

BOYS HAD A GREAT OLD TIME IN PARIS

Legion Men Were Well Behaved and Cordially and Royally Received

(The average reader heard a great deal about the way the Paris "reds" were going to make it hot for the American Legion boys at their convention in Paris. Writing in the Oct. 27th issue of The Congressionalist, Boston and Chicago, under the heading, "In Paris With the American Legion, Henry A. Atkinson, general secretary of the Church Peace Union, who attended the great convention, tells of what did actually happen. This is so highly authoritative, and so true, just and creditable an account, that it ought to be reproduced by every American newspaper with a fair minded editor. The Statesman is glad to print it, as follows:)

Thirty thousand delegates make some considerable crowd at a convention, even when held in a city the size of Paris. Americans owned the town! The red, white, and blue, with the stars and stripes, was in evidence on all sides. Throngs were in the street, morning, noon, and night. English, with a strong American accent, was the principal language one heard. They were a happy crowd, sure that they were among friends, and they enjoyed every minute of their stay.

How different was the reception from what had been prophesied by those who are continually finding some reason for criticism, or who give their fears full range ahead of their fancies. Before the American Legion came, everyone said: "They will not be well received, they will be insulted, there will be a wild exhibition of militarism when they do come, and the whole convention will end in one grand debacle." Now, none of these things came to pass. Never was any group given such a reception. On the day of the great parade all Paris turned out, and lined the streets for miles as the 30,000 members of the new A. E. F. passed. Along the gaily decorated thoroughfares there were cheers, smiles, and nods of recognition, so that no one could in the least doubt the sincerity of the expression of the people in bidding welcome to this new invasion. A hundred and fifty years ago France sent a deputation to America to help win for the people of the New World an independent existence. Ten years ago, Americans returned to France to help in the struggle for freedom from war and tyranny. This last demonstration was even more significant, for it was prompted not by bitterness against a neighboring country as was the help which France gave the English colonists, nor by the exigencies of war which involved all the nations, but it was a gesture of pure friendship.

The sessions of the convention were held in the Trocadero Palace, and the two great nations were represented in the opening ceremonies by the men who stand highest as the military heroes of that period—Gen. John J. Pershing and Marshal Ferdinand Foch. The huge auditorium rang with cheers from the thousands present as they listened to these wartime leaders. The banquet given by the nation was one of the biggest events of this kind ever held. A Paris paper estimated the amount of meat, vegetables, and mayonnaise sauce for the dressing prepared—in tons! Wreaths were placed on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and impressive ceremonies held at the foot of the statue of Lafayette.

The serious business of the convention was cared for in a dignified way. Anyone who supposed that the members of the American Legion had come to Paris simply for pleasure would have been greatly surprised had he sat in that huge hall and listened to the sensible speeches that were made, to the plans that were discussed for carrying out the purposes of the organization. At one of the sessions, I sat beside a man from the middle west, who, after listening for some time to the discussion, said, "This meeting is a cross between a political convention and a Masonic lodge." The things of greatest interest had to do with the internal affairs of the organization itself, and the welfare of those who had served in the American army during the World War, particularly those who were disabled, and the widows and orphans of the dead combatants.

The American Legion is not militaristic. Unfortunately for our country, one of the American papers in Paris makes a good deal of noise. It does not have much influence, but some people do take it seriously. It was amusing to follow this paper from day to day, as it reported the convention, and as to what lengths it went in trying to twist every single statement made by any speaker in the convention into some glorification of war. As a matter of fact, as my western friend said, "These fellows are real pacifists."

At the banquet, there was a minute of solemn silence in memory of Woodrow Wilson, war president of the United States. Those who were present felt the significance of that tribute. The American Legion recognizes, as all practical men and women must recognize, that there is no sure passport for the cure of war. It has been the accepted method through the centuries by which nations settle their disputes with each other.

GRAVES OF EMIGRANTS FOUND BY HISTORIANS IN SALT LAKE DESERT



Rude crosses in the Great Salt Lake desert have revealed to Capt. Charles E. Davis (upper left), California historian, the graves of some 200 emigrants of prairie schooner days who died on the way to California. One of the few marked graves is that of Lucinda Duncan, girl member of the party. It is shown at the right. Below Davis is shown beside other burial mounds.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP)—The fate of more than 200 emigrants who started westward in prairie schooner days to seek wealth in California has been traced by Capt. Charles E. Davis, California historian, to clusters of nameless graves on the Great Salt Lake desert and the sage-covered plains of Nevada and Utah.

For 35 years Davis has spent much of his time tracing old trails, aided by John Yates, a resident for more than 70 years of the community of Grantville, on the south shore of Great Salt Lake. It is his aim to locate all the ancient graves in the wilderness, and to have permanent markers placed over as many as can be identified after a lapse of 50 to 80 years.

The graves represent the resting place beside the trail of members of almost as many parties, victims of hunger, thirst, hardships of travel or Indian sallies during the gold rush of 1849 and the caravans which followed in its wake. Most of the graves lack identification, but they are those of eastern pioneers who left their homes to hunt for fortunes west of the Rocky Mountains; men and women who endured the wearying ride across the middle western plains only to succumb to the greater aridness of the desert. Almost 200 burial places were

wondering why nations may not learn to deal with each other following the code of honor that we demand between individuals, why theft and violence on the largest scale are less wicked than petty stealing, why prejudice and passion are less excusable in ten million men than in merely one. The assembling of the American Legion in France is not merely a reunion of veterans, but the joining together of two great nations having the same passionate love for peace, and there is strong reason to hope that the feelings we see manifested here may spread out in new directions and eventually help to protect other lands from the storms of hatred and violence.

This was the tenor of the speeches, this was the purpose that animated the crowd. The only discordant note was that which was injected from the outside. A press seeking sensational publicity, fattening its circulation with appeals to hatred and violence, and twisting even the most simple statement into wrong channels, joining things that were never intended to be joined, drawing conclusions that every right-minded individual knew were unjust—this was the work of these war-mongers. It was expressed, however, only in a few of the papers; most of them agreed with the overwhelming conclusion that the Legion stands for peace—permanent peace in the world. Those who would make of it a military organization are a few led by either one of two groups. The first is a group of men who were too old to fight in the last war, but who profited by it, and who fear that were war outlawed, they would lose their prestige. Like the Bourbons of old, they learn nothing and forget nothing. The other group is a heartless minority whose enthusiasm for sacrifice has never been tempered by any of the actual experiences of warfare.

The American Legion is a Legion for peace, and it is unjust to link it up to the forces that are trying to perpetuate the old war system. The members of the Legion were a happy crowd. There was no evidence on the streets or in any place in Paris of behavior

in any sense unworthy of the best traditions of America. Every American can well be proud of this group of representatives who crossed the ocean with this message of friendship and on this mission of remembrance. Some amusing things happened and some unfortunate incidents occurred, but these were exceptions rather than the rule. After the mass convention in Paris adjourned, groups of Legionnaires went on pilgrimages to other parts of Europe. One group went to Rome, where they were received with great courtesy and honor by the government. Another group went to London, and still another group of two hundred went to Berlin; it never occurred to them that there might be any feeling of resentment against them on the part of the German people, and when they found it, they were so amazed and at the same time so wholeheartedly happy, that they won their way into the hearts of the German public.

The meeting of the American Legion in Paris was a great thing for the Legion, a great thing for France, and a great thing for America.

FINALS IN AUDITION CONTEST HELD SOON

Cash Awards and Tuition Musical Conservatory Among Prizes

Ten young American singers—presumably the best in the country—will face the microphone at Station WEAJ in New York City early in December to sing for fame and fortune. They will be the finalists—five young men and five young women—in the National Radio Audition, or singing contest, now being conducted in each of the states and the District of Columbia by the Atwater Kent Foundation of Philadelphia.

This nation-wide quest for radio voices has already uncovered hundreds of young singers of promise, who have entered the local and state contests eagerly because the auditions offer them recognition at home and a chance to compete for prizes aggregating \$17,500, as well as tuition for further vocal instruction. Musical and civic leaders in each state have enthusiastically taken leadership in handling the contests and urging young singers to enter. A group of distinctive figures are sponsoring the undertaking as a National audition committee. They are Madame Louise Homer, the Metropolitan opera star; Mrs. Edgar Stillman Kelley, president of the National Federation of Music Clubs; Edward W. Bok, former editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, and Mrs. Otto H. Kahn, wife of the world-famous New York banker, for many years the foremost backer of the Metropolitan opera company.

Winners of state auditions—one boy and one girl—receive silver medals and are taken to their district auditions at the expense of the Foundation to compete with young singers from their neighboring states. Winners of each of the five district auditions—one young man and one young woman in each—receive gold medals and are taken to New York by the Atwater Kent Foundation for the finals, which will be broadcast over a national network of stations. The awards for these will be as follows:

Winners of first place—one young man and one young woman—will each receive \$5,000 cash and two years' tuition in a musical conservatory.

Winners of second place will each receive \$2,000 cash and one year's tuition.

Winners of third place will each receive \$1,000 and one year's tuition.

Winners of fourth place will each receive \$500.

Winners of fifth place will each receive \$250.

BLISTER RUST PROBLEM

Conference of Forest Officials to Be Held in Portland

White pine blister rust will be the subject of discussion at a meeting of Northwest forest officials and timbermen to be held in Portland November 4. This was announced by the state forester here Saturday.

It was said that the white pine blister rust has been discovered in parts of Idaho, and is prevalent in Hood River and Multnomah counties in Oregon. Among the prominent men who will attend the meeting are C. S. Chapman of Tacoma, executive secretary of the Western White Pine Blister Rust Conference, and S. B. Detwiler, of Washington.

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