

USE PIGEONS TO CARRY ORDERS

Medieval Methods Still Are
Found Useful

All The Armies Have Them

Invaluable When Other Methods
of Communication Fail; Belgium
Home of Finest Breeds

Despite the amazing multiplicity of mechanical means for carrying on the war it is almost equally astonishing to note from time to time how men revert to implements of warfare that were old generations ago. We have seen the soldiers returning to medieval times and protecting themselves with armor, we have seen the revival of the hand-grenade, we have heard of the Gurkhas throwing aside their rifles and crawling into the enemy's trenches with only their knives as weapons, and many similar instances might be recalled. Yesterday's papers tell us that the Germans at the Somme now rely upon pigeons to carry messages when their telegraphs and telephones fail. Since the pigeons travel behind the German lines they are safe from bullets, and they go faster than a human messenger could be despatched unless he used an aeroplane. More over, the pigeons could be turned loose by the hundred, or even by the thousand, and thus perform a service that would require a whole battalion of aviators to accomplish.

Not Carriers, But Homers

As usual, when a reference to pigeons gets into a newspaper the birds are referred to as carrier pigeons, but while they are carriers of messages, they are by no means carrier pigeons, the birds thus named by fanciers being a show variety with huge wattles which could

hardly fly a hundred yards, being unable to see properly, and also, having such large bodies, a bird with wings by no means adapted to swift or sustained flight. Nowadays pigeons that carry messages are known as homing pigeons, or, more briefly as homers. They are medium-sized birds, something like the pigeons one sees sometimes picking up a living about the market and have probably more intelligence than any other feathered creature, not even excepting the parrot. For short distances in favorable circumstances, that is to say in clear weather, and preferably with a tail wind, these birds can travel at the rate of a mile a minute or even faster. An all-day flight of 500 miles is considered first-class work, though 600 miles and even more have been traversed in races.

Wonderful Eye and Memory

These birds have been known to return home a distance of 1,200 miles, and sometimes after an absence of years. How they find their way is a mystery.

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unctive landmarks approaches the unsavory. Probably for the comparatively short flights that the birds are required to make along the Somme they can see their destination as soon as they rise and make their first preliminary circle. Since the Germans remained in their Somme positions from the Fall of 1914 until last July they had ample time to breed pigeons in lofts at the rear of their lines, for the birds would be capable of flights of fifty miles or so when four months old.

Belgium's Great Sport

The French, too, and no doubt all other combatants, have put their pigeons to use in the present war, and only a few days ago an illustrated magazine reproduced a photograph of a movable French loft back of the lines. Pigeons played an important part in carrying messages in those early days of the German advance through Belgium, for Belgium is the home of the modern racing pigeon and pigeon-flying was the national sport of the Belgian people. In these parts of France nearest Belgium the sport was in great favor and the Allies were well supplied with some of the finest birds in the world for conveying news of the German approach at points cut off from telegraph communication with the rest of the world.

The Pigeon Post

In the Franco-Prussian war homing pigeons became famous for their service to beleaguered Paris. What was called a pigeon post was established and huge sums were paid by the inhabitants for the privilege of writing a message to outside friends which would be carried by a homing pigeon. The messages were sometimes inserted in a hollow quill feather, sometimes fastened to the leg by means of a piece of elastic. The messages were first written out and then reduced to almost invisible proportions by means of photography. Thus a long communication might be conveyed on a mere scrap of paper, which would be photographed and enlarged when it reached the person for whom it was intended. In the present struggle wireless has hopelessly outclassed the pigeon as a means of swift communication where the telephone or telegraph was impossible, but, as we have seen, circumstances arise where no mechanical means will avail, and the homing pigeon and the dog, man's best friend, prove to be man's most trusted messengers.

ANTI-CATHOLICS GATHER

Haines Says His 5,000,000 Men Will Elect the Next President.

Cleveland, Sept. 28.—Cleveland is to be the city in which the next chief executive of the United States will be selected, according to Charles B. Haines, a former congressman from Columbia county, New York, who arrived here to attend a week of secret sessions with leaders of the "Great Secret Order." He asserts that 5,000,000 votes can be delivered as a unit at the polls next November as the organization directs.

Who will be named to receive these ballots Mr. Haines refused to say but from the bitter denunciation of President Wilson and Secretary Tumulty heard from delegates to the session at the Hotel Statler, it seemed evident that Justice Hughes was the favored candidate. It was said that every state would be represented at the meeting here, which will assemble 1,500 delegates, according to figures given out at headquarters.

"The man we select will be elected by a large majority," said Mr. Haines. "When this organization picks a man for office he goes into office. With a membership of close to 5,000,000 men—every one pledged to vote—we can de-

clade any national election as we wish." The order was founded about five years ago, and is Masonic in its inception. It is pledged to keep the Bible in the public schools and to abolish parochial education, Mr. Haines says. The keynote of the ritual upon which the organization is founded is the letter F, for political activity. Mr. Haines wanted the Guardians of Liberty to be but a delegate said that the letter, come a secret, oath-bound organization, properly used, was the password to the

secrets of the order.

Mr. Haines was one of the principal organizers of the Guardians of Liberty, another anti-Catholic organization, and was for a time its head, but he left it in January, 1915, because General Nelson A. Miles and others opposed his plans for political activity. Mr. Haines wanted the Guardians of Liberty to be a secret, oath-bound organization, pledged to vote unitedly in favor of

candidates selected by the organization as most favorable to its cause. With Rev. Augustus E. Barnett of Philadelphia and others, Mr. Haines wrote to join this secret political organization. These tactics were repudiated by the governing body of the society, and Mr. Haines resigned. He continued to be active in pushing the political secret



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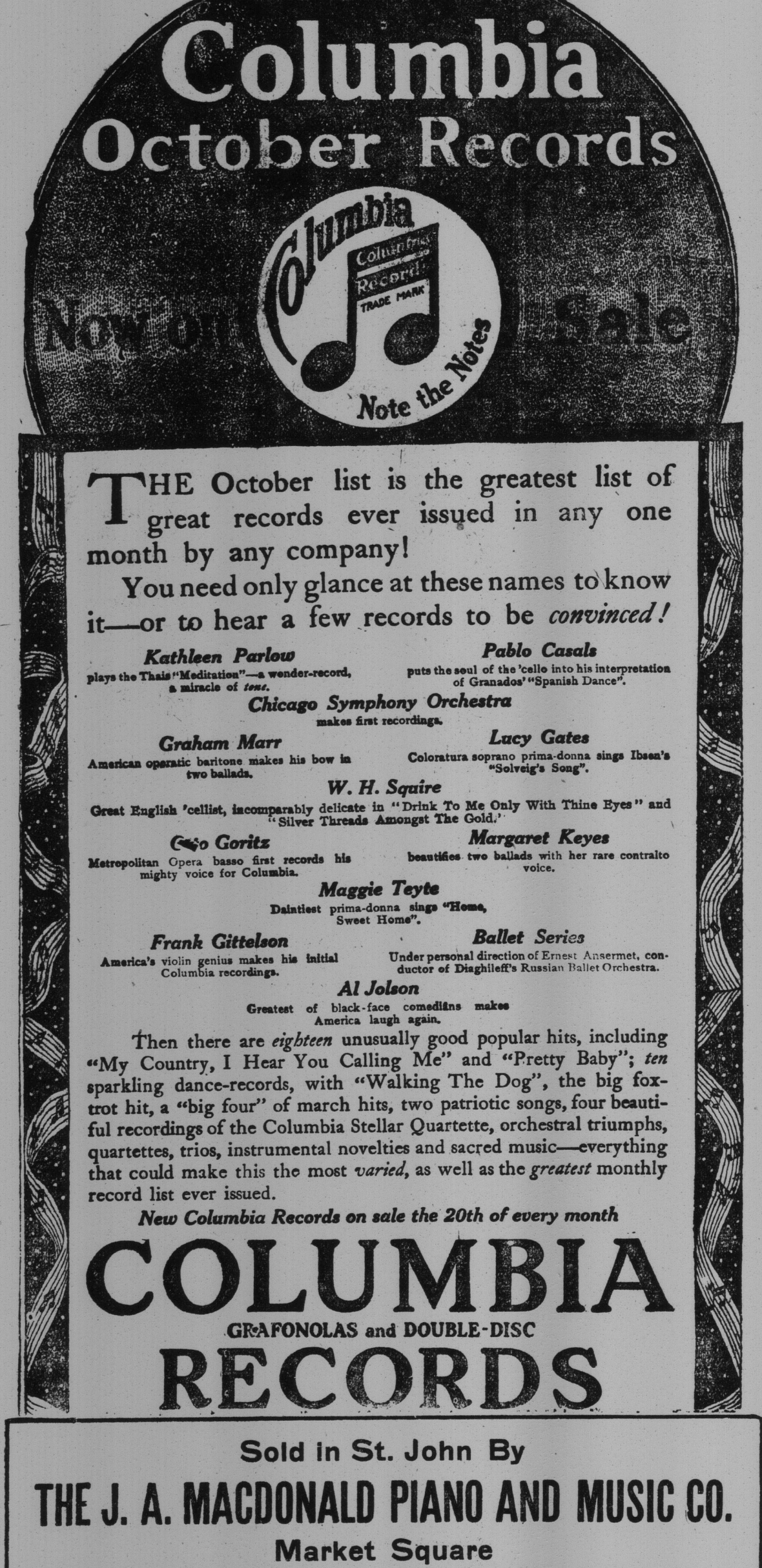
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