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The Bamberg Herald

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PRIVATE R. P. BELLINGER PREPARES TO RETURN

Headquarters Convalescent Camp, A. P. O. 780, France, Jan. 24th, 1919.

This probably is my last letter from abroad to the paper. At any rate, I hope so. Dating from yesterday this camp is officially closed. My work in France is practically finished. Hence, I shall use a little of my spare time to write further of events and other things on this side of the pond.

While the French people are unreasonably slow in all business undertakings, I must concede to them a complete thoroughness and efficiency in whatever job they undertake. They labor under the old theory that "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well," while we in America are prone to rush through and put over anything on the public that we can get by with and collect the money for. The general idea that France is immoral, in fact, I might say unmoral, is exaggerated. Apparently on the surface of things it is more so than America, but the main point of difference lies in the fact that the French are open and above board with their mischief, while in America we are inclined to slip behind the corner and try to hide the same things.

While in Vichy, which was a month after the armistice was signed, I saw a munition factory where the famous French 75s were being made with the same steadiness and regularity as during the war and were being stored by the thousands, which is an indication that France, ravaged by warfare from time almost immemorial, believes in preparedness. However, it is a significant truth that the one weapon which Germany stoutly maintained to the very last would win the war for her, was the turning point in the struggle and proved to be undoubtedly the indirect cause of the downfall of Prussianism. I refer of course, to the submarines, for had it not been for their murderous use I do not believe America would have entered the war, and had America remained neutral Germany's hordes would have unquestionably conquered Europe. The barbarous methods of German soldiers at the front in cutting our wounded men's throats and hanging captives before the eyes of their comrades, was, of course, practiced with the idea and for the purpose of intimidating their enemies, but it produced exactly the opposite effect upon American soldiers who then became more determined than ever. Of course I cannot say of my own knowledge that such things were done, because I was not there; I have been in the army, but not in the war, and for a time I was inclined to discredit such reports. But I have been told so by more than one whom I know were there and who claim to have seen such things personally, and I now consider my information as authentic.

My travel over here has led me to completely change my opinion on a big question of national importance, namely, government control, operation and ownership of our railroads. Before I left home I was inclined to compare our railway service with the very excellent postal service of which America can boast and to acquire the idea from the comparison that governmental control of the railroads would obtain for the public at large the same excellent service it gets from government operation of the mails. However, the railroads of France are controlled and operated by the government, and the service to the general public both from the standpoint of freight and passengers is bominable, and too, accidents are not infrequent. The mail lines are double tracked nearly all the way. Yet two trains never pass each other moving in opposite directions; one invariably stops and waits for the other to go by, a custom which would be laughed at as a joke in America. As an instance of the service the people get, the Paris, Lyons, Mediterranean system extends through this section, is probably the leading system of the country and is handled by the government. The city of Nice is only between 400 and 500 miles from here and a person going from here to Nice must use this line. A soldier granted a furlough here to visit Nice is allowed five days additional travel time in which to make the trip, two and a half days each way, and rest assured that he would not be given this

much extra time if the conditions and service did not require it for the trip. And I could cite other details which have forced the conclusion that in normal peace times private control, operation and ownership of our common carriers insures the best possible service to our people.

An amusing little incident occurred on the train the other day. I had casually engaged in a conversation with a young lady when she asked if I was married. When I replied in the negative she laughed and said she hadn't yet seen an American soldier who was; and I was inclined to recall the old but rather foolish query: "Do married men make the best husbands?" Aside from grapes France does not produce an abundance of fruits, but there are numerous, exquisite gardens of gorgeous flowers, and the ladies are proficient in fancy hand work and embroidery.

Shortly after my letter of Dec. 15th, I enjoyed the privilege of a week-end in the city of Moulins, a place of 45,000 inhabitants and the capital of the Department of Allier. Moulins is much more typical of other French cities than Vichy is. Vichy, with a population of 22,000, has a short street railway system operated by compressed air; Moulins has no street cars. Vichy has electric lights on the streets; Moulins has none on the streets which after nightfall are in total darkness and practically deserted. Vichy has broad beautiful boulevards and avenues; Moulins streets are little dinky alleys with sidewalks so narrow that pedestrians must walk in the middle of the streets. However, there's no danger from the traffic and one might lie down and take a nap without being interfered with or disturbed. Vichy presents a much more inviting appearance to a stranger both from a business viewpoint and that of beauty. Vichy is fashionable and up-to-date; Moulins is sleepy and old-fashioned. Vichy, although it is a resort, I found less expensive than Moulins. This though I account for by reason of the fact that Moulins is a place reserved exclusively for American officers to visit, and the other men are usually not allowed there. It was by a mere coincidence that I got in. Vichy with slight progress could possibly be Americanized; Moulins is hopeless. Every French city has its market, which is usually in the middle of the business section and very similar to the one at Charleston, although considerably larger. I have not seen much of the public school systems in the cities, but in the small country towns it is very much like ours except that they have a custom of the teachers living, eating and sleeping in the school building. French newspapers are not a credit to the enterprise of their country. I have seen no such thing as country weeklies, and the leading Paris dailies get out no extras and are usually little sheets of four pages which when compared to our prominent New York journals or even Southern dailies would be a joke.

But along with its liabilities Moulins also has a few interesting assets. I attended religious services in one of its great cathedrals which for fine architecture and beauty could hardly be surpassed. There I heard and was agreeably impressed with the singing of the "De Profundis" in three parts in memory of the soldiers of France and her allies who gave their lives on the field of honor, and one could not listen to the recitation of "The Rosary" without an inspiration for the better. From the church I went to the jail, quite a contrast, but I assure you that my trip there was absolutely a voluntary visit and not a compulsory business matter. This building truly reminds one of an ancient chateau, castle or prison, constructed of rough stone with its high rugged walls and other features typical of an old prison and causing one to feel that not even the master of the somewhat mythical fourth dimension could escape from it. The public museum of Moulins harbors thousands of rare exhibits of art, sculpture and French national life. Many of the exhibits would easily rival anything of the kind in either the Metropolitan Museum of Arts in Central Park, New York City, or the National Museum in Washington. Two especially noteworthy exhibits are the oil paintings, "La Crucifixion," the French name implying

(Continued on page 2, column 1.)

CONSTITUTION IN BRIEF.

League of Nations Has Democratic Laws to Govern It.

Administration shall be in the hands of a body of delegates, and executive council and a permanent secretary. Each member nation shall have one vote in the body of delegates, which shall meet at the league capital at stated intervals. The executive council shall consist of representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, with four representatives of other states to be selected by the body of delegates. The secretariat shall comprise a secretary-general and a staff of assistants to be selected by the executive council. President Wilson will summon the first meeting of the council.

Membership.

Non-member nations, upon giving guarantees of their intention to observe the leagues, laws, shall be admitted to membership upon two-thirds vote of the member nations.

Preservation of Peace.

Members are required to submit disputes to the executive council, which may refer the problems to an international court of justice. The award will be made within six months, and the disputants are bound not to resort to war for at least three months after that. If a disputant fails to accept the award, the executive council shall decide on measures necessary to enforce it. These may take the form of a severance of diplomatic relations, an economic blockade or use of armed forces under direction of an executive council. In case of dispute between a member and a non-member nation, the latter shall be invited to assume the obligations of membership and submit to the provisions for averting war, with the alternative of facing the same measures as a disputant member nation.

Disarmament.

The executive council shall formulate plans for reduction of armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety. Private manufacture of war materials will be prohibited. A permanent commission shall be established to advise the league on military and naval questions.

Colonies.

German colonies in the Pacific and Africa shall be placed under the protectorates of nations best suited politically to administer them. Slave and liquor traffic shall be prohibited in African territories affected.

Turkish Territories.

Certain former Turkish territories shall be given the benefit of protectorates on the basis of self-determination.

Labor Reforms.

A permanent bureau of labor shall be established to secure and maintain fair humane conditions of labor in member nations and the countries with which they are associated commercially.

Freedom of the Seas.

The league shall secure and maintain freedom of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce of all member nations.

Secret Treaties.

All previous obligations entered into by member nations, inconsistent with the laws of the league are abrogated. Future treaties must be filed with an international bureau of general treaties.

Amendments.

Amendments to the league constitution are effective when ratified by the state represented on the executive council and the three-fourth of the states represented on the body of delegates.

Got There Just the Same.

American troops in France received a more careful and prolonged training than could possibly be given most of the regiments hurriedly raised during the civil war. General Pershing tells the story of a volunteer battalion of rough backwoods-men that once joined General Grant. He admired their fine physique, but distrusted the capacity of their uncouth commander to handle troops promptly and efficiently in the field, so he said:

"Colonel, I want to see your men at work; call them to attention, and order them to march with shouldered arms in close column to the left flank."

Without a moment's hesitation the colonel yelled to his fellow ruffians: "Boys, look wild that! Make ready to thicken and go left endways! Tote yer guns! Git!"

The maneuver proved a brilliant success and the self-elected colonel was forthwith officially commissioned.

COURT HOUSE STAYS.

Senate Passes the Davis Eight Mile Bill.

Columbia, Feb. 13.—A bill which was ordered ratified by a ye and nay vote of 23 to 13 was the bill by Mr. Davis of the house prohibiting the location of any court house within eight miles of any county line.

Senator McGhee, of Greenwood, opened the debate. He expressed the greatest respect for Barnwell, but said that he did not feel that the bill was a local issue between Barnwell and Blackville. He felt that to pass this bill would be to deprive the people of the State of a constitutional right to say where their county seats should be. The constitution provides that in the formation of new counties no new county line should be nearer than eight miles to an established county court house, but that within a county it left to the people of a county to say where the court house should be.

Senator Bonham said that the bill carried out the spirit of the constitution. That it was the purpose of the constitution to prevent the State from being cut up into very small counties. It said to every town in that if it wished to be county seat it must get its territory eight miles from any other county seat.

Senator Wharton said that the bill grew out of a local fight and that the legislature should take no part in it.

Senator Laney, speaking for the committee which had reported the bill, said that he thought the bill proposed a wise policy, and that old county seats should not be disturbed. Senator Marion, of Chester, said that there was more than a local fight involved. The supreme court had held in Glenn vs. Massey that the legislature had the power to define county limitations unless the constitution did not intervene here and it was entirely proper for the legislature to pass the bill which he favored doing.

Senator Banks pitched his speech on the world war which had resulted in a victory for democracy, and he thought the majority of the people in a county should determine where their county seat should be, and that if two-thirds of the people in any county wished to move their county seat they should be permitted to do so.

Senator Hough said that the prime reason for a constitution was to protect minorities; that it was not right that people should be compelled to go from one end of a county to another to reach their county seat, that county seats should be centrally located.

Senator Ridgell took the words of the constitution as his text. It forbade new county lines from running within eight miles of an old county seat. It permitted two-thirds of the people of a county to say where their county seat should be.

Senator Johnstone said that when the committees of the senate were constituted those best fitted to serve on a committee were selected. In the case of the judiciary committee there were so many good lawyers in the senate that no distinction could be made and all were put on the judiciary committee. That when the judiciary committee said that there were no legal barriers to a bill the best authority in the senate had spoken and the senate must be content. He then told of the part Barnwell had played in the history of the State, speaking eloquently of it as a place which contained the ashes of General Hagood. That while history taught philosophy it also taught sentiment and the sentiment clustering around such historic places as Barnwell should be respected. That Barnwell court house was not a local matter. Barnwell had earned its rights in peace and in war.

The bill passed its third reading and was ordered to be enrolled for ratification.

How The Germans Pay Bills.

By a new order issued at general headquarters, says a Nancy dispatch, the troops within the occupied zone hereafter are to be paid in francs instead of marks. Under the present arrangement money in marks is brought to Coblenz from Berlin by Germans and turned over to the chief disbursing officer.

The payroll of the third army amounts to approximately 26,000,000 francs per month.

Money to the amount of 15,000,000 marks arrived at Coblenz Saturday, the January assessment against the Germans. A total of 79,000,000 marks has been received from Berlin toward paying the expenses of the occupying forces. The exchange rate now is 147 marks for 100 francs.

TELLS OF PART SOUTH CAROLINIANS PLAYED

The following very interesting letter, relative to South Carolina officers and units in France, has been received by Brig. Gen. W. W. Moore from Maj. J. Shapter Caldwell, formerly assistant adjutant general of South Carolina, now in France serving as adjutant of the Thirtieth Division:

"Headquarters Thirtieth American Division, Ballou, France, January 13, 1919.

"My Dear General Moore:

"Your letter of December 17 reached me here today. I note that you estimate the casualties of the Thirtieth division at 27 per cent. The casualties were about 49 per cent., for there were more than 7,623, as published, and there were only 18,000 men of the Thirtieth division fighting with the Fourth British Army. The Fifty-sixth Field Artillery Brigade (three regiments), the One Hundred and Fifth Supply Train, the One Hundred and Fifth Ammunition Train and the Mobile Repair Shop were, upon arrival overseas, sent to the southeastern part of France to train with the French 75s and 155s. In October the artillery and ammunition trains were attached to various divisions operating in the St. Mihiel sector. They never did rejoin this division. The One Hundred and Fifth Supply Train never got in any fight, being used, part at Bordeaux and part for convoy duty elsewhere. The supply train has just recently joined this division and the artillery, ammunition train and other units will join in a few days, to return with the division to America.

"Orders have been received that no officers of the adjutant general's department will be mustered out with their divisions, but will be kept for service at demobilization camps to assist in mustering out the returning troops. I have asked to be kept over here and sent to the army of occupation in Germany, but, as I have not requested a commission in the regular army, I do not know whether my request will be granted. Yesterday 125 officers of this division, who want regular army commissions, were transferred to the Third Division, Third Army, in Germany, and an equal number of officers from the Third Division have been ordered to duty with the Thirtieth.

"As I wrote you from London, I was taken ill with Spanish influenza shortly after the Thirtieth Division had gone into a rest camp, after it had fought the battle of the Hindenburg line. I am glad I did not miss any of the fighting, for that would have broken my heart. I was in London in a hospital for six weeks and in Scotland on sick leave for one week, and have been to Paris for a short time. I have been all over that part of Belgium occupied by the British from July 4 to September 5, and over a considerable part of northern France, England and Scotland. Now I am anxious to go to Germany and see what manner of beasts live in that country.

"The One Hundred and Eighteenth Infantry (Old First South Carolina)

has had various colonels. McCully was relieved in Belgium and was succeeded by Colonel Wolfe, a regular, who commanded the regiment all during the great Hindenburg battles. Colonel Wolfe was relieved in November or early in December and sent to America at his own request. Lieutenant Colonel Hartigan, another regular, was then assigned to command. A couple of weeks ago he was succeeded by Colonel Healey, who was transferred from an Arizona regiment, in the Fortieth Division. A few days ago Colonel McCully drove up in an automobile and asked General Lewis to request his assignment back to his old regiment, as he desired to go back to America with that regiment. The result was that McCully has been sent back here and is once more in command of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Infantry.

"Workman is a major in the One Hundred and Eighteenth, having succeeded Mahon, who was badly wounded. McFadden and Gillespie are both majors in the One Hundred and Eighteenth, having won their promotion by gallantry in battle. Colonel Springs has more than made good. He has been acting division quartermaster, and also acting G. I. Captain Mayer (formerly adjutant of the old Second South Carolina) was ammunition officer and assistant G. I. and has made a good record. Captain Porcher (formerly commander of the Charleston Light Dragons, now in the division headquarters troop) is now commanding Company A. One Hundred and Thirteenth Machine Gun Battalion and made a splendid record. Major Brailsford is with the One Hundred and Nineteenth Infantry, a North Carolina outfit. Major O'Driscoll is, I believe, with the One Hundred and Fifth Ammunition Train, which has not been with us in France.

"Lieutenant Colonel Lewis (of the old First South Carolina) is attending a school for field artillery officers. He made an excellent record at Camp Sevier, but I do not know what he did over here. At last accounts Major Marchant was in command of the ammunition train Major Silcox having sent back to the S. O. S. for other duties. Captain Beatty is adjutant of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Infantry, Captain Pyles having been killed at Bohain. Captain Pete Hudgens was wounded about 15 times, and, I hear, will recover.

"This is about all the news that I can give you. Things are very quiet in this little village, where division headquarters are billeted.

"With kindest regards,

"J. SHAPTER CALDWELL."

"P. S.—Since writing the above orders have been received directing many officers in the Thirtieth Division who applied for the regular army to report to the Ninetieth Division in Germany for duty. Among those ordered are Major Bradford and Captain Walker, One Hundred and Fifth Supply Train, Captains Garety, Ortman and several others with the ammunition train and the supply train whose names I do not recall."

The Evil Genius.

"There goes the meanest cuss in town, according to my way of thinking," said the landlord of the Petunia tavern, indicating a harmless by-passer. "That's Henry Purty, who knows how to make more different kinds of heathenish noises than any of his tormented fellow citizens ever heard before, and with malice aforethought, as it were, deliberately teaches 'em to the kids. He showed 'em how to screech like a flivver and keep people continually on the jump for their lives. The young idea learned from him the Commanche warwhoop and the rebel yell. He was the introducer into the neighborhood of the whirling rattle, which sounds like raking sticks along the forty picket fences at once, and the devil's fiddle, which moans and wails and howls like a hyena being flayed alive.

"And here of late he has been instructing the little lads in squads of four how to be quartettes of Alpine yodelers. There are fully fifteen such quartettes in town now, and more organizing every minute. Everywhere you go you run into one or more bunches of 'em, lined up and screaming: 'We'll cul-limb so high—illy-aye-lee-hoo. That we touch the sky—ul-lay-ee-hoo—lay-he-e-e. It is needless to add that while Henry is cordially detested by the older

The British Crown Jewels.

Crown jewels have been brought out of their war time hiding place and returned to the Tower of London, says a London cable. They were not paraded back. In fact, the removal was so informal and quiet that no one, perhaps, who saw a couple of automobiles containing two army officers in silk hats and frock coats and derbies suspected that they were carrying \$30,000,000 worth of jewelry.

A peep into one of the cars would have revealed a cardboard hat box, but the peeper wouldn't have known that it concealed the imperial state crown. Nor would he have guessed that the piece of rough, heavy red cloth he was seeing covered the royal sceptre with its famous Cullinan diamond. In insignificant looking boxes and parcels were the other crowns, coronets and the rest of the royal insignia.

Windsor castle, about twenty-five miles from London, became the repository for the jewels soon after German aircraft began to bomb the metropolis. They were placed in a thick walled stone vault.

folks, if he ever runs for the presidency, he will have the undivided support of the kids."

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