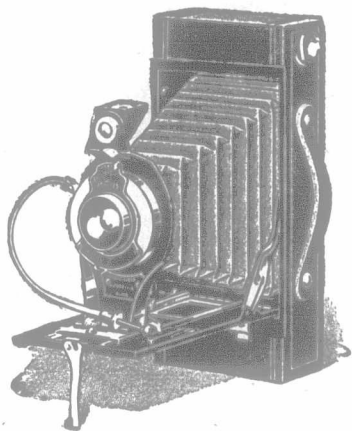


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## The Windrow

Many native black men from South Africa are now working behind the trenches in France, doing work that proved too heavy for the women workers.

Mrs. Annie Besant, theosophist, orator and politician, has been forced into retirement by the Government of India, which feared her burning eloquence in favor of Home Rule. The publication of her daily, the "Madras New India", also has been suppressed. Mrs. Besant claims that her utterances were not disloyal, and says that her only wish was to see India lifted from the position of a dependency to that of an equal partner in the Empire.

The soy bean takes the place of meat in the diet of the Japanese, and its nutritive properties are gradually being recognized by the peoples of Western countries. These beans are being greatly used at present in the Russian Army.

Some of the Italian soldiers are fighting on peaks which can only be reached by rope ladders and the telerica car—a sort of basket which runs along a cable, carrying food, men, munitions or wounded soldiers. In these high altitudes trenches are dug in the snow, and the dead are usually buried with full military honors in the ice and snow of the glaciers.

Sir Horace Plunkett, the Chairman of the Irish Convention, a man who has done much for agriculture in Ireland, is described as a man of great personal charm, "kindly and generous and courteous, after the manner of an Irish gentleman". When he was young he came to America for his health and worked at farming to be in the open air. He is a son of Lord Dunsany.

Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria dislikes the sight of blood and suffering so much that battlefields must be carefully cleaned up before he visits them.

The famous Dr. Alexis Carrel, the Frenchman who, by his discoveries in antiseptic surgery, has done more than any other living man to save lives at the front, is not yet 45 years of age. His wife, who is also a doctor, helps him both in the hospital and laboratories at Compiegne, a short distance behind the fighting lines in France.

Of Mr. H. C. Hoover, United States Food Controller, it has been said that he "was born a Quaker and became an earthquaker." Mrs. Hoover, who is at all times a great help to him in his work, is a graduate of Leland Stanford Jr. University, where she was the leading geologist of the graduating class. She is also said to be one of the best housekeepers in the world. Mr. Hoover's work for the Belgian Commission was entirely without compensation, and when President Wilson asked him to take control of the food-situation in the United States, his first stipulation was that he should work for nothing and that all his assistants should be unpaid volunteers.

### A Baby Routs Mars.

The terrific battle in progress for a small French village stopped suddenly. Not a rifle was fired, and the unexpected, uncanny stillness was like that which precedes an attack by infantry—yet neither side left their trenches. The Prussian cavalry officer who was in command of the section lifted his head above the dugout to find the cause of the peculiar silence, and, when he had found it, he could not believe his eyes.

The sun had risen and the fog of the early morning had disappeared. Between the trenches stretched a meadow, and there—it was no delusion—exposed to the fire of both sides, crawling about on hands and knees, was a little baby. It seemed perfectly happy, chuckling at the long rows of steel helmets cautiously raised about the trench-parapet by the amazed soldiers. What follows is told by the Prussian officer, Edgar von Schmidt-Pauli, whose account we quote from the Chattanooga News:

Before my weary brain can summon up any convincing reasons how that child got there—whether some poor mother lost it in the panic due to the battle of the night before—a German soldier jumps out of the trench and runs to where the child is crawling out.

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Absolute stillness prevails in the trenches and only to our right, from which this extraordinary sight is hidden by a clump of trees, is the sound of gunfire heard.

And this spot, which all through the night had been a veritable inferno of shot and shell, is now like some peaceful island or a cool, friendly oasis in a burning desert.

Over there in the enemy's trenches we can see the helmets of the Frenchmen as they peer over the edges. No one is any longer thinking of the enemy, or the war, or the danger. All eyes are on the tall soldier and the child which he is approaching. And as he picks up that little frightened, helpless piece of humanity and fondly takes it in his arms, a laugh a low, friendly laugh, passes along our entire column.

The laugh is infectious, and we can feel how it is going along the ranks over yonder. And suddenly—what—are they going to shoot?—no, on the contrary, a great wave of applause, with shouts of "Bravo!" from thousands of French throats, breaks the stillness. Then, as the soldier jumps back into our trench with the child safely in his arms, our ranks, too, burst into a triumphant shout which passes all along the line.

Even for some time after not a shot is fired. It is as if we felt ashamed of ourselves, and no one touched a gun while that child was in our midst.

When the firing did start again it was rather desultory and indifferent, and there was nothing dangerous about it. The little child had worked a wonderful change in the hearts of both friend and foe that morning.—Literary Digest.

### Slang of the Airmen.

The great war has developed a tendency to slang among our British Allies who have always heretofore handed the palm to America for verbal inventiveness. It is in the air-service that the new phrases are most freely coined. The airman—and, by the way, that is the term by which they prefer to be described, birdman, sky-pilot, and aviator having been cast into the scrap-heap—never speaks about a "flight" now. "Flip" is the word he uses. A writer in London Answers says:

The late Flight-Lieutenant Harold Roshier, whose book, "In the Royal Naval Air-Service," is generally acknowledged to provide the most intimate and illuminating insight into the human side of war-flying yet published, gives some choice examples of sky slang.

There is "spikebozzle," for instance. Writing of an airplane-chase after a Zeppelin, he remarked: "Two machines went up to spikebozzle him." Many learned professors of English might have given years of study and thought, and yet have failed to create a word so peculiarly expressive and meaningful as spikebozzle in connection with "Zepp-strafting."

"Huffed," meaning got killed, is another characteristic airman's word which Lieutenant Roshier has given to the public at large, but he omitted to mention the phrase, "He hasn't come back for his cap," which has the same melancholy significance.

This phrase originated at a certain big school for training naval air-pilots. Be-