

LENTS BOY WRITES FROM FRANCE.

Dear Mother:—I am writing in a little cafe having just finished with a lunch of bread, cheese and cider (pain fromage et cidre). Pastries of any kind are hard to get. I had a very good meal this noon, the American army eats are far from bad.

Later—I am at last allowed a pass to Paris to get my teeth fixed and I shall make good use of my extra time. I saw the damage done by one of the

monster German guns, which recently bombarded Paris, and there is not much to fear from that source.

Our school training is nearly finished and I expect to rejoin the regiment soon for active training. Nothing could please me more, as I seem to have been always on the move. Just think, I have been in the army a year, tho it scarcely seems that long to me.

Well, I have arrived safely back at camp after one of the most enjoyable sightseeing tours since I have been in

the army. This afternoon I went thru several old churches and their beauty is indescribable. I saw relics which have been in existence since Rome was in power. I drove down the Champs Elysees, saw the Pantheon, an obelisk, the Invalides, Louvre, Eiffle Tower, Seine, Cluny Palace and Museum, Roman walls, footwear of Napoleon, Marie Antoinette and Popes; and many other places and things too numerous to mention now.

It is great to be back with the regiment and taste real American grub again. No French army stuff in mine if I can have a say in the matter.

I have been practicing wireless with Corporal Ijames lately. He is making a specialty of it. At the school my grades were as high as anyone's else and I can now drive a truck or tractor.

Today the company became restless, and a detail was formed who got busy with a pair of clippers. Needless to say there are only about a dozen who can brag about their hair and they know it isn't safe to do so. I had an extra special job done on me, so I find it convenient to wear the trench cap you sent me.

Yes, we get pretty good reports of the fighting. Some of the wireless students pick up a lot of news from the big stations, and the New York Herald has a daily European edition.

I just received my laundry and I wish

you could see the way they do it. They build a shed over a creek and place a flat rock or a block of concrete so that it sticks a couple of inches above the water. The woman then gets in a tub by the rock and scrubs the clothes on it with a brush and soap. They don't use hot water but they get the clothes clean just the same.

Enclosed is a picture in the new helmet, made by Henry Ford. I'll send you a snap shot of our new overseas caps and let you see how foolish the army has us looking now. Even the French girls laugh at us and they are used to some pretty outlandish styles of French uniforms.

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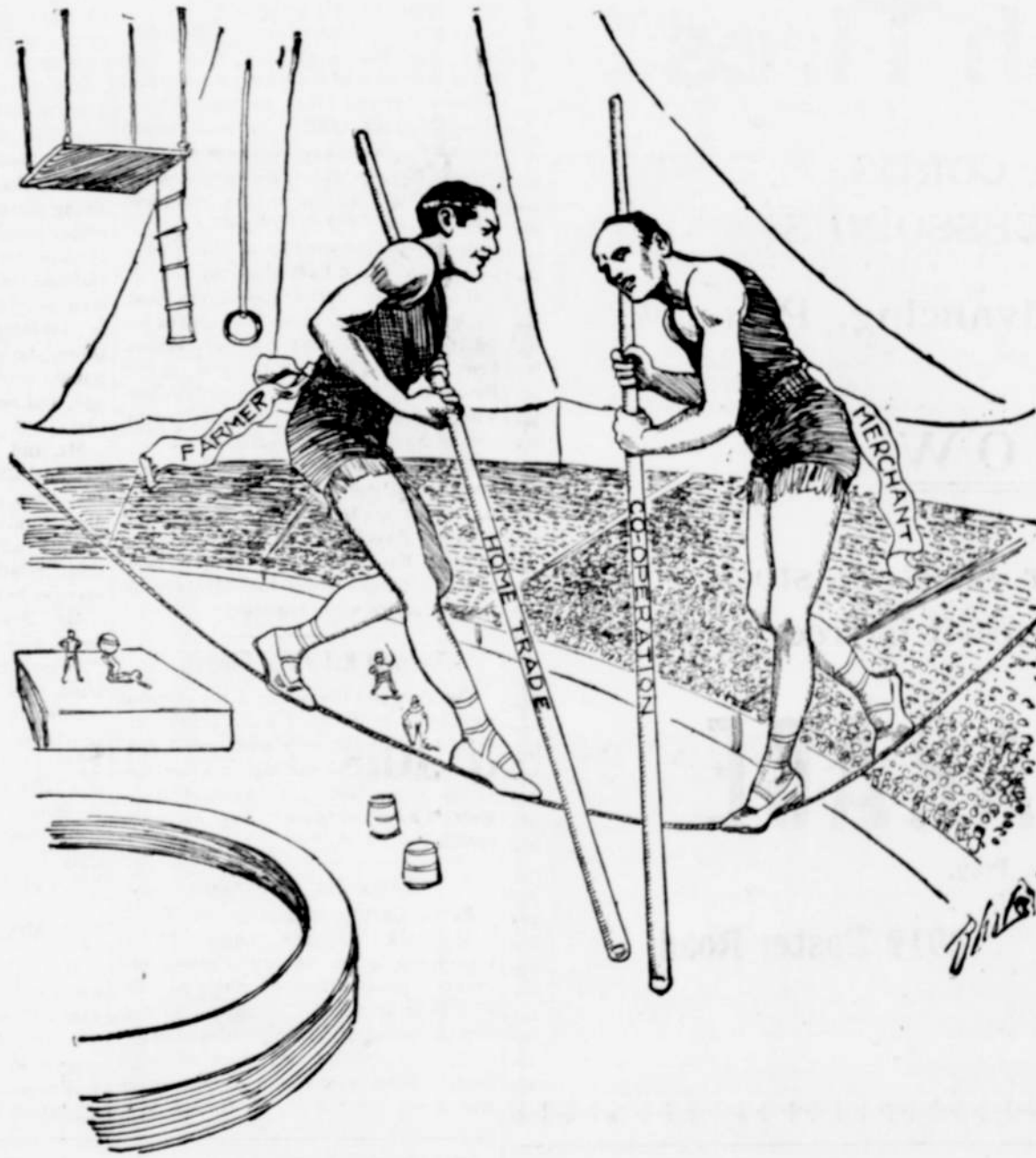
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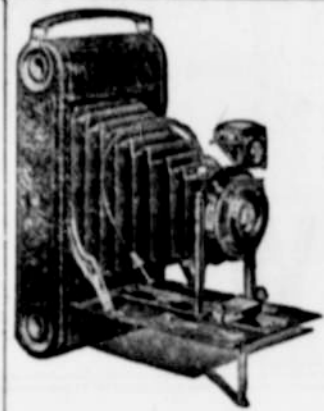
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