

Springfield Boy In France Writes

Ivan McKinney Tells of French
People and Customs and
Describes the Country

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. McKinney received a letter from their son Ivan McKinney Monday written from France which gives a good description of the French people and their customs and describes conditions in that country. He is with the Battery C, Sixty-fifth artillery.

Somewhere in France. As you can see by the heading of my letter I am not in England any more. We crossed to France several days ago. We landed in quite a large place and the first thing I noticed was how very friendly the French were to us. Everyone waved to us, some saluted and some of the girls threw us kisses and I want to say that there are some very pretty girls in France.

We had quite a little hike through this town and out to a temporary or rest camp. The streets were of course cobble stones and the houses and business buildings are all of stone. For the most part they seem to be of a different style of architecture than the English build, and they have so many little things along the street that one don't see at home. For instance I saw a dog hitched to a large milk cart.

Everything in this city seemed neat as could be. The people look very frenchy, but the better class dress very much as we do at home, especially the women. As we went through the streets and out of town we saw French soldiers everywhere. We passed a bunch of Belgian soldiers who had been wounded and were recuperating in a French hospital.

And in this town and along the road we passed numerous bunches of German, and Turkish prisoners at work always guarded by French soldiers. They looked well fed and were of all ages.

We passed through some very pretty picturesque country. Everything as pretty and neat as a pin. The old fashioned and many colored brick houses with slate and thatched roofs and the neat hedges and stone fences are everywhere. We had plenty of time to see everything, for our train averaged about ten miles per hour.

I saw some very beautiful old Chateaus, old French country houses. And also some old and ruined buildings. One old ruined castle. There are two very beautiful castles not so very far from our camp. They are situated near a river and look very lordly and commanding from a bluff overlooking the river.

Our camp is right in the edge of a town.

We are in a very large three and four storied stone building. I understand it was built for a monastery and has quite a history. It is comfortable and we have plenty of room in our quarters. I am on the third floor. I look down on a large inner court, which is now used as kitchen and lounge place for part of the regiment. We are on American rations, but our bread is great long loaves of French war bread. These loaves are two and one half and some almost three feet long. It is a sort of bran and rye bread and is considered very healthy. I have had my first experience with hardtack as we eat it while on the march and on the train.

The last two days have been spent on fatigue. We have cleaned up our quarters and have even swept the cobble stone court and ground around our quarters with house brooms. We sweep the streets with brooms also. So you can see that everything is kept as clean and sanitary as possible. Our Colonel is very strong for cleanliness.

I was on K. P. yesterday. Didn't have to work hard and I had plenty to eat. We had minced roast beef, coffee with sugar but no cream, and bread for breakfast, corned beef hash with potatoes and onions, coffee and bread for dinner and best of all our supper consisted of beef steak, onions bread and coffee. As I was on K. P. I cooked my own steak and also two slices of bacon and onions. In place of dessert, I soaked a slice of bread in coffee and spread sugar on it. My but it tasted good. Now don't laugh at me because you know I wouldn't eat that at home.

When payday comes I will send

you some of the smaller coins and paper money. Right now I haven't even a sou, which is the smallest French coin. We will be paid in French money. Their paper money does not look like money to me at all. It runs as small as 25 centimes or about 5 cents. The larger the denomination of the bill the more decorations it will have and the larger the size. I saw a 100 Frank note yesterday and it is quite a piece of art. The French in some places will accept American silver money and currency but throw up their hands in horror if you offer them gold. They don't know what it is so it seems.

There are lots of things the American soldiers have that the French want very much. For instance tobacco. They will give 3 francs or 52 cents for a can of Velvet, Tuxedo or Prince Albert that costs about 12½ cents at home. They give about 52 cents to 60 cents for a package of Camel or Luckey Strike Cigarettes that cost 12½ cents per package at home. And from 30 cents to 35 cents per sack for Bull Durham that costs from 5 cents to 7½ cents at home.

The French towns are queer 'creations.' The streets run every way imaginable and the blocks are all sizes. Some of them are very large and some consist of only one or two small buildings. The stores have really nice displays in their windows. Some things seem too cheap to be true and some are absolutely out of sight. For example I saw a pair of very nice looking mens shoes that would cost about 6 or 7 dollars at home marked 130 Francs or about \$22.75. But I had a nice dish of potatoes, roast beef and bread for about 15 cents. Things are this way in the town we are in at present but they may be altogether different in another.

We have to have passes to visit town. Ten per cent of the men are allowed a pass from 5 to 8:30 after supper each day with the exception of Sundays when the same number receive all day passes. Last Sunday was declared a day of rest. Everyone had to go to church.

I had a dandy bath yesterday afternoon and I am feeling much better. The French bathtubs are just the thing. They are about 3 feet deep, so when you sit down in one the water reaches to your neck. I guess the French patronize the public baths very extensively.

I got back just in time for supper and after supper we had quite a treat. The chaplain brought in a couple of French soldiers. One was a splendid violinist and the other a bugler had been in a German prison for 26 months. He showed us the French bugle calls and some of the German calls that he had to answer such as fatigue and mess. He showed us the German prison stamp which is tattooed on his arm. It is a picture of a man tied to a whipping post.

While I was out taking a bath yesterday afternoon, I had a nice dinner served in French style. It was a treat from a friend of mine in the Battery. It was served in courses 1st course a glass of very light wine, the soldiers are allowed to drink it, and a loaf of French war bread, 2nd course some very good macaroni soup, 3rd course a sort of vegetable and meat stew served in a small quantity, 4th course roast beef and fried potatoes, 5th course a wilted lettuce salad and 6th course apples. At home a dinner like it would cost at least \$1.50, but it cost 2 Francs 50 centimes or about 50 cents.

We turned in our campaign hats and light shoes today. We have to wear a sort of cap now and our trench shoes.

One of the boys bought an American newspaper by English press today and there was a regular fight over it to see who was "next." A Springfield News would almost knock me dead now. You can send one once in a while if you want to.

Proper Food for Weak Stomach
The proper food for one man may be all wrong for another. Every one should adopt a diet suited to his age and occupation. Those who have weak stomachs need to be especially careful and should eat slowly and masticate their food thoroughly. It is also important that they keep their bowels regular. When they become constipated or when they feel dull and stupid after eating, they should take Chamberlain's Tablets to strengthen the stomach and move the bowels. They are easy to take and pleasant to eat.

PATRONS ARE THE PATRIOTS

Customers of Some Hotels Profit Very Little by New Plan of Conservation of Food Supply.

The food administration is pleased to pieces with the New York hotels for saving more than a thousand barrels of flour a week and some 17 tons of meat a day by these wheelless-meatless occasions that are so popular now, a writer in Collier's observes. Provision dealers report a falling off in sales, and all is lovely and statistical. 'Tis a fair picture to gaze upon, but honor where honor is due! That patient hero, the hotel patron, ought to come in for a few kind words, since he pays the full price and eats the half portion.

"Save wheat—use corn"—bread is 10 cents, corn bread is 15 cents. As a transient consumer, the other noon, we paid 90 cents for a slice of beef as large as a postal card, plus one tablespoonful of creamed potatoes, plus a bit of Yorkshire pudding about the size of a watch. No doubt it was all that was good for us, but the price was more. If the widely known principles of economics are still working, we helped make meat and bread cheaper and paid as much as if we were making them dearer.

A patriot is a noble thing, but isn't it better to be one than to trim one? The hotel keepers of Manhattan are playing both sides of the game and the food administration furnishes a jazz band of statistical admiration for their efforts. These bouffants who are shrinking the meals and swelling the prices need something all right, but not governmental encouragement. Meanwhile the hotel user can feel sure that the war has not changed his function at all—he's the paying gong now just as he used to be.

HOLD WOOL IN THIS COUNTRY

War Trade Board Takes Steps to Meet the Requirements of Both the Army and Navy.

Restrictions governing the exportation and importation of wool were tightened recently by the war trade board with a view to conserving American supplies and checking the increase in prices, which have risen 200 per cent.

No commodities containing wool will be permitted in future to leave the country, it was announced. If, in the judgment of the board, the wool is needed for the uses either of the army or the navy.

Importers before they can obtain licenses will be required to sign an agreement that they will sell no wool to persons other than manufacturers and that they will give the government an option to purchase all wool imported at a price 5 per cent less than the price that obtained for the same grade July 30, 1917.

When Nobel Cut His Finger.
The great war might be traced back to Nobel's cut finger. E. E. Slosson writes in the New York Independent. Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist—and a pacifist. One day while working in the laboratory he cut his finger, as chemists are apt to do, and dissolved some gun cotton in ether alcohol and swabbed it on the wound. At this point, however, his conduct diverges from the ordinary, for instead of standing idle, impatiently waving his hand in the air to dry the film as most people, including chemists, are apt to do, he put his mind on it and it occurred to him that this sticky stuff, slowly hardening to an elastic mass, might be just the thing he was hunting as an absorbent and solidifier of nitroglycerin. So instead of throwing away the extra colloid that he had made he mixed it with nitroglycerin and found that it set to a jelly. The "blasting gelatin" thus discovered proved to be so insensitive to shock that it could be safely transported or fired from a cannon. This was the first of the high explosives that have been the chief factor in the great war.

To Remodel Japanese Army.
The return of distinguished Japanese officers who have been in Europe studying the latest military tactics on the battlefronts will be followed by army reorganization, reports the Tokyo Jiji. Under the new system one division will consist of three regiments instead of four, as now, and a force composed of two reorganized divisions will become the fighting unit of the Japanese army. Increase in the number of regiments is not contemplated, but the number of divisions will be necessarily augmented. Whether or not the new formation will be seen in the forthcoming annual maneuvers is unannounced. The military arsenal at Tokyo is preparing to build airplanes for army use, and an appropriation of \$3,750,000 will be asked from the diet. The exact type of airship has not been decided.

Delight of Berlin Life.
One of the beauties of autocratic government, says the Springfield Union, is shown in the snow-removal order issued by the military authorities in Berlin, under the provisions of which every property owner is required to remove the snow not only from his sidewalk, but from the roadway as far as the center of the street, and is authorized to call on all tenants between the ages of fourteen and sixty to assist him in this work. Failure to comply with the order is punishable with a fine of not more than \$375 or imprisonment for not more than a year, and the police are authorized to handle all such cases without the formality of a trial.

Governor Asks Help of Citizens

Issues Proclamation Calling
Upon People of Oregon to
Support Red Cross.

Salem, Ore., May 15.—Governor James Withycombe of Oregon today issued a proclamation calling upon all citizens of the state to support the American Red Cross in its second war fund drive, set for May 20 to 27.

In handing the original proclamation to a representative of the American Red Cross, the Governor said that he could be afforded no greater pleasure than to do a service for the Red Cross.

The militant message of Oregon's "War Governor" to the people of Oregon follows:

PROCLAMATION.
State of Oregon Executive Dept.,
Salem, May 15, 1918.

Citizens of Oregon, Greeting.
Whereas, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States and President of the American Red Cross, again has called upon the people of the United States to support the great institution of Red Cross; and

Whereas, He has proclaimed the week of May 20 to 27 for the purpose of soliciting gifts;

Now, therefore, I, James Withycombe, Governor of generous Oregon, call upon all citizens of this State to set aside this week to the holy purpose of serving in this humane cause; and I urge all private citizens, if called upon, to serve as workers, and to let no private occupation hold them back.

When citizens of Oregon are asked for their gifts let them remember they are helping suffering humanity.

Oregon never fails. Let her lead again.

Given under my hand this 15th day of May, 1918.

(Signed) JAMES WITHYCOMBE,
Governor of Oregon.

Some Inducement.
Christopher Brown walked into the local recruiting station of the United States marine corps at Philadelphia, says the Troy Times, and after announcing that he was from Braintree, said he wanted to enlist. "The idea of enlisting is a good one," said the recruiting sergeant, "but what is Braintree—a breakfast food or an educational institution?" "It is a town in Massachusetts—the only town in the United States that ever produced two presidents," proudly replied Brown. "John Adams was born there, and so was John Quincy Adams. John Hancock was born there, too, as was Col. Charles G. Long, chief of staff of the marine corps. If you take me into the marine corps I may be running the thing in a year or two."

Camera Marks Airplane Hits.
The great aviation school at Toronto has devised a most ingenious scheme for training aviators in the use of the machine gun. Two apprentice flyers are sent up to fight under all the conditions of actual warfare. They make every effort to aim and fire their machine guns at each other, only in place of bullets the gun is fitted with cameras and film. Every pull of the trigger snaps a picture. If the shot is a "hit" a picture of the "enemy" airplane appears on the film; if a miss, the film is blank. By examining the strip of film afterward it is possible to tell exactly how many hits each man made and how accurately he is "shooting."

FOR GOVERNOR



GUS C. MOSER

Republican
President Oregon State
Senate

A Patriotic American

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AGE, 47.

FOR 27 YEARS A RESIDENT OF OREGON.

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For strict business principles in management of state affairs.

For Rural Credits extension, Irrigation, Drainage and Development of all our resources.

For assistance by Portland capital and business to every section of our great state.

For the rights of both Labor and Capital under a scheme of mutual co-operation.

For Good Roads, but Fighting the Paving Trust

We are paying about \$5000 more per 16 foot mile of Bitulithic Pavement in Oregon than is being paid in Washington. Let us build good roads in every county in the state—GIVE EVERY COUNTY A SQUARE DEAL.

Elect MOSHER and you will forever banish the subtle influence of the Paving Trust from Oregon Politics.

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THE little details others overlook receive our most considerate attention—a reason why our glasses are above the average in quality. Perfect vision is a great factor in all notable success. This explains why a person should take care of the eyes. SAVE YOUR EYES.

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