

BATTLEFIELD WASTE SETTLEMENT FACTOR

Ruined Country Is Background
of Peace Conference.

WAR'S DEVASTATION SHOWN

Unanswerable Argument for Drawing
Talons of Hun Given—Amer-
ican Soldiers Give Views.

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

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VERDUN, February 29.—If this be

war, let us have peace. Amid desolation that has left only one building in this entire city unimpaired—bullet marks do not count—and that has blasted trees and shrubs and God's green grass, one gets a new estimate of what the peace conference is talking about; and he joins the chorus which demands that every member of the conference, and every adviser, shall visit personally the devastated areas.

This peace conference had to be held in France. Neutral ground would never have served. It needs the background that stretches like a ghastly ribbon of death entirely across the borderland of France. When diplomats get to theorizing, and to talking of claims and spheres and rights and ambitions, as if they were dealing with cold and mathematical factors in an impersonal game, then they need to see the Souain or Somme or Grand Pre or Verdun or Rheims or Vaux, or any others of hundreds of once-thriving cities of France. Within a few hours' ride of Paris one may behold with his own eyes more of the real meaning of war than he has gained from all the volumes and newspaper reports that have been written. Should any delegate become chauvinistic and inclined to listen to the rattle of the saber, he has only to go for a half day's outing in his automobile to understand, as no learning or lore or eloquence could teach him, that the Paris conference must once and for all make an end of war.

Exhibits Are Presented.

More than 5000 books from the Congressional library were brought to France by the attaches of the American peace commission. A few miles to the north lies a volume written, like the Egyptian hieroglyphics, in stone, by the hand of the Hun; and it is more convincing than all the tomes from the shelves of Washington's great library storehouse. Here, in uncounted and unmeasured heaps of smashed homes and prostrate churches and collapsed business houses and official structures—the modest dwelling of the workingman living level with the obliterated ancient cathedral or stately chateau—is written the story of the Hun's endeavor.

One's eyes grow tired looking upon it; and the mind refuses to react with vivid impressions. In New York tens of thousands of persons would throng to see one bombed building; here the visitor ceases to speculate as to the name of the uninhabited patch of gray ruins and romantic associations of home.

Refugees returning are sometimes unable to identify even the site of their residence, so overwhelming and all effacing has been the devastation. After a time the grotesque shapes of the fragments that survive and the intimate little reminders of what used to be cease to affect one; when a child's cradle projects from one corner that remains of a home that has been blotted away by shells. Here in a woman's bonnet that has remained when everything else has been pounded into an indistinguishable heap.

Record Is on Surface.

Delegates despair of bringing to the conference the tragic tale of the near east, with its exterminated populations and its obliterated towns, but there is no need, if the peace commissioners have seen even the thinnest corner of devastated France. The record has been written, in black, glaring type. It lies upon the surface. Such an offense against human nature, against human handiwork and against the primal rights of justice, should never again be permitted. That this in reality is to be a peace conference—a conference for permanent peace—is assured by the countless evidences that lie in such close proximity to Paris.

Grievous reminders of what this war has done to human life remain on the battlefield, but all this is discounted by the imagination of civilization. What war has cost in life has been discussed in thousand times, though one gets a new sensation from the antipathy of our young veterans to it—boys who never blinched before the worst of it, and whose courage has never been surpassed.

They express more pronounced convictions than the statesmen against the recurrence of this thing which caused the flower of manhood to undergo unimaginable and indescribable sufferings. Our troops are not pacifists, and they would go through it all again to crush by the only method possible the spirit of Prussianism. But the combat arms are for peace, from considerations that in nowise affect their own personal safety or valor.

Earth Laid Waste.

If the cost of the war in sentiment life has been appraised and in demolished fruits of civilization has been

reasonably understood, there remains one phase of the devastation which France and Belgium have undergone that only personal contact can make clear. This is the blight of soil.

Yesterday I saw miles of ground that has been so churned by shells that the good ground has been completely turned under and the white limestone has been brought to the top. This land will not grow a single tree or shrub or stalk of wheat for generations to come. The earth itself—God's beneficent earth, which has done only good to man—has been ruined. Now it is, for long expanses, a hideous and sterile heap of hidden limestone, vomited up from the depths.

No plow will ever pierce these hillocks and craters. Human eye will never look upon it with pleasure. Children will not be brought to the spot, generations hence, by successful men and told, "Behold, these are the fair fields on which I played as a child." A permanent affront has been committed against nature by the hurricane of steel, which, in pursuit of man, wounded Mother Earth.

Every man who has a voice in the peace conference has only to look upon this to become convinced that no power, be it Germany, America, Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia or any other nation, is ever again to be permitted to indulge in designs which may bear such monstrous fruitage as this scarred, seared, spoiled soil.

Yankies Amid the Ruins.

Amid the desolation of this part of France is a factor that is gifted with the capacity for making itself felt in the conference. This is the presence of something like 150,000 American soldiers, scattered over the region in small units. Such are the ramifications of democracy that even the remotest private may have personal relationships with the highest of the land. We may be sure that the mind of the army is getting to the delegates. This is a viewpoint of value and possible only because the soldiers are here and near to Paris. Like their compatriots at home, they have a genius for independent thought. And they know the facts.

There is no romance about soldiering in the devastated regions. It means remoteness from one's major unit and isolation from one's fellows. There is not even French small-town society. I had mess at noon yesterday at Grand Pre, which is as town so important as to figure on all maps, with a detachment of the 2d cavalry.

There are only two civilian families returned to haunt the ruins and they subsist on the leftovers of the American mess. Several times during the day my automobile was off the road—and we would come to large towns, filled with German signs and evidences of occupation, with not a living soul in the place to direct us.

Frequently we ran across grave registration service men, making complete records of the graves of fallen Americans. They were explorers in a wilderness. At times their work was thwarted by the fact that a shell had fallen near the body before or after it was interred and there remain no traces for record.

Material Is Salvaged.

Other American detachments are of the engineer corps, salvaging material and organizing and blowing up the huge quantities of German ammunition left behind. It is day labor work that the army now is doing; and they long for the homes that from here seem so remote. In one group of grave registration men I heard a report that New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago had been placed under martial law because the people had risen up against a new loan and slow demobilization!

No rumor is too wild to gain credence among these exiles who have got so far out of touch with home. Even though nearly 200,000 copies of the Paris edition of the New York Herald are distributed daily by the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross to the soldiers away from bases, it is impossible to reach them all.

I picked up a doughboy at dusk along a desolate road in the battle area to give him a lift. He was pleased, for rubber boots several sizes too large are not provocative of the joys of pedestrianism. He must have ridden nearly 10 miles in my machine before he got off, to trudge another five miles through those charnel scenes of his detachment.

Nevertheless, he was uncommonly happy, because he had been visiting his unit, in hope of a letter from home—because he had seen several of the first five months! Speaking militarily, these are "orphans" soldiers scattered over this area—"orphan" of all sorts and conditions, who are tempted to think that they have been forgotten of God and man. All this is good for the peace conference to know, for it is an almost inevitable concomitant of war.

War's Waste Recognized.

National characteristics cannot be hidden. American initiative and feasible plans for knowledge have strewn the battle areas with representatives, high and low, of all branches of the American expeditionary forces—officers, enlisted men, sailors, nurses and welfare workers. They are taking their leave by sight seeing and souvenir collecting expeditions. Many of them are "A. W. O. L."—absent without leave. They profess to see loopholes in their papers that permit these excursions; at any rate, the trip is worth the penalty. With little or no money, these youngsters walk or get lifts on army trucks from all sorts of remote points to the sea, each carrying a German haversack, helmet, two rifles and two 75 shell cases, as well as small souvenirs, beads! Before they reach port they may have parted with duplicates for a cash consideration. I met even a Kansas chaplain doing a thriving business in souvenirs, but the best of the battlefield mementoes the boys will carry home to America.

More vital than these trophies are the impressions and convictions of France's suffering and of war's waste, which they bear back to reinforce the determination of democracy that this conference shall produce a permanent peace.

LAND OPENING ADVOCATED

Douglas County Official Asks Aid of Senator McNary.

ROSEBERG, Or., March 12.—(Special.)—Opening of the O. & C. railroad grant lands in Douglas county to settlement by returning soldiers is advocated by Senator McNary, asking that the Oregon delegation in congress initiate action looking to the placing of these lands at the disposal of men returning from the army.

In a letter, Senator McNary the district attorney points out that grant lands in Josephine and Jackson counties have been opened for settlement, but none in Douglas county has become subject to homestead entry. Within the past two weeks a number of soldiers have solicited District Attorney Neuner for assistance in securing homesteads from the Oregon & California railroad grant lands.

Injunction Case Docketed.

YAKIMA, Wash., March 12.—(Special.)—Judge F. H. Rudick has set yesterday making arrangements for the May term of federal court in this city. He overruled a motion for an injunction against immediate enforcement of the order of the public service commission increasing rates for water on the Hanford irrigation project on the Columbia river. The case, which will be heard at the May term of court, has about 300 defendants.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

Clothes for the Business Man

The tendency of the day is for men to dress younger. Not extreme—but a little more shapely in design.

Our new spring styles for men combine maturity with youth and dignity with the spirit of a good time. Quite essential in the matter of good dress.

Suits and lighter weight Overcoats
\$25 to \$65

Mathis
MEN'S WEAR

Corbett Bldg. Fifth and Morrison

PENDLETON TO SHOW AUTOS

ANNUAL EXHIBITION TO OPEN THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Forty-three Makes of Machines and Extensive Line of Accessories Will Be Displayed.

PENDLETON, Or., March 12.—(Special.)—Pendleton's second automobile show will open Thursday afternoon in Happy Canyon pavilion.

There will be 43 makes of machines from the several members of the Ford family to the latest model of the Peerless and Marmon on display in the arena, where a canvas covering has been laid to protect the crowds against the weather and where strings of electric lights emulate the sun's rays, the numerous trucks and tractors which are handled in a farm country such as this will be exhibited. Ten accessory houses will have space in the pavilion.

Except for concerns each afternoon and evening the entertainment features of the show will wait until the last night, when there is promised an evening of frolic that will awaken memories of long-up days. On Monday evening, following the show, after the machines have been moved from the pavilion, the management has promised to stage St. Patrick's day "jig" dance as a final windup for the year's event.

The show is planned on a permanent basis. The association of automobile dealers in the city has purchased all of the decorations and material used and plans to make this an annual event.

The show is staged by a committee of the Pendleton Automobile association, which was formed two years ago when the first show was planned. The officers of the association are: J. B. Knight of the Allen-Knight Co., president; J. E. Elkins of the Oregon Motor Garage, vice-president; Kyle Long.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

backache, painful voiding of water—dull, heavy feelings. Perhaps the uric acid is stored up in the system in excessive amount, and consequently when the urate salts are deposited in muscles and joints one suffers from lumbago (pain in back), rheumatic pains, gout, etc.

Nothing will act so nicely as "Anuric" (anti-uric-acid)—a recent discovery of Dr. Pierce's which can be had at all drug stores. "Anuric" washes away the poisons, cleanses the bladder and kidneys rendering them antiseptic, consequently one is soon cured of lumbago, rheumatism, gout and the body is put into a clean, healthy state.

HEALTH TALK
BY DR. VALENTINE MOTT.

All the blood in the body goes thru the kidneys within a few minutes. Therefore the kidneys are very important in health or disease because the kidneys filter out of the blood most of the waste (poisonous) substances and the blood then flows on toward the heart thru the kidney vein. What the kidney takes out of the blood forms urine. So it is very important to have the water tested by a chemist, at least once a year. I would suggest that everybody send a sample to Dr. Pierce's Laboratory in Buffalo, N. Y., and receive report of a thorough chemical and microscopic test, free of charge.

The kidneys and bladder suffer from the wear and tear, and we get chronic inflammations sometimes indicated by

URIC ACID CRYSTALS AS SEEN THROUGH A MICROSCOPE

Kidney Disease is the most frequent cause of rejection of seekers for life insurance. The first test of an examiner is to determine if the kidneys are healthy, because life is short when these organs are diseased. Get rid of these uric acid crystals (urate salts) by taking six or eight glasses of water daily and take Dr. Pierce's Anuric three times a day. "Anuric" dissolves uric acid as hot coffee dissolves sugar.

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LIBERTY THEATRE

Portland's BEST Photoplay Theater

"Smiling" Bill
Parsons in
"THE BIG
IDEA"
2 Reels of Fun
and Farmerettes

Always
MURTAGH
and Our
\$50,000 Organ

ALL NEW
TODAY

Just for Two Days,
So You'll Have to
Get In Early in
Order to
Beat the
Crowds



NOTE:—

Without Fear of Contradiction the Liberty Theater Offers the Greatest of All Two Star Bills. ANITA STEWART in "Virtuous Wives." "FATTY" ARBUCKLE in "LOVE."

STARTS SATURDAY

BAN ON PRODUCTS DENIED

Reported Australian Embargo Is Declared Erroneous.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—A. W. Ferrin, commercial attaché at Melbourne, cabled the department of commerce today that the report that Australia had prohibited importation of all except British products was incorrect. The report resulted, he said, from confusing an order limiting the importations of dyestuffs to British goods.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

BUCKHECHT ARMY SHOE

Acknowledged the standard Army Shoe on the Coast—and small wonder: "Extra Service Every Step Comfort Every Minute"

That's why it is being worn by thousands of men in all walks of life—Office Men, Attorneys, Physicians, Hikers, Farmers, Orchardists, Motormen, Conductors, Hunters.

Look for the name BUCKHECHT—stamped on the sole of every Shoe

The Buckhecht Army Shoe Is Sold in Portland by C. H. Baker and Other Towns by Principal Dealers.

\$6.50 to \$8.00

HEAD STUFFED FROM CATARRH OR A COLD

Says Cream Applied in Nostrils Opens Air Passages Right Up.

Instant relief—no waiting. Your clogged nostrils open right up; the air passages of your head clear and you can breathe freely. No more yawning, sniffling, blowing, headache, dryness. No struggling for breath at night; your cold or catarrh disappears.

Smear from your drugstore now. Apply a little of this fragrant, antiseptic, healing cream in your nostrils. It penetrates through every air passage of the head, soothes the inflamed or swollen mucous membrane and relief comes instantly.

It's just fine. Don't stay stuffed-up with a cold or nasty catarrh—ADV.

CATARRH

For head or throat Catarrh try the vapor treatment—

VICK'S VAPORUB

"YOUR BODYGUARD"—307.602.120

Fownes Filolette.
Quality in a suede-finished fabric glove finer than any formerly imported—American skill—Fownes century-old reputation. Durable, smart. Kid-fitting—washable.

Made in the U. S. A.

FOWNES FILOLETTE
REASONABLE PRICES
Seasonable shades. At shops everywhere.

Many School Children Are Sickly

Mother who values their own comfort and the welfare of their children, should never be without a box of Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children, for use throughout the season. They Break up Colds, Relieve Feverishness, Constipation, Teething Disorders, Headache and Stomach Troubles. Feed your mothers for over 20 years. THESE POWDERS GIVE SATISFACTION. All drug stores. Don't accept any substitute—ADV.