

Regiment of Woodsmen in Our Forces Abroad

Lumbermen of the United States Are Organized Into a Unique Force for Work Behind the Firing Lines—Skilled Woodsmen to Prepare Timbers for Military Railways, Trenches, Mines, Etc.—Character of the French Woodlands—The United States Forest Service and What it Plans to Accomplish Abroad.

Special Correspondence
WASHINGTON, D. C., 1917.

"TELL me," quoth a curious correspondent, "what is the newest thing you have in the way of regiments?" And the War Department answered: "The United States Foresters." Then there were more questions, more answers, and W. B. Greeley, assistant forester of the United States forest service, operating under the Department of Agriculture, told "the story of the regiment." This was one afternoon about the middle of July. He said:

"We expect the Forest Regiment to be among the first to carry the Stars and Stripes into France. Recruiting by Army officers began on July 9 and will continue until the ranks are filled. This will be accomplished before August 1, we think."

"The demand for lumber in England has been very keen since the war started. You know there are very few forests there and few skilled timber workers. Recently the New England states took this up as a private enterprise to raise and equip ten portable sawmills to send on to the British Isles. Horses, mules and a sufficient number of men were also sent for operation of the mills. This organization is to work in England and Scotland, but it is not a military organization like ours, and has no connection whatever with the Army."

"Our purpose is wholly unconnected with the New Englanders." It originated when Gen. Bridges came here with the British commission. It was an especial request of his, made to the War Department, that a regiment of foresters and lumbermen be organized for the purpose of going to northern France to work there for the British army in trenching out railroads, material for tunnels, etc. Trenches are lined with timbers, you know, and great quantities of lumber are consumed for this alone.

"In fact, the whole military operation consumes enormous amounts of wood. Every mile of railroad, and railroad stanchions, takes 2,000 tons, and railroads are extended and intersected to such a degree that it is not an immediate need of our allies is acutely felt cut lumber. The demand is pressing."

"The forest service has been asked to undertake the job, and Lieut. Col. Woodruff is designated as commanding officer. I am going with him as major,



FOREST RANGERS IN CAMP IN A NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA.

for the regimental staff. The War Department sends Beverly C. Dunn, captain of engineers, as adjutant. The rest of the officers are from the forest service, and the men come from the ranks of the lumbermen.

"We are organizing a force of ten complete sawmills, a whole fleet of auto trucks, tractors and trailers—those large lumber wagons which may be hooked in strings behind the tractors—450 horses and mules, to act as a floating squadron of lumber camps. The idea is to have a mobile service of lumber camps and sawmills to go wherever required and get out material needed from the forests of France."

"What is the character of the French woodlands? Well, take southwestern France, between Marseille and Bordeaux, and forests there are very much like those of Florida. The region is hot and rather dry. In the central and northern parts of France, oak, beech, hornbeam and other hardwoods are most prevalent. It is these we shall work with most. In the mountains, the foothills of the Alps, are coniferous forests."

"The war work in northern France will largely be in co-operation with British and American forces, and may lie in trenching out railroads, material for tunnels, etc. Trenches are lined with timbers, you know, and great quantities of lumber are consumed for this alone."

"When sent behind the battle lines our men will convert the timber of the sprout forests there into railroad ties, trench timbers, mine props, bridge timbers and the cord wood needed in the military operations of the British

army. There is some pine in this district, and all the wood, pine or not, is small in comparison with American timber. The greater part of it is no larger than the foot in diameter and much of it is around eight inches. These northern French forests suggest the wood lots of Massachusetts, Virginia, Maryland and Connecticut, and the most careful operation and use of the timber is necessitated.

"For many years the woodlands of our sister republic have been preserved and utilized with superlative skill, and if we are to accomplish good in the opinion of M. Poincaré's people we shall have to exercise much thought as well as labor. One of our important tasks will be to cut these forests to the requirements of French forestry. The French, notwithstanding the reputation of the Germans in this line, are the best foresters of Europe. They are just as intensive in their use of the forest as we are. They get the best maximum growth of wood possible. To respond to their methods in our efforts to aid them we must have trained foresters directing our regiment. Future production of wood must be considered."

"The War Department designates our regiment as the 10th Reserve Engineers (forest). There are, with the two Regular Army officers, whose positions from the service and two from the forest branch of British Columbia. One lumberman from the Indian Forest service is singled out for membership, and there are thirteen foresters and lumbermen from the United States institutional foresters. There are three captains taken from chairs in universities, on account of their wide experience in practical woods work. These are David T. Mason, professor of forestry at the University of California; Dorris Skeels, logging engineer and professor of forestry at the University of Montana; and N. Millar, professor of forestry in the University of Toronto, Canada. Supervisors from the Florida national forest, the Cocomino



A FRENCH FOREST GUARD.

forest, the Sawtooth, in Idaho, and the Idaho national forest, are enrolled as officers, either as captains or first lieutenants. From the Caribou



A FOREST RANGER ON FIRE PATROL DUTY MAKING OBSERVATIONS.

national forest, in Idaho, the deputy supervisor is being sent to join the regiment.

"With only 2,000 men required from

the large numbers of woods workers in the United States active enlistings is a surety. The right type of men must be secured and a group of forestry officials has been selected to procure and consider applications from woodsmen in their various vicinities over the country.

"There will be sergeants of various kinds, corporals, cooks, first and second class privates, buglers, saddlers, wagoners, stablemen, horseherds and others recruited, and the salaries monthly while in training or active service will run from \$30 to \$51 while in America, and from \$36 to \$61.20 when in foreign service."

"The Canadians have organized forest units and sent them to France. Our head forester, Henry S. Graves, has gone into the same districts there to size up the situation as to the number of regiments needed, where they should work, the scope of the equipment required, etc. With him is Capt. Barrington Moore, a trained forester. Word from them indicates that the demand is very great for the kind of help we hope to render."

"There will be about 1,200 men in this first regiment. One battalion will be in Washington at the university training camp and one at the engineering camp at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., about the 1st of August. By the end of August the second battalion will be brought to Washington, and from here will go abroad."

"Organized, trained and equipped for their prospective duties, the forest regiment will consist of six companies of 16 men, the battalion and regimental staffs, the commissioned officers and the necessary number of drivers. Recruits must be under forty years of age and unqualified in physical condition. No youth under eighteen accepted. And all enlistment covers

merely the duration of the war. The organization is conducted purely along military lines, and every woodsman enrolling therein will be uniformed and armed just as other units of 'Sammy's.' "The first duty of both officers and men will be to acquire the sense of discipline, the necessity for perfectly harmonious team-work, and as much of this as is possible will be inculcated in the regiment in rigid drills at the training camps here and in Kansas. Pay will begin on the day of enlistment, and all traveling expenses will be furnished by the government from the point of enlistment to the training camp designated by the officers."

"The interesting feature to me in this newest idea for a regiment is the indication that the more directly pointed endeavor is to afford the young soldiers an industrial aspect. The scope of present-day military operations is almost entirely military, and that is ample, they are sending nine regiments of men just to build and operate railroads in France, and now the regiment of lumbermen and foresters."

Girls and Soldiers.

"OVER and war go together," said a well known novelist. "No young man out of uniform need expect much attention from the girls for the next year or two to come."

"An aviator from the Escadrille Lafayette met a French girl in Paris."

"Have you killed any boches?" she asked him, eagerly.

"Yes," he answered; "with this good right hand I've settled three." "She snatched his hand in both hers—warm kisses on it."

"Gen," said the young aviator, "why didn't you tell you'd bitten 'em to death?"

moved from the influences of women in home and their own social circles. "Therefore a keynote of the community endeavor is to afford the young soldiers the opportunity they want, and the young women of those communities who are meeting girls of the right sort at the right sort of social functions. Hence the tea dances, balls and socials of military entertainment."

"It is a hard thing to call upon a million men to leave their homes to serve their country, and that is why this commission is seeking to bring the very best substitute it can for home to these young men."

The War Garden.

REPRESENTATIVE MASON of Illinois said in Chicago the other day: "One way to keep down prices is for every family to set up its own vegetable garden, but the trouble is that most of us are as ignorant of gardening as the chap who wrote to the seedsmen:

"As I wish to do my bit for the allies by growing my own provisions on a strip of rock ground back of my house, please send me, f. o. b., one dozen potato seeds, one bush with complete, one dozen fruit seeds assorted, ten square yards of grass, one path, six feet of tall flowers with wall and one dozen four plants. I am especially particular about the grass, which should be green, and not the brown kind I see in so many gardens."

John D.'s Charities.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, congratulated on his recent \$5,000,000 gift to the Red Cross, said in New York:

"Thank you for your congratulations. So many people, you know, take my giving as a matter of course. It rather puts me in the position of the divine. "This divine was very charitable, and a lady said one day to one of his aged penitents:

"Wasn't it kind of Dr. Fifty, on hearing you were ill, to walk six miles to your cottage in all this heat with a big basket of fruit and port wine and chicken and coffee?"

"The old lady frowned in puzzled surprise."

"Kind?" she said. "Why, what's he for?"

Going the Rounds.

ALFRED NOYES, of "making poetry pay" fame, sat in the Players' Club in New York, when a waiter brought him a long, suspicious-looking envelope.

"Noyes opened the envelope. A printed slip fluttered to the floor. He looked at it. "Yet, after all," he said, "I'm not surprised to get this poem back."

"No?" said a critic.

"No," said Mr. Noyes. "You see, it's the thirteenth time I've sent it out."

Amusements Will Be Provided for Our Soldiers in Training Camps

Special Correspondence
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I went into a public house to get a pint of beer. The publican "up an' sez, 'We serve no rednecks here.'"

So far "Sammy's" experience will be akin to "Tommy's," with this important distinction, that "Tommy" was excluded from getting his pint by social ostracism, while "Sammy" has secured because his government respects his uniform, and he wishes him to face the temptation of not stopping at a pint.

I went to the theater as sober as could be. They gave a drunk civilian room, but 'adn't they see me?"

They sent me to the gallery or round the music table.

There's where "Sammy" will have the edge on "Tommy" for about a million Sammies, members of the new National Army, regulars and national guardsmen will have theaters all their own, and civilians will be the orchestra seats. To civilians will go the gallery seats, if there are any left, and if "Sammy" invites them.

Young America's workaday life in the sixteen National Army cantonments and in the sixteen National Guard mobilization camps will be a strenuous and arduous one, and his leisure hours will hold forth not only theatrical entertainments for him, but boxing and swimming matches, hand ball, basketball, tennis, games, libraries and writing rooms, dances and social diversions of all sorts. He will be so busy that he won't have time for the saloon or resorts that are morally worse.

All which is the idea Secretary of War Baker had in mind when he obtained an appropriation of \$500,000 for this unprecedented thing, that of providing recreation for soldiers, and appointed the commission on training camp activities, with Raymond B. Fosdick as its chairman, to work out plans for the recreation of the army which will fight to make the world safe for democracy.

The principle behind this department in army building is as new to warfare as are many of the means by which it will be applied. Two great theatrical circuits, presenting the latest Broadway successes, with casts made up of the country's most notable actors and actresses, playing army camps to S. R. O. signs, at nothing per orchestra seat, will be no more of a novelty than the idea of a national army.

In view of his training and public career, it is not surprising that it remained for Newton D. Baker to get the conception that an army is a social organism as well as a fighting machine. He became mayor of Cleveland because he conceived that a city, after all, is a collection of human beings as well as a sort of civic automaton. When he concluded his second term as mayor of Cleveland some one wrote of him, "His ideal was a city of modern schools and colleges and trade training, a good place for boys and girls to grow up in, a community which cared for its children as its family does, in which every citizen felt toward all children as a father does toward his own." One might paraphrase that and come pretty close to the truth by saying, "His ideal of a national army is an army of modern provision for recreation, a good place for boys and girls (for girls have a place in this rec-

reational scheme for soldiers, as will be shown) to grow up in, in which the government does its job as a nation's father."

Back in June, 1917, Mr. Baker said to the Playgrounds and Recreation Commission of America: "There are only two ways to prevent unwholesome and unhealthy recreation in a city. One is to have none, the other is to carry out a fine, wholesome substitute for the bad that springs up."

Up until now the way of armies, in respect to recreation, has been to have none. Wherefore there came about drunkenness and disease born of vice. Wherefore, as expressed both by Secretary Baker and by Raymond Fosdick,

ence to their freedom from moral hazards.

Second, it is responsible for providing all forms of recreational activities in the camps.

Third, it is to act as an agency by which the volunteer effort of communities in the vicinities of camps may be organized and utilized to best advantage. To carry out this plan, the commission has two powerful allies, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus. The former started out to raise \$2,000,000 for its part of the work, and raised \$1,000,000, while the latter has raised \$1,000,000 for its efforts, and will raise more if needed.

By way of physical equipment for the camp and the soldier, each cantonment will have an auditorium, seating 5,000, under the direction of the commission, while the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus will each have their special forums of their own for their special work along educational, religious and entertainment lines, and both these organizations will erect many smaller buildings, such as libraries, reading rooms, writing rooms and club rooms.

Joseph E. Raycroft, athletic director at Princeton University, a member of the commission, is organizing the athletics within the camps, and he is assisted by another commission member, Malcolm L. McBride, erstwhile gridiron star of Yale. Dr. Raycroft's organization will comprise a post exchange of floor in each cantonment and camp, who will be the athletic director of that unit, in much the same way as a collegiate athletic director acts for his institution.

Boxing and swimming will be the two principal sports in each cantonment and camp, and there will be plenty of competitive sport, such as intercompany, interregiment and interbrigade base ball, hand ball, basketball, tennis, and interregiment bayonet drills. The competitive element in all sports, and even in the training work, will be stressed, in view of young America's desire to excel.

Theatrical producers have offered their services to form two touring stock companies, and the commission has accepted their offers. Actors, actresses, and comedians, who want to do their part in helping entertain the young soldiers, Lee P. Manner of the commission formerly of the recreation division of the Russell Sage Foundation, is organizing the theatrical programs of the camps. He not only will seek to make the best use of the volunteer professional talent, dramatic, vaudeville and music, but will seek to use the amateur talent in the camps to best advantage. At some of the officers' reserve camps, which also come within the scope of the commission's work, like Flattsburg, for example, there are enough actors in training to put on a creditable entertainment of their own.

To Joseph L. Howells of the Playgrounds and Recreation Association of America, has fallen the tremendous task of organizing the recreational activities in communities in the vicinity of the camps. To do this forty-five trained

organizers from the association of which he is head already have gone into communities adjacent to the camp sites, and they have sought to aid churches, societies, clubs, fraternities and all other groups which plan to help entertain and make life pleasant for their soldier guests.

As an example of what communities may do, take the big placard bulletin of activities of the war recreation board of San Antonio, a volunteer organization affiliated with the commission, which scheduled the following events:

June 28—Base ball, 4 p. m., San Antonio vs. Dallas, Texas League Park. Musical concert, 8 p. m., First Baptist Church, swimming and dancing, free at Hot Wells Hotel and bathhouse.

June 30—Base ball, San Antonio vs. Dallas, Texas League Park. Dance, 8:30, invitational to Camp Wilson men, under the auspices of Catholic Women's Association.

July 1 (Sunday)—Church services, all denominations. "Take a Soldier Home to Dinner," 4:30, Brackneridge Park, near Camp Wilson. General recreation for entire week—Swimming, Brackneridge Park Beach, the Salado river, near Camp Wilson; Hot Wells bathhouse; West Lake, Sports, Brackneridge Park, golf, rifle range, tennis, base ball, bathing, zoological garden.

Soldiers' Clubrooms—Y. M. C. A. extends use of its facilities to men in khaki. Knights of Columbus Hall extends use of its clubrooms to members and friends of the order. St. Mark's Church extends use of gymnasium and reading room to soldiers. Dinner served to soldiers at dining hall, 2121, Camp Wilson. Club rooms to members and sons. 1945 Hotel, extend use of clubrooms to members and sons. Knights of Pythias Hall extends use of clubrooms to soldiers.

That is the provision of a small community for a week's entertainment of soldiers, and similar programs of larger

cities, near which soldiers already are encamped, include theatrical and "movie" invitation exhibitions, tea dances, community choral festivals, roof garden socials and other forms of recreation.

San Diego, Cal., raised \$7,500 to develop a playground center on its old exposition grounds, near Jefferson barracks, at St. Louis, a swimming pool is being built for the men in khaki, and Junction City, near Fort Riley, Kan., has subscribed \$7,000 for an auditorium for soldiers' entertainments.

Every regiment has its band, for the psychology of music on the soldier has been recognized, but the commission has contributed an additional factor to the broad work of the life in its efforts to stimulate group singing. For the first time in history young men will go into battle humming the songs taught them by trained choral leaders, four of whom already have been named, and who will gather at camp to be led in song by these same leaders.

Other members of the commission are Thomas J. Howells of Pittsburgh, Charles P. Neill, former commissioner of the Y. M. C. A., and John R. Mott, general secretary of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Mott has an eye to their relation to the real business of training young men for active service. Mr. Neill has been in the army for many years, and when he is temporarily out of the army, he is present, John S. Tichenor, associate general secretary, who has directed much of the work already done in officers' and guardsmen's training camps, represents him.

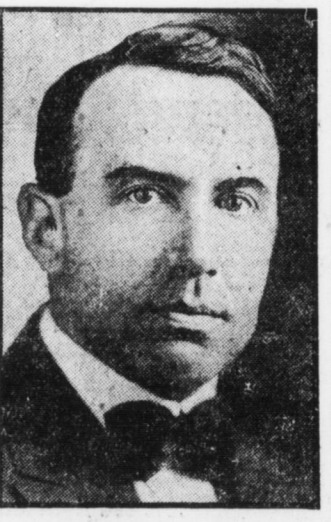
Acting in a similar capacity for the Knights of Columbus, though not members of the commission, are Col. P. M. Callahan, chairman of the Knights' committee on war activities; Rev. Lewis J. O'Hern, C. S. P., and A. G. Bagler.

Raymond B. Fosdick, chairman of the commission, is a lawyer by vocation, a student of community organization and social problems, an organizer and a human dynamo when it comes to work. Under Mayor Gaynor he made a notable record as commissioner of accounts for New York city. Later he went to Europe to study police organizations under the auspices of the bureau of social hygiene. He has studied conditions of camp life on the Mexican border, and he was responsible for a cleaning up of bad moral conditions in the neighborhood of several encampments here. More recently he has been in Canada to find out how the Canadians provide for the relaxation of their men in training.

Down in a little office in the old land office building, also known as the old post office, at 8th and E streets, Washington, he works day and night, facing new problems of organization concerned with safeguarding the morale and developing the morale of a million men. It is a gigantic task. It has been compared with providing, almost over night, the recreation facilities of an entire city of a million souls. But that comparison breaks down, for here are nearly fifty small cities, populated by young men whose demand for recreation is particularly keen and whose

COL. P. H. CALLAHAN, Chairman of Knights of Columbus committee, co-operating with commission on training camp activities.

JOHN R. MOTT, General secretary international committee, Y. M. C. A., representing the association on commission on training camp activities.



RAYMOND B. FOSDICK, Chairman of commission on training camp activities.

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