REVIEW OF THE WORLD WAR AND OTHER HISTORY MAKING EVENTS OF YEAR 1917

Entrance of United States Into Conflict Outstanding Development of Past Twelve Months—Political Upheaval in Russia Affects Struggle—British and French Smash Teuton Lines on West Front—Austro-Germans Launch Drive Against Italy.

By DONALD F. BIGGS.

THE WORLD WAR.

After three and a half years of the most sanguinary fighting in history, the great nations of the world, together with many of the smaller ones, are still at death grips, with less prospect of an early peace than was thought to exist a year ago.

Undoubtedly the greatest development of the year was the entrance of the United States of America into the conflict. The throwing of the tremendous resources and man power of the American republic into the balance on the side of the entente allies, in the opinion of military experts, has more than off-set the advantages gained by Germany and her allies during the past twelve months and has made possible the continuance of the conflict until a time when a definite military decision can be obtained.

There have been a half dozen or more outstanding events in the past year. Some of these have been of purely military significance and others have been occurrences of a political nature which have had a far-reaching effect upon the titanic conflict.

Chief among the political upheavals of the year was the Russian revolution which resulted in the overthrow of Czar Nicholas and culminated during the closing months of the year in a counter-revolution which practically eliminated Russia from the ranks of the nations opposed to the central powers. From a military standpoint the chief events of the year have been the launching of the German ruthless submarine campaign, which was directly responsible for the entry of the United States into the war; the Brit-

...the United States were further strained March 18 by the receipt of reports of the sinking of three American steamers, the City of Memphis, Illinois and Vigilancia, fifteen of the latter's crew being lost.

On March 21, President Wilson issued a proclamation calling congress in special session on April 2.

The American steamer Healdton was torpedoed without warning, March 22, 21 men including seven Americans, being lost.

United States Declares War.

On April 2, President Wilson appeared before a joint session of congress and called for a declaration of a state of war with Germany. On April 4, the senate passed a resolution declaring the existence of a state of war. The resolution was adopted by the house of representatives April 6 and was signed by the president the same day. At the same time 91 German-owned vessels in American ports were seized by the government. Cuba declared war on Germany on April 7. The following day, Austria-Hungary severed diplomatic relations with the United States.

The British forces on the west front began the first great offensive of 1917 on April 9, penetrating the enemy positions north and south of Arras to a depth of from two to three miles.

The French forces launched an offensive against the enemy on a 25-mile front between Soissons and Reims April 16, and after three days' fighting reported the capture of more than 17,000 prisoners.

The first American casualties in the war were reported April 28, when the armed American tank steamer Vacuum...

Warneton, after three weeks of intense artillery preparation. The British forced their way into the German lines to a depth of two to two and a half miles, taking ten villages and more than 5,000 prisoners.

Pope Benedict, on August 14, transmitted peace proposals to all belligerent and neutral governments.

In the course of the operations on the west front Canadian troops, on August 15, seized Hill No. 70, dominating Lens from the northwest, a position formerly regarded as impregnable. On August 17, 111 French airplanes carried out a series of great bombing raids, dropping over 14 tons of projectiles on aviation camps and railroad stations behind the German lines.

The Italian forces opened a grand offensive on August 19, attacking on a front 40 miles long from Tolmino to the Adriatic sea. On August 25, the Italians captured Monte Santo, an Austrian stronghold on the Isonzo front. Two more nations entered the war on the side of the allies in August. Liberia declaring war on Germany August 7, and China declaring war on both Germany and Austria-Hungary August 14. On August 28, President Wilson's reply to the peace proposals of Pope Benedict was made public. It declared that "we cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guarantee of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves as the other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting." Other allied governments later adopted President Wilson's note as their own reply to the pope.

Early in September the Italians continued to make progress in their drive on the Isonzo front, announcing on September 1 the capture of 14 strongly fortified mountains, causing an 11-mile breach in the Austrian lines and resulting in the capture of 27,000 prisoners.

Chaos Threatens in Russia.

Conditions in Russia grew more chaotic during the month of September. General Korniloff, commander in chief of the Rusian armies, on September 10 demanded that all civil and military powers be placed in his hands. Premier Kerensky immediately deposed General Korniloff and civil war threatened as Korniloff, at the head of a large force of troops, marched on Petrograd. The rebellion collapsed, however, on September 13, when...

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An enlisted man writes, says the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, that he doesn't mind the trenches, but he hates to be 3,000 miles away from a Pittsburgh stogie.

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The HUMBLE BEAN IS HELPING to WIN the WAR

By Robert H. Moulton

THE humble bean is helping to win the war. So says Prof. L. C. Corbett, a bean expert in the department of agriculture. But the bean is no longer cheap. For planting, they cost the farmer this season from $10 to $12 a bushel. The food price at retail is considerably higher. Therefore, it becomes no man to refer irreverently to the bean, whether it be red, white, black or mottled, or whether it be baked, boiled or made into soup.

Professor Corbett, although a horticulturist by profession, knows more about beans than anyone else in the country. We may accept his statement, therefore, that the bean, which grows practically everywhere except at the North pole, is going to play a large part in helping to bring Germany to terms. He says it was the bean that put down the Civil war, and then whipped Spain in 1898. So why shouldn't it make as fine a record in the present conflict?

Previous to 1861, according to Professor Corbett, beans were not much used in this country on the table—barring, perhaps, the city of Boston. At that time our railroads were very crude and they found it almost impossible to keep the federal armies supplied with [illegible] and clothing, so in the [illegible] food bulk was eliminated as [illegible]. Beans, being light in [illegible] and, moreover, very nourishing, [illegible] an ideal food under the conditions prevailing, so the Northern quartermasters began to buy them in large quantities and ship them to the soldiers at the front.

The soldiers waxed strong on beans; likewise their taste for them grew amazingly, so that when the war was over and they returned to their homes, they asked for beans. Thus a market...

The small-seeded type of navy called the pea bean is in greatest demand.

An increased acreage of beans will be an important contribution to the nation's food supply. But to make this increased acreage most prolific, we must standardize our varieties. Plant only the navy bean, preferably the small pea variety. This will assist the grower in finding a market for his surplus. Buy seed from reliable seed dealers if possible. Should this supply be exhausted, the beans sold at stores for cooking purposes can be drawn upon. First buy a small amount, or secure a sample for germination. Test between blotters, and if the test shows 85 per cent germination or better they will be safe.

A sandy loam is best for beans. In many places the soil may be too fertile, causing overluxuriant growth of vines so that the plants bloom but sparingly and but little seed sets. Bottom lands are not adapted to bean growing for this reason, and also because of diseases, some of which are more prevalent under conditions where heavy dews and lack of air drainage are found, as on such lands. For this reason a location is to be preferred where there is good air drainage. Newly turned sod may be used for beans with good results. Such land is apt to be a little dry, which tends to check vine growth. Land which is somewhat impoverished is better than a rich soil.

...about 2 inches apart in the row. In field planting a corn planter with bean plates is the most desirable. A grain drill with a portion of the openings stopped may also be used. The crop is sometimes planted in hills, using five to seven seed to the hill. Experiments indicate that the drilled crops yield the heavier.

A final harrowing may be given just before the seed comes up. Level cultivation should be practiced after planting. The bean is a shallow-rooted plant, hence care should be exercised to avoid injury by cultivating deep near the plant. Following the appearance of the blossoms, and after the vines begin to run, cultivation should be done at less frequent intervals, except in case of severe drought. This has a tendency to check vine growth and to encourage seed production. Beans should not be cultivated when the foliage is wet because it has a tendency to encourage anthracnose. A one-horse cultivator or a two-row truck crop cultivator are excellent tools for this work. A surface corn cultivator can also be adjusted to this purpose.

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