

## LABOR TURNOVER COSTS BILLIONS

Assistant Secretary of War Places Blame on Lack of Industrial Training.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Labor turnover—the shifting of workers from one job to another—costs the United States \$2,500,000,000 a year. How best to stop it is the problem with which efficiency men and employment managers are always wrestling.

"It is difficult to realize that this country must pay so much," said Col. Arthur Woods, assistant to the secretary of war, yesterday, in commenting on the numbers of discharged service men already employed who are applying for better jobs. "But such is the case, and I believe that a great deal of this turnover can be directly attributed to the lack of a system of industrial training, wherein men who are unskilled but have the ambition to become skilled men can be trained for skilled work."

### Soldiers Want to Advance.

"Many discharged service men, upon being confronted with the old jobs they held before the war, say, 'What? Go back to the old humdrum way? Never!' Are they not right? They have come back better men in every way, with higher ideals and ambitions. These men took positions which to their minds were inferior, but only with the idea of later seeking something better. Indications now point to the fact that they are applying in increasing numbers to our employment bureaus for better places not because they hold any particular grudge against their employers, but because they see no immediate chance to better themselves while they are in the service. Inquiry at some factories discloses that workers are often assigned to tasks for which they are not suited, and where no provision is made for fitting them to the job."

"These returned soldiers of ours are certainly entitled to training. Even if they were not, it is to the advantage of the employer to give it to them. Industrial training means teamwork and efficiency, and consequently increased production. I say this not haphazardly, but from results obtained by such courses in some of the largest industrial plants in the United States. One of the largest electrical plants in the world has had such a system for some years, and outcome has been most satisfactory indeed."

Col. Woods has long advocated the establishment of industrial training classes in plants, not only to up-grade present employees, but to make it possible for discharged soldiers who have no trade to realize their ambitions, and become skilled workers.

**NEW AGE OF GRANDMAS.** When grandma was a girl, in those days maid did not dress like burlesque queens. She didn't wear a lot of rouge, nor six-inch heels upon her shoes. She didn't have a powder nor smoke a perfumed cigarette. She never donned a gossamer waist—but then 'twas scandalous how she laced! And, Oh! the hoop skirts and the bustles, the furbelows and plaited ruffles, the beauty patch and pantaloons she wore while dancing minuets. Her skirts fell sweeping to the floor and caught a million germs or more. The waist she wore was called a basque, to squeeze into it was a task. And once inside it made her bunch to raise her arms a half an inch. These things to grandma seemed all right; to modern maids they are a fright; and cigarettes are bad enough, but are they worse than pinching snuff? When I'm a grandma, thought I'll say, "Girls were more modest in my day."—The Kansas City Star.

**A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.** Of twenty soldiers who arrived from France recently, just one has not asked for his discharge from service. He's the only married man in the bunch.

With dozens of suitors, Miss Klinger Preferred the sweet song Joe would sing her.

And Joe, in this case, Finished first in the race. The reason was Joe was a ringer.

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## SHORT FURROWS

By the Noted Indiana Humorist



## KIN HUBBARD

### Demands Title And Pension As War Inventor

LONDON, Aug. 7.—Charles Hannan, novelist and playwright, has demanded knighthood and a pension from the government for himself and wife on the ground that he suggested to the British admiralty the advisability of using smoke boxes or smoke screens which were extensively used for the protection of British naval and merchant vessels

during the latter part of the war. He claims that he proposed this plan to Winston Churchill and the admiralty on Feb. 6, 1915, on condition that he was to receive knighthood and a pension. Mr. Hannan says the admiralty informed him it was not prepared to adopt his proposal.

Six months later, says Mr. Hannan, he joined the admiralty and for the first time discovered that experiments on the line suggested by him had been secretly conducted in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Hannan asserts that the first recorded use of smoke boxes in

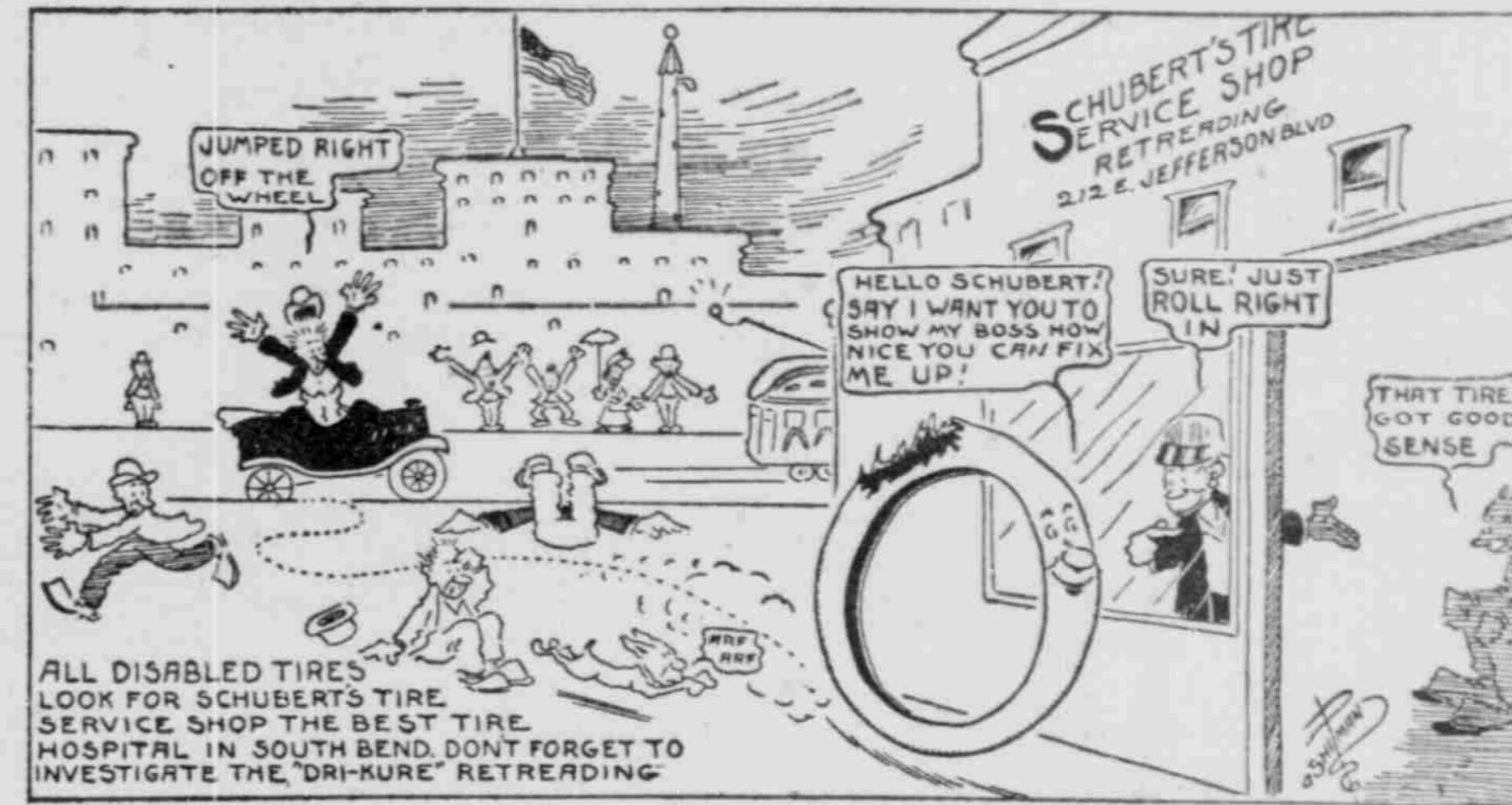
naval warfare occurred in the battle of Jutland, May 31, 1916.

For nearly two years Mr. Hannan has been writing to Premier Lloyd-George and Sir Eric Geddes, formerly first lord of the admiralty, claiming his reward. Failing, he has made his claims public through London newspapers.

**FRED'S INTENTIONS WERE GOOD.**

Fred—Kitty is certainly a matchless girl.

Harry—Yes; the absence of suitors long ago convinced her father of the same thing.—Answers.



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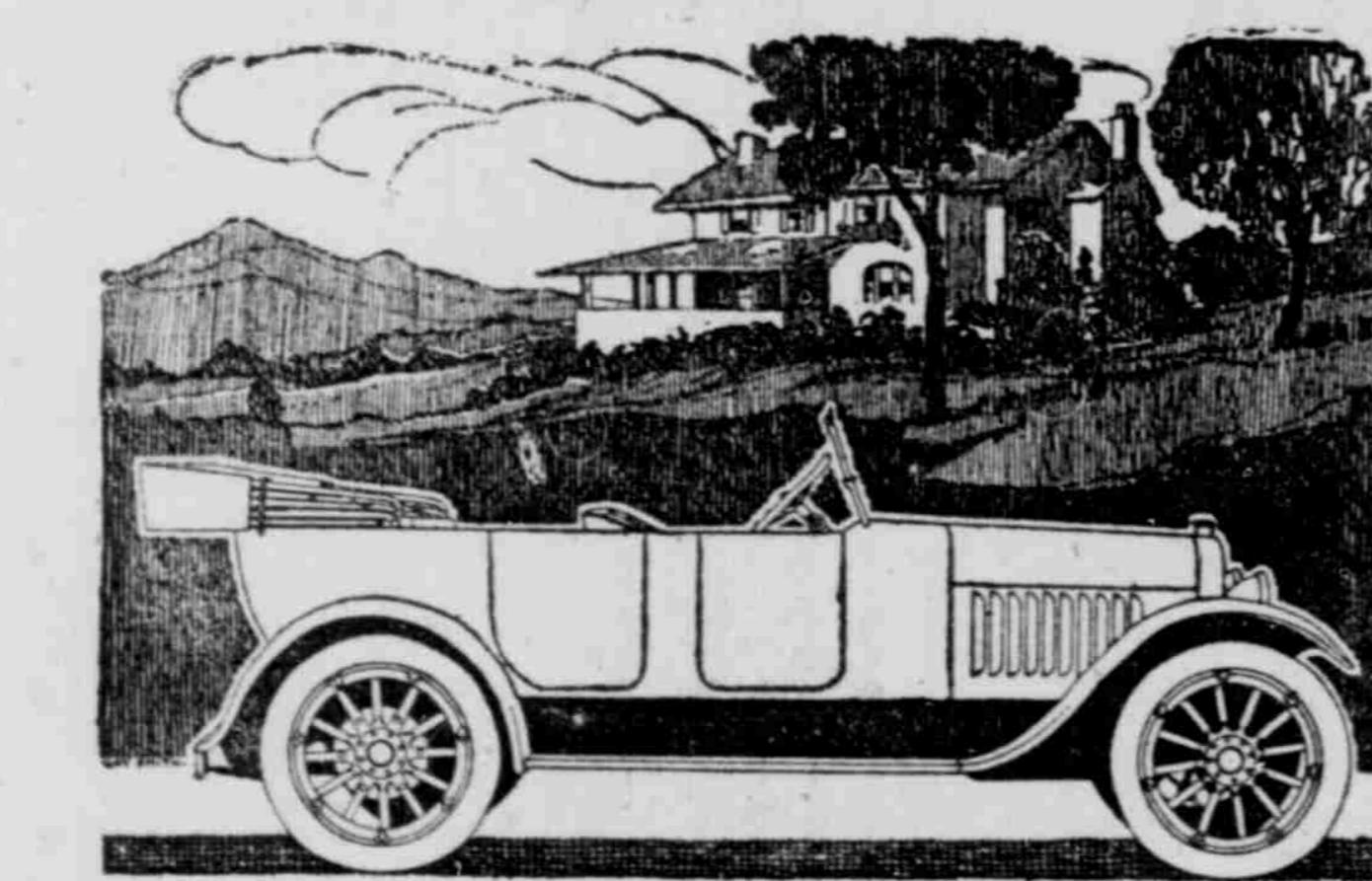
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