

IS LIKE PARADISE

That Is What Walter Oerding Says of the Cantonment at Speedway, Indiana.

Just how much truth there is likely to be in the wide generalization that our boys who have enlisted to fight for their country are not being properly cared for by the War Department and the Government, may perhaps begin to appear on reading this letter just received here by Mrs. J. H. Oerding from her son, Walter, whom everybody in Coquille knows:

Indianapolis, Feb. 7, 1918.

Dear Mother: "A paradise" would be a fit title for camp and quarters compared to our former home at Kelley Field, Texas. We are told that this camp is the best new one in the United States. The barracks are made of wood, fitted with electric lights and steam heat, the rooms are large and dry, the mess hall is near, about one hundred feet away; it has tables for the men to eat on; all the food is cooked on large ranges, giving the cooks a better chance to make the food more palatable. We were placed in here about one o'clock in the morning. Here's some remarks that were made: "Hit me with a brick and see if I am awake," "I'll bet they take us out of here tomorrow," etc., but at any rate we're still here, for how long we do not know.

Our barracks are about six miles from Indianapolis; the famous speedway is about a block away; the Pres-to-Lite Co.'s factory is by the edge of the lines; we are in what is known as "Speedway City."

The first morning in Michigan the thermometer registered ten degrees below zero but the weather started to get warmer and has been fine since. The snow is melting, mud begins to show about noon; pools of water also collect; the next morning everything is frozen up again.

Uncle Sam added another blanket to our collection so now we have four. We sleep on iron cots with real mattresses; all we need to make the bed complete is two sheets and a soft feather pillow.

The Red Cross chapter issued to us knitted helmets; they are also going to give us a piano, and lots of good talent from the city is coming out to entertain us and, last but not least, some of Indianapolis' fairest girls are going to come out and dance with us as soon as we get everything ready. If they leave it to us fellows I don't think that the date will be very far off.

George and I have been placed on special duty which relieves us of all fatigue and guard duty.

The large shops are almost complete and are to be finished by the 23d of this month; then we will have a chance to do some real work which will help to win this war.

We are in the best of health and feeling fine.

Harry Oerding in France

Here is a letter just received from Harry Oerding by his mother. It appears that he and J. P. Michels, who went out together are still in the same company—Sound and Flash Range Detachment—learning the work of the Signal Corps.

Dear Mother: I received my first mail yesterday but did not get any of the packages you told about. It was a great day. All the boys received from six to twelve letters. I managed to get ten. Will probably get the packages in a few days.

I was somewhat surprised to hear that the boys had enlisted, although I expected them to. I know that George and Walter will get there in the army and they are in a good department—the Aviation Corps. You can now add two more stars to the flag I sent you and you can always be proud of every star; each star to a mother has a cloud of sorrow, but the time will come when you will twice fold be paid with joy—the boys and your boy will be coming home, the champions of world democracy. After all it is worth the price.

I am not with Co. A at present and probably never will be again. I do not know where Matt or Jim are; Mike and myself are the only Coquille boys here. We are going to school and getting a special training. I do not know how long we will be here.

I was glad to hear that Stella and her baby are getting along so nicely. I do not suppose I will know the little shaver when I see him. Last but not least will say that I am feeling fine and hope this letter finds the rest of the Oerdings the same.

The Commercial Club meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30. Everyone invited.

Butter Wrappers and Trespass Signs at the Sentinel office.

Theodore Easton's Letter.

Theodore writes: "An interesting sight is a Frenchman driving a cart. Most of the farm vehicles around here appear to be carts. A heavy frame rests between two big wheels, and massive shafts extend from one end. Most of the horses I have seen are large animals, and when one is hitched between the shafts the whole outfit looks pretty durable. When more power is needed another horse is hitched ahead of the first and the driver walks beside it. It is surprising how much hay can be balanced on a cart. I saw one load that would do credit to an American hayrack and a single horse hauled it."

The conspicuous part of the harness is the collar. A great extension rises on top that makes the horse at first look like a camel or other humped-back animal. What the idea of the immense collar is I do not know.

All the French farm houses that I have seen are about alike. They are all old as the hills and built of stone. They rise directly from the ground in an unbroken line to the roof. They resemble a stone cow stable more than any other American building that I can think of just now. In fact, the barns and houses are built alike, and in two cases I have seen one end of a building used for a dwelling and the rest for a barn or stable. I saw one house that had chickens in one part and people in another. All the fowls I have seen are large birds; chickens and ducks are the extent of my neighbor's poultry possessions.

Most of the farmers wear wooden shoes. I do not think they work very well in the snow. Maybe they go better on dry ground.

You mention having read that the soldiers are poorly prepared for cold weather. Some people may think they are poorly prepared, but I feel that I have about all the blankets and clothing that I want to take care of. Each man has four blankets, three olive drab and one blue, and a bed sack to fill with straw for a mattress. With a straw mattress and four blankets I have no difficulty sleeping comfortably. I will admit that I did not have four blankets until I reached this camp but I nevertheless slept warm.

There were times when I slept on a board without a tick under me and with only two blankets, so that I was obliged to sleep in all my clothes, but those times have been few and for the present are past. I shall never forget the first night I slept in Kelly Field. Each man had issued to him a canvas cot and one blanket. At that time of year the nights were almost cold enough to freeze water, and lying on our cots we could feel the cold air circulating beneath us and one solitary blanket was very insufficient to keep us warm. I have the ability to sleep in cold that keeps many men awake, and although I awoke several times I spent a fairly comfortable night with all my clothes on. The other men in my tent were up at various times putting on their overalls and jumpers over their uniforms and even then they could not sleep. That was one of the coldest nights I have spent in the army. Another cold night was the last night I was on Long Island. We packed our equipment during the evening and had our blankets rolled, expecting to leave in the night. As it happened we did not leave until nearly daylight, and spent the night on the bare boards of our tent floors. The early part of the night was clear and cold, but towards morning a cold rain set in which continued throughout the day. Many of the men did not sleep at all but I got in a good three hours of sleep. That last night stands out vividly in my memory; everything was packed, only the bare tents were left. After we had eaten supper and the few remaining cooking utensils had been packed the men collected all the pieces of boards they could find and built a bonfire.

If the wood had lasted we should probably have stayed by the fire all night, but it was all burned before midnight. While the fire lasted the men sang songs and told stories and we had one of the pleasantest evenings I have had in the army. Favorite songs among the soldiers are "The Yanks are coming," "There is a long, long trail and I am going back to Indiana" as well as a number of others.

Knocks Us Out of the Box.

Just as Coquille people were learning how fine an article of diet middlings are, and how well they harmonized with buckwheat in making flapjacks, comes the news that no more can be secured as the part of the wheat kernel that it consisted of will go in with the rest of it to make war bread. This seems unfortunate as middlings was the only flour of any sort that could be bought for less than white flour. Of late years it has been used to a considerable extent for milk cows. But if the present scheme will furnish more bread for our allies, no one can complain.

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COOS BAY GRANT

How the Southern Oregon Act Now Stands at the National Capital.

The following from a press dispatch from the national capital in the Portland Journal conveys a good deal of information about the present status of the bill providing for government purchase of the Coos Bay Wagon Road, or Southern Oregon lands that will interest many of our readers:

The public lands committee of the house has apparently lost the perspective which governed it in the disposal of the lands of the Oregon & California grant. It is not willing to allow the 93,000 acres of the Coos Bay wagon road tract to be sold or settled on the same terms, as shown by the resolution it has adopted, which reads:

"The committee is of the opinion that the return proposed to the government (referring to the Chamberlain-Sinnett bill, which would dispose of the proceeds on practically the same terms as the O. & C. lands) is not sufficient to warrant the expenditure involved and unless the bill is to be amended providing a larger return, no further action should be taken thereon."

"The committee is of the opinion that amendments may be adopted making it very desirable from the standpoint of the government that action be had at this session, and recommends further hearings in full committee with a view to such amendments."

The sub-committee which framed this resolution was headed by Representative Tillman, of Arkansas, and had just one leading member of the committee upon it. This was Lenroot, of Wisconsin, who had a stellar part in "holding down" the benefits Oregon received under the Chamberlain-Ferris act. Other members of the sub-committee were Hayden, of Arizona, Mays, of Utah, and Cramton, of Michigan.

The sub-committee was made up of men from the states at the greatest distance from Oregon. Out of 21 members of that committee, seven, or one third, come from the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and California. Not one of these seven, however, was a member of the sub-committee which was given the job of reporting to the full committee what should be done with the bill.

With the sub-committee thus formed, it was easily dominated by the Lenroot school of opinion. This view, broadly speaking, is that the land grants in Oregon offer an opportunity to the government to recover a certain number of acres of land, from which a certain sum may be obtained for the treasury.

Following this out to its conclusion, they count as the "return to the government" only the percentage of proceeds which flow into the treasury. They do not count the money, which, under the Chamberlain-Ferris act, goes into reclamation, or for roads, schools and ports. In the O. & C. legislation, 10 per cent goes into the national treasury, and this will give the government a handsome profit.

It has been pointed out that if the same 10 per cent is allowed in the case of the wagon road grant the net return to the treasury will be a deficit, for if the government gets 10 per cent of the \$2,000,000, which is about the highest estimate made of proceeds, it will have only \$200,000 to balance an expenditure of \$232,000 to be paid the Southern Oregon company, plus \$408,000 taxes, plus \$25,000 or more for classification.

This was the compelling argument with the committee, which left Congressman Sinnett almost alone in opposing the decision that the "return to the government" must be increased. Efforts to learn just what will satisfy this demand for more money for the government have not been wholly successful. Apparently the purpose prevailing is to hold down Oregon's share to payment of the taxes due the counties of Douglas and Coos. Adding to this outlay of over \$408,000, the government would pay the owning company \$232,463 and bear the cost of administration, and recoup from the sales of the land and timber, estimated to bring from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.

It may be that in the end some greater consideration for the equitable interest of Oregon may be secured, by devoting part of the proceeds to public purposes which will benefit the state, instead of turning it all over to the general government. Action will be postponed long enough to permit representatives of the state and counties to appear before the committee if they so desire.

The committee's action on the resolution was taken apparently without waiting for the report which it had asked from Secretary Lane on the

Chamberlain-Sinnett bill. This report had been received, but it is said not to have been considered prior to the action. Secretary Lane, speaking for the Department of the Interior, approved the bill, with two minor amendments.

He objected to the provision which protects those who have leased tracts of land for 10 years or longer by giving them preference rights. Under no circumstances, said the secretary, could tenants acquire such equities as would entitle them to preference rights. He also suggested an amendment to require the Southern Oregon company, in giving a quitclaim, to convey the lands to the United States free from all incumbrances except the taxes.

With these amendments, Secretary Lane favors the bill. He passes the question of division of proceeds with the statement that this does not require comment, as it follows the same line of action as was taken with the O. & C. lands.

Cheaper Lime for Farmers.

The Oregon Lime Board has completed plans for supplying the farmers with agricultural lime and will be able to send the material out early in June, according to present arrangements. A meeting called by Dean A. B. Cordley, of O. A. C., chairman of the board, last Wednesday, showed that the greater part of the construction work has been provided for.

Machinery for the breaking and grinding of the limestone has arrived at the quarry near Gold Hill and is being installed by convict labor as provided in the state law. The quarry has been leased on a royalty basis of 8 cents per ton. Lumber for the construction of bunkers and other structures has been purchased and power for operating machinery has been leased. The contract for the construction of a spur railway track has been let. An aerial tram has also been purchased and is being put into place. These expenses will total about \$12,000, leaving \$8000 of the appropriation of \$20,000 for further installation and operation of the plant. It will be possible to increase the capacity of the plant, now about 10 tons of material per hour, without exceeding the original appropriations.

The prices at which lime will be delivered by the board cannot be quoted at present, but Dean Cordley expects to supply the farmers with adequate amounts at reasonable rates.

Convict labor will be used at the plant. The men will be paid a maximum of 50 cents per day and will be under the direction of a supervisor.

Persian Cookery.

Cookery among the well to do classes in Persia is extravagant, partly because they are lavishly hospitable, partly because all house servants are fed from the leftovers of the master's table. A favorite dish is the following: Small pieces of lamb of the size of a walnut are skewered on a slender rod of iron; two pieces of lean and a piece of the delicate fat of the huge tail of the oriental sheep are put on alternately, a spoonful of garlic or onion is added, and the kabab is roasted over a fierce fire and handed hot. It is eaten with a little salt and a squeeze of lemon. Tiny chickens, quails, pigeons, doves and young partridges are handed hot on the spit itself to each guest.

Table knives were first used in England in 1550.

In 1579 ground was first broken by the steam plow.

"Good luck" results from well directed efforts to succeed.

The magazine rifle dates from the Franco-Prussian war.

A child's dress, outgrown, can sometimes be utilized for aprons.

There is no difference in food value between white and yellow cornmeal.

Some men go when duty calls—but in the opposite direction.—Chicago News.

When the heels of the overshoe wear out cut them in the shape of a sandal.

Every man who says that marriage is a success praises both his wife and himself.

Blasphemy was punished by death by the law of Moses and by the code of Justinian.

One hundred years after the Declaration of Independence the telephone was invented.

The first guards and regular troops as a standing army were formed by Saul in 1003 B. C.

Boots are said to have been the invention of the Carian, a people living at Caria, Asia Minor.

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