

FT. STEVENSTROOPS RESENT TALK THEY SUFFER HARDSHIPS

Soldiers Make Answer to Misleading Story in Oregonian and Invite Inspection of Quarters.

FINGER BOWLS ARE MISSED

Young Men Fearful of Becoming Mollycoddles—Did Not Enlist Expecting to Have Easy Time.

Finger bowls, angel cake and silk pajamas are being missed a little, write the members of the Ninth company of artillerymen from Astoria, who are stationed at Fort Stevens with the other artillery companies of the state, but otherwise nothing in the way of comfort is lacking.

The members of the company voiced these sentiments in an article appearing in the Astoria Budget in answer to the report that hardships were being suffered at the Columbia river fort.

Their letter written to the Budget was in part as follows:

"The men of the Ninth company, Oregon coast artillery, have read with interest the article published in Thursday's Oregonian of the deplorable housing conditions at Fort Stevens. We wonder where the writer received his information. It is true that facilities are not of the best owing to the exposed location at Battery Russell, but in a very short time all cantonments which are now under construction will be completed, and will house all of the troops in the fortifications in warm, dry and well ventilated frame buildings which we think will favorably compare with any barracks on the Pacific Coast.

Easy Time Not Expected

"We will say also that with the exception of the Eighth company, every company at the post is within a five minute walk of hot and cold shower baths which are set aside for our use by orders of Colonel Ellis. The writer in Thursday's Oregonian was mistaken about the Eugene company being the only company in the post with floors in their tents. The Ninth, Sixth, Eleventh, Fourth and First companies have had floors for a period of four months. The officers have worked night and day in an effort to have all troops in good quarters.

"The real soldier responded to the call of his country expecting to endure hardships. He did not expect to find pink pajamas and angel food cake.

"We are confident that the writer of the article was not a competent judge of conditions. We believe that if your critic had done his knocking with a hammer on some nails on the cantonment buildings rather than in the columns of your paper, conditions at Fort Stevens would have been much improved and our relatives and friends would not have been caused the unnecessary worry and anxiety.

"Mr. Editor, don't think for a minute that the article in Thursday's Oregonian made any hit with the enlisted men in the Ninth company. If we have any kick to make on our treatment or quarters, we have a soldier's privilege of an appeal to his officers and shall use it. No appeal we have made with justice has ever been turned down.

Fearful of Becoming Mollycoddles

"We are well fed, but of course, Mr. Editor, we miss our finger bowls. Your paper has got in bad with every man who wears the olive drab uniform and knows how we are taken care of down here. We are trying to make soldiers of ourselves—not mollycoddles, so please call off our misguided friends before we are mobbed and covered up with wild letters from home.

"We wish to say in conclusion we are well fed and have good quarters. We would like to have the Oregonian correspondent have mess with us, have a bath, see our sleeping quarters and then give us a little write-up. It would be a different story, Mr. Editor."

INNOVATION IN DIPLOMACY



Hans Sulzer, Swiss minister to the United States, who is business man extraordinary

Washington, Jan. 5. — Hans Sulzer, business man, is the new Swiss envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in Washington. His arrival has created an atmosphere of confidence here in the Swiss situation.

Sulzer was the first business-man-diplomat the capitol saw. More have come since—and more are due. August Phillips, the Dutch minister en route here is of the same school; unversed in diplomacy, but with a record as a business man.

Apparently President Wilson has let it be known in European circles that the one time popular diplomacy—the secret sort—is no longer in vogue in Washington.

More than six feet tall, Sulzer—with a staff of economists, clerks and stenographers, has had the difficult task of securing for the Swiss, raw materials needed to keep the nation going. He has been successful.

Switzerland today has succeeded in maintaining fairly amicable relations with Germany—where all coal is bought; and has made an admirable record in the matter of being neutral. So strictly neutral have the Swiss been that they enjoy the confidence of both coalitions of warring nations. Need more be said?

Chance Yet For Cold Snap Other Winters Are Recalled

"The balmy weather of today is no guarantee that roses will bloom early in the spring or that we will not have a cold wave before the end of winter," said William Mansell Wilder of Portland Heights today. Though not claiming to be a weather prophet, Mr. Wilder produces data to back up his views.

"Since the early '90s I have studied the mountains in the vicinity of Portland, and the weather lore of the 'old-settlers' and the Indians," explained Mr. Wilder, whose residence occupies a point of vantage on the hill overlooking the city. "and my deductions at this time are that we may yet have need for all of the fuel stored."

"On January 2, 1903, Larch mountain and Silver Star mountain, the peak that obstructs our view of Mount Adams, were absolutely free of snow. It had melted before the warm winds. But it came back January 20, and stayed till July 5, and Portland's roses were two weeks late that summer. The early winter had been much like that of this season. But February and March were unusually cold, and cool weather marked April, May and June. In short, we had no spring that year.

"Old timers will tell you that Portland never has snow until Larch and Silver Star mountains are well covered, and since they are yet bare, it is safe to predict that Portland will not be blanketed anyway for several days to come."

Club Appoints Detectives

Cherryvale, Kas., Jan. 5.—(U. N. S.)—The Cherryvale Commercial club maintains a secret committee known as the "Knights of Liberty," whose duty it is to report to proper authorities all unpatriotic acts or assertions that come to its knowledge. President James A. Brady announced today.

ALIEN SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY TO EXPLAIN JUST WHAT THEY ARE

Men Brought From Mouth of the Columbia Are Accused of Seditious Utterances.

Two alleged violators of the espionage act and an alien enemy arrested at Astoria by military authorities at Fort Stevens and Immigration Inspector Gooch, were held before the federal X-ray Friday by Assistant United States Attorney Goldstein and Deputy United Marshal Tichenor.

The two federal officers went to Astoria Friday morning to investigate a complaint by Colonel Ellis, commander of Columbia river forts, that W. W. Seal, a plumber, was hampering government construction activities by falsely informing headquarters of the plumbers' union in Portland that no more men were needed for work at Fort Stevens.

Seal is Arrested

Investigations by Attorney Goldstein revealed that not enough men had been obtained to carry on the work successfully. He filed an espionage charge against Seal, who was placed in the Multnomah county jail.

Seal admitted to Goldstein that he knew plumbers were wanted at Fort Stevens, but told United headquarters the contrary so he could get more work time himself. United States Commissioner Carney at Astoria, bound Seal over to the federal grand jury.

An espionage charge was filed against Fred D. Brendinger, who was an employee of the Hammond Lumber company mills. He was arrested on orders of Captain Buchanan, commanding officer of the industrial patrol division of coast artillerymen.

Brendinger is charged with talking against the Liberty loan and making other treasonable utterances. A manuscript which he admitted writing, in which was the statement that he hoped Germany would win the war, was found in his possession. Another statement he admitted writing was that the United States was made up of the scum of the earth.

He told Commissioner Carney that he wrote the manuscript merely as type-writer practice, admitting, however, that he believed the statements. He was bound over to the grand jury, and will be held in the Multnomah county jail.

Frederick Wilhelm Rheinhold Loft, German alien, arrested in Astoria's restricted waterfront zone by Immigration Inspector Gooch, was brought to Portland for investigation. He admitted he knew he was employed in the restricted area, and said he didn't want to give up his job.

Attorney Goldstein received orders from United States Attorney Gregory to hold him for investigation.

Red Cross Drive Is Winding Up Work

Headquarters in Morgan Building Closed—Final Details of Business Will Be Concluded by Mr. MacKenzie.

Campaign headquarters in the Morgan building for the membership drive of the American Red Cross, which resulted in more than 240,000 members for Oregon, is winding up its work at the head of the column, were closed Saturday.

Final details relating to membership certificates and similar business details will be concluded by W. R. MacKenzie, auditor, at his office, 1003 Wilcox building.

Those who have received membership certificates but no button or service flag, may obtain them at the office of the Portland chapter, 204 Corbett building. At the same address, membership certificates obtainable from the Elks, but with the name not filled in, should be recorded. The blank receipt may either be taken or mailed with name and address to the Portland chapter.

The Portland total in the drive continues to climb and it is believed ultimately will be but little short of the 100,000 mark. Tillamook county is continuing its drive, as is Coos county.

C. C. Chapman, state chairman, has moved state headquarters to his office in the Worcester building, from which he will wind up final details of the state campaign.

McMurray on Duty At Douglas, Arizona

William McMurray, general passenger agent of the N. V. R. & N. has received a letter from his son, Lieutenant W. Robert McMurray of Troop M, Fifteenth U. S. cavalry, stationed at Douglas, Ariz. Mr. McMurray is speculating as to the probability of his son having been in the engagement between American cavalrymen and Mexican bandits reported in dispatches. Lieutenant McMurray states that strenuous drill and border patrol duty leave small time for amusements, but that the health and morale of the troops are excellent.

Nautical Vocabulary Will Not Be Downed

There are landmen and watermen in the police department of Portland, and one of the seamen proved in turning in an accident report that he was no landman.

Officer Day of the harbor patrol, when he saw an interurban car collide with an automobile driven by W. F. Withers, his thirty-seventh avenue southeast. Officer Day's report reads: "An auto was struck on Madison street yesterday by train 104 on the port side amidships."

City to Put Limit on Vacation Activities

City employees while on vacations are not to work in other places in the city's service when supposed to be recuperating. An ordinance making this the law comes before the city council Wednesday.

It came about because an office employee of the water bureau took his vacation and went to work for the city in the Bell Run reserve.

He got a change of work, got a little sleep, got the city commissioners' consent to the practice and nearly got himself in bad.

Burning of Midnight Oil Caused Trouble

Landlady Objected to Overworking of Meter by Roomer with Desire to Increase Knowledge; Is Given Advice.

For one of her roomers to burn midnight oil in these days of the high cost of living didn't suit Mrs. B. Sheppard, 183 Fourth street, and she notified the police.

Patrolman Thorpe was detailed to investigate. The landlady declared that the lodger had paid his room rent in advance and poured over volumes of incredible thickness hour after hour while the electric light meter whirled merrily around.

"What's the use of trying to Hooverize when he keeps the light bill way above Hooverizing figures?" she said. Patrolman Thorpe advised her to rent her rooms to lodgers who did not indulge in midnight and early morning reading orgies.

ANNUAL TOUR PARTY IN CITY FROM EASTERN WASHINGTON POINTS

Two Hundred En Route to California Spend Eight Hours Visiting Portland.

A special excursion train bearing more than 200 tourists from points in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Washington and Idaho arrived in Portland from Spokane at Saturday afternoon, over the O-W. R. & N.

The tourists remained here eight

hours, leaving at 10:30 for Southern Oregon and California points over the Southern Pacific.

The special train carrying the excursionists consists of eight standard sleepers, two diners, an observation car and a baggage car. The train left Spokane at 11:30 Friday night; a stop was made at Multnomah falls in the afternoon, where a group photograph was taken.

The time in Portland was spent in sight seeing and in visiting friends. A number of men and women were held at the Multnomah hotel.

Many prominent men and women from western Canadian towns are among the excursionists. A number of men returned from the Canadian army in France are with the party, some recovering from wounds and others home on furlough.

J. A. Hagwood will accompany the excursion from Portland to Los Angeles and Redlands as representative of the Southern Pacific company. Stops will be made at Grants Pass, Medford and Ash-

land Sunday and at Shasta Springs Sunday evening.

This excursion from Western Canada and Washington points to Oregon and California is an annual event. The number of tourists making the trip this year is greater than in 1917 despite war conditions, say officials of the Union Pacific system.

Oregon Batterymen Feast on Christmas

"We had a good Christmas even if it was spent under quarantine," writes Corporal Walter F. Cornwell of Battery A, 14th (Oregon) field artillery from Camp Merritt, N. J. "Batteries A and B had a joint dinner and everyone ate until he could hold no more. I haven't answered but two mess calls since (December 28). There is snow on the ground here but as those long long island breezes cannot get this far, we are all right and all feel fine."

Use Your Credit

We Charge No Interest

Plank Top Pedestal Dining Table
\$23.90
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
USE YOUR CREDIT

Loose Cushion Tapestry Chair or Rocker
\$35.85
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
USE YOUR CREDIT

Ivory Enamel Dressers
Up From \$17.50
\$1 Cash—\$1 Week
Use Your Credit

20 Styles BUFFET
Up From **\$23.25**
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
USE YOUR CREDIT

9x12 Brussels Rugs
\$27.50
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
Suitable for bedrooms, the library or den. Splendid new colorings and designs are of the newest that we have offered. A most unusual line to choose from.

9x12 Worcester Rugs
\$32.85
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
These splendid rugs are offered in a long range of wanted patterns and designs. They are high pile long wearing rugs that will suit you the moment you see them.

4-Piece Living Room Suite—Special
\$39.75
\$1 Cash, \$1 Week—Use Your Credit

5-Piece Oak Dining Room Suite—Special
\$26.75
\$1 Cash, \$1 Week—Use Your Credit

Victrola IV Outfit
\$29.50
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
This Victrola IV is mounted on a full quartered oak record cabinet with double doors and sliding shelves, giving the appearance of a much higher priced model. All Victrola numbers always in stock—also a full line of records.

"HOOSIER" Kitchen Cabinets
\$1 Cash, \$1 Week
The highest grade kitchen cabinet produced today. Sold only at the Powers store. Four models up from \$28.85.

Guaranteed Steel Range
Up to \$50
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
Superior to any other range we know of at its price. Both low and sanitary base styles.

SEWING MACHINES
Up From \$25.00
\$1.00 Cash—\$1.00 Week
The celebrated Standard make, combining all the new improvements and the latest things in sewing machine construction.

January Sale Bargains in Our Drapery Store

60c FRENCH NETS
French Lasse and fillet nets in white, cream and ecru, 46 to 48 inches 39c
100 PATTERNS 35c CRETONNE
Beautiful floral and foliage and Dresden designs. Our regular 35c 29c
Sample Lengths Imported Cretonnes for Hand Bags at Reduced Prices

OVERCOATS of the hour

HERE are Overcoats of vigorous, manly style; military ideas—smart, new models; fresh garments in color and fabric—coats that make you look as young as you feel. Foreign and home weaves.

\$15 to \$60

Overcoats Shown on Third Floor.

The United States Government needs your money now; it will help win the war. Show your colors—let's give our money and our time to our country. Buy Thrift Stamps and War Savings Certificates.

Ben Selling
LEADING CLOTHIER
Morrison Street at Fourth

