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**Austrian Artillerymen and Mechanics Assembling a Giant 30.5 Cm. Siege Gun for the Second Bombardment of Przemysl, June, 1915.**

By this time the United States had declared a state of war existing with Austria Hungary, Germany's chief ally, and had swung her domestic machinery into the greatest war machine conceivable. She had begun to raise by popular bond subscriptions billions of dollars to supply guns and munitions, and food and clothes, for the boys who were going over to France to do the job.

Four Liberty Loans were floated during the war, and the total subscriptions to these amounted to between eighteen and nineteen billions of dollars. This amount was taken by more than 50 million subscribers, and was to be only an insignificant factor in the financing of the war, according to the Treasury Department. This cost when compared with the total cost of the Civil War for four years—approximately \$4,000,000,000—is proof enough that the World War was not comparable with any previous war in history. In April, 1919, following the armistice, another Fifth or Victory Loan of approximately the same dimensions as the Fourth, was floated. The wonderfully prompt and generous response of the nation to each of the calls of the Liberty Loans was one of the greatest sources of inspiration for the men in uniform who had gone to fight for those at home. The same patriotic generosity that marked the success of the Liberty Loan was evident in each of the scores of war work drives that were conducted for the various relief and welfare organizations.

Food conservation—conservation of man-power, the work or fight order, the noble work of the women who sewed and knitted night and day for the Red Cross and the boys, the curtailment of profits and the simple economy was practiced by rich and poor alike, were but a few of the many war time measures that characterized the life of America's hundred and some million during the year and a half during which she was at war. No history of that war will ever have room for a just story of the part played by the loyal home folks—those who waited and prayed, and worked and gave, to keep the home fires burning.