

POOR DOCUMENT

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ITALY'S MUTILATED SOLDIERS

Crippled Heroes Are Taught Trades by Which They May Gain a Living - The Work at Villa Mirafiori, Rome

Villa Mirafiori in Rome, the former residence of the American Academy, has generously been placed at the disposal of the government for the use of mutilated soldiers ever since the beginning of the war. The lovely position of Villa Mirafiori, situated outside of Porta Pia on the Via Nomentana in the midst of large shady grounds, makes it a charming place for the soldiers to spend their time of confinement. The Villa has been thoroughly equipped with all modern medical and surgical conveniences, its large halls and rooms being turned into dormitories, operating rooms, laboratories, etc.

Thanks to modern methods of science and to recent orthopedic improvements, there is the possibility today of rendering the mutilated less handicapped than formerly. Their so-called re-education, which is giving excellent results, is largely to the skillful and untiring enterprise of its director, Prof. Della Vedova and Prof. Guadagni, who have interpreted most admirably the needs of the mutilated soldiers, the majority of whom have lost a leg or arm and sometimes more than one limb.

Besides the most improved therapeutic treatment, the soldiers are given also technical instruction to prepare them for different trades, and there are also courses in general culture, including language lessons and bookkeeping for those desiring them. For this purpose laboratories and workshops have been provided, and in these the soldiers who are convalescent are being taught carpentry and carving, book-binding, boys-making and soldering, and other leather work, besides the trades of blacksmith, shoemaker and tailor.

Much importance is given also to agricultural work and gardening, the ground around the Villa being entirely cared for by the soldiers themselves. The directors study carefully the adaptability of each man to the trade chosen. The men work about seven hours a day, and while apprentices, receive a small reward for their labor, the wage varying according to their capabilities. The government also allows each mutilated soldier one franc a day as an encouragement besides the pension to which he will be entitled.

All the work of these soldiers is worthy of the highest praise and admiration. Carved furniture, saddles and shoes, boxes and mosaic work are being made for outside orders. Not only that, but they may be said to manufacture their own arms and legs, and the state of perfection to which these have been brought is quite wonderful. Ingeniously-made iron pinchers or clamps of different forms, according to different needs, are applied with straps and bands to the stump of the arm or to the wooden arm, and sometimes fastened also on the shoulder.

On these wide pinchers or clamps are holes of different sizes, and catches for the screwing on of the working instruments. With this arrangement a man is able to use almost any tool and can even hold a pen. Thus a carpenter's clamp is made for holding hammer, saw and plane, etc., while that for a farmer enables him to use a scythe, sickle, reaper or pair of shears.

When they first enter Villa Mirafiori the mutilated soldiers have to undergo a minute medical examination, of which a careful record is kept. They are weighed, measured and put under X-ray examination, massage and heliotherapeutic treatment usually following. Eight voluntary Red Cross nurses aid the doctors in this department.

First the men are given temporary limbs made of felt and hardened plaster, which they sometimes wear two and three months; afterwards, when the physical condition of the injured part allows it, they undergo the application of their fixed limb, made of wood and leather, which permits articulation and free movements. With these they are able to walk so naturally after a while that one scarcely detects the difference between nature's own and science's contrivance.

A jolly group of soldiers was walking to the dining-hall for their dinner when I was visiting the place, and a nurse called my attention to one of them who had lost both feet, but who was walking ever so well with his two new wooden ones. One of his comrades, noticing my look of interest, jolly laughed out and said, with his rich southern accent: "Well, at least he won't be sensitive about people stepping on his toes any more; mine are always in the way." Another jokingly added: "He won't be bothered with chills either!" Their cheerful spirit and happy disposition, even when maimed for life, are but a confirmation of the ever-buoyant and optimistic nature of the Italian soldiers.

They are usually kept at the Villa about six months, but the time is prolonged if one desires to perfect himself further in a trade. Much attention and solicitude are bestowed on these invalided men by Her Majesty Queen Elena, who takes great pains to provide for them every possible comfort and recreation, organizing entertainments and fetes for them in the Royal Palace. Her personal interest and sympathy have left deep impression in many a soldier's heart for the devotion

TUCKETTS MARGUERITE THE '3 FOR A QUARTER' CIGAR

Distinctive in flavor and workmanship, but so moderate in price that everyone can smoke them.

with which, as an angel of mercy, she dedicates time and strength to the mitigation of the suffering caused by the war. She is the noble and worthy companion of the first soldier of Italy, that well-known figure who is at the front sharing unobtrusively with his soldiers the hardships of the war.

Italy's King and Queen stand out as noble examples of concerted love for the nation, and are indeed an inspiration and incentive to the country.

ALICE S. ROSSI.

SOME FOOD PROBLEMS.

Discussion in Which Reference is Made to Pigs and Tobacco.

In the general effort to increase the food production of the country there has been much talk about the best directions in which individual and collective effort may be expended. In the way of increasing the meat supply, some of the agricultural authorities have been urging people to pay more attention to pork.

Pigs, we are told, are in the most practical way the most grateful of all animals. They make better use of the food that is given them. For every four or five pounds of dry matter which pigs eat they put on a pound of flesh, while for every pound added to the weight of cattle ten or twelve pounds of food is required.

But this is not the full extent of the pig's gratitude. He gives larger measure of himself to the sustenance of the human race. When dressed the pig yields from seventy to eighty per cent of its live weight as edible meat, whereas a steer gives only fifty-five or sixty per cent. Moreover, a pig occupies

less room than any other meat-producing animal, and according to the popular view needs much less attention. But, of course, these are facts that are not of much interest to back-yard gardeners in cities.

Another much-discussed problem in connection with this question is the extent to which productive land should be diverted from its ordinary uses, and turned to some more urgent need. The situation naturally affords a fine chance for the anti-tobacco agitators. William Powick of Pen Argyl, Penn., unburdened himself in a communication to his favorite newspaper as follows:

"Sir—Why not prohibit tobacco raising? What is tobacco good for but to kill lice on roses? We need to multiply the acreage of foodstuffs and are enlisting and mobilizing farm labor to this end. Why not, then, forbid the tillage of harmful and wasteful plants as a war measure? 'Bread or tobacco' is about as pertinent a slogan as 'Bread or booze,' and as worthy of governmental regulation in the time of stress before war."

If it came to a personal pinch there can be little doubt that most users of the weed would not hesitate very long over a choice between bread and tobacco. Perhaps in this time of stress the question is one that ought to be thoughtfully considered among measures for the general welfare. But at present Mr. Powick's suggestion seems of greater interest as evidence of his own prejudiced viewpoint as to the merits of tobacco. His line "What is tobacco good for but to kill lice on roses?" is a literary gem to kill lice on roses?" is a literary gem worthy of a place in "Bartlett's Quotations" with the other utterances on the subject.

From the closing of the sixteenth cen-

tury down to these days of Mr. Powick and Dr. Pease, tobacco has inspired the literary and oratorical articulation of countless poets, philosophers and reformers. Probably one's views of tobacco and its uses depend not only upon one's personal habits, but largely also upon whether one happens to be a poet, a philosopher, or a reformer by temperament.—Providence Journal.

WOULD BE A NATIONAL BLESSING

(From the Sydney Record.)

Some newspapers in Upper Canada are much given to dwelling upon the fact, or what they believe to be the fact at all events, that maritime province people "take their politics very seriously." They point this out as a difference between Upper Canadian and maritime province citizens. They may be right, but there are other differences, too. Through many of their people, Ontario and Quebec are continually squabbling over religious and racial questions. It is an open question as to which province is the more to blame. Certainly, between the two of them, they have created bitterness which has had its influence in other provinces. In the maritime provinces there is more than one race. But these provinces are virtually free from the bitter wrangles of Upper Canada. There is the best of feeling between the English-speaking people and the Acadians, and Protestants and Catholics worship their different ways without difficulty arising between them. If this condition can obtain only where people "take their politics very seriously," a little more seriousness in Ontario and Quebec would be a national blessing.

SUGGESTS FEDERAL TAX ON PLEASURE CARS

(Toronto Saturday Night)

This country is fast becoming motor mad. At a time when we preach economy a large proportion of our population is spending its surplus (when it is not running into debt) on joy riding. People are mortgaging their homes and their future solvency for the pleasure of owning motor cars. Clerks and salesmen whose incomes would not average twelve or fifteen hundred per year are putting themselves in the position of spending per annum at least one-third of this sum on gasoline and "up-keep." The time was when the motor car was considered the rich man's pleasure. It has now developed into the poor man's folly. Of course, later on the entire country is going to suffer from this motoritis. The next eggs which should be put into war bonds or other good securities out of the surplus which has come the way of the people through an extraordinary, and one may say, temporary prosperity, are being dissipated in motors, repairs, tires, gasoline and oil. It seems to me that the finance minister has, in this motor craze, an excellent source of revenue which up to this time has been sadly neglected. A federal tax on motor vehicles, other than those used for commercial purposes, graded say from \$25 per annum up, according to horse power, with a federal tax of five or ten cents a gallon on gasoline and twenty or twenty-five cents a gallon on oil used by pleasure cars, would be a thoroughly legitimate source of revenue, and one which would bring into the federal treasury a substantial sum of money at a time when it is very badly needed. Surely if a man is able to sport around in a pleasure car in war time, he can afford to pay a considerable sum to the federal government for the privilege. It may be pointed out that in the United States a special federal tax is now being levied against motor pleasure vehicles, and we could not do better than follow their example.

WHEN AUNT HANNA GOES SHOPPING

(From the Toronto Star.)

The cans which the packers use in putting up vegetables and fruits are costing the packers \$17.25 instead of \$11.15 a thousand, which was the price last

year. The "big increase" is spoken of as indicating still higher prices for canned goods this year. This "big increase" amounts to two-thirds of a cent on each tin. But it will probably serve as an excuse for an increase of five cents per tin on canned goods as bought by the consumer. But the consumer is in a new position now. Hon. W. J. Hanna is food controller, and with him on the

job, canned goods can no longer be priced entirely to suit the desire of the canners. When Aunt Hanna goes shopping the prices will have to be explained and justified. There is a shortage of tin. But the tin-can supply is not so very short as yet, and from now on no excuse for hoisting prices will pass muster unless it proves on examination to be a good one.

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READYS LIMITED
ST. JOHN, N.B.

Mutt and Jeff—Jeff Was Willing But Not a Mind Reader

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By "Bud" Fisher

REG-ISTER—ALL OFFENSES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 21 MUST BE REGISTERED IN STATE MILITARY COM. BUREAU. PENALTY FOR NON-REGISTRATION IS ONE YEAR IN JAIL.

GEE! I BETTER HURRY UP AND REGISTER. I DON'T WANNA GO TO JAIL.

THERE'S YOUR BLANK JUST ANSWER THE QUESTIONS, THASALL, OR GO TO JAIL.

SIR, I CAN'T JUST MAKE OUT THESE QUESTIONS, I WANT TO ANSWER—

"ARE YOU MARRIED OR SINGLE AND IF SO, WHO?"

I DUNNO EITHER, BUT ANSWER 'EM OR GO TO JAIL.

ARE YOU A FATHER AND IF NOT, WHERE'S?

HAVE YOU HAD MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND IF NOT WHEN? STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND IF SO WHY?

HELLO? IS THIS THE JAIL? YES? WELL, WILL YOU PLEASE SWEEP OUT A NICE CLEAN CELL, YESSIR! FOR ONE! THANK YOU WARDEN.