

COTTON BULLETIN TO BE OUT SOON

Washington, June 13.—According to a bulletin entitled "Cotton Production in the United States, 1916," about to be issued by Director Sam L. Rogers of the Bureau of the census, department of commerce, and prepared under the direction of Mr. William M. Stewart, chief statistician in charge of the inquiry, the inquiry, the American cotton crop of 1916—11,419,930 equivalent 500-pound bales—showed a slight increase as compared with the preceding year, but with that exception was the smallest since 1909.

The crop of 1916 exceeded that of 1915 by about 258,000 bales, but fell below that of 1914—the largest ever grown—by 4,685,000 bales, or 29 per cent. The production in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina fell below that reported for 1915, while the remaining states show increases. By far the most pronounced decrease took place in Alabama, in which state the 1916 crop, amounting to 533,402 bales, was only a little more than half as great as that of the preceding year—1,020,839 bales.

Linters on increase. Despite the marked falling off in the crops of the last two years as compared with that of 1914, the output of linters continues to show a pronounced increase. The figures now available cover only the nine months ending April 30, 1917, during which period 1,210,876 equivalent 500-pound bales of linters were produced, as against 931,441 bales from the crop of 1915 and 856,900 bales from the crop of 1914. The high prices obtained in recent years for this fiber, which is used extensively in the manufacture of gun cotton and smokeless powder, have so stimulated the production of linters that the yield per ton of seed treated is now considerably more than double that of a few years ago.

The sea-island cotton crop of 1916, 117,559 running bales, was the largest on record, with the single exception of the crop of 1911, which exceeded it by 1734 bales. This class of cotton, however, represented only about 1 per cent of the total crop of 1916. All the sea-island cotton was grown in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, the first-named state producing 77,981 bales, or about two-thirds of the total.

Produce Big Percentage. Although cotton is grown in eighteen states, the combined product of three—Texas, Georgia and Arkansas, the only states produced more than a million bales each in 1916—represented nearly three-fifths of the total crop of that year. Texas alone reported 3,725,700 bales, or nearly one-third of the total crop; Georgia's output was 1,820,939 bales, or somewhat less than one-sixth of the total; and that of Arkansas was 1,131,033 bales, or nearly one-tenth of the total.

Six counties—Ellis, Hill, McLennan and Williamson, in Texas, and Bolivar and Coahoma, in Mississippi—reported the ginning of more than 100,000 bales each from the growth of 1916. Williamson county, Texas, with 124,732 bales, was in the lead, closely followed by Ellis county, in the same state, with 124,319 bales.

WOMAN SEEKS DEATH FEARED

After Unsuccessful Attempt at Suicide Mrs. Belli Disappears. Mrs. Lily Belli, 27, 319 Carondelet street, who recently attempted suicide, has been missing from home since Friday and relatives fear she will repeat her act. Police yesterday were asked to search for her.

Mrs. Belli's attempt at self-destruction followed a quarrel with her husband. She swallowed anti-septic tablets and was relieved of the poison by Charity hospital ambulance doctors. That was on May 22.

The woman left her home Friday morning after threatening to try suicide again. A description of Mrs. Belli follows: Dark complexion, dark hair, has white spot in left eye and wore a black dress and hat of the same color.

Miss Edna Littleton, 1007 Tchoupitoulas street, sister of the missing woman, will appreciate any information as to her whereabouts.

NEGRO NEARLY ELECTROCUTED

Victor Crow, negro, 303 Josephine street, came in contact with a live wire while at work in the New Orleans Railway and Light company's power plant at Market and South Peters streets yesterday afternoon. Fellow workmen came to his rescue and he was not seriously hurt. He was taken to the Charity hospital.

MUST RELEASE COAL CARS

Coal companies holding cars in New Orleans must release them immediately. This was the official order issued yesterday by the New Orleans Car Service commission, which operates under the Railroad's War board.

SILENT CHIEF IS GREATLY FEARED

From the New York Sun: War correspondents in Germany have lately discovered a new superman in the person of Ludendorff, chief of staff of Von Hindenburg and rated by the awe-stricken ones about him as the general's guiding force and intellectual superior. Silent, solitary, morose, he is a figure little known but greatly feared. Those "in the know" credit him with Hindenburg's victories. But he is more than a soldier. He is, so report has it, a great diplomat and a civil administrator. He brought order to Poland and Galicia with German occupation of those territories. He fixed railroad rates, established customs, regulated the American relief operations and so employed the iron heel upon American correspondents that they now speak of him with awe.

In brief, he is the strong and every man of mystery which every war is certain to produce.

We note in a somewhat superlatively adulatory article on Ludendorff in the Atlantic Monthly, by H. L. Mencken, certain statements which may perhaps throw a needed sidelight upon history.

First German Victory. The battle of Tannenberg, or of the Masurian lakes, as it is sometimes called, was fought early in the war and was the first great German victory. In it two Russian armies under Generals Samsonoff and Rennenkampf, aggregating six hundred thousand men, were routed by Von Hindenburg with about two hundred thousand men, of whom at least 60 per cent were men of the reserve class. The Russians were cut to pieces, drowned by the tens of thousands in the lakes and quagmires of which Hindenburg was supposed to have an uncanny knowledge. 110,000 were captured, the rest driven back into Russia.

Germany went mad with adulation of her victorious general, erected a colossal wooden statue of him, and the populace paid liberally for the privilege of driving nails into it to show their regard and affection for the hero.

Retreats Much. Of late, since confronted by the French and British in the west, Von Hindenburg has done little but retreat. Perhaps for that reason it came to be whispered that Ludendorff really won the sanguinary battle of Tannenberg. Mr. Mencken describes the efforts made by correspondents to run the rumor down:

"How? By what process? By what strategy? Ask these questions in Germany and you will ask in vain. The whole business already belongs to fable. Everybody has a different explanation, a different theory. The thing was so swift and so colossal that no one seems to have kept any coherent record of it. I searched in vain in Berlin for a clear account; I got very little more light from officers who were present. Four months after the battle James O'Donnell Bennett, the very able correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, went to East Prussia to go over the field and unearth the facts. He told me later that he had to give up the enterprise as impossible.

Staff Officers Hinder

The staff officers of Hindenburg actually differed as to the days on which the action had been fought! More, I find an error of the same sort in the official biography of Ludendorff, read and approved by him. The author, Dr. Otto Krack, says that the victory was reported on August 28. But a copy of the Berliner Tagblatt that lies before me shows that it was really reported on the following day.

Much mystery indeed. But is it not possible that newsgatherers went to the wrong place? Should they not rather have gone to Petrograd, to the heads of the revolutionary committee, who discovered that German bribes and German corruption induced generals in the Russian army, tainted like the czar and all his entourage with German sympathies, to betray their men, to abandon them to defeat and wholesale slaughter? The defeat of Tannenberg, upon which the Germans are erecting idols, was one of the reasons why the Russians pulled down the czar and the grand dukes.

It is notable that Von Hindenburg has won no victory since he confronted the French and British.

RABBI HELLER ELECTED

Contests over delegates to the Jewish congress to be held in Washington on September 2 has resulted in the election of Rabbi Max Heller by an overwhelming majority. Dr. Heller is one of the best known Jewish leaders in the South, and his selection was almost unanimous. Dr. Heller's opponent was Erhard Meyer. One other delegate to be elected from Louisiana will come from Shreveport. Vote was taken there Sunday, but the result has not yet been announced.

Twenty-Twenty Cost of Speech

Remarks about President Wilson and the nation in general, alleged to have been made by Henry Kolth, shoemaker, 2208 Chartres street, resulted in his arrest by Corporal Dan Burke, First Louisiana infantry. In the First Recorder's court yesterday morning he was fined \$20 and twenty days imprisonment on a dangerous and suspicious charge.

Corporal Burke was walking back in Elysian Fields avenue and passed Kolth, who was talking to a friend. It is alleged that Burke heard Kolth say President Wilson was a "blockhead," the United States a nation of "simsps" and that he raised a German flag at Milneburg instead of the Stars and Stripes. Kolth was born at Nuremberg, Germany.

FRENCH CITE U.S. OFFICER'S HEROISM

Boston Transcript: A report comes from Paris that Maj. William S. Mitchell, aviation attache of the American military mission to France, has been cited in the general orders of the French army for efficiency and bravery in face of the enemy.

This is the first citation of a regular American army officer since the war began. Did not the American law forbid, it would probably carry with it the award of the War Cross.

Major Mitchell for several weeks has been at the front getting battle experience. In the course of a French infantry attack he made a daring and successful reconnaissance, flying close to the ground at much risk. The flight had much to do with the success of the French attack.

Major Mitchell is said to have been the youngest captain ever a member of the general staff, to which he was assigned about two years ago. Shortly after he was detailed to the aviation corps and has been one of the two officers charged with the expenditure of the 13 million dollars appropriated by Congress for that branch of the service.

Entered in 1898

Major Mitchell entered the military service in 1898, when he enlisted from Milwaukee as a volunteer in the signal corps the day after President McKinley called for volunteers in the war with Spain. He remained a private for twenty-six days, when he was given a commission, and throughout the war was aid to Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee in Cuba, and was in the room with that officer when the island was transferred from Spain to the United States government. That war having ended, Lieutenant Mitchell was aboard the first transport which sailed for the Philippines to put down the insurrection and he served actively through the war.

At the close of the Spanish-American War he entered the regular army, and for eight years was the youngest captain in the service. He went through both service schools at Fort Leavenworth, and during 1902-3 was in charge of the construction of telegraph lines in Alaska, building clear across the country, often in places where no white man ever had been before.

Captain Mitchell was one of the party sent out following the eruption of the Teal volcano. He also was one of seven officers in charge of the city of San Francisco at the time of the earthquake.

Installed Wireless

Captain Mitchell's service, until about two years ago, who wholly with the signal corps. He installed the wireless plant in Morro Castle which at that time was one of the largest in the world. His experience and inventions in connection with the wireless have been noteworthy. He was identified with an important series of experiments in receiving wireless though kites which proved highly successful.

In company with the present Brig. Gen. George Spuler he rigged a wireless outfit to a kite which intercepted a message at what was then a record breaking distance. He was at Fort Leavenworth and this message was from President Roosevelt, who was sending it from New Orleans to Washington. The distance traveled by the message, 2,250 miles, was so incredible that the fact of its reception was doubted until inquiries established its identity.

COMPLETE THIRTY DAYS OF SERVICE

The British Port Base of the American Flotilla, June 13 (via London).—The American destroyers have completed their first month of active service in the great war. They have been favored with excellent weather, which is a big factor in anti-submarine warfare. Most of the time they have had sunny skies and smooth seas, with just enough squall and storm to put their seamanship to test. The favorable weather conditions made their task of learning the technique of anti-submarine warfare much simpler and easier.

The American boats are assigned to work with the British squadrons, being virtually assimilated into the British naval machinery here. A destroyer is usually out four or five days and then returns to port for two or three days, coaling and loading supplies. Thus every American sailor gets at least half a day shore leave practically every week.

Even Routine Is Interesting. The Americans take their turn with the British boats in all routine work of patrol and convoy. The work, although largely routine, is interesting, and the Americans have never yet found time hanging heavily on their hands. The lookout must be constant and eyes must be trained to an unbelievable degree of keenness.

The young Americans take zealously to this business of finding the periscope needle in the nautical haystack, and daily reports of submarines sighted, of observations made, of wireless warnings sent broadcast show that the American boats already are making an average of results almost as satisfactory as the long experienced British boats, with which they are operating.

There has been no actual battle as yet between an American destroyer and the enemy, although several reports show that U-boats have been sighted and have been compelled to beat a hasty retreat to the depths of the sea.

Like to Convoys Liners

An assignment to convoy a liner "from home," that is, from an American port, is regarded as an especially choice morsel. A trans-Atlantic line which sights the American flag approaching to escort her to land never fails to respond with a great waving of flags and handkerchiefs from her decks and there is a fine exchange of wigwag signals in lieu of handshakes. Several American liners can already testify to the vigilant work of the American destroyers as convoys. Occasionally a fortunate liner finds herself being escorted to port by American and British destroyers side by side, circling about her like twin sisters, a visible sign of the new alliance.

The American boats were ready for duty the minute they arrived. This was something of a pleasant surprise for the British naval men. It had been expected that some time would be necessary for certain installations and fittings, but the Americans had everything in readiness and at once were assigned to work.

U. S. Tar Always Has Money

Shore leave is generous on the American ships and the American sailor is constantly in evidence in this village, in the countryside round about, and in a nearby city, where more metropolitan pleasures are available than in the restricted limits of this little place. The people of the towns have taken the American sailor and his strange spendthrift ways right into their hearts. The American sailor always seems to have money, which is not so strange when it is considered that his rate of pay is considerably higher than that of the British tar.

"The American gets a dollar every time we get a shilling," is a common expression among the admiring British seamen. One of the American sailor's favorite ways of showing his opulence is his habit of traveling first class on the railroad which takes him from the village up to the city, a trip of a few miles. The extra cost is only a few pence, but the unheard-of idea of a common sailor traveling first class strikes the populace as worthy the best traditions of American extravagance.

MAN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

David Witty, 31, 536 Chartres street, attempted suicide at his home yesterday afternoon by taking poison. Illness is said to have been the cause. He was left at home and out of danger by Charity hospital ambulance surgeons.

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U. S. PLANS FOR EXEMPTION PLEAS

Washington, June 13.—The first actual step toward formation of boards which will consider exemptions from service in the new national armies raised by conscription was taken today when a plan for exemption of those physically unfit was submitted to President Wilson by a special board of lawyers, jurists and military authorities.

The plan provides that each local exemption board will have as one member a physician who will give the first test. When he rejects a man the other board members must summon another physician, who will make an examination, not knowing the first doctor's decision. If the doctors' decisions are the same the man is declared unfit.

Check on Physical Exemptions. In cases of doubt the board may summon several doctors, one after another, to submit a diagnosis. The man who is rejected or refused may appeal to the appellate court of the district for another test.

President Wilson is today considering the vital exemption regulations as submitted by the special board. This body has been working on the regulations for weeks.

Within a few days announcements of the rules for the guidance of exemption boards is expected. Although it is definitely decided that there will be no wholesale class exemptions, most of the regulations are yet to be settled upon.

Trying to Play Politics. An attempt to inject politics into the selection of members of the conscription exemption boards is on foot in Congress.

From indications today, however, the efforts will fail. In official quarters it is realized that any tinge of politics would give the whole selective system a "black eye" and that the people would not tolerate it.

More than a score of senators and congressmen are maneuvering to get "their men" picked for the important places on the boards that select the men who will—and those who won't—serve in the new armies. Control of one of the members of the board would be a powerful political weapon.

In trying to get a line on the probable personnel of the boards and the method of selection, many members of Congress are besieging the War Department with "nominations" and "suggestions."

President to Act. President Wilson himself will pass upon the members of the exemption boards of appeal. Only men of the highest standing in each community will be picked for these vital positions.

Such men as college heads, prominent lawyers and men high in civil life will be given preference. Each federal or judicial district will have one appellate board to review the finding of the local board, pass upon appeals and hold original jurisdiction in claims for occupational exemptions.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Mrs. Edward Bibson, 3338 Magnolia street, a girl.
Mrs. Richard Monaghan, 5200 Tchoupitoulas street, a girl.
Mrs. Marcel Damas, Touro infirmary, a girl.
Mrs. George Scheiner, 1680 N. Robertson street, a girl.

Marriages

James Montgomery and Miss Mary Cunningham.

Deaths

Pierre Ducloux, 67 years.
William Klemmer, 50 years, 3125 Burgundy street.
Miss Marie Otis, 60 years, 1840 Valmont street.
Mrs. (Widow) J. Oppenheimer, 60 years.
Mrs. Victor Treadway, 68 years, Presbyterian hospital.
Theresa Larche, 44 years, 1418 N. Villere street.

Fisherman Finds Long Lost Draft

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger: When one of the numerous vessels torpedoed by German submarines sank it carried with it a draft for 387 francs (about \$77), contributed to the American ambulance service by a number of American dentists. As if by an act of providence, the precious paper, after almost a year and a half, has found its way to Dr. James P. Hutchinson, a surgeon in the service in Paris, and through him has been devoted to the purpose for which its donors intended it, and from which for a long period the activities of the Teuton U-boat had diverted it.

Washed up by the sea, the draft was found on the coast of France by a fisherman. Although the envelope containing the address of Doctor Hutchinson had been torn away by the action of the waves, the French postoffice service, to whom the fisherman entrusted the paper, delivered it to its rightful owner.

The story was told in a letter just received from France by Dr. John V. Mershon of Ridley Park.

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Table with columns: Depart, Arrive, Lines (TRANS-MISSISSIPPI STATION, etc.)

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