

Getting Rid of the Barbed Wire Entanglement

**B**ARBED wire entanglements were first used in warfare by the Boers in their brief struggle with Great Britain. It was recognized at once by all the military leaders of the world that a new and very formidable method of checking storming troops had been devised by South African farmers who knew nothing at all of military strategy. By the time the Russian-Japanese War broke out elaborate methods of installing barbed wire entanglements had been evolved.

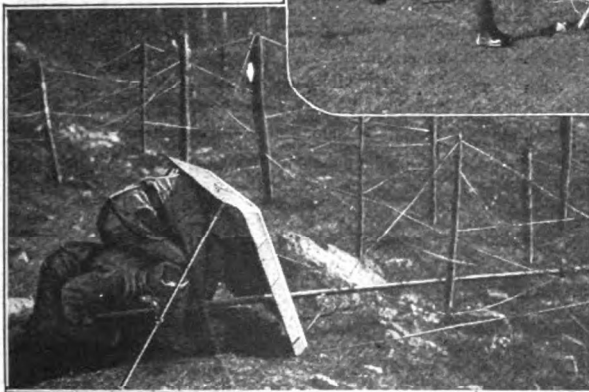
It became apparent that wire-cutters would become an indispensable part of an infantryman's equipment. But it was also recognized that the cutting of barbed wire, in daylight at least, was almost suicidal. While artillery fire was the most effective method of destroying the entanglement, all the European armies have experimented with special entanglement destroyers. In England, France and Germany, these took the form of long poles at the end of which explosive charges were carried. England probably made the most extensive experiments of this kind, although the Russians proved themselves the more ingenious.

In one of the accompanying pictures an infantryman is shown advancing under the protection of a shield with one of these poles. If he gets to the entanglement alive (the steel of his shield is hardly thick enough to resist a machine-gun bullet) he will pull a kind of trigger or latch and explode the charge at the outer end of the pole in his hand. The destructive effect is far greater than would be possible if shears alone were used. As wires are often charged with electricity the long-pole wire-destroyer offers its operator some degree of safety.

Cherry Pits a Source of Valuable Oils

**A**BOUT 36,000 tons of cherries are grown annually in New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and California, of which eighty per cent. is canned. In order to can cherries the pits are removed, and in removing the pits juice is wasted. Some 1,600 tons of pits accumulate in a year, and 112,000 gallons of juice. Both are now wasted. But it will not be for long. A golden fatty oil, similar to the oil of sweet almonds, can be squeezed from the pits; it is worth \$75,000. The cake left after squeezing can be treated to yield another oil, a volatile oil worth \$10 a pound, and since 1,600 tons of pits would yield 6,000 pounds of this oil, the product is worth an additional \$60,000. The residue after extraction of the volatile oil amounts to about 300 tons, worth \$30 a ton as stock food. That makes \$9,000 more. So the pits alone are worth a total of \$144,000. Then, the juice would result in the production of about 5,000 gallons of alcohol, 21,000 gallons of soup or 85,680 gallons of jelly. The value of these it is difficult to appraise. At all events, the cherry industry must be wasting \$200,000 a year. A chance for somebody to save this waste and make a fortune.

Italian troopers erecting a barbed wire entanglement along the Piave. Wire stretchers are used very much like those with which our Western ranchmen are familiar



Infantrymen advancing under cover of a shield to destroy the enemy's barbed wire entanglements