

Supplying Verdun is an Enormous Task

French Cabinet Minister From Paris is Shown About Vast Depots.

HEADQUARTERS, TENTH ARMY CORPS, at the Front, France, June 20. General Antoine, commander of the Tenth Army Corps, was bending over a military map at his headquarters when M. Painleve, a member of the French Cabinet, was announced. General de Castelnau, commanding the western front, had invited the Minister to visit the several corps headquarters near Verdun, and had authorized the representative of the Associated Press to accompany the Minister. Two of Gen. de Castelnau's personal staff, Major Camut and Lieutenant Laglionie, acted as escorts to the party, and in the circuit of several hundred kilometers three army corps headquarters were visited—the Tenth Army Corps under General Antoine, the Fifth Army Corps under General Hellouin, and the Third Army Corps under General Humbert.

It was the first day of this trip of inspection. M. Painleve had taken a leading part in the debates of the Chamber of Deputies on questions relating to the military campaign, and this was to let him see at first hand just how that campaign was being conducted.

At Corps Headquarters.

The commander of the Fifth Army Corps, General Antoine, is a man of commanding presence, tall and athletic, a little beyond middle age, with bronzed face and iron gray hair and moustache. He was in

then the airman came in with the negatives just taken of their section. The whole war-zone was laid out in small squares, the aviators minutely photographing each square, and then the squares were fitted together like a jig-saw puzzle, making a complete picture of the whole zone. When the edge of a square was too close to a German battery for the aviator to reach in safety, the photograph was taken by a camera, lashed to a high pole, and held above a trench.

These last, trench pictures, presented a gruesome scene of the havoc and desolation where the batteries were doing the worst work—the ground swept of trees and foliage, littered with debris, and a few twisted trunks extending their distorted arms.

General Antoine and Minister Painleve visited the living quarters. The big barracks stretched for half a mile ahead—substantial, temporary, one-story structures of corrugated iron with an inner double sheathing of heavy paper felt. There was a blast of bugles and a rattle of drums, saluting the Commanding General and the Minister. An as the sharp notes sounded, hundreds of French soldiers—the poilus—who were camped along the route, chatting in groups, sitting at rough benches, and doing their hundreds of little camp duties, sprang to attention and stood there like statues as the General passed by.

It was a striking scene, these poilus standing rigid, not in regular array, but scattered and massed for half a mile along a dusty battle route, some on the road, others on the rising slopes, with their commanding officer passing among them. The General paused as we neared one group of twenty grimy soldiers, ranged beside a field-kitchen, the ovens smoking and giving off an odor of soldier rations.

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Something About Pripet Marshes

The enemy advance in the centre of the eastern line of fighting has now reached the great Pripet Marshes bordering on Brest-Kitovsk, based on the middle course of the Dnieper, between Mohileff and Kiev, says the London Times. The Pripet River, which rises between Wladawa and Kovel, flows into the Dnieper above Kiev, after following a winding course for more than 450 miles. It is navigable for the greater part of its length, and forms the main artery of an intricate system of sluggish streams which give to the whole region its peculiar character.

The basin of the river covers an area of nearly 50,000 square miles. The region, in its atmosphere and general aspect, bears a certain family likeness to Masuria. The climate is notoriously unhealthy, and the population, a mixture of White and Little Russians, Poles, Lithuanians and Jews, is comparatively sparse. In all seasons difficult of access, the Polistie is in many parts practically impassable in autumn and spring. The Pripet is ice free for about 250 days in the year and the spring floods broaden its waters in some districts to as much as ten miles. From this waste only gentle slopes, on which are built the local villages, emerge like islands. During the last thirty or forty years the Russian Government has done a good deal in the way of reclamation and deforestation. To-day a considerable part of the region is under cultivation. Pinsk, where the Pripet becomes navigable, is, with a population of 35,000 the largest town in the region.

The system of waterways is supplemented by four main strategic lines of railway, three of which run from west to east and the fourth from north to south. The north and south line is the only through railway which our allies still command in this region.

The Island of Patmos.

Of deep interest in the eyes of most of us is a little island called Patmos. Patmos has an entirely Greek population of four thousand, mostly sponge fishers, and although in close proximity to Turkey, no Turks dwell on the island, and no mosque has ever been erected where John was in the spirit on the Lord's Day. The only export from Patmos, according to an old geographer who visited the island a hundred years ago, was at that time cotton stockings, which were sent to Venice.

The same authority adds that there were three hundred churches on the

island, which, seeing that the number of grotto on the mountain in which it is of dwelling houses was only seven claimed that John wrote his book. hundred, suggests a rather handsome. Over the grotto a small church has surplus of places of worship. The been erected. The isolation of the monastery in which John's name is island gives a pathetic interest to perpetuated is a massive building John's description of the heavenly flanked by towers like a fortress, and Jerusalem when there should be "no the visitor is shown inevitably the more sea."

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