

The Citizen Veteran

BY HARRY E. CRITCHLOW.

FOUR years ago this morning John Smith, typical soldier of the A. E. F., opened a pair of sleepy eyes, gazed at his surroundings in a shell-torn old French barn, stretched a tired body, scratched some dried mud from behind his ears and wondered. There was a strange feeling in the air. It was something that he was not accustomed to. He could hear the voices of comrades who had arisen at an earlier hour, but there was something lacking. Noises to which he had become accustomed were no longer audible. The guns, strangely, were silent. Then he remembered—the day previous an armistice had been signed, the Germans had laid down their arms before defeat and extermination came to them and for the first time in almost five years there was peace in Europe.

When, shortly before 11 o'clock the day previous, the word had been passed down the line that there had been a signing of an armistice John did not believe it. Like the vast majority of his comrades, he was skeptical. He had made the trip across the seas believing that it would be four years before the war could possibly be ended. He had joined in the cry of "Heaven, Hell or Hoboken before Christmas," and knew that it was merely a matter of time until the boche quit; still he did not believe that it could possibly occur before spring. Mates had to be taken and that would require thousands of lives, the maiming of thousands of comrades and the passage of many bloody days.

He lighted a cigarette, the bugler blew "Soupy-Soupy-Soupy," shifted his coat, which he was using as a pillow and decided to dispense with breakfast. After all, the war was over, when would he get to go home? There were 2,000,000 men in France. The fastest movement to Europe was at the rate of 200,000 a month. At that rate it would take more than six months for all to get back to their native land. John was sure that it would be just his luck to be in the last contingent that bid farewell to the shores of France. After all, there was little satisfaction in the news that the armistice had been signed. It means a possible slackening up of military discipline and maybe more liberty, but home was a long way off.

John wondered what the folks back home were doing. Of course they had heard of the armistice. Possibly there had been a celebration similar to those of a New Year's eve. Possibly a few of the boys had tubbed too freely and were in a "It is the morning after." He contrasted the possible celebration with that he had experienced in the hours that had passed following the march from the front line to the destroyed town where he now was.

He recalled the fact that there had been little cheering when the news of the armistice had been given out. The men were too tired to cheer. Upon their dejected senses the word that the armistice had been made a very slight impression. Possibly they could get some sleep, rest their tired bodies, find a bath and eliminate the cooties, but they did not cheer. As darkness came they watched the Frenchmen in a nearby sector burning red fire and illuminating the skies with their searchlights. They drank their issue wine and experienced the first real joy they had known in years. The "Frogs" always were "home" in their hearts.

Thoughts of home came to John as he lay there and smoked. Eventually he would get back to the old home town. He knew the old friends would greet him with outstretched arms. He would be a hero and would suffer none of the ostracism that would undoubtedly be his portion or did his "military duty" in the shipyards. He wondered how it would feel to get back in civilian clothes once more. He would be glad to see him, he knew. The joy of meeting her would compensate him for the many hardships he had suffered in France.

Contrast John's actual homecoming with the one he dreamed of in France as he lay there that morning following the armistice. How was he to know that his old friends would greet him with: "Hello, John. Let me see. You have been away somewhere for quite a while, have you not?"

How would find himself one of 2,000,000, just a common man in a white dress uniform, and would mean nothing to the eyes that had grown accustomed to it during the war. Gold chevrons on either arm were to indicate his rank. Wound stripes might have a significance, but unless the man who wore them had lost a leg or an arm or had a badly blistered face, which would give people an opportunity to stop and stare, they would mean not a great deal.

How was John to know that the mind of the American public had not been greatly disturbed by the cowardice of the men who had, for no legitimate reason, claimed exemption? It would have caused him some concern had he known that the term was one that was being applied to any and all who wore a uniform during the war. The man who had captured a couple of machine guns and wiped out a score of Germans was to become not much more than a "back private" in the hero ranks.

From a distance of several thousand miles John could not keep an eye on his girl. How was he to know that she had been going out with a flat-footed shoe clerk while he was in France and that she was to greet him with the "cold shoulder" when he returned?

To John, as he lay in that billet, the future looked bright. He believed that promises made to the men who donned the uniform for their country's sake would be lived up to. He pinned his faith in the patriotism of his countrymen. He believed that the respect for the flag that had caused all to doff their hats as the colors went by would endure.

It would have caused him some bitterness had he known that in four years, when columns of veterans, in their worn and frayed uniforms were marching through the streets, men would gaze at the flag without removing their hats while others stood by and made no objection. John was getting a "kick" out of the signing of the armistice as he lay there in the billet. He was comfortable, even if his present quarters had once been the bedchamber of a French peasant's horse. The lack of fighting would give him more time to sleep. Probably the up sergeant would be a more congenial soul than he had been for a long time and would eliminate a lot of detail that had appealed to John as wholly unnecessary.

Just then the stuffy atmosphere of John's quarters was cut with the shrill whistle of the "top cutter." "Get out here in line, you birds," yelled the sergeant. "The war ain't over yet. Get out here and fall in line." John hastily drew on his shoes (he had slept in his breeches and shirt), wrapped his puttees, donned his coat

Chaumont end of the line indicated the wood that had been held impossible by the French and British.

"Yes, that has been taken," was the reply. "We met with no resistance there."

"How about the trenches?" was the query.

"Those, too, passed into our hands when the first wave went over," the front line man replied.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, with my glasses I can see our troops on beyond the trenches now."

When the French and English officers were called into conference prior to the St. Mihiel drive there was one thing concerning which they were not informed. They did not know that the plans of the Germans for the St. Mihiel salient were in the hands of the Americans, that the Boche had planned a withdrawal from the sector which was to be in the nature of a 35-day programme. They did not know that the Americans were to strike on the 12th of their programme and find the front trenches abandoned and much artillery mired in the mud on bad roads where it was easily captured.

Glenn L. (Scotty) Dutton has resigned his position with the United States Veterans bureau and will leave next week for La Grande where he will engage in the general merchandise business.

Dutton was one of the star backfield men on the Oregon Agricultural college football eleven before the war. When commissioned at the Presidio Dutton was sent to Camp Lewis where he was assigned to the 302d infantry. He served with that unit during the war.

A. B. Richeson, formerly major of the 1st infantry, is responsible for the following story of an incident which he witnessed.

Major Patterson of Philadelphia and the 7th division was wounded through the leg and had been taken to the hospital. He was on the litter just ahead of Richeson.

Richeson saw that the litter was being carried by two men, one of whom was a prisoner of war. The litter was being carried by two men, one of whom was a prisoner of war.

They picked up Major Patterson and started to carry him into the tent. When the wounded officer saw that he had two Boche litter carriers he started to swear.

He moved himself forward on the litter and started kicking the German ahead with his good foot.

"Give me a gun and I'll kill one German," he said.

The big Boche on the back end of the litter saw the humor of the situation and started to laugh. He spoke to his comrade who was the recipient of the major's gentle, but well-intended kicks.

The German in front looked around at the American officer with teeth set endeavoring with all his might to injure him with a few kicks. A smile overspread his face and he would have pleased to think that the officer, although wounded and weakened would have remaining "pep" enough to try to fight him.

A motion-picture star of national fame will be the headliner at the "Night in Paris" show to be given New Year's eve in the municipal auditorium, according to Pat Allen, general chairman of the committee of Portland visitors of the 40th Hommes et Chevaux, which is staging the entertainment.

George Latimer left Thursday for Los Angeles, where he will make an effort to sign Babe Daniels to a contract which will bring her here for the American Legion's entertainment. If Miss Daniels cannot be obtained for the show, a motion-picture actress of fame will be obtained.

The basement of the municipal auditorium will be made use of in the "Night in Paris" show this year. It will be converted into a maze of French streets. Miss Josephine Dillon of the Metro Pictures corporation is here now and is arranging for the staging of a "Tableaux of Nations." She will also have charge of the costuming of the scores of actors who will play the part of Apaches in Latin quarter scenes.

Fred Kiddie, vice-commander of the American Legion, was in Portland for a few days during the week. Kiddie is a member of the La Grande post of the legion and has been active since the organization of veterans was first started in eastern Oregon.

Ben F. Dorris, "libert king" of Lane county, put in an appearance in Portland Friday for the purpose of attending the reunion of the 91st division. Another out-of-town veteran of the Powder river unit was Dr. Carlisle Smith of Salem, who served as a major in the 31st sanitary train.

A reception in honor of Edward J. Eivers, who was elected national chief of les 40 Hommes et Chevaux at the convention in New Orleans, was held yesterday afternoon following the parade in the Benson hotel. Approximately one-half of the membership of the local organization of the playground attended the gathering. Refreshments were served.

When it ended not one of the Germans was alive and the field of battle was one of the most bloody the war was to know. A French artilleryman lost his life. In other wars this incident would have been as famous as that of the famous 680 British under Lord Cardigan in the Light Brigade charge at Balaclava.

Plans of the Germans for the taking of the St. Mihiel salient had been made by the operations section of G. H. Q. A group of officers were clustered around a series of maps in headquarters a few days prior to September 10, 1918. Upon invitation a number of French and British officers entered the room and observed for the first time the plans.

"What do you think of them?" inquired one of the Americans of the senior French officer.

"It is true they look all right on paper," declared the Frenchman, "but they will not work out when put in action. You will lose many men here," he went on as he placed his finger on a spot representative of a wood. "You will be unable to drive the Germans from that stronghold and you will be unable to take these trenches. It is impossible. We have tried and failed."

The senior British officer expressed his opinion.

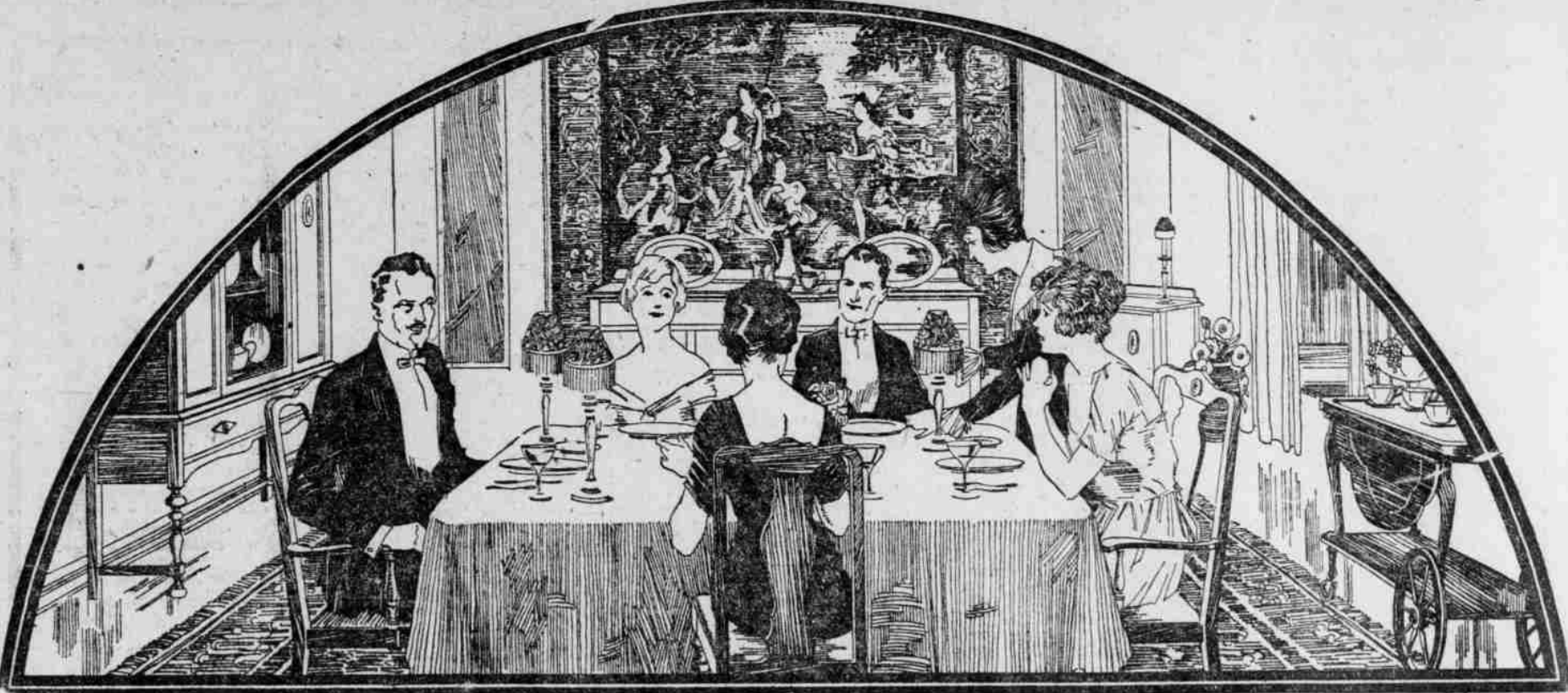
"I agree with my comrade of the French army," he said. "The plans are not practical. The Germans have amassed too many men there. You cannot take those woods and your men will pile up by the hundreds before trenches that will remain in the hands of the Germans."

A famous newspaper correspondent and writer whose war stories are known all over the world was called into the conference. He gazed at the map.

"All I can see is hundreds of Americans going before those trenches; dropping wounded and dead and then falling back to rush again. Dead men are piled high and there is a dreadful loss of life. I do not believe the sector can be taken."

A few days later the drive started. Back in Chaumont around the tables were gathered almost the same officers. The telephone rang. It was headquarters of the operations section of the corps at St. Mihiel.

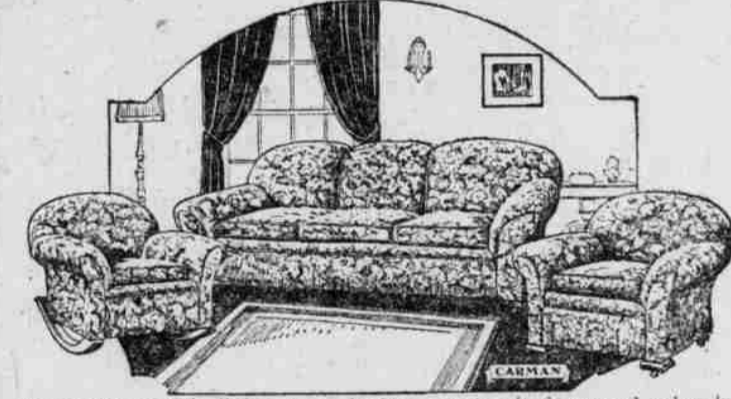
"Have you taken the woods?" was the query and the officer at the



When Guests Come

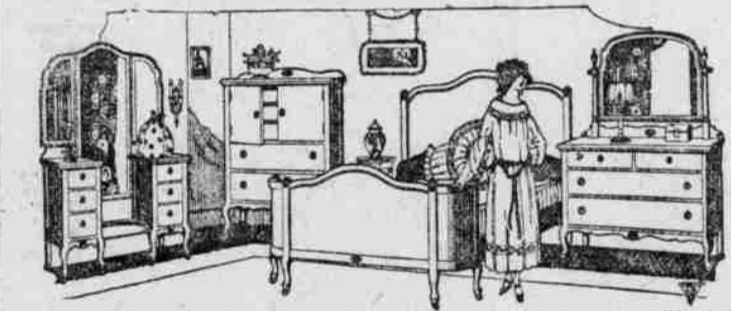
It is always a source of real satisfaction, when guests come, to know that your furniture reflects an atmosphere of warm welcome. It is not the amount of money you spend but the discrimination with which your furniture is selected that determines its charm. In fact, at the low prices we are now quoting on furniture of distinction and fine character, you will find that a modest expenditure can achieve an effect of pleasing beauty when good taste and a knowledge of furniture styles go hand in hand. Let us help you make your home ready for that time when guests come. Buy now—pay next year—your credit is good.

Living Rooms That Welcome Guests



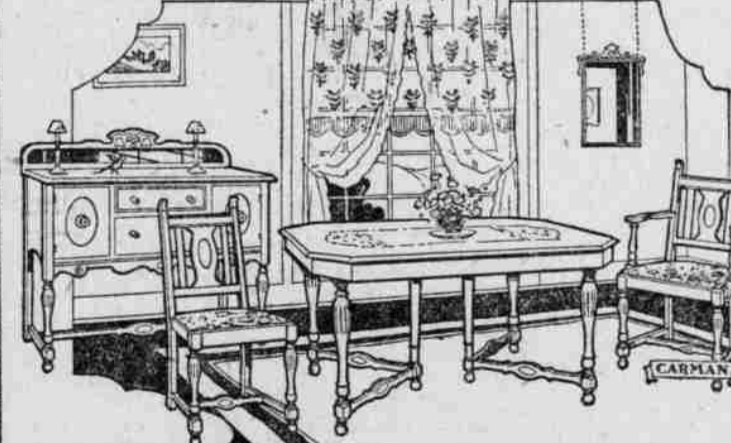
Every line of this living room invites you to sit down and relax in genuine comfort. It is the kind of living room furniture that not only will add distinction to your home but will give years and years of satisfactory service. The upholstery is the finest, with coil springs used throughout, while the upholstering is in beautiful velour with outside backs fully covered. It is a fine example of the savings now in effect. Specially priced at Gadsbys'—\$198.50. Upholstered in best grade mohair—\$165.00.

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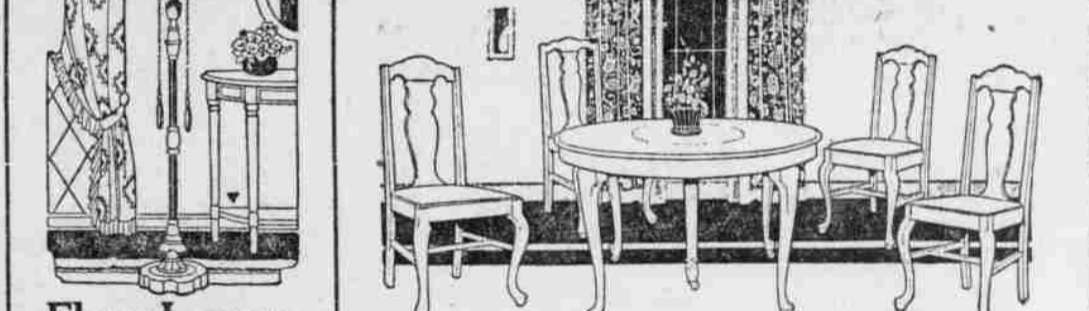
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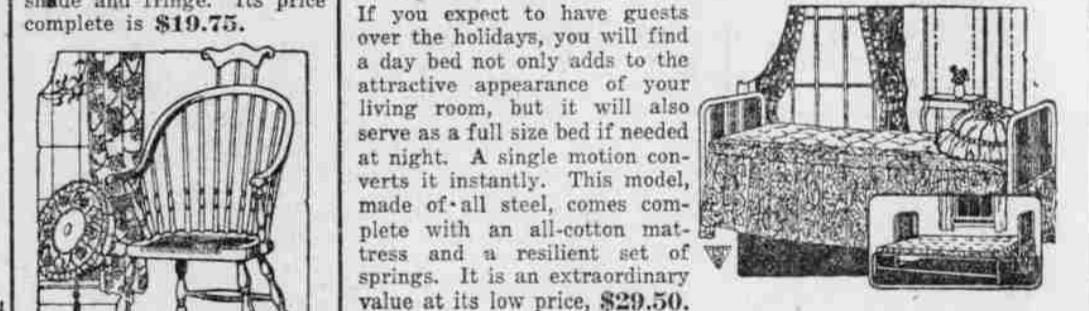
Even those who know Gadsbys' reputation for low prices will be surprised at this splendid value. A 45-inch Round Dining Table, in oak, with five genuine brown leather seat chairs to match (all quite like one pictured, but table has no center leg). This outfit would cost much more elsewhere than Gadsbys' special price of \$64.75. An Arm Chair may be added for \$9.75.

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A true copy of an old Colonial model with the traditional lines of the real Windsor type in mahogany with a rush seat. This charming chair is specially priced at only \$12.50.



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