

**SAYS LET HEROES REMAIN IN FRANCE**

**Spartanburg Visitor Talks Of Conditions in United States War Cemeteries**

The \$300,000,000 appropriation for the removal of the bodies of United States soldiers who fell in battle and rest in French soil is money thrown away in the opinion of Col. George M. Carpenter, locomotive fuel engineer of the Clinchfield Fuel Company, who returned from France several weeks ago.

Fathers and mothers whose sons fell on the field of honor would not have their bones exhumed if they knew with what zealous care the French people tend the graves of America's dead, says Col. Carpenter. The veteran engineer visited the cemetery of Soissons and the burying grounds at other places and found the graves of American soldiers kept in a manner worthy of the cause in which they fell. He says the French take great pride in keeping the resting places of America's dead in perfect order, and

that nothing pains the Frenchmen more than the fact that the American government is now removing the bodies. After all they have done to beautify the grounds, he says the French consider it unkind, and some expressed the view to him that had the story been reversed, and French soldiers fell in battle on American soil by thousands France would have considered it a sacred honor to let her sons rest in the land where they made the supreme sacrifice.

**The Unknown Dead**

Col. Carpenter, in speaking with a reporter for The Herald last night, said that a writer for a Chicago paper had stated there were 18,000 graves in France with remains of American soldiers marked "unknown," but that personally he believes there are more than that number. There is no way of positively identifying the remains and a body shipped to a family may be the son or brother of some other family. When the battles subsided those who cleared the fields wrapped the bodies in blankets and buried them three and four in a hole. Later when these bodies were removed to the cemeteries, though they were taken up with extreme care the identification tags often became mixed. The remains of three or four soldiers would be taken up, skull and trunk first, then the limbs. The bones of each would be laid side by side, and then the identification tags would be laid with them, but to what set of bones did John Smith's belong? Col. Carpenter says those in charge of the work did the best they could, but it was a task in which there could not help but be many errors made.

**A Waste of Money**

Col. Carpenter says at one hotel at which he stopped there were three of these superintendents of exhumation, each receiving a salary of about 5,000 francs per month. "The \$30,000,000 appropriation," he declared, "in going up in wine, song and women." Col. Carpenter said that he could not help but loathe these "grave diggers," and said that he told them face to face that as an American citizen he was ashamed of them. He says if the mothers and fathers in America could but know how tenderly the graves of their sons are kept they would rise up in their righteous indignation in remains of heroes which is being carried on because of the money the undertakers and casket makers and a hoard of others are making out of it. Col. Carpenter says that the facts have been misrepresented to the parents, that they have been led to believe the graves of their sons on foreign soil have been neglected when there never was a more malicious lie circulated beneath the sun.

**Visit to Soissons**

"I will never forget my visit to Soissons cemetery," said Col. Carpenter. "At the entrance of the beautiful grounds there hung the largest American flag I have ever seen. I was met by the officer in charge; he was an American from Mississippi. It did my heart good to see how well the graves of our soldiers are kept. The grass was cut closely till it looked like a green carpet. The graves were kept exceedingly clean. Thousands of graves were there, with the crosses bearing the name and the unit to which the soldier belonged. I asked the Mississippian how many graves in Soissons cemetery were marked unknown, and he replied between seven and eight hundred."

"For these graves to be disturbed is an outrageous thing. If the parents could see them they would not stand for it a moment. These Frenchmen are proud of the trust to care for the resting places of American heroes, and nothing hurts them worse than this removal of bodies, which after all they have done, cannot be interpreted by them otherwise than gross lack of appreciation."

Col. Carpenter went to France to look after the interests of the Clinchfield Fuel company in that country, the company having a large contract for supplying coal to the greater of the four greater railroad systems of France. He left America last November. During his stay in France Col. Carpenter had time to look around and see for self what is going on. He became very much interested in and was anxious to find out why the soldier dead were being removed. He went from cemetery to cemetery and in-

vestigated personally. He was struck with the pride of French people take in keeping the burial places of American dead. Col. Carpenter returned to America on the steamer La France, reaching New York about two weeks ago.

**Coal High in France**

Speaking of the fuel situation in Europe, Col. Carpenter says that when he left coal was selling in Paris at \$40 to \$50 per ton, and that Italy was paying \$100 per ton in gold.

France is recovering fast from the war, says Col. Carpenter. He visited several expositions and what he saw was a revelation. The slogan everywhere is "made in France." The country, however, has suffered terribly from strikes. It has been one strike after another, but coming through all her misfortunes, France comes out smilingly. Belgium, too, is fast recovering from effects of the war, says Col. Carpenter. She is shipping her vegetables and creamery products into France and is getting on her feet again in a manner that calls forth the admiration of the world.—Spartanburg Herald.

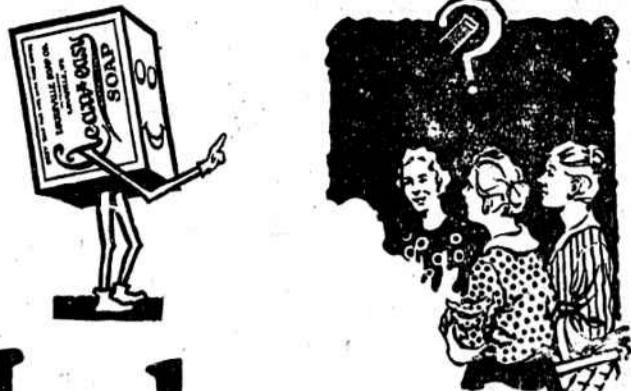
**WILSON SENDS FLOWERS TO OLD NEGRO'S FUNERAL**

Trenton, N. J., July 14.—With floral tributes from President Wilson, Secretary Jos. Tumulty and former Governors Fielders, Runyon and Stokes embarked around the grave, Samuel W. Gordon, colored messenger to New Jersey governors for more than 46 years, who died Sunday was buried here today. For-

mer Governor Runyon spoke on behalf of the New Jersey Governors.

The sick and lame of the wealthy and the poor of Toronto, Canada, filled the capacity of the Episcopal

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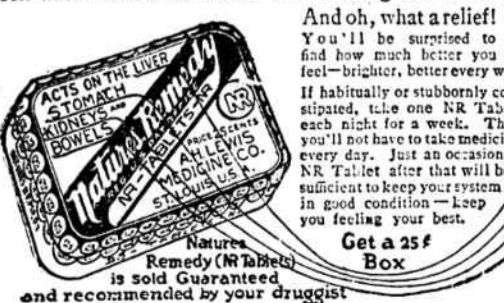
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