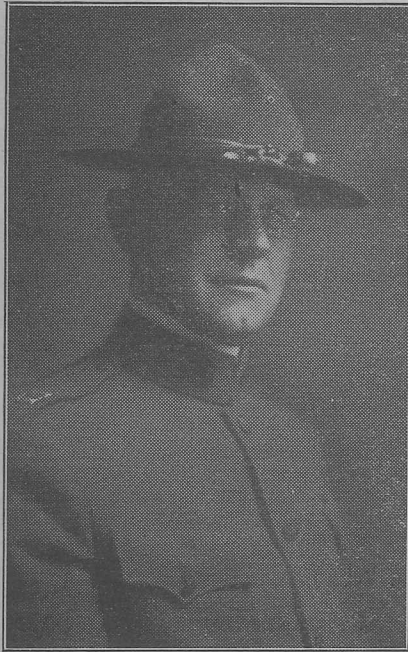


conservation of labor and material; exchanging them for merchandise therefore defeats this purpose.

### T. R. Patton "Somewhere" in France

ONE of the stars in the Erie service flag represents the former traveling passenger agent at Chicago, Captain T. R. Patton, who for many years has served the Erie railroad faithfully and with distinction in various places.

He was for a time ticket agent at Oil



CAPT. T. R. PATTON

City, Pa., and for the past five years traveling passenger agent under H. C. Holabird, A. G. P. A. He has been actively engaged in military work for nineteen years, having served as an enlisted man in the Pennsylvania National Guard during the Spanish-American war, and was later promoted to be first lieutenant and battalion adjutant, then captain and quartermaster of the same organization.

When war with Germany was declared he resigned from the Pennsylvania National Guard and entered the reserve officers' training camp at Fort Sheridan, Ill. After three months' training at that

camp he was commissioned captain of infantry, National Army. His faithful and efficient work won commendation from the instructors at the camp, and he stands high in the estimation of his superior officers.

Captain Patton is "somewhere" on the Atlantic en route to France to join his command. His many friends in all departments of the Erie wish him well, and are confident that he will wear the insignia of a superior rank.

### Byrne's Rhymes of the Rail

"RHYMES OF THE RAIL" is the name of a book of railroad poems written by C. J. Byrne, known as "The Poet of the Railroad Yards."

The poems of Mr. Byrne cover a broad expanse of thirty-two pages, and the themes chosen refer to almost all sides of railroad life, as seen by the author, and they are both humorous and sentimental. They have a wealth of rhythm running through them, and cannot but succeed in interesting the boys who know railroading as it is now carried on.

The book costs but a measly quarter of a dollar, and is worth much more than that for the laughs it contains. Send your remittance to Rhymes of the Rail Company, St. Paul, Minn.

### Wide Use of Soy Beans

NORTH CAROLINA claims rank as the largest soy-bean producing state in the country, with an estimated crop for 1917 of 1,500,000 bushels, an increase of 20 per cent over 1916. Despite this large crop, the oil mills of Eastern North Carolina imported 200,000 bushels of soy beans recently from China. A soy-bean harvester has been invented by North Carolina farmers, and is described in a bulletin issued by the experiment station in that state. This harvester thrashes the beans from the vines as they stand in the fields. Five types of soy-bean harvesters are manufactured by North Carolina concerns. Of the 1916 crop, 111,000 bushels were sold to canners for canned products, and nearly 100 manufacturers throughout the country are using soy-bean oil in making soap, paint, varnish, enamel, japans, linoleums, oilcloth and salad oils. The North Carolina Experiment Station publishes a pamphlet containing technical information from these manufacturers as to results with soy beans.

## First Erie Man Killed in the War

WHEN the ill-fated U. S. S. *Alcedo* was torpedoed and sunk in European waters on November 5, 1917, she carried with her to a watery grave the first of the great circle of Erie men enlisted in the service of their country, and the name of Michael Anthony Picciano, formerly boiler maker at the Susquehanna, Pa., shops, was placed in solemn honor at the head of the list of Erie men called upon to make the supreme sacrifice for liberty and justice in this greatest of all wars.

He was born in New York City January 17, 1890, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Picciano, and the oldest son in a

family of six boys and six girls. He was educated in the public schools of his native city, and at the age of 19, on May 24, 1909, began his career as boiler-maker apprentice in the Susquehanna shop, leaving the service at that point, entering it again at the Galion, Ohio, shop, and re-entering the Susquehanna shop as boiler maker, October 13, 1916. He was employed at the time of his enlistment in the United States Navy at the same



occupation, on May 25, 1917, from which date to the day of his death he served faithfully the land of his birth and the friend and ally of the land of his forefathers.

Of all the brothers, Michael alone was of military age, and in the window of the home at 306 Squires avenue, Endicott, N. Y., there still hung as recently as November 10 a certificate signed by a high naval official, which says that a son of that house has joined the fighting forces of the U. S. A. Picciano was an American through and through. His greatest thought was to get to the fighting zone as soon as the government would permit, and when the *Alcedo* sailed for foreign waters he was num-

bered among her crew of seven officers and eighty-four men assigned to man the vessel.

The *Alcedo* was formerly a yacht which had been converted to government service in patrol duty. On Monday, November 5, she was torpedoed by a German submarine. The missile tore a great hole in her side and she sank rapidly. Within four minutes the ship had passed beneath the waves, carrying with her one officer and nineteen men.

The sympathy of all friends and the respect of all Americans goes out to the parents who have given up their boy in such a cause. The Erie is proud of him.

### In Uncle Sam's Navy

ANOTHER youngster who has joined the colors and will fight for Uncle Sam is Verner Bacon, who is a graduate of the Erie Railroad Apprentice School at Dunmore, Pa., and received his mechanical tuition under

H. E. Blackburn, instructor of apprentices.

Young Bacon served with the Pennsylvania engineers on the Mexican border during the summer of 1916, and though but a youth has seen a great many things in army life and has had a broad and valuable experience.



When he received an honorable discharge he entered the Navy as a machinist on the ship *Solace*, and is reported to be happy and anxious to enter the trouble that the Kaiser has precipitated.

### The Kaiser's Valentine

Throughout the world on every path  
We read of Kaiser Wilhelm's wrath.  
His lustre's dim and cannot shine,  
He is the devil's valentine.  
Our khaki boys, both here and France,  
Will lead Wilhelm an endless dance.  
His valentine will be a slam,  
The one he'll get from Uncle Sam!