

# PUTNAM WRITES FROM BORDER

## BEND MAN TELLS OF ARMY LIFE

Publisher of Bulletin Says Oregon Regiment Has Been Especially Favored in Its Camp Location—Training Has Made Soldiers.

The following article was prepared for The Bulletin by G. P. Putnam, publisher of The Bulletin and corporal in Company M, Third Oregon, recently stationed on the Mexican border. Written before the War Department ordered the Oregon troops home it shows in what it says concerning the prospects of return how complete a surprise the return order must have been to the regiment.

By G. P. PUTNAM.

It's a long way from Bend to the Mexican border, and a big change from newspapering to packing a rifle in the federalized national guard. And there are some twelve hundred Oregonians down here who are having all sorts of new experiences in this soldiering business and wondering what is coming next.

When the President's call came, back on June 15, it looked very much like business. There really seemed the best sort of prospect that there would be action on and beyond the border. We were hurried down here on the jump, our battalion, the Third, going directly to the international line where we could see across a little valley into Mexico and hear the bugles playing in the quartet of the Mex garrison. But, as you know, the smoke all blew away, and now here we are holding down a job that seems to be about half police work and the rest training camp.

What comes next no one knows. A lot of the people think, (most of them at home) that the Mexican fuss has subsided for good and that we might as well go north again. They say there is no need for troops on the border and that it is unfair to keep the national guardsmen on the job when they are needed at home. Then there are others who believe that the men will be stationed along the border for months to come, getting training and acting as a sort of stimulus to good behavior on the other side of the line.

### Guessing is Good.

Guessing is good. It is all a puzzle. Of course, most everyone would like to go home. It is no especial fun to roost in a camp down here, drilling and eating and sleeping, when there doesn't seem to be prospect of doing anything more exciting in the near future. Also, it is far from satisfying to draw from \$15 to, say \$40, a month, which is the pay scale from privates up to sergeants, instead of the pay we got in Oregon. This money end of it is working a real hardship on many men. They are willing to make sacrifices if they are needed for service, but naturally they grumble at inaction.

However, that sort of thing is always the order of the day in such situations as this. The old timers remind us that the Second Oregon regiment was held at Manila, seven thousand miles from home, for eight months, doing absolutely nothing. The Spanish war was over and the men couldn't comprehend why they were marooned. Then suddenly the Philippine insurrection broke out and the need for them arose.

Any such prospect as that is not cheerful. It is understood here, as elsewhere, that the Mexican mess is not straightened out by a long ways. Perhaps it never will be until there is a good thorough cleaning up. That would be a great big man's sized job, and it will cost fortunes in lives and money, and years of wracking work. It will be a task like taming the Philippines, only a thousand fold larger. Such a house cleaning in Mexico would be a terribly hard job. That should be understood by everyone. If it is the only way, well and good. But it will be no tea party.

Granted that perhaps some day we shall have to go into Mexico. Granted that even now many troops are needed along the border for policing purposes and for their effect upon governmental conduct to the south. Granted that our regular army is many times too small to cope with the situation, and that the National Guard needs training. Taking all into consideration, isn't it reasonable to suppose that most of the guard which is on the line now will be kept here for some time to come, and trained?

Right now the War Department is weeding out the regiments on the border. Those with dependent families and boys who should go to school are being sent home. It will be hard on the men who have to stay, but at least at the end of a few more months they will be reasonably efficient soldiers and the coun-

try will have a secondary army of some real worth. The militia, when it came to the border, wasn't in bad shape by any means, as militia goes. But it was utterly unqualified to take the field. It lacked equipment and training. There would have been sad tragedies if the guardsmen had been thrust into Mexico two months ago.

### Situation Has Bettered.

Now the situation has bettered wonderfully. All the troops, we are told, are pretty well equipped. Two months of hard drilling has wrought wonders. The guard could give a good account of itself.

So far as the Oregon regiment is concerned, we have fared wonderfully well. Without doubt we have the best location all along the 1800 miles of border. The present camp at Imperial Beach is some three miles back from the Mexican line and directly beside the ocean. It would be hard to find a more ideal place to hold a big body of troops.

There are outposts, occupied by single companies, at other spots along the line, and some of them are hot and dry enough to fit any description of tropical conditions. But here at the headquarters the climate is ideal—actually cooler than summertime in Oregon, thanks to the constant sea breeze—and with about all the comforts and conveniences which an army camp can offer.

Of course there is plenty of hard work. An average day is about like this. Reveille, which is the set-up bugle call at 5:10. Setting up exercises and then breakfast at 6:45. Drill from eight to eleven. "Polishing," which means cleaning-up, of tents and vicinity, and mess at noon. The non-commissioned officers and officers have two hours school every afternoon, and probably a fourth of the men are a some detail or other—kitchen work or some other feature of camp activity; there is plenty to do to keep a big camp running in the perfect, orderly way habitual to army organization.

### Troops Have Recreation.

Probably there is a swim in the ocean during the afternoon. It can be followed by a fresh-water shower bath, for each battalion has a shower. The inter-company baseball teams play a game nearly every afternoon. San Diego is only six miles distant, and permits to leave camp are not hard to get for men whose records are good. Also, there is the big exposition, and a mighty fine one it is, at San Diego, and plenty of other attractions round about.

Supper is at 5:15, and at six there is parade. Taps blows at ten o'clock, when everyone is supposed to be in bed. A Y. M. C. A. building offers much to the men; it has magazines and games and tables for writing with free correspondence paper. Every few nights there is some entertainment, mostly athletic. Educational classes are just being started offering much to those who are giving up their school work at home.

The camp is assuming a very permanent appearance—too much so to please those who are anxious to get home. How permanent it will be for us most anyone in Bend can say just as certainly as we can guess down here. And what the upshot of the whole situation will be is the biggest puzzle of the hour. All we do know is that we are being treated well, we are learning soldiering slowly, and physically all hands are benefitting mightily.

It is true, as Vice President Marshall remarked, that the Hughes speech of acceptance "had all the length and tone of a dissenting opinion." But he omitted to add that the dissenting opinion thus expressed is that of the American people.

Want Ads only ONE CENT a word.

# PAPERS TAKING NEW INTEREST

## ARE WAKING UP TO RAILROAD PLANS

Both Oregonian and Telegram Make Favorable Editorial Comment on Strahorn Developments—Suggest Now is Time to Awaken.

Evidence that the Portland newspapers are waking up to an interest in the Strahorn railroads that has real possibilities of assistance for the project in the Oregon metropolis is given in recent editorial comment in the Oregonian and the Telegram.

This has been largely called forth by the news of the railroad developments in the vicinity of Klamath Falls, the apparent possibility of immediate construction having shown the enterprise in a different light from any in which they have viewed it heretofore.

### "The Strahorn Idea."

Under the caption "The Strahorn Idea," the Oregonian on August 29 said:

"Mr Strahorn took up in Central Oregon the project of building railroads where the great transcontinental systems left off, and he has carried it along so far that he feels reasonably certain of success. So he announces on his return from a long tour of interior Oregon, where he has sought to interest towns and communities in his plans. It has been no task to show them that they will be mightily benefitted by railroad connection with one another and with the outside world. They have known all that for many years. More wonderful to state, it has been no great job, apparently, to get them to furnish terminals, procure rights of way and guarantee subscriptions. They are willing to show their faith by their works, just as Mr. Strahorn purposes to make a large investment on his own account. He is something more than a promoter; he is a builder and investor. He has a legitimate and fruitful idea, which he has sought to capitalize with funds furnished by himself and by the interests concerned and benefitted. What could be fairer?"

"This is an intimation that Portland has an interest in Central Oregon which it has not moved to protect and realize through its support of the Strahorn project. But doubtless Portland will take a hand when the time comes. The benefits to be derived from railroad development of Central Oregon are so obvious that it is conceivable that Portland would not be fully alive to its obligations to itself and to the state."

### "Another Rail 'Invasion.'"

The Telegram headed its first editorial, on August 19, "Another Rail 'Invasion,'" saying:

"There is a practical, business-like flavor to Colonel Strahorn's proposition to penetrate the Klamath lake country with a railroad that is in every way pleasing. He makes a simple, definite offer to build a line from Klamath Falls eastwardly to Sprague river, a distance of 10 miles. Three things he wants: Free right of way, a terminal site and \$300,000 in cash in exchange for stock or legal interest. In return he promises to have the road in operation its whole length within a year.

"Still more gratifying is the atti-

tude of the Klamath Falls Commercial Club, which by unanimous vote accepted the proposition. Committees will go to work at once to meet the conditions of Strahorn's proposal.

"The Telegram is more than pleased to note this new activity. All Oregon will rejoice over the second 'invasion' of Central Oregon by the railroad. The proposed line opens up a region rich in natural resources which have waited half a century upon transportation for their development.

"Construction of the line to Sprague river may be taken to mean the first spoke in the hub of a system that is to ramify the railless empire east of the Cascade mountains. A vast territory needs only the railroad to make it profitably productive. It appears that a new era in Oregon railroad development is almost here."

"Gridironing Central Oregon."

The Telegram's editorial of August 29 entitled "Gridironing Central Oregon," was as follows:

"There is a businesslike air to the activities of Robert Strahorn in connection with the Oregon-California & Eastern railway that speaks well for the immediate future. Practically all the surveys for important lines have been completed. Efforts are now making for rights of way, terminal sites and the customary aid from towns to be directly benefitted by the railroads.

"Obviously the capital needed to construct and equip the several lines is in sight; otherwise the comprehensive preliminary work would not have been carried to completion. It takes a lot of money these days to build 450 miles of railroad. The corporation which must furnish it has satisfied itself as to the permanent value of the investment. 'I have spent a year and a half,' says Mr. Strahorn, 'in almost constant investigation of resources and present traffic possibilities as well as those likely to be added by the development of lumber, irrigation, drainage and the utilization of certain mineral resources.'

"It is in the future development, which is certain to follow the railroads, that all Oregon is interested. Low priced agricultural land has become very scarce in the past fifteen years, and it is steadily growing scarcer. Good land in Central Ore-



THE finest cook never quite equals "the things Mother used to make". An' no man can beat old Mother Nature's recipe for ageing Tobacco. VELVET is cured Nature's way.

*Velvet Joe*

Every good quality of choice Kentucky Burley Tobacco is brought to perfection in VELVET by two years' ageing of the leaf.

Loggatt & Myers Tobacco Co.

gon is yet to be had by men of very moderate means. Without the railroad this land has little practical worth; with the railroad it becomes a valuable asset for the commonwealth.

"Relative to the next step in the enterprise Mr. Strahorn says: 'We have finally gotten this project where, within the next thirty or sixty days at most, we will be ready to take up its financing in all its parts. For the first time I can say that we are within measurable distance of commencing construction.'

"Based on these activities a reasonable view of the general situation in Oregon is that the tide has turned. Ther airds have learned, despite a lot of intemperate talk, that no legislation in Oregon has 'hurt' the railroads, and that there is not the remotest danger of that sort of legislation. They know that regulation is an established policy but they know also that it is and will remain constructive regulation. There is a

better understanding between the people and new railroads than there was in the old days with the old railroads. The railroads know that the people of Oregon will be just to them. We believe that this better understanding will lead soon to the larger railroad development for which Oregon has so long waited."

### VOCAL MUSIC CLASS.

About the middle of September I will start a class in vocal music. Those who are interested may write or call on me. Mrs. Franklin Thordarson, River Terrace.—Adv. 11c

### MUSIC CLASSES TO BEGIN.

Mrs. Bernice Halley-Forrest announces that her classes in music will start on September 12.—Adv 24c

Gosney's have leased the Pierce sand cave. The best sand on the market. Leave orders at Georges barber shop. 24c

When you build in Bend—specify local pine

# Shevlin Pine

is true to size and grade. Grown right, sawed right, sold right.

## MILLER LUMBER COMPANY

CORNER WALL AND OHIO STREETS EXCLUSIVE LOCAL SALES AGENT

TO THE TRADE:----

Our lumber is CALIFORNIA WHITE PINE, grown at an altitude of 4,200 feet.

We manufacture

LUMBER, SASH and BOX SHOOKS

"TEST the TEXTURE"

# The Shevlin-Hixon Company

Bend, Oregon

Denver and Salt Lake Representative: G. W. GATES & CO.

Chicago Representative: W. A. LAMMERS



## GROCERIES

FRESH VEGETABLES  
BERRIES AND  
FRUITS

BUILDERS' HARDWARE  
and



SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
PAINT

F. DEMENT & CO.