

The American Legion

Copy for This Department Supplied by National Headquarters of the American Legion

POILUS ASK AID IN DEFENSE

Warriors of France Fear Those Who Did Not See May Not Understand.

General Bolles, national adjutant of the American Legion, has received the following message from the French war veterans, an organization of ex-service men in France. The letter was transmitted through the New York office of the organization, and reads in part as follows:

"To Our American Brothers-in-Arms: 'COMRADES:

"The Poilus of France make this appeal through us to their American brother-in-arms and say to them in the name of that justice for which they fought together, never forget what you came to do amongst us. By the blood which was shed by us together, in the name of our dead who lie side by side, in the name of all the brave men who bear on their bodies the glorious marks of desperate battles, in the name of all the heroes whom our nations have produced, let us not forget, let us continue together their sacred work, let us unite our countries as our hearts were in the face of death, let us not lose the fruits of such generous efforts, of so many willing sacrifices, let us look clearly into the future and continue for the maintenance of our liberty and for the honor of our race the battle to which our duty calls us.

"America has gained through her sons in this war the right to immortality. Nations looked on with admiration at the spectacle of millions of young American heroes arriving on the soil of France, to defend the sacred principles of honor and liberty inscribed in the American Constitution.

"Victory has crowned their banners, that and the blood shed for a just cause, that is a past which future generations will be proud to claim as a heritage. But the sons of America have not finished their work, our common enemy does not acknowledge his defeat, he hopes when he will have succeeded in sowing the seeds of discord amongst us to renew the fight which he lost, thanks to you. We know that ultimately will have no effect on you who have seen with your own eyes what you saw, you who know us and know what we are, but we fear that those who have not seen like us may come to doubt us and that is why we send out this appeal to you, comrades, that you may take part in our defense.

"Our cause is yours also, you cannot go back on us, you saw us in action and you know that we do not need any other proofs than our past records to prove to all men of worth that it was we who fought this war with so much heroism. It was because we were defending not only our soil, but the entire world.

"We held back and stemmed the formidable wave of German invasion, almost alone for four years, from the Somme river to Alsace, bearing the brunt of the heaviest shocks, our brave men leaving their lifeless bodies by the hundreds of thousands on the fields of battle, without one word of complaint or without asking for quarter, because they knew that if France were vanquished, the principles of the great Revolution were doomed forever, the declaration of the rights of man and the citizen would have been destroyed and trampled on, the poor and the humble would have been forced back under the iron rule of lords, crime and dishonor would have been written as the very leading of fundamental laws of modern nations.

"It must not come to pass that our brave men died in vain, we owe it to you and to their memory. The survivors must not sleep on their laurels in false security. You must not imagine that it was we alone whom you helped, you must understand that your liberty was threatened just as much as ours; all nations are more or less dependent on each other. As for us, Poilus, we shall never believe that it was from pity, nor even out of gratitude for help given by us to you in former times, that you came to our aid.

"France dead would have meant the condemnation of the whole world and France would have died rather than go back on her principles. Do not therefore let anyone say you have done enough for her; it was not she whom you helped, it was the ideals and principles for which she always stood and without those ideals of justice and liberty a free nation cannot exist.

"France is still bleeding and will suffer for a long time from the wounds which she received, her young sons cut off in her youth, her lands devastated, her commerce destroyed, her credit diminished. But what makes the greatness of a people is not alone its prosperity, it is keeping its honor unscathed. As long as this sentiment remains in a nation, that nation will live in spite of all oppression.

"Long live America, long live France, united by the blood of their sons.

"C. BOURNEZ,"
"General Secretary."

LEGION ASKS FOR NO BONUS

Service Men Merely Seek Assistance From Government in Overcoming Financial Disadvantages.

One of the biggest legislative questions now occupying the attention of the American Legion has to do with the adjustment of compensation of the ex-service man, and all the members throughout the country have been asked to aid through their congressional representatives in securing the enactment of the legion's bill.

The bill which the legion is indorsing embraces: land settlement, whereby former service men and women receive \$1.50 for each day of service, to apply on the purchase of land and government projects, or loans for buying equipment; home aid, with \$2 for each day of service to apply on the purchase of a home or farm; vocational training with \$1.50 for each day of service to be paid as long as the recipients are obtaining education from the government; or, a cash compensation of \$1.50 for each day of service, to be paid within a year after the approval of the bill.

Speaking in connection with what the national executive committee of the American Legion regards as a fair treatment for ex-service men as above outlined, Franklin D'Olier, national commander of the American Legion, said:

"The overwhelming majority of ex-service men feel strongly that this government owes an obligation to all persons who were handicapped either bodily or financially because of military or naval service during the recent war.

"The American Legion, representing over six million ex-service men and women speaks very plainly on this point at its national convention last November.

"Although this obligation to the disabled men, handicapped bodily, was universally acknowledged, it required a special meeting of the American Legion in Washington during December, over a year after the signing of the armistice, to secure satisfactory action by congress for the disabled man to the end that he would no longer be an object of private charity but could live on his increased compensation allowances.

"The average man has been out of the service one year, and outside of the sixty dollars which hardly bought him a civilian outfit, he has received no aid from his government in overcoming the handicap incidental to his service.

"The American Legion asks for no bonus—amts no bonus. That sounds too much like a gift or a present from the government. It merely asks the government to assist the ex-service man in overcoming some of the financial disadvantages incidental to his military or naval service.

"It asks that each of the four features suggested shall only be as liberal as is consistent with the welfare of the whole country. The American Legion asks nothing in its selfish interests at the expense of the country, but at the same time does not feel that this obligation to ex-service men and women should be altogether passed by at this time and all economic aid done at the expense of the ex-service men.

"If legislation is wisely framed covering land settlement, home aid and vocational training, every dollar invested by the government will bring ultimately great returns to the country by making the ex-service man a better citizen and greater producer and will increase the wealth of the nation.

"Having waited over a year, it is not unreasonable to now expect some action showing that the interests of the ex-service men have not been altogether forgotten.

"All that the American Legion asks is as liberal treatment as is consistent with the welfare of the whole country—legislation that is fair to the ex-service man and at the same time just as fair to the entire nation as well."

"It must not come to pass that our brave men died in vain, we owe it to you and to their memory. The survivors must not sleep on their laurels in false security. You must not imagine that it was we alone whom you helped, you must understand that your liberty was threatened just as much as ours; all nations are more or less dependent on each other. As for us, Poilus, we shall never believe that it was from pity, nor even out of gratitude for help given by us to you in former times, that you came to our aid.

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TESTING THE TEMPERATURE.

Aunt Milda was visiting her nephew, Jack, who had just returned from the arctic breezes of north Russia. "It was awfully cold, wasn't it?" she asked. "It was. Sometimes we couldn't even go out, it was so cold." "How could you tell when it was so cold, unless you went out first?" "We used to stick the point of the bayonet through the keyhole and if it froze off we stayed indoors."

HAIDING THE SERVICE MEN.

In Portland, Ore., the Central Labor council has recommended that all former service men who desire to join labor unions be allowed to do so without the payment of the usual initiation fee. The council further called on local unions to give every assistance to ex-service men seeking employment, as organized labor's contribution to the general task of finding a pay roll for every man who served his country in the war with Germany.

BOY SCOUTS

(Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

OKLAHOMA'S PIONEER SCOUTS

There are two pioneer scouts in Choctaw, Okla. One wants to be a wireless expert and the other a breeder of fine horses. Being scouts both will undoubtedly achieve success.

"I think more of the scouts every day," writes a Delaware (Okla.) pioneer scout who will become a veteran in two and one-half years by completing five years of scout service.

A Deepen pioneer scout made a three-day bike. He also enjoys fishing trips.

An Indian orphan in Hartshorne is a pioneer scout. He is preparing to be an engineer.

Blues and printing are the hobbies of a pioneer scout in Hollis.

Two out of three pioneer scouts in Manchester expect to remain on the farm. One in Okarche is an enthusiastic member of a sheep club. Another in Row says, "Scouting has taught me to do many things around the farm that I never knew before."

A pioneer scout in Oklahoma says his favorite sport is building fires along the creek, boiling eggs and roasting rabbits.

A Sawyer scout, member of the pioneer division for farm boys, can demonstrate the breast, crawl, side and back swimming strokes and dive from a board or from the surface of the water.

Boy Scouts are good students, but how many can beat this pioneer scout in Spiro, Okla.? One of the questions on the application blank is, "What studies give you most trouble?" He answered, "Don't have any trouble."

HIS OWN COOKING SUITS HIM.



Scout J. F. Hunt of Troop 2, of Portland, Me., Testing the Ration.

SCOUTS SLEEP FINE OUTDOORS.

The scouts find camping out so beneficial that many of them want to sleep outdoors the year round.

An authority on this subject declares it is the healthful thing to do.

Col. Ernest K. Conlter, general manager of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, says:

"As to the practice of sleeping out of doors under proper covering and with adequate safeguards against rain or, perhaps, having one's ears, nose or other members frosted, the benefits are so great that no one can question the advisability of this course in many cases.

"More and more people are sleeping out of doors all the time and in all seasons of the year, and I personally feel that this practice should be encouraged in every possible way—of course, under proper conditions."

SCOUTS AIDING CONSERVATION.

With so much interest being taken all over our country in the study of forestry and preservation of our forests, the work now being done by boy scouts along the lines of "tree study" is worthy of special notice.

This work is being pushed by scoutmasters, and the boys are, as usual, coming to the front in acquainting themselves with the nature and growth of the different trees in their various communities. In the same way scouts have always "come to the front" in matters of public welfare.

LASSO EXPERT HELPS SCOUTS.

Boy Scouts at State College, Penn., are highly favored in being able to receive instruction in throwing the lasso, rough riding and other interesting feats from "Buck" Taylor, who was for many years with Buffalo Bill's wild west show.

"Buck" Taylor has a tract of land near State College, where he plans to have a stock farm.

He is very kind to the scouts and freely gives his time to help them.

Mudholes Are Developed.

Trees that shade a dirt road also aid in retaining the moisture after a heavy rain to such an extent that mudholes often develop.

Thorough Test for Cement.

All cement for road purposes should be given thorough testing by reliable engineers.

Colorado Improved Roads.

Colorado has spent on an average of \$25,000 to \$30,000 per mile on concrete roads.

ROAD BUILDING

Plan Outlined to Do Away With Construction of Forms—Remedy for Undermining.

Instead of going to the trouble and expense of making forms for the concrete culverts, if the ditch is temporarily filled with earth and tamped, these may be made with no forms at all. One such culvert was made several years ago that has withstood time and frequent use and is still without any cracks.

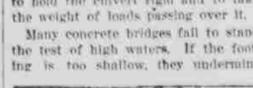
The illustration shows how this type of culvert or bridge is constructed, writes Dale R. Van Horn in Missouri and Kansas Farmer. If a piece of land is to be drained, this may be



How Culvert is Constructed.

built first and the ditch dug afterward. If an old ditch is to be bridged, the fill may be made for the time being and later removed. The concrete is mixed in the right proportions and laid on the rounding surface to the proper thickness, and with suitable reinforcing. Trenches should be dug at either side to make a good footing to hold the culvert rigid and to take the weight of loads passing over it.

Many concrete bridges fail to stand the test of high waters. If the footing is too shallow, they undermine



Remedy for Undermining.

during a flood, and either crumble or are made unsafe. A simple remedy for this is to provide a shallow wall running across the upstream side of the opening, and a part of the bridge. This should extend to the bottom of the side walls and should not be over five or six inches above the low water level. This checks any tendency toward undermining and prevents debris from weighing in the bridge.

GOOD ROADS INDISPENSABLE

Highway Improvement Is a Business Proposition With Farmer and City Dweller.

When it takes four horses to pull an empty wagon to town and when it is going off in price each day; when the mail carrier gives up in despair, and the children cannot get to school, the farmer cannot help wondering how much this condition is costing him each day.

Figure as he may, he cannot get away from the fact that good roads are indispensable to agricultural prosperity.

The city dweller is alike concerned. The farm on a good road has scores of possibilities for the development of its resources to every one open to the farm on a poor road. Increased expenditures—greater buying powers.

In the early days of poverty many a county lashed itself for hundreds of thousands of dollars to secure railroads to promote agricultural development. Three-fourths of all the freight the railroads haul must sooner or later move over the public highways, and every ton so moved is costing at an average rate of 25 cents per mile.

Verily, road improvement is a business proposition—a matter of dollars and cents.

PENNSYLVANIA NOW LEADING

Keystone State Led Nation in 1919 in Mileage of Contracts Let for Road Building.

Pennsylvania led the nation in 1919 in mileage of contracts let for road construction, according to the state highway department. Up to January 1 the state awarded contracts for the building of 678.26 miles of durable highways. Its nearest competitor was Illinois, which contracted for 510.70 miles.

Pennsylvania's 1920 program calls for the construction of approximately 800 miles of roads. The department says that Pennsylvania is far ahead of other states in the organization it has perfected to build durable highways.

BETTER SCHOOL ADVANTAGES

Average of School Year is 180 Days in Five States Having Best Road Systems.

Good roads make it possible to have better school advantages. In the five states of the Union which have the best system of public highways the average length of school year is 180 days. In the five states that have given the least attention to road improvements the school year is less than half that long.

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JUST A LITTLE SMILE



WORSE THAN APPENDICITIS.

"What's the matter, old top? You look sick."

"I've just undergone a serious operation."

"Appendicitis?"

"Worse than that. I had my appendix cut off."

His Guess.

Burrows—By the way, what was the denomination of that bill you loaned me?

Lenders—Episcopalian, I imagine—it keeps Lent so well.

Choice of Abodes.

"I gotta have a place to live."

"I understand," said the real estate man, "and maybe I can fix you up. Now, which would you prefer, a portable shed or a tent?"

Not guilty.

Colonel Southland—Well, Eastus, did the judge find you guilty of stealing chickens?

Eastus—No, sah, colonel; I was released on a stipend.

Up in the Air.

The Magistrate—What's the charge against his man, officer?

The Air Cop—He was spending in a high-power racing plane and ran down a child's poplino.

Little Use.

"He was much affected when I lund him a loan. When I looked at him his face was working."

"Yes, that is the way he saves his hands."

MISANTHROPIC.

"When Brown is happy he tries to sing."

"Yes. Some of us don't care how miserable we make others, so long as we're comfortable."

Cross-Examination.

The lawyer to the witness (clings with questions deftly wrought. And makes him say a lot of things he never knew he thought.

The impossible.

"It's such a nice place where you moved, I hope you'll like your new neighbors."

"I'm just sure I won't. They all own cheap cars."—Browning's Magazine.

The Menu.

"She certainly has a way of talking you down with cold sarcasm."

"Yes; a course, of tongue, as it were, served with chilly sauce."

His Status.

"I knew a man once who ate a ten-pound turkey with trimmings on a bed."

"He must have been a man of consuming ambition."

Cautious.

Post—I say, old man, will you join our Big Brother club?

Parker—Let's see the girl I'm to be fraternal to first.—Judge.

Showing It.

"Bibbs is a live wire."

"I know he is. He touched me for ten dollars this morning and I was shocked."

Professional Duty.

"Why did you leave the dentist you have been going to so long?"

"I found he was getting on my nerves."

True.

"Pa, what's a scientific salesman?"

"A scientific salesman is a fellow who knows when to quit annoying you."

Odious.

Hill—McShorts has sold a poem to Scribblers, entitled an "Ode to a Fair Lady."

Hills—Was he? Well, he is more competent to write verses entitled "Ode to a Landlady."—London Tit-Bits.

One Flaw.

"She acts as though she thought she was the queen of Sheba."

"Oh, no. She would never think she was anybody who had to go to somebody else for wisdom."

The Boon Was There Before.

She—What did your boss say when you told him you took me to the football game.

He—Gave me his sympathy when I told him I had to explain all the plays to you.

He Should Know.

Village Fire Marshal—I was just readin' in this history about the burnin' of Rome.

Head Pipeman—What started it, chief: crossed wires or a lighted cigarette?

CONDENSED CLASSICS

THE HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN

By SIR WALTER SCOTT

Condensation by T. L. Hood of Harvard University



Walter Scott was born in Edinburgh on Aug. 15, 1771. His father was a lawyer, the first of the Scott line to leave the open country for the town.

For a man who wrote such a prodigious amount, Scott was surprisingly late in getting started. He was 34 years old when his first original work appeared, "The Lay of the Last Minstrel." From that moment until his death, on Sept. 21, 1832, he was with the pen in his hand.

Fully a dozen of the Waverley Novels, if not more, might be included in any list of 100 novels and many loyal lovers of Scott would even think that one or two more might be added. He was, as Stevenson remarked, "the king of the romances."

"Waverley," "Ivanhoe," "The Heart of Midlothian," and "Kenilworth" are representative of Scott at his best. But "Old Mortality," "Quentin Durward," "The Talisman," "Guy Rannard," "The Fortunes of Nigel," "The Antiquary," "St. Ronan's Well," "Rob Roy" and indeed others have all been ranked as favorites among the innumerable admirers of the romances written by "The Wizard of the North."

The Heart of Midlothian, by many called the finest of the Waverley Novels, was published anonymously in 1818. It takes its name from the Tolbooth, or old city jail, in Edinburgh (pulled down in 1815), the "stony heart" of Midlothian, which reared its ancient front in the very middle of the High street of the city.

On the afternoon of September 8, 1736, Reuben Butler, assistant-master of the school at Libberton, and licensed minister of the gospel, found himself in unexpected trouble. First of all, he had become entangled with the crowd of good citizens of Edinburgh in the Grassmarket, murmuring at the postponement of the execution of Captain John Porteous of the City Guard. They were still in the heat of anger from the events of the preceding day, when Porteous had ordered his men to fire, and had fired himself, upon the crowd, some of whom were attempting to cut down the body of "Scotch" Wilson, the famous smuggler. Several innocent citizens had been killed. Now that the chief offender seemed likely to escape, there was no knowing what the mob might do. The quiet young pedagogue would gladly have returned to Libberton. Then, to his consternation, he learned that Effie Deans, the younger and more charming sister of his sweetheart Jeanie Deans, was imprisoned in the Tolbooth.

When he had last seen Effie, more than a year before, she had been a beautiful and blooming girl, the lily of Saint Leonard's. Many a traveler past her father's cottage had stopped his horse on the eve of entering Edinburgh, to gaze at her as she tripped by him, with her milk-pail poised on her head, bearing herself so erect, and stepping so light and free under her burden that it seemed rather an ornament than an encumbrance. Now the poor girl, scarce eighteen years of age, lay in the Tolbooth, charged with child-murder.

The facts were that after working for a time in a shop in Edinburgh, the unhappy prisoner had disappeared for the space of a week, and then made her appearance before her sister at Saint Leonard's in a state that had rendered Jeanie only too certain of her misfortune. But to all questions she had remained mute as the grave, until the officers of justice had come to apprehend her.

Before Reuben Butler could see her, the Tolbooth was closed; and before he could escape from the city a crowd of rioters compelled him to return with them to the jail and administer the last rites to Porteous, whom they dragged forth to death.

The leader of the mob, a young man disguised in women's clothes, seized a moment in the midst of the turmoil in the jail to beg Effie to escape. "For God's sake—for your own sake—for my sake—flee, or they'll take your life," was all that he had time to say.

The girl gazed after him for a moment, and then, faintly muttering, "Better tyme life, since that is gude fame," she sunk her head upon her hand, and remained, seemingly, as unconscious as a statue, of the noise and tumult which passed around her.

In the morning, on his way to see Jeanie and her father at Saint Leonard's, Butler encountered in the King's park a young man of noble bearing, but strangely agitated, who bade him

"Well Jeanie Deans that, when the moon shone, I aint expect to meet her at Meel Muschar's Cairn, beneath Saint Anthony's chapel."

After attempting in vain to induce Jeanie to visit Effie again, in the Tolbooth, only to be compelled, on his arrival there, to tell the whole story, lest he be convicted of guilt in the Porteous affair. And then he went home, under ball not to leave Libberton, nor to communicate with any member of the family of Effie Deans.

But if his experiences were to his incomprehensible they were by no means so to the authorities. By piecing together his testimony with those of others, they rightly determined that the stranger in the King's park, the leader of the Porteous mob, and the father of Effie's child were one and the same person; namely, Gerdie Robertson, comrade of Wilson the smuggler, and but lately escaped from the very prison in which Effie Deans was now confined. Accordingly, they planned to capture him that night at Mischaw's Cairn. But before they could reach that place, Robertson had time to beg Jeanie to save her sister at the trial by testifying that Effie had disclosed to her her condition. Thus he escaped.

Merely that slight falsehood would have removed the case of Effie Deans from under the letter of the cruel Scotch statute. But Jeanie, steadfastly, devoutly truthful, was utterly unable to placate her conscience in