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Plaza Grocery Telephone 78

A. E. F. OFFICIAL PAPER DISCONTINUES SPORT PAGE

The real reasons why the Stars and Stripes, the official newspaper of the American expeditionary forces published in Paris, abolished its sport page, are explained at length in a late issue of the paper.

The reason will cause every 100 per cent American to agree with the editors of the sheet. They are a nice, bank-handed slap at the athletes who are still on this side of the creek, taking things easy.

The article follows: "This is the last sporting page the Stars and Stripes will print until an allied victory brings back peace.

"The reasons for the decision to discontinue an ancient institution are almost as numerically great as allied shells crashing into German lines.

"They are at least sufficiently thick to pulverize or blot out any objections that might be offered by those who have yet failed to see the light.

"This paper realizes the great aid sport has given in the past in developing physical stamina and enduring morale among thousands of those now making up the nation's army.

"It recognizes the value of such training in the future. It was sport that first taught our men to play the game, to play it out, to play it hard. It was sport that brought out the value of team work, of long, hard training, and the knack of thinking quickly at a vital point of the contest.

"But sport as a spectacle, sport as an entertainment for the side liners, has passed on and out. Its glamour in a competitive way has faded. Its leading stars are either in the iron harness of war—or forgotten—until Germany is beaten.

"The Stars and Stripes appreciates in full sport's abiding value and the countless thousands of well-trained men it has sent into line. But these men have given up the glory of the sporting page boost and the old action snapshot. They are not to be mentioned today because their job has taken another hue.

"There are tennis and golf champions, football players, track stars without number, boxers and ball players who have traded the easy glory they knew at home for the hard, unglorified grind of the S. O. S. or the bloody heritage of the western front. And their fame here belongs with the mass, not with individual mention.

"Neither is there space, entertainment or policy in attempting to handle the scores of hundreds of ball games played all over France. A 40-page paper would not make a beginning. And those left out would remember an offense longer than those included would remember the space allotted to them.

"What then is left, in the main, for a sporting page printed in France within hearing of the guns? Such

headlines as these: 'Star Players Dive for Shipyards or Farm to Escape "Work or Fight" Order,—Cobb is Thinking of Enlisting This Fall'—and so on through the countless list that doesn't make any too heroic an appeal to those grinding away upon the job back of the lines or to those living and dying in the mud and dirt of the front 3000 miles away from home.

"The Stars and Stripes is printed for the A. E. F., not to help perpetuate the renown of able-bodied stars, who, with unusual qualifications for war or useful work, elected to hear only the 'Business as Usual' slogan above the country's call for help in the greatest war she has ever known.

"There is but one big league today for this paper to cover—and that league winds its way among the S. O. S. stations scattered throughout France and ends at the western front.

"Any work that is part of the big job, either in the lines or back of it, from Chateau Thierry to San Francisco is of utmost value. But 'entertaining the people back home' isn't part of the big job, nor do we believe the bulk of them want to be entertained in any such way.

"When it finally came to a point where any number of able-bodied men were rushing into various occupations at the point of the boot, when the secretary of war was forced to produce a ruling that would make hundreds of these men 'work or fight'

The pestiferous house fly is on his way. Soon he will breed and bloom by the million and attack the food and milk of the younger generation.

Why not beat him to it? Screens are absolutely the greatest preventive against this enemy, the greatest death-dealing animal known to science. Screen every door, window, and porch.

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As the squabble and scurry grew day after day, this paper felt that it no longer had space left for such activities—not with so many events of far greater interest taking place within sight and hearing of its working staff.

"There is no space left for the Cobbs, the Ruths, the Johnsons, the Willards and the Fultons in the east and safety of home when the Ryans, the Smiths, the Larsens, the Bernsteins and others are charging machine guns and plugging along through shrapnel or grinding out 12-hour details 200 miles in the rear.

"Back home the sight of a high fly drifting into the late sun may still have its thrills for a few. But 'over here' the all-absorbing factors are shrapnel, high explosives, machine-gun bullets, trench digging, stable cleaning, nursing, training back of the lines and other endless details throughout France from the base ports to and beyond the Marne.

"Sport among the troops must go on—for that is part of the job. Sport among the youngsters back home must go on—for that, too, is part of the training job.

"But the glorified, the commercialized, the spectacular sport of the post has been burnt out by gun fire. The sole slogan left is 'Beat Germany.' Anything that pertains to that slogan counts. The rest doesn't. And that is why this is the last sporting page the Stars and Stripes will print until an allied victory brings back peace."

AMERICAN FOOD SAVINGS LARGE

United States Sent to Allies 141,000,000 Bushels of Wheat.

CREDIT DUE TO WOMEN.

Allies Got 844,600,000 Pounds More Meat and Fats in 1917-18 Than in Year Before.

* AMERICAN FOOD SHIPMENTS TO ALLIES *	
* MEAT *	
* 1916-17.....	2,169,500,000 lbs. *
* 1917-18.....	3,011,100,000 lbs. *
* Increase, \$44,000,000 lbs. *	
* CEREALS. *	
* 1916-17.....	250,000,000 bu. *
* 1917-18.....	340,500,000 bu. *
* Increase... 80,500,000 bu. *	

In spite of a subnormal food supply in this country the American people have been able to ship to the Allies as well as our own forces overseas 141,000,000 bushels of wheat, besides 844,000,000 pounds of meat, during the year ending June 30 last. This has been made possible by the whole-souled co-operation of the people, who, besides practicing self-denial, have speeded up production and responded nobly to the appeal from abroad.

Food Administrator Hoover, in a letter to President Wilson, gives a brief summary of the results of food conservation in the United States and of the activities of the Food Administration to this end. The conservation measures have been put through practically on a voluntary basis which is regarded as a splendid tribute to the patriotism of the American people.

Meat shipments were increased 844,000,000 pounds during the first fiscal year, as compared with our meat exports during the year before America entered the war.

"The total value of these food shipments," Mr. Hoover wrote President Wilson, "which were in the main purchased through or with collaboration of the Food Administration, amount to, roundly, \$1,400,000,000 during the fiscal year."

In 1916-17 the United States sent the Allies 2,169,500,000 pounds of meat. In 1917-18, with voluntary conservation practiced in America, and aided by extra weight of animals, we sent the Allies 3,011,100,000 pounds of meat, an increase of 844,600,000 pounds.

Wheat Saving Enormous. When the Food Administration began operations in the summer of 1917, this country was facing a large deficit in wheat. Counting in all carry-over wheat from the 1916 crop, we had at the beginning of the 1917 harvest year just enough wheat to take care of America's normal consumption,—not a bushel of surplus.

At the close of the 1917-18 harvest year the Food Administration's official reports showed that our total wheat shipments to the other side had been 141,000,000 bushels. Every bushel shipped was wheat saved by the American people from their normal consumption.

In cereals and cereal products reduced to terms of cereal bushels our shipments to Allied destinations were 340,500,000 bushels, 80,500,000 bushels more than the amount sent in 1916-17. Included in these figures are 13,000,000 bushels of rye and the 141,000,000 bushels of saved wheat. In addition we sent the neutrals dependent on us 10,000,000 bushels of prime breadstuffs.

"These figures do not fully convey the volume of the effort and sacrifice made during the past year by the whole American people," the Food Administrator wrote. "I am sure that all the millions of our people, agricultural as well as urban, who have contributed to these results should feel a very definite satisfaction that in a year of universal food shortages in the Northern Hemisphere, all of those people joined together against Germany came through to the new harvest, not only with health and strength fully maintained, but with only temporary periods of hardship."

"It is difficult to distinguish between various sections of our people—the homes, public eating places, food trade, urban or agricultural populations—in assessing credit for these results, but no one will deny the dominant part of the American women.

SUGAR SHORTAGE HITS SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. In Spain and Portugal sugar prices are soaring. Both countries have been seriously affected by the short beet sugar crop in Europe and the lack of ocean tonnage to move stocks of cane sugar isolated in far away ports.

Granulated sugar, home grown, was being sold in Barcelona, Spain, during the early summer at 19 cents a pound. The price of brown sugar in Lisbon, Portugal, fixed by governmental order, was \$1.04 to \$1.12 a pound.

By comparison the price of beet sugar in Sweden is 14 cents a pound.

RETIRE

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SOLDIERS' LETTERS

Miss Mary Spencer received the following letter from her brother, Private J. M. Spencer, who is in France with the 318th engineers: July 27, 1918.

Dear Sister: Well, here we are another week nearer to Berlin, and some, not that we have advanced toward the front, because we are still at the same old place but some work has been accomplished and that is what we are here for. It seems in this war. Weeks are awful long here. One fellow said the other day: "We have been here 20 days." Immediately there was a howl from the gang, "twenty days, nothing! Twenty years!"

Even at that there is some compensation now. We got a trip about 20 miles across country in motor trucks, after some timber. The country is not much like I have been expecting to see. This part is rather thinly settled and rather dry. Seems to be a poor soil, although crops look fine wherever there are any. Its mostly forest and meadows.

Saw some fine, fat cattle, pure white in color, that took my eye. One place four big yellow oxen were drawing an American-made binder, while in another field a man was cutting grain with a cradle. And yet another, an old rake reaper, was operating, and women and kids were tying the bundles with wisps of straw. Saw a team of oxen being hitched up, and it was some novel sight. They do not use a yoke like at home, but a pole laid across the horns and a padded block of wood fits on the horns and forehead reaching well down the nose, and they will or rather push with their head instead of their shoulders.

All the French cattle I have seen are best strains. No Jerseys, Holsteins or Ayrshires. Think we have them beat in that as well as in most all else.

The scenery about here is not as nice as at either of our previous camps. It looks like Kansas or Nebraska. Now and then we come on to some pretty scenery. There was a fine chateau on the road several miles out from town, but it was so hidden by a grove of trees that as usual we could see little of it. I mean it is modern, by modern I mean not over two or three hundred years old, which, for this country, is modern. There's a chateau in Chateaux built in 927, and another was built longer ago than that by the Romans. It was destroyed once and

rebuilt some time later. Well, in regard to your efforts at Hooverizing, from my own account over here, I would say that the American people who have Hooverized have won the war. You would be astonished at the difference the American saving campaign has made. France is very far from starving today, and also France seems to be well clothed. Yes, on the whole, the real heroes of the war are the cooks at home, whose dinners we sorely miss. Yes, we have good eats, but so far from home, therefore, mostly canned and cold storage. Have white bread all the time, pie once or twice a week. We can get some French fruit most of the time, but it does not compare with home products, and is pretty dear. Today good tomatoes are to be had from the camp peddler at about 18c per pound; peaches about the size of walnuts go at 5c each, and oranges, a little larger, are 8 or 9c. The more I see here, the more I'm stuck on the U. S. A.

Went last Sunday with Don and saw the cathedral in Chateaux. I could never describe it, and pictures fail utterly to give one any idea of it. The light through the stained glass windows and every thing about it is most wonderful.

PRIVATE J. M. SPENCER. Co. C., 318th Engineers, A. E. F., France.

Mrs. J. C. Baughman of East Main street has received the following interesting letter from her brother, Corporal J. H. Haight, who is with the 35th company, U. S. M. Co., now located at St. Thomas, V. I.:

August 11, 1918.

Dear Vella: So at last you received a letter from me. I just received your letter today telling of it, with list of questions enclosed. It's been two weeks since we have had any mail and probably would not have got any for another week but an American warship brought it over from San Juan, Porto Rico. It usually comes from New York to Porto Rico, then here by a small boat that makes weekly trips. Sometimes a ship bound for South America brings it direct. This is a port of call for nearly all ships running to South America from New York or Europe.

I just came off another guard this morning. On Tuesday night I had the island patrol. I took four men out at 9:30 p. m., and made a trip covering 12 or 14 miles over the hills. The hills are very steep, there being scarcely any level country, and very much undergrowth, mostly cactus and briars with fallen trees, caused by the hurricane of 1916.

It was very hard traveling, but we got back at 2:40 a. m. O. K. The patrol does not have to fall out for anything after a trip, that is, the day after, so I "slept in" for once, being able to roll over and go to sleep when reveille went.

I will answer your questions. I wish you would ask them all along, because it helps me to write. There is so little of news here, at least it seems so to me that I have a headache after every letter I write.

There are four companies on this island, the 116th, 56th, and 35th, searchlight platoon and signal platoon, headquarters detachment, the last three making one company, although different organizations. The fellows are like all marines, good fellows as a rule. There are some in the 35th company, known as Marine Corps reserve, fellows who didn't enlist until February, and they have done no soldiering. They are beginning to think they are soldiers, which they are not, and that makes them hard to handle sometimes. They always want to argue over an order given them. The Lord deliver me from a recruit!

These islands were bought solely for their military value. The harbor of St. Thomas is the best in the West Indies, and can be used as a naval base for the defense of the Panama canal. Also the U. S. had to buy them to keep Germany from doing it, as Denmark was going to sell them to the kaiser. It was a case of the highest bidder and money down.

The islands of St. Thomas and St. John have practically no agricultural value, although St. Thomas did have before the hurricane. St. Croix, however, has large sugar plantations and is comparatively rich.

There is no Y. M. C. A. here. I brought the paper along. As I have said, the island is really very well civilized. Of course, newspapers are rather old when they get down here. Every day there is the U. S. Navy Press News sent by radio, and never more than a day old from New York. It contains all the principal news items, baseball scores and stock and bond quotations. Also a more complete press by cables posted every day. It contains all war news.

One of the tropical showers has just come up that last for five minutes and approach a cloudburst.

I will close for this time for fear I won't have anything for next week.

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