

Big Tasks by American Navy.

Washington, Oct. 21.—Details of the construction of the North Sea mine barrage against submarines, laying off an oil pipe line across Scotland, establishment of naval aviation stations from the Spanish border to the English Channel and other work of the American Navy in foreign waters, were given to the public to-day by Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, who recently returned from a visit to Europe.

"The American people seem to have very little idea of the extent of our naval activities abroad," he said. "The tendency is to think merely of the conveying and patrol work our destroyers and other vessels are doing and the presence of our battleships with the British fleet. But important as this is, it is only a part of our activities and there are dozens of other things of importance of which little has been said."

The building of the Northern mine barrage was one of the biggest things ever accomplished in ordnance work, Mr. Roosevelt said. In turning out material for it a number of plants in this country were kept busy for months. Several American bases were established on the British coast to lay and handle the mines.

"To save haulage of oil, the American Navy has undertaken to construct a pipe line across Scotland."

"All the way from the Spanish border clear around to the English Channel we have established aviation stations so spaced that the entire coast line is covered by seaplanes and dirigibles. These stations were built almost entirely by our sailors. At each station there is an average of from 200 to 300 men."

"This aviation force and our patrol vessels have been doing such splendid work that for the past six months there have been practically no sinkings within 50 miles of the French coast. We hope to extend this patrol zone to 100 miles."

In Northern France in co-operation with the British and Belgians, Secretary Roosevelt said there had been established what is known as the Northern bombing group composed of a number of aviation units which did much to prevent the Germans from using Zeppelins and Ostend as submarine bases.

An American naval force co-operating with the British at Gibraltar is patrolling the Atlantic in that vicinity and is acting as conveyor to vessels sailing to and from Italy, Greece and Egypt. There is a flying school with several naval aviation units on duty in Italy while in the Adriatic is a large group of submarine chasers.

Each naval base has its hospital, Secretary Roosevelt said, and in Scotland an entire watering place has been taken over by the Americans for use as a hospital.

"Conditions have vastly improved from what they were last year," said the Secretary, referring to the submarine menace, "but we cannot afford to let up in our activities for one single second. In regard to the respect which U-boats have shown for international law, you have but to ask any officer or man in our own or in the British or French navies."

"They will tell you of, and prove to you, great numbers of actual cases where the Hun has violated every rule and every principle of humanity."

Shanghai's Bamboo Organ.

After 50 years of service the bamboo organ in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Tungshing, Shanghai, is still in fairly good condition. It is stated that there is one other bamboo organ in the Orient, but it is not possible at this time to secure definite information relative to its whereabouts or condition. As metal pipes are to replace the bamboo in the Shanghai organ, the noted instrument will lose much of its public interest.

In a recent issue of the North China Daily News of Shanghai, the following comment appears regarding the tone of the historic bamboo organ:

"It would be better if it were completely in time, for a long wave beat similar to the short one which gives the beauty to the tremendous vox coelestis betrays the fact that it is not. Possibly if never was, for bamboo does not seem refractory stuff for organ building. Despite this, however, the tone is sweet, if somewhat 'wooly,' and the whole instrument speaks volumes for the skill of those men who, using only materials immediately at hand, were able to devise an organ pleasing to the ear and able to defy the severest test—that of time."

Laon and America.

Westminster Gazette: Many a man in General Pershing's army must feel a personal interest in the taking of Laon, for the romantic old town has a strong link with the Western continent as the birthplace of Abbe Marquette, the first white man, not to discover, but to explore, the Mississippi. In company with Joliet, the Abbe made an adventurous voyage on the "Father of Waters" in 1673, publishing a description of his journey in the following year, and was continuing his explorations near Lake Michigan when death overtook him in 1675. Marquette County, and Marquette City, Michigan, commemorated the devoted Abbe of Laon.

RESUMES DUTY. — Mr. William Dwyer, chief despatcher at the office of the Reid N.S. Co., who has just returned from the States, where he was on his honeymoon, resumed work to-day.

Embargo Raised.

The following letter was posted up in the Board of Trade Rooms this morning:

Mr. E. A. Payne,
Board of Trade.
Dear Sir,—I am instructed by the Minister of Shipping to inform you that he has received a cable from the General Manager of the Canadian Government Railways to say that the embargo on freight via Reid N.S. and North Sydney route has been lifted as from to-day.

T. A. HALL,
Secretary.

Runaway and Smash up.

This morning while coming west on Duckworth Street the horse of P. Winsor, owner of an express delivery, took fright and getting the bit between his teeth, dashed up the street out of control. When opposite the Daily News building another horse was coming from the opposite direction, and the driver of it, fearing a collision shouted out and waved his arms. The express horse, seeing this, swerved, and ran into a telegraph pole across from the News office. The express was completely demolished by the collision but the horse continued on up the street, and was found a mile hour later. The driver was unhurt.

Personal.

Mr. R. A. Young, of the News Office staff is ill.

Mr. T. J. Foran, reporter of the Daily News, has been confined to his home for a week suffering from a heavy cold.

Mr. W. H. Cullen, night foreman of the same paper is suffering from an attack of Spanish influenza, but is improving.

Mr. Geo. Andrews, linotype operator, is also suffering from influenza but is doing well.

The Laughter of "the Boys."

(From the New York World.)

When the first troops marched through London on their way to the great front, a keen-witted cockney hailed them as "solemn blokes." This phrase spread. And it fitted. They were indeed serious young Yankees who came there to open in the Old World an adventure not only startlingly new to themselves but new to the history and policy of their native land. Times and the faces of the army abroad have changed since the days of those first arrivals. Our boys have found themselves and their job. They have discovered friendships, and comradeship where in earlier, peaceful days, thinking across the ocean, they considered only alien throngs and queer geographical names. With the spirit of their high quest they have combined their born instinct to humor.

In current magazine pages a new phrase arises anent the American "occupation of France." We read of "The Laisson of Laughter" and of the readiness to a joke which "is binding the French and Americans closer together every day." After a terrific bloody struggle over the taking of a Boche-ridden village, American soldiers sent postcards into paroxysms of mirth, it is related, by appearing in a marvellous medley of straw hats, salvaged from a shell-wrecked shop. The Yankee boys were relaxing after their tense hour of war. And the incident was typical of their ever-present impulse, delightful to their French friends, to react with smiles from situations meant to be terrifying. It is no frivolous jollity that our boys have thus carried into the midst of dreadful affairs. Theirs is the laughter of courage. They make a mock of fear. They gibe at peril. From the shadow of death they emerge with quaintly worded gulps. But in the light when it is on and in their hearts always they stand for love of life, liberty and loyalty among men. What power of human effort can hope to beat such laughter knights as these?

Fads and Fashions.

Tiny buttons of cloth may outline a

black flat braid trims a gown of black velvet.

Dark braid chooses cloth of light color to trim.

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