

TAKING MOTHER "OVER THE TOP"



A soldier of the Twenty-seventh division reviewing his experiences "over there" to a proud old mother and an admiring sweetheart. He is explaining, with the aid of a map, how the One Hundred and Fifth machine gun battalion hammered away mercilessly at the Hun.

sorts of stories, especially their complaints against the government. On the whole, the Dutch treat them well. "Much of Java is still wild land, inhabited by wild men. In the north the Ashinese never have been conquered, although the Dutch have fought them for 500 years. There are a number of other backward tribes. "We have great tigers, which sometimes come right into the suburbs of Palembang; wild elephants and a curious, toothed bird living on flesh, which has no English name so far as I am aware."

FIX DUTY ON FLYING PLANE

Tariff on Machine Brought into Country on Its Own Power Is Puzzle at First.

Washington.—Customs authorities have encountered the first case of an airplane imported into the United States under its own motive power.

An American bought a Canadian plane, and it was flown across the border near Detroit. The question then arose as to whether it is dutiable, particularly since airplanes are not mentioned in any tariff acts.

Customs officials finally decided that if it remains permanently in the United States it should be taxed "as a manufactured article" at the rate of 20 per cent, and if it flies out of the country again within six months it will be regarded as "on a tour," and will not be taxed. In view of the prospects that international air touring may soon be common, the ruling was regarded as important.

PERSHING BEATS THEIR SHOW

Pleads Important Engagement to the Cressys, Then Put on St. Mihiel Drive.

New York.—Mr. and Mrs. Will Cressy of the vaudeville team of Cressy and Dayne, who came back from France the other day after entertaining soldiers, were giving a performance near St. Mihiel, to which General Pershing was invited. He pleaded an important engagement. Early next morning he started the St. Mihiel drive.

A month later the Cressys met him, and he asked: "How did you like my show?" Adding: "When I told you I had an engagement I had that show in mind, so I could not see yours."

PUT 10,000 ACRES IN BEETS

Yakima Valley Crop Expected to Reach Value of \$1,500,000.

Yakima, Wash.—Mark Austin of Salt Lake City, agriculturist for the Utah-Idaho Sugar company, after an inspection of the beet acreage of the Yakima valley, says he estimates that 10,000 acres will be sown to beets this season, of which the company itself is farming 3000 acres near Moxee. He says he is assured the growers will average 13 tons to the acre or better, which will mean a gross return to the growers of this valley of at least \$1,500,000 for the crop.

Austin says 50 per cent of the acreage is contracted for and already is planted, while 35 per cent will be ready for planting this week. He contrasts Yakima as a beet growing district with Idaho, where a heavy snow stopped the work of preparing the beet fields last week.

He says he is looking for a great increase in beet production in case the Yakima high-line canal is built.

The Sunnyside and Toppenish commercial clubs this week are holding campaigns to add still further to the beet acreage in the hope of obtaining the completion of both sugar factories this year.

180,000 for Blewett Pass.

Wenatchee, Wash.—The commissioners signed a formal agreement with the state highway department under the terms of which the county agrees to pay over \$12,000 to the state for the improvement of the Blewett pass road this year. Bids are to be received by the United States forest service at Portland, under whose supervision the work is to be done, on April 12. The cost of this work is estimated at \$180,000.

Milk Plant is Launched.

Vancouver.—The Ridgefield Milk Products company of Ridgefield, Wn., has filed articles of incorporation. The capital stock is fixed at \$3500, with 70 shares. The place of business will be in Ridgefield and the company will make cheese and other milk products.

NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Portland—Wheat—Government basis, \$2.20 per bu. Flour—Patents, \$11.45; whole wheat \$10.25@10.40; graham, \$10.05@10.20. Millfeed—Mill run, f. o. b. mill, car lots, \$37@38 per ton; rolled barley, \$54; rolled oats, \$56; ground barley, \$54. Corn—Whole, ton, \$66; cracked, \$68 per ton. Hay—Buying prices, f. o. b. Portland: Eastern Oregon timothy, \$30@32 per ton; alfalfa, 25@25.50; valley grain hay, \$26; clover, \$26@27. Butter—Cubes, extras 57@57 1/2c per lb.; prints, parchment wrappers, extra, box lots, 59c; cartons, 60c; half boxes, 1/2c more; less than half boxes, 1c more; butterfat, No. 1, 60@61c per pound, station. Eggs—Oregon ranch, case count, 45c; candled, 46c; selects, 47c. Poultry—Hens, 37@38c; roosters, 22c; stags, 25c; ducks, geese and live turkeys, nominal; dressed turkeys 43c. Veal—Fancy, 23c per pound. Pork—Fancy, 24c per pound. Vegetables—Cabbage, \$5@6 per 100 pounds; lettuce, \$2.50@5 per crate; peppers, 50c per pound; celery, \$10 per crate; artichokes, \$1.40; cauliflower, \$1.75@3.50; squash, 3 1/2c per lb.; beets, \$2.50 per sack; carrots, \$2.00@2.25 per sack; turnips, \$1.75@2.25 per sack; cucumbers, \$1.50@2.25 per doz.; tomatoes, \$4.50@7.50 per box; spinach \$1.25 per box; peas, 14@15c per lb.; rhubarb, \$2.25@2.75 per box; asparagus, 10@12 1/2c per pound, \$2.75@5.50 per box. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, best, \$1.75@1.90; Yakimas, \$2; new California, 10@12 1/2c per pound; sweets, 6 1/2c. Onions—Oregon, jobbing prices, \$4@4.50 per sack. Hops—Oregon, 1918 crops, 38@40c per pound; 1919 contracts, 30@35c per pound. Mohair—1919 clip, 40c per pound. Cascares Bark—Old, 13c per pound. Grain Bags—In carlots, 11c. Cattle—Best steers \$14.25@14.65 Good to choice 11.50@12.50 Medium to good 10.00@11.00 Fair to good 9.00@10.00 Common to fair 8.00@9.00 Good to choice cows & hf 10.50@12.25 Medium to good cows & h 7.00@8.00 Fair to medium cows & h 5.00@6.00 Canners 3.50@4.50 Bulls 6.00@8.50 Calves 9.50@13.50 Stockers and feeders 7.00@10.00 Hogs—Prime mixed \$19.50@19.75 Medium mixed 19.00@19.25 Rough heavies 17.00@17.75 Pigs 19.25@19.75 Bulk—Prime lambs \$16.00@17.00 Sheep—Prime lambs 14.00@15.00 Fair to medium lambs 11.00@12.00 Yearlings 9.00@10.00 Wethers 6.50@10.50 Ewes 6.50@10.50

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WEIRD TALE OF THE LAND OF SLAVERY

Polygamy and Witchcraft Flourish in Island of Sumatra.

FAST MIXTURE OF RACES

Has Population of 5,000,000 and Could Easily Support 100,000,000—Missionary Gives Some Interesting Facts and Figures.

New York.—Weird is the story of a land where slavery, polygamy and witchcraft are flourishing, which Earl R. Hibbard, first white missionary ever sent to southern Sumatra, a great island southeast of Asia, told here recently upon his arrival in New York.

Picture a land where alleged magicians known as pawangs, who are said to be able to call crocodiles from the rivers and wild beasts from the jungles, are believed to have control over evil spirits, and you will catch a glimpse of the island of superstition in the Pacific.

"This curious land," said Mr. Hibbard, "is destined to be one of the great countries of the globe. It has 5,000,000 population and could easily support 100,000,000, or all the people of the United States."

Mr. Hibbard is head of the Methodist school in Palembang, and also runs a prosperous Christian church. The leading Christians are Chinese. Chinese are crowding the island rapidly; many of them are wealthy merchants.

"Our island is roughly as long as from New York to Chicago and 400 miles broad," said Mr. Hibbard.

"Palembang has 60,000 people, of which 600 are whites. There is only one white doctor for the whole city. All the rest of the medicine and surgery there are in the hands of witches.

Mixture of Races. "There is a vast mixture of races. In my church, where I preach in the Malay tongue, we have noted at a single service Ambonese, Menadense, Japanese, Malays, British Indians, Chinese and Javanese, besides Dutch and English, not forgetting that the pastor is an American.

"The people, religiously, have sunk low. Most of them are Mohammedans, but of a debased form. Idolatry, witchcraft and animism are mixed with their Mohammedism. The magicians, called pawangs, who call the crocodiles to the banks of the rivers and the wild beasts from the jungles and who pretend to have the evil spirits under their control, are highly thought of.

"If I have an enemy and will pay a pawang high enough he will send a magic, invisible poisoned arrow by a hawk or evil spirit to kill the person I desire slays. So the natives say. "Every year a great pilgrimage lasting two days is made to the top of Gunung Dempo, highest mountain on the island and an active volcano, and in a shrine there the evil spirits are propitiated.

"Polygamy is common. Wives are put away on slight cause. Women are held lightly, although they do not wear the veil and have more freedom than in other Moslem lands.

"Slavery also has not been stamped out. Our Christian people fight it, and of course the Dutch administration gives it no legal sanction. But it is there. In one case a young man who had become a Christian convert bought a little slave girl to save her from a horrible fate.

Interested in America. "The wealthy classes of Palembang are the Arabs and the Chinese. "The school of which I am principal is self-supporting. We have four teachers and 160 pupils, and teach all

YANKS ARE BUSY LETTER WRITERS

Home-Bound Mail From France Increased Enormously After Armistice.

SEND TONS OF SOUVENIRS

Post Offices at Bordeaux and Brest Have More Extensive Distribution Service Than Any Post Office in World—Mail Handled Quickly.

Washington.—Since the boys "over there" have stopped fighting they have taken to letter writing.

The home-bound mail from France has increased enormously since the signing of the armistice and the parcel post has become a souvenir service. The value of souvenirs may be measured by the ton, consisting of small cases, parts of rifles and revolvers, bayonets, uniform buttons, and fragments of demolished airplanes.

A captured German helmet is the most prized token. Four or five hundred thousands of these have come through the mail since the war began, and the shipping requirements of the postal service were relaxed so that a large number have come through unwrapped.

The mail from the American forces in France is dispatched from two ports, Bordeaux and Brest.

During the month of November—the armistice having been signed on the 11th—17,615,400 letters were dispatched from Bordeaux, besides 2,816 patches from Bordeaux, besides 2,816 sacks of papers; 5,419 sacks of cussacks packages and 20,080 pieces of toms packages mail, the whole volume amounting to 287 1/2 tons.

Busy Letter Writers.

The fight-freed boys got into full swing of letter writing during December and January, and for these months the amount of mail increased about 20 per cent over the plethoric month of November. One soldier wrote 30 letters in a single day. It is not known how many others equalled or surpassed this record. Frequently 12 to 15 letters were sent by each soldier.

It is likely to be some time before the home-bound mail from France grows less. As the number of boys coming home increases the impulse to write becomes stronger among those who remain. The regularly equipped post offices at Bordeaux and Brest, from which all mail from the expeditionary forces to the United States is dispatched, have the most extensive distribution service of any post office in the world. While a larger volume of mail is carried by the New York and Chicago offices, their fields of distribution are more restricted. From Bordeaux mail is dispatched to every

state in the Union, and to every city, town, hamlet and rural route.

Mr. Richard N. Bird, who was detailed by the post office department to take general charge of the offices at Bordeaux and Brest, has recently returned from France and his report of the work over there is full of interest.

Mail leaving this country addressed to the expeditionary forces in France passes out of the jurisdiction of the post office department into that of the army when it leaves the port of embarkation at New York. The army collects the soldiers' mail through approximately 150 army post offices scattered throughout France, making the letters up in packages by states, and delivers it to the officials of the post office department at Bordeaux and Brest. Before being dispatched to the United States all mail is sorted at Bordeaux or Brest and made up for direct dispatch to cities and railway mail routes in this country.

Every bit of mail is cleaned up to the very minute of sailing, and choice between sending it by a slower boat or by a faster boat that may sail a day later is determined by the time scheduled for the boats to arrive in New York. The boat to arrive first is given the mail in preference to sending it a day ahead by a slower boat. Approximately 25 dispatches, or one every day except Sunday, are made from either Bordeaux or Brest each month, and the time to New York is about ten days, with an infrequent delay of a day or two due to storms or accident.

Sent Direct to Trains.

The pouches or sacks when received in New York are sent direct to the railway postal cars and dispatched on fast mail trains to the routes or cities for which they are labeled. About 85 per cent of mail is handled in this way.

The soldiers being located with substantial permanency since the signing of the armistice, there is no delay in the distribution of mail on the other side by the army except where it is improperly addressed or the unit to which it is addressed is one selected to return to the United States. In the latter case the mail is held on this side. Whenever any mail from the army post offices is delayed reaching Brest or Bordeaux, the date of its receipt at those terminals is noted by "back-stamp" on the delayed letters.

The site of the Bordeaux terminal post office is on the river close to the depots. The building is 250 feet long and 28 feet wide and is well ventilated and lighted. It was built by the United States army engineers from plans submitted by Mr. Bird. It has every convenience for employees, and every provision for the proper handling of mail. Provision is made for 10,000 separations of letter mail and 400 separations of paper mail.

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