

CUSTER GUNS USING REAL SHELLS

REALISM ADDED TO PRACTICE SHOOTING OF ARTILLERY COMPANIES.

CROP INSURANCE IS PROPOSED

Benzonia Farmer Suggests Plan to Stimulate Production by Giving Farmer Protection.

Artillery practice at Camp Custer has passed the smoke-buff stage. The division officials couldn't camouflage it. If they wanted to, for the shells add a new dominant tone to the harmony that is wafted from the ranges each day.

Camp Custer has three artillery regiments—the Third Hundred and Twenty-eighth and Third Hundred and Thirtieth (light) and the Third Hundred and Thirtieth (heavy). To train them, the camp has four three-inch guns, and no six-inch guns at all. Thus the heavy artillery, with no ordnance of its own, has been receiving training with the three-inch guns.

Thus far only two officers are mentioned in the "school of war" have had a chance to participate in practice.

The new soldiers have been having real experience, as few of them ever stood near a three-inch gun when it was fired. At first they tried to be heroic and get as close as they could, but one by one they decided that cotton in the ears was wise, if not attractive.

Thus far the longest range attempted has been a mile and a half. This is so near that the men can see the shells explode, adding much to the excitement.

Crop Insurance Proposed.

Insurance of American farmers by the government as a stimulus to greater war-time production has been proposed by the Benzonia Production Association.

Copies of the plan will be sent to members of congress.

Mr. Trapp's plan has been developed as a result of the experience of Michigan farmers this year, when, after they had planted their usual large crops in response to appeals to back the nation, bad weather brought big losses. In many cases, according to Mr. Trapp, these farmers were financially unable to maintain the size of their crops.

Government insurance against loss through conditions over which the farmer has no control would enable the farmer to obtain credit and would eliminate the danger of loss through weather conditions.

By protecting the farmer, merchants and bankers would also be safeguarded, for labor would become more plentiful, and the nation's output could be largely increased.

Mr. Trapp would have the insurance paid from a fund secured by a uniform tax laid on all grains sold by the farmer.

He would have county agents aid in the application of the insurance regulations.

Try to Save Soldiers' Property.

An attempt to save the property of Michigan soldiers from being sold to the highest bidder, for the boys at Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas, says Lieut. William Harcourt, a Detroit attorney and member of the 20th machine gun battalion, has been assured by Detroit's corporation counsel that action will be taken to relieve soldiers of special taxes until after the war.

The Detroit Waco office property in Detroit received a notice that unless a sidewalk assessment was paid his property would be sold for taxes. Harcourt is making an effort to return to the barracks with few shoes, make an effort to protect themselves. This vigilance is sorely needed as most of the soldiers are already suffering with colds.

CAMP CUSTER NOTES

Social service work is increasing in scope with a minimum of publicity.

A piano or talking machine for every barracks but only one for the mess hall is the aim of the Battle Creek recreation board.

Mal. Von Dem Busche, in retiring as division director, has left a fund of \$14,000 has been cleared for the athletic fund by the various foot ball teams which represented the camp during the season.

J. S. Clevinger, librarian at Camp Custer requests that people who mail magazines to the camp, do so promptly. Many of the magazines are not mailed if possible. When the soldier receives a package of periodicals and find them a month or more old, they are discontinued.

State Sugar Feed Crop Short.

Wheat, the highest prices prevailing in the history of the sugar beet industry in Michigan, farmers and sugar factory stockholders make the least money this year. The reason for this is the price of the sugar. The sugar is so low that the farmer is unable to make regular collections; at any rate, there is a general lack of understanding among the farmers. Some of the Liberty bonds to most payments; one sold a lot of meat, Lieut. Harcourt will compile the law on this subject and publish it in all the Michigan units.

U. S. Aced to Buy State Beans.

A Macedonian cur in behalf of Michigan's bean was sent to Washington State Market. The Michigan man wants the federal food administration to have the government purchase some of the beans and dry them, thus terminating the value. In addition, Mr. McBride wants the government to purchase through the federal reserve banks, 100,000 bushels of beans of approved seed stock for next spring's planting. A death of seed is feared.

State May Outfit Home Guard.

Michigan state troops, as the locally known Home Guards are technically called, will be fully outfitted by the state, if the United States government does not announce shortly that it is going to do toward equipping the troops, which have been organized to take the place of the regular army.

The war board sitting as the military board decided this at a meeting in which Colonel Beyer, the adjutant-general, and Colonel Boarder, the ordnance-master-general, went over the entire situation.

From inquiries received at Washington, it is expected that the state will propose a plan to take care of the outfitting and outfitting of the state troops all over the country.

At the session of congress, some ordinance was voted for the use of state troops, but this is not available. It is expected now that the present congress will make some announcement federalizing them, to the extent of furnishing equipment.

Pending the action of the government the purchase of equipment by the state is considered unwise by the military board as it would tend to keep the state staff on hand for which it will have no use.

It is more likely, though, that the national authorities will provide the equipment in a month, the state will purchase the complete equipment. It is figured that, in that length of time something drastic will at least be started in Washington.

State Drys Work for Anti Nation.

The liquor question is now certain to be an issue in the August primaries in Michigan. The state has passed a law, and the representatives are asking a vote by states on an amendment making the nation dry.

A meeting of the Anti-Saloon league of the state will be held soon. A plan of campaign will be mapped out aiming at the election of at least a two-thirds dry majority in both the house and senate of the state legislature.

While the plans have not yet been drafted in a general way, it is said at state headquarters of the league that the temperance forces in every district will get behind the cause. The cause should be opposed by a man who is believed or known to be wet.

The greatest fight probably will be made in the senate, which has 11 members, where there would be able to nullify the wishes of every other member of the legislature, since a two-thirds majority is required to pass a law.

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Pneumonia Danger Passed.

"There is no immediate cause for great concern over the health of the men in Camp Custer."

This comforting comment on the situation which is the result of lack of clothing and footwear for the troops, comes from Lieut. Col. Bartlett, the surgeon of the general staff, on whom rests the responsibility for the health of the army.

Briefly it means that the medical authorities, who a few days ago admitted that the men would gain have what was frankly stated the possibility of being held by wet weather for improperly clothed and sold soldiers, now believe that the men will be able to weather the division and prevent the dreaded wave of pneumonia. Precautions which are now being taken and which may be increased, have been found effective.

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Shakeup in War Department.

Meanwhile senate and house committees, continued their inquiry into the Russian situation, with results that were more to the credit of the navy than of the army department. Revelations made concerning the delays in procuring and distributing supplies and arms for the army, together with the president's talks with Colonel House, showed that the navy is progressing justly so may be said to have led to the changes in the war department which put General Goebels at the head of the quartermaster general's bureau and Gen. C. B. Wheeler in command.

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Russians Serving in France Request That They Be Enrolled Under the Stars and Stripes.

Officers of the Russian army in France have asked that they be given the services of the United States.

The officers are desirous of continuing the battle against the Germans, and they believe that their peace negotiations, and declare they will fight to the death for Russia.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Premier Lloyd George Declares Germany Must Give Up Conquests and Pay.

NO PEACE WITH JUNKERS

Reports to President Wilson Call for More Speed by America—War Department Urges That the Bolsheviks Continue Negotiations with Germany While Civil War in Russia Spreads.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Fully agreeing with the stand taken by President Wilson, Premier Lloyd George told the house of commons Thursday that peace cannot be made with the present rulers of Germany and that the war must go on until the militarist caste in Prussia has been completely broken. Germany, he declared, must be forced to give up the lands she coveted and compensate for losses, and the disposition of her former colonial possessions must be settled in the peace conference and great regard for the rights of the inhabitants, Mesopotamia, Armenia and Jerusalem can never be given back to Turkey, he said, but Great Britain did not intend to have territorial aggrandizement of any nation.

Reviewing the military situation, Mr. Lloyd George admitted that he was serious, mainly because of the defection of Russia, and he warned Britain that its man power would have to be increased to the limit and that the pledge given to have in 1915, regarding the man exempted must be altered or canceled. The results of the British campaign, he admitted, had not come up to expectations, but looking at the brighter side, Germany has had but one victory, the surprise attack south of Cambrai, German workers have declared their opposition to the war, the poor food, the permanent losses of the German army have been four or five times as great as those sustained by the British, the losses of the Italians are not to be compared with those of the Austrians, and the submarine campaign is gradually being overcome.

President Wilson and his administration received several impressive messages last week from America that get up more speed. The president delegates to the recent interallied conference in Paris. First to report was Colonel House, who had a long and full delegation, and though the details of his statement were not made public, it is known that he laid before Mr. Wilson facts and figures that would make allies must exert their maximum strength in the quickest possible time, and that their war activities must be coordinated, waste and delay reduced to a minimum.

Next, Bainbridge Colby of the shipping board and Vance McCormick of the state department, both of whom were present and the president the information on shipping they had obtained abroad. This embraced the condition of the shipping business, the interference with allied war activities to a greater extent than England and France have admitted. Mr. Wilson is reported to have been greatly impressed with the information given and it became evident to him that the shipping program must be enlarged and its carrying out hastened.

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Another bulletin tells the men how the Germans in occupied sections of France and Belgium are turning women and children out of their homes and driving the survivors being given over to soldiers, horses and material.

With the American Army in France—German atrocities against American soldiers are officially reported. An American sentry has been found with his throat cut, and it is officially declared that the murderer has been killed after capture.

Information concerning German savagery has reached the troops in one of a series of reports sent to them by unit commanders and posted on the bulletin boards.

Here is what they heard:

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