

OUR BOYS WITH THE COLORS

News Letters, and Stories of Our Soldiers and Sailors in France, In the Training Camps, On the High Seas, and Everywhere Gallant American Fighters Are Found.

A. M. McConnell was here Monday from Union. H states that the Hart Bros. one of whom is at Fort Worden, Wash., and one at Louisville Ky, in the army, are expected to return soon.

Mrs. Diana Snyder this week received a letter from Allen McDonald, a cousin in the service in France. He is a nephew of the late Major McDonald.

The Observer this week received a package of the Kelly Field Eagle's from Edgar M. White, who is stationed at Kelly Field. He is in the medical department of the Aviation Section of the S. C. The Eagle is a fine sheet for soldiers and is full of interesting and really brilliant matter.

Arthur Anderson, writing to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson, from France, November 18, says, "I am still in France, but in a different place. As this is mother's birthday, I will write to let you know I have not forgotten, though far away. I am well except a cold I got coming on the train from the other camp down here. Those French cattle cars are everything but warm, especially at night! But I like this camp much better than the other one. The soldiers in this place are quartered in vacant houses all over the city. I don't think there is a building here less than 500 years old—all built of stone with tile roofs. There is a large Catholic church here built in 1120 and other buildings are still older.

The climate is much like Oregon at this time of the year. We had the first frost this morning. We have a nice dry mess kitchen here, but at our first camp we waded around in the mud almost to the tops of our shoes, and had to search for a place where the mud was thick enough to prevent our mess kits from sinking!

The French people of the whole city come out every afternoon to hear our band play in the park. All of them will do most anything for the American soldiers. Kylo and I were washing our clothes in the stream, and started to hang them on the fence to dry, but some French people motioned for us to come into the yard, where they pinned our washing on the lines for us. Recently while five of us boys were out for a walk we went into a field to watch a farmer plowing ridges, with a boy going behind sowing wheat as we plant potatoes.

They invited us into the house and gave us French bread, English walnuts, grapes and wine—all we could eat and drink.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Pvt. Arthur F. Anderson, 45th Artillery Band, A. E. F.—France).

A letter from Charles Kerr, on the battleship Arkansas, to his aunt Mrs. J. F. Kerr, written about Nov. 25, states that he was then in England, where he had seen King George and his queen. He had been on a sight-seeing trip in London where he saw other "big guns"—captured from the Germans! He hopes to be back in America by January 1.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lamb of Donald have been notified by the war department, of the death of their son Lieut. Albert Lamb, who was killed in action in France October 7. His name appeared in the Monday casualty list. Lieut. Lamb was an officer of Company I, Third Oregon, having risen from the ranks by sheer ability since the war began.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitts of Macksburg have received news of the arrival of their son Lewis Mitts in New York from France.

The 65th artillery, C. A. C. were, at last reports, in the Argonne district of France, at least two battalions strong, while the other battalion was with the 5th Army Corps. But more important still is the information that the 65th has been named as one of the units to return to the U. S. within a few months at the most.

Allan Carson, son of the John A. Prairie.

Carson, of Salem, has been promoted to be first lieutenant, in France. He has been at the front for 14 months, with the 105th New York Infantry.

Letters were received the past week from a number of soldier boys in France by people in Aurora and vicinity. Among those writing were the Miller boys, Chester Giesy, Sam Marks, Arthur Anderson and others.

U. S. Armstrong has received a telegram from Washington that his son Fred Armstrong was wounded October 8, degree of wound undetermined.

Suggestion for Mother's Letter.

Son of Mine:

They're sending you home to me at last. Through all these months of waiting and longing I've been wearing a star for you and holding my head high and thinking wonderful thoughts about you. I've watched you through ocean mists and dreamed anxious dreams. Yes, and cried a little, too, but not when people could see.

And now you're coming home. Oh, it seems too good to be true. I've just read your letters again. They say so much more than you ever thought when you were writing them. Just happenings—that's all most of the things you wrote about were to you. But to me they said you were facing the biggest thing in life, facing it bravely, as I should want my son to face it. You were offering your body and your soul for a thing bigger than you or me or America.

When I wrote to you I tried to write cheerful, encouraging letters, because I did not want you to go into battle feeling that I was holding you back from the big sacrifice. It's only now, when the fighting is over, that I can let down a little and be just your mother, just the woman who loves you better than anything else in the world and is so glad to know you're coming back to her that she doesn't care who sees her cry.

Perhaps for some of the boys who have stood with you so finely through these trials the fighting is not yet all over. The fighting I mean is that between a man and himself, and for many of them this will be the hardest battle of all. During the long days and evenings of waiting before they can start for home thoughts will creep into their minds which will be hard to resist. There will be times after all these months of action when the longing for change and for the companionship of women may lead them into associations which will spoil their homecoming and cause them shame and humiliation, and even perhaps make them unfit to receive the love that awaits them here.

You, dearest boy, are just as human as your comrades, and feelings like these may come to you too. I don't ask you to crush them. They are natural, and they only prove that war has failed to dry up the well spring of your emotions. I ask you only to recognize them when they come and to control them with the fine strength you have gained while fighting for the ideals and principles of America. Just remember that many joyous years of life are ahead of you and that the risk of spoiling them and the love that will fill them is too tremendous to run for a short hour of seeming pleasure.

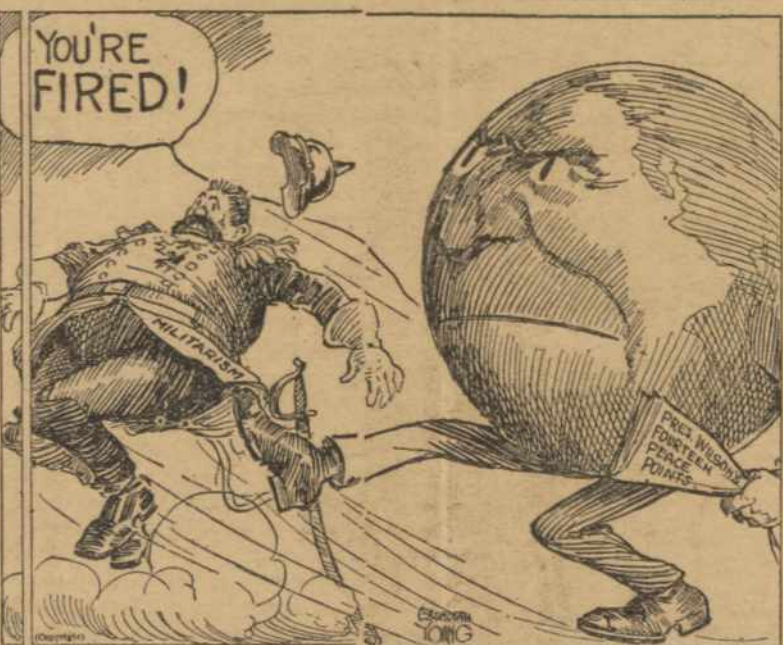
Many of the boys who will come home with you have no mothers to write to them. Some of them may think that no one cares what they do. But somebody does care. America cares. And the girls they will marry some day care. And, oh, the difference it will make in their lives if they will just remember that there is always somebody, always!

Help them to remember. Help them to come home clean and fine. Don't let them spoil everything now. They have been so splendid. If you think this letter will help them give it to them. If they have no mothers let me be their mother until they have come back and taken the high places that await them here. Tell them to write to me. How I should treasure their letters!

And, of course, you will write to me. Just say that you understand—that you know why I have written this letter. Then I can wait months—yes, even years—knowing that you will come home to me as fine and clean as you were when I sent you away to camp so long ago. MOTHER.

Among those in the city the past week shopping or on business were Mr. and Mrs. Phil Wiegand of Paradise, Chas. Kraxberger of Macksburg, Fred Scheurer of Butteville, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Kinyon of Butteville and John Marks and son Clifford of Marks Prairie.

"Through"



"Seen and Heard"

Each country at the Peace conference will have four delegates. President Wilson is not a delegate. He has appointed Lansing, White, Bliss and House to represent the United States.

The state tax commission has fixed the valuation of public utility properties in Marion county at \$5,265.67. This added to the valuation of other property will make the total valuation \$41,876.44, which is an increase of \$831,440 over the 1917 valuation.

Miss Wilhelmina Doerfler, teacher of the McAlpin school, District No. 54, Marion county, who hung the Kaiser's picture on the school room walls beside that of the president, has resigned, her pupils having protested against her preference for the great Hun criminal, "Aint" that awful?

The Marion county senators and representatives have organized as the "Marion County Legislative Delegation", and held a meeting last night at Salem to discuss measures to come up at the 1919 session of the Legislature. S. A. Hughes is chairman and Ivan G. Martin is the secretary of the delegation.

Startling and important events continue to happen. The war industries board haying removed all restrictions on the use of lumber. Bill Wurster has made arrangements to build the long deferred sidewalk on Liberty street, the lack which has cost Sam Miller many a hard-earned shoe shine, as he strolled homeward on dark nights via Liberty street. Alderman Brewer will do the work—or Wurster.

A certain restaurant (not the U and I) has displayed this sign. "Regular Dinner with Chicken, 35 cents." The only thing that prevents a run on that restaurant by Sundry and numerous Aurora business men is a number of devoted wives with eagle eyes. Even the editor is tempted to investigate that restaurant to see what sort of "chicken" one draws for his 35 cents.

Mrs. M. France was among the Meridian people here shopping Tuesday.

Fred Damm was here Sunday to visit his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Damm.

Franz Kraxberger of Macksburg was transacting business in Oregon City Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Burd were here Tuesday from their home near Fargo, shopping at the Aurora stores.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Eilers were here Tuesday from the Hollyheim orchards farm doing some Christmas shopping.

The executive committee in charge of the Red Cross membership campaign reports nearly 150 persons have joined the organization. A full list of the members will be published next week.

MARKET REPORT

Egg per dozen, 70c
Butter, 2-lb. roll \$1.10
Spring Broilers 24c
Ducks, 18c to 20c
Turkeys, old, 25c
Geese 15c
Old Roosters, 14c
Stags 14c
Hens, 22c to 24
Beans 7c to 8c
Cascara, 13c
Lard, 30c
Potatoes, \$1.10 to \$1.50

THE AMERICANIZATION CORNER

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NATURALIZATION LAWS AND CITIZENSHIP FULLY ANSWERED IN THIS COLUMN.

No American Citizen need be told in these days that the Americanization of the whole allied-born mass of residents among us is of immediate and vital concern. Hence the Observer, wishing to do its share toward accomplishing it, has made arrangements with the United State Bureau of Naturalization by which its readers may have questions concerning their individual and citizenship rights answered free of charge. The subjects covered are naturalization laws, filing declaration of intention (first papers), petitions for naturalization (second papers). Knowledge of government required of applicants, places where free public school classes in English and citizenship may be found, the free distribution of "The Students Textbooks" to foreigners, and questions of citizenship rights.

The Observer will be glad to secure answers to all inquiries of every character and invites its readers to ask any questions they wish. Questions should be addressed to the "Americanization Column", Observer, Aurora, Oregon. Such questions will be answered directly by letters by the "Bureau of Naturalization" and also in these columns. The person making inquiries must sign their name and address as evidence of good faith.

THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS

As soon as an immigrant establishes a residence in this country, he may declare his intention to become a citizen, but he must have been here five years before he can secure a final certificate, and at least two years must elapse between his declaration of intention and his application for "final papers." Ninety days after filing his application he may appear in court for a test as to his fitness to become a member of the body of citizens. If he satisfies the court that he speaks the American language and that he understands our form of government and American ideals well enough to become a capable citizen

and a good neighbor, he is admitted. If he does not show that he understands these things, his application is denied or continued. Of course, he must comply with all the requirements as to witnesses, length of residence, certificate of arrival, etc.

For such foreigners as really desire to fit themselves for citizenship, "The Student's Text Book" and citizenship classes will prove a great help. The government will furnish the "Text Book" free, and even in the most isolated districts, county superintendents of schools, co-operating with Bureau of Naturalization, will see that opportunity for instruction in citizenship is afforded.

John and Dick Nordhausen were here Tuesday from Lone Elder.

Among the contributors to the United War Wor Fund in Union District not reported until this week were Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McFarland \$3.00, Mrs. Alice Mack \$2.50, and W. L. White \$2.50, these names having been unintentionally overlooked.

THE NEW WEST MAGAZINE

"Building The West"
Established 1910—For the development of Western industries, agriculture, mining, oil, and other attractions. Of interest to the Western investor, farmer and sightseer. Printed on high grade paper with copper half-tone illustrations. Year \$2; copy, 25c. Sample, 10c. 3 back numbers, 25c. Send no. money. The New West Magazine, 1911 Walker Bank Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah; 1004 White Bldg., Seattle, Wash.; 730 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich. Address nearest office, or place your subscription through this newspaper.

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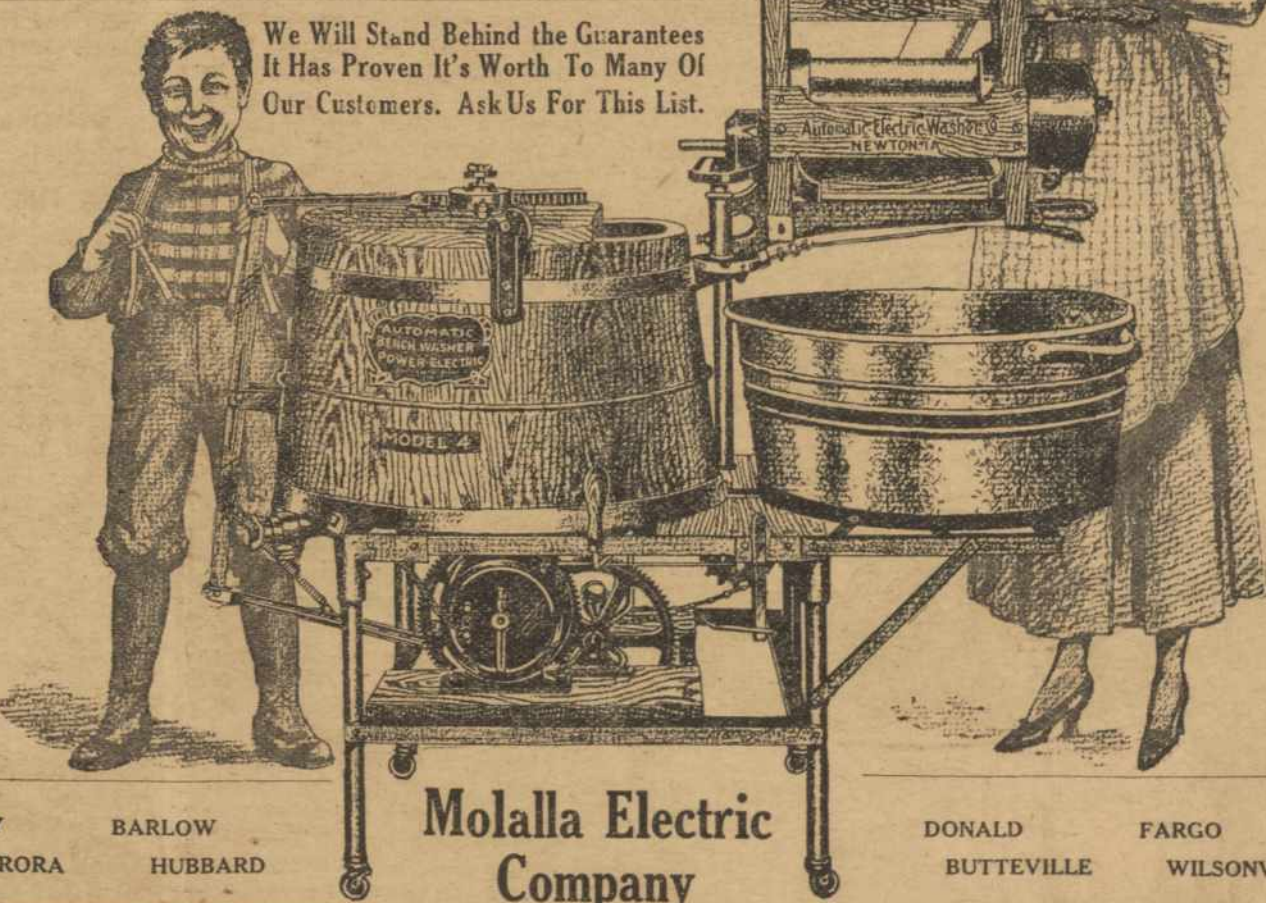
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Presents Are Useful, and a Pleasure---ELECTRIC PERCOLATORS, FIXTURES, STAND LAMPS, TOASTERS, COOKERY, IRONS, ETC.

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