

The Standard Stripes

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1918.

SALVAGED AROUND THE S.O.S.

There is one recently started salvage plant in the S.O.S. where the personnel is out with a vengeance to beat the record for ingenuity set up by the mother plant at St. Pierre-des-Corps, near Tours.

At Tours they evolved a hospital slipper with a sole made from a torn and discarded campaign hat and an upper of O.D. cloth cut from anywhere. It was such a good slipper, and so easy to make, that St. Pierre-des-Corps soon reached quantity production on it.

At the new plant, which is at Lyon, the authorities waited in vain for campaign hats to arrive. They wanted to make slippers, too, but they didn't have the wherewithal. They didn't like it, either; they thought they were missing something.

Then one day in came 1,500,000 pairs of old canvas leggins, as dilapidated a cargo as one could wish to see. A Q.M. captain looked them over, scratching his head and muttering, "Now that I've got them, what am I going to do with them?" They seemed, on the face of things, utterly untransformable.

At last he had an idea. He drew the rough outline of a shoe sole on one of the broad surfaces of a discarded leggin. It fitted. With a pair of heavy shears he cut it out. Result: The "Lyon slipper" is now being turned out quite handily.

Its proponents, including its inventor, claim that the canvas sole has it all over the felt one for lightness and wear.

One of the jobs up to the Army's new shoe repair shops is the furnishing of railroad troops and hospital attendants with hobnail-less shoes. If there are not enough of the russet garrison shoes on hand, the hobnails simply have to be extracted, and by hand.

The railroaders claim that the hobnails slip as they climb about on the engines, and point to the fact that one of their number lost a leg by slipping and falling to catch himself in time. Therefore, they say, no more hobnails for them.

As for the hospital attendants, the objection to the studs and heelplates is primarily one of noise and, secondarily, one of floors.