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PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN

CHILDREN IN FIGHTING ZONE MOST TRAGIC WAR VICTIMS

Pitiful Picture of Little Ones Who Never Learned to Play—Boche Uses Poison Gas That Smells Like Flowers

Of all the horrors of this war there ceases to be nothing more pitiful than the fate of the little children in the fighting zone on the West front. We have seen them as they live, and we have seen them as they die, and we have seen them as they are buried in the earth...

Nothing More Pitiful. "Can you imagine anything more pitiful than the lives of children who have never known anything but war?" said Dr. Eather Loveloy, of Portland, Ore., to The New York Sun on her return from France...

Why Britain Rules the Waves. The body of a brave boy, washed up on the crags of the lonely Scottish coast, has caused a profound manifestation of the deep sentiment of the grim and grief-worn British people. The lad was Fred S. Clements—a young sailor of humble parentage. He was twenty years of age, but had crowded into the last three years of his heroic young life a record of adventure and achievement almost without parallel in history...

Repatriating the Helpless. Dr. Loveloy had been working for the American Red Cross, at Evainles-Bains, a gateway through which Germany sent back into France the old, infirm, named, half and blind—all who are of so military value—and the little children. Not all the little children elude, or the heartless Hunns hold back women with one child only, for she has labor value in the energy she has above that necessary to care for one child. Then there are the children of French mothers and German fathers. There is no estimating how many such there are, and they do not come back. In the portion of France occupied by Germany there were, before the war, 6,000,000 people, and it is said that only 300,000 of these found their way back to France, chiefly through Switzerland. Boys under fourteen and girls under sixteen are sent back, but the older ones are kept. If the boys do not die of starvation they become slaves, but they do not become German. They are kept in the hands of the victors. Men may be defeated, but they are not conquered. Women, through the strongest of all human emotions and attributes, the mother instinct, can be conquered, and the Germans know this. So they keep the girls over sixteen with the mothers of but one child for their military value as mothers of the next German army.

INVENTED THE BIG GUNS. "These children do not play," says Dr. Loveloy; "they do not know how to play. That is the sickening first evidence we get at Evian of their stunted, dwarfed blasted little lives. There has been no chance to play over where they came from; play was dangerous; it might annoy the boche. Besides, children play instinctively only when they are happy, and these children, born in sorrow and unhappiness, have never been happy in their lives. Think of it, that there are thousands upon thousands of little children in France, sunny smiling France, who have never been happy, who do not know what happiness means."

Naturally Hate the Kaiser. Even the older children have almost forgotten how to play. They seem so shy and awkward when they recover their freedom, but they soon recover their spirits and savvy. To watch the

A HEROINE OF YPRES.



Sister Marie had a quiet and sheltered school for girls near Ypres. When the Germans came she begged the commandant that the convent be laid sacred and be listened, but later the convent came under bombardment and for two days the children hid in the cellars. Sister Marie, led the way at night and they escaped to a barn about twelve miles away. For two weeks, with the country ravaged by battle, Sister Marie tramped eight miles every night and brought back food to her charges. Little by little they at length worked their way to safety, reaching Paris after five months of heroic endurance.

FIRE LOSSES IN 1917

TOTAL \$250,753,640

Underwriters Report Worst Year For U. S. Since San Francisco Fire

Few of Alien Enemy Origin—Say Increase is Due to Speeding up of War and Hasty Construction of Factories

Losses by fire in the United States in 1917 aggregated \$250,753,640, against \$214,500,000 in 1916, the losses last year having exceeded any year since 1874, with the exception of the San Francisco fire in 1906. These figures were made public at the fifty-second annual meeting of the National Board of Fire Underwriters at the Hotel Astor, New York. R. M. Mott, president of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, presided at the meeting, which was attended by 137 prominent fire underwriters from all sections of the country, representing fire risks estimated at \$85,000,000,000. Otto E. Lane, chairman of the board's committee on statistics and origin of fires, declared that the per capita loss rose from \$24.46 in 1916 to \$22.42 in 1917. It was a source of satisfaction, he said, that the government had finally recognized the necessity of protecting the industries and had created a fire prevention section of the War Industries Board under competent and experienced supervision. Owing to unsettled conditions no attempt was made in 1917 to secure statistics showing fire losses in European cities.

Few Fires of Enemy Origin. Contrary to the general impression enemy fires had little or no part in the losses by fire since the United States entered the war. On this point President Bissell, in his annual report, said: "As soon as the war began it was realized that the danger of fires caused by enemy incendiaries was not to be ignored, and as was perhaps natural, many sensational rumors gained currency, among them being that the National Board of Fire Underwriters as authority for the statement that property to the value of \$48,000,000 had been destroyed by fires caused by enemy aliens during the first nine months of the war. This published statement had the careful attention of our actuarial bureau, and disclosed the fact that as to nearly 90 per cent of the fires cited there was no proof of incendiary origin, and as to the remainder, no reason even for suspicion of such origin. This does not indicate the absence of danger from hostile alien incendiaries, but shows that their success thus far has been by no means as great as was to be expected."

HITS BABY BUGGY TRADE. Makers Unable to Get Steel for Non-essential Industry. Atlantic City, N. J., May 28.—The baby carriage industry may be halted by the war, it was reported here by the National Vehicle Manufacturers' Association, in war council here. Delegates say that inability to get material, especially steel, threatens to force the suspension of plants. Thirty prominent manufacturers were here to consider a war programme of co-operation with the Commercial Economy Board at Washington. The convention protested against the failure of the government to class their product among essentials, and a committee was appointed to bring about recognition.

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ONTARIO'S NEW EDUCATION MINISTER

(Toronto Globe). The appointment of Rev. Dr. H. J. Cody, rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, to be Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario will be somewhat startling to the general public. The selection, however, is not unlikely to prove a good one, and one calculated to do much to restore confidence in the administration of the educational affairs of the province. It is interesting to recall that Rev. Dr. A. Egerton Ryerson, another distinguished member of "the cloth," was the founder of the present educational system in Ontario. There is much good work for Hon. Dr. Cody to do. The Department of Education is not in a satisfactory condition. It suffers from dry rot and automatic assurance. The feeling is general throughout the teaching profession that

great department may again come into its own and give its rightful service to the citizenship. Hon. Dr. Cody should win public confidence. He is a man of high idealism and force of character, and, in so far as he commits his undoubted talent and enthusiasm to his new work and steers clear of the corroding acid of politics, he should give splendid service to the state. Dr. Cody's appointment will be received by the public with keen satisfaction. His administration should be earnest, vigorous and progressive. He has an opportunity to do big things for his province in regenerating the department, in restoring the confidence and winning the co-operation of teachers and parents, and in carrying out the supreme purpose of education by character-building and good citizen-making among the youth of Ontario.