

Guns Captured from Germans Now Exhibited in London

LONDON, Nov. 2.—With their silent muzzles pointing towards St. James' Park, the first trophies of the great offensive in France were ranged on the Horse Guards parade last week. Twenty-one German field guns and three trench mortars formed a war exhibit of the highest interest to Londoners. Not since Crimea and the Indian Mutiny have guns captured from an enemy crunched the gravel of the Horse Guards parade and publicly ranged as labeled exhibits.

With the exception of three pieces captured at Le Cateau, August 26, 1914, the whole of the guns took part in the Battle of Loos, September 2 last. The mud and stain of the battlefield is upon them.

The trophies were hauled into position by the gunners of the Royal Horse Artillery, and beneath the muzzle of each gun was driven a little notice board informing the public of the name of the regiment or division which captured it and where it was captured. Four armed sentries guarded the trophies and a sentry box was placed at each of the four corners of

FOR MEASURING GRAVITY AT SEA

A new instrument for measuring gravity at sea, the invention of Dr. L. Briggs of the United States Department of Agriculture, is essentially a mercury barometer with the cisterna closed to avoid the effects of varying air pressure. By a novel device the height of the mercury column is made adjustable for each observation. The end of the tube is given a spiral form, with sufficient flexibility to permit a slight vertical movement by micrometer screw, and the micrometer reading of the mercury height at adjustment indicates the pull of gravity. Constant temperature is maintained by melting ice kept around the instrument. Hanging on springs reduces vibration, and mounting on gimbals keeps the position vertical. A slight excess of gravity, especially in latitude 16 degrees to 34 degrees N. and longitude 130 degrees to 135 degrees W., was shown by daily observations on a passage between Tahiti and San Francisco.

Something About Bagdad

(Continued from page 6)

of India claims a sphere of influence. He further differs from a consular officer in having a guard of thirty Sikhs and a little gunboat on the river. This arrangement dates from 1838, when a military expedition was sent up the river to establish once for all the right of Britons to carry on trade in Bagdad. The first big company to enter into trade there was that of Messrs. Lynch, for whom England wrested from Turkey the right to navigate the Tigris, which they still do. It is largely in evidence of this right that the caller at the residency is saluted by a trim, bearded sepoy as he enters the gate.

The spacious buildings and beautiful gardens of the residency are the center of the European colony in the city. A short time ago this comprised only a few merchants and the consuls of the great Powers. But today there are several engineers connected with the irrigation works started under the direction of Sir William Willcocks, all of whom are English, and a considerable number of German and other Continental engineers engaged on the Bagdad railway. The chief engineer was our fellow-guest at the Tigris Hotel, and from him we learned that there were eighty kilometers then in process of construction.

The concession for this railway was considered a triumph of German diplomacy. The line already existing in 1909, from the Bosphorus to Boursour, and requiring only a short addition to bring it to the Mediterranean at Mersina, was the chief claim of Germany for a sphere of influence in Anatolia. England's weakness in permitting this German interest to be pushed forward to Bagdad, the very center of the British sphere, is attributable only to the policy of conciliation followed by the foreign office in all the near Eastern questions, not only in 1910-1911, when the concession was granted, but later also, when Mr. Shuster was driven out of Persia. The port of Mersina was surrendered to Germany upon a long lease—a very dangerous precedent. The permanent way between this port and the important Syrian center of Aleppo will soon be completed. The railways south of this city are chiefly owned in France and have been built by French companies, while that nation also claims Syria as her sphere of influence.

A short distance outside of west Bagdad—the Shah quarter—is the suburb of Kazimein. Here are the tombs and mosques of the seventh and ninth Imams, descendants of Ali and Fatimah, daughter of the Prophet. The Shiaks are the most fanatical Moslems, and will permit no Christian to enter their shrines. But visitors may go out to the mosques by the little tram-line that connects them with the city, and gaze from afar upon the gilded domes and minarets, the exquisite tile-work of the gateways, and the doors of beaten silver. The wealth of this shrine is nothing short of marvelous, and is due to the fact that the Shiaks are devoted pilgrims and are wont to make large gifts to their chief shrines. Kazimein is especially fortunate in being not only very near Persia, but also on the great pilgrim route to Kerbela, the old center of the sect and site of some of its most sacred tombs, as well as the route to Mecca, the supreme Moslem pilgrimage. But it is not safe for a Westerner to linger long before the great shrines, lest he rouse the fanaticism of the worshippers and suffer the ignominy of being hustled rudely away. The best place from which to view the shrine is from the roof of one of the neighboring tombs, as that of the Indian prince Sir Ikbah el Douleh, brother to the late king of Oudh. The mullah in charge is a kindly soul, and ever ready to dispense hospitality to a stranger, especially if he be a fellow-subject of his late lamented master.

Kazimein though a Shiak shrine really owes its sanctity to having been the burial-place of Ibn Hanbal, founder of the last four orthodox Sunni sects. His tomb, however, has long since disappeared. Across the river stands the tomb of another of this line of teachers, Abu Hanifah, founder of the first of the four sects. Its beautiful old tiled dome, in the midst of the picturesque villages of Muazzam, is doubtless the oldest of all the ruins about Bagdad, for its occupant was a Christian convert who aided Mansur in the building of the original Moslem city.

The whole region about this tomb and those of Kazimein is a vast cemetery, covered with graves and scattered stones, and reminders of past greatness, for here were the palaces of the earliest and greatest of the Abbasid Kalifs.

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FISHERY—SCIENTIFIC

The so-called plankton of the surface waters of oceans, seas and lakes consists chiefly of very small drifting organisms, such as diatoms and blue-green algae among the plants and protozoans and various eggs and larvae from the animal kingdom, but it includes also weak swimming animals, such as jelly-fish and salpae. The very minute of these organisms, known as nanoplankton, have been under investigation by Prof. Hans Lohmann, of the University of Kiel. Specimens of water in conical vials were whirled in a centrifugal apparatus at 1,500 revolutions a minute, and the plankton collected in the apex of the vials, from which it was taken for microscopic study. The organisms were found to range from 8 to 60 hundred-thousandths of an inch in diameter. They thrive best in cold temperatures, live chiefly above a depth of 10 fathoms and never below 100 fathoms, and are 50 times more numerous in shallow waters along coasts than in the open sea. Water taken in summer from the western Baltic had 2,500,000 to the liter, while an equal quantity from the Adriatic contained only 90,000. These invisible living particles are an important food for fishes, and Germany gets much fish for its whole population from the Baltic and the North Sea but countries on the Adriatic have fish only for coast dwellers.

PREMIER ASKS EACH OF THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR VIEWS

PARIS, Nov. 10.—Premier Bratiano of Roumania, desirous of obtaining the views of members of Parliament upon the international situation before the opening of the coming session is holding individual conferences with them, says a Havas despatch from Bucharest.

All the members seen thus far by the Prime Minister, it is reported, have agreed with him that the Government is following the wisest course in maintaining neutrality for the present at least.

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Poor of Germany Suffer Terribly

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 6.—The various messages frequently received regarding the distress in Germany owing to the scarcity of food are borne out by Madame Roland Hoist, a Dutch Socialist, who declared published that the extent of the need of the poorer classes in Germany was terrible.

Madame Hoist says that food riots are almost daily occurrences. Some have occurred in Berlin, especially in suburbs, where women wait for hours, and sometimes all night in front of shops where fat is sold, and yet thousands have to go home at night without being able to make any purchases, as very soon after shops are opened the stocks are exhausted. They frequently the women smash the doors and windows, and from time to time some of them are arrested.

Significant figures bearing on the higher cost of living in Germany due to the war, are given in an article in the Berliner Tageblatt of Oct. 6th by Dr. Karl von Tyszka, who has been making a study of special war conditions. The most serious developments, he thinks is the rise in the price of pork, the chief meat diet of the poorer classes.

An average German family of the middle class used to pay 18 marks, (\$4.52) a month for its meat, mostly consisting of pork, but now pays 31 marks. Among other monthly disbursements for foodstuffs, Dr. Tyszka cites the following increase in prices.

Sausage from 5.95 marks to 11.90 marks; butter from 9.15 marks to 14.76 marks; fat and margarine from 2.83 marks to 4.60 marks; potatoes from 2.75 marks to 7.50 marks; milk from 13 marks to 14.08 marks; coffee from 3.58 marks to 3.87 marks; sugar from 1.76 marks to 2.08 marks.

"For the same articles," he continues, "which in June, 1914, before the outbreak of the war, cost such a family 67 marks, they must now spend 110 marks, an increase of 64 per cent. That expresses the ratio of increased cost of living for a family of moderate means in the war.

"And the increase in prices has by no means reached its limit. Most serious of all is the large increase in the price of fuel and lighting material, which will make itself especially felt next winter. Last November one hundred brickettes (heating fuel) cost between 95 pfennigs and one mark 15 pfennigs. Now the price is from one mark 20 to one mark 45 pfennigs, and we must unfortunately expect a further increase."

As to the scarcity of meat and bread now making itself felt in Germany, Dr. Tyszka combats the theory that it affects mostly people of means who have been consuming too much meat. "For a few thousand over-fed people in decrease in the consumption of meat and bread may be beneficial," he says, "but the great masses of German people even in peacetimes, have not eaten too much but rather too little meat. A further decrease in consumption of this most valuable means of nutrition may in the long run have a harmful influence on the strength of the nation."

GERMAN BLASPHEMY

Most of the German papers seem to rejoice in a little blasphemy every now and then, but few have gone so far as the Kreuzzeitung, which calls in the example of Christ to justify the violation of Belgium:

Would the Saviour who behaved with such greatness and liberality in respect to a law of divine origin bow down to what you call the law of nations, before a treaty concocted by diplomatists, even if the people in whose favor the treaty is made violate it or permit it to be broken?

Would Jesus have stood silent while cunning brigands, under the veil of the rights of nations, prepared their attacks, and would He condemn the threatened ones for tearing aside the veil and striking the robbers in their ambush?

No, O people of Germany! Follow your faithful path, accompany your sacrifices and be victorious.

Your God is with you, and if the Pharisees accuse you before Him of having violated the law of nations, the Son of God will intervene for you, and will testify that you have fulfilled His Will, because above international law there stands the commandment: 'Thou shalt not kill, nor steal, nor covet thy neighbor's house.'

Strangely enough the Kreuzzeitung is blind to the fact that these are just the things of which Germany herself was guilty, and that the Witness so profanely called for the defence gives damning testimony for the prosecution.

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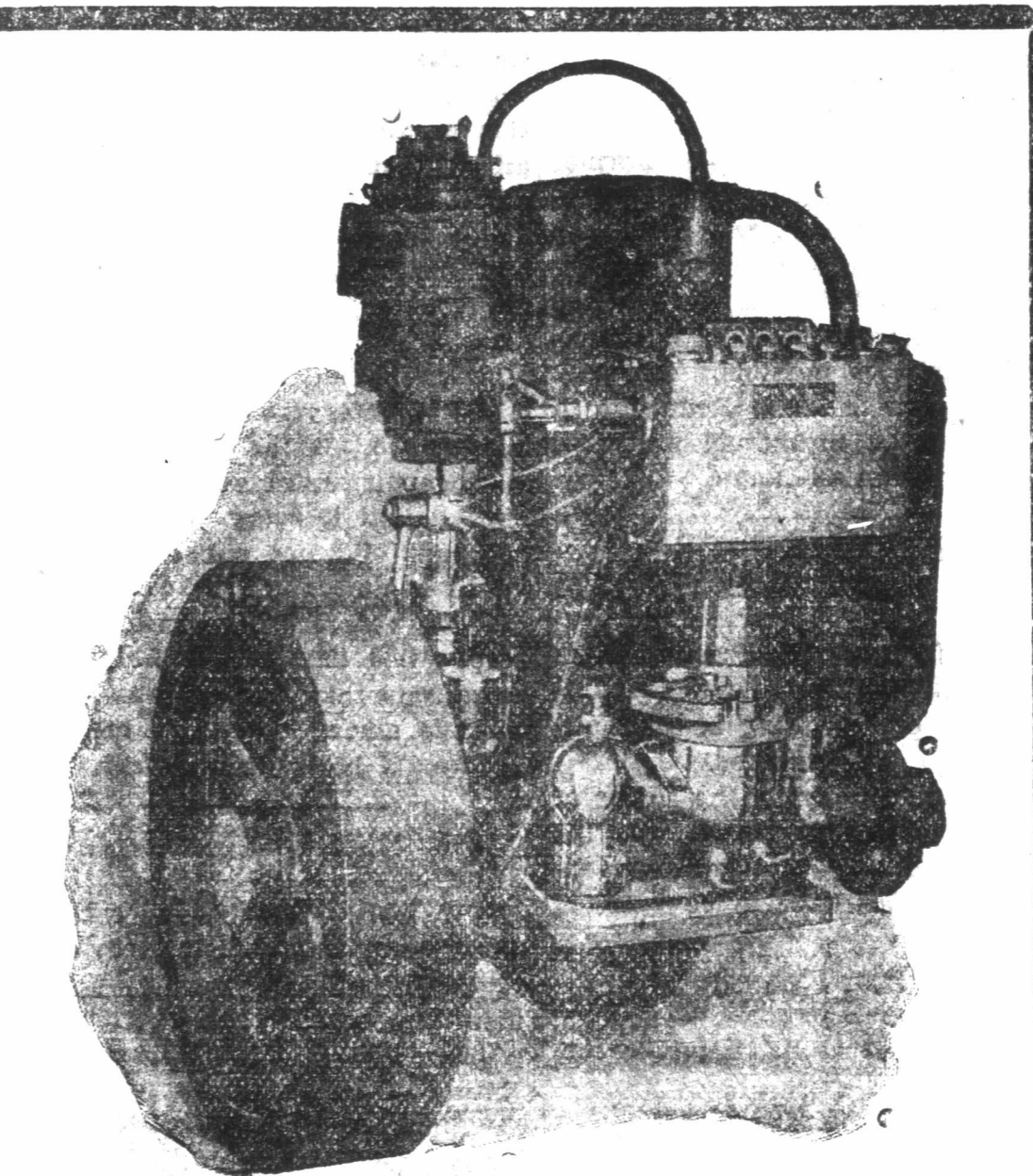
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