

DISEASES THAT WILL BE BROUGHT BACK BY SOLDIERS

"What contagious diseases will our soldiers bring back from Europe?" This is the question which Dr. W. A. Evans of the medical faculty of Northwestern university answered in his address on "Health Problems Affecting the Period of Readjustment," before an assembly of the college of liberal arts and sciences and the University of Illinois.

"Every war in history has been followed by epidemics of contagious disease," said Dr. Evans. As illustrations of this fact he pointed out the "Black Death" which visited Europe at the close of the wars of the fourteenth century, the epidemic of typhoid fever spread in the north by returning soldiers at the close of the civil war, the epidemic of "itch" in 1865, and the malarial diseases spread in Illinois and elsewhere at the close of the Spanish-American war of 1898. The devastating epidemic of influenza in 1918, breaking the barriers of its breeding place in western Asia, and traveling to America by way of Italy and Spain, was partly caused by the European war. This Asiatic disease is known to break its bound nearly every eight years.

"In view of these facts," continued Dr. Evans, "we are likely to conclude that we will be visited by disease as a result of the present war. But other considerations lead us to state that our returning soldiers will not bring back any contagious disease, known or unknown from European battle fields. Our armies have been adequately protected against disease. Each man has received instruction in personal hygiene. His health has been carefully protected, venereal and other contagious diseases have been so stamped out that the soldier will return freer from social disease than he was in his own home. For the first time in history the death rate from disease has been less than the death rate from bullets. Previously disease has killed and incapacitated more men than the enemy. In 1861 four men died of disease to every one that was killed in the field. In 1898 this proportion was twelve to one. But science has found means to control all of the contagious diseases except those diseases the germs of which travel through the air, and promising experiments are being carried out in this field.

"The splendid record obtained by the military authorities in this matter of disease should be a lesson to public officials and administrators.

In view of what the army has accomplished these public officers can no longer find excuses for their negligence of public health conditions.

"The direct results of the war in the matter of contagious diseases will be, (1) no new form of disease, (2) control of venereal disease, (3) lessened use of alcohol, (4) lessened amount of insanity, (5) better health administration, and (6) a growth of public sentiment in favor of better health conditions," said Dr. Evans in conclusion.

Thrift is good management of the business of living.

Xmas B. C.

Xmas was celebrated many hundred years before Christ was born. It was in honor of Tammus, one of the Babylonian sun gods. They had three, Baal, Ashtaroth and Tammus, and built many temples in their honor. The letter "T" was changed to "X", as this was considered as sign of the holy entrance into the temple of the gods of the sun.

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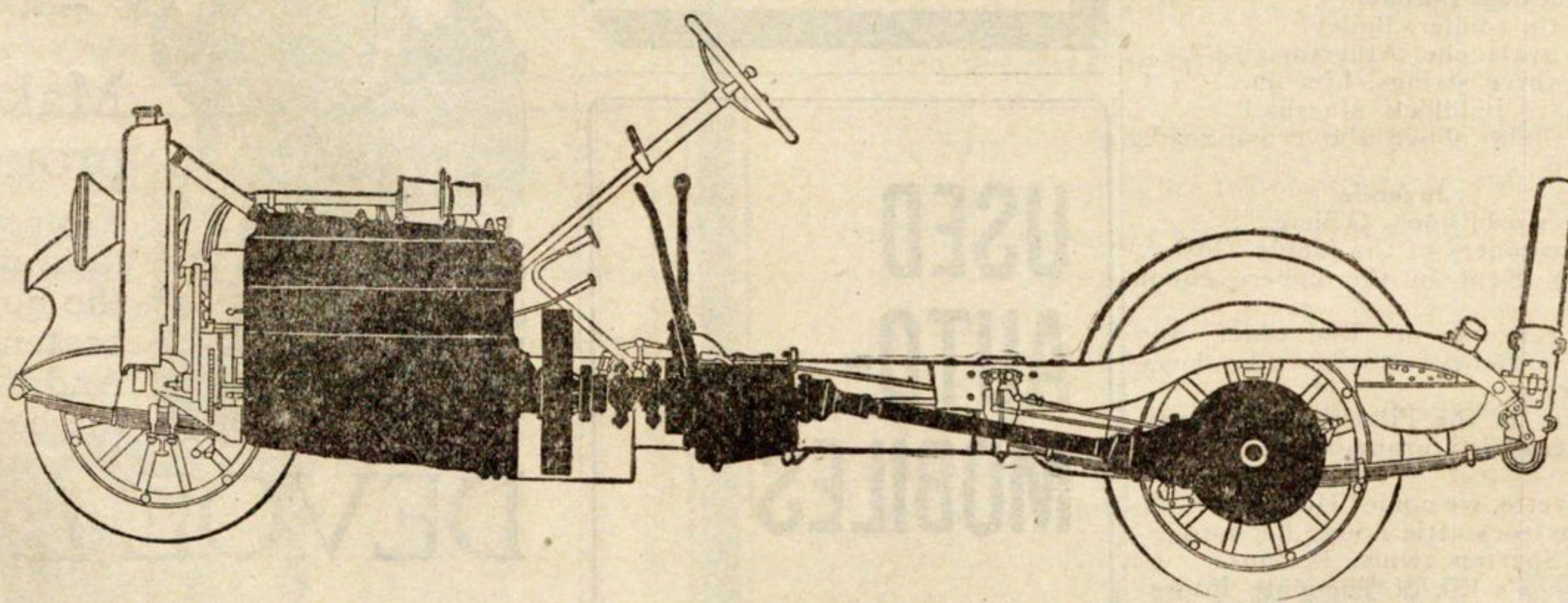
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