reality of war.

A steady downpour swept across the ranks and the men were dripping as they trudged through the rain soaked mud. They were at route step, without the regularity of parading troops, and each man carried, beside his rifle, all his belongings on his back, 70 pounds of tent, blankets, clothing, shoes, and all the miscellaneous equipment of a soldier headed for the front. Their last camp was in the well equipped cantonments in the United States where they slept on cots and had a semblance of modern comfort. Now they were on the war swept soil of France and had seen the last of cots and comforts. It was their first glimpse of real war conditions, and anyone who says it is cheerful shuts his eyes to the grimness of war.

There are more troops arriving," said the major as he led the way, "than the total strength of the United States army in short time ago." And with such an influx we have to provide a very elastic camp, capable of immediate expansion from 1,000 up to 100,000 men.

EXPLAINS INCREASED AIRPLANE LOSSES

New York—Steady increase of German airplane losses is admitted by Capt. Otto Lehman in an article published in the Berlin Tagblatt, reviewing the progress of aerial warfare during the year 1917-1918. Captain Lehman attributes the growing losses to two causes: Development of the fighting airplane as a weapon against enemy infantry and the enhancement of the number of fighting machines due to the transfer of those on the eastern or Russian front, to the west front.

"It will be noticed that since January and February, 1918, our figures for losses show a steady increase," Captain Lehman writes. "The reason for this, however, is the increased participation of airplanes resulting from the fact that the German flyers who had been operating on the eastern front migrated to the western front when fighting ceased in the Russian theater. The increased participation, of course, resulted logically in larger total loss.

Where Rare Books Came From. Book collecting is one of the sports of millionaires in this country, and the zest shown in it is one of those few things the war hasn't lessened. It is not so in England, although we look to that country for most of the things, even Americana, that figure with fabulous prices. The auction room where these precious volumes are bartered is a center of romance for many who find that there is something more in the matter than the glamour of high figures.

But to return to the real romance of Sotheby's, its wonderful sales of books connected with which it has issued no fewer than 7,000 separate catalogues. Some of them, beautifully illustrated, are so interesting that one binds them in one's library, especially when they are concerned with the books of noteworthy people.

There is a lot of interest in the fact that the American millionaire is frequently a great book buyer, although his brother in England is rarely so. This would account for the fact that one of the most notable recent sales was that of a collection of letters being sold in 1918 for \$23,800 (\$18,000) in 1907. Mr. Hobson points out that a collection of letters sold in 1798 for \$223 (\$110,751), and that it would be considered cheap at \$2,500 (\$25,000) today, and might easily fetch double or treble that sum.

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How Germany Treats Negroes. From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It is true that the negroes have good cause to fight against world domination by Germany. History has shown that in Africa Germany has treated the natives worse than any other government which has ruled that continent.

The Kid Was Right. Ignatz tells us of a Youngstown couple who are very fond of Chinese dishes—or at least the sort of dishes that are made in Chinese restaurants. Their four-year-old daughter shares their taste, and likes to have her father bring some oriental mess home with him when he comes to dinner in the evening.

No More Hun Toys. From the New York Tribune. The Hun baby killer of today is not to be toy maker to the babies of tomorrow. "Made in Germany" was all very well on children's playthings up to four years ago. Germany commanded the toy trade of the world. But now the world knows what the toy makers were.

LOCOMOTIVE NOT TOTAL LOSS

Had to Be Abandoned in Face of Hun Advance, but Served a Useful Purpose. Yankee ingenuity has developed a new weapon for use against the Hun. No; it will not be used very often, but there are times.

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Pays to Hustle. "All things come to him who waits." "Seems to me, though, you'd save time by going after them."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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