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Most Important Conference of the War.
The conference for which representatives of all the nations actively engaged in the war against the kaiser are gathered in Paris cannot fail to be the most important since the world conflagration was started by the unprovoked invasion of Belgium. The allies have consulted together before from time to time, but this is the first general conference in which authorized spokesmen for the United States will take part and in which the plans to be considered will include assignments of work for the United States to perform.

War on German Crops
By Frederic J. Haskin
Washington, D. C., Nov. 27.—The other day an Ohio man suggested that American aviators should drop Colorado potato beetles on the German potato fields. Suggestions of this sort have come from several quarters and have usually been treated as jokes. A canvass of high scientific opinion shows that such a program is not to be regarded as a joke, but as a serious and practical matter. It holds terrible possibilities. The basic idea, of course, is to increase the German food shortage by destroying German crops through introducing crop diseases.

TODAY
Right in the Spotlight.
Lieutenant General Sir Julian Hedworth George Byng, who has had immediate charge of the recent great "drive" into the German lines, has had a long and distinguished career in the British military service. He began by joining the Tenth royal hussars in 1883 and has led an active life in the army ever since—in the Soudan, Egypt; in South Africa and since this war broke out with the British forces facing the Germans. At the commencement of the war he commanded the Third cavalry division. From this he was promoted to leading the Ninth army corps. Then he was picked out as commander of the Canadian corps and no commander has won more admiring devotion from his men than Byng.

The Bee's Letter Box
In Defense of the Druggist.
Omaha, Nov. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: "Hush, little drug store, don't you cry; you'll become a saloon by and by."—Quoted from letter of Attorney General Reed.
Such a brilliant little couplet as the above one might expect to emanate from a booze mill where weak minds were congregated and ribaldry run riot, but scarcely should we anticipate such an implied and gratuitous insult to the registered pharmacists of the state, as the above would appear to be to be promulgated and given publicity to by so distinguished and eminent an individual as the attorney general of our state.

We Can't Sell Pianos in TURKEY But We Can Give Thanks That We Can Sell Pianos
In Omaha at Following Low Prices
\$90, \$125, \$150, \$165, \$175, \$190 and Better
Pianos made by Cable-Nelson, Kimball, H. B. Chase, C. Kurtzman, Gaylord, Steger, Macy & Kamp.
On small weekly or monthly payments
These are nearly new, used, and fine lookers, wearers and are dependable.
You get a stool and scarf.
We RENT PIANOS for \$3.50 Per Month
A HOSPE CO.
1513 DOUGLAS ST.

The Threatened Coal Shortage—Who's to Blame?
The danger of a coal shortage with its ominous threat of stoppage for the wheels of industry is graphically depicted in the current issue of the Railway Age Gazette for the purpose of showing what has brought it about. "It was estimated after the United States entered the war" it explains, "that in order to meet both the commercial and military needs of the country, our coal production in 1917 should show an increase over that of 1916 of 100,000,000 tons, or about 17 per cent. This increased production is not being attained. At the end of October the increase was 41,000,000 tons, or less than 10 per cent ahead of that for the corresponding period of 1916."

When this point in the problem is reached the answer of science is always the same: "The orient." For the immemorial east, where human civilization and agriculture go back into the ancient mists of time, is the home of all manner of virulent crop and animal diseases. The pressure of these pests is from Europe toward America. The stream cannot be turned backward. But the pressure is also from Asia to Europe. The allies who entered the east control also the sources of all the plant and animal plagues. Our most destructive pests in the United States—the chestnut blight, the white pine blister rust, the citrus canker—are importations from China and Japan.

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For one day at least the H. C. of L. declared a moratorium.
Christmas now spots a clear road ahead. Do your hiking early.
In the lexicon of Colonel House there is no such word as peace.
The efficiency of Thanksgiving depends on the steadiness of the followup system.

As between the railroads and the coal operators, this makes out a reasonably strong case. So far as the public is concerned as coal consumers, they are not so much interested in fixing the blame as in getting the coal, and if the supply falls seriously short we may be sure the demand will be voiced in no uncertain terms that the government take over the coal mines and to see it that the output is brought up to requirements.

On the other hand, specialists in vegetable parasites regard the discovery and introduction of a destructive pest as possible. There is, for example, the American pear blight, which has practically ruined the western pear orchards and which is unknown in Europe. This blight, once introduced, would certainly work great damage. Most American pests are already known in Europe, however, and the logical course would be to search the orient for a weapon in this war. The same is true of animal diseases. Specialists in this line say that their introduction is quite possible, but that the consequences would be terrible.

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Rooting for the United States
A recruit at Yaphank, Long Island, asked what the camp had taught him, replied: "To root for the United States." And he added that all his fellow soldiers were rooting for the United States.
Men will root for something. It is human nature, especially the nature of youth. Recruits came into that camp at Yaphank rooting for something, a college to which they had been, a town from which they had come, a state to which they belonged, a base ball club, a Young Men's Christian association branch—anything in which they might have a possessive interest. In a day or two they began to root for their captain or the officer in command, for their barracks, their regiment or brigade.

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