

Pershing Thanks Y. M. C. A. For Its Canteen Service

NOW THAT FIGHTING IS OVER, GENERAL RELIEVES RED TRIANGLE, AT ITS OWN REQUEST, OF POST EXCHANGE WORK

Chaumont, France, Feb. 23.—The American Y. M. C. A. at its own request, has been relieved of its work in maintaining the post exchanges with the American army. Correspondence has been exchanged between General Pershing and E. C. Carter, in charge of the Y. M. C. A. with the army, resulting in this decision. On Jan. 29 Mr. Carter wrote to General Pershing saying that duties of the Y. M. C. A. in promoting athletics and entertainments were so heavy that he thought it should be relieved of the exchange work.

General Pershing, in his reply, said:

"As you correctly state, the Y. M. C. A. undertook the management of the post exchanges at my request at a time when it was of the greatest importance that no available soldier should be taken away from the vital military functions of training and fighting. As the reasons which impelled me at that time to request you to undertake this work no longer exist, I am glad to approve of your suggestion.

"In making this change, permit me to thank you for the very valuable services and assistance which the Y. M. C. A. has rendered to the American Expeditionary Force in handling these exchanges. Handicapped by a shortage of tonnage and land transportation, the Y. M. C. A. has by extra exertion served the army better than could have been expected, and you may be assured that its aid has been a large factor in the final great accomplishment of the American army."

AS SEEN BY ROOSEVELT

The following extracts from the published editorials of Theodore Roosevelt show what that great statesman thought of the proposed society of nations:

The one effective move for obtaining peace is by an agreement among the great powers, in which each should pledge itself not only to abide by the decisions of a common tribunal, but to back its decisions with force. The great civilized nations should combine by solemn agreement in a great world league for the peace or righteousness. A court should be created—a changed and amplified Hague court would meet the requirements—composed of representatives from each nation, these representatives being sworn to act as judges in each case, and not in a representative capacity.

The nations should agree on certain rights that should not be questioned, such as territorial integrity, their right to deal with their own domestic affairs and with such matters as whom or whom not they should admit to citizenship. All should guarantee each of their number in possession of these rights. All should agree that other matters at issue between any of them, or between any of them and any one of a number of specified outside civilized nations, should be submitted to the court as above constituted.

Each nation should absolutely reserve to itself its right to establish its own tariff and general economic policy, and to control such vital questions as immigration and citizenship.

Let us explicitly reserve certain rights—to our territorial possessions, to our control of immigration and citizenship, to our fiscal policy and to our handling of our domestic problems generally—as not to be questioned and not to be brought before any international tribunal.

As regards impotent or disorderly nations or peoples outside the league, let us be very cautious about guaranteeing to interfere with or on behalf of them, where they lie wholly outside our sphere of interest; and let us announce that our own sphere of special concern in America (perhaps limited north or somewhere near the equator) is not to be infringed on by European or Asiatic powers.

Moreover, let us absolutely decline any disarmament proposition that would leave us helpless to defend ourselves. Let us absolutely refuse to abolish nationalism; on the contrary, let us base a wise and practical internationalism on a sound and intense nationalism.

When all this has been done, let us with deep seriousness ponder every promise we make, so as to be sure that our people will fulfill it. It will be worse than idle for us to enter any league if, when the test comes in the future, this country acts as badly as it did in refusing to make any protest when Germany violated the Hague convention, in refusing to go to war when the Lusitania was sunk, and in refusing to go to war with Bulgaria or Turkey at all.

Let us go into such a league. But let us weigh well what we promise, and then train ourselves in body and soul to keep our promises. Let us treat the formation of the league as an addition to but in no sense as a substitute for preparing our own strength for our own defense. And let us build a genuine internationalism—that is, a genuine and generous regard for the rights of others—on the only healthy basis—a sound and intense development of the broadest spirit of American nationalism.

'ANY INTERNATIONAL MATTER' (Harvey's Weekly.)

This proposed league of nations, says the President, is not merely a league to prevent war, or to enforce peace, or to secure the peace of the world. Those objects have been exploited, doubtless, for the sake of commending the thing to a war-weary world. People are sick of war. They long for peace. They would like to be assured against recurrence of the great war, against the occurrence of any more wars. Therefore they instinctively turn with a desire for favorable consideration to any proposal for obtaining such ends. Even a man of the

most common sense, on the other hand, is simply a man of the most common sense. On the other hand, it provides for the occurrence of war. It contemplates the occurrence of wars between nations, while of course it does not so much as seem to discourage intestine wars within nations. But while it thus fails to assure the satisfaction of that great desire of the world, it is something else. "It is," said the President, "a league which can be used for co-operation in any international matter." The President said that in Paris, doubtless with the purpose and expectation of thus commending the project to the favor of his colleagues in the peace congress. But what was said in Paris must be heard in America; and we shall see whether that description commends the proposed league to the favor of the President's fellow-citizens in the United States.

"Any international matter." That is the scope of jurisdiction and of operation contemplated for this league. Let us consider how comprehensive that is. Let us think of a few of the "international matters" with which this body would be empowered to meddle.

Immigration, for one. That is an international matter. It is a matter of much concern to some foreign nations to what extent and under what conditions their people are permitted to migrate to the United States. It is also a matter of vital interest to the United States that we shall regulate immigration according to the needs of our own welfare. Hitherto, certain countries have felt aggrieved at our refusal to permit unrestricted migration from them to us. Under the principles of this league, as expounded by the President, such a nation would be able to appeal to the league, and the league would be able to order that we should open wide our gates to unrestricted and unconditional immigration from any and all lands.

The tariff, for another thing. That is essentially an international matter. It is notorious that the American system of a protective tariff has militated against the interest of manufacturers and merchants of other lands, and has been regarded as something of a hardship to them. It is entirely conceivable that some nation might protest to the league of nations that the American tariff was interfering with its freedom of trade with this country, that the league might take the matter up as "international" in its bearings, and might, by virtue of its overwhelming non-American majority, direct that all protective tariffs should be abolished and that free trade should everywhere prevail.

Extradition, for a third thing. Certainly that is an international matter. It has hitherto been dealt with partly by our own domestic ordinances and partly by treaty stipulations. We have always refused resolutely to permit the extradition of those who were charged with merely political offenses, such as conspiracy and attempted revolution. But "a league which could be used for co-operation in any international matter" could require the United States to amend its practice in this respect, and to surrender on demand any fugitive from any country who had sought asylum here, on any pretext whatever.

We do not think that the American people are willing thus to deliver their interests unreservedly to the control of an organization which would in composition be overwhelmingly non-American, and which on some points of vital importance might easily be anti-American. A league which could be used for co-operation in any international matter would be potentially a universal meddler and a universal menace.

WISE COUNSELS

Declaring the league of nations "the most momentous question ever presented to the people of the United States or to the world," Senator Lodge of Massachusetts in a letter to Courtney Crocker of Boston advises the American people to study it, discuss it, and above all, be in no hurry in their decision.

It is a two-story wooden structure, with a basement beneath, and in the basement that heats the school the furnace is a duplicate affair, practically two installations, as neither one alone will heat the building. That makes it all the more effective as a piece of insidious danger. When the structure was built it was so highly regarded that a picture of it was printed in one of the State school publications, and it was well towards the front of the book. But as I look at it since talking with Insurance

IS YOUR CHILD IN SUCH A BUILDING

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SOUTHERN "Y" MAN BLINDED IN SERVICE

Says It Will Take Time For Public To Realize Value Of The Red Triangle Service To American Fighters.



DeRoy R. Fonville.

New York, Feb. 23.—So unusual was the service rendered by DeRoy R. Fonville of Burlington, N. C., in his Y. M. C. A. work overseas that Major General L. S. Upton has written him a personal letter in appreciation of his efforts.

Mr. Fonville has returned to his home after ten months service with the Y. M. C. A. He was with the Fifth and Sixth Marines and Ninth and Twenty-third Infantry at Chateau Thierry, Soissons and St. Mihiel. It was while he was in a trench waiting to serve the Marines when they "pushed off," that a high explosive shell blew particles of rock into his eyes, blinding it. The same shellfire killed James A. Birchby, a Y. M. C. A. secretary from Pasadena, Cal., and wounded another Red Triangle worker, Thomas W. Wilbut, Jr., of New Britain, Conn.

The letter of appreciation that was sent to Mr. Fonville by General Upton read as follows: "I have observed your work as Y. M. C. A. representative of the Ninth Infantry for some time and wish to convey to you my appreciation of the uncomplaining and soldier-like manner in which you have undergone all without the glory that is attached to the profession of arms. The work which you have done had added greatly to the contentment of the men and thus to the efficiency of the command."

"My experience gave me an appreciation of American men and what they can go through," said Mr. Fonville. "Our division was a shock unit. It never went any way but forward. Our division alone captured 12,000 prisoners. These men appreciated the Y. M. C. A. and understood the difficulties it had to contend with in getting supplies up to the front. I have a complaint to make about losing a sight of one eye, that is war, but I wouldn't me to have known what was the work of the Y. M. C. A. had these come home in boxes of the unknown being credited here. I believe that in the time the full appreciation of the Y. M. C. A.'s work will be general."

GIFTS FROM "Y" HELPED DOUGHBOY

Corporal Irving Abrahams of New York has just returned from France. Just because the Y. M. C. A. men overseas had gone out of their way to treat him well, he took the trouble to make his way to the Headquarters Building of the National War Work Council, Y. M. C. A., New York City, and found some one on the 9th floor at Headquarters to tell how much he appreciated the service of the Red Triangle.

This is just a part of what he said: "I returned from France on the 27th of January. Have been wounded three times. Am feeling fine, but the first time when we landed over in France in April, 1917, we took the position up on Chateau Thierry and the Y. M. C. A. was right with us and brought up on the firing line chocolate, cigarettes, and also pears, biscuit and done the best and all he could just to please the boys.

"And in August when we drove the Germans back he came up under heavy shell fire and brought us the same chocolate, cigarettes, and if the boys didn't have any money he would give it to us just the same.

"And up on the Argonne Forest he went under heavy shell fire and brought up all the candy and chocolate, and also spoke to the boys to send our money to our mothers and which we did, and also he told us to send our money home and he will do all he can for us, and also the boys of the Third Division is very well pleased of the Y. M. C. A. and also thank them ever so much; and also when we got relieved from the Argonne woods the Y. M. C. A. entertained us, gave us a grand time, and we thank the Y. M. C. A. with our full heart and we shall never forget them.

"So I don't see why the fellows are coming back from France and kicking the Y. M. C. A., and I can speak to anybody and ask them why they are knocking the Y. M. C. A."

Red Triangle Man Tells Of Serving At Chateau Thierry

The Y. M. C. A. has been criticized because it was said that it had no one at the fighting in the region of Chateau Thierry. The other day, Ernest C. Bardwell, a New York man, came back from France, broken in health because of his strenuous work in that region.

Mr. Bardwell was one of a party of Y. M. C. A. men who entered Chateau Thierry village with supplies at 10 o'clock on the morning of July 22 and worked all day and far into the night serving the boys who were beating back the German counterattacks. The last German prisoners, he said, were taken out of Chateau Thierry at 8:30 o'clock on the same morning.

THE Y. M. C. A. IN FAR EAST

The work of the Y. M. C. A. in Macedonia is rapidly extending over the newly-opened areas, and in the present state of flux heavy responsibilities devolve upon C. W. Bates, the secretary in charge at Salonica. Centers have been opened in Serbia, at Vranja, Nish, Monastir and other towns, and in the capital city, Belgrade, the Y. M. C. A. is now established in a good building. Percival Whitley, one of the deputy speakers of the English House of Commons, is developing the Association's work in Northern Bulgaria, while on Turkish soil Mr. Howard Bradley has planted the Red Triangle in Constantinople itself.

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