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Her Private Correspondent

By Esther R. Harrington.

Edna Sheridan turned away from the ticket window with a frown on her usually sunny face. "No Pullman seats—and a five-hour ride," she sighed as she directed her steps toward the waiting train.

Fortunately, she was early enough to secure a seat by herself. The train filled up rapidly and at the last minute people were hurriedly looking for seats, stowing away baggage and removing wraps.

Edna slipped out of her heavy coat, procured a current magazine from the suitcase at her feet and was seated. "No, Mr. Boche gave me a taste of a bullet in my leg which laid me up for a while, but the fact that I'm not a bit proud of that bump. Why I could have fallen out of our grocer's truck right at home and broken my arm, but to continue; after a day riding along in a motortruck, sitting at the rear with my feet jacked up in front of me. Suddenly the car went over a good sized stone and I ruck caused the fracture of my right arm. And although it's pretty well fixed up now, once in a while I twist it so that it bothers a bit. Now that isn't half as heroic as—why, gracious girl, what are you looking at me like that for?"

"Why—I know who you are. You're Private Paul Crane—aren't you?"

"That's me, all right."

"You are the soldier who received my Christmas package and letter sent through the Red Cross in 1917, and we've been corresponding ever since. For positive proof I can quote your last letter."

"And you're Edna Sheridan!" exclaimed the soldier almost too surprised to speak.

Suddenly, without warning, both young people began to laugh as if it were a huge joke.

Paul composed himself long enough to say—"Now that I think of it, because in your last letter you refused to accept my invitation to let me call on you when I returned, and here I am sitting right beside you. Do you still stand by your statement?"

INDEMNITY WILL BE ENORMOUS

HUN DAMAGE TO BELGIUM TOO VAST TO BE ESTIMATED.

Industries Destroyed, Factories Razed, Machinery and Raw Materials Stolen, Coal Fields Pillaged.

Thus far it has been impossible to estimate the extent of damage caused in Belgium by the Germans or to fix even approximately the amount of indemnity which Belgium will demand from Germany.

In a majority of the factories which the Belgians were allowed to operate during German occupation, the plant remains, but everywhere all stocks of raw material have been entirely removed.

In the other factories, which the Belgians were not allowed to operate, there was a systematic removal of all the machinery, which was dismantled and sent to Germany. The names of the German manufacturers to whom the machinery was shipped have been ascertained.

Belgian industrial circles seem to be divided whether to attempt to recover the stolen machinery or to fix, more necessarily worn, or to buy new machines abroad and to make the Germans pay for them.

The Belgian coal fields in the region of Mons, Charleroi and Liege were operated by the Germans, who used Belgian coal as currency to obtain from Holland provisions, cattle and horses. Thus, while the Belgian population suffered from cold, coal rose in price to 400 or 500 francs a ton, and Belgians witnessed the spectacle of workmen weakened by privations forced to drag heavy carts loaded with coal, taking the place of the horses which the Germans had stolen.

Factories Useless for Year and Half.

About the House

The Making of Soup.

"Have a plate of soup?" How often have you asked the family if it would have a plate of soup, after you had spent some time and material making it. Now I am going to tell you that the secret of true economy is the serving of a plate of good, palatable soup at the beginning of dinner.

When properly made, soup is a stimulating and wholesome dish that will add elegance to the frugal meal. It stimulates and promotes the digestion and prepares the stomach for the food that follows.

Each household, no matter how small, should have its stock pot, and into this pot should go all the bits of meat, trimmings and bones, together with the left-over gravies. A plate of soup should be served daily during the fall and winter, and need cost but a few cents each week to make it.

Good Nature Contagious.

A certain little boy was getting into the habit of fretting, especially at the breakfast hour, and his mother reproved him by herself fretting at him. The whole comfort of the morning became endangered. Father went to his office with a little worried frown on his face, and an older child to school in a mood to be irritated by things which later in the day she could easily laugh over.

It was mother who discovered the danger and the remedy. She found that Little Boy, reproved for and forbidden to mention one thing, turned to another and things instead of becoming better grew worse. When she started the reformation, she pretended not to notice that he grumbled when the room was cold, but called his attention to the fact that the snow appeared under his feet. Whenever there seemed a likelihood of complaint from little boy she diverted it by a cheery remark or a happy suggestion. The result was magical. The morning grouch, which no amount of reproving or scolding could banish, disappeared under the sunshine of tact and good nature.

How to prepare a stock pot.

Select a pot that has a close-fitting lid and keep it for this purpose. The usual proportion is a one-gallon pot for a family of six. You will require one pound of bones to every quart of water, and one large onion, one medium sized carrot, one medium sized turnip, one fagot of soup herbs to every four quarts of water or less. Have the butcher crack the bones well, and then rinse them under cold water and place in a pot together with the seasoning. Add the required amount of cold water and bring to a boil. Cook very slowly for three and a half hours. Strain the liquid and return the bones and vegetables to the kettle. Set the liquid aside to cool and remove the cake of fat when it hardens. Now place this liquid in a saucepan and boil for one hour. It may now be used for stock, soups, broths, gravies and sauces.

Cover the bones in the kettle with cold water again and add any left-over gravies, bits of meat, trimmings and bones that you may have on hand. Cook slowly on the back of the range for four hours, and then strain, and to two quarts of this stock add one can of tomatoes, one cupful of diced carrots, one cupful of diced onions, one-half cupful of diced celery, one cupful of diced potatoes, one-half cupful of diced turnips, one-quarter cupful of powdered thyme, two tablespoonsful of finely chopped parsley, one tablespoonful of dried celery leaves. Cook slowly for one hour for a good tasty vegetable soup.

How to prepare a fagot of soup herbs.

Take one leek into three parts and cut from the stem up. To this piece of leek add four branches of thyme, two branches of parsley, one piece of carrot, cut in a strip three inches long, two branches of celery, one small pepper pod.

Tie with a string and dry in a warm place. When dry put in a glass jar to be used as needed.

Many varieties of soups may be made from the plain stock with just a few minutes' work.

Clear tomato soup: To one quart of stock add one cupful of canned tomatoes, rubbed through a fine sieve. Noodles, macaroni or any cooked vegetable may be added.

For clear soup: Add one teaspoonful of kitchen bouquet and any desired vegetables to each quart of stock. When making cream soups if you will add one cupful of prepared stock to each cupful of milk your soup will have a delicious flavor.

Stock may be made, filled into sterilized jars and then the rubber and lid adjusted; the soup may then be processed for three hours in hot water bath. Remove from the bath, fasten the lids securely and then test for leaks and store in a cool, dry place.

Where there is a fire kept in the kitchen it will not add to the cost to can soups, stocks, etc., for future use.

Watch the Pantry Shelves.

This was seen recently on the pantry shelves of a patriotic but thoughtless woman: One quart can with about a cupful of chow chow in it, not longer fit to eat, and one jelly glass with a few spoonfuls of jelly left to dry up, and all at what we wanted and threw the rest out, but now when every spoonful of food must be put to use to save humanity, not even a drop of jelly can be wasted.

The housekeeper argues that she cannot so much fruit and vegetables, she just couldn't find enough pint cans and small jelly and jam glasses. Her family is so small they grow tired of one kind of chow chow, or sauce, or vegetable, before the can is used up, and just a little—a very little—is wasted each time.

Here are a few hints that will help. Because your family is small you will undoubtedly open the pint cans first. This will leave small empty cans in which you can re-can any left over fruit or vegetable you think your family will tire of before it is used. Or you might carry over a bowl of tomatoes or peaches to your neighbor when you have to open a two-quart can. Some day she will return perhaps with a bowl of corn which she is not anxious to use at once.

Under no circumstances should any canned fruit or vegetables be care-

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FEARSOME FLYING

Scaling the Gigantic Mountain Ranges of the Earth

On the Italian side of the Alps is a monument to the first airman who succeeded in scaling that mighty European barrier by means of flight. He lost his life in the performance, although he had actually performed the feat before his death.

But the Alps sink into comparative insignificance before the stupendous barrier of the Andes in South America, yet news lately arrived that Lieutenant Godoy, a Chilean aviator, by an Englishman and in an English "Bristol," has succeeded in scaling even this terrific chain of mountains, although to do so he had to rise to a tremendous height. He flew from Santiago to Mendoza in the Argentine. These towns, although less than a hundred miles divides them, are less than each other's inhabitants than do New York and London, for the mountain range which separates them averages 20,000 feet in height, and is the abode of mighty glaciers and inaccessible precipices and fearful crevasses.

Only one mountain range in the world exceeds the Andes in height, that is the Himalayas which form the bastion of India on the north, separating our grand dependency from the mysterious land of Tibet. Few of the great peaks have ever been scaled. No human foot has ever trod the summit of Everest, which rises to a height of 30,000 feet, and is the culminating point of the earth. Probably it will

CANADIAN AIRMEN HONORED.

Distinguished Flying Cross Conferred by King George.

It is officially announced in the Gazette of Feb. 10 that the King has conferred Distinguished Flying Crosses on the following Canadians in recognition of gallantry in flying operations against the enemy:

Lieut. J. W. Clark, Central Ontario Regiment, who on October 5th carried out a very successful shoot, causing fire and explosion and completely retook the position. During the shoot he was continuously harassed by eight Fokker biplanes, but by exhibiting marked courage and skillful shooting he drove down one on fire and dispersed the remainder.

Lieut. K. B. Conn, Third Reserve Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, who on October 18, when raiding enemy troops in retreat, descending to 300 feet, attacked three companies of infantry with machine gun fire, inflicting casualties. So vigorous was his attack that the troops dispersed. Lt. Conn then attacked various other targets, displaying conspicuous skill and initiative.

Lt. J. E. Haloquoit, 15th Reserve Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, always displayed the highest skill and courage, setting a fine example to other pilots. He accounted for five enemy machines and during recent operations in Italy led four successful bombing patrols at low altitudes.

Lt. J. M. Mackay, 87th Canadian Battalion, has since April carried out over 120 patrols and has been conspicuous for gallantry and devotion to duty, both in attacking ground targets and in aerial combats. In the latter he accounted for two enemy machines.

Lt. R. B. Sutherland, Canadian Local Forces, has done very valuable work in Palestine. During the last year he was conspicuous for gallant and brilliant leadership between September 17 and 22.

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WENT BACK AS COMMON SOLDIER

COLONEL OF THE AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY

Served in the Gallipoli Campaign, Receiving Decoration—Congratulated for Valor at Messina

The story of a colonel of Australian infantry who was wounded in the Gallipoli campaign and sent back to Australia, but who concealed his rank and re-enlisted as a private to serve with the Australians in France, has added to the esteem in which Australians are held in London. Colonel Charles Melville Macnaghten, the hero of the story, is hailed as a man of gallantry and grit.

He was the son of Sir Melville Macnaghten, chief of the criminal investigation department of Scotland Yard, says the Daily Mail, and was practising law in Australia when the war began. He was the major in command of the first brigade which landed at Anzac Cove, on Gallipoli peninsula. Within two days he was wounded three times. After recovery in England he returned to Gallipoli and led his battalion in their immortal charge at Lone Pine.

After the evacuation of Gallipoli he served for a time in Egypt, and was sent from there to England suffering from wounds and fever. Surgeons refused him permission to return to active service, and he was sent to Australia as second in command of the Australian training camp.

Re-enlisted as a Private

One day he slipped away from the camp and joined a replacement battalion in Queensland under the name of Charles Melville and soon afterwards was back in England training on Salisbury Plain as Private Melville. He was quickly promoted to be corporal and one day was asked by his commanding officer: "Corporal, do you think you could drill this company?" Having commanded a brigade, the corporal put the company through its paces like the veteran he was.

Back in France again he was recognized by officers who had known him in Gallipoli as the daring and brilliant soldier they had called "Lightning Mac." General Birdwood, with whom he had served at Lone Pine, sent for him and gave him a commission. Not long afterwards Colonel Macnaghten was again sent as an invalid to England, where he was summoned to Buckingham Palace to receive from the King a decoration as a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, which had been conferred upon him several years before for his gallantry at Gallipoli.

While serving in the ranks in France as "Corporal Melville" he had been personally congratulated by the commanding general for valor at Messines Ridge.

Macnaghten's fighting days are now over and he is compelled to recognize this fact for, as one of his men put it, "he is riddled like a colander and it is only his fighting spirit which keeps him alive."

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IN JERUSALEM.

(Dec. 11th, 1517).
The day is past. The crescent silver moon,
Pierces the shadows in Gethsemane,
Where olive trees in the grey twilight dim
Cherish the walls of a mystery.
Within the secret a woman's voice is bleat,
With varying murmurs of the Kedron rill—
Seeking the Father where the Master prayed,
Ere His self-sacrifice upon the hill.

Forth on the stillness—over the troublous sea,
Break the battle sounds; without the Jaffa gate,
To load the new Crusade come Al-lahy!
Wait thou, secure in solitude, nor late,
To see the gleaming star within the East.
Symbol of love. A woman cries for God,
In the lone stillness of Gethsemane—
For the haze of battle spreads on paths she trod.

Outside the gate where Christian blood was shed,
To save the sepulchre, in cruel strife,
The Briton's tread, above the lilies' glow
Is heard. Jerusalem awake to life!
They falter not because the road is steep.
The stars shine bright above the pulseless sea,
In Jordan's vale. The crescent symbol pales
A Christian prays in lone Gethsemane.

A matured maple tree releases about twelve gallons of sap, three per cent of which is sugar. The average tree will yield over 60 cents in sugar or syrup, and will continue to do so for 125 years.

In planning for setting out trees, the need of screens to hide unattractive objects should also be kept in mind. On every farm there are buildings which tend to become shabby or cluttered up, such as the corn cribs, the hog pens, the machinery and repair shops, and the piles of rubbish, manure and wood.

The Food

Largely as a result of the Canadian Food Board's financial assistance, the Government of Ontario is calling attention to the importance of having a surplus of food products.

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