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AMERICAN SOLDIERS ANXIOUS TO RETURN HOME

SECRETARY OF NAVY DANIELS INSPECTS THE DEBARKATION CAMP AT BREST.

Brest, March 24.—Secretary of Navy Daniels, after his investigation of camp conditions at Brest, has returned to the Associated Press the following statement:

"I have spent a portion of two days in the camp at Pontanezen and it rains 230 days out of the year here. I have seen more than 20,000 American troops encamped here waiting for embarkation home and have conferred with scores of officers and many men just from the front.

"This morning I walked for miles on a solid board walk from tent to tent in which the marines were quartered and in the wooden barracks where the soldiers sleep. I visited the modern kitchens and dining rooms and saw where dinner for 2,000 marines was prepared in one of the twelve kitchens. This large number is fed in forty minutes and just as many are fed in the eleven other kitchens.

"I sat upon the beds of the soldiers and ate my midday meal with them. The meal was well cooked, palatable, and plentiful and tasted as good as any meal I ever ate in my life. The midday meal consisted of a large helping of roast beef, mashed potatoes, stewed carrots, rich meat gravy, bread pudding with raisins, two large slices of white bread and a large cup of coffee. Over the entrance of each of the dining halls is a large sign in French which, translated, means you can have as much food as you want and go home right away. Few asked for a second helping, for the first helping was more than most of the soldiers could eat at one time.

"I noticed a few rosy-faced young chaps who came for another helping just as they had been accustomed to do with the food that mother used to serve them. It was hard to tell at the mess hall whether the most popular phrase was 'as much food as you want' or 'home right away,' but when I spoke to the soldiers, I found no difficulty in understanding that 'home right away' was the note that touched their hearts, brought the most beaming smile and the heartiest cheering.

"The soldiers were happy when I told them Rear Admiral Halstead had just received a message that the first of the German transports to carry American troops home had been commissioned with a navy crew and that others would follow, the navy personnel already having arrived on this side to man them. It heartened them to know that in the harbor of Brest was the mighty Levanthian ready to carry 12,000 soldiers home and that four battleships were being coaled preparatory to taking soldiers back home.

"The bigness of Pontanezen camp is hard to understand until you see the tented and barrack covered city. Speaking of tents I went into a store of them. Not a drop of water can fall into any of them. The tents are well drained and each one has a stove and is warm and comfortable. The men come and go by the thousands. It is a city of movement, certainly as far as the population is concerned.

"As an illustration of the magnitude of its operations as many as 10,000 troops are received some days and as many as 17,000 are embarked in a single day. Twelve thousand will embark Wednesday on the Levanthian alone. I do not know which to commend the highest the spirit of the sailors who patriotically remain in the naval service in civilian life or the returning soldiers, the heroes of hard fought battles, whose courage and sacrifice helped so much to preserve the liberty and civilization of the world. They are brothers in valor and in cheerfulness.

"The outstanding impression I brought with me out of the rainy days at Pontanezen is the buoyant and cheerful spirit of the fifty thousand men I saw in camp there.

Some of them carried heavy packs as they marched into the camp from the scenes where, in the business of war, they had looked unafraid into the face of death. All of them had seen hard service. Their eyes had a thoughtful seriousness except when you spoke of home and then they fairly danced with happy anticipation.

Have Lived Hard Lives.

"War is a grim business and these men have lived hard lives, but they have the conscious air of the modest man who knows he has performed the hardest job in history efficiently and victoriously. And now they are eager to go home and continue the service of making a better world.

"In two trips over the camps here I walked about while it was raining, but fifty miles of board walk made it possible to visit all parts of the camp without inconvenience.

Well Cared For.

"Every man in camp has a bunk, mattress and five blankets. Every tent is squared by wooden framing and has a wooden floor and stove. I found an ample supply of fuel available for all the stoves in the camp. I found bathing facilities sufficient to give each man in camp two baths a week and laundry facilities ample for clean underwear twice a week.

Amusements.

"I found twelve amusement places in operation which last week entertained 130,000 men. I found the water supply ample. I can see no reason for criticism of this camp, but more to praise than in any camp I have visited in the United States. I found the embarkation facilities ample and above criticism. I found the camp well lighted and saw the beginning of operations for a complete lighting system.

Congratulates Helmick's Ability.

"I wish to congratulate the war department on the ability of Major General E. A. Helmick, who is the commanding general of the base of the American expeditionary forces. He has executive ability, vision and discipline with sympathy. The commanding general of the camp is Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler. He is a steam engine in breeches and his work here is monumental. When the history of Generals Helmick and Butler and their capable and enthusiastic assistants here in Brest is written what they have done here will win the praise of all Americans who take pride in big achievements.

Boquet For Admiral Halstead.

"If the mothers of America could have been with me yesterday and today they would have been happy that their sons have such leaders. What the generals have done is only equalled by the excellent service of Admiral Halstead and his admirable personnel in charge of naval operation on the coast of France.

GLASS GIVES AUTHORITY FOR RETAINING WILLIAMS.

Washington, March 25.—Secretary Glass made public to-day a letter to Representative McFadden, of Pennsylvania, replying to Mr. McFadden's inquiry of the authority by which Secretary Glass has continued John Skelton Williams in office as comptroller of the currency and ex-officio member of the federal reserve board. Mr. Glass said his action was based on an act of Congress dated March 2, 1895, which was construed in 1906 by Attorney General Moody to provide for continuance in office of all treasury officials after expiration of their terms of office and before the appointment and qualification of their successors. The senate failed to confirm the re-nomination of Mr. Williams.

New Railroad For Mexico.

Mexico City, March 25.—An English syndicate it is officially announced has sought a concession from the government, to build a railway that will connect Mexico City with Merida, state of Yucatan. The line, as projected, also would connect these points with Vera Cruz, Tabasco and Campeche and open up a vast stretch of rich but undeveloped territory.

King and Queen Guests of Pershing.

Chaumont, March 25.—King Albert and Queen Elizabeth, of Belgium, spent the night at the headquarters of General Pershing and left this morning by automobile for Brussels.

NORTH CAROLINA BOYS SPEND DAY DELOUSING

EVERY MOTHER'S SON IS HAPPY TO BE HOME AGAIN—WILL PARADE AT WILMINGTON.

Camp Stuart, Va., March 24.—It was officially announced here to-day that the 115th machine gun battalion, composed of North Carolina veterans of the 30th division, would be demobilized at Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C., instead of Camp Lee, Va., as was announced just before the arrival of the battalion from overseas. The battalion is expected to leave here for its final destination Thursday night.

But part of the Old North State, at least, will see this battalion of her victorious sons before they are demobilized. The battalion will go to Camp Jackson via Wilmington for a parade to be held next Saturday. Wilmington is the home of company C of the battalion, commanded by Capt. Thomas J. Gause, well known hotel man of that city. The stay there, however, will be less than a day and the battalion will entrain from there for Camp Jackson. Great preparations are being made in Wilmington for the reception of the battalion and large delegations from the home town of every company in the organization will be in the coast city, according to reports that already have come to Camp Stuart.

The cities represented in the battalion are Gastonia, the home of company A, commanded by Capt. Robert G. Cherry; Asheville, the home of company B, commanded by Capt. Thomas Y. English; Charlotte, the home of company D, commanded by Capt. Oscar R. Mills, and company C, Wilmington, commanded by Capt. Gause.

This was the first busy day spent by the battalion since arriving on American soil. The entire battalion to-day went through the horrors of delousing again so proud mothers need not fear the hero son introducing French cooties into the "spare bed" the first night he is home. No cootie, however hardy, could have withstood what took place to-day at the official louse killing plant. After the regulation cleaning officers spent the afternoon checking clothing and equipment of their men and each man will come home with the best clothes that his officer has been able to get him at Camp Stuart.

Tonight the men are practicing up on their old American habits of "movies," girls and cold drinks. The battalion landed only yesterday and the machine gunners have got a lot to forget about their old French customs, a lot to refresh themselves with on how they used to do this back in the Old North State.

The trip across from France was rather uneventful, according to stories told around camp to-day. The most engaging thing was the epidemic of seasickness which took hold of officers and men alike the second morning out from France and kept everybody engaged for the next 48 hours. On the fifth morning out the Finland on which the battalion traveled passed the Azores, which held the interest of the passengers for several hours. There was no lack of amusement on the voyage though it was a long one. Two bands on the ship gave a concert or two each daily. The Hawaiian ukeleles and that funny movement gained considerable popularity and always got a big hand. No, they were men. It is rather strange that the last day out was the roughest. The Finland ran into a high sea and a 50-mile gale when about 30 hours from Newport News and her arrival was delayed a few hours. But the storm was only incidental and the boys are all home safe and well. The battalion is composed almost entirely of North Carolinians and did not suffer heavily from casualties though the story of its action on the fields of France already has been told and retold.

Finds Baby Floating in River.

Asheville, March 26.—Everett Emery, who lives a short distance out of Asheville, was fishing to-day in the French Broad river, near Olivet when he discovered the body of a young baby floating in the stream. The sheriff was called immediately and the body of the child brought to a local undertaking establishment to await a coroner's inquest.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS ARE KILLED IN BUENOS AIRES

"WHITE GUARD" RAIDED JEWISH QUARTERS—BODIES BURNED.

New York, March 26.—Thousands of Jews were slaughtered in a "pogrom" conducted in Buenos Aires January 9, according to a statement issued here tonight by the Zionist Organization of America, quoting a report it has received from the Argentine capital.

According to this report, a "white guard" was organized there following a rumor that strikes in that city were the beginning of a Bolshevik revolution incited by the Jews. The report charged that with co-operation of the police, the "white guard" raided the Jewish quarters, "killing a number that cannot be estimated because all the bodies were burned in a common grave." Jews and persons who resembled Jews were stopped on the street, it was said, and even synagogues were raided on the ground that Maximalists were being hidden there from the police.

The Argentine branch of the Zionist organization, the report continued, finally succeeded in getting the police to end the "pogrom" after it had asserted there were no Bolsheviks among Argentine Jews.

A cable dispatch received from Buenos Aires during the progress of the riots made no reference to a "pogrom" and one received two weeks after the "pogrom" is alleged to have occurred, did not mention any slaughter of Jews, but reported an Israelite delegation had waited on President Irigoyen to protest against "unjust atrocities and inexcusable insults" suffered by them.

Although for more than two years disorder has been rife in the Argentine capital, the most serious riot occurred last January about the time of the alleged Jewish "pogrom" when in trouble growing out of the harbor strike which later led to nationalization of the port 80 persons were killed and 800 wounded on the streets.

Steady growth of "Bolshevism" was reported and following word that a Bolshevik army was invading Argentine after a battle with frontier police at Port Natalis, Chile, 1,400 Reds were rounded up and put on a cruiser for deportation.

COMMISSIONERS OF PEACE CONFERENCE READY REPORT.

Paris, March 25.—Virtually all the commissions and sub-commissions of the peace conference are waiting for instructions from the supreme council in order to close and submit their reports.

It is said that except for instructions on certain broad principles which must come from the premiers, the reports are ready to be submitted within a few hours after the instructions are received.

An American amendment to protect nations against the influx of foreign labor was adopted to-day by the league of nations commission. It affirms the right of any country in the league to control matters solely within domestic jurisdiction.

Another important amendment to the league covenant article VIII, which empowers the executive council to formulate a plan for the reduction of armaments. The language of the article is altered so as to limit the powers of the council to a simple recommendation to the government affected.

Mother Gives Her Life to Save Daughter.

New York, March 26.—Mrs. Louise Mercier sacrificed her life to-day in a vain effort to save her two daughters, Lonia, 6, and Helen, 3, from burning to death in a fire at their home in a fashionable residential district in Richmond Hill. After her husband, George, and a third small daughter, each seriously burned, had jumped from a window, Mrs. Mercier went into the second floor bedrooms in search of the other two children, intending to throw them out to their father, but she did not reappear.

Advance in Bar Silver.

London, March 25.—The price of bar silver was advanced to-day from 47 3-4 pence to 49 5-16 pence per ounce to reach the equivalent of American exchange.

COL. ANSELL DESCRIBES COURT MARTIAL SYSTEM.

Washington, March 25.—"Crude, unskilled and unlettered the executive arm of a military commander," were among the vigorous terms employed by Col. Samuel T. Ansell, of Currituck county, N. C., in describing the army court martial system in a speech to-day before the national popular government league. He will make a similar address on Thursday night before the North Carolina society in the auditorium of Wilson Normal School in Washington. He will be given a reception by the Tar Heels at the national capital.

"The court martial system is at fault," said Col. Ansell. "It is one that leads to injustice, logically, naturally inevitably. It is an inheritance from the old British code which we adopted in 1774 and never changed. It is not a court in the proper sense, it is simply the executive arm of a commanding officer.

"A man is arrested, brought before this tribunal. He has no counsel in the proper sense. A callow second lieutenant without any knowledge of law easily intimidated, is assigned to defend him. The lieutenant makes a perfunctory defense, but never insists upon the rights of the man. He is convicted by a court—which has no knowledge of law. The sentence is reviewed by an authority sometimes equally ignorant of law and the man is forced to undergo the sentence imposed.

"One instance I want to relate from the records of trials by court martial. It is of a man who was arrested and charged with desertion. He was sentenced to forfeit all pay, be dishonorably discharged and serve ninety-nine years at hard labor. The reviewing officer in sustaining the court naively remarked that it would not enforce the part of the judgment for the man's dishonorable discharge until he had served his prison sentence."

A LIQUOR SMUGGLER KILLED BY OFFICERS.

Harrisonburg, Va., March 26.—One man is dead and another seriously injured as the result of an exchange of shots between Prohibition Inspector W. C. Hall, of Richmond, and three deputies and two men in an automobile, who, it is alleged, attempted to smuggle whiskey into dry territory. Having been notified by telephone of the coming of the men from Baltimore, the officials encountered them at Fisher's Hill by blocking passage of a bridge and in the battle that followed one of the occupants of the automobile was shot. He died on the way to a hospital. He gave his name as Shackelford.

The other man, who was captured by one of the deputies after an exchange of shots, in which he was wounded, gave the name of Hudson. He is in a hospital here in a critical condition. The men were from Petersburg and had 139 quarts of whiskey stored in their touring car, the officers say.

TAX SECTION OF COTTON WAREHOUSE BILL WRONG.

Raleigh, March 26.—Attorney General Manning rules that section six of the cotton storage warehouse act of the recent legislature, is unconstitutional in that the tax of 25 cents a bale on all cotton ginned is in violation of the constitution, but that the state board of agriculture must proceed with administering the other provisions of the act, including election of a state warehouse superintendent, who is to give \$100,000 bond. The board meets tomorrow and will agree on a policy in view of unconstitutionality of the section designed to finance the warehouse system.

Cut Their Ears Off.

Vladivostok, Siberia, March 26.—Bodies of two Russian officers, with the ears cut off and the hands nailed to the shoulder blades, were found in First River, near here, to-day. Allied officers claim the discovery corroborates stories of Bolshevik outrages.

Canadian officers and soldiers have been instructed to go only in pairs after nightfall in Vladivostok street and to carry arms.

Nine Bolsheviks were arrested here yesterday. The political situation is increasingly disturbing.

GOV. BICKETT APPOINTS NEW HIGHWAY COMMISSION

FRANK PAGE IS CHAIRMAN, WITH CAMERON, NORFLEET AND STIKELEATHER.

Raleigh, March 27.—Governor Bickett yesterday named the new state highway commission which will take office April 1, succeeding the present commission, under the highway act passed by the general assembly of 1919. Lieutenant Frank Page, of Aberdeen, is chairman, appointed for a term of six years. The other members are John E. Cameron, of Kinston, appointed for a term of four years; James K. Norfleet, of Winston-Salem, appointed for a term of two years, and James G. Stikeleather, of Asheville, appointed for a term of two years.

In compliance with the law, Governor Bickett named Mr. Stikeleather as a representative of the western part of the state; Mr. Page for the central; Mr. Norfleet from state-at-large, although he resides in the Piedmont section which is not represented by other members of the commission. Mr. Cameron is the Republican member required by the act and Governor Bickett did decidedly better for the minority representative than he might have. He gave him an appointment for four years, whereas he could have made it two.

Out of the mass of recommendations and endorsements before him, the governor suggested this aggregation of men as a body which will do things.

GOOD PROFITS FOR SOUTH IN BOTH CORN AND OATS.

Chicago, March 25.—"The Southern cotton states are now confronted with the opportunity of a lifetime," says Wade Hampton Armstrong, cotton specialist of this city, "due to action of Congress maintaining the price for spring wheat at minimum price of \$2.26."

Mr. Armstrong says further: "This act will cause farmers in the spring wheat belt to plant an immense acreage in spring wheat at the expense of corn and oat acreage, and as a result will mean high prices for corn and oats which grains can be grown in the South as well as in the West.

"The cotton acreage annually planted is about 36,000,000 acres and all of this land will produce corn and oats. A reduction of one-third in cotton acreage will leave 24,000,000 acres for cotton and 12,000,000 for corn and oats, which would mean an increase in production of corn of 350,000,000 bushels and a decrease of 4,000,000 bales in the production of cotton. The crop produced on 24,000,000 acres would be about 10,000,000 bales, which should easily bring in the markets of the world 30 cents per pound of \$1,500,000 which would be more than could be obtained for a cotton crop of 15,000,000 bales and leave the South 350,000,000 bushels of surplus corn which will bring good prices and help reduce the high cost of living. In addition to this the South would also realize high prices for the cotton they now have on hand, due to lack of ocean transportation and stoppage of all shipments to Germany and Austria."

TONS OF NITRATE OF SODA STARTED TO WILMINGTON.

Wilmington, March 25.—Thousands of tons of nitrate of soda are stored here now and other thousands of tons are arriving daily. A half dozen vessels have unloaded nitrate in Wilmington during the past three weeks. Shipments out of town are light so far.

Farmers throughout the state will eventually get the soda. It is said the demand for it has not yet been manifested, and as there is ample storage space here, no effort will be made to distribute it at once.

The soda was originally consigned to the war department to be used in the manufacture of explosives. When the armistice was signed several vessels en route to Atlantic ports with cargoes of soda were diverted to Wilmington, and an arrangement made where by the farmers of the South might secure the soda for crop needs.