

# The Watauga Democrat.

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## Secretary Baker's Impressions of American Soldiers.

In writing to the Associated Press Harold E. Bechtel of London states:

In an interview at the home of General Biddle here, Secretary of War Baker gave me his first impressions of the First United States Army.

Baker was just back from France, where he spent many days with the American fighters and watched them in battle—the first complete American Army to take part in the war.

"Serious soldiers," he called them; "determined and efficient."

He told of incidents he had witnessed to illustrate their grit, their eagerness to "have a go" at the Germans, their gaiety.

He termed their morale "superb," and told how they all smile—broad American smiles.

"But the outstanding impression the American soldier makes," he added earnestly, "the impression I carry away, is one of a soldier who understands perfectly well the righteous cause for which he is fighting."

Secretary Baker made it very emphatic that the Americans' splendid spirit—their light-heartedness—in no sense dulled their determination or their appreciation of the serious business ahead. He continued:

"The transformation of these young Americans, fresh from civil life, into determined, competent units of a thoroughly efficient army in so short a time is simply wonderful."

He recalled seeing these Americans when they were "rookies" back home in training camps.

"Their astonishingly rapid development has been made possible by their aptitude and intelligence, their zeal and energy; and the wholesome spirit in which they dropped everything else and set about to learn their jobs in the Army."

Baker stood on a hill and watched their victorious advance east of St. Mihiel.

"It was an advance by thoroughly competent troops," said Baker. "Their conduct was magnificent."

The secretary visited hospitals where the wounded men just back from the firing line were being cared for. This incident, he said, illustrates the grit of the wounded Americans and the solicitous care they receive.

"When I entered one hospital two orderlies were trying to pull off a wounded soldier's boot. A bullet had gone through the boot into his leg."

"Don't try to pull that boot off like that," ordered a surgeon.

"But the wounded man gritted his teeth and said it didn't hurt, and started to help the orderlies get it off."

"Hurt? Of course it hurts," insisted the surgeon. "Slit the boot clear down the leg!" And the boot was slit."

Speaking of the Americans' physical fitness, Baker said:

"In the German army, and in the French army, there are older men and young boys; and in a lesser degree this is true even in the British army. But the Americans are almost all between 20 and 30—strong, muscular fellows in perfect physical trim."

Baker talked with scores of soldiers—soldiers of practically every branch of the service, and of every rank—from General Pershing to Private Jones.

And he found everywhere the same eagerness to "get at it." He related this incident to illustrate their spirit:

"An officer going about on inspection out at the front asked a group of men whether they had any complaints."

## Foch Knows His Plans.

Marshal Foch is the only man who knows just what moves he is planning for tomorrow or next week or next month, but there is growing in the fighting armies a feeling that the German is not going to be permitted to rest this winter.

Fight in good weather and dig in for bad has become almost an accepted principle in this war. Men trained in the theory of war prior to 1914 and its practice since have agreed every year to the uselessness of attempting to drive the enemy from its trenches, once the rain and sleet and snow set in, but there are indications that the initiative taken by the allies in July will be retained regardless of bad weather.

If Marshal Foch calls upon his army groups to continue jumping at the Germans they will do it as they did in the early part of the war, for, in addition to the reinforcements that America has provided, there is a spirit revived. The French are fighting with a confidence restored and the British are going in with great enthusiasm than had been apparent for many months. They are not merely "carrying on." They are slashing away like one does when he knows there is another one right by his side hitting just as hard.

The Germans are not exhausted. They are not so badly fed. Their clothing is not bad and they probably have plenty of ammunition notwithstanding the enormous stores they have abandoned. But there is something wrong and men who have commanded troops in the recent Franco-American-British offensives are inclined to believe it is the realization by the people of Germany of the hopelessness of keeping up the fight against a foe who obviously is growing stronger instead of weaker.

German newspapers, official and semi-official documents and private letters that occasionally come to the hands of the allied troops no longer contain sneers regarding the American assistance. It is recognized that the American army cannot be disposed of so easily.—Ex.

"No one answered."

"Oh, come on!" the officer insisted. "You can't tell me that not one of you fellows has a thing to complain about."

"There was another silence. Finally one sturdy American could hold it no longer."

"Yes," he said, "I've got a complaint. We have good weather today and good weather yesterday, and good weather day before yesterday, and—'pointing toward the German lines, '—there those sons-o'-guns are, right over there, and we don't go over!"

The war secretary, in St. Mihiel just after the French and American attacks had sent the Germans scurrying, talked to many citizens. They told him that the Germans had been very strict, but not cruel.

"Although the Germans had been gone only a very short time when we entered St. Mihiel, all the women and girls, from the smallest toddlers to the oldest women, were toggled out in remarkably good clothes," Baker continued.

"I asked some of the women where they got such nice clothes. 'We've been saving these for four years' they said."

"Even more surprising was the remarkable number of French flags—flying everywhere. The Germans had just left, mind you. So I inquired about the flags."

"Those, too," said an elderly

## French Timber Cut for War Use.

Timber cutting for the use of the American army is proceeding on a vast scale in some of the great forest regions of France, as well as in Switzerland and Spain. The cutting of a tree in France has been, in peace times, little short of a felony, and no tree could be removed until another vigorous sapling was ready to take its place. But the stern requirements of the war have compelled a change in the conservation of the forests, and the French are yielding the trees they have so long safeguarded.

Great as the sacrifice is, it has been recognized as a war measure, since the bringing over from America of the vast amount of lumber required for construction purposes would be practically impossible, or if undertaken would stop the transportation of troops. So the forests are going, and for the first time solid stone construction is giving place to the lighter and much more rapid wood construction.

Besides the gathering of this huge stock of material, requiring thousands of forests, there is the work of building the hospitals, docks, barracks, etc. The vastness of these building operations can be judged from the one item of building hospitals.

Hospitals are built on the basis of beds for 10 per cent of the strength of troops, so that with an army of a million men in sight the actual estimate for hospitals is 200,000 beds. As there are as many attendants as wounded occupying beds, this makes requirements for 400,000, or the size of a great metropolis, in the one item of hospitals.

Several 10,000 bed hospitals are under way, and two 20,000 bed hospitals are being provided. One of these 20,000 bed establishments, with its 20,000 attendants, makes a large village of itself, of 40,000 people, with their own electric light, water and sewer systems, and all the organization of a large municipality.

The building of warehouses, docks, etc., on the same gigantic scale as hospitals. At three different points there is an average construction of three warehouses each day, and each 500 by 500 feet in dimensions. Ten miles of docks is about keeping pace now with the requirements of an army of a million men, but with a prospective army much greater than a million, thirty miles of docks is the minimum requirement. Much of the barracks and trench construction is rush work which will have to be completed before winter.

These are some of the outstanding features of this huge work of army construction carried on by the engineers, far exceeding the work of the Panama canal or any other engineering operation the United States has ever before undertaken.—Exchange.

## CURE FOR DYSINTERY.

"While I was in Ashland, Kansas, a gentleman overheard me speaking of Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy," writes William Whitelaw, of Des Moines Iowa. "He told me in detail of what it had done for his family, but more especially his daughter who was lying at the point of death with a violent attack of dysentery, and had been given up by her family physician. Some of the neighbors advised him to give Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy, which he did, and fully believes that by doing so saved the life of his child. He stated that he had also used this remedy himself with equally gratifying results."

woman, 'we have had hidden away for four years, waiting for our soldiers to come back.'"

## THE WOUNDED.

What should be done with the maimed and crippled soldiers and sailors? Men who have given the best of themselves and are wholly or partially incapacitated for work cannot be allowed to suffer. The crippled fighters during their period of service make greater sacrifice than the average man does in a life time and are entitled to the greatest care a grateful government can give.

Heretofore the situation has been handled through the pension system. This, however, has been so abused as to bring about a new method of managing it. Fifty years after the close of the Civil War still finds the pension bill carrying ten millions of dollars. Of this huge sum millions are obtained fraudulently. Clearly a better and yet generous enough system was required and has been found. Though the bars are tightened up against fake claimants, the wounded fighters are properly provided for.

The French and British governments, who perforce had to tackle the problem before America did, profited by the experience gained through study of our pension system, and found improved measures. We, in turn, have profited from their later experience and have the best plan yet devised.

This plan provides for helping the soldiers, but it does not contemplate making him independent of what ability he has for partial support of himself. Vocational schools are founded to teach crippled men to do such work as they can and thus keep them from the necessity of becoming objects of public charity. And it also serves to keep the unwilling worker from imposing upon the government.

It has been found that wonderful results have followed teaching, armless, legless or blinded men how to work even under the great handicap of such maimed conditions. It is a blessing to them in more ways than one. To a man, ambitious and sensitive, it is dispiriting to remember himself as an independent, able-bodied citizen when he is supported entirely and has no opportunity to engage in the activities of the busy world about him. He

## A WORD WITH WOMEN.

Valuable Advice for Boone Readers.

Many a woman endures with noble patience the daily misery of backache, pains about the hips, blue, nervous spells, dizziness and urinary disorders, hopelessness of relief because she doesn't know what is the matter.

It is not true that every pain in the back or hips is trouble peculiar to the sex. Often when the kidneys get congested and inflamed, such aches and pains follow. Then help the weakened kidneys. Don't expect them to get well alone.

Doan's Kidney Pills have won the praise of thousands of women. They are endorsed right in this locality. Read this woman's convincing statement:

Mrs. C. E. Huffman, 601 Chestnut Ave., Hickory, N. C., says: "I suffered a lot from my back and kidneys. I was in such bad shape I could hardly straighten up after stooping. The pain in my back couldn't have been more severe if someone had run a knife into me. I couldn't sleep and felt miserable. Doan's Kidney Pills removed the pains in my back and made me feel like a different person."

Price 60c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same Mrs. Huffman has publicly recommended. Foster-Millburn Co., Props., Buffalo, New York.

eventually comes to feel useless and a handicap. This is a cruel and sorry plight for a brave man who has honorably and nobly served his country. The vocational school removes him from that status entirely. Though a grateful country helps him, he is left the opportunity of engaging in productive work and maintaining in full dignity his place as a valuable worker in the world. He is not isolated, which he would be as a pensioner not fitted for work, but remains a useful toiler in spite of his partial disability.

The working of the system is thus explained in a clipping:

"Compensation will be paid by the government to every disabled soldier and sailor, irrespective of his earning capacity; but it may be withheld if he shows himself indifferent to the opportunities for vocational education that the government will offer. For permanent disability the monthly compensation ranges from \$360 a year for the man with neither wife nor child to \$900 a year for the man with a wife and three children. In addition to this amount, if the man has a widowed mother, he receives \$120 a year. A man who has lost both hands or both feet, or both eyes will receive \$1200 a year.

"The government does not expect disabled soldiers to be solely dependent on government compensation. It proposes to fit each man for earning his honest labor. The work of training crippled and blinded soldiers to be self-supporting has been brought to a high degree of success in both France and England, and we may expect it to be equally well managed in this country.

"The man who must find his chief happiness in dwelling on the days when he was useful has a sad life. It is a life from which most of our wounded soldiers, however handicapped they may be, are to be spared. The government will provide them with the means for the continuing durable happiness that comes from useful and congenial employment."—Orphan's Friend.

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The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreadful disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that Catarrh of the Bladder being greatly influenced by constitutional conditions requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Remedy is taken internally and acts through the blood on the muscular surface of the system thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have secured much faith in the curative powers of Hall's Catarrh Remedy that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for testimonials.

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