

A Portuguese Shelling-Bee

ARE you short of farm help? Take a tip from the Portuguese. When their corn is ripe and ready to be shelled, they invite their neighbors to a shelling-fête. Wine and cakes are served and corn-beaters are handed around. The ears of corn are dumped on sandstone slabs and beaten vigorously, and in a short time the corn is shelled. If you have some wine or even beer—it's very easily made, we're told—you can employ your neighbors in like fashion.

Corn is an important article of food in Portugal. The climate is good for corn growing and there are very few districts where it is not cultivated.

The corn-beaters used in the picture below are made of corkwood and swing on the end of long wooden handles.

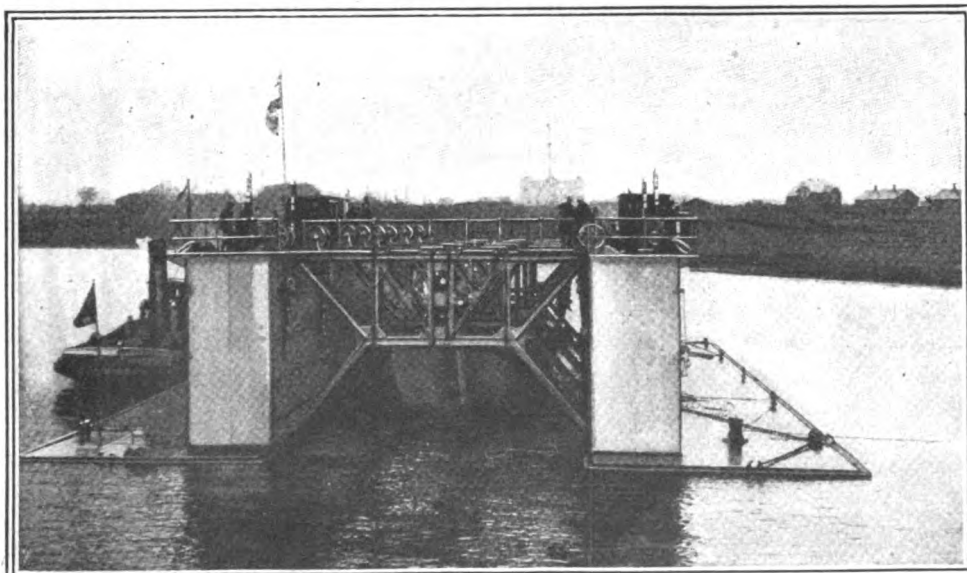


When shelling-time comes in Portugal neighbors help each other—like the American quilting or husking parties

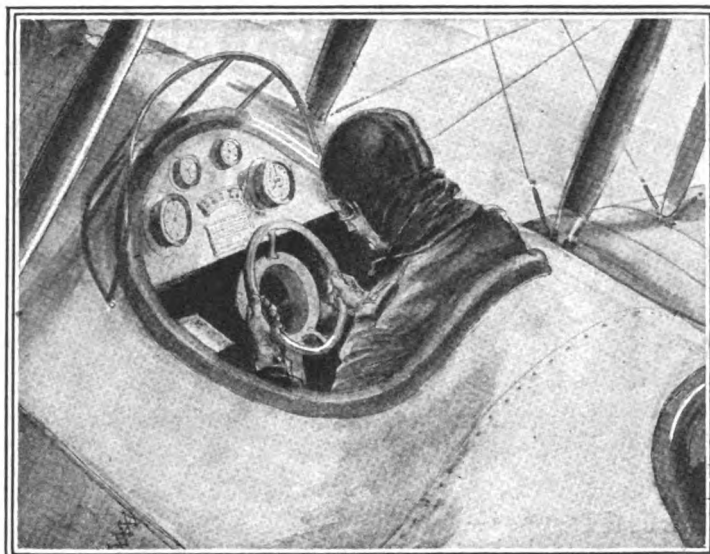
It Digs Up Germany's Sunken Ships

WHILE Germany was sinking ships, hers were being sunk. And now she is just as busy as we are inventing salvaging devices. Below you see an immense floating drydock, recently built at Kiel.

The drydock is towed to the spot directly over a wreck. Water is admitted into the pontoons and the divers get ready to go down. Huge chains that wind around pulleys are lowered into the water and fastened underneath the wreck by divers. When the wreck is well chained, the pontoons are pumped out and the wreck rises.



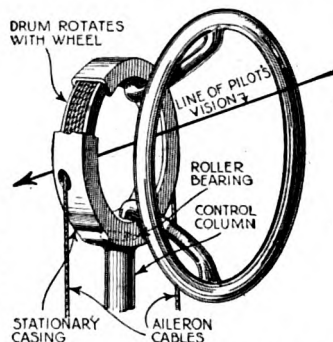
This floating drydock is Germany's latest invention for raising sunken ships. It is towed to the spot directly over a wreck; chains are fastened around the wreck; the water is pumped from the pontoons and another valuable ship is salvaged



Showing the center opening in the wheel which permits the pilot to see the instrument board, also his target

Sending the Bomb Straight

IF the pilot of a torpedo plane could not see the instruments which enable him to direct the bomb upon a true course, the results would be disastrous in the extreme. The handwheel of the Blackburn Blackbird torpedo plane is made so the pilot finds little to obstruct a clear view of his instruments, and he can look through the opening in the board both forward and downward, making no mistake when he turns loose the deadly missile.



A diagram of the handwheel showing the position of the roller and the aileron cable with various other interesting details of the mechanism

The handwheel is so constructed that only two spokes are necessary to connect the rim with a drum grooved to carry the aileron wires, the drum also forming the inner member of the control-wheel bearing. A roller at the end of the control lever enables the wheel to be turned without friction. The pilot can

thus conveniently manipulate the wheel and look through it at the instrument board, while also in position to look without obstruction through the center of the wheel and the board down at his target.

What We Have Learned about Wood Preservatives

ZINC chloride and creosote are often used for preserving wood, but it has been found that sodium fluoride will do as well. The Forest Products Laboratory thought that laboratory tests did not sufficiently prove this, and so in 1914 sap-pine ties were treated by the three preservatives and placed side by side. After five years they were examined. Those treated with creosote were in the best condition and those treated with zinc chloride and sodium fluoride showed but little decay.