

Queen of the Adriatic

Stands With Face to Face.

Venice Is Now Deserted

BEFORE the menace of the modern Hun, Venice, whose lagoons centuries ago furnished an asylum of safety for refugees fleeing from Attila, is to-day almost empty. Of the 150,000 persons who ordinarily inhabit the city, only about 1,000 remain. But this is not because Venice fears for her own protection. Across the battlefield of the reeds it is believed that no invader will penetrate to the islands of the Venetian lagoon. The city puts her trust in the lagoons as confidently as she trusted to the sea in olden days.

To the visitor in Venice in these days when the invading army lies only a short march distant, one of the odd memories of the war will be that of the music of the great guns booming from the lido and the north of reedy islets in the northern lagoon. That music accompanies you all day in Venice.

The Queen of the Adriatic has her face to the foe. She has shut her shops and sent her merchandise away. The army of the navy have taken her young men. Those that remain have hidden up or sand-bagged her churches and monuments and now await the issue in entire calm, confident that although the enemy is no more than a long run shot away, it is not at her own gates that Venice is menaced.

From Burano, a motor-boat takes you through a maze of channels into the canal Sile where you thread your way between reed-covered banks toward the mainland. You can see nothing but the channel and the reeds. There is not a roof or a spire in sight. We are getting up to what may be called the artillery defense line of Venice. On the way we passed a British monitor with her big guns pointed inland. The coast batteries and big gun monitors constitute another defense line. Here in the salt channel between the islands we come suddenly upon a floating battery or pontoon, as the Italians call them. It is a big steel barge mounting a gun which has been steadily pounding the Austrians on the Piave Vecchia all night. She is manned by sailors, for the artillery defense of Venice is entirely in the hands of the navy.

From Ponte Grandi, as far as the eye can see, the land is covered with a waste of muddy water with rows of half-submerged willows marking out the fields which it covers and here and there an isolated clump of farm buildings emerging from the floods. We are here on the edge of the Piave inundations and in another naval artillery defense belt. High banked roads, dikes, and farm houses are all that remain above water. Some of these farm house islands are held by Austrians and some by Italians and it is the aim of both sides to destroy the farms held by the enemy. A few nights ago some Italian sailors undertook a cutting out expedition against one of the Austrian islands, captured and burned the buildings and came back with Austrian prisoners.

Nothing more dismal can be imagined than this battlefield among the reeds except the awful desolation of the Flanders front. Unending water, half drowned willows, and farm houses under a bitter winter sky compose about as melancholy a picture as even war presents. On many of the islands formed by the release of the floods to protect Venice are brave families clinging to their homes in the hope that 1918 will see the invader thrown back.

On this sector the Italians have a superiority of artillery. It is at night that the Italian guns do their hardest work. At night the Austrians always attempt to construct field works or to lay bridges or boats across the Piave Vecchia to the canals. They take a number of boats, tie them together and swing them out from one bank trusting to the current to float them into place on the other side. It is the business of the Italian floating batteries to drive away these bridge-builders and to destroy the fruits of their labors, and this they do with surprising success.

In Venice, herself, I have seen no sign of actual damage, except a hole torn in the roof of San Giovanni and San Paolo by an Austrian airplane bomb. The front of San Marco and the pillars of the Doge's Palace have been bricked up so that nothing of them remains visible. The same precautions have been taken with the famous statue of Colonna and, in fact, with all the monuments of the town that can be so protected.

In the Piazza di San Marco almost all the shops are closed, but a number are still open in the Merceria, and, although almost all the gondolas have vanished, it is still possible to find one to take you up the Grand Canal.

Not Reason for Shame.

On my way to prison, writes a correspondent of The Manchester Guardian, for the purpose of visiting a conscientious objector, I was joined by another woman. We began to exchange confidences. In reply to a question, I said: "I'm going to see a conscientious objector." Her nose turned up with ineffable scorn, and she said: "A conscientious objector? Thank God, my man's not one of them things!" and then she added proudly: "He's in for forgery."

Nurses in War.

With a continuance of the war, in the next year at least 20,000 nurses will be needed in army hospitals at home and abroad. Of the 80,000 graduate nurses of the country only 3,500 have so far been assigned to army service, and of this number 1,500 are in France.

PUT ONE OVER ON THE GUARD

Challenged Soldier Demanded Gentile's Name on Pretext of Reporting Him to Lieutenant.

Among the members of the Indiana university ambulance corps at Allentown, says the Indianapolis News, there is one man who from this time on will require, while on guard duty, any person whom he challenges at night to furnish his full pedigree. There is a reason.

Recently while the section was on guard at the camp this man was stationed at a distant post on the grounds, at a place where the guards experience a great deal of trouble with men climbing the fence during the wee hours.

Shortly after one o'clock in the morning the guard saw a man climbing the fence. He hurried up, caught the man, and asked for an explanation. It was forthcoming.

"Well," said the challenged one, "you are to be congratulated. I have been coming over this fence every night for a week and I have never been challenged before. I would like you to give me your name and your section number, and I will report you to your lieutenant."

In a dazed manner the guard did so and the man walked off. Not until he was "hidden" by his section mates, on telling the story did he fall for his being duped. He is now on the trail of the man whose ingenuity saved himself.

PARTY IS SAFE IN LABRADOR

Message Received Indicates Explorers Have Traversed the Peninsula From South to North.

The peninsula of Labrador has been traversed from the south to the north for the first time by a scientific exploring party, according to an announcement by Dr. W. J. Holland, director of the Carnegie museum, at Pittsburgh, following the receipt of a telegram from St. Johns, Newfoundland, announcing the arrival at that point of the expedition, which undertook the journey.

The expedition was jointly financed by the Carnegie museum, the National Geographic society and Alfred Marshall of Chicago, who was a member of the exploring party. In addition to Mr. Marshall, the personnel of the expedition included W. B. C. Todd, the curator of ornithology in the Carnegie museum, and O. J. Murie, the curator of mammals in the same institution. They took with them a number of Indians.

The telegram received by Doctor Holland gave no details of the expedition other than its safety and success. A number of similar attempts by explorers have failed.

Then Head for Statehouse.

Major P. Dale, who has a smokers' establishment in Ohio street, says the Indianapolis News, has a relic of the Civil war that is causing the soldiers of today considerable worry. Major Dale's father, Colonel Dale, was the commander of the Fourth Missouri cavalry during the Civil war. Among the relics left by the colonel was a poster announcing a meeting of soldiers at the statehouse in Jefferson City, Mo. This poster is now the property of the son here.

"Several days ago," says the owner of the poster, "I put the relic in the window of my store, thinking it would interest passersby. The poster calls for a meeting of soldiers at the statehouse at 8 o'clock. I guess I'll have to take it down as the soldiers in town from Ft. Harrison read the thing and then head for the statehouse. They don't observe it closely or they'd discover that it is dated 1863 and that the statehouse mentioned was in Jefferson City, Mo."

Crepes and Pongees.

Crepe de chine, in spite of its name, does not come from China but from Japan, Italy and France. There are no factories for making silk piece goods in China, all the weaving being done by hand. With the exception of pongees, the products of the Chinese looms are not popular abroad, except in Oriental countries, being too heavy, although the patterns are wonderfully beautiful and the colors exceedingly rich.

The pongees are woven in the homes of the peasants, and as they come from many looms no two pieces are ever exactly alike in weight, fineness, color and texture. The Shantung comes from the Lutung district, and the Nanshai from the Nighal district.

Cotton in Brazil.

A. L. Moreau Gottschalk, United States consul general at Rio de Janeiro, is enthusiastic over the prospect of a revival of the cotton growing industry of Brazil, according to the San Francisco Argonaut. He calls attention to the fact that the republic is the original home of one of the parent cottons of the world. Cotton thrives in the country when skillfully cultivated, but the industry has thus far been neglected for others more profitable. The consul general advances a strong point when he says that a by-product of the cotton industry—cottonseed oil cake—would be a great help to the cotton raisers.

Nickel Is Out of Date.

It is announced by the press of one of the large cities in the United States that its 5 and 10 cent stores are to be supplemented with 25-cent stores. This looks very much as if, in the course of time, the old-fashioned and once popular 25-cent store would find its way back.

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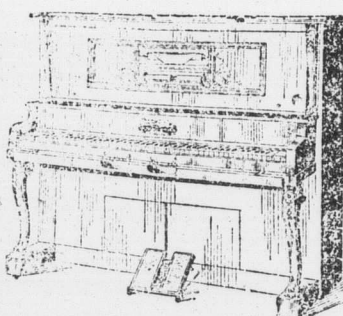
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Preserving the Pumpkin.

In colonial days pumpkins were pared, cut in thin strips of convenient size and dried for future use in "pumpkin" bread and "pumpkin" pie. This custom is one that we should imitate. Squashes and sweet potatoes, when they show signs of rotting, may be preserved by the same method.

Colorado Was Not Red.

It was William's first trip to Colorado. Everyone was marveling at the wonderful scenery but the little chap, who seemed troubled at it all. "What's the matter, don't you like the mountains?" asked his mother. "Oh, yes," replied the boy, "but on my map Colorado is red."

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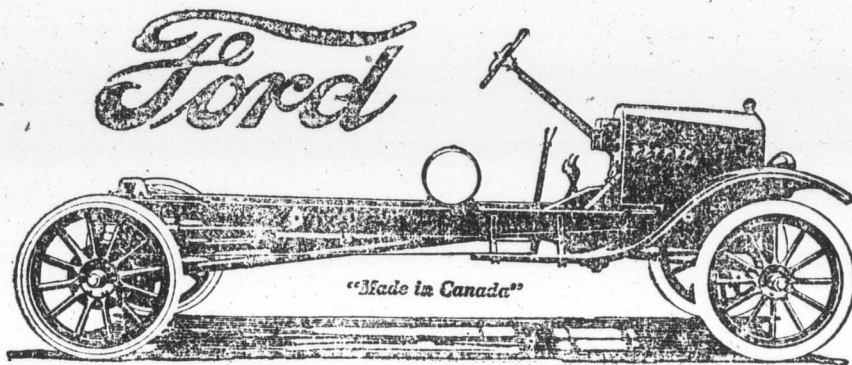
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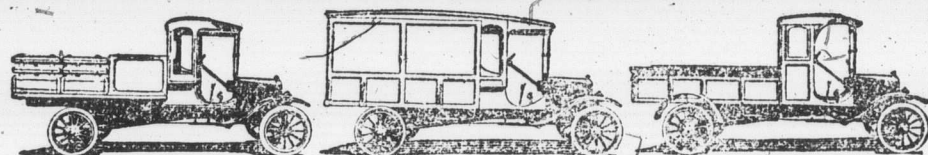
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