



Probably the most successful Sunday evening entertainment of the season was held a week ago Sunday. The program was the longest ever offered. One of the Knights of Columbus secretaries, formerly known as "Bill Casey" on the vaudeville stage, was perhaps the chief performer. All of the entertainers were liberally applauded.

The holiday dance given on the night of July 3 was a huge success. Refreshments were served in the electric lighted outdoor garden and a brief entertainment was given on the outdoor platform. The dancers danced with the spotlights throwing various colors upon them.

The restriction against going to town has unfortunately compelled the temporary abandonment of our town activities.

The erection of the new building which was delayed due to the scarcity of material has moved so rapidly that it is now practically finished. The usual weekly and Sabbath religious services were well attended. Tisha Be-Ab services will be held on Wednesday evening, July 17. An announcement regarding these services will be made on all company bulletin boards.

Tisha Be-ab (the ninth of Av) will fall this year on July 18. This is the great black fast in the Jewish year, which, like the great white fast of the Day of Atonement, is observed from sunset to sunset. It will therefore, begin on Wednesday evening, July 17, at sunset, and will close on the following evening as darkness sets in.

This fast is widely observed by the orthodox because of the threefold tragedy that befell the Jewish people on the ninth day of the month of Av. 2504

years ago. On the ninth day of Av, the city of Jerusalem was captured, the temple destroyed and the Babylonian captivity began. This event marked the end of the kingdom of Judea founded by King David, and, for the time, destroyed organized Jewish life and left Palestine denuded of Jews.

Six and a half centuries later, after a desperately and heroically fought war and a siege of protracted horrors, Jerusalem fell to Titus, the Roman conqueror, again on the ninth of Av. The flames that consumed the temple wiped out the central organization of Jewish religious life, and the sword that razed the city scattered the remnants of the Jewish people to the lands of their Golus (exile) where they are found today. On the ninth of Av began that homelessness and restlessness of the Jewish people which have been the cause of the centuries of Jewish suffering since Roman times.

Three score years later, the rebellion led by Bar Kochba ended in a blood bath on this fateful day, the ninth of Av. With the collapse of this last despairing effort of the Jewish people to reassert its freedom from the yoke of Rome, the sentence of Jewry's exile and persecution was sealed.

The fast of Av has, therefore, voiced the cry of anguish of the Jewish people in the nineteen centuries of its scattered and martyred existence in the lands of its dispersion. The Jewish people that has lived through and that remembers the persecutions suffered from ancient Rome, from the barbarians, from Cossacks, from pogroms and from the agonies of this world war has consecrated these sorrows in the fast of Av.

engines have been delivered to the army and navy and 37,250 machine guns have been delivered for use on aeroplanes.

More than 1,300,000 rifles were produced in the United States and delivered between the declaration of war and June 1 of this year.

During May more than 900 heavy Browning machine guns and more than 1,800 light Brownings were delivered.

American engineers have so increased the port facilities of France that during this month it will be possible to handle 750,000 tons at the ports used by the American army.

These are some of the more striking accomplishments in war preparations during the last fourteen months. They are enough to demonstrate the efficiency that has been reached and to dispel any gloom which the troubles of the period of the war may have created. America has struck her stride, and will go forward swiftly and surely to victory. The resolution of congratulations to the War Department, which the House committee on military affairs passed upon consideration of Secretary Baker's letter, will be approved by the public generally.

MINNESOTA REGISTRANTS ARRIVE AT SPARTANBURG

Ten Thousand Selectmen From the Gopher State Will Train at Camp Wadsworth.

Special to The Observer.

Spartanburg, S. C., July 15.—Special trains are arriving every hour at Camp Wadsworth today, bringing 10,000 drafted men from the state of Minnesota and 4,000 from South Carolina for military duty in the national army. Six thousand men from Pennsylvania are also due to arrive during the month and a statement issued at the camp today says that August will bring another 10,000 soldiers to camp, although it has not yet been determined what states they will come from. With this number of troops arriving in July and August, military officials think that Camp Wadsworth will be the largest military camp in the United States.

WARNS NEW REGISTRANTS TO VOLUNTEER AT ONCE

Warning that all young men who registered June 5 with the Mecklenburg county local board and who, from their knowledge of the selective service regulations know they will be placed in class one, should volunteer for navy or marine corps service at once, if they prefer to serve in one of these branches, said Chief Clerk Cheek of the county board, yesterday. Mr. Cheek added that the reason he gave out this warning is because every indication now points to the drafting, perhaps during August, of a relatively large number of these men who have been or will be placed in class one. He pointed out that the regulations prevent a registrant enlisting in either of these branches of service after the call for enlistment of a number of men are sufficient to reach his order number.

Y. M. C. A. LEADERS AT CAMP AT BLUE RIDGE

Rev. T. W. Davies, Y. M. C. A. secretary at the base hospital, and Religious Secretary Groubb at "Y" 106, have been transferred to Camp Jackson. Harry K. Grausnick, physical director at "Y" 102, has left camp to enter the army. Camp Secretary Grogan, Religious Director Thompson, and Rev. Theodore Patrick, Jr., are attending a conference of the camp secretaries at Blue Ridge for 10 days.

Secretary "Billy" Stevens, who has been doing physical work at the Y. M. C. A. in Charlotte, has been transferred to the camp secretarial force. At present Secretary Stevens is taking the place of Secretary McCreery at the base hospital. Secretary McCreery is to have charge of "Trench and Camp" during the absence of the editor, Mr. Patrick.

Give Long Concert.

A most interesting and appreciative program was given to the soldiers at "Y" 102 Friday evening before the usual moving picture show.

The program consisted of musical numbers by Mrs. McRae and Miss Georgia Caldwell.

Mrs. McRae sang some Irish melodies in a most pleasing manner and was forced to give several encores. Miss Caldwell, singing a repertoire of humorous selections, just carried the audience off its feet. Her first selection, "Naughty," called forth rounds of applause and she had to give several encores before the boys were satisfied.

Mr. R. Brooks Thomas, acting building secretary, had the program in charge and he was assisted by Mr. Stevens.

SOLDIER REMINDS FRIEND THEY THINK OF CHARLOTTE

Corporal Thomas Jordan, of a provisional replacement battalion of the Third American army corps, wrote Mrs. James Hudson, of 226 North College street, about June 26, stating that he had been wounded but that he is now waiting for his company commander to recall him into service. "We boys who have been in North Carolina send out thanks to the people of Charlotte for what they have done for us," said the corporal. In a postscript he asked Mrs. Hudson to submit his letter to The Observer for publication "so the people of North Carolina will see we have not forgotten them." Corporal Jordan is one of the boys stationed at Camp Greene during last winter.

"ELDER COBB" AND OTHERS ENTERTAIN THE SOLDIERS

Featured by excellent numbers from some of the choice entertainers at Camp Greene, the "stunt night" program at "Y" hut 105 on Tuesday evening was a tremendous success. An unusually large audience of soldiers enjoyed the program, part of which was rendered outside of the "Y" building and part on the inside.

Preceding the stunt program the Camp Greene aviation band gave a concert in the open air just outside the hut. This musical organization, which has gained for itself a wide recognition of merit since its location here, is commanded by Lieut. Joseph Arndt and directed by Sergt. Joseph D. Reis. At this concert a varied program was rendered, consisting of selections that appealed to everyone.

The remainder of the evening's program was given inside the building. Sergt. Ben Bear of the Twenty-second aero squadron gave a number of recitations which were enthusiastically received. This was the first time that his clever work has been seen at camp. He was followed by "Elder Cobb," alias Jesse Gray, social secretary of the army Y. M. C. A. Elder Cobb, one of the most popular and clever entertainers in the camp, created gales of laughter by his witty sallies, songs and monologues. Dr. J. O. Grogan, camp general secretary of the army Y. M. C. A., concluded with a talk that reached the hearts and gripped the minds of the large number of soldiers present. As a whole, the evening was voted by everyone present as one of the most delightful spent in some time.

GROWTH OF THE ARMY.

In compliance with the request of Chairman Dent, of the House committee on military affairs, Secretary Baker has written a letter sketching what has been accomplished since the advent of the United States into the war toward organizing, arming and equipping the American army. It is a splendid record, encouraging to every patriotic citizen and inspiring the conviction of triumph.

In fourteen months the army has increased from 3,524 officers and 202,510 enlisted men to approximately 150,400 officers and 2,010,000 enlisted men. As has been shown in previous official statements from the Secretary of War, practically half of the present military force is now in France.

The stupendous task of providing supplies for the army is indicated by the purchases made by the quartermaster corps. Some of these are: Horses and mules, 339,593; shoes, 27,249,000 pairs; cotton undershirts, 43,922,000; denim cloth, 103,028,000 yards, and wool stockings, 104,333,000 pairs.

The health of the American soldiers has been conserved and protected most efficiently. In 1898 the death rate per thousand in the army was 20.14, in 1900 it was 7.78 and in 1916 it was 5.13. For the week ended June 7 of this year the death rate per thousand among all troops—regulars, national army and national guard—in the United States was 3.16.

Army hospitals in the United States

on June 5 contained 72,667 beds, and new construction now under way will increase this capacity to 87,344 beds. In France hospital facilities have been and are being organized which will provide beds equal to 5 to 10 per cent of the number of men in the American forces. The number of officers in the medical corps has been increased from 900 to 24,000 and the number of enlisted men from 8,000 to 148,000.

American engineers have constructed hundreds of miles of railway in France. More than 22,000 standard gauge and 60 C. M. freight cars and 1,600 standard gauge and 60 C. M. locomotives have been sent to France.

The aircraft program is proceeding most encouragingly. Up to June 86,880 elementary training planes and 2,133 advanced training planes were delivered, more than 2,000 Liberty

Individual Winners of Victory Athletic Meet, July 4

Table with 5 columns: Event, Place, Name—Organization—Camp, Record, Points. Lists winners for various events like 50 yds, 100 yds, 220 yds, 1 mile, 1/2 mile, Running Broad Jump, Running High Jump, Semaphore Signaling Contest, Litter Bearers' Race, and Relay.