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The Evening News

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PLOEGSTREET FAMOUS WOODS

Will Some Day be as Renowned as Waterloo.

SCENE OF PRESENT DAY HARD FIGHTING

Last Winter the Germans Tried to Take the Allies At This Point But Failed.

By William G. Shepherd.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY, Northern France, April 21—(By mail to New York.)—Ploegstreet wood, the Tommies call it.

Plugstreet, is in Belgium. Some day it will be a great historical park, like the field of Waterloo.

Just now its trees are scarred by bullets and shells; German bullets whistle now and then through the branches and clip them off with a lightning snip; from time to time the ambulance men run to some corner of the forest to pick up a British soldier who has been hit by a stray German missile and taking it altogether now is not the time to see Ploegstreet wood.

Just beyond the wood lie the British trenches; and just beyond the British trenches is the German line. A rich brewer in Armentieres owns Ploegstreet. It was his pheasant ground. The pheasants are gone now; just before Christmas the British soldiers in the wood bagged 22 of them for Christmas dinner and that finished the lot.

In October the Germans, sweeping down toward Calais, tried to take the Ploegstreet wood. Commander-in-Chief Sir John French gave one of his ironclad orders that it must be held; the fighting for Ploegstreet wood went on for days. The Germans got into it and—died; the Britishers fought them out of it and died. And when winter fell the great forest was dotted with graves and its trees were battered by bullets and shells, but the British trenches circled its outer edge and the German trenches were dug four hundred feet from the forest's limit.

The forest is two miles long and a mile wide. We came to its border after crossing ploughed fields where German shells fell daily. We found a sidewalk two feet wide, made with sticks fastened together with wire, a corduroy footpath.

"It was unspeakable here in the winter. The men floundered in mud

up to their waists until we built these footways," explained the English major, who was acting as my guide. The footway led straight into the heart of the forest.

"It's rather ticklish living here," said the major. "You see the trenches aren't far away and the German bullets that miss the tops of our trenches come in here among the trees."

The banging of rifle fire in the trenches was incessant. A bullet sang above us and clipped off a small twig which fell to the ground. Half a dozen bullets sang their songs before we reached a dugout, which stood among heavy trees. A fine wooden sidewalk passed in front of this dugout and stretched away down an avenue of trees. Between the dugout and the sidewalk in the front yard, as it were, of the earthen residence was a beautiful garden of wild spring flowers which had been transplanted from various corners of the forest.

There were all the signs of spring in the forest, except birds. They have learned to stay away from Ploegstreet grove.

"There are two or three robins, who haven't gone," said the officer who lives in the dugout, "but they are specially foolhardy." Violets, primroses and cowslips almost bedded the forest floor in places; a clump of violet roots, dug up with tons of earth by a German shell, lay beside the great cavern, with its flowers healthy and strong.

There's one spot in Ploegstreet wood that German shells ought never reach. It's a grave with a carefully made wooden cross on it and the lettering says: "Here lie two gallant German officers."

"That's rather unexpected," said a civilian who was with us.

"But they were brave," said the major. "The Germans aren't always so bad. Five officers from my regiment were missing one time and we never even expected to find their bodies. But when we drove the Germans back we found a grave on which was marked: 'Here lie five brave English officers.' We identified them all and their bodies were taken back to England."

We followed another sidewalk and came to a huge mound, covered with yellow spring flowers, which had been planted by the English soldiers. On a neatly made cross at the head of the mound an English soldier had patiently printed the words: "Here lie seventeen German soldiers."

There wasn't an English grave in Ploegstreet wood that was better tended or more heavily flowered than these mounds of fallen Germans.

Knots of men passed along the narrow walk now and then going to and from the nearby trenches. They

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BERLIN SENDS FORMAL NOTE

Germans Reject Wilson's Submarine Proposal.

WILSON WILL REFUSE TO ARBITRATE

President Will Take View That "Patronizing Attitude" of Germany is Bitterly Resented Here.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—The second note from Germany dealing with the sinking of the Lusitania and the submarine warfare of the Kaiser, is expected to be forwarded from Berlin in 48 hours. The future policy of America toward Germany is taking shape. The official note of Germany rejecting the demand of President Wilson that the submarine attacks either be stopped or that measures be taken to safeguard the lives of Americans aboard merchant vessels, was received from Ambassador Gerard at midnight. No official word as to the intentions of the administration are forthcoming, but it is known that the president hopes to act promptly. It is expected that a decision will be ready for the cabinet tomorrow. The note will answer the demand of Germany for "a bill of particulars" in connection with the sinking of the Lusitania in plain cold terms. It will state the president knew when he forwarded the first protest, that the Lusitania was not recognized as an auxiliary cruiser; that the customs officials examined the Lusitania and found that not only was she unarmed, but that she carried no munitions in violation of the laws of the United States. Germany will also be told that the liner was not a troop ship, as alleged in the reply of the Kaiser. Regarding the attacks on the American ships Gulf-light and Cushing, it will be made clear that the expressions of regret made by Germany, and the offers of arbitration, do not carry any weight with this country and government. It is believed that the president will make it evident that the patronizing attitude of Germany will be bitterly resented.

Germany, in its reply to the United States, flatly declares the sinking of the Lusitania to have been justified on the grounds of self-defense. The Lusitania, it contends, carried ammunition to be used in killing German soldiers. It is also contended that the Lusitania was an auxil-

lary cruiser of the British navy; that she was armed and that she carried Canadian troops, as well as war material.

No indication of desire or intention of abating the submarine plan of warfare is given in the German reply. The note, however, is not framed as a direct answer to the American demands, but is rather an ad interim reply setting forth that certain facts are first to be decided on before the main issues are discussed by the two governments.

Sparing of Neutrals Intended. The Berlin government takes up first the cases of the Gulf-light and the Cushing. It says these are now being investigated but that it is not Germany's intention to submit neutral ships on the high seas, guilty of no hostile acts. When neutrals through no fault of their own are damaged Germany will pay indemnification, she says.

The case of the Falaba also is mentioned, and in this instance it is declared that the captain of the ship is himself to blame because of his efforts to escape and to summon aid.

Destruction of Lusitania Upheld. The declaration that the Lusitania had cannon aboard and was an auxiliary cruiser of the British navy is made strongly. All blame for the destruction of the vessel is placed on the British owners of the vessel, who are accused of attempting "deliberately to use the lives of American citizens as protection for the ammunition aboard and acted against the clear provisions of the American law, which expressly prohibits the forwarding of passengers on ships carrying ammunition and provides a penalty therefor."

The reply says it deems these circumstances "important enough to recommend them to the attentive examination of the American government."

Early Proposals Recalled. The reply says that final decision on the demands of the United States is withheld until receipt of an answer to the preliminary note, but it reminds the United States that it "took cognizance with satisfaction" of the mediatory proposals submitted by the United States to Berlin and London as a basis for a modus vivendi for maritime warfare.

The realization of these proposals, says the reply, "was defeated, as is well known, by the declinatory attitude of the British government."

There will be a joint meeting of the Parent-Teachers associations of the city tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon at 2 p. m. at the Lane school building. This is an important meeting, as it will be for the election of officers and to put in force the plans to elect Mrs. Houck as a member of the city school board. It is therefore hoped that there will be a large attendance.

LOYALTY AND PATRIOTISM

Mark Splendid Memorial Day Exercises.

SPLENDID ADDRESS BY REV. R. E. JOPE

A United People Gathered From Every Nation on The Earth Honor The Stars and Stripes.

The beautiful balmy weather of yesterday afternoon was propitious for attracting a large number of citizens out to the memorial services at the armory, and the capacious assembly hall was filled to the capacity of seats. Promptly at three o'clock the members of the Grand Army Post marched down the aisle, followed by the ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps, and took seats provided for them in the front, just below the speakers' stage. After them the local company of guards in dress uniform, marched in under the command of Capt. Buchanan. The great hall was most beautifully and appropriately decorated in the national colors and fitted in with the allusions of the speaker and the patriotic songs which were sung. The opening song was America, and was sung with the audience standing and participating. Loyalty and patriotism were breathed in the invocation by Rev. Eaton, and by Rev. Cleaves in the scripture lesson and prayer which followed.

The music was furnished by a double quartette from the Christian church, and two solos by Harold F. Humbert, all of the selections being suggestive of the occasion, and each were rendered in magnificent form.

The address by R. E. Jope, pastor of the Christian church, entitled, "The Message of the Bronze Button," was one of the most masterful ever delivered at an occasion of this nature in the city, and abounded in flights of eloquence which were received with spontaneous and continued applause. In the beginning of his address the speaker referred to the little trace of color at his coat lapel, and said it was a part of the flag under which George Washington had taken the oath of office as the first president of these United States. In speaking of the privilege enjoyed of being a citizen under the Stars and Stripes, Mr. Jope said that while the majority of those present were citizens because they were born

here, he considered that his right to honor the flag seemed to him still more significant, for he is a citizen by choice, having been born in a foreign country, and his allegiance to the flag and constitution is sworn to by solemn oath. Throughout his entire magnificent oration touching and loyal references were made to the underlying principles of patriotism and loyalty of the bronze button, its attributes of friendship and charity, and to the sacrifices made by the honored possessors and wearers of this tiny memento.

A splendid tribute was paid to this country and its attitude on war, and a fervent prayer was breathed that this peace might continue, but if the necessity should come for the United States to take up arms, it would find us united from north to south, wherever that emblem of freedom floated.

At the close of the address which was greeted with tremendous applause, the audience joined in singing the Star Spangled Banner.

ITALIAN MINISTER LEAVES TURKEY

ATHENS, May 31.—The Italian ambassador has left Constantinople and is returning to Rome, according to unconfirmed reports.

Big Race is On.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 31.—The annual five hundred mile international sweepstake automobile race started at 10 a. m. with 24 cars competing. The track is dry and conditions favorable for a great race.

MRS. HUTCHINSON DEAD

W. C. T. U. Official Falls to Rally After Operation.

PORTLAND, May 31.—Mrs. Elizabeth B. Hutchinson, national treasurer of the W. C. T. U. and ex-president of the state union in Kansas, died here Saturday night. Mrs. Hutchinson underwent an operation at a local hospital nearly four weeks ago.

Mrs. Hutchinson's home was in Winfield, Kans. She came here from Seattle to arrange the advertising of the annual convention of the W. C. T. U. in that city next October. Her daughter, Mrs. Mabel Roberts, was at her bedside when she died.

Harry Bryan, of Seattle, arrived in this city last evening from Marshfield for a short visit with W. A. Bell. He left this morning for Eugene where he has business to transact.

ROSEBURG TO BE A LUMBER CENTER

There comes a time in the development of every community when its citizens must place themselves on record either for or against progress and advancement. Such a time has arrived in the history of Roseburg. The issue is squarely up to the people. Will Roseburg place herself on the side of self improvement or will she take a step backward?

The News is satisfied that the rank and file of the voters are anxious for better business conditions to prevail. They want to see their home community advance and prosper. They are ready and willing to do their part. Yet there never was and never will be any progress without hard fought opposition. Human nature is so constituted that there is never a forward movement except there be those who are pulling, fighting, arguing and working against it. Never was this better illustrated than at the present time.

Next Thursday the voters will have an opportunity to go to the polls and cast their ballot for or against the future of their city. There is only one issue on the ballot and that is "Shall the City of Roseburg issue bonds in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the building of a railroad to the boundary of the Cascade forest reserve?" There should be nothing confusing about that proposition, and there should be no hesitation on the part of the voters. Yet there are those among us who would urge you to cast

your vote against this measure which will have more to do with the real development of Roseburg than anything which has ever been proposed.

Three weeks ago the opposition to this railroad was on the alert every minute of the day. They buttonholed voters on every street corner and urged upon them their views. But the business sense of the voters told them that the railroad and the mill proposition was a good thing for Roseburg and they have refused to listen to the voice of Judas. The opposition saw that it was useless to endeavor to convert the voters by illogical reasoning and they therefore changed their tactics. There few citizens, who seem to be guided by a false idea of economy, got together and formulated another plan which they could put into operation after the bond issue had carried. This plan aims to block the obtaining of rights-of-way. The News was informed of this plan yesterday. It is very well worked out and were it not so shortsighted and absurd it might have accomplished what it set out to accomplish. In short the plan was to obtain options of property along the proposed railroad. Farmers were approached and were solicited to give options on their farms for double, and in some cases treble, their actual value. After the option had been signed the person taking it would say to the farmer "of course you understand if the railroad goes

through your land it will be practically impossible to obtain the sum we have offered to you." The person getting the option represents himself, not as an antagonist to the railroad, but as a real estate dealer. A large number of farmers who were approached refused to give options on their places at any figure. They came instead and gave information of the scheme which is being worked. The opposition has not "laid down". It is still doing its best to defeat the railroad, but this other plan was put into operation so that in case the progressive citizens outnumber those who are against the railroad it will still have another card to play.

If every citizen who favors the railroad bond issue will go to the polls next Thursday and vote their convictions, the election will be carried by a vote of four or five to one. And why should it not carry by an overwhelming majority? Just ponder over the following substantial reasons why Roseburg should issue these bonds and build the railroad to the timber.

The road will tap Douglas county's magnificent timber wealth, 20 billion feet of which is tributary to the North Umpqua along which stream the proposed railroad will be built.

Douglas county has one-fifth of the standing timber of the entire state of Oregon. Oregon has one-fifth of the standing timber of the United

States. This makes our own county possess one thirtieth of the standing timber of the entire country. Oregon's greatest wealth is her timber. And Douglas county owns nearly 20 per cent of all this vast empire of uncut riches. Yet so far as the people of this county are concerned the timber might just as well be in China or at the North Pole. Unless an avenue is opened so that the timber can be transported cheaply to a mill to be sawed into merchantable lumber it is of absolutely no value to us as a county or a community. Roseburg is the gateway for more than twenty billion feet of this timber wealth. The North Umpqua, with its many branches, reaches far into the forest reserve and makes logging roads from the main line a comparatively simple matter of construction. This timber can make Roseburg the lumber center of southern Oregon.

The Kendalls have offered to build the road to this timber, erect a mill here at Roseburg, haul the logs to the mill and manufacture them into finished lumber. They have a selling organization which can dispose of any output which they desire. They ask the citizens of Roseburg to issue bonds in the amount of \$300,000.00 to start the road. They guarantee to finish it and erect their mill.

Such a mill will give employment to hundreds of men who are now out

of employment and who are citizens of our community. Laboring men who have been getting only a few days' work each month will have an opportunity to get steady employment. Eighty per cent of the income of all people is spent in the community where they reside and make their money.

This mill alone and the railroad will have a minimum payroll of more than a thousand dollars a day. Such a payroll in Roseburg will force us from a community which is suffering from financial ills to one abounding with prosperity. It will create a demand for more groceries, more clothing, more dry goods and more of all the everyday necessities. The channels of commerce which have become stagnant will open up and thrive. Already there have been a number of applications for business rooms and dwellings contingent upon the carrying of the bond election.

These reasons are well known. Every one who has resided here any length of time knows that if the railroad is built and the mill erected it will be a triumph day for Roseburg. But to The News the most significant aspect of this bond election is not merely the securing of the railroad and the lumber mill. This is only the entering wedge. The News believes that Roseburg is on the eve of a great era of expansion. The

News feels sure that if we, as a city, show our faith in our future by voting this bond issue it will have more to do with attracting other capital than anything else that we can do as a community. This western country has a great future. It lacks in development. But development requires capital. On every side of us the people are endeavoring to enlist capital in the opening up of their territory. In the Willamette Valley the people are working for a road into eastern Oregon to connect with a transcontinental road. The plains of eastern Oregon are appealing to the East for capital for the development of its arid lands. In the Rogue River valley the people are bending every effort to open up to the markets of the world their vast natural resources. And how the people of Roseburg have an opportunity next Thursday by their votes to say whether the barriers which shut out gigantic timber wealth shall be battered down or remain closed for years to come.

Are you, Mr. and Mrs. Voter going to stand up on the side of progress and prosperity for your city and for yourself? You have never been called upon to decide so vital, so important a question. You hold in your hand the key which unlocks the gateway to the future greatness of your city.