

PEACE EXCHANGES FIND U. S. STILL PLUGGING AHEAD

Fighting Men to Get All Training Possible After They Reach France

NAVY STILL IN BUSINESS

Plans for 16 Big Battleships and 140 Smaller Vessels Included in Three-Year Program

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 31.—Berlin's passionate little billet doux asking Uncle Sam to make a date and meet her at the garden gate has failed to tempt the War and Navy Department to close up shop and go home.

Navy's Three-Year Program

The Navy Department has presented to Congress another three-year building program calling for ten superdreadnaughts, six battle cruisers, and 140 smaller vessels at a total cost of \$600,000,000.

Including this \$600,000,000 the total estimates of the Navy Department for ship construction, including armor and armament, amount this year to \$72,000,000.

Can't See the Joke It is pretty difficult for a mere common citizen to understand why they should imagine any President of the United States is likely to be so easy as to walk open eyed into traps which the pro bono can see so plainly.

WORLD'S SHIPPING NEARLY AT NORMAL

Now Only Seven Per Cent Less Than at Beginning of War

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 31.—Figures from Washington show that the total world's shipping now is only seven per cent less than at the beginning of the war, thanks to the enormous Allied tonnage output.

22,000,000 BUY BONDS

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 31.—The total amount subscribed to the Fourth Liberty Loan has not yet been published.

Countless stories of devotion and self-sacrifice cause the Treasury officials to say that words of thanks seem paltry in face of the deeds being reported.

POETS TAKE HAND IN PACKAGE PLAN

Nine by Four by Three Suggestions Plentiful in Rhyme

HOME PHOTOS STILL LEAD

Cake and Hard Candy Also Included in Most of Three-Pound Christmas Ideas

The Christmas package suggestion plan has set the Amalgamated Order of Army Post working overtime in direct violation of all known stipulations contained in the issue of O.D. poet's license.

But the poet who can you put in a three by four by nine? If I don't get some sweets from home—now mind, this ain't no whine—

From the Prose Thinkers

Everybody in the A.E.F., however, is looking upon the package as a subject for poetry. There are still a lot of hard-headed prose thinkers left in the Army.

"What do I want in my Christmas box?" inquires a top in the Engineers. "Nothing so merely useful as socks, razor blades, or even playing cards."

"I mean only that the difficulties and delicacies of our present task are of a sort that makes it imperatively necessary that the Nation should give its undivided support to the Government under a unified leadership."

Right behind him comes an Artilleryman with a suggestion for a fountain pen, wrist watch, knife, needles, O.D. thread, brown buttons, fudge and some photographs of the folks.

He starts out by telling what he doesn't want—scarfs, shirt studs, fur-lined gloves, sweater, boots, cigarettes, razor or razor blades. These, he asserts, are either useless, issued or buyable in France.

30,000 ALLOTMENT CHECKS TO ITALY

War Risk Office at Rome Cares for A.E.F.'s Relatives in Peninsula

Uncle Sam is sending 30,000 checks to Italy every month to relatives of Italian born soldiers in the A.E.F. The allotment bureau of the War Risk Section recently opened an office in Rome to see that the checks reach the persons for whom they are intended.

The Rome office was established after thousands of letters containing checks had been returned to the States because addresses could not be found.

COTTON GINNING INCREASE

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 31.—Cotton ginning from January 1 to October 18 shows 6,750,000 bales, which is an increase of 1,200,000 bales over the corresponding period of last year.

COMING ELECTIONS TO BE REAL FIGHT FOR NEW CONGRESS

National Struggle on Single Big Issue to Replace Local Battles

PRESIDENT ISSUES APPEAL

Feeling Throughout Nation That Old Political Lines Will Be Flooded Out of Sight

[BY CABLE TO THE STARS AND STRIPES.] AMERICA, Oct. 31.—The political preferences of the nation will be sharply proved by the Congressional election next Tuesday.

The President's Appeal

On October 24 President Wilson issued a long appeal to the nation to support him, saying, in part: "The Congressional elections are at hand. They occur in the most critical period our country has ever faced, or is likely to face in our time."

"If in these critical days it is your wish to sustain me with undivided mind, I beg that you will say so in a way which it will not be possible to misunderstand either here at home or among our associates on the other side of the sea."

Desperate Campaign Likely In reply, Republican leaders instantly announced a redoubled determination to win the Congress, and the outlook is for as desperately fought a campaign as this country has ever seen in any year of Congressional elections.

Thus the gravity of these pre-election days is unexpectedly great. The issues are so vital that there is little of the pros and cons of political shrews as to the possible result.

Work Began in March Work on the hospital, which is too big to be known by a single name as yet, but which already comprises Base Hospitals 1, 14 and 22, began last March, with the clearing off of the 2,400-acre site.

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A.E.F. HAS WORLD'S LARGEST HOSPITAL

Seven of 17 Units Already Operating at Coast Establishment

NEAR GREAT OCEAN LANES

Forty Thousand Bed Institution to Be Alongside Convalescent Camp of 2,500 Capacity

Situated on a vast tract not far from the coast of what is really sunny France—namely, the southern part on the outskirts of a city famous in both English and French history, is what is destined to be, once completed, Uncle Sam's largest hospital in France.

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LIEUT. LUKE MISSING, ONE OF PAIRED ACES

Flyer Does Not Return After Dropping Three Boche Machines

Like a blazing meteor was the brief, brilliant career of Lieut. Frank Luke, Jr., as a fighting flyer in the American Air Service. He has been reported missing since he vanished over the German lines late in the afternoon of Sunday, September 29, the fourth day of the Argonne drive.

In his last 17 days at the front he had scored 18 victories, thereby tying the record of the American ace of aces, Lieut. Eddie Rickenbacker, and going one better than the great record of the late Major Lufbery.

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