

ARMY LIFE IN U.S. DESCRIBED

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The following is the fifth of six articles describing activities of the Army of the United States during the summer months of 1925, given to THE ASSOCIATED PRESS by General John J. Pershing, author of the series.

(By General John J. Pershing)

As a nation we are fortunate to have abundant natural resources; splendid industrial organizations; progressive commercial and financial institutions. These are priceless national defense assets.

But our greatest asset is not our material resources. It is the American himself. Our greatest potential asset is not to be found under the ground nor in new inventions. It is the youth of our country, the boys of today who will be the American men of tomorrow.

For years we have had our Department of Commerce which has so successfully fostered the foreign and domestic commerce of the nation. We have had our Department of Agriculture which has as-

sted the farmer in making his fields more productive and his cattle of better stock. As a result of these and other departments, great strides have been made in our material resources.

But what of our people? The World War revealed a startling decline in their physical strength. One young man in four had to be turned down for a physical disability of some kind. Every other man was unfit for battle service. One in four could not read or write. Few knew much about American ideals or principles. We had been assuming that our people were healthy and that they were American. Not until the National Defense Act of 1924 has our national government had a department devoting its attention to the development of our youth. Of course, for generations, the Army and Navy had been training men who, enlisted in these branches of national defense, but these have always been small in number, totaling less in size than a medium sized American city. No department is better qualified for this work than the War Department, for it is strictly non-partisan and purely American in character.

Our summer camps are great schools in citizenship, where courses of instruction are given on the "Meaning of Liberty," "Constitutional Government," the "Duties of Citizenship," and "American History." These to my mind, however, are not as far-reaching as the practical lessons that are taught by the experiences gained in actual camp life.

In these camps the young American learns by actual practice the meaning of service to country, self-discipline, cooperation, respect for the rights of others, the importance of law and order, the value of leadership and teamwork and what is constructive as opposed to negative citizenship. They feel the thrill of being an American and understand the sacrifices that have been made and are being made by others that they may be Americans. They realize how fortunate they are to be Americans and the duties they owe for the rights that are theirs. The Regular, National Guardsmen, Reservists as well as the boys of the U. S. C. and C. M. T. C. are taught and inspired by such lessons and surroundings.

Courses are given at our summer camps in hygiene, the prevention of diseases, and physical health. But these to my mind are not as important as the practical lesson that is learned from actual living clean, orderly, active lives and eating proper food. The remembrance of that will stay with

them. Great physicians are now saying that the military training given during the World War has actually saved many more American lives than were lost upon the battlefield. This is undoubtedly true. There are no battle deaths at a summer camp, but on the contrary, vigor is given to life.

There is no better illustration of the citizenship and health-producing benefits of our military training system than the Citizens' Military Training Camps. Thirty-five thousand young men will be gathered together this summer from every state in the Union. There will be young men from the slums of the large cities; there will be young men from the homes of our most wealthy and most prominent citizens. The son of the President of the United States will be on the same plane, at this coming summer's camp, as the son of a recent emigrant to our shores. Young men from farms will mingle with young men from the industrial centers. These camps have a great leveling influence and give the young men attending a splendid opportunity to understand the viewpoint of others who have entirely different outlooks in life. That is Americanism in practice.

The improved attitude and the improved physical condition of the young men attending these camps produce better citizens and prepare a reservoir of young men far more competent for call or selection in case of emergency.

The health statistics that were given out by the officers in charge of the Citizens' Military Training Camps last fall are most remarkable. In the 34th Corps Area, 2,825 students from the States of California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming were gathered at five different camps. The young men were given a careful physical examination when their months' training started and when it finished. It was found that these 2,825 young men gained over three tons in weight, or to be exact, 214 pounds each. One of the boys gained during this short month 38 pounds in weight.

The average gain in chest expansion of all these young men attending camp in the 34th Corps Area was 44 inches. The average gain in height was .27 inches.

It is most natural that the parents of these young men who have been fortunate enough to attend camp should be enthusiastic about the splendid results obtained at the camp. It is most natural that each year there should be more and more applications to attend the C. M. T. Camps. The time is not far distant when, instead of training 25,000 young men, we will be training 100,000.

The records of the World War showed that the health of the young men of our nation was not as good as we expected. Out of every four young men drafted, one had to be turned down for disability of some kind. This serious situation must be corrected. The most practical way of accomplishing this is through the extension of the C. M. T. Camp idea.

At the present time, many of the young men who apply are unable to qualify physically. In these cases, faithful letters are written by the officers in charge to the parents of the young men, stating the cause for their son's dejection and suggesting that the family physician be consulted so that the defects may be corrected, and so that the young man might be physically improved to such an extent that he could attend the camp next year.

The officers and enlisted men of the Regular Army, National Guard and the Reserves who conduct these training camps are performing a great national service. They have become skilled and proficient instructors in this far-reaching task. There is no governmental service so important and lasting as the mental, moral and physical welfare of our future citizens.

It is too early to measure the benefits to our country of the summer camps. It is doubtful if their full value can ever be adequately estimated. But we do know that as a result of them, Americans are going to be better citizens, and that the America of the next gen-



SUGGESTION OF JUNE DAY fetes here. Two little daughters of England, Joan and Elspeth Marley, London, pose for a spring day picture.

Forest of Petrified Giant Oaks Found on Columbia River

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Discovery of a petrified forest of giant oak trees, believed to be the only one of its kind on the North American continent, has been made near the confluence of the Spokane and Columbia rivers in this state. E. M. Tardy, United States school inspector for the Indian department, now located on the Colville Indian reservation, announced the find, which was made by Dr. W. A. Johnston.

Owing to its difficulty of access, the forest has not yet been fully explored, but is known to extend for half a mile along the south bank of the Columbia. The trees are two to five feet in diameter and some 60 feet tall.

"The forest, of what apparently was a growth similar to our oaks, grew on one of the first of the eight flows of basalt that partially covered that part of the state of Washington," Mr. Tardy said. "The trees then were covered by subsequent flows."

"The extent of the preserved forest is not yet determinable, as the location makes exploration extremely difficult. However, on the ledges where the formations are plainly visible, the fallen trunks of giant trees are in open sight and by carefully negotiating the precipitous canyon, the standing trees may be seen to station is going to be a better country than the America of our generation."

each a height of 60 feet or more. The diameter of many of the larger specimens is as much as five feet and a tree two feet in diameter is common.

"To view the work of time on the precipitous walls of the canyon it is necessary to scale the cliffs and pass over the ledges made by the breaking away of the solid rock. This weathering has gone far enough to open a passage into the forest that in reality honeycombs the hillside. When the tree trunks have been brought into contact with the air, the wood has rapidly decayed and left

the hollow shafts in the solid rock.

"By traveling along the ledges and breaking away the loose accumulations of small scallings, the hollow forest may be entered, one tree at a time, as the wall of the canyon is of solid basalt and the only openings are where the trunks of the trees offer perpendicular shafts, most of which are still filled with the decaying wood of many centuries ago."

Mr. Tardy expressed the opinion that further exploration of the site might reveal the presence of unusual life of the period when the molten rock overflowed the forest.

A new method of bread-making that will preserve freshly baked bread for a period of two years has been invented by Mr. John Mull, a Swiss baker.

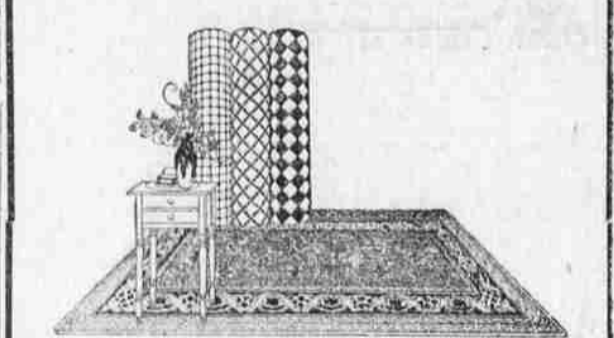
If she had married the man she wishes she had maybe he wouldn't have been the man he is.

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SURE IT'S A CIRCUS picture, taken in winter quarters of the C. H. Horney circus, near Los Angeles. The monkey and Billy, the trained dog, just dearly love each other, the trainer says.