



Greetings and Salutations, Buddies of Tillamook, members of the Oregon department of the American Legion.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be with you this evening to meet and greet with you legion men—the live and active buddies who are "carrying on."

We used to hear the questions, What is this American Legion anyway? What are its aims and purposes. What is it after and what is it trying to do and what does it want and why does it want it. And back of these questions lies the question more often implied than expressed and that is: Is this legion worthy of popular support; of my support? These questions are not heard very often anymore because in the year just passed the American Legion has taken great pains to place its message before the public and especially is this true of your Oregon Department. The American Legion wants the public support and has it now to a great degree—the whole nation respects it, but we want to let the public know what we are doing, propose to do and why. How? Simply through our national organ of the American Legion—the legion weekly, our Pacific publication—the Pacific Legion, our Oregon speakers' bureau, on which list you will find the name of a Tillamook legionnaire, and our Oregon department news service, which disseminates news, bi-monthly, to the 115 newspapers in the state of Oregon and through the local posts committees itself.

The American Legion is an institution of service composed of the men and women whose qualification to serve their country and their comrades is based upon their experience with the fighting forces of the United States during the World War. After the armistice, the desire was spontaneous among the American soldiers and sailors that something should be done to safeguard and transmit to posterity, the fine ideals for which they had fought. There started virtually simultaneously a score of movements in this country for the formation of an organization that would be national, non-political, non-partisan, non-sectarian, and embracing all stations and conditions of citizens for preserving the unit of action and aspiration which had come to our country at war.

It was natural that there should be a fusion of movements so identical in purpose and from this fusion sprang the American Legion, an organization without parallel in the world. Its membership embraces all classes except the extreme radical, all creeds all shades of political opinion and all stations and conditions of citizens. The American Legion is truly a cross-section of American life. It has state departments of the legion formed in all states of the union and in 26 foreign countries, and has a legion post wherever the sun sets. Its posts number 10,754 throughout the union and the membership nationally is well over a million or was that high at the end of last year, and this, even in the face of a general depression evident throughout the country which has hit the ex-service person the hardest because they have just returned from the service and are not securely oriented up to this time.

The American Legion is working on many projects this year, aside from the posts handling their unemployed problems and families of destitute service men with the assistance of the women of their local auxiliaries, and also helping or assisting boy scout organizations, and promoting community projects of one sort or another and always on the alert for betterment of conditions in the community and that is—the posts will secure names to a petition to be circulated shortly by the state organization of the legion to place upon the ballot for the vote of the people next November, a bill for the prevention of the colonization of the Orientals in Oregon. As you know, such laws are in force in California and Washington, and the Asiatics are flocking to this state and the problem is really a vital one and affects every citizen of Oregon as well as the Nation at large. We realize the subject is a big one and must be taken care of now and sooner or later the national congress will be forced to draw up drastic laws on this matter.

The legion will launch on Monday, March 20th, a state-wide personal canvass of the veterans in the community and through the use of a questionnaire will determine if the veteran is entitled to treatment by the government, has any disabilities resulting from service, or should be hospitalized desires to make application, etc. This questionnaire also deals with other matters, like liberty bonds, bought for and not received by the veteran, back pay,

travel pay and any other thing he would have coming to him through his service in the recent world war, and on many other questions answered by the veteran, the legion itself will outline its definite workings on various matters affecting its organizations. This questionnaire campaign will be of immense benefit to the country and to the organization, because it will furnish the government bureaus with a list of those who desire treatment, hospitalization and other things like information on government insurance, etc.

Coming down on the stage line, I thought it would not be amiss to say a few words in reference to Americanization and how it affects the Legion, because Commander Shearer has spoken on this subject in various cities in the county and the post has just been complimented by the National Legion Commander, Hanford MacNider of Mason City, Ia., for their interest in Americanization and employment of veterans and passage of resolutions concerning this matter.

You may ask—Why Should the American Legion undertake the work of combating the Nation's foes and of educating the millions of uneducated into the principles of sound Americanism? This question may be answered by another—and why not the American Legion?

It has national and state executive of unquestioned ability and loyalty who are well acquainted with this phase of work and not only is it a national organization but it functions through state bodies and thousands of local bodies and so is in constant touch with conditions everywhere.

The sole aim of the Legion is service—service to community, state and nation, and service to humanity. Its first thought was of its disabled buddies and the dependents of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

This is its glory for if the American Legion has not fought for just laws protecting those who gave their health on the field of battle and who returned broken in spirit and body and maimed and afflicted, it is almost certain that we would have had more men die through want and neglect in this country than fell on the field of battle.

But this service, except for these buddies who are fighting the grim battle against disease and wounds, is well nigh won, the government doing almost everything in their power to restore them back to health.

Now the American Legion is dedicating itself to new tasks. In the unrest, insidious propaganda and class strife of the present day, we find a "moral equivalent for war," and all the lofty courage, patriotic fervor and grim determination seen in camp and trench are to find new fields.

It must be admitted that in the days of '17 and '18, the American Legion did one job well. If they have such support in their equally new and hard task of welding the American people into a nation of "one tongue, one ideal, one flag," that they had then there will be no failure even though they do not admit failure. This is exemplified in acts following the war when certain agitators of violent tendencies were taking advantage of the unrest following the period to plunge this country into revolution, they were balked by the force they feared most—the American Legion—the more powerful and effective because its members knew how to fight violence with the lawful organized hand. Its members, the men who the agitators had intended to turn into anarchists, through their release from military service, were found to be ready and willing to uphold and defend the constitution of the United States and obtain what redress and benefit they desired through orderly process of law. Still neither the American Legion nor any other organization can handle this big work alone and we call upon all Americans to rally to the Nation's standard, but we must remember, that in Americanization work, our organization must lead the way.

Permit me to say that it is the buddies who wear the blue and gold badge of membership in our organization that makes this great legion of ours possible, they are the ones who are not passing the buck to see that the sick and disabled buddies get justice and they are the ones helping their state organization and national organization pass bills for the benefit of all ex-service men. They are the ones who make it possible for the proper functioning of their state organization and its committees and the national organization and its committees. It is they who felt the desire, a wish to get together, stick together, keep up the friendship formed during the war and to perpetuate the aims and

ideals for which they had fought. The American Legion is the largest organization of former service men in the world today, and its success is due in a large measure to the work of its national legislative committee before Congress and the work of the state legion committees before state legislatures in the Union and in the work of the active members of the 10,754 posts of the legion.

Members of the American Legion, above all, are doing their bit of joining with the most virile element in the population of this country today and of pulling together for a decent cause and fighting the ex-service men's battles and furthering the cause of Americanism and good citizenship in communities wherever legion posts are established and functioning.

An American Legion post is the greatest asset any community can have.

All signs point to a good increase in membership in the Legion this year, because the average veteran has been convinced that it is worth joining, and in practically all of the communities where posts are organized, our prestige and good-will is so great that it is expected that every veteran eligible will affiliate with our organization and the fact that the veteran himself is pretty well acquainted with what we are formed for, our aims and ideals, etc. We are striving for a larger membership, in order to help the Legion as a whole in its fight for compensation, Americanism, the jobless and the disabled.

In the state of Oregon, there are 110 posts of the Legion established and functioning.

The fourth annual convolve of the veterans organization will be held in The Dalles on the 27-28 and 29 of July, the convention committee making extensive preparations for the greatest gathering of war veterans since the signing of the Armistice and intend to stage a wonderful setting—and the comrades from all sections of the state are asked to come down to The Dalles and do the acting.

Buddies, you have a splendid Legion post at Tillamook, a fine lot of average veterans and can be of inestimable value to this county.

Harry N. Nelson, Department Adjutant Oregon Department The American Legion.

Racing a street car for a mile, an ex-service man in Dallas, Tex., just up from a sick-bed, beat five other applicants to a job.

Ex-service men in Alabama will vote without paying a poll tax. A state amendment, backed by the American Legion, grants them the exemption.

To prevent the spread of a small-pox epidemic, American Legion men by day and night guarded all roads into Mansfield, Ark., to stop entrance or exit.

Body pains and legal aches will not go unsoothed in Providence, R. I. Doctors and lawyers are offering free services to jobless American Legion men.

A two-dollar bill was sent by the American Legion in Boston by a hard-working woman whose son is insane from war injuries. She asked that hungry soldiers be fed.

Every sick and wounded ex-service man in New York state hospitals will be assigned an able-bodied member of the American Legion, who will see that his charge gets a square deal.

A referendum on adjusted compensation taken by the Kansas City Kan., post of the American Legion showed 74 in favor of paid-up insurance, 45 for farm and home aid, and 29 for cash.

A string of world war medals (bought at a sale) across his chest, the world's fastest-working beggar took \$60 an hour from New York's theater crowds until the American Legion got the police on his trail.

Several thousand ex-service men who returned to "do Europe right" are stranded in the large cities there. Posts of the American Legion in London and Paris are helping them book passage "back home again."

Matteo Gambalano doesn't ask anybody to take him at his word. When he paid his subscription to the American Legion Weekly he sent a check for \$2 and his bank book to show that the check was good.

To Colorado alone 25,000 tubercular ex-soldiers have migrated. Only two percent of all hospital cases are Colorado citizens. The American Legion is sending the names of the service men to posts in their home states to set up lines of communication for them with friends and relatives.

Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, America's premier ace, was the first Ohio veteran to turn back his state bonus check of \$155 to a fund to establish a hospital for Ohio's disabled soldiers. The American Legion has asked all other veterans who

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THE LARGEST CHAIN DEPARTMENT STORE ORGANIZATION IN THE WEST

do not have imperative need of cash to follow Rickenbacker's lead.

One thousand "doughnuts and coffees" a day to feed the jobless and homeless ex-soldiers in the growing bread-line at St. Marks in the Bowery, New York, are being supplied by a single post of the American Legion, during each day and night. The unfortunate men sleep in the church.

The Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburg, Pa., home of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, has voted for the American Legion's adjusted compensation bill. Almost at the same time the Chamber at Los Angeles, Cal., with 9,000 members and called the largest in the United States, endorsed the bonus. Calling the U. S. Chamber's tactics unfair, the local commerce board at El

Dorado, Kan., denied its membership and then voted for the compensation measure.

Discharged by a Wall Street banking house for refusing to write letters to Congress attacking adjusted compensation, an ex-service man has turned to the American Legion at New York for help in finding another position. He was one of three, out of 250 employees, who refused to sell his pen. The Legion secured his affidavit stating that typewritten forms were passed out by the firm to all their workers with an order that each employee hand in four unsealed letters, one to President Harding and three to Congressmen, and the remark that "you fellows had better write these letters tonight if you want to keep your jobs."

OREGON WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

St. Helens—Island Lumber mill resumes operations. Lebanon cannery to run full acity during coming season. Medford—Work begins on building for M. F. & H. Co. Warrenton to have auditor and hall. Pendleton—Shell Co. plans \$900 building here. La Pine to have new hotel building. Marshfield—Main mill of Pacific States Lumber Co. resumes operations. Creswell public schools to have gymnasium. Oregon Growers Association build new plant at Newberg.