

## LEGIONNAIRES FREE OF STEAMSHIP TAX

Voyagers to Have Choice Food and Best of Service on Board Ship

PORTLAND, Ore.—(Special.)

Through provisions of a bill just passed by congress, members of the American Legion who go to Paris next September for the ninth annual convention will be saved approximately \$150,000 in steamer fare taxes, it was announced by Carl R. Moser of Portland, department France convention officer of this state. The author of the tax elimination bill, that originated in the house, is Representative Bacharach of New Jersey. The removal of steamship tax is but one of the several provisions made by the France convention committee of the Legion that will result in an average saving of \$175 each for veterans going to Paris.

The steamship tax measure stipulates that the tax of \$5 on steamship tickets shall not apply to the tickets held by the Legion or Auxiliary members, going to Paris for the annual convention of the Legion, between June 1, and September 15, 1927. Holders of the exempt tickets, however, must have identification certificates issued by the Legion for the nominal sum of \$1 to those making reservations for the trip abroad on the official ships. Congress recognized the Parisian pilgrimage as a sacred expedition, and also protected Gold Star Mothers and fathers of veterans in the provisions of the tax-exemption bill.

In addition to steamer tax savings, those making the Legion trip to Paris will have the advantage of most favorable steamship rates compared to ordinary transatlantic travel. Seven great steamship companies will supply a total of fifty-five east and west bound ocean liners in the Legion movement. Cheaper grade accommodations on the official Legion ships range from \$145.80 to \$230. Ordinary "tourist cabin" rates to Europe are \$182 including tax. The Legionnaires will have full freedom of the ship regardless of cost of accommodation, a privilege valued at \$53. The same trip in ordinary travel, for which the Legionnaires is paying on the average of \$170, would cost \$265. Legionnaires will have choice food and the best of service while on the ocean.

More than \$5,000,000 in the total cost of the movement of 30,000 Legionnaires will be saved through the reduction here and abroad of railroad fares, abolition of port landing charges of \$5, substitution of an official identification certificate for passport and passport visa charges in the European countries and the cost of battlefield and cemetery tours. Rooms in Paris hotels for convention week will range in cost from \$10 to \$49 per week per person, half the amount that would be charged in the United States. Cemetery and battlefield tours will cost from \$5 to \$16.50.

A two-color "On to Paris" folder containing full information about the France convention will be had by writing to the Department France Convention officer whose address is given above or to the Convention Committee, National Headquarters, The American Legion, Indianapolis, Ind.

The Opera House Drug Store, Service, quality, low price, friendship give increasing patronage. Old customers advise friends to trade here. High and Court. (\*)

### AMERICAN FIELDS OF HONOR OVERSEAS

(Continued from page 1.)

dead overseas were brought home to the states for burial. Some of those rest in the home town cemeteries, others in the national cemetery at Arlington, on the Potomac. While it was the almost universal hope of members of the A. E. F. that the glorious dead should rest in the fields not at the

time visualized the eight fine permanent cemeteries of Europe, not foresee that our government would spend millions of dollars to make and keep these fields of honor in perpetual and sacred memory to those whose resting place they are.

Of the dead not brought back to America, those which were in 1919 already resting at Suresnes or Brookwood, or at the sites selected for the battlefield cemeteries, remained undisturbed. The others, from scattering, temporary battlefield cemeteries, were reverently moved to their permanent resting places. This task, carefully performed by the graves registration service of the army, resulted in almost complete identification of our soldier dead.

The cemeteries remain in charge of the graves registration service, which maintains rest houses at each, has caretakers in charge, keeps complete records for the use of visitors and maintains the grounds, landscape gardening and improvements. Further beautifying of the cemeteries has been placed in charge of the American Battle Monuments commission, a body created by congress to take charge of the whole plan and problem of American memorials in Europe.

This question is no simple one, as anyone who ever visited the battlefields at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania will bear witness. States, cities, divisions, brigades, companies and private citizens, not to mention memorial associations and societies, are already vying for the privilege of placing a monument at that point, a memorial at that. The government commission must decide where there shall be monuments and who shall raise them. In a similar way the cemeteries have offered a problem. Should individuals be allowed to place special headstones or monuments for their loved ones? Shall churches or societies be allowed to erect chapels at the cemeteries? And so forth.

The chairman of the Battle Monuments commission is General John J. Pershing. Its membership, appointed by President Coolidge and serving without salary, includes Robert G. Woodside, of Pittsburgh, vice chairman; Senator David A. Reed of Pennsylvania, Congressman John Philip Hill, Congressman Finis J. Garrett, Col. D. John Markey of Maryland, and Mrs. Frederick W. Bentley; Major X. H. Price, a regular army officer on duty at Washington, is secretary.

After careful studies, this commission outlined a complete plan for official battlemonuments in the zones occupied by American forces in offensive operations, and a corresponding plan for the improvement of the American cemeteries. Thus there is now in force, taking effect by gradual steps of construction, a genuine, thorough, basic sound plan for the permanent markings of the American battlefields, and the

continuing beautification of the cemeteries.

The most expensive phase of the cemetery work to be done is the erection of chapels. These will be suitable for sacred purposes, but non-sectarian. The larger ones will probably have a room that will be something of a museum of battle relics, as well as the chapel room. Another matter now well in hand is completing masonry walls around the cemeteries, a work only delayed in places while waiting for the determination of definite plans for the chapels, as these in many cemeteries will have an effect on the location of the walls.

Insofar as personal monuments are concerned, the commission adopted an iron clad, final rule that there will be no special personal monuments. Over each grave will be a headstone, and these will be the same for officers and privates, rich and poor, young and old. The name, rank, organization and home state will be engraved on each stone. And they will lie side by side, as they fell, equal in glory as in sacrifice.

The plans for battle monuments are another and even larger task of the commission. They are well under way, and form a project which should be completed in about two years.

The first of the American cemeteries to be so designated, and to receive American dead, was that hillside tract on Mont Valerien, overlooking Paris and the Seine valley, and called Suresnes.

Everyone from America goes to Suresnes, both in tribute to our honored dead, and because there is no finer view of the city of Paris from any nearby hilltop.

Suresnes is three miles from the city limits, on the right of the Seine below the city. The cemetery stands well up on the highest of several hills, and from its gates the panorama is uninterrupted for many miles.

At Suresnes are buried many who died in Paris hospitals from wounds sustained in battle, and others who fell victims of disease and accidents. It is most complete of all the American cemeteries in France, insofar as time has completed it by growing the trees larger, the shrubbery thicker and finer. Suresnes already belongs to the ages, a fit resting place for heroes, far up above the towers of Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe, commanding forever what is perhaps the loveliest of the famous valleys of the world.

At Suresnes, because of its proximity to Paris, the American ambassador speaks at the services each Memorial Day. Many other noted American have here paid their tribute to the silent ranks, the most noteworthy being President Wilson, who dedicated this cemetery in 1919.

any American cemetery in France. Suresnes is not, after all, located on a field of battle. Those who rest there did not fall there, although many of them are battle casualties. But Americans, save those whose kith and kin lie in some especial cemetery, will want to visit Suresnes, and also one or more of the battlefield burial grounds.

Close to another great city, London, is another American military cemetery, that of Brookwood. It lies 28 miles southwest of the city, easily reached by hourly train service. Here lie 437 men of the American forces who died in England or adjacent waters during the World war.

Brookwood cemetery is many years old. The American section, set aside entirely for our troops, adjoins a new British section reserved for soldiers of the World war. The cemetery is a beauty spot, carefully cared for through generations. The American section lies on level ground, but leading toward a lovely grass covered slope. An American chapel will be built in this section under plans approved by the Battle Monuments commission.

Some of those now resting at Brookwood lost their lives in submarine sinkings of transports bearing American troops. Their remains were gathered from scattering points on the Scotch coast where they came ashore. Others lie here who died in training camps in England, or in hospitals there.

The cemetery at Cliveden, Lord Astor's estate, once gave a temporary shelter to the remains of several Yaaks. Only two now rest there, the others have been brought home or moved to Brookwood.

England, like the United States, has been at great pains in caring for the graves of her honored dead. Evidence of this will be seen at Brookwood, where the British military cemetery adjoins ours. Later in France we will see the fine care given by our other allies to the resting places of their dead.

Suresnes and Brookwood are as handsome cemeteries as will be found anywhere, in any land. Both have lost the semblance of newness. They are calm, settled, complete in aspect, restful and reposed. Our battlefield cemeteries may lack a little of this completeness, but they are growing older and more settled looking each year. And all of them will have the perpetual guardianship of Uncle Sam.

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### WILSON'S PAPERS, ADDRESSES APPEAR

(Continued from page 1.)

figure, he was professor of jurisprudence in Princeton and a recognized authority on American history. Twenty years of his life were devoted to the study and exposition of the ideals and principles of representative government. Only during the last fifteen years did he essay to put those theories into practice.

What makes this work extremely interesting is the inclusion of the literary essays. In a sense they are of the one piece with the rest of his work, yet they reveal to us a man deeply read in the humanities—a writer who, even when confined to subjects purely literary, is worthy to rank with the best America has produced.

To judge from the publishers' statement, the occasion which has brought forth this inexpensive set is the current \$50,000 prize essay contest which the Woodrow Wilson Foundation of New York City is conducting on "What Woodrow Wilson Means to Me." This contest includes both sexes between the ages of 20 and 35 and is for the best essay of 2500 words written by one man and one woman. The publishers have brought out this set so that Wilson's writings may be readily and inexpensively accessible.

It is fortunate for all Americans interested in literature and politics that this set has been brought out. Unquestionably, Woodrow Wilson was a great statesman. You cannot read the words he actually wrote and spoke without realizing this. You may not agree with his proposals; you must agree with his ideals. For he affirmed that belief in the common man and his ability to direct his own destiny which was the conviction back of the Declaration of Independence.

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### PIONEER OBSERVES HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

(Continued from page 1.)

the customs house in Portland, and Wade H., and W. E., the two sons who are living on the home farm. His daughter-in-laws and several grandchildren were also present.

Born in 1852 on the farm where he now lives, he has spent his seventy-five years as a successful farmer, a benefactor to his community and has always extended the hand of good fellowship to his neighbors. He was instrumental in bringing the telephone and rural mail delivery to

his community and served on the Airlie school board for many years. His father, James B. Williams, and mother were true pioneers of the northwest, coming from Nashville, Tennessee, by ox team in 1845 and settling on the donation claim several miles south of the Luckiamute river, where the family have since lived.

### Forgotten Cemetery Now Yielding Up Its Dead

THOMASTON, Conn.—(AP)—An old forgotten cemetery in the middle of the business section here is giving up its dead.

Town records show that in 1734 the town of Waterbury, which then included the territory of this and other towns, paid 50 shillings for a burial plot. In 1884 the deed was turned over to Thomaston as a historic document.

The nature of the land was forgotten, but the plot was known as town property. Recently a skeleton was unearthed in excavating for the foundation of a fire station and the existence of the old cemetery recalled.

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