

WAR HAS UNDONE WORK OF CENTURIES

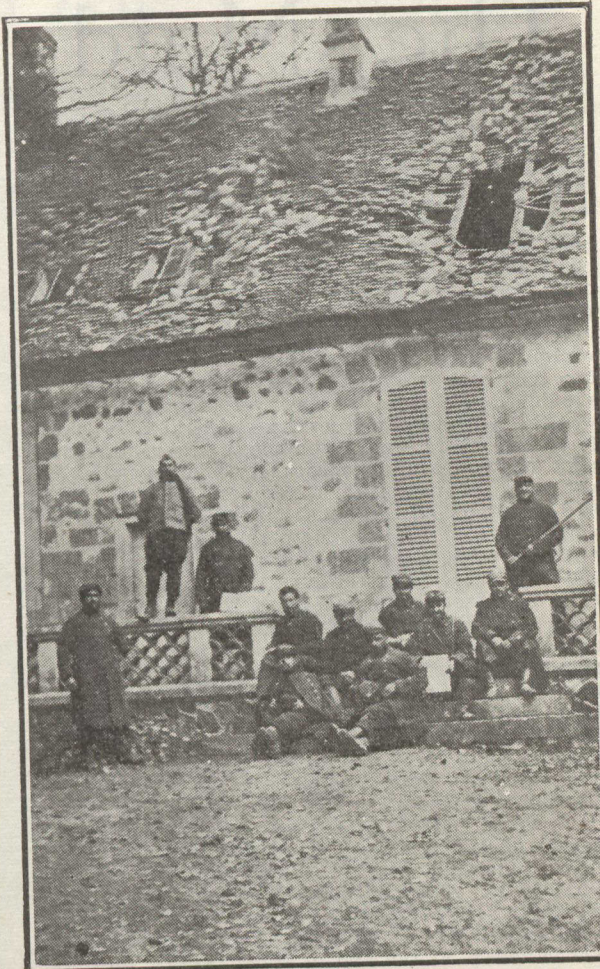


ONE OF MANY DESTROYED BRIDGES.

This photograph was taken at V—— from a pontoon bridge which had been destroyed three times.

MR. WHITNEY WARREN was invited by Gabriel Hanotaux, former French Minister of Foreign Affairs, to go with him on a trip to the front for the purpose of distributing supplies to suffering soldiers and civilians. These photographs, taken by himself, are a few glimpses of the devastation he witnessed on all hands. His own statement eloquently describes what he saw: "As the provinces which are now occupied by the Germans are vacated the conditions are going to be pitiable beyond imagination. What I have seen passes description so far as devastation is concerned, but, as the good Mayors and the good cures said:—'While we have suffered, it is still bearable in view of what has happened in other places.' For instance, Craonne, five kilometers beyond Beaurious, is absolutely evacuated, burned and pillaged. When the poor inhabitants return, think what they are to do—everything gone! In many cases even the walls of the houses, along with the floors and the roofs, and sometimes even the cellars, are caved in. "I know it will all grow up again—more beautiful than ever, let us hope—but it will be hard to duplicate these charming little French villages, the work of generations and of centuries of love and care. However, if we can help tide over these valiant souls—for they are admirable—we shall have done much to the resurrection and renaissance of that which we all love so much in France.

"I have absolute confidence in their tradition and loyalty, their generosity and amiability, their courage and their spirit of sacrifice. Let us help, to our utmost, therefore, to tide over." In fact, it is easier to replace the population than to do over again the work of centuries in building these quaint villages, sacred to the hearthstones of many generations. Houses live on after the occupants are dead. A town or a village has its roots deep in the accumulated experience and thrift of generations. The wholesale destruction of homes and communities is one of the worst blots on the story of this war. Critics may say that many atrocities which the camera missed have been exaggerated. But the camera may be taken as good evidence of what the Germans have done to hundreds of towns and villages in the path of war.



THE LITTLE GRAY HOUSE AT P——.

Generations Yet Unborn Will Re-build the Ruins of France and Belgium—and Perhaps Germany Also. But They Never Can Replace All That Has Been Destroyed!



WHAT A BOMB DID TO THE HOSPITAL AT V——. Germans are notorious for their respect to Hospitals.



WRECKING A CABINET MINISTER'S HOME. The house of Mr. Gabriel Hanotaux, badly shattered.