

National Duty in War

From The Round Table.

III.
London, Eng., Sept. 22.—The principle that we should act under orders to the end of the war applies no less to the industrial than the military sphere. It applies to every department of national supply—to the agriculturist, to the transport worker, to the skilled factory hand, to the employer and his machines, to casual labor. The activities of 45,000,000 human beings can be co-ordinated and directed to a single end only through the impalpable cohesion which willing and loyal service gives. Discipline in essence is prompt and exact obedience to orders. And in war time the nation, if it is to do its work properly, must, no less than the army, put itself under discipline.

But on the industrial plane it cannot be done by law. The Government cannot give orders to every individual as to how he should employ himself to the end of the war. National service in industry must be introduced primarily by public opinion. The national unity of Germany or France, their efficiency and spirit, their subordination of all questions of person or class to the supreme business of war, is not due to statutes or to fear of punishment, but to a self-imposed national discipline, directed and encouraged by Government, but in its essence of popular origin. And in this country unity and efficiency will only come through national discipline similarly self-imposed. It is not until every worker, every employer, every farmer, resolves to do whatever will serve his country best in this day of its trial, whatever it may cost, that we shall get efficient organization and inner peace.

This spirit is specially difficult to introduce in the industrial sphere. Unfortunately the war has caught the British Isles at the crisis of the struggle between capital and labor. Industry itself has become a sort of trench warfare in which positions are won or retained only after long and desperate fighting. In consequence, to a large proportion of the population duty to the State has been almost forgotten in the more pressing claims of duty to their class. Suddenly another and more real war has intervened, with an imperative demand on both sides to abandon their strife and bend all their energies to increasing the output of supplies. This they have so far been unable to do. The ill-feeling between employers and labor is not abated; neither side will make much advance towards compromise, and, in consequence, strikes still occur, and the output of supplies is grievously delayed. In the industrial sphere there is as yet no united front to the foe. It is manifestly shared by both sides. And fundamentally the reason is the same. The war is not to be allowed to endanger the positions they occupy on the industrial battle-ground. The rights of property are not to be seriously infringed, the rights of labor are not to be seriously impaired even during the war. Neither side, in fact, is willing to make the sacrifices which must inevitably be made if they are one and all to do their own full duty in the war.

It is obviously difficult for two armies to suspend their quarrel and to substitute spontaneous and energetic co-operation for competition and suspicion. It is, therefore, the business of the State to lay down the terms of a temporary settlement which, by guaranteeing to each side as far as possible the essentials of their own positions after the war, will justify it in calling upon both to combine to increase the output of munitions to the utmost possible extent till victory is won. The principles of the settlement are not difficult to see. On the one hand, all special war profits, of whatever kind—that is, profits over and above the average of the pre-war rate—must be diverted from private pockets into the coffers of the State, so that every man should feel that if he is working harder, he is working for the State and not for private gain. On the other hand, the right to strike and regulations restricting output must be abandoned, so that the output can be increased to the maximum which efficient organization and hard work can give.

No settlement, however safeguarded, can be expected to restore pre-war conditions when the war is over. The war itself is changing them permanently. The totally new economic world in which we shall soon live will change them still more. With the best will in the world things can never again be as they have been. But even if they could, the risk that both sides will incur of losing something of what they have fought for all these years, by absolutely suspending their own industrial battle for the war, is precisely the sacrifice which they ought to make for the sake of their fellows and their Allies and the cause for which we stand. So long as we look at the problem from the point of view of our own interests we shall never do our duty. Those who have gone to the front have offered their all. It is for those who are left behind to do no less. It is not until we approach the industrial problem in the spirit that we will do whatever will most help to win the war, that difficulties will vanish and the straight and narrow road which leads to victory will become plain.

There is a third sphere in which we have already to go on national service. Victory in this war will depend

not only on men and munitions. It will, as Napoleon found, depend even more on money. We have hardly begun to recognize this truth in practice. We are spending more than the other nations and getting less. In another article the problem of economy is examined in greater detail. Its conclusion, amounts to this, that we cannot assume that we shall be able to last out the enemy unless we get far more for our expenditure than we do to-day, and unless we effect ruthless economies in our private expenditure, especially on imported supplies.

The first aspect of the problem is mainly for the Government. They alone can decide where economies can be effected in our public expenditure. Not the smallest cause of waste is the prevailing idea that everybody and every locality has a right to make as much profit as they can out of the tremendous outlay of public money that is now going on. That idea is quite inconsistent with any true principle of national service. If national service were carried into universal effect everybody would serve the country for a living wage according to their own standard of living, till the end of the war. But while any such drastic revolution as that is out of place in the middle of war, some steps can be taken towards it. Large savings, at any rate, can be made at the expense, not of the comforts of the soldier, but of the profits of the stay-at-homes, by a ruthless cutting down of billeting rates and contract prices, and by careful economy of supplies everywhere.

The second aspect of the financial problem is for ourselves. The Government has already declared that drastic personal economy is necessary partly so that the savings effected may be invested in the war loan, partly so that, by reducing the quantity of foreign imports, we may lessen also the bill we have to pay abroad. It is for us now to carry these orders out. If we are all to do our share to help to win the war, we must set about economizing in every possible way ourselves. In this all have a part to play. No economy is too small, whether it be in food, material like petrol and tires, or luxuries, for it not to affect the balance of trade. And no sum withheld from expenditure on some private pleasure is too small to invest in the national loan. In the aggregate the effect will be immense, and our conduct for the rest of the war may determine whether we are able to last out an end which is decisive. Months ago the Germans began to work for victory in this way. We have now to make up for lost time by still greater resolution in the task.

Finally, in order to enforce economy, as well as to ease the industrial position, drastic new taxation may be necessary. This may mean—the sweeping of all special war profits over and above the average pre-war rates into the coffers of the state, a tax on wages, a still higher income-tax, and new duties on such articles as tea and tobacco imported from abroad. Of the actual measures necessary and the complementary steps which may be needed to deal with the unemployment drastic economy may cause, the Government must judge. It is for us to accept the burden cheerfully and without complaint.

(To be continued.)

A YANKEE ON THE BRITISH.

Says That Average Britisher is a Clean Fighter.

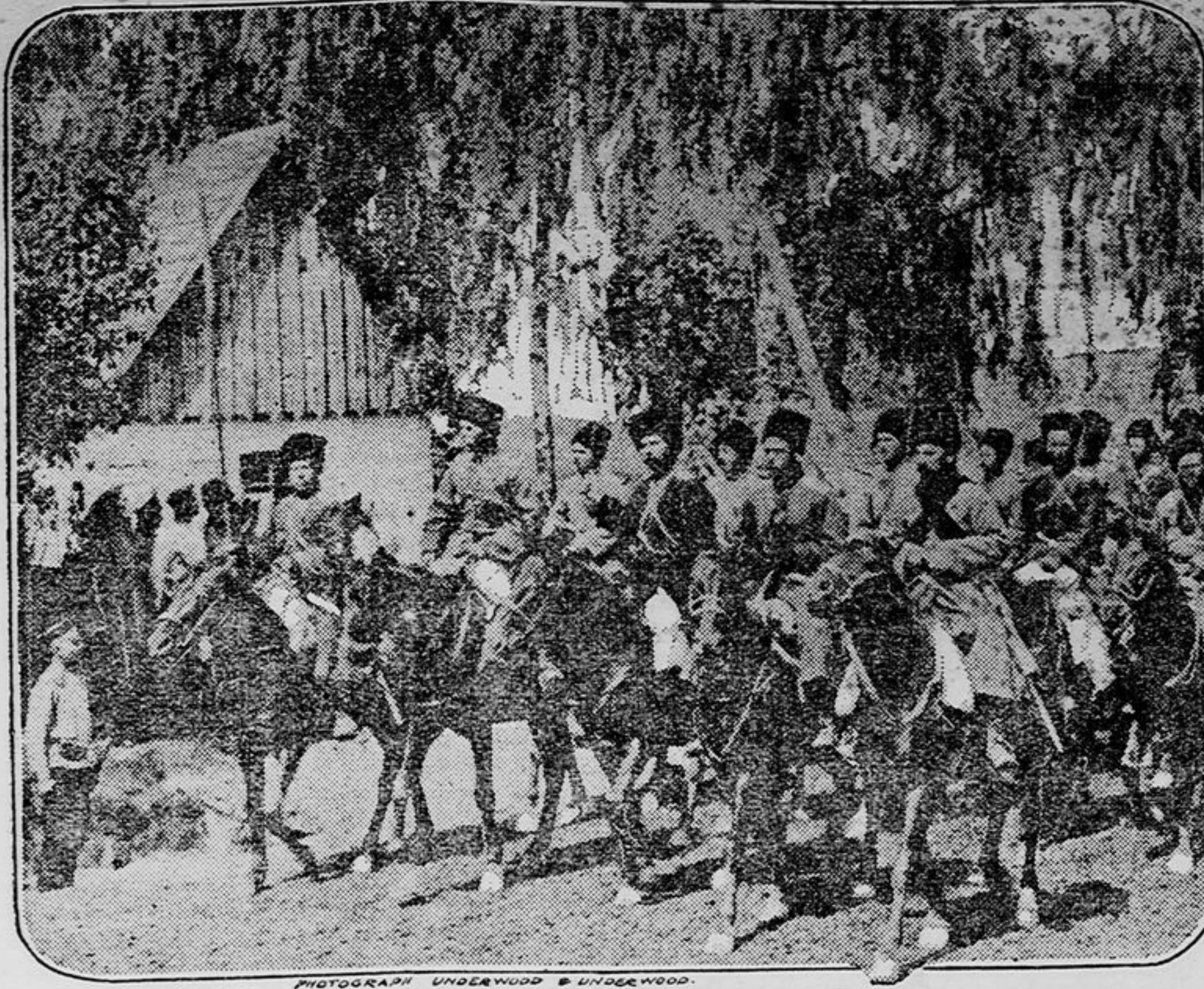
The following letter, which is quoted in the London Spectator, is by a young American fighting with the Allies:

"I've been mixed up with the British soldiers for some time now," he says, "and I tell you there is not a cleaner fighter nor better gentleman in the world than the average Britisher. They know how to win and they know how to lose. They never forget they are gentlemen no matter what they do, and they have the courage that knows no ending. Napoleon said—'The British nation is a race of lions led by asses,' and he was quite right. They are thought to be snobs, but I admire them. I have seen the 'snobs' out in France, and braver men nor truer gentlemen never lived. They share the hardships with the men, and never ask them to do what they wouldn't do themselves. The men worship them, and will follow them anywhere. I have yet to witness a German officer leading his men in a charge. They follow after. But the British officer always leads his men, and so does the French."

"For an example of the average British officer let me tell you of my company commander, Lieut. Scott. He is only a boy of twenty, and a direct descendant of Sir Walter Scott. He was an only son of one of the proudest families in Scotland. When there was any risky work to be done he would not shift it off on to a sergeant or corporal, but would ask for volunteers, and when he had those he wanted would lead himself. His unflinching devotion to what he considered his duty and quiet courage in the performance of that duty was something beautiful to witness."

Foil is used by jewellers under the setting of precious stones, to add a lustre to them.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS ON THEIR WAY TO THWART ENVELOPING PLANS OF THE GERMANS



In the engagements around Vlna, the Russian city taken by the Germans, huge bodies of German cavalry endeavored to cut off the Russian armies retreating from the city in the vicinity of Dvinsk, which is now the centre of attack by the Teutonic forces. Countermoving the German plan, the Russians sent their cavalry with all haste to the vicinity of Dvinsk to defeat the plan of the Teutons.

WEIRD VISITORS AT THE WAR OFFICE

HARD MATTER TO INTERVIEW LORD KITCHENER.

The Strange Callers Who Try to See Members of the Cabinet.

You have hard work indeed to get into the War Office nowadays when you wish to see anybody important there. For a host of guards of one sort or another have to be satisfied, passed, and propitiated ere you come to the man you want to see. Nor is this provision unnecessary, for every day sees an eccentric man or woman trying to get an interview with some notability in the various Government offices about Whitehall, says a writer in London Answers.

"I want to see Lord Kitchener," that's what I want!" exclaimed a recent visitor to the War Office indignantly, when he was stopped by a burly policeman, and asked to show his pass at the Whitehall Avenue entrance. "No, I haven't any pass. But I've invented something which will drive all the Germans out of Belgium in a fortnight! What is it? Never you mind what it is, young man!" went on the irate visitor. "Just take me to Kitchener's room, that's all! What? I can't see him? And this is called a free country! Well, then, I'll just go along to Buckingham Palace and see King George, and tell him about it, that's what I'll do!"

Saved by Tact.

Whether the angry man went to the Palace or not the smiling policeman never learned. But it is certain that his chance of interviewing Lord Kitchener without some very special appointment made long beforehand was about as likely as his seeing in the flesh the present Shah of Persia!

Another crank did actually get into the Home Office some few weeks ago, though how yet remains a mystery. He must have smuggled himself in somehow amongst a number of clerks, etc., about nine a.m., when there was quite a little crowd entering. Be that as it may, a clerk on arriving found this stranger in his room, and was blandly told by the visitor that he was waiting to be taken to Mr. McKenna, with whom he had an appointment. Luckily, the young official quickly grasped the fact that this man in his room was at least "a bit off" it, if not altogether a lunatic, for he began to say such strange things as to rouse suspicions.

So the clerk did a very smart thing. Instead of raising the poor fellow's temper by refusing to let him see the then Home Secretary, the clerk quite calmly asked the man to follow him, and led by devious stairs and corridors until he found himself shown through a side door into the street.

What the demented one said when that happened the clever clerk did not wait to hear. But certainly the eccentric visitor did not pass the keen doorkeepers again that day.

Only if you have a letter on you, showing the actual appointment made, do you get admission to the room of a Minister at the House of Commons to-day. When I recently had to pay a visit to Dr. Macnamara, of the Admiralty, in his room at the House, the policeman on duty there, after being satisfied on seeing my credentials, told me about the trouble they had with unauthorized visitors almost every week.

Did England Want to Win?

"One came a month or so back," he

said, "who told us he must see Sir Edward Grey. It was imperative, as he could put him up to a thing or two which would just about make all America immediately send thousands of men to help the Allies at the Front! When we told the man he had better write the Secretary for Foreign Affairs concerning it he got very much annoyed, and finally wanted to know whether England wished to win this war or not."

"Then he tried a new tack by vehemently declaring that I was preventing England from winning it by my stopping him there; and, finally, I had to summon another officer to remove him altogether outside Palace Yard. Even when this had been done he stood beyond the railings shaking his fist at me for several minutes ere he finally departed."

"Beg pardon, can you tell me if this is Mr. Lloyd George's house, sir?" said a lady to me as I drew near to the Minister's residence, in Downing Street the other day. I happened to be going myself to see Mrs. Lloyd George on important business.

"Yes, it is, madam," said I, as we came to the door.

Then her eyes opened wide as she saw me ring the bell.

"Oh, are you going to see Mr. Lloyd George?" asked she. I nodded.

"May I come in with you? I very much desire to tell him something about the drink question I think he ought to know, as it is extremely urgent."

She Lost Her Temper.

I had to explain that it was quite impossible for me to ask her in with me; that she must ring and ask for an interview on her own account. Whereupon she got very angry, called me many unkind names, and, as the maid admitted me into No. 11, this violent woman was told by a policeman who had just sauntered up that if she didn't quickly clear out of Downing Street, unless she kept quiet, she would have to be forcibly removed elsewhere.

It is rare indeed that any unauthorized person does actually get inside the sacred place, whether house or Government office, into the presence of a Cabinet Minister in this way. But it has been done.

I recollect one of the former secretaries of a Prime Minister telling me how he, one noon, with amazement, found a perfect stranger in a room close by where the Cabinet was holding a meeting at No. 10 Downing Street.

The stranger quite politely explained that he was an American visiting London, who had thought he should like to see the famous house, had found the door open, strolled in to ask someone if he might look round, and had walked from room to room, never meeting a servant till he had come across this secretary. But, of course, that curious chance could scarcely happen once in half a century at ordinary times, let alone when a Cabinet meeting was in progress, so thorough are the precautions which are taken against unofficial intrusions.

Government Factories in Japan.

The British commercial attaché at Yokohama reports that the Japanese government has recently appointed a commission selected from the high officials of state, to consider the question of transferring to private ownership, the various government factories. The factories include the wool, army clothing, steel, wood and printing works.

Wise is the man who realizes that he is a fool and tries to live it down.

About the only difference in babies is in the personal opinions on their mothers.

MERITS OF CERTAIN WATERS.

Baths That Have Made Men and Cities Famous.

The act of bathing has usually been looked upon as merely prosaic and necessary, but not a few baths have attained to fame either because of some incident which took place while the bather was engaged in the act of ablution or from some other circumstance connected with it; while there have been some famous baths in fiction, such as the one which Alfred Jingle took after his match with Sir Thomas Blazo, after which he "had a bath and went to dinner." Then there was the bath taken by Arthur Pendennis, to which he treated himself after he had "met men of a low set," and which he had scented in order to make it more efficacious.

Bathing has been the custom among primitive peoples from the earliest times, and indeed the animals recognize the necessity of keeping their skins healthy by cleansing them constantly in some way. It was said that the merits of the Bath Springs were first discovered by Prince Bladud, who suffered from a skin disease, by watching a sick pig wallowing in the mud.

Sick animals, too, led the traveller to discover the merits of certain waters in Africa for curing fever, for the banks of rivers bordered by certain shrubs become impregnated with their juices; the extreme value of quinine as a remedy for malaria was first discovered, it is said, by watching the recovery of several animals who drank of the waters which flower past the bushes.

Baths among some nations of the East have come to be recognized as curing mental ailments, and the pilgrim who sought everywhere for the "River of the Arrow" firmly believed that, when he had bathed in it, all his sins would be washed away. Bathing in the Ganges is credited with the same virtue by the Hindus, while visitors to the Pool of Siloam in Biblical days believed that no ailment could survive washing in its waters. Many holy wells are credited with still stranger virtues, since those who plunge into them are said to obtain their wishes if the proper forms are observed. Stories have been woven round certain baths which gild their act of bathing with romance. The bath taken by Archimedes, owing to overflowing by a servant, led to the discovery of specific gravity. The absent-minded philosopher, leaving the bath abruptly, rushed through the streets of Syracuse shouting "Eureka!"

THE DUAL EMPIRE.

Unless Germany Wins the Empire is Doomed.

There is no doubt that the profoundest discontent with the war pervades the high mixture of people known as the "Dual Empire," and unless Germany wins a sweeping victory the Empire is doomed. The Empire is made up of probably two score of different nationalities, each selfishly straining to get the advantage of the other and tugging at the leash which holds them together. On top of this is the decadent old aristocracy, with the senile Emperor at the head. The "idiot Archdukes" of Austria has long been a byword in Europe. They have only succeeded in maintaining their ascendancy by playing off one race and one religion against another. Now when they are using the sons of the people as mere "kannonenfuter"—cannon fodder—the anger and rebellion of the people grow hotter every day.

One bricklayer can lay about 1,500 or 1,600 bricks in a day of ten hours, leaving the joints rough.

THE MARVELS OF SHELL MAKING

FACTS CONCERNING THE POINTS OF THE PROJECTILES.

Some of the Miracles Wrought in the Manufacture of Munitions.

Everybody knows that the modern shell is one of the most diabolical of man's inventions; but how many of us realize that it is also one of the most delicate and complicated?

Recently, some firms holding contracts for making high-explosive shell took upon themselves to "correct" a detail in the specification, and, as a result, a certain thread was "improved." They will never do anything of the kind again, because all their work was rejected. The apparent absurdity—it is, in fact, an absolute absurdity, from an engineering point of view—is designed of set purpose, says London Answers.

With a Soft Nose.

There is a somewhat similar anomaly in the big shell for penetrating armor plating, which was introduced in consequence of an accident. One day a test shell was fired at a piece of armor-plating from the soft side, and the projectile went clean through it, and exploded after impact; whereas, a similar shell fired against the front—the hardened and tempered side—shattered, and left an indentation of only a few inches.

This singular incident set somebody thinking, and, in consequence, the high-explosive armor-piercing shell is now given a soft nose. To the hard point is attached a cap of soft metal, with which addition it will go through the toughest piece of armor-plate. What happens on impact seems to be this: The cap spreads, holding the point, and so enabling it—remember that the shell is revolving rapidly—to force its way unbroken through the hard face of the plate by a sort of boring action.

No less curious is another fact concerning the points of such projectiles. After the heads have been worked, the shells are left for weeks before they undergo the next stage, because, strong as they look, they are liable to snap.

Steel is Easily "Tired."

Why? Think of the razor. Constant stropping twists the grain, with the result that the steel gets "tired," and will not yield a keen edge. But if you put the thing away for a few weeks the grain will return to its normal state, and you can get a satisfactory shave. In a similar way, the grain of the steel is affected by working, though, of course, to a much greater extent, and till it is "set," the makers must go cautiously.

Steel shows a like eccentricity in the making of test-gauges. Some of the measurements of shells are very fine, and the instruments employed are so delicate that they have to be used quickly, lest the heat of the hand causes the metal to expand.

Now, when a groove is cut in a piece of steel which is to be used as a test-gauge, the work is laid aside for weeks, perhaps months. Why not finish it at once? Because the groove, though dead true when cut out, may be otherwise in a short time, even though it has been absolutely untouched.

Constantly Inspected.

As a concrete proof of the elaborate nature of projectile making, take the case of the shrapnel shell. The steel portion undergoes about a score of operations, and the brass cartridge-case attached to the base requires about sixteen, counting from the disc of sheet brass to the finished article. Then there is the fuse, the delicacy of the work in which resembles watch-making.

Altogether, the shell is subjected to about forty inspections, and may be rejected at any stage.

After a shell has survived this ordeal it ought to be, one would think, perfect; but a test shell is taken from every 120, and actually fired from a gun into a bank of sand. It is then again examined, and if the contour about the powder is expanded, away goes the whole batch, because if they were fired the grooving might be torn out of the gun.

Perhaps the most striking illustration of the minute care exercised in projectile making is that every shell is weighed over and over again. If you produce an eighteen-pounder high-explosive shell, it must be only a few drachms over or under its normal weight; otherwise it is rejected.

A Crack Rifle Shot.

A good story is told of a certain colonel in connection with an inspection of a crack rifle corps which he commanded. The inspection passed off satisfactorily; there were no complaints, and the regiment was evidently in good order. "But," said the inspecting general, "I am bound to tell you, colonel, that rumors have reached me of gambling being carried on extensively among your officers." "That may have been the case, sir," said the colonel, "some months ago, but I can assure you that nothing of the kind is in vogue now, because I've won all the ready money in the regiment, and I would not allow any gambling on credit."