

MIRACLE BROUGHT
FOR MARE ISLAND

Expansion of Big Coast Navy-Yard Among Achievements of War Time.

HUGE TRACT TRANSFORMED

Scores of Immense Buildings Put Up In Record Time—Enormous Work Accomplished in Face of Many Difficulties.

MARE ISLAND, Cal., Sept. 21.—War has wrought a miracle on Mare Island.

Expansion that seems to know no bounds has taken place. Peaceful wharves of a battleship, ago, pasture lands and broad expanses of waving grain have been taken for sites of new shops, ship ways, great warehouses and barracks.

Scores of new buildings, some of them great structures hundreds of feet long, built of cement, steel and iron, have been erected and still more are planned. One great shipfitter's shop now under construction will cost more than \$1,000,000 alone.

The scope of Mare Island activities is great. The island can make a marlin spike or build a battleship. It is training men to practically every line of duty on land or sea in the great world war. Officers who will pace the quarter deck, marines who will fight in France's trenches, tradesmen, firemen and seamen who will battle the Hun in the North Sea are being fitted for service overseas.

Plans of war are being made and assembled and ships are being built, repaired and provided with tools to take part in the conflict. The ill and injured soldiers are being cared for in the strength and health in the naval base hospitals on Mare Island—one of the largest hospitals in the West.

Yard One of Biggest. Mare Island is more than the most important Navy-yard on the Pacific Coast. It is one of the biggest and most important in the entire Nation.

"Millions of dollars have been spent to make Mare Island a great Navy-yard in the Nation and millions more will be spent," Captain Harry George, commandant of the island, said in a speech recently.

Upon the declaration of war, the Navy Department was confronted with two difficult problems requiring immediate attention, namely, to provide for a rapid increase in both the material and personnel of the Navy—an increase which would make available within the shortest practicable time a large number of both war and merchant vessels, manned by suitably trained crews. This required the establishment of training camps and schools, the extension of all Navy-yard facilities, the construction of shops and warehouses, the construction of battleships and destroyers, the conversion of merchant vessels to transports and the construction of hydroplanes. All these problems, except the last, have been reflected in the recent expansion of the Mare Island Navy-yard.

Growth Is Phenomenal. Since April 4, 1917, the yard has grown at a phenomenal rate, each activity having expanded and outgrown its old accommodations to such an extent that additional buildings had to be erected or the old buildings extended to practically double their original size. Since the outbreak of the war about 170 new structures have been built.

Each department has been represented in this expansion. In all, 238,000 square feet of new structures have been built. The space was provided in new storehouses, besides which new plate and anchor racks were constructed.

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities the only accommodations in the yard for housing enlisted men consisted of a single barracks building, capable of housing 300 men. Immediately following the declaration of war the necessity of providing additional quarters at this yard became apparent. With a constantly increasing complement of men, temporary makeshift accommodations had to be resorted to. Sailors could be seen sleeping about the yards, in the vicinity of the receiving ship in rudely constructed shacks, built of discarded lumber, sheet iron, canvas, or in fact any material which would afford a measure of protection from the elements.

One of the first large projects handled by the yard was the construction of a training camp to accommodate 5000 men. On April 25, 1917, the yard received a telegram from the department, which stated that seamen and firemen would be transferred to the yard from the training station at Goat Island, as soon as the fleet was filled and directed the yard to prepare plans for a camp or barracks for 5000 men. The work was to be completed by June 1, 1918.

Work Pushed With Vigor. Practically all the work was done by yard forces and was pushed with vigor. In spite of difficulties the camp was sufficiently far advanced to permit 3000 men to be accommodated on June 1, at a place which but five weeks before had been a part of the vast farm.

This camp now contains 53 buildings and has a floor area of almost 400,000 square feet, or nine acres, and 19 additional buildings are being constructed. The camp buildings are of wood, simple in design, but substantial, light, well ventilated, lighted by electricity and heated by steam furnished from a special power plant erected in the camp. The camp consists of five self-contained units, each having a nominal capacity of 1000 men.

In addition to this, the camp contains a men's school run by the Y. M. C. A., with a technical library and five schoolrooms, an administration building, postoffice, barbershop, tailor shop, guardhouse, cobbler shop and store and supply houses. Everything which contributes to the comfort and well being of the enlisted men has been considered. There is a recreation building, located in the center of the camp, which includes a poolroom equipped with ten tables, a library, a gymnasium and a stage for holding entertainment and moving picture shows which is fitted up and used as a gymnasium during the day time, and the canteen, the profits of which are used for the entertainment fund. A swimming pool, running track, tennis courts and handball courts have been provided for the recreation of the men.

During this time a similar expansion was taking place at the Naval Hospital. Four double units, two-story emergency hospital buildings were being constructed to house and care for a total of 800 patients over and above the capacity of the old hospital.

The entire development of the Navy-yard as above outlined was carried out by the Public Works Department, and by far the greater portion was done by the yard force.

SMART MILITARY BAND WILL ARRIVE IN PORTLAND TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN DRIVE.



DEPOT BRIGADE BAND, OF CAMP LEWIS.

Back from the Pendleton Round-up, where they spent three days as the principal musical attraction of the typical Western celebration, bandmen of the Depot Brigade Band, of Camp Lewis, are to arrive in Portland this afternoon for a two days' engagement as an attraction of the fourth liberty loan campaign in this city.

Arrangements for the appearance of this splendid military band in Portland were made by Milton R. Klepper, of the state speakers' bureau, through the courtesy of Brigadier-General Vanderbilt, commanding at Camp Lewis. The band will play at various liberty loan meetings in Portland today and tomorrow and will leave for Camp Lewis on Tuesday morning. It bears the reputation of being one of the smartest military musical organizations in the service and its appearance in Portland has been eagerly anticipated.

OREGON TO EXHIBIT

Prize Livestock Will Be Sent to California Show.

CASH PREMIUMS ARE HUGE

Sponsors Propose to Stimulate Interest in Food Industry and at the Same Time Assist in Prosecuting War.

Herbert Hoover, Federal food administrator, has placed his stamp of approval upon the California International Livestock Show, to be held in San Francisco from November 2 to 10, under the direction of several prominent men who have formed a nonprofit-making corporation, and under the auspices of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

It is the object of the sponsors to stimulate interest in the livestock industry in California, and thereby aid the Government and the Food Administration in producing more beef, pork and mutton.

Oregon is joining forces with the rest of the Pacific Coast in sending some of the best of her pure-bred livestock. Roy J. Fox, well-known stock breeder of Eugene, Or., has telegraphed that he will enter 37 swine and 25 sheep in the breeding and fat classes.

"I had not intended exhibiting this year," said Mr. Fox, in his communication. "But I became interested in what you are doing, and am in sincere accord with your purpose, so that I am determined to enter some of my stock."

Oregon Men to Exhibit. Simultaneous with this information are the entries of F. A. Pierce, of Astoria, and J. W. Smith, of Portland.

ACTRESS, WILD TO "DO HER BIT,"
DEPLORES CANNOT GET CHANCE

Alice Fleming, Alcazar's Leading Woman, Therefore Keeps Home Entertainment Fires Burning and Knits Socks for Soldiers.

BY LEONE CASS BAER. ALICE FLEMING left New York just when the Government took over custody many thousands of young men who had failed to register. "Slackers, cowards, malingerers and quitters," the charming leading woman of the Alcazar company calls 'em.

"They hung around New York City, a considerable number of them coming from out of town places, hoping and praying to be lost in the shuffle in the huge crowds of the big city. Now they have been put in uniforms and are going through their first drills in camps near by. Gee! I wish I'd been a boy. I'd be right over in Europe now. It would be something to boast to my great grandchildren some day to say: 'I helped beat Germany and did my part in freeing Poland and changing the map of Europe.'"

Miss Fleming leaned on an imaginary cane and put quavers in her voice as she delivered the speech of the imaginary grandfather she saw herself to be—if she had been a boy.

"Worse luck," she sighed, "there isn't a boy in our family, either. I've not one cousin or even a second cousin in the big fight. That's one reason I wanted to go myself. I told my mother I was enlisting in the overseas service to entertain the soldiers in France, and she was the most wonderful little mother, and proudly said: 'Go ahead. We're no boys to you, but if you can help I want you to go. But the unit of which I was a member was not completed because three of the men in the company joined the colors, and so I had to give up my plans. But I feel that if I can do one thing, if even one line in a play I'm in or any role I play helps to cheer some mother or sister or sweetheart who has a boy in the service, I'm doing a bit to help."

Many Cannot Be Accepted. "There are many unselfish, enthusiastic and capable theatrical entertainers who cannot be accepted for overseas service. Applications for this patriotic duty are far in excess of the needs or fixed allotments of the overseas service. You know, the officials say that women who have husbands or brothers or sons or other close kin in the fighting front are so sincere in their applause and discipline and impersonal service which is essential to high efficiency. Since I didn't come in the list with any kin at the front I feel doubly aggrieved that I couldn't go across. But, as I say, I'm going to do all I can to keep the home entertainment fires burning."

"After all, you know, the soldier's right, here at home, like the theater, too. I just love to see their uniforms in my audiences, and honestly, they are so sincere in their applause and so much like big, happy boys I'm playing for them. I've had some requests to go over to the barracks and up to Camp Lewis to recite and sing for the boys, and if there's any possible way I can arrange it between rehearsal days and acting nights my hours

seem filled) you may be sure I'll gladly donate my services."

In the meantime Miss Fleming is knitting socks, long gray or white ones, in her dressing-room she knits and while she's studying her roles, she knits and even at rehearsal, when she isn't busy, she "toes and heels."

She has an original idea, too, that's worth telling about. When she finishes a pair of socks and she makes a pair each week—she is going to tie a note to it saying, "Give this to the soldier nearest you," and throw it out into the audience at the Alcazar. The idea is fresh and fine and presents novel development.

"The soldier nearest you," continued Miss Fleming, "may be a lad in khaki sitting near, or he may be the nearest nearest you," and throw it out into the audience at the Alcazar. The idea is fresh and fine and presents novel development.

Although the price of chrome has been fixed for the remainder of the present year by the Government, many who have spent thousands of dollars in developing their properties and buildings fear that next year's price will be forced down to a point where operators will be forced to shut down. With this situation confronting them, W. J. Gazman and others interested in chrome ore production left last

night for Salem to confer with Governor Withycombe in regard to the future price for the ore, after which they will proceed to Portland and Seattle.

Producers have met with the local Chamber of Commerce and, as a result, a telegram was sent to Senators Chamberlain and McNary urging them to try to get the War Industries Board to act toward maintaining present chrome prices.

It is estimated that fully \$100,000 has been expended in building roads and chrome mines in Southern Oregon and Northern California and, if the market for the ore is paralyzed next year, the majority of the producers will lose heavily.

War Council Considers Taking Over 'Varsity Y. M. C. A. SCOPE WILL BE ENLARGED

Military Work at University Calls for Greater Variety of Activities on Part of 'Y,' Which Are Now Being Arranged.

CAMP HUT PLANNED

War Council Considers Taking Over 'Varsity Y. M. C. A.

SCOPE WILL BE ENLARGED

Military Work at University Calls for Greater Variety of Activities on Part of 'Y,' Which Are Now Being Arranged.

EUGENE, Or., Sept. 21.—(Special.)—The National War Council is considering taking over the University of Oregon Y. M. C. A., and running it on the same basis as the "Y" nuts in the cantonments and in France. Beginning October 1, the university will be an Army camp, and, outside of the military and allied instruction, the association will be the most important factor.

Under the leadership of the secretary, Kenneth Lane, a well-known university man, big preparations are being made to handle the situation. New quarters have already been obtained in Friendly Hall, where the "Y" will occupy the entire ground floor of the south wing. It is probable that a hut will be built on the campus.

The question of whether the National War Council will take over the branch and conduct it personally, or whether they will merely act in a supervisory manner, will be decided at a conference to be held soon between Gale Seamen, personal representative of John R. Mott, Kenneth Lane, and the university authorities.

The present rooms are well equipped. There is a secretary's office, writing room, reading room and billiard room. A piano has already been secured, and efforts are being made to secure a phonograph and records. The regular "Y" staff will be furnished, and in the reading room will be the current magazines and papers from the more important Oregon cities.

President Campbell is a hearty supporter of the Y. M. C. A. and is doing all in his power to help it. "The Y. M. C. A. has been doing wonderful work in France," he said. "It is hard to appreciate all that they have been doing. Only the soldiers themselves can tell you how good it is. It will do a splendid work here at the university, and will more than justify the confidence we place in it."

With the abandonment of the fraternity houses and possibly suspension of the chapters themselves, the Y. M. C. A. becomes practically the sole social center for the college. Secretary Lane is working out an elaborate plan for entertainment. Motion pictures will be shown frequently, and it is planned to hold a number of athletic matches will also be held. One of the new features will be community singing, which has been a feature of the Lebanon Woman's Civic Club for the past 10 weeks were closed this week. This has been the most popular place in the city for early evening gatherings during the summer.

The pool and grounds were under the control of a caretaker, who kept them in condition, and no one could swim in the pool since it was opened three years ago. It was not unusual to see as many as 100 persons taking their evening swim in the park on the bank of the pool.

LOUISE RANDOLPH, "WHY MARRY?" STAR, HAS HAD MANY SUCCESSES

Besides Having Her Own Companies Actress Has Been Owner of Theater—Comedy to Be at Heilig Wednesday Night.

LOUISE RANDOLPH, like most of the other members of the "Why Marry?" organization coming to the Heilig Theater September 25, has had her own companies, but she has achieved something unique the others of the company cannot boast. She had her own theater, being lessee and manager of one of Chicago's playhouses, the Fine Arts Theater, for some time, where she appeared in several productions one season, and this is her second association with Nat C. Goodwin, having been a member of Mr. Goodwin's company when he played "When We Were Young."

Miss Randolph, while a member of a Virginia family, is really a native of Kansas, her father being an Army officer, and having been stationed there with his family at the time of her birth. Recently Miss Randolph succeeded Julia Arthur in the name role of "The Eternal Magdalen" when Miss Arthur was compelled by circumstances to leave the cast. Like many of America's great actresses, Miss Randolph got started in her career through amateur theatricals, her work in a Young Women's Christian Union even in Boston attracting the attention of Charles Frohman, and securing for her a professional engagement that led from one to another.

Miss Randolph has had excellent training in stock, having appeared with Proctor's Fifth-Avenue Stock, where Malcolm Williams and Florence Reed also played; the famous Boston Stock Company, Harlem Opera-House, New

York; the Orpheum in Philadelphia; Keith & Proctor stock companies of note sent to Providence, R. I., and Albany, N. Y., and several others.

LOUISE RANDOLPH, Member of All-Star Cast in "Why Marry?"

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CAPTIVE HUNS ARE
DRAGGED FROM SEA

Forlorn Teutons Saved by American Sailors, but Not for Love of Germans.

SENTRIES' JOB IS ENVIED

U. S. Fare Surprises and Pleases Pirate Crew—Forebodings Become Acute on Transfer to British Vessel.

BY RALPH D. PAINE. (Copyright 1918, by Ralph D. Paine.)

Wrecked Submarine Crew Saved. The happy Fanning steamed slowly among the floundering German sailors while the American bluejackets threw lines for them to grasp. Some were able to cling fast and so were dragged aboard like a large, unpleasant species of fish. Others seemed waterlogged or made nervous by the shock. To these was tossed the bight of a line which they were able to slip down over their shoulders and be yanked up hand-over-hand. One of them, too feeble to help himself, was about to sink when two of the crew of the Fanning jumped into the sea and held him aloft. He was very weak, half-drowned and died soon after rescue.

These two American sailors, Coxswain Conner and Chief Pharmacist's Mate Harwell, who lived after the perishing enemy, could not have told you why they did it. The motive was not love for the Germans, but as men who needed a helping hand in distress—this was why two enlisted men of the United States Navy went over the side without a thought's hesitation.

Hun Officers Kept Apart. The prisoners were taken to the deck of the Fanning, chilled through, exhausted, dumbly fearful of their fate, staring at the curious bluejackets who surrounded them and displayed no open hostility. The three German officers were taken under guard to the wardroom, given dry clothing, coffee, cigarettes and staterooms in which they were unable to communicate with each other.

The submarine commander, a young man of compact, muscular build, his hair close-cropped, was typical of his kind, bold features which indicated a temper harsh and imperious, the sort of man who would blindly obey the orders of his superiors and, in turn, enforce them absolutely. He was in a sullen humor, absurdly punctilious, his demeanor indicating that he expected to be treated as an officer and a gentleman, but in the respect the American officers conducted themselves with the most scrupulous courtesy.

The German crew, meanwhile, were given dry clothing and a hearty meal while the destroyer raced over the smooth sea to land this strange cargo at her base port. Reluctant as the bluejackets obeyed the strict routine of duty, keenly on the watch for other submarines. These sometimes roamed in pairs, like rattlesnakes, and the danger of the sunken craft might be in the vicinity.

Sentries' Job Envied. The bluejackets to be envied were those detailed as sentries. This was a rare entertainment and the prisoners were becoming talkative, a few in broken English, one or two speaking with fluent ease as though they had lived in the United States or had sailed in Atlantic passenger liners of the German lines. They volunteered more or less information, gossip of no great importance, but intensely interesting to the audience because of the source whence it came.

This was the U-boat's first mishap during the cruise. They had hoped to encounter a merchant ship and instead of wandering in search of single ships. Their commander had a rash desire, also, to put a torpedo into an American destroyer. This foolish business in the opinion of his men.

They hoped to be carried to the United States as prisoners of war. England would be much more lenient with them, so they argued. Several declared an intention of living in America after the war. They wanted no more of Germany. A pilot who said they, that it was now denied them to spend Christmas at home. This was very sad, indeed. To the American sailors who listened and looked on, Kris Kringle and the simple joys of a German Christmas seemed, under the circumstances, a trifle incongruous.

U. S. Fare Pleases Teutons. The prisoners were delighted to change their clothes, for they were miserable in the filthy, cold, and wet. Washing with soap was a luxury. Soap was so scarce in Germany that a sailor had to use kerosene for soap.

WOMAN FLEES FROM KAISER

Wife of Aberdeen Baker Has Many Thrilling Experiences.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Sept. 21.—(Special.)—Born in Hamburg, Germany, for to leave her native land, she fled because her husband had declared the Kaiser to be a coward; escaping to England in order to avoid probable service by her husband in the military prison for less majestic; leaving two of her eight children with her mother in Hamburg—sons who are now fighting in the German army; retaining in England two years and then coming to Canada, then to the United States, are a few of the experiences of Mrs. Ernest Holstein, wife of the Aberdeen Baker.

Mrs. Holstein is the mother of 12 children and step-mother to four. One of them, a daughter 17 years old, is doing a band of nursing in the military hospital at Aberdeen, where she has been coming here. A son 13 years of age wears a medal from General Pershing for his violin playing in the Southern city.

A concerted effort is being made to keep up and pass on to the schools of the state the patriotic spirit in harmony with the times and at least two new courses war work are now being planned. The Normal has a live Red Cross auxiliary and a Y. W. C. A. society and the girls are all intensely patriotic.

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was given a piece no bigger than your finger and a allowance for one month. The submarine crews received food enough, such as it was, and fared much better than the people ashore, but it was incredible to find them eating of everything on board a ship of the American Navy. In Germany they had forgotten what white bread tasted like.

A boatswain's mate of the Fanning surveyed a group of the prisoners who were rounded up near the engine-room hatch and remarked, without heat: "These murderers ought to be strung up by the thumbs, take it from me, but I suppose they had to do what this bum Kaiser told 'em. That's no excuse, and yet it makes a little difference. Are they shedding any tears from under 'em? Navy a tear. This is the luckiest thing that has happened to those guys since they left Heiligoland, or wherever it was."

"They don't look the part, at that," replied a sentry. "I have seen worse looking mugs, including yours, Shorty. The orders are to treat them firmly, but without undue severity. But I surely do wish one of them would make a break and give me a lawful excuse to knock his block off. Lovin' your enemies never did make a hit with me."

Prisoners Silent, Fearful. Bareheaded, some without shoes, their faces pallid from the strain and confinement of duty in a submarine, the prisoners conveyed an impression singularly forlorn. They became silent and fearful when the destroyer reached her port and found a mooring buoy. The news of a safe arrival, however, came from ship to ship and was cheered aboard other destroyers which rode near by or nestled side by side in sociable groups. Luck, Fanning! All luck, though, and there were generous congratulations through the fleet.

At once the prisoners were transferred to a larger American ship where they could be kept in a more comfortable manner, in order that no false statements should be concocted. They went in boats, heavily guarded, and so passed beyond the keel of the destroyer which had been so brilliantly victorious for her months of toil and daring on the high seas. The German officers were now isolated, and the sentries awaited them at home as punishment for their surrender. Ever mindful of their rank and dignity, they clicked their heels together and bowed in fact, well to the American officers as they went over the side.

Forebodings Become Acute. The Germans were shifted next day, this time to a British naval vessel for a voyage to England and a prison camp. They had lost their fear of death at the hands of the Americans, but now the forebodings became acute. Several of them asked to be assigned to a position, when they were to be shot. They were unable to realize their own brand of hate was made in Germany and nowhere else.

The British ship was a kindly, courteous man, but if he acknowledged the salutes of the German officers when they climbed his gangway, I failed to notice it. He had an intimate acquaintance with the methods of submarine warfare as waged by the Hun. Ten thousand British merchantmen seamen sailing in their lawful trade had been shot by a Germany which posed as a champion of the "freedom of the seas."

Now, this British naval craft was small and the Captain was strictly enjoined to separate these 60-odd prisoners during the voyage. A difficult problem, which he solved by marking off squares on the decks with a piece of chalk, and placing a sentry over each square with a sentry over him.

When this worthy Captain of the Royal navy returned to his base, I asked him if the prisoners had given him any trouble.

Night Cold One for Huns. "Oh, none whatever. How could they? The blighters were tucked away all day in their chalked compartments."

"It was a rough night, rather cold," I suggested, "and some of them were dry of overcoats and blankets."

"So they were," said this amiable man. "Oh, I did my best for them. When they complained of the weather, I told them to wrap the chalk-lines around themselves. It kept them warm."

Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly paid the Fanning the honor of going aboard to commend the officers and crew. The American chief-of-staff also visited the destroyer and sent his compliments to the men clustered in front of him with the guns and torpedo tubes for a back-groom. He read the telegrams received from the British Admiralty and one from Vice-Admiral William S. Sims, commanding the American naval forces in European waters. There were nods and grins and a few words exchanged with crisp exhortation, "Go out and do it again." It sounded like Sims, the old destroyer man.

(To be continued.)

11 OBTAIN COMMISSIONS

Two Corvallis Faculty Members and Nine Students Win Bars.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Sept. 21.—(Special.)—Two faculty members and nine students attending the summer session at the camp at the Presidio received commissions.

Faculty men receiving commissions were Dr. E. W. Hill, professor of office training, who was commissioned Second Lieutenant, and Russell M. Howard, instructor in business accounting, who was given the rank of ensignancy. Others who were commissioned as Second Lieutenants are Earl H. Chapman, of River, Cal.; Kenneth Cook, Portland, Ore.; J. W. Brown, Brownsville, Cal.; Edward Everett Radcliff, Burbank, Cal.; Richard M. Webb, Hood River; William Deterring, Portland; Elton M. Johnston, Oregon City; Neal Huffaker, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

TEACHER BECOMES NURSE

Castle Rock Girl Receives Notice of Appointment.

CASTLE ROCK, Wash., Sept. 21.—(Special.)—Miss Maud Williams received notice this morning of her appointment as nurse in the army school of nursing and to report to the training unit at Camp Lewis. Miss Williams has taught school for the past two years and was a member of the county call. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Williams, old-time settlers and respected farmer of Castle Rock, Coville, County, Idaho.

Student Nurse Reserve is five, and Castle Rock will have the honor of supplying an exceptionally fine girl and one admirably adapted for the calling to which she has been assigned.

Hood Scouts Busy in War Work.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Sept. 21.—(Special.)—Under the leadership of John C. Duckwall, their master, the Boy Scouts of the Hood community are assembling all of the peach pits of the district. Housewives, having been informed that the Government is in need of the pits for manufacture of charcoal for use in gas masks, are co-operating with the Scouts, and it is expected that more than a ton of pits will be saved.

Dallas Boy Reported Missing.

DALLAS, Or., Sept. 21.—(Special.)—In the casualty lists this week appears the name of Ross Hayes, a member of Company L, of this city, who is reported as missing in action. Mr. Hayes was a member of the local community and sometime in July, stating he had been wounded and was confined in a base hospital where he was rapidly recovering.