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Indianapolis, Indiana

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A glance down the list of dead whose names appear in the Taps column of almost any issue of the Weekly confirms the oft-repeated truism that peace as well as war has its hazards and heroes. If space permitted, epics of peacetime heroism might be written about some of those Legionnaires whose passing must, unfortunately, be chronicled with but a few lines of cramped type. In this issue is listed the name of John Langford of Clearfield, Pennsylvania, a member of John L. Shade Post. In sending in a report of Mr. Langford’s death Post Adjutant C. M. Evans wrote: “He was injured in the mines on August 12th — pulled his brother out from under a fall of coal and got caught himself. Battlefields or coal mines, a burst of machine gun fire or a fall of coal—heroes always.

When the commanders and adjutants of practically all the departments got together in Indianapolis several weeks ago, they debated the proposal that an initiation fee of at least $5 be collected from every service man joining the Legion after July 1, 1927. It was argued that the man joining a Legion post which has existed nine months might reasonably be expected to make a contribution that would place him on a plane with the other stockholders of the post, the members who had supported it and built it up by paying dues in the earlier years. Many posts own clubhouses or other property of considerable value. In some instances, a service man joining a post now makes an extraordinarily good investment, judged purely by financial considerations. Merely by paying a year’s dues, he acquires a proportionate interest in all that his post has accumulated.

A DEPARTMENT commander said his state probably would be opposed to the establishment of an initiation fee. “It’s undemocratic and it smacks of the big stick,” he asserted. “When farming and business conditions are bad, it is hard enough asking for even the small sum in annual dues, and adding an initiation fee would put up the bars for many of the men we are still hoping to get in.” There is no doubt that an initiation fee would keep some men from joining. How many of these would stay outside the Legion no matter what were the terms?

A LEGIONNAIRE sends in a clipping of a story published on the front page of the New York Times, a newspaper which because of its comprehensive and careful covering of the news of the world most nearly approximates a national newspaper. The story, under a Toledo (Ohio) date line, says: “Tonight, 1,000 members of The American Legion are helping police comb the city for a beast-like man more than six feet tall, of dark hue, with long black hair, prancing front teeth, fiery eyes and almost superhuman strength.” This man, obviously a maniac, the story recites, struck down ten women in ten nights on darkened Toledo streets, killing two of them. If public opinion were a stock market, that story would send quotations on American Legion, preferred, up several points at least.

A story of another kind has been going the rounds of certain publications. This story is that a peace parade was held in Boston on Armistice Day, that most of the marchers were women and that when the marchers assembled to listen to speeches, the meeting was broken up by World War veterans.

The public is accustomed to think of World War veterans as Legionnaires. In reading the news, it does not draw fine distinctions on provocation or motives. Above all, the public has a liking for sportsmanship and fair play. Authoritative denial that any Legion post had a part in breaking up a peaceful meeting will not counteract entirely an unfavorable public reaction. Bad news travels fastest.

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Mr. Withington inspects the sidewalk in front of the officers' quarters at Fort Sam Houston which tripped him in the dark and crippled him for weeks.

The night was inky black. Sheets of rain swung back and forth in the dark, lashing my face and drenching my sodden uniform. I could not see them but they enveloped me in a chill and depressing shroud.

The dark walls that hemmed in the narrow passage down which I groped my way blended indistinguishably into the ebon night.

Slosh, slosh, slosh! One foot after the other through sticky mud and pools of water. Boots, heavy with rain, fell for one duck-board and then another. Suddenly they felt in vain. Slipping on the edge of a mud-greased board, my feet struck a jumble of broken planks. Forward I pitched into the mud. A sharp pain stabbed through my knee. The blackness without surged within my reeling brain.

No, this was not in France in October, 1918. This was no adventure in a trench. This was Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on a rainy Sunday evening in 1925, in front of the quarters assigned to an officer of the United States Army.

My experience set me to investigating. As a reserve officer, taking my fifteen days' training, I had not lost my newspaper point of view. I started out to get some facts on the housing of our military establishment. And I found plenty to write about.

Regular officers were hesitant about talking. They feared that my article would be regarded as propaganda inspired by the Army. Most of them had rather suffer in silence than lay themselves liable to that charge.

"Gentlemen," I answered, "I am subject to military discipline until next Tuesday. Then I am a civilian again and I propose to write about this thing on my own responsibility. I think I know the American people and I believe they have no intention of doing an injustice to men who are devoting their lives to the defense of their country."

So here is the story.

Fort Sam Houston is the largest military post in the country. It is one of the oldest in the West. It has always been important as a center for army activities. At present it is headquarters for the Eighth Corps Area, embracing the States of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. It is also the home of the famous Second Division and is an important base hospital and supply point. More than ten thousand troops are based there in peace time.

On the slopes and crest of Government Hill, on the northeastern edge of the historic and beautiful city of San Antonio, the old stone quadrangle, the Victorian era barracks and officers' quarters of the old fort, form a show place for tourists. The climbing vines and arching trees mercifully conceal the mouldering buildings. Few see the deteriorating interiors and the hopelessly antique plumbing and fittings.

But the old fort—it is called "the stone garrison"—is a picturesque screen for a real national scandal.

This is the "cantonment garrison," old Camp Travis of World War days—the vast and rambling collection of wooden shacks which a heedless and unprepared nation spent millions to have erected for the housing and training of the 39th Division.

It has its counterpart in other sections of the country, and what is said about it will apply to other posts from coast to coast.

When the United States entered the World War it had to provide both a means for raising and organizing armies and

Where some of Uncle Sam's commissioned officers live at Fort Sam Houston. Shacks like this were figured for income tax purposes at eighty dollars a month.
places to quarter them during training. Great cantonments were hastily built on cost plus contracts. haste was the order, and well it might have been. Officer material and hurriedly mobilized men were marking time, waiting for shelter and the training that must precede the great adventure in France.

"Hurry, hurry!" said the Army, knowing the task ahead.

"Hurry, hurry!" was the desperate cry of the Allies, bled white, and with their backs against the wall.

Rough, unpainted wooden structures were decided upon—two-story barns for the barracks, one-story shacks in which officers were packed and which were used for offices. There was no such thing as an "officers' row" of family quarters. Families must stay at home or live off the post. This was war.

"Build structures to last not over five years," was the order. "Get them done. Put tar paper on the roofs and over the largest cracks." Only a few buildings even had wall board linings to protect valuable papers from the rain. It was the flimsiest construction that could be imagined.

And so they built, roughly and hastily. The five-year period ended in 1922 with Camp Travis obsolescent, not only on the records of the War Department but to the eye of even the most casual and unofficial observer.

But Camp Travis—now part of Fort Sam Houston—still sprawls its unpainted shacks over the undulating slopes under a hot Texas sun, and in the searching gusts of cold Texas dashes to this or that building, going up in smoke and flame when its tinderlike structure comes in contact with something hot and burning. Far more frequent than the sound of drilling feet or the rat-tat-tat of machine-gun firing on the range—necessary functions of an Army that is prepared—is the symphony of axes and hammers where the soldier-carpenter gangs are tearing down some building to use the nails and boards to keep others, more necessary, from melting about the heads of those who occupy them.

In fact, I learned that men sorely needed for purely military purposes are daily diverted to this desperate patching without which officers and their families would have to sleep in the open and dress in the merciless dark.

I am told that one recent commanding general, getting advance news of an order to be issued from Washington forbidding the demolition of further structures, rushed most of a regiment to one of the more decayed areas and wreaked a score of swaying ruins, knowing that, if he did not act at once, shivering soldiers would be unable to inhabit the remaining structures on the post. Later investigations led to a modification of the order.

A captain, with a wife and three small children, one a mere baby, got Four families to a building, no privacy, thin walls, common lavatories—homes of ranking non-coms in the "Soissons Area" at Fort Sam Houston. Note the fire-escapes—and remember that the buildings are piles of tinder, built in 1917 to last five years.

The gold coast at Fort Sam Houston—buildings of the temporary wartime base hospital now occupied by field officers and their families. The curved roofs are not the result of earthquakes.
orders assigning him to one of the two-story fire traps in the section of the camp officially designated as Argonne Heights, but more popularly known as the camp, among the soldiers, Agony Heights.

"Rather than put my children in that incubator I will live in a tent," he remarked. But in the Army orders are orders, and he is planning to seal his family to his father's home while he sleeps in the prospective pyre assigned him by a grateful republic.

While I was waiting to see a staff officer to ask for information of the headquarters of the hospital, I had the privilege of overhearing a conversation between a lieutenant and the officer in charge of assignments to quarters. The lieutenant lived in a building adjacent to Argonne Heights' barracks, a structure designed as a temporary hospital ward and now housing four families. He had a letter from the attending surgeon, an exasperatingly cold one, regarding his health. He should have lived in the building where he now resides, for he is deteriorating in health ever since he lived there and I have attended him almost constantly. Their poor health is directly due to the dangerous and unhealthy quarters in which they live. They should have a change.

Remember, that is not the report of a health officer investigating the slums of a big city. It is an official opinion on the quarters assigned to an officer of the United States Army and his family.

Incidentally the lieutenant did not get a change—there was nothing better he could be assigned to. But winter is here and his suffering from the heat ought to be over. Pneumonia is quicker and more merciful than freezing.

Quite different in every way was the experience of another officer, living in one of the old one-story wards of the abandoned hospital. His, among other quarters, were built on a hillside, one end resting on the ground, the other swaying on stilts a dozen feet high.

He and his family went on a leave for a month. On their return they found that rusting pipes had sprung a leak, completing the rotting post supports, which collapsed, letting the floor, furniture and fixtures crash to the ground. It is not hard to imagine what would have happened had the family of children been in the house can be left to the imagination.

Down the Austin road is a weather-beaten clump of two-story buildings known as the Soissons Area. Here live the ranking non-commissioned officers of the post—staff sergeants with years of service to their credit and with families large enough to know of, four families to a small barracks, with toilet facilities in common and rickety ladders or stairways for fire escapes, these American soldier families, like many others, that would be prohibited by the authorities of any sizable American city. Yet it is this or nothing for them at Fort Sam Houston, and the law says that so long as there are quarters available on the post no commutation of quarters may be paid to those living outside.

In the N. C. O. area at Soissons the off-duty hours of the women and children are a get-away at once, without trying to save anything, and to go clear out of the area. This is necessary because fire spreads to the dry structures that the lives of any who remained would be endangered. Just recently authority has been obtained to tear out a whole line of buildings as a fire break, but the number of men in quarters has reduced the number of quarters available.

In the officers' area in Argonne Heights danger is probably even more acute. A high ranking officer told me that in the event of fire going out the nearest window doesn't stop for anything. In fact, this is probably the best advice even for second stories, although ladders with different running are very poor excuses for fire escapes.

There are other drawbacks than the danger from fire and the unhealthfulness of quarters. Most of the officers are crowded into four small barracks, hospital wards or offices. Thin window partitions have been thrown up to make rooms and to separate one apartment from the next. Dressing in the room for officers, the necessity of which is matched by the necessity of carrying on conversations in whispers lest one's neighbors know all of one's business.

The Army is provided quarters for several reasons. One is that discipline is better kept and work more efficiently done by the concentration of commissioned and enlisted personnel on the post. Another is that the continual (Continued on page 13)

So They Had Their Parade

By HARRY B. CRITCHLOW

In Oregon a big majority of citizens believe that Armistice Day has a greater significance than any other holiday except Christmas and the 4th of July. The organization of the Oregon Legion has done a splendid job in keeping Oregonians on the alert.

In the past the Portland Legion had been successful in its efforts. In the last legislative session there was written into the law a law making November 11th a state holiday, thus closing schools, banks and city and county buildings.

Passage of this law aroused the indignation of the Governor and manufacturers. In June a bulletin issued by the secretary manager of the Manufacturers' Association, entitled "Holidays and Holler Days," was sent out to all members of the Legion to keep open on Armistice Day.

Late in October the Portland Legion found that the majority of the merchants and manufacturers had banded together and had declared that they would remain open on Armistice Day. A committee appointed by the mayor, thinking that it was hopeless to expect anything better, arranged to hold a parade on Armistice Night. Then things started.

Commander Will H. Masters of Portland Post issued a statement to the effect that his post would parade at eleven a.m., November 11th, or would not parade at all. Colonel U. G. Worrior, Commander of the United Spanish War Veterans, backed Masters. Other organizations fell into line.

Then from the Manufacturers' Association over the signature of its secretary manager came another bulletin. It was intimated that the men who were leading the fight for a complete observance of Armistice Day had "fought in Russia and become imbued with the doctrines of Lenin and Trotsky." It asked: "Why should we close up shop and stand on the sidewalks and watch them strut by?"

The Women's Division Association of Oregon took the letter, bought space in the Portland Morning Oregonian and ran the entire document. They closed the advertisement with the question: "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

The effect of the letter and the publicity given it was tremendous. Public sentiment was entirely with the Legion. Letters and telegrams came from all over the State. The newspapers were crowded with letters answering the secretary manager of the Manufacturers' Association.

The largest department store in Portland announced that it would be open on Armistice Day to render the greatest observance followed. The committee appointed by the mayor met again and decided to follow the Legion and hold a parade at eleven a.m. Fraternal organizations passed resolutions of support and promised delegations for the parade.

The veterans of Portland were indignant—and when indignant they will march. The parade filled the streets to see a column three miles long march by. Stores and business houses of all kinds were closed and the city celebrated the greatest Armistice Day it has known since 1918.

The Portland Legion has gained many friends by its attitude. It has union labor and the best of the business interests backing it through. It has the backing of the leading educational organizations and the leading fraternal societies, and it has united all the veterans in the city.

Portland believes that Armistice Day should be a national holiday. It will not be long before the Legion will have been making locally will be carried to all parts of the country until legislation is enacted that will give the day the patriotic observance that it merits.
Americans in More Than Name

How One Auxiliary Unit Prepares the Aliens of Its Community for Citizenship Without Patronizing Them

THERE is the Pittsburgh, the original Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, but there is another Pittsburgh, without the h, in Kansas. The Kansas city long ago borrowed the name of the Eastern metropolis—but the h—but it only recently discovered that it had also acquired some of the original Pittsburgh's most puzzling problems.

The new Pittsburgh, like the old, is the center of a great coal mining region. And just as the peasants and workmen of Europe flocked into Pennsylvania many decades ago to dig the coal from its inexhaustible mines, so have they come to Kansas in later years to join the army of miners which has been mobilized as a comparatively distinct group within the population of a predominantly agricultural State.

The Kansas Pittsburgh some time ago awakened to the fact that the foreign-born miners and workers in the city's factories were not acquiring the habits and customs of their adopted land as rapidly as many of the expected. Working together in large groups, speaking the same languages they had spoken overseas, living compactly in colonies which preserved an old world atmosphere, buying foreign-language newspapers and attending foreign-language churches and schools, the newcomers too often became Americans in name only. Hundreds of them were content even to retain their old allegiances, to regard themselves as merely detached units from overseas nations, and were taking no steps to become American citizens.

This situation had been long recognized in Pittsburgh, Kansas, and many organizations of Kansas citizens had wondered what could be done to change matters. Something has been done now, and it is still being done.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit to Benjamin Fuller Post of Pittsburgh is in the midst of a great work which is rapidly bringing most of the foreign-born residents of the city out of isolation and seclusion into the normal life of an American community. It is helping hundreds of men and women, born overseas, to become American citizens through naturalization courts.

To understand how important the work of Benjamin Fuller Post's Auxiliary Unit is, one needs to know something of the whole national problem of immigration. He should remember that in this nation of somewhat more than 100,000,000 persons, hardly more than half of us are native born of native parents.

Millions have achieved Americanization through love and appreciation of their new mother country. But millions have acquired American citizenship without a proper understanding of the rights and duties which devolve upon a citizen of the United States.

The naturalization of citizenship has been generally commercialized and exploited for selfish reasons, too often for the sake of dollars and votes. In an amazing variety of ways, American citizenship has been conferred, imposed, sold and bargaining for. Ward leaders have presented it or forced it upon docile aliens who did not understand the difference between the Constitution and the Bible. Shyster lawyers have sold it to other unknowing foreign-born.

It is a special law the United States Government conferred it upon 300,000 subjects of other nations who received honorable discharges after serving in the Army or Navy of the United States during the World War. The naturalization laws of the past have had many loopholes: the present law and practice of naturalization leave much to be desired. The law now in force, enacted in 1906 and affected only by the Cable Act of 1922, which provides an independent status for the foreign-born woman, makes naturalization a comparatively easy matter, although it is the most exacting of the country's series of naturalization laws. Its requirements of five years' continuous residence, a minimum age of twenty-one and two supporting witnesses are easy enough for any alien to fulfill. The moral conditions involve behavior—-as a person of good moral character, "attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States," and oaths on the part of the applicant that he or she is not an anarchist, not a disbeliever in organized government, not a polygamist, that he or she intends to reside permanently in the United States. The applicant also must swear allegiance to the United States and forswear allegiance to any foreign state or sovereignty.

There is only one requirement regarding his or her personal capability for citizenship—ability to speak English—yet, as naturalization works out in its devious ways, many foreigners get by some courts and examiners with highly limited vocabularies of sadly broken English.

The American Legion Auxiliary in Pittsburgh, Kansas, has shown the possibilities of reducing Americanism to the limits of a practical and soluble—problem. In undertaking what should properly be a task for the State or the Federal Government, the Kansas unit has become a pioneer in a great movement.

The story of the Pittsburgh Auxiliary's notable success with citizenship classes contains nothing spectacular; it is a true tale of good head work, hard classroom work, and love of country.

In 1920 the Auxiliary to Benjamin Fuller Post joined with the D. A. R. and G. A. R. Ladies of Pittsburgh to create friendliness and warmth in the district court sessions devoted to hearing
petitioners for naturalization. The court proceedings were made more impressive by having the opening hour devoted to a service of prayer and patriotic songs and an address to the would-be citizens on the duties of citizenship. Committees from the women's societies remained at the courthouse throughout the day, giving a copy of the Constitution, a small silk flag and the flag laws of Kansas to each of the successful applicants.

The press knew of their co-operation in this program three times a year, in February, May and November, it became evident to the Americanism committee of the American Legion Auxiliary that although the combined patriotic societies of Pittsburg were doing a highly desirable work, something more was necessary. That something they felt to be a special school of Americanism to aid those who wished to become citizens of the United States to a better understanding of what being an American meant. That need was significant.

The court sessions had shown the Auxiliary women through the answers of the petitioners for citizenship that the naturalized citizen needed a better knowledge of American ideals and institutions. Thereupon the Pittsburg Auxiliary decided to establish a school devoted to such civics, history and study of the American Constitution and our government institutions as would help the petitioning aliens to become better American citizens.

The judges of the district court approved of the idea and aided the Auxiliary by giving it the use of the court room and providing lists of the applicants for citizenship.

Instruction in English is also provided in Pittsburgh's night schools, for which the American Legion and the Auxiliary are more or less responsible. Benjamin Fuller Post and its Auxiliary took the lead in calling into existence, the Council of Americanization Education, which made a survey of the city and secured the pupils for night schools. With the English of the alien candidate for citizenship taken care of in the night schools, the women of the Auxiliary in charge of these classes are able to concentrate during the ten lessons on this phase of Americanization.

Speaking of the Auxiliary's citizenship work, Mrs. John Tracey, chairman of the unit's Americanism committee, says: "The Auxiliary finds that its classes fill a continued need in the Pittsburg district. The practical aid we have been giving since 1921 meets with an appreciative response from those it is designed to help. The majority of those who go through such classes are children of immigrants who will be unable to distinguish from our own. I believe the secret of successful Americanization is that the Auxiliary can with our help and cooperation become the same sort of a big-city club as our earlier immigrant associations. The country's immigration problem is that we have been deluged with numbers and that we have met the flood by flimsy barricades which have served to separate and to prevent absorption instead of by permanent dams such as selective immigration, which would admit only such numbers and kinds as we can take to ourselves.

"Of the ninety-nine petitioners for naturalization for the present term of court, forty-five are enrolled in our courses, and the present class is the eleventh we have conducted.

"I have one criticism to make of night schools and Americanization classes as usually conducted. Too often the work is regarded by both teachers and pupils as welfare work, thus creating an atmosphere of resentment or indifference when attending the classes. Our way is simply to teach civics and history frankly. Those attending our classes would not like to go to the schools with native-American men and women who know too little of our language and because in most cases they have had little schooling in their own languages."

In various ways the adult pupils of the school voice their appreciation of what has been done for them by the auxiliary of Benjamin Fuller Post. One, an Italian merchant, when asked what he thought of American classes, answered, "An American viewpoint!" Another said, "I understand better now than when reading for myself in the Universal Constitu-

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Surely the school is doing an important work in this Americanization, one of which the Auxiliary may be proud.

Forward for One Million Members

CERTAINTY that the American Legion can increase its membership to one million men in 1926 was the outstanding impression of the delegates and admirers and adjutants of all the departments held at National Headquarters in Indianapolis November 16th to 18th.

In addresses by National Commander John R. McQuigg, Mrs. Eliza London Shepard, National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, and Stanley M. Doyle, Chef de Chemin de Fer of the American Legion Riders, and numerous papers read by Legion leaders representing every section of the country, the determination to mobilize every resource for the task of adding 400,000 new names to the Legion's roster was emphasized.

Membership was the keynote of a program which included consideration of the conditions of American Legion in interest, such as the legislation which will be sought in the new session of Congress, the proposals to obtain additional benefits for disabled men, particularly those in hospitals, and the arrangements necessary for holding the 1927 convention of The American Legion in Paris.

Reaching the goal of a million members in 1926 is largely a matter of aggressive work to reach service men in the larger cities, many speakers declared. The practical aid we have been giving since 1921 meets with an appreciative response from those it is designed to help. The majority of those who go through such classes are children of immigrants who will be unable to distinguish from our own. I believe the secret of successful Americanization is that the Auxiliary can with our help and cooperation become the same sort of a big-city club as our earlier immigrant associations. The country's immigration problem is that we have been deluged with numbers and that we have met the flood by flimsy barricades which have served to separate and to prevent absorption instead of by permanent dams such as selective immigration, which would admit only such numbers and kinds as we can take to ourselves.

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Contact with service men of the cities and the development of specialized activities which will impress them with the Legion's advantages.

National Commander McQuigg told the conference that as a result of the campaign for The American Legion Endowment Fund, more than $4,000,000 is now invested in interest-bearing securities. He said that the findings of campaign efforts now under way in a number of States are expected to produce more than the total of $5,000,000 sought for the fund. Commander McQuigg said that this campaign would be made to have Congress pass the coming session the Universal Service Bill, making possible the drafting of capital and industrial resources, labor and fighting men on a basis of equality in a war emergency.

Watson B. Miller, Chairman of the National Rehabilitation Committee, and Commander Ferrell, Chairman of the National Legislative Committee, outlined legislation for the benefit of disabled men and service men generally which will be sought at the coming session of Congress. They said that early action would be sought in Congress on a number of proposals affecting almost every service man.
If You’re Thinking About Going to Paris

By PHILIP VON BLON

WELL, as things look now, we’re going to shout the fame of Powder River—a mile wide and an inch deep and she flows uphill—from the figurative house-tops of Paris in September, 1927. Powder River’s battle-cry has been shouted vociferously now for seven years at national conventions of The American Legion—Minneapolis, Cleveland, Kansas City, New Orleans, San Francisco, St. Paul and Omaha know all about it, and Philadelphia is going to hear about it next October. And after Philadelphia—Paris. For, unless something mighty unexpected happens, The American Legion is going to cross the ocean two years hence and hold its 1927 convention in that self-same Paris.

An astonished French populace, ready to expect anything from those queer soldiers américains, is going to hear in boist song and song of a United States which it never knew existed—certainly a United States far different from the one which it saw in 1917 in the heroic rôle of avenger, protector and ally.

The Frenchman who cheered until his voice cracked when the first Yankee contingent paraded up the Champs Elysées on the Fourth of July ten years earlier is going to learn in 1927 that the United States is in reality only an expansive but insignificant lot of territory surrounding one moderate-sized, centrally-located Garden of Eden where the tall corn grows. But whoever heard of a Frenchman who could pronounce the name of Iowa? It’s hard enough for a native of Massachusetts.

And the Frenchman of wartime is also going to learn that certain other parts of the United States worship a sacred animal known as the old gray mare. Just imagine Texas and Oklahoma trying to explain that the noble steed ain’t what she used to be, on the Place de la Concorde.

Yes, the contemplative Frenchman in September of 1927 is going to get the surprise of his life. He will be told that the A. E. F. is coming back, that many thousands of the two millions of young Americans who dashed up and down his country during the World War will pay a return visit to Paris, to occupy Paris for a whole week, moving like an invading army upon the hotels, the restaurants, the theatres, the boulevards, the monumented squares and the famous playspots. He will be told that The American Legion, born of that great Army that once came to France, did a bang-up job of hastening the arrival of le jour de gloire and then went back home and disbanded, will make its G. H. Q. for a September week of 1927 in the Trocadero, Paris’s magnificent auditorium and exposition building, where it will hold its Ninth National Convention. He will be told that while that convention is being held, at least twenty thousand visitors from the United States—Legionnaires, their mothers and wives and children—will be seeing all there is to see in Paris, going on reverential visits to the battlefields on which American soldiers fought, and making pilgrimages to the great cemeteries in which America’s 30,000 dead of the World War lie buried.

Having been told all these things, the Frenchman could not be blamed if (Continued on page 15)
EDITORIAL

FOR God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the atheocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.—Preamble to Constitution of The American Legion.

Billy Is Buried

HE is commander of a reserve brigade, and as he has a fine war record behind him in a combat outfit, he is also money lender, advisor, guide, philosopher, friend and father confessor to the men of his regiment who know how to find him—and he makes no secret of his whereabouts.

And he is a Legionnaire.

A few weeks ago the sister of one of his war-time buddies came to him. Billy was dead. Could Billy have a military funeral? Soldiers to march beside his coffin, a bugler to blow Taps, a firing squad at the grave, flags, perhaps one of those queer incomplete farm-wagon looking things to carry the coffin on—what did they call them? Oh, yes, gun carriages.

“What could I do?” said the brigade commander in telling about the incident. “In the first place, there wasn’t much time. And Billy had never joined the Legion. Of a few hours’ notice I couldn’t get all she asked for. I called up Fort Blank and they sent a squad of Regular Army soldiers. Billy had his firing squad at the grave. But there was no bugler and there was no gun carriage.

“You see, I didn’t feel I had the right to ask my Legion buddies to quit work and lend a hand at Billy’s funeral. If Billy had been a Legionnaire I’d have felt an obligation to call on them. They’ve got the buglers and the gun carriages. They could have given him the funeral his sister wanted.”

“If they’d known about it they’d have done it. I don’t know. I may be wrong. But I’m taking the buck.”

Essential Legislation

WHILE the Universal Service Bill, calling for a draft of capital and labor as well as of manpower in time of war, is the most important piece of Legion-sponsored legislation before the present Congress, it is far from being the only objective of the Legion’s legislative program.

Representative Royal C. Johnson of South Dakota, himself a Legionnaire, has on his desk a completed bill which he will introduce embodying the recommendations of the Omaha convention of the Legion in the form of twenty-two amendments to the World War Veterans Act of 1924 for the relief of the disabled. The Legion will ask Congress to appropriate funds to build new hospitals or add to hospitals already built so as to make available 1,975 additional beds. The Legion will exert strenuous efforts for the passage of the bill for the retirement of disabled emergency army officers on the same status which other officers of the three branches of the service enjoy. In the Army, Navy and Marine Corps there were nine classes of officers from which a couple of hundred of them and the privilege of honorable retirement has been extended to eight of the classes, the exception being the temporary officers of the Army. This bill has twice passed the Senate but has been prevented from coming to a vote in the House by parliamentary tactics.

The Legion will request amendments to the immigration law giving veterans and their immediate families who are aliens a preferred status under the laws governing the admission of foreigners to this country. The Legion will recommend legislation requiring all aliens in this country to register annually, and that aliens convicted of a felony be deported. The Legion will oppose any legislation tending to weaken the act excluding from the United States aliens who are not eligible to citizenship. The Legion will ask for legislation granting American citizens in Porto Rico the right of trial by jury and American citizens in the Philippines the constitutional right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

These notations indicate the scope of the Legion’s interest in the welfare of the country and of ex-service men. The term of Congress which opened this week is known as the “long session.” Its limits are not definitely fixed, but it probably will not adjourn before next June. The Legion expects to accomplish a great deal during this session. But what it will accomplish will be in direct proportion to the interest taken in these questions by individual Legionnaires. That is what affects legislation. The National Legislative Committee will, as heretofore, keep the organization informed on the progress of legislative matters in which the organization has an interest. The next move will be up to the membership. They must indicate that they support the committee in its requests. That is what has won the Legion’s legislative battles in the past.

“A Real Service Society”

OAKLAND POST is the largest Legion outfit in California. At the last California department convention Oakland Post was adjudged to have rendered its community greater service than any other post in California.

Any connection between the two facts? The San Francisco Chronicle thinks there is. “Oakland Post,” it says editorially, “is constantly working for the benefit of the public, and its members are devoting their time and money to helping the community in a service of ways. Perhaps this is why the post has the largest membership in the State. Because it is a real service society, it attracts members and secures the admiration of the community. And the more community work it piles on itself, the more members it acquires.”

Every American Legion post has an individuality and acquires a reputation—a reputation that will assist it or one that will retard it. As a unit of service, a post depends for its growth and prestige largely upon the same factors which govern the individual careers of a surgeon or a lawyer. Society gives recognition and rewards to those who seem, by their accomplishments, to deserve them. Hence, “to him that hath shall be given”—a Biblical aphorism that is as true of American Legion posts as it is in its wider general application.

Soundly Rated

AN American Legion post which has solidly built its own character and reputation need never be doubtful of its community’s answer when the post calls on all citizens to help in a common task. Massillon (Ohio) Post promised to raise $1,600 for The American Legion Endowment Fund. Post members subscribed $661.23. Citizens were to be asked to contribute the rest of the money needed. Unexpectedly the Massillon Welfare Federation voted to give to the Endowment Fund $938.77, thus completing the $1,600 total sought. The contribution from the welfare fund was a testimonial to the confidence of the people of Massillon in Massillon Post—the same sort of confidence as that which enables one business man of standing and character to obtain loans freely from a bank when his less estimable rivals are turned down.

One scientist who has never won sufficient recognition is the economical housewife who keeps trying to perfect a good eggless cake in the kitchen laboratory.

A prudent Ohio belle with two suitors—a banker’s son and a husky tackle on the football team—passed up the scion of wealth so that she’d have someone to unscrew the tops from her jars of canned fruit.
A PERSONAL PAGE

by Frederick Palmer

It takes hard grinding work to succeed at farming. Yet work alone will not make success. The man with regular pay knows what his income will be, but no farmer knows until his crop is harvested. He is subject to the gamble of the weather. The potato crop fails, as a whole, but sections which have a good yield accordingly profit.

This year we have an unsurpassed three-billion-bushel corn crop. Corn-growers whose labor gave us the bounty are not sharing the prosperity boom. They are being offered fifty cents a bushel for a product that cost them seventy-five to grow. That means either having the capital to hold for better prices, or else debt or forced sale. Debts lead to mortgages; more bad years to foreclosures and to the number of farm owners continuing the decrease of recent years. This decrease is an ominous fact of national concern. A nation of farm owners is stronger than a nation of tenants. What is the remedy?

I have received several letters from Texas about how our first woman governor is progressing. Summed up, they indicate that politics is as partisan in Texas as elsewhere. As the writer is for or against “Ma’s” faction—or is it “Pa’s” faction?—he is for or against “Ma.” There creeps in the conviction, however, that “Ma” is doing what she is told by husband “Jim,” who sits on her right hand. Will it be necessary in order to know what kind of governor a woman will make to elect one who is known as the family boss or who is a widow or a spinster? Is there talk that “Ma” may be investigated. An investigation of the first woman governor will be big news carried by all the papers. We shall then be thoroughly informed.

Are you an Italian or an American? That is the first question to P. B. of Parkersburg, West Virginia, an Italian by birth who writes as “an ex-soldier in the American Army (not even a citizen yet) who willingly gave his blood on the battlefields of France.”

P. B. objects to my acclaim of some of the elements in the Sons of Italy who were campaigning against making it a branch of Mussolini’s Fascism. He says this is all a matter of personal jealousy and ambition within the fraternal order. In that case it is no business of other Americans, but it is if Italians in America are taking Mussolini’s commands.

Then P. B. goes on to say that “Fascism was the savior of Italy and Mussolini is the man that every true Italian needs.” Maybe he is. That is the business of the Italians who live in Italy, but true Americans do not need him.

The teaching of Fascism is as subversive of our institutions as the teaching of Bolshevism. Mussolini boasts that he would make all the world Fascist. The application of Fascism in the United States would mean the destruction of our Constitution and of popular rule; a dictator as long as he could hold his place by force; and Congress powerless.

If P. B. did not realize this before he ought to realize it after the new law which Mussolini has just had passed.

It takes all the initiative away from the Italian congress, which can neither make laws nor veto Mussolini’s decrees. Mussolini becomes as absolute as the former Czar of Russia.

He says frankly that he is ending democracy, for which men fought through the centuries, because it has survived its usefulness. He is to take any measures he chooses for his safety, which, to him, is the safety of the state. All criticism of his acts is to be suppressed by force. Such a censorship as we had in the war becomes permanent in Italy.

Also, Mussolini proposes to take away the citizenship of any Italian abroad who is not a Fascist, that is, who is not blindly for him. Is P. B., after fighting for America, worried lest as a “true Italian” he shall fall under the ban?

But P. B. hits the mark when he says, “It should not be a misfortune to be one of the later arrived.” Anyone making it so for a “later arrived”—who would be a true American and not a true Italian, Englishman, German or any other national—is himself not a true American, even if his ancestors came on the Mayflower.

“It’s impossible,” P. B. says, “to Americanize foreigners by calling them ‘dagoes’ and ‘wops.’ Let’s get together and help them and make real citizens of them.” True, absolutely true.

The best way for a foreign-born man who fought under our flag to help Americanize the people of his own race is by being an American citizen himself in fact and spirit. I am a little puzzled why P. B. is not one seven years after the war. Americanization means democracy. The ancestors of all Americans came here to enjoy democracy. Italy is no longer a democracy. Her people are suffering from an obsession which they will find has cost them their liberties. All right, P. B., be proud of your parents’ blood, but hurry up and become an American. Put the seal on your blood test—or return to Italy and touch your cowlick to Mussolini! Pride of ancestry, but no national concern except America, no international concern except the good of the world as a whole.

The world does not lack variety. Otto Becker was a ship’s oiler. He missed his ship in New Orleans for England because a laundry did not return his overalls in time. He had to sign on another ship which meant that he would not see his family in England for another year. But Otto did not lose his nerve or imagination. He has brought suit against the laundry for $5,137 damages. That may seem steep for one pair of overalls. Some Americans who were in France for a year will not think it steep for being kept away from your family for a year.

The Yankee Division Journal says jokingly that it has mentioned that there were other divisions in the war without protests from readers. Loyalty to division is the sweeter for realizing there were other divisions. A sense of the fraternity of all who served in the trying days is the very best appeal for Legion membership and will be successful nine times in ten.
If You're Stumped on What to Give

By Wallgren

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**See reminder in newspaper:** 
"Do your Xmas shopping early"

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**See if I can't get a good idea out or a magazine:** — Hmm!! A diamond wrist watch? **No!!** She wouldn't want one of them. She's got a party good one I give her six years ago!! Hmm? — **Hmm!!**

---

**Perfumery:** A nice bottle of good perfume? I s'pose she wouldn't like the odor. I'd pick out!! I don't s'pose she'd like anything I'd pick out anyway!! I found that out when I bought her that petticoat!!

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**Not a pearl necklace — she's got one of them things!!** She's bin hintin' too much about a fur coat anyway!!

---

**Have a reminder:**
By golly! That's so — I haven't got anything for Florry yet!! Let's see now — wonder what she'd like —

---

**And rings?** **Nope!!** A woman don't appreciate a ring unless it's about 92 carrots!! Earrings!! Lavalieres!! Joolers!! Good golly!! Can't I think of nothing but joolery? **No!!** She'd want something she'd use —

---

**Now that mightn't be so hard —**

---

**Perfumery:** A nice bottle of good perfume? I s'pose she wouldn't like the odor. I'd pick out!! I don't s'pose she'd like anything I'd pick out anyway!! I found that out when I bought her that petticoat!!

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**Movin' on:**
See if I can't get a good idea out of a magazine — Hmm!! A diamond wrist watch? **No!!** She wouldn't want one of them. She's got a party good one I give her six years ago!! Hmm? — **Hmm!!**

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**Perfumery:** A nice bottle of good perfume? I s'pose she wouldn't like the odor. I'd pick out!! I don't s'pose she'd like anything I'd pick out anyway!! I found that out when I bought her that petticoat!!

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**Not a pearl necklace — she's got a pearl necklace!!**

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**Wrist watch:**
**And she's got a bracelet —** Hmm! Wonder what she's got some new-fangled idea the women are all crazy about this year —?

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**And rings?** **Nope!!** A woman don't appreciate a ring unless it's about 92 carrots!! Earrings!! Lavalieres!! Joolers!! Good golly!! Can't I think of nothing but joolery? **No!!**

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**Movin' on:**
See if I can't get a good idea out of a magazine — Hmm!! A diamond wrist watch? **No!!** She wouldn't want one of them. She's got a party good one I give her six years ago!! Hmm? — **Hmm!!**
movement of individuals and units makes private homes impossible.

These facts make an implied contract between the Government and the Army that requires the nation to give its defenders quarters at least equal to those which persons in corresponding status in civil life can maintain. The United States is woefully deficient in its part of the contract.

I visited the home of a lieutenant. A charming wife, the daughter of a major general, was doing her best to make an attractive home atmosphere for the husband and the baby that played on the splintering floor. There was attractive furniture, and an attempt at decoration on the wall-board partitions.

But these things could not conceal the ugly stains that covered nearly all the ceiling, showing where each rain seeps through on furnishings and occupants alike. Nor could they plug the rattling, leaking windows and doors, or cover the cracks that let dust and cold into the house.

Broken, decaying sidewalks, like the one on which I fell and so lost most of my precious fifteen days of training, led from a morass of mud that edged a road whose paving wore out five years ago under the pounding of gun-carriages and trucks.

Yet, under questioning, my lieutenant friend told me that—until a recent change in the law—he had been compelled to pay income tax on the sum of $80 a month, the alleged equivalent of his quarters figured as rent.

I asked a building wacker, experienced in values, how much he would pay for the entire building—several officers lived in it. He said he might give $15 for the whole business—if he happened to be needing lumber very badly.

There is a bill before Congress that will do much to remedy the situation if its passage can be obtained. It proposes the sale of many old and unused army posts and the use of the money to carry out part of the permanent housing plan for the military forces.

Will it pass? It will if real economy, business judgment and justice for the soldier can triumph over the powerful influence of the unneeded garrison in someone's home Congressional district.

There is no economy in cutting down the efficiency of officers and men by subjecting them to unnecessary hardships in time of peace and by punishing a family because the father wears the uniform of his country. There is no economy in a shortage of quarters that compels officers at Fort Sam Houston to live in the city, drawing commutation of quarters in money, inadequate to pay civilan rent but expensive to the government.

One officer told me that there were 150 such officers at this one post alone, drawing an average of $100 a month as commutation. That is $1,200 a year per officer, a sum large enough, at Texas rates, to finance the building of a $10,000 home for each officer, paying interest and providing a sinking fund.
A \textbf{NO}THER Legion outfit is taking the air regularly. The new-comer is Castle Williams Post of Decatur, Illinois, which will take over Station WJBL (270 meters) of the American Legion at 9:30 o'clock, Central Standard Time. Castle Williams Post made its air debut on November 20 when Sergeant Lucas, newly elected Department Commander of Illinois, spoke from WJBL under the auspices of the post. Following its initial program, telephone calls, telegrams and letters of applause were received from an area bounded by Canada, Louisiana, Massachusetts and Colorado. A second program was given on Armistice Day.

Carl J. Meacham, Past Commander of Castle Williams Post, reports that his outfit is prepared to supply entertainment with its own Voyles-Finley American Legion orchestra, its own male trio, vocal and instrumental soloists and its forty-piece trumpet and drum corps. In addition to its neighbor, Louis E. Davis Post of Bloomington, Illinois, is commanded respectively by the WJBL studio upon request.

Considering the Chicago and Cook County posts as a single group, the radio score now stands two to one in favor of the Department of Illinois— with the one being represented by Ralph D. Caldwell Post of Woodford, Illinois, and one by the Department. Of this in number, are on the air at two o'clock every afternoon except Saturday and Sunday from Station WMAQ. Ralph D. Caldwell Post has made arrangements to use Station WCCH of Portland, Maine, and its first program will be announced soon.

The first direct report to this department of the reception of a Legion radio program came from Adjutant A. F. Rader of U. S. Center Post, Smith Center, Kansas. The Radio Editor requested that Legionnaires report to him how the American Legion program was received. Adjutant Rader relates that “we received the Legion program from Station WSMB, New Orleans, Louisiana, in great shape and it was enjoyed by our family from start to finish. Come on with some more of them.”

Another report of returns was received from John S. Hoover of Houston, Texas, Commander of Thomas Dismuke Post of Houston and Department Executive Committeeman, in addition to being the representative of the Department of Texas in the Weekly[of] Hoover is now Commanding Officer of the Radio Committee. On Armistice Day, Comrade Hoover broadcast from KPRC, the radio station of the Houston Post Dispatch, National Commander McGuigg’s address also read to his radio audience the first prize letter from the Weekly in Frederick Palmer’s contest for the best answer to the question, “What Good Did I Get Out Of My Service in the War?” As a result, letters were received from R. D. Funk of Hills, Minnesota, and from H. G. Walker of Crystal City, Texas.

\textbf{Comrade Alex M. Stewart}, a former member of Field Artillery Post of New York City and at present affiliated with London (England) Post, in the Weekly of Hoover is Past Commander of the Legion in Scotland. His message also was read, and his radio audience the first prize letter from the Weekly in Frederick Palmer’s contest for the best answer to the question, “What Good Did I Get Out of My Service in the War?” As a result, letters were received from R. D. Funk of Hills, Minnesota, and from H. G. Walker of Crystal City, Texas.

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\textbf{Riverside} Sanatorium at Granite Falls, Minnesota, is a civilian institution and therefore cannot be used by the American Legion. The Sanatorium is maintained by four counties and the citizens of those four counties are contributing to a fund to insure the purchase of equipment. Legion posts located in that section of the State are co-operating in the work.
If You’re Thinking About Going to Paris
(Continued from page 9)

he were to envision the approaching army of visitors as he remembered that first A. E. F. of ten year earlier. Imagine his surprise when the A. E. F. of 1927 takes possession of the Grands Conventions two centuries, for Manhattan, decked in chaps and spurs and lariats and ten-gallon hats, shouting the marvels of Powder River; with Iowa’s hosts singing the praise of their tallaut’s, flaunting ten-foot cof- fines and scattering golden grains; with rangy and sombreroed Texans riding old gray mares; with Californians dressed in the bright garb of the Sunflower State, for the dilapidation of the Forty-Niners; with roaming platoons hugely bemaled and beribboned and thus proclaimed Gophers and Badgers or natives of the Sunflower State, the Keystone State or what have you.

There will be a song for every costume, and the Frenchman who imagined he had learned to speak the same language was baffled by what was wrong with his textbooks. Shouting, singing, care-free Americans on a holiday, men and women who in eight previous years had helped make notable sections of the American Legion develop into their country’s most distinctive national pageant, will give to Paris a new thrill. It’s going to be a great crowd and a great time—almost as great as a lot of others.

At this moment the France Convention Travel Committee of The American Legion is methodically and thoroughly making all the plans and arrangements necessary for the American Legion to hold that 1927 national convention in Paris. That committee has been doing its work since last January, when the National Executive Committee appointed a representative from each State, told it to investigate whether it would be feasible to hold the convention in Paris and to gather all available information on the reported board of the National Committee to the National Convention in Omaha last October facts and figures to prove that the proposal to go to France in 1927 was entirely feasible and that tentative arrangements had been made which would insure the success of the undertaking.

The National convention approved all the recommendations of its committee and the tentative arrangements. Contracts were made and authorized it to keep on with its work. In effect, the Omaha convention gave notice that the Legion is making all its plans to go to Paris in the autumn of 1927, and confirmation must be given when the Legion holds its 1926 convention in Philadelphia. The national charter of the Legion and its Constitution and By-Laws allows that each year’s convention shall be selected at the convention preceding it.

At this time there is not a single cloud to dim the fair prospect of the convention, and contracts have been entered into with the steamship companies. The French government has expressed its gratification. The railroads of the United States have agreed to do an unprecedented thing—grant round-trip transportation for one-way fare between all ports in the United States and ports of embarkation. Statistics have been gathered showing that the cost of attending the convention will be comparatively so low as to be within the reach of almost everybody. Savings clubs have been started by banks in towns and cities throughout the United States to enable any Legionnaire to make weekly deposits of $3, $5 or more, so that he may accumulate before September of 1927 enough to pay the entire cost of his pilgrimage.

Only one technical barrier has been encountered in the arrangements being made by The American Legion France Convention Travel Committee. A provision of the Legion’s national charter, granted by Congress, specifies that business meetings of the organization must be held in American territory. It has been ascertained that this provision may be complied with in one instance, but in another instance, it is possible that the Trocadero, at which the convention sessions would be held in Paris, could be leased for the convention period to the American embassy, thus making it the building for the time being. Another method of complying with the requirement would be to have preliminary and final sessions of the convention in Paris, after the Trocadero, in Fullonica, or some other building, in compliance with the terms of the national charter.

The second A. E. F. will be a top-of-the-world outfit from the time it sails from the United States until it returns. No transports this time. No troop or guard duty. No submarine deck drills. No standee bunks ten decks below water-line. No mysterious slum hanged out in chow lines by hard- billed bootblacks. No ragged faced killjoes with side-arms shouting, “You can’t stand there, soldier!”

Instead there will be modern, comfortable and even luxurious steamships, with stateroom accommodations for everybody wanting them. There will be absolute freedom to roam all over the ship. There will be real food served in attractive dining salons by attentive stewards. There will be orchestras and dances on moonlit decks.

The Legion committee has arranged to obtain from the United States Shipping Board a large number of liners of the designated as “official ships.” Because the government line cannot possibly assign enough ships to carry everybody, arrangements have also been made to have “official ships” as planned by foreign steamship companies. Notably these being direct service between American and French ports. Unprecedented concessions have been made by the steamship companies. Each official ship will be practically a one-class ship. In other words, every passenger, regardless of the location of his stateroom or the price of his accommodations, will have the privilege of using the entire ship. No sticking

Meals You Only Read About!

Speak up, for the dish that pleases your palate, and make your stomach like it! Lobster salad, cabbage, even mince pie is digested with ease, if you give your digestive system a little help.

Dyspepsia! Indigestion! Sour stomach! These ailments are not caused by what you eat. Give your digestive system a chance, and it will function with almost any kind of food. Yes, doughnuts; baked beans; dishes cooked with onions. Stuart’s dyspepsia tablets give your stomach the alkaline it needs—and that’s all there is to it! Eat your fill, and don’t worry.

Men and women of every age, in all walks of life, have been worn by Stuart’s—for more than thirty years. Pleasant, harmless and they do the work: take immediate effect.

Your First Box FREE!

Any druggist in the land has Stuart’s dyspepsia tablets. A big box is only 60¢—they are less than a penny apiece! So why suffer? Get a 25¢ metal box of Stuart’s for the pocket—and keep it filled. One box free if you write the F. A. Stuart Company, Dept. 4, Marshall, Mich.

STUART’S
DYSPEPSIA
TABLETS
WORK
FOR
"UNCLE
SAM"

U.S. Government Jobs
Ex-Service Men Get Preference
$1170 to $3000 Year
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Common education usually sufficient
Mail coupon today—PLEASE
Name__________________________
Address_____________________

—Courtesy of Legio's

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below decks in third-class cabins, en- 
yving the man who happens to be in the palatial lounging rooms and dining rooms in the first-class section on the upper decks!

And then, in Paris itself. This time no A. P. M. to report to at the Gare. No cordon of red-armbanded M. P.'s stopping you to ask whether your passports are in order. No provost guards barring you from places defend or throwing you into the brig for overstaying a twenty-four-hour leave limit. Instead, a Paris of laughter and light and life, with its gayly-thronged boulevards, its rows of sidewalk cafes, its incomparable theatres, its ancient churches, palaces and museums, its country-bridges, its parks, its river, the Seine, and all the many, many people. Everybody who has ever been there wants to go back, and everybody who hasn't been there would like to go.

At the end of September the weather in Paris is at its best. Sunshine rules the days and the nights are pleasantly cool. Nature provides perfect stage settings for the most light-hearted people of the most light-hearted city of all, and Parisians are happily freed from war and its aftermath.

September, too, will be a most ap- propriate month for the thousands of American pilgrims to visit the American cemeteries and the battlefields on the American Ways. It was September that General Pershing's armies began the final drives on many fronts which marked the beginning of the end of the War. Every American who finds himself in France will find himself a better citi- zen after looking upon the multiplied rows of white crosses which recall the names of the dead. Every Legionnaire who goes to the conven- tion in Paris would most certainly feel a moral obligation to pay a personal tribute to the dead in our cemeteries in France, and those planning the arrangements should be asked to signify their intention so that arrangements may be made for transporting them and caring for them. The Legion's journey to France, therefore, will be not only as a national pilgrimage honoring those who gave all for their country.

The France Convention Travel Committee has been commissioned to make plans accommodating everyone expecting to go to Paris with the Legion two years from now. It has been given exclusive authority to conduct negotiations with the Amer- icans that the American Steamship companies, the hotels in France and the tourist agencies offering side trips. This arrangement conforms with precedents established at national conventions and is especially important that one central committee contract for steamship and hotel accommodations and allot these ac- commodations to the Legionnaires of each department. Were the departments themselves to undertake bargaining individually with the steamship lines and the hotels in Paris, it is obvious that the American Legion member would force rates upward and lead to multiplied confusion. All departments, therefore, have been asked to conform with the plans approved by the Seventh National Convention at Omaha by co-operating with the France Convention Travel Committee.

The advantages of having one central body make arrangements for everybody are already evident. Tentative con- tracts have been entered into with the steamship lines by the Legion commit- tees to pay for accommodations at rates lower than could possibly be obtained by individual bidding for space by de- partments. Negotiations with hotels in Paris have already produced the assurance that there will be ample space available in the Paris hotels at reasonable rates for the convention period. The committee ex- pects to take over practically all available rooms in the hotels and pensions and will make arrangements with the Legion de- partments, giving preference to the basis of membership achievements.

The national committee will not make actual reservations until after the convention and reports from Philadelphia next October. While there will be no physical class barriers or distinctions on the Legion ships, naturally there will be a variety of prices, depending upon the lodging and the accommodations and the food selected by the individual. Likewise, a Legion- naire may obtain in Paris all grades of accommodations, from an expensive apartment in a big hotel to a small room in a pension.

Official ships would sail from Mon- treal, Boston, New York, Newport News, Houston, and possibly other points. The cost of the trip is estimated to consume a minimum of from twenty-three to twenty-seven days, depending upon the port used. This period would allow seven days in France. Arrange- ments will be made, however, to permit those desiring to stay more, time in France.

For those desiring the minimum grade accommodations, the actual ex- pense of the round trip is estimated at about $175. This would include all that need be spent from the time of leaving an American port to the time of ar- rival back at the home port. For the medium-grade accommodations, the cost is estimated at $250, while the best grade of accommodations probably can be procured for approximately $450. These figures include steamship and land transportation between French ports and Paris, seven days' housing in France with breakfasts, and a trip to the cemeteries and battlefields.

The French, an added expense is the cost of railroad fare between the Legio- nnaire's home and the port from which he sails, and the distance from port would govern the total time period of the medium-grade allowance. Even the convention tourist would also wish to have surplus funds for incidental ex- penses. The committee, therefore, re- commends that a man wishing the mini- mum grade must allow $250, ob- tain his railroad fare in the United States and his spending money.

An important rule, approved by the Convention, is that the Legionnaire in the French pilgrimage to Legion- naire who has been paid-up members in both 1926 and 1927. Women, to take the trip, must be paid-up members and members of the Auxiliary in both 1926 and 1927. Exceptions will be made only for children and grand- children of Legioneers or members of the Auxiliary.

The France Convention Travel Com- mittee has appealed to every Legion- naire planning to go to Paris in 1927 to start saving both money and time now. To help the Legionnaire save
money for the pilgrimage, banks in every city and town in the United States have been asked to promote American Legion Savings Clubs. These clubs are organized in the same manner as the usual Christmas savings clubs—Legionnaires to deposit weekly $3, $5, $7.50 or larger sums. All money deposited would bear interest and remain in the banks until shortly before the convention. It would be arranged at the proper time to transfer to the credit of the national Legion committee the reservation deposits, for any individual depositor. In this way, money will remain in local banks and full interest will accumulate for the longest possible time.

Those intending to make the trip have also been advised to start saving time by shortening or eliminating their vacations in 1926 so that they may add the time thus gained to their 1927 vacation periods.

The France Convention Travel Committee has already sent announcement cards to all American Legion posts in the United States and it expects to issue from time to time detailed information in additional announcements for distribution to individual Legionnaires.

If you hope to go to Paris to attend the 1927 National Convention of The American Legion, fill in the half-page order card which is on the inside of this magazine back cover of this issue and mail it as directed. This will place you under no obligation whatever, but it will help The American Legion France Convention Travel Committee and will ensure that you will receive future announcements issued by the committee.


JOHN T. MURPHY, Haughton Post, Racine, Wis. Serve with Co. F, 131st Inf.

ALBERT F. NELSON, Union B, 314th Inf. Serve in France.


WILLIAM L. PENNY, Versailles (Ky.) Post. Serve with Co. C, 131st Inf.

STANLEY POLING, Howard Hall Post, Circleville, O., Serve with Co. C, 131st Inf.

HARRY H. FONTOW, Champaign Post, Creston, Ia. Serve with Co. C, 131st Inf.

CHARLES W. SCOTT, Bluefield (W. Va.) Post. Serve with Co. C, 131st Inf.


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For country work, auto or team required. Begin at once or later, but secure territory now. Experience not necessary. If interested, send a 4 oz. bottle vanilla free. Write at once.

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Make the Sportsman's Christmas happy with a new pair of British War Office model field glasses. A free trial coupon will bring you this handsome pair of British War Office model field glasses. A special purchase made for the American Legion at a very low price. Valued in parkin and black ename. finest achromatic lenses. Distinguished handcraft. Center focus, and extra large field of view. Fifteen in. in diameter lenses. 50 m. objective. Delicately finished. All lenses guaranteed in perfect condition.

Shipped promptly, complete with a beautiful grain leather case of English workmanship, on receipt of attached coupon for five days' free trial. If satisfied, send check or money order for $5.00.

Order your field glasses for gifts today.

HENDERSON BROTHERS
Largest importers of field glasses in America

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FREE TRIAL COUPON

Please send me on 5 day's free trial one pair War Office Model Field Glasses. After 5 days' trial I will return glasses or remit $5.00.

Name

Address

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$9.85 Postpaid

Order your field glasses for gifts today.
Cold Feet

"Mother," asked little Willie, "is it wrong to pray for rain?"

"Why, of course not, dear," she replied.

"Why?"

"I promised to take that girl next door to a ball game Saturday, and I just found out she doesn't know what an umpire is for."

Mr. Stokes Becomes Curious

[Notice in Lisbon (N. D.) Free Press]

To Whom This May Concern: The box taken from my backyard the afternoon of July 27, 1925, was delivered to me by a true friend and explained that the same belonged to me, but my slow and humble brain does not allow me to thoroughly understand. In view of the above facts the ignorance attacked thereon, I believe, gives me the liberty to say, that if the party who removed the box in question from said backyard on the date mentioned above, will come to me like a man and fully explain, I will thank him very, very much.—Bux E. Stokes.

Grand Old Vistas

"When in Europe did you see many rains?"

"Well, we met one baron, two counts and a grand duke."

A Highly Moral Flashlight

[Ad in Buffalo Evening News]

BLUE coat lost between Buffalo and 18-Mile Creek, containing fountain pen, flashlight, pictures and other religious articles.

Lumping the Bad Luck

"You say it was just hard luck that brought you to prison?" asked the well-meaning visitor.

"Yes," answered the convict sadly, "I made a counterfeit two-dollar bill on Friday the thirteenth."

Social Event

[From Gilbert (Nev.) Record]

Someone proposed that a drunken man's race be held. As Gilbert is not one of these wild and woolly camps where red likker flows freely and anyone can tank up at any time, some difficulty was naturally met with when a search was made to find men eligible for this event. Two men were finally located who had taken on "just enough to feel right," and, with a sober man as pacemaker, the race started. The loads the two drunks were carrying overbalanced them, and they fell down long before reaching the rope. The event then was called off.

Twelve Good Men and True

Court had adjourned for lunch and the jury was assembled on the lawn.

"We might as well make the most of our time," suggested the foreman, "by bringin' in the impartial verdict right now."

"How come?" inquired Juror No. 2.

"Because we ain't heard the evidence of the defense to prejudice us."

Pause and Shed a Tear

[From the Villager (Idaho) Review]

Death in any form saddens the heart, and the heart of Ollie Murren was saddened when the tender flocks were severed, and over 60 of his favorite hogs succumbed and passed over the silent river, were permanently parked, and now lie peacefully sleeping beneath the myrtle, the ivy and the willow.

THE OPEN ROAD

The South American Peril

If its wir in the stars and in Luna That Peru and her neighbors quite soon a Big war will declare: I'm filled with despair. For where will we get our Peruana? Civil war's ever near in Killarney, "Mongst a people who throw out the blarney, But chilli at war Concerns me the more; They'll embargo our chilli con carne. —George I. Sullivan.

Lifting Them High

"Did yo' run when he started shootin'?" asked George.

"Ah, right 'n' reckin' of it," replied Jasper, "but Ah reckon Ah must o' been travelin' right along, 'kaze de bottom o' my feet is full o' buckshot."

Well, That's Long Enough

[Ad in Louisville (Ky.) Herald]

LAUNDRESS, good for 2 days.

Bursts and Duds

Payment is made for material for this department. Unavailable manuscript returned only when accompanied by stamped envelope. Address American Legion Weekly, Indianapolis, Ind.

Friends in Need

"Has your fraternity ever done anything for the college?" demanded the dean.

"Why," replied the representative of the n'er-do-well brotherhood, "if it wasn't for us, what would the professors do with all the low marks they have to hand out?"

The Headline Writer's Triumph

[From Okmulgee (Okla.) Democrat]

Imprisoned Bandit Says That Pol Could Not Have Slain Ben Hance and Wife as Latter Had Taken Care of Both When They Were Sick Like a Mother.

Loyalty

A traveling salesman was marooned, as traveling salesmen have a habit of being, in a small town. Only this isn't that kind of a story.

For an hour he had been pacing the station platform, although the ticket agent had assured him that the trains were always on time. Finally, at the end of his patience, the salesman strode up to the ticket window.

"Why didn't you tell me this train was late when I phoned you?"

The agent looked him over suspiciously.

"Look here, mister," he replied, "I ain't paid to sit here an' knock the railroad."

A Worthy Ambition

[Ad in Philadelphia Bulletin]

CHAUFFEUR, colored, wanted, to drive traveling salesman out of town.

The Last Straw

"Why did you divorce your husband?" asked Belle.

"Well," replied Willie, "he got mad one morning and pulled my hair, hit me, and then threw me downstairs.

"No wonder you divorced him!"

"Oh, I didn't mind that so much but to cap the climax, he walked off without kissing me good bye."

And Why Not, Pray?

[Ad in Portland Oregonian]

ANY kind of day work except washing reliable woman.

A Man of Moderation

"That husband of yours," declared Mrs. Hawkins to her neighbor, Mrs. Harkins, "is drinkin' somethin' awful."

"Don't you worry none about him, dearie," retorted Mrs. Harkins. "If he knows when he quit, he does. Jest the minute he heard he couldn't stand up the other night, he spoke right out an' told the boys to carry him home."

How Long the Weeks Are Getting!

[From the Worthing (S. D.) Enterprise]

"Slim" Crane informed us Monday he ran a rusty nail in his foot last week and was laid up for 90 days.

Good Old Dad

Young Snipper was off to college. "Good bye, my boy," said his father. "Write to me oft, and if you feel good, don't write to me at all." "That's generous of you, dad," responded Snipper gratefully. "So long!"

Oh, It Is, Is It?

[From New Iberia (La.) Enterprise]

We have the same kind of boys and men that grow in these other places, two legs, two arms and a head surrounding a good body, that's all the human material needed.
MAIL TO FRANCE CONVENTION COMMITTEE, 403 MUTUAL BLDG., RICHMOND, VA.

NAME .......................... Member of Post No........Dept. of ..................

(First) (Last)

ADDRESS ...................................................... (Street and number or R. F. D.)

(City or Town) (State)

Total in my group....... including: □ wife; □ mother; □ sister; □ son; □ daughter

Grade of Accommodation Preferred: □ Minimum grade to cost about $175.00
□ Medium grade to cost about... $325.00
□ Best grade to cost about........... $450.00

I intend to take Extension Tours or Side Trips of length checked below, after Convention
□ one week; □ two weeks; □ three weeks; □ one month; □ six weeks

NOTE: Fill in with typewriter or print plainly.

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MAGAZINE BARGAINS

Popular Club Offers

Legionnaires, why not send all your magazine subscriptions to the Legion Subscription Service of the American Legion Weekly, or direct thru your own local Legion Post? You have a great number of opportunities to make subscription profits for your Post agency. Here is a prospective list:

1—Your Local Library. 2—Clubs,—such as business clubs and social clubs. 3—Business houses. 4—Fraternal Orders. 5—Schools and Institutions.

Let them know that your Post takes subscriptions. Subscriptions may be new, renewals or extensions.

Golden Book Regular Our
with Child Life $6.00 $5.25
with Cosmopolitan 6.00 5.25
with Good Housekeeping 6.00 5.75
with Harper's Magazine 7.60 6.25
with Time 8.00 7.25

Good Housekeeping
with American Magazine $5.50 $5.00
with American and Woman's Home Companion* 7.00 6.25
with Child Life 6.00 5.50
with Cosmopolitan* 6.00 5.00
with Harper's Bazar* 7.00 5.75
with Harper's Magazine 7.00 5.50
with Popular Science Monthly 5.00 5.00
with Time 8.00 7.50

*Publishers require that subscriptions must go to one address.

Harper's Magazine Regular Our
with American Magazine $6.50 $6.00
with Atlantic Monthly 8.00 7.50
with Century Magazine 9.00 7.50
with Child Life 7.00 6.00
with Good Housekeeping 7.00 6.60
with Popular Science Monthly 6.50 6.00
with St. Nicholas 8.00 7.00
with Scribner's Magazine 8.00 6.00
with World's Work 8.00 6.00

Ladies' Home Journal ($1.00)
with Country Gentleman, 3 years ($1.00) $2.00 $2.00
with Saturday Evening Post ($2.00) 3.00 3.00
with Saturday Evening Post ($2.00) and Country Gentleman, 3 years ($1.00) 4.00 4.00

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with Popular Science Monthly 3.50 3.00

Physical Culture with Cosmopolitan $5.00 $4.75
with Popular Science Monthly 5.00 4.75
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with Good Housekeeping and Cosmopolitan* 7.50 5.50
with McClure's Magazine 2.50 2.10
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Popular Science Monthly with Child Life $15.00 $5.00
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IF YOU PLAN TO GO TO PARIS IN 1927, Fill Out This Coupon, Detach and Send in IMMEDIATELY
Every Day Is Christmas
for the man who uses an
INGERSOLL Dollar Stropper

The Gift of a Smooth Painless Shave Every Morning

The Gift of a smooth, painless shave every morning is the best and most useful gift you can get!
Give yourself an Ingersoll Dollar Stropper this Christmas, and put an end to your shaving troubles once and for all. Every morning for the rest of your life you can be sure of a quick, smooth, painless shave—a shave that only a master barber or an Ingersoll-Stropper-blade can give.

STOP Throwing Away Dull Razor Blades

Every time you throw away a dull blade you waste 25 dozen new ones. If you invest a dollar in the Ingersoll Stropper you will put an end to this extravagance and waste because this clever invention makes a blade good for 300 or more perfect shaves!
The Ingersoll Dollar Stropper is manufactured and guaranteed by Robert H. Ingersoll, to whom the world owes the dollar watch. It is so designed as to bring the edge of the blade automatically in contact with the leather strap at the exact angle necessary to produce the keenest-cutting edge possible. It will make that old blade which you were going to throw out as good as new in a few seconds. It gives the blade that long "head barber" stropping stroke, so essential to putting a real edge on a blade. It will save you many times its cost in blade money every year. It is so simple that a child can operate it; so sturdy it will last a lifetime.

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Send $1.00 for a complete outfit, including patent strop (blade holder) and fine leather strap. Use it 10 days and if you do not get the most comfortable, quickest, and cleanest shave you ever had, return it and we will return your $1 at once. It is more than an accessory to your shaving kit—it is a life investment in a new kind of shaving comfort which you never dreamed would come to you. Mail the coupon AT ONCE.

WANTED!

Thirty-second demonstrations have sold hundreds of thousands of these wonderful Stropping Outfits. Our agents earn $60 to $100 a week. Quick sales, quick profits. Every man a prospect. Every prospect a sale when he sees it demonstrated. If interested in our agents' plan, check the square in coupon and mail NOW.