

DISCIPLINE MUST BE MAINTAINED

Veteran Officer Tells U. S. Recruits Why

The British Tradition

It is the Highest Form of Loyalty and the Most Essential Requirement for Victory

Britain's fire army to take the field in the war was her professional army; the best-trained army, the most experienced army possessed by any of the belligerents. There was scarcely a man of the first expeditionary force who had not been under fire. Consequently that army did not fall in discipline. In some quarters there is a fear that the first American army may lack discipline, though it will lack no other soldierly quality. Not long ago there was a story current of an American soldier who went to France, and protested loudly that he came to "fight, not to dig holes in the ground." His idea seemed to be that he ought to be permitted to charge against the enemy, disdaining trenches and all other protection. This, as was said by the French observer of the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava, is "magnificent, but it is not war." American officers, therefore, are trying to have impressed upon American soldiers that they will not be soldiers until they are disciplined, and American newspapers are constantly impressing the same lesson. In the Sunday issue of the New York Herald Captain David Fallon, M. C., late of the British and Australian armies, was given a page to explain the "twily" of discipline.

He remarks that all soldiers, no mat-



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ter what their rank, are given orders which they do not see the need of. It is the essence of discipline that these orders be obeyed. "Thiers not to reason why" remains the watchword of the army. It may go against the grain for a recruit to obey blindly an order, but as Captain Fallon remarks, "if a whole army were permitted to have its individual way what would become of the army? Russia is the answer." Superior officers may make mistakes; they have made them. There is no reason why a soldier should conclude that his own conception of the attack is better than that of his superior, for soldiers may make mistakes they have made them. Real discipline, however, has not the effect of making the men mere machines. On the contrary, it aims to make every lieutenant, every sergeant, corporal and lance-corporal ready to meet an emergency when higher officers have been killed.

The German system has not been able to achieve this ideal. The British system requires the private to obey; the German system requires him not to think. An incident which shows how the German idea fails is related by Captain Fallon. A Boche battalion which was holding a line near Poelcapelle suffered so severely from the British bombardment that it became mutinous when the time came for it to be relieved, and the relieving troops did not appear. When the supporting columns turned up it was found that three companies had gone back without authority, while others remaining in line had killed all their officers and platoon commanders. In other words, when one cog in the machine broke down, the whole mechanism collapsed. Countless instances might be mentioned in which the Germans left to fight in groups without superior officers, or individuals left to shift for themselves, failed to make any sort of showing. When a German company loses its captain and lieutenants it jumps to the conclusion that the war is over. It has been proved over and over again that while the German is a good soldier, he is not a good fighting man.

In making discipline in the British

dying for, especially to a Republican; he will have to go through without any royal tradition. We speak of the "king's uniform," and to us it means something, and something perhaps a little different from loyalty to one's country. There is something ennobling about the idea, a suggestion, maybe, that a man is representing not merely his country, but the first citizen in his country. This, however, is an insignificant detail to those who have not been bred in the tradition. The French armies are fighting for their country, and what armies ever fought better? Nevertheless, we cannot pretend that the Russian armies have struck more resounding blows when deprived of the belief that they were fighting for the Czar. As a battle-cry, "Let us die for Kerensky" would be a frost.

The Heroic Officers

Soldiers who are told that instant and implicit obedience to orders is as necessary as the possession of a rifle ought also to be reminded that the first principle grounded into their officers is that the men are everything, and the officer nothing. No officer is supposed to give his men a task that he will not undertake himself. The Prussian officers drive their men to the advance; the British officers lead them, with no more lethal weapon than a yellow cane. The terrific casualties among British officers show their courage and their sense of their responsibility to set an example to those under them. This, of course, is not a matter to be commented upon; it is a tradition in the British army, and it will become a tradition in the American army, too.

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OLD KINSMEN GET TOGETHER

War Teaches New Lessons To U. S. Citizens

Breaking Down Prejudice

School Books of Republic Have Been Responsible For Many False Ideas Concerning Great Britain

Not even Germany has tried to incite patriotism more earnestly than our big kinsman and partner to the north. It is said that the authorized edition of the primary German school-book there is this question, "What is Germany?" The answer is, "Our Fatherland, surrounded by enemies." It was not true when written, however it may now approximate to the truth. In the United States the answer to a school-book question as to what is England, the answer is in effect, "A tyrant that we licked." American school-children for several generations have been taught that they and their country came into being by defeating, more than once, the stupid bully, England; that the only way to treat Americans as Senegambians were treated by cruel taskmasters. Hence has arisen a prejudice against Great Britain, which is not to be explained away by Fenianism. Millions of Americans destitute of Irish blood have had the notion that England is a robber nation, and that the foreign policy of the United States might properly be concentrated into a warfare of extermination against a Popular Notion of England.

Americans who are readers and whose knowledge of history is not confined to what they were taught when in knickerbockers, have rid themselves of the prejudice against England, but as most Americans, like most Canadians, do not learn anything about ancient history after they escape from the public schools, it is not unnatural that the majority of American citizens have the idea that as soldiers the English were either jokes or tragedies, that the general were an unpleasing combination of boor and fool, and that the aim of Great Britain was to enslave whatever portion of the earth remained open for conquest. Before the war more than one American writer combated the idea and it had made considerable headway. Since the United States and Great Britain have become allies the work of enlightening the average American has proceeded apace, and now it is by no means uncommon to find an American newspaper telling its readers that what they were taught about England at school, is to use the happy phrase of Emerson, "the old bunk."

Loisided History

In last Sunday's Portland Oregonian, one of the best papers on the Pacific slope, the leading article is devoted to "Our Anti-British School-Books." The writer points out that the mischievous facts in such a manner that the victory of an enemy when he takes 10,000 prisoners is represented as unimportant compared with a victory for the home troops when they take 18 prisoners. For instance, in the history of the war of 1812, the Battle of Lake Erie is lauded as a Homeric and decisive conflict, while the "affair at Bladensburg" is treated as though it was of no importance whatsoever. Chateauguay, Lundy's Lane and Queenston Heights might as well appear in the history of Peru, so far as the average American schoolboy is concerned.

English Friends of Independence

Before the war Charles Altschul, who certainly bears no English name, wrote a book in which he examined the various American histories used in the schools. He carefully reviewed the events leading up to the American revolution, and showed that the industries which the American colonists were called upon to endure were not imposed upon them by the English people, but by a king of England who was as German as the present Crown Prince. He showed that the greatest Englishman of the day, Pitt and Fox and Burke, were brothers in spirit to Franklin, Adams and Washington, and that they fought for the constitution of the colonists in parliament as bravely as ever Washington fought for them in the field. The great mass of the English people, one hundred years ago, had no feeling against the Americans. They suffered as much, and it may be said they bore a greater burden of injustice with less complaining than the colonies. They bit on the bullet when the colonist reached for his gun.

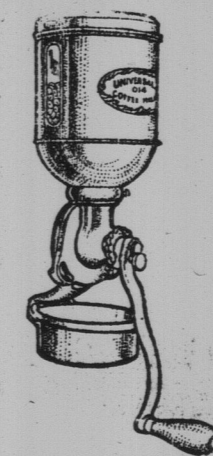
An Old Breach Closed

The fact is that in its history the United States has had just two important wars apart from internecine wars, and both happened to be against England. The scrap with Mexico and the brush with Spain are not worth calling wars. Popular American history has veiled the fact that had it not been for Great Britain the United States would have had its first great war with Germany and Austria at the time it was battering Spain. Any hostility that there has been between the two countries since Cleveland delivered his Venezuelan ultimatum has been artificial and has been provoked by silly text-books, by Fenians or by pro-Germans. Now that the two nations stand shoulder to shoulder in the greatest war that the world has ever seen, the old mistaken distrust will disappear forever, and the chief glory will go to the Canadian soldiers who first died in this war and were hailed as brothers and Americans by the press and public of the United States.

REGISTRATION

Only twenty-eight men of the first class signed the service card in the province of New Brunswick yesterday out of a total of 303 registrations. The remaining 275 filed exemption claims. The total figures to date at the registration office are: Six hundred and seventy-two service cards signed for general service at the front, and 5,399 claims for exemption. The registrar said yesterday that there were many duplications coming in that had to be gone over and filed as one. It is understood that there are many men of the first call filing exemptions previous to going before the medical board.

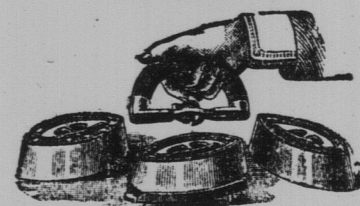
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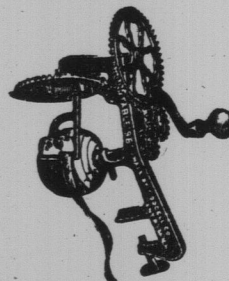
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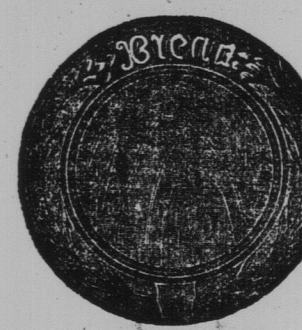
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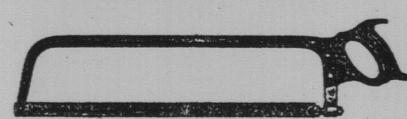
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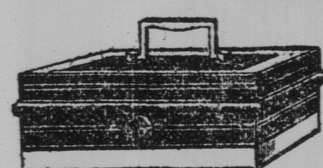
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