

"PRIVATE BRISS" DESCRIBES CHAT WITH AN OFFICER

Interview Less Lengthy Than Those Secured at City Hall Here in Former Days.

BOND SUCCESS PLEAS

Officer in France Sends Words of Admiration for French People Who Display Fortitude.

Herewith is presented news of boys of the Oregon country who are in the nation's service, which will continue to be featured in this column from time to time.

"PRIVATE" CLAUDE BRISTOL is now at Benecia, Cal., training camp, having completed his course at the last ordnance school at Eugene. He was for several years prior to his enlistment in a note to a member of the staff he writes:

"You know this life is somewhat different from the newspaper game. Here you take what comes and keep your mouth shut. You don't even thank them for answering questions. It isn't done! I have had two pleasant conversations with my superior officer consisting of 'first, yes, sir,' and the second, 'yes sir!'"

JUST PRIVATE BRISS.

"I wish I could tell you all about this country, but that would hardly be possible without being able to say where we are," writes an engineer now in France who was formerly stationed at Vancouver barracks. "The first two things that impressed me about this section is the natural and developed beauty and the absolute unhealthful and unsanitary conditions under which the people live. There are fortifications where I was stationed recently in a Ford ambulance that were originally built by the Phoenicians and which were so badly worn by Julius Caesar's time that he repaired them. The harbor is beautiful but there isn't a wharf in town that will hold a big liner and the freight is lightered ashore. The same contrast of beauty and interest with absolute impracticality exists everywhere, except in the country roads, which are wonderful. The barracks in which we were first quartered after our arrival are over 150 years old and were at one time used by Napoleon as his headquarters."

"All the country is cultivated to the last acre everywhere you go and the work is being done by old men, old women and boys. You do not see any men of an age to be at the front around town excepting those in uniform home on a short leave. It never ceases to seem strange to the American boys to see women plowing and cleaning streets and all that sort of thing. But the oldest of all are the wooden shoes in the rural districts; worn by men, women and children of the poorer classes."

"It cheered us all to hear of the success of the second Liberty loan campaign," writes an officer in the engineers, after that event. He was formerly stationed at Vancouver barracks and is now in France.

"To know that the people at home are doing what they can in a financial way is a big help to the men over here. The only time our spirits flag is when we read of criticism of the government and

such general delays on the real subject at hand. Possibly a few more affairs like the Tustanis and the casualty lists from the front will have the desired effect and they will 'get their dander up.' If they ever do, may the Lord help the Kaiser when America goes in with real blood in her eyes—not for the fulfillment of ideals—but to win. If they do not but continue apathetic and kicking at the government as they were before we came over, the Lord will have to help the whole world, as it will be too late for the world to help itself."

"If the people of America could only see the way the people of France are fighting the war and the casualty lists of the child—they would be ashamed of the part they have permitted obstructionists to play in the war to date. The old women, and the old men and some of the young women and children do all the work in the fields and around the houses and hotels. You see them driving carts, sweeping streets, and doing everything imaginable in the line of hard work. I saw a little, stoop shouldered woman, withered with age, wheeling a wheelbarrow of dirt as big as herself yesterday—and that is but a sample of the every day sights about us."

"You can tell all your friends who are to cross the ocean on their way to France that it is a waste of money to buy a wonderful method of protecting his own on their way across and that it is only by the sheerest accident that the Hun can get an American transport as in the case of the 'Tustanis'."

"The mail train is in and Lieutenant just came in looking like the head of a mule. I know, I know, there won't be any mail tonight."

So writes a man in France, who, too, is looking for letters. And when the mail train fails to deliver letters there are just as many glum mourners as there are soldiers waiting. If the space that was taken up in the mail ships were just packed with letters and comforts is just filled with letters and more letters the ban on overseas parcel post will not be keenly felt 'over there.' Papers, too, are much in demand as the news is strictly censored. The following excerpts from letters from the same man give interesting high lights on the impressions and experiences of the soldiers in service:

"We really know nothing about what is going on in the world. We see a French newspaper once in a while, but most of us know too little of the language to get much from its strictly censored columns. The American newspapers are always at least a month or so out of date. The published account of the aims of the war as outlined by President Wilson early in January."

"My work will apparently keep me moving about France. Part of the road I traveled over yesterday was a cobblestone highway built by Napoleon on his campaign against Spain."

"By traveling the streets of Bordeaux with a bath tub on a taxicab an officer formerly stationed near Portland now boasts possession of the only bath tub in his camp. Following is an excerpt from his letter:

"The people over here, or round about us anyway, don't believe in baths apparently. This town is fair sized and there isn't a bath tub available for use in the winter time, except the one I bought in Bordeaux and carried around the city on top of a taxicab. I gained quite a reputation over the stunt, but, thank heaven, have a tub. The bath house here is only open in the summer time as they consider it superfluous in the cold weather."

"To those who have heard nothing but allience from their packages of delectable sweets sent to loved ones 'over there' it is interesting to hear of the successful arrival in France, 'in perfect condition' March 3, of a tin of fruit cake that had been mailed shortly before Christmas. It might be surmised from its ripe old age, that it 'flew with its own wings' like the state of its birth, but an enthusiastic letter states that it didn't even limp into camp. Excerpts from the letter follow:

"The biggest day on record! That is what yesterday was. Six letters, the tin of fruit cake and a pair of socks, all in one mail. The cake came through in perfect condition and all the officers at headquarters had some. The socks are perfect and I like the distinctive blue stripes, but when in doubt just write letters; they mean everything to us 'over here.'"

In the name of Alfred M. Gottschalk.

noted among the passengers on the missing collier Cyclone, much local interest attaches itself. He is listed as A. L. Maurice Gottschalk, consul general from the United States to Rio Janeiro and Brazil, but he is better known in this country as Alfred M. He is the son of L. Gaston Gottschalk, world renowned opera singer and vocal teacher. The elder Gottschalk resided in Portland from September, 1910, to May, 1911, when he had large classes in voice. He came to the coast to recuperate his health and returned to Chicago, where his death followed shortly. Miss Clara Gottschalk, who is 11 years younger than her father and frequently met his son there, where he came to visit his father, though he had his sister Miss Clara Gottschalk, both lived with their mother in New York. Miss Gottschalk was a piano assistant to Edward MacDowell, composer, in New York before his final sickness.

Joseph W. Hammond and Edmond P. Hammond, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Hammond, are now at an Eastern port awaiting orders to leave for France. Mrs. Hammond left Tuesday for the East to bid her sons adieu. Both boys attended the first officers' training camp at the Presidio and are in the ordnance department. Joseph W. Hammond was practicing law in the office of J. H. Middleton prior to entering the service and is a graduate of the technical engineering department at the Oregon Agricultural college. Mrs. Hammond will visit her sons for several weeks before her return to the coast.

PROMINENT LEADERS AT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ASSOCIATION

Representatives of Twenty-five Churches Were Present at Two Days' Session.

With 75 delegates present, representing 25 churches in and near Portland, the Association of Congregational churches closed a two day session at the First Congregational church Tuesday evening after a highly interesting and instructive address on "Africa" by the Rev. C. H. Patton of Boston, Mass. The public was admitted to the address and the church was crowded. Twenty Portland churches and five outside churches were represented by delegates and many lay members of the several congregations attended. Among the distinguished visitors present, each of whom made several addresses, were the Rev. Mr. Patton and the Rev. W. W. Scudder of Boston and Miss Miriam Woodbury of New York. Monday evening Miss Woodbury spoke on "War and the New Woman," and Rev. Patton spoke on "War and the New Era."

The only important business before the session was the election of Rev. A. J. Sullivan as moderator of the Portland association, to relieve Rev. F. J. Meyer, who presided at the opening sessions. The meeting was marked by the Fellowship dinner served at the church Tuesday night.

Furloughs Planned For Oregon Troops

Enlisted Men From Oregon Will Be Granted Furloughs During Planting and Harvest Season to Aid Farmers. Enlisted Oregon men will be granted furloughs from training camps during the planting and harvest season so that they may aid in farm work throughout the state. This decision from the war department is in the hands of Adjutant General John H. Williams, who has received a supply of blank forms upon which enlisted men will apply for furlough. Blanks will be furnished to exemption boards and they will turn them over upon application to enlisted men, and wherever they see fit the boards will insure a furlough to the applicant by recommending his release. Adjutant General Williams believes the department has decided that the release of Oregon farmers from Camp Lewis for a brief period will not materially hamper military training, but will be a great benefit to the proper handling of crops.

Condemnation Will Take Much Time

More than two months of time will be consumed in hearing the 32 suits filed by the city for the condemnation of property in Marquam gulch sought for park purposes. The suits must be tried separately and Deputy City Attorney Tomlinson believes it will take at least two days for each. An order of the assessed valuation was tendered the owners of the property but in each case the city's tender was declined. The purchase of the property for park purposes was authorized by the voters at the last city election.

Lecture Sunday by Rev. H. Edw. Mills

Sunday evening at Christensen's hall, Eleventh and Yamhill streets, Rev. H. Edw. Mills of Spokane, co-pastor with Rev. A. C. Grier of the Church of the Truth, will deliver his lecture, "Heralds of the Golden Age." An acquaintance luncheon at 4:30 will precede the lecture. A musical program of solo and quartet numbers will intervene. Mr. Mills is founder of the Realization league, and is spending the month of April in Portland.

Palestine to Be Cleaned Up

Washington, April 16.—(I. N. S.)—Palestine is going to be 'cleaned up.' The frightful conditions that have prevailed there for centuries will be corrected, the American Red Cross announced Tuesday afternoon, by use of \$350,000 appropriated to begin the work. A commission of 80 has already sailed for Palestine.

FOUR LIEUTENANTS FOR STATE POLICE COMPLETE PERSONNEL

About 80 Recruits Have Been Assigned to Active Duty in Service.

With appointment yesterday of four first lieutenants for Oregon State Police battalion being recruited by Major Richard Deich, commanding officer, the commissioned personnel of the organization has been completed. Almost 80 recruits have been sworn in and assigned to active duty pending the complete mobilization of the battalion. Major Deich definitely appointed J. W. Snyder of Clatsop, George Snyder of Salem, Major Louis P. Campbell and Walter F. Threlkeld of Portland as lieutenants. Lieutenant Koeber will be soon in command of the Eastern Oregon company, Snyder will be attached to the Salem unit under Captain O. J. Hall, and Campbell and Threlkeld will be attached to the Portland companies commanded respectively by Captain Roy M. Dobie and Captain L. E. Beach.

Pendleton Williams' Headquarters

Captain Harry E. Williams, it was decided, will command the Eastern Oregon company and the first officers' training unit probably will establish headquarters at Pendleton. Captain John B. Hibbard, the fifth captain in the battalion, will devote full time to executive work as battalion adjutant.

The four lieutenants appointed are veterans of the Spanish-American war. Williams was a member of the famous Twentieth Kansas volunteers in the war with Spain and served nine years in the regular army, reaching the grade of first sergeant. With the regulars he saw service in the Boxer uprising and with the Chinese expedition. Lieutenant Campbell will retire as a major in the Oregon guard to accept the police commission.

\$90 For Privates

As rapidly as recruits are sworn in they are being assigned to active duty and when the battalion is recruited to normal strength its four companies will be mustered in at Portland. Preliminary training is completed all companies will maintain headquarters in Portland, one later to be assigned to Eastern Oregon and another to Salem. Eleven men enlisted by Captain Hill at Salem have already been sworn in and are on temporary guard duty in Portland. A number of recruits are reporting each day from Eastern Oregon.

Many Non-combatant Officers at Capital

Washington, April 17.—(I. N. S.)—There are 172 non-combatant officers of the draft age on duty in Washington. This was the answer Tuesday of Acting Secretary of War Crowell to an inquiry from the senate regarding the commissioning during the draft age in non-combatant positions. The information was sought by Senator Thomas of Colorado, after a fight had been launched in congress against so-called "sicker" officers, or men who are wearing uniforms while doing duty which does not place them in any danger.

Thomas Suspended By University Head

Chicago, April 17.—(I. N. S.)—Pending a meeting Tuesday of the board of trustees Professor W. I. Thomas has been suspended as a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago because of relations with Mrs. R. M. Granger, wife of a United States army officer now in France. Professor Thomas was suspended following a long distance telephone message from Harry Pratt Judson, president of the university, to Martin A. Ryerson, head of the board. Professor Thomas refused to comment on President Judson's action.

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German Situation Reported Serious

Fast Number of Wounded Being Returned From Front Exhausting Hospital Facilities. Washington, April 17.—(I. N. S.)—The situation brought about in Germany by the vast number of wounded returning from the west front is becoming extremely serious, according to advices reaching the state department Tuesday. It was declared in these dispatches that at Aachen (Aix LaChapelle) all accommodations for wounded were already exhausted and that schools and other public buildings and private dwellings were being used as hospitals. Twenty-five hospital trains are arriving at that point each night, it was stated. There is a great scarcity of hospital supplies, particularly morphine. The morale of the German soldiers is declining, the dispatches revealed. Only among the new levies of very young soldiers is there a real enthusiasm, it was declared.

Enemy Agitators Busy in Colorado

Telluride, Colo., April 17.—(I. N. S.)—Federal agents arrived here Tuesday to investigate an alleged plot of several foreign born miners, believed to be members of the I. W. W., who bound and gagged Maurice Hamalain, a blacksmith, escorted him to the outskirts of the city and warned him to leave the community. It is said Hamalain had informed government officials of a plot among I. W. W. here to interfere with work at the coal mines. Jacob Karcano, a miner, is being held by Sheriff Hoffman, who says that Hamalain identified the miner as a ring-leader of the I. W. W.

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