

ancing many of her Allies, until at the present time the war is costing her \$33,000,000 a day. The long strain of providing funds for herself and her allies has nearly exhausted Great Britain's almost limitless purse, so much so that she announced that she cannot finance any further war requirements in Canada. She is willing to give us munition orders, to buy our foodstuffs, etc., but we must loan her money to make the purchases. The securing of \$150,000,000 from the people of Canada will enable Great Britain to place further orders for shells, foodstuffs and other supplies in the Dominion, thus keeping our industrial plants working to capacity. The people of Canada who loan this money are not only providing for the prosperity of themselves and their fellow countrymen by keeping our industrial activities at high pitch, but they are also securing for themselves a very satisfactory return on the money they loan. Back of the security are the whole resources of the Dominion. Subscribe for the Victory Loan!

Anti-German Legislation

A foretaste of what Germany is likely to encounter in post-war days is being shown by various countries now at war with her and by some of the leading neutrals. A good example is furnished by the program passed by the Chamber of Deputies in Brazil. These are frankly stated as being reprisals against German aggression in that country and include the following: the annulment of contracts for public works entered into with Germany; prohibition of new land concessions to German subjects; control of German banks and the eventual annulment of their licenses; extension of these measures to German commercial firms; prohibition of the transfer of ownership of German properties, and the internment of German subjects. In the United States a recommendation has been made to Secretary McAdoo that German insurance companies have their licenses confiscated and their assets taken over. To a greater or lesser extent this is going on throughout a large number of countries. It will mean that after the war Germany will be unable to "come back" in a commercial sense. As a result of this she will not only suffer the loss of her trade and colonies during the war, but will be unable to get either back in the days following the cessation of hostilities.

The Progress of the War

THE war news of the past few days has not been the kind to inspire optimism. We all believe in the ultimate success of the Allied Armies, but at times there are enough discouraging features to cause the deepest pessimism. The news from Russia is most disquieting. While that country has been out of the war to all intents and purposes for nearly a year there was a hope felt by everyone that out of the chaos and confusion Kerensky would be able to bring order and so unite the Russians that they would be able to strike a blow in the spring of 1918. Instead of that he has practically been deposed from power and his successors in office, the Maximilianists, are openly advocating a separate peace. Thus, instead of Russia being a source of strength to the Allies she may become a source of strength to the Teutons. A separate peace would mean the

release of huge numbers of German and Austrian prisoners, the opening up of her grain reserves, oil stores and other supplies for the use of the Teutons. The collapse of Russia means that the Allies must make greater efforts than they have made in the past.

The Italian disaster has also furnished grounds for pessimism, but out of it all may come a new-born desire and a closer alliance on the part of Britain, France and the United States to crush the Central Powers. Already good has come out of it through the formation of an inter-Allied committee to conduct the whole war. From now on the whole Western front from the North Sea to the Adriatic will be regarded as one unit, and will be under the direction of a committee composed of leading men of the various Allied nations.

In France and Flanders, the British and French are slowly, but steadily pushing back the Huns, in spite of the tremendous difficulties such as mud, constant rains, and the necessity of driving the Germans from entrenched and carefully prepared positions. The encouraging part of it all is that the United States, with her immense resources realizes that she must put her last man and her last dollar into the conflict. Her forces joined to those of Great Britain and France should make a combination sufficient in itself to crush the four Central Powers. At the same time, it is somewhat discouraging to realize that Russia and possibly Italy can no longer be counted on as factors in the Great War.

Rural Problems

FROM being ridiculed and made the butt of cartoonists and humorists, the farmer is now receiving almost more than his share of attention. Lectures on improved agriculture, on increased production and other problems connected with the production of food stuffs attract capacity audiences in our largest cities and occupy large space in our leading publications. This is as it should be and it will be well if some good comes out of the increased attention being paid to the problems associated with the country.

In many respects there has been less progress made in connection with rural development than any other line of industry. When conditions throughout the world were normal, or nearly so, these things did not bulk as largely in the public eye as they do to-day when food conditions are becoming desperate. One example will probably illustrate this point. To-day farmers are using almost identically the same kind of plows as were used by the ancient Egyptians or our forefathers of a thousand years ago. Iron may have taken the place of wood and a few other minor improvements have been effected, but the principle of construction is the same and the plows are still hauled by horses or oxen as they were centuries ago. The war has brought to the attention of agriculturists and those concerned with the output of food stuffs the need of some other vehicle that will plow faster and increase the acreage under crop. As a result of this effort steam or gasoline tractors capable of hauling a number of plows has resulted in a tremendous increase in the acreage of all the Allied countries. With the acute shortage of labor on the farms it is of the utmost importance that every effort should be made to use labor saving machinery in order that the output of the farms be not diminished.

The war is shaking us out of many ruts and forcing us to grapple with problems of a social, economic and industrial nature that would not have been solved in a half century had we not been jolted out of our complacent attitude. It is to be hoped that since the difficulties associated with country life are up for solution that we will go further and grapple with such matters as rural depopulation, good roads, the country school and associated problems. One of the real reasons for the decline in rural population is the lack of social intercourse and the dullness associated with farm life. The country school and the country church should be used as social centres, but up to the present time they do not perform these functions. To-day with moving pictures and many other forms of amusement running riot in our cities it should surely not be difficult for our governments or educational institutions to put on a series of movies throughout the rural districts. These could be both educational and amusing and undoubtedly would do something to break the monotony so complained of in the country life of to-day. Certainly something will have to be done to make country life more attractive. The world is calling for food stuffs yet we make rural conditions so unattractive that people will not go back to the land or even stay on the farm and produce sufficient for the world's needs. The problems associated with farm life are the most acute of all our social and industrial questions.

IS THERE EXCESS OF STORAGE?

The United States Secret Service is revealing the storage of considerable quantities of food in this city, as if there was something exceptional or excessive about it. Perhaps there is, but the facts publicly stated prove nothing. The form of some of the statements is calculated to produce an exaggerated or perverted impression. There is no secret about this kind of business, and it is quite useful when it is properly conducted, as for the most part it has been.

There is a population of considerably over 5,000,000 in this city and it is not to be expected that all sorts of things shall be brought and disposed of every day to meet its needs. They come from various distances and in varying quantities according to seasons and sources and means of transportation. Storage is necessary to equitable distribution and steady prices.

The large figures and illustrative statements are liable to be altogether misleading. When it is said that there is \$75,000,000 worth of "foodstuffs and war materials," \$39,000,000 of it food, in this city and "its immediate vicinity," it does not seem very strange to the New Yorker. It is said that the food is enough to last an army of 4,000,000 two weeks. Possibly, if the whole value were in war rations. Some may be intended for armies and more for export or distribution away from the city. The statement speaks of sugar enough to last two weeks, if it were seized and duly apportioned. There seems to be nothing extraordinary about that.

In normal times and under perfectly proper conditions of trade, for adjusting supply to demand and maintaining steady prices, there is a great deal of storage with economical effect. These general statements have no real significance. It might be well to ascertain the actual facts and compare them with records and with established and perfectly legitimate methods. If there is anything speculative or extravagant or improper about it, that should be exposed and punished if in violation of any public regulation. But this is not a time for sheer sensationalism in such a matter. The National Secret Service would seem to have plenty to do without nosing about local food markets and storage places. They are subject to state and local authority, if there is anything wrong about them. There is no harm in gathering the facts and stating them as facts without perverting their significance. That does not seem to be what the Secret Service is doing.

The total appropriations for the United States Navy so far this year are \$1,582,732,859.