

# REIMS RESTORED

### Famous French Cathedral Raises Again its Wrecking

#### ROCKEFELLER HELPS

Thousands of Canadian troops stood aghast at the destruction caused by German H.E. shells, to French churches and cathedrals. Ypres, Arras, Amiens, were all familiar to the C.E.F. Reims to a few, except through picture and story. In a recent "Literary Digest" the rebuilding of Reims is described and in the telling, thoughts return to other magnificent edifices and we wonder "why war?"

On Ascension Day, May 26, the Archbishop-Cardinal Lison celebrated high mass in the nave of the Cathedral of Reims for the first time since the war. The last time such a ceremony took place was September 16, 1914, when Monsignor Landrieux, then Vicar-General of the Cathedral, said mass before one single worshiper. Bombardment of the town was in progress, and shells bursting overhead interrupted his reading of the liturgy. That night the woodwork of the Cathedral took fire and the whole edifice was gutted. Since that time the building has been in disuse, save for one chapel and part of the ambulatory on the north side of the choir, walled off from the rest. Now eight years of patient work in restoration of the interior are crowned by the coronation of a new altar stands in the last bay of the nave, backed by a temporary wall which separates it from the transepts, and a diminutive choir is formed by the few choir-stalls which escaped destruction. What is done has come in part from the beneficence of outsiders. Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. gave 6,000,000 francs, only one-third of which has yet been spent. Denmark's gift amounts to 1,200,000 francs, Norway's to 200,000 francs, while double the latter amount has been guaranteed by Great Britain. The French Government has advanced about 1,000,000 francs a year, so that so far, 11,000,000 francs have been expended on the restoration. In a detailed article in the London Times one sees what the war did to this glorious heritage of the Middle Ages; one has, ever only of the ruined fabric in that much suffering country. Old days whose memories are perhaps fading are here recalled:

#### Much Accomplished

"To any one who has not seen the Cathedral in its ruined state, the condition of the nave may not seem, at the first thought, a great deal to show for eight years' work. Without having visited the building in detail and traced the course of the destruction to which it was exposed for four years it is difficult to realize to what extent its masonry was shattered and dislocated, or to estimate at its proper worth the work which has been accomplished. In September, 1914, after the first bombardment and the fire which followed it, people spoke already of the Cathedral as ruined. The damage done was indeed immense. The fire started with the scaffolding, which at that time still surrounded the whole of the north-west angle of the building, testifying to the work of patient restoration which had been carried out during the previous forty years; all in vain, as it proved. The flames were fed by the masses of straw which had been laid in the nave as a bed for 200 German wounded who had been collected there, by the chairs and choir-stalls, and, last but not least, by the oak beams of the roof. For two days the great church blazed, while melted lead from the roof poured down in streams from the mouths of the gargoyles. When the fire died down the outer roof was gone, leaving the stone vaulting bare to the sky, the bells had crashed to the ground, the thirteenth-century stained glass of the clerestory and the great rose window over the west door were pitifully shattered, and a great deal of the stonework, both inside and out, including many of the exquisite carved-stone figures of the facade, had cracked and perished in the heat of the fire.

"It was a disaster fit to appal the artistic sense of the whole world, but it was little compared with what was to follow. Until the very end of the war the Cathedral remained in the fire zone, constantly under fire, and at times, as in April, 1917, exposed to a merciless bombardment of guns of heavy caliber deliberately directed at it. No fewer than 237 direct hits on the structure were counted, and many more must have escaped observation. The Cathedral continued to stand in spite of the rents and gashes in its shell, a monument to the skill of the thirteenth-century masons who built it, but as the pitiless hammering was again and again renewed its stonework began to loosen and break up. It could not much longer have withstood the ordeal.

#### Terribly Battered

"By the time the Germans withdrew and Reims was released from the terror of bombardment, the Cathedral had reached a stage at which the

fabric was beginning to disintegrate. At a little distance the building retained all its old grandeur and appeared to be intact, but its actual state was desperate. Pillars and buttresses had begun to crumble under the posturing which they had received. At the beginning to sag. Arches had had their thrust distorted so that they no longer gave support to the weight which they were built to bear. The vaulting of the roof was broken through in eight or nine different places, three of its keystones had been smashed to bits. In the center of the church the transept crossing looked as if a giant, like Samson at Gaza, had tried to pull down the four masonry pillars had been hit by a shell of the heaviest caliber, and its hold shattered that they barely held together. A great gash in the high altar. Several great shell craters yawned in the floor of the nave. Little of the magnificent thirteenth-century stained glass which had adorned the windows of the clerestory and the apse, and rain and frost were fast completing the ruin.

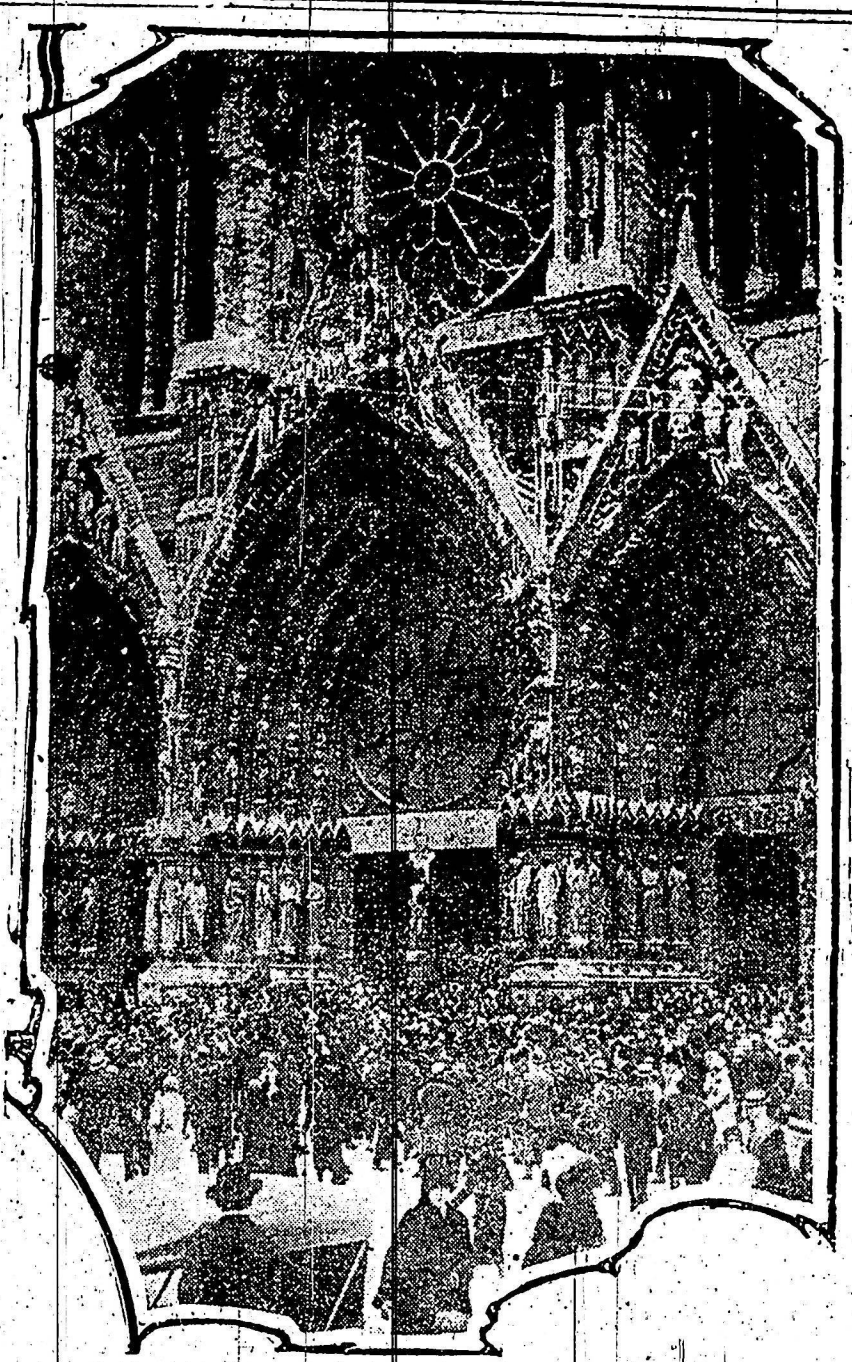
"Outside the Cathedral much of the stonework of the towers hung tottering and ready to fall. The facade was gashed and splintered. Of the thirty-five great statues of the main porch, five, including the Queen of Sheba and one of the famous smiling angels, were decapitated and most of them were sadly mutilated. The smaller groups of statues had fared likewise. Holes had been played with the light-corbels and gargoyles and the moldings and tracery of the windows. This was particularly the case at the east end of the church, which had had to bear the brunt of the shelling. Considerable stretches of the Gallery which runs round the roof of the nave destroyed."

"It was two years before the first stage of restoration could be begun. A temporary roof of corrugated iron was spread, some cracks filled with cement, loosened blocks secured with brickwork. When work really commenced—

"The whole of the floor had to be regaved. Each pillar and arch had to be separately doctored before the roof could be touched. Under the constant hammering of the bombardment the arches had sagged away from the vaulting, leaving in some instances a gap of four or five inches. In these cases each stone had to be separately put back into place, until the correct curve of the arch was restored. Then immense structures of scaffolding had to be erected to enable the masons to deal with the vaulting of the roof, which was open to the sky in several places.

#### Clever Work

"The restoration of the outer roof



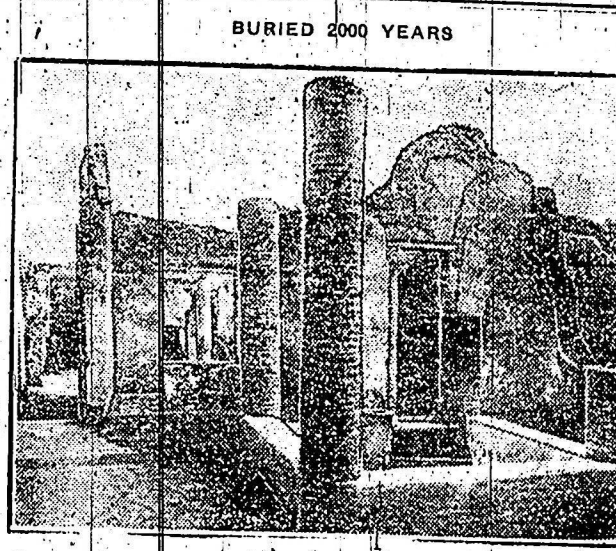
REIMS CATHEDRAL

was a problem in itself, which has been solved by the ingenuity of the architect, M. Deneux. The roof which had been destroyed in September, 1914, was made of oak beams and covered with lead. At the end of the war M. Deneux made inquiries as to the possibility of replacing the roof with a solution which was at least five years' work in reconstructing, partly with the original glass and partly with facsimiles, the rose window and eight of those in the clear-story. Enough of the original glass remains to fill three of those in the apse when the time comes.

"When attention is turned to the outside of the church, the means are at hand for the restoration of the masonry. The plaster casts of the most famous figures, celebrated throughout the world as jewels of medieval art, exist in the Art Museum of the Trocadero in Paris; and the Department of Fine Arts has in its archives a series of photographs of practically every detail in the sculpture of the Cathedral.

"The most vigorous and most irrevocable loss in that of the previous stained glass which formerly filled the main rose window gave the west door, the windows of the clerestory, and those of the apse. Much of its perished in the fire; the rest was mostly brought down by the bombardment.

"The restoration of the outer roof



BURIED 2000 YEARS

Pompeii excavations are now practically complete.

# STORIES FROM BUGVILLE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADA

BY NORMAN R. COLE (UNDER DICK).

## The Flight of the Flies

"Buzz, buzz, buzz," sang Mother Housefly as she flew about on the outside of the screen door. Inside she could see the Cook placing a fresh frosted cake on the table, and she smacked her lips in anticipation of a great feast.

Then she flew out in the back yard. "Buzz, buzz, buzz," she sang as she flew over the garbage pail where she had laid her eggs only ten days before. In that time the tiny white worms, called maggots, and now each one of the little maggots had turned into a fly.

"Buzz, bu, bu, buzz," sang all the little Baby Flies as they flew about the garbage pail, nibbling at all the dirty things in it, and collecting hundreds of tiny germs on their hairy legs and feet.

"Buzz, buzz, buzz," called Mother Housefly, "and I'll find you a fine dinner." Then she flew off with all the Baby Flies trailing along behind. They flew back to the screen door, and Mother Housefly found a hole near the bottom just big enough for her and all the Baby Flies to crawl through.

"Buzz, buzz, zzzz," they all sang when they spied the fresh frosted cake. "Beware, beware," cautioned Mother Housefly. "Watch out for the swatter or you will get caught. Wait until he is looking then we'll all have a feast." So when the Cook was out of sight the Fly Family was busy eating cake. In the same dirty shoes with which they had walked all over the dirty garbage pail, they now tracked over the fresh frosted cake, taking a bit here and a bit there. Many of the tiny germs that had clung to their hairy legs in the garbage pail, stuck fast to the fresh frosting.

But in a few minutes the Cook came hurrying back from the kitchen. She was almost to the table before Mother Fly spied her.

"Buzz, buzz, beware," called Mother Housefly, and her frightened youngsters tried frantically to free themselves from the sticky frosting. The Cook swatted at them left and right, but everyone escaped and flew up to the ceiling.

"Naughty flies, so that's what you are," said the Cook, "I'll get you now." So she cut a tiny piece from the fresh cake and placed it right in the middle of the table. Then she put back into the cupboard. Then she took the tiny piece of cake she placed a little screen house with one pane door, and went back to the kitchen again.

"Buzz, buzz, buzz," sang the Fly Family when they spied the piece of cake in the little screen house. They flew round and round it and at last found the little door. Through this they crawled and were soon nibbling cake again.

When they had eaten more cake than any little fly ever ought to eat, Mother Fly said, "Now we will go back to the garbage can and take a nap." But when they tried to get out they found the door of the little screen house jammed and could not get out. They might as well not get out. So this was only Fly Family that could not steal any more cake, or spread any more tiny germ bugs.

## WEAF Shows Loss

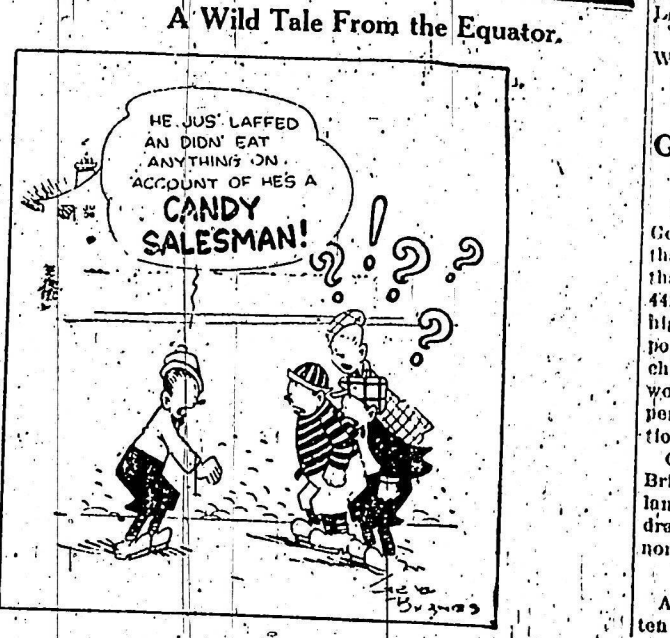
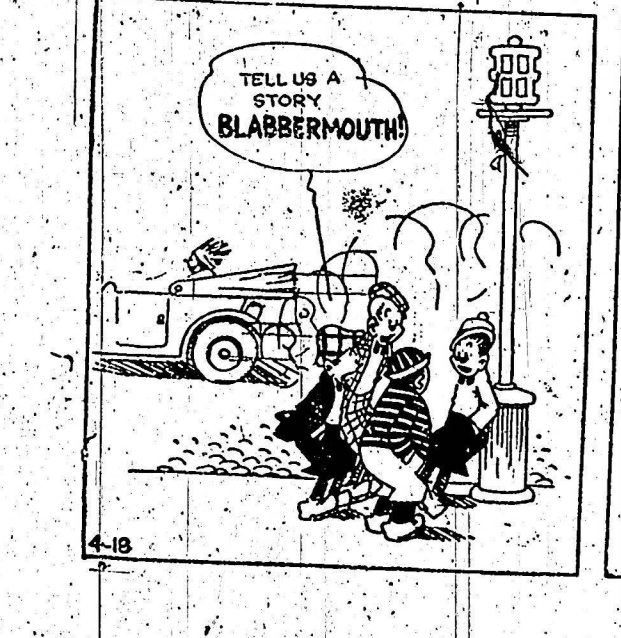
"The National Broadcasting Co. will show a deficit of \$500,000 in first year's operation," said President Aylesworth at hearing before Federal Radio Commission. The National Broadcasting Co. is owned 50 per cent by Radio Corp. of America, 30 per cent by General Electric Co. and 20 per cent by Western Electric Co. Mr. Aylesworth has declared that the company is not earning anything and also plans to expand its network to Pacific Coast and Northwest. He estimated that on days when Colonel Lindbergh was in Washington a hop-up arranged by the National Broadcasting Co. made it possible for 50,000,000 people to hear him. This company pays American Telephone & Telegraph Co. \$1,500,000 yearly for use of its land wires. Three paid phone calls were made in the first year. This company is for the Atlantic coast by American Telephone & Telegraph Co. was \$1,000,000.

## Gold Coast Shows Flourishing Trade

LONDON.—The annual report of the Gold Coast for the year 1925-26 shows that exports exceeded imports by more than £1,000,000, the revenue of £11,000,000 being the highest on record. The high figure is mainly due to the export of cocoa beans. The Gold Coast is the chief cocoa producing country of the world. The report for 1925-26 shows a 10 per cent increase in the total production. Cotton growing is thriving in the British mandated territory of Togoland and a similar scheme has been drawn up for the cotton growing in the northern territories on an export scale.

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you'll make this  
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# REGULAR FELLERS—By Gene Byrnes



## A Wild Tale From the Equator.

Let us this time tell a story of a man who was very rich and very kind. He had a large house and a big garden. He had many children and a big family. He was very kind to everyone and he was very rich. He had a big house and a big garden. He had many children and a big family. He was very kind to everyone and he was very rich.

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A Chinese Pizzic—Has Chen bin ton off more than he can Chew?