

FUND SMOKES GO TO ALL TROOPS ABROAD

Soldiers Ordered Home Get Double Cheer in Distribution of Tobacco.

CARDS COME TO DONORS

Messages From Hospitals Tell of Appreciation of Wounded Fighters.

On the way home! One may imagine the cheer of soldiers when they learn they are ordered to Chaumont, France, which means they are in a priority regiment bound for the United States. Then the memory of what they have endured fades away. They have started on the first lap toward home.

Good luck, soldiers say, never comes singly, and so the boys are surprised when almost immediately following the announcement of their early return there comes to them a distribution of Sun fund tobacco.

One soldier remarks: "There is a mere shadow of regret at leaving France for home, and it is caused by the knowledge that once back there with God's people we'll have no more smoke fund issues. We have grown to rely on it, but we'll have to learn again the way to buy our own tobacco."

Soldiers to Help Fund.

Other soldiers declare that their first visit when they return will be to THE SUN office to express their gratitude to THE SUN Tobacco Fund. One soldier writes:

"The way I mean to show my appreciation of what THE SUN has done for me will be to become a donor to that fund the minute I come home. I know that tobacco means a great deal to the soldier, because I have endured being deprived of it. I couldn't have got through everything I had to go through if it weren't for the smoke fund, and if a dollar or more of it can spare it, will help the boys to tobacco, as long as I can dig it up. I mean to boost the fund to that extent. My expectations are high, and I know what the boys in Germany need. Yes, sir, I am a donor to THE SUN Tobacco Fund as soon as I am home."

"We're on our way home," writes First Class Private J. Stevens of Company G, Second Artillery Park Ammunition Train. "This is January 22, and we are now at Chaumont. When we reached there, the boys of the Sun Tobacco Fund caught up with us on the march and issued a splendid gift of tobacco to every man. We're saving what we can of it so as to be all as much as when we heard that we had started home. When you receive this I hope to be home at 204 East 12th street, Manhattan, N. Y."

Letter From Newark Boy.

Louis Sarro, 725 Newark avenue, Newark, is another homebound soldier. He was a newsboy and "he is fondly remembering the Sun tobacco fund, especially because it has afforded him some cigarettes to smoke on the voyage back."

Here are some extracts from his letter: "After fighting for months in the trenches I was sent to a hospital and there enjoyed a little rest. I had received Sun tobacco, but not cigarettes. In all that time I had not smoked one ready made cigarette, but Christmas brought the boys a great surprise, for we received a carton of cigarettes. They were Sun tobacco, and I was glad to do so. I do not know how to express our appreciation of your precious gift. As an old newspaper man I wish this letter might be sent to do some good to the fund for THE SUN Tobacco Fund deserves wholehearted support."

One of the home coming boys writes to Mrs. Tucker, 100 West 12th street, to look her up and tell her what a lot of comfort she has given by her generous use of her talents for the smoke fund. He says he hopes to see her as soon as his letter reaches her. Cigarettes were received by the Eleventh Balloon Company about the middle of January, and one of the cards acknowledging the distribution was written by Palmer E. Armburg at Villars-les-Annonces to Mrs. A. Soper, a donor. He says: "I want to tell you that your cigarettes reached the right man. I am a fond of cigarettes and consume innumerable quantities, so you see your gift got to the right destination. I can't do more than thank you, but I do that heartily."

French Soldier Thankful.

A French soldier writes in English the delight he gained from being included in a distribution of Sun fund tobacco. He says: "I am a French soldier, very young, indeed, and I am in this land of Germany. This afternoon I go to the front and to some friends to spend the feast of Christmas merrily, and I was returning when I met THE SUN tobacco men and I spoke to them, and they gave me your box of cigarettes. How happy I was! I am obliged to say to you that since two weeks I don't smoke any cigarettes. In consequence I am much obliged, and I thank you very much. This night at Chaumont I met with my friends around the table I shall think of you and I shall wish you my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and to give with my thanks, hurrah for America and France!"

In a postscript he says: "I have learnt English at school and I excuse myself if there are some mistakes in this letter. Jean Stora, Infirmer, 41th Infantry, Thirty-sixth Company."

Here is a card mailed January 6 from Torino, Italy, and written by Karl Wiesbader, formerly of THE EVENING STAR: "You would have been delighted with the ensemble of orchestral precision, chorus and soloists and dynamic conducting at the last night at the Metropolitan. 'Mida' was given in honor of the President. Outside a violent mob is running in volleys shouting for 'H President', who stands on the balcony and with many and more anxious to get in closer touch with the people. In Milan I saw him throw double kisses to the crowds and meet the royal march from the balcony balcony with great verve."

On His Way to Dalmatia.

The writer of the above is on his way to Dalmatia. In previous private communications he has noticed the good work of the smoke fund among the soldiers.

"The soldiers in Germany are not being neglected by THE SUN Tobacco Fund is shown in the large number of messages to donors. Corporal Robert Winfield of Veterinary Hospital 12 writes:

"The cigarettes in which this card was enclosed were distributed among the enlisted personnel of this hospital while it was en route to Germany. It was the only article received recently by

any of the boys, and it certainly brought some cheer to know that some one had remembered them. I am the company clerk, and beg to thank THE SUN Tobacco Fund in the name of the entire company."

The soldiers are having a good time at Baden, and write that they only need the remembrances of the smoke fund to make them supremely happy. They they received early in the new year and cards have since been returned to Seneca G. Lewis, Helen Mack and Mrs. Rider, fund donors. Private Barney Adelman of Headquarters Detachment, 314th Ammunition Train, Motor Battalion, writes: "Your much desired gift of cigarettes could not have arrived at a more opportune time. I want to thank you for myself and the other fellows."

To Mr. Rider this note comes from a soldier: "Though unknown to us, I know that the people back home are doing all in their power to lighten our task. We soldiers on duty in Germany are having much more pleasurable times, because of your thoughtfulness in our behalf."

Came in Time of Need.

Jay M. Mead of Company F, 355th Infantry, was at Saurburg, Germany, on January 15, when he wrote this card: "The box of tobacco reached me and my friends while on the Meuse River. I can assure you they came in a time of need and I cannot thank you too much. I have been in Germany and since we know, we have been moving around and had no opportunity to write. I hope to be home in Germany, and most certainly you know that is Nebraska."

Miss Massena's card is from Sergeant Tom Dekel of Company F, 314th Ammunition Train, who wrote from Oberweis, Germany: "Dear Helen! Many thanks for the smokes. I enjoyed them very much, and will be over to see you soon as I arrive back in the good old States. Yours, Tom Dekel."

Mrs. R. Brown's correspondent from Plum, Germany, goes into more details of his experiences: "Your tobacco was distributed among six of us who have been over the top twice on the St. Mihiel drive, and on November 1 in the Argonne Forest. Nevertheless, it has had a good effect on me. I have had your gift of tobacco it leaves us happy also."

"We have our 'lonely moments,'" writes Corporal William Tappert of Company B, Fifty-sixth Infantry. "Although it is only in a weak way I do want to say something to tell you how I do appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness of the Sun fund, and the donors of it. These tobacco gifts cheer a man as nothing else can do."

Wounded soldiers are especially grateful. One writes from the Hospital 38, Company K, 211th Infantry, in Base Hospital 123, writes to Will Rogers in joyous spirit, and Mess Officer F. R. McLaughlin writes to the Sun fund: "The wounded boys received the gift through the fund in a spirit that soon became almost hilarious. He writes: 'I do not expect to be forgotten by the good to think they are not forgotten by their fellow countrymen, and in addition to this generally they want the smokes. They thank the senders from the bottom of their hearts, and say that the cigarettes were surely appreciated by all.'"

How the Fund Stands To-day.

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United Clear Stores boxes..... 22,097.57
Total..... 27,097.57
New contributions..... 128.20
Total..... 27,225.77
Shipped and paid for..... 157,362.94
Total..... 184,588.71
Schulte Clear Stores boxes..... 36,697.63
Grand total..... 221,286.34
New contributions..... 128.20
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SAYS 'V' WELCOMES HONEST CRITICISM

Dr. Mott Describes Some of the Vast Work Accomplished in the War.

WINS PRAISE OF NATIONS

League for Political Education Told Association Helped Morale of Troops.

All honest and constructive criticism, no matter from what quarter, is welcomed by the Y. M. C. A. concerning its war work with the American Expeditionary Force in France, said Dr. John R. Mott, general secretary, yesterday, when he spoke before the League for Political Education in Carnegie Hall. Dr. Mott declared that the association had strengthened the morale of the allied armies and had distributed millions of dollars worth of comforts among the troops.

"We judge of the honesty of critics in two ways," he said. "First, is he ready to give the name, date and place? If he is unwilling to afford you a handle on which you can take hold, is it unfair to assume that there is something ulterior or unfair behind his criticism? If after he has given you definite facts, and you have assured him you will give the matter prompt and thorough attention he goes behind your back and continues to spread distrust you can make up your mind he is not playing the game and that there is something sinister back of it all."

"Our request of all sincere critics, and by that I mean all those who really desire to have the grounds of criticism removed for the good of the service of the men in the army and navy, is to be definite, constructive, play the game, give the organization the benefit of the doubt, and to tell all they may know that is good about the association."

Praise From Wounded Soldiers.

Dr. Mott quoted a wounded soldier in a New York hospital who, he said, had told him the Y. M. C. A. furnished the best meals the men had at a base port at the front. "I have seen the men, according to Dr. Mott, declared that the Y. M. C. A. changed the soldiers' money at satisfactory rates where other agencies refused to do so. The big navy had at that port was the finest he had seen in France and that the association provided free writing paper and envelopes and that American magazines for the enlisted men."

There was an entire lack of criticism, so Dr. Mott asserted, of the association's work in the United States, and his efforts in behalf of the soldiers which he said it had exerted during the Civil War under the name of the Christian Commission and its activities in the Russo-Japanese and Spanish-American wars and during the mobilization of the Mexican border. There had been "practically no criticism," he told his audience, of the association's work in the large camps and smaller military posts on this side of the Atlantic.

Dr. Mott reviewed in detail the organization of the troops of the Italian, French and the Czech-Slovak forces, quoting the commendations of their leaders. He said the Italian King had asked him to spread the service to its maximum in the Italian army, and as a result there were now nearly 300 workers in that service.

No Criticism From Russia.

Not a single adverse criticism had come from Russia, declared Dr. Mott, who added that Dr. Masaryk, president of the new Czech-Slovak Republic, had expressed the "greatest appreciation" of the Y. M. C. A. service with its forces. Major-General Graves, the ranking American officer on Russian soil, was quoted as saying that the Y. M. C. A. had done more to stabilize Russia, in parts, than any other influence. Dr. Mott asserted that "nothing but praise" was heard concerning the association's efforts with the troops in Palestine, Mesopotamia, at Gallipoli and in the Macedonian campaign.

So satisfactory had the work of the American Y. M. C. A. been among the 4,000,000 French soldiers, according to Dr. Mott, that the Government there was continuing to expand the Y. M. C. A. hospital, the Franco-American Y. M. C. A., until at the beginning of the year 1,000 workers had been dedicated. The French War Ministry, he said, recently sent a delegation to New York to request that the Y. M. C. A. work be spread to 2,000 points, covering the entire French army.

"We do not deceive the French," he said. "Face to face with what we were doing in our own army, recognizing the real merit of our work, they said: 'The fact that you are doing the greatest service of serving our troops to the American Y. M. C. A.'"

Helped Prisoners of War.

"Nor have you heard a well-authenticated criticism concerning what the American Y. M. C. A. has done for the 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 prisoners of war on both sides of the struggle. The American people should be reminded that the American Y. M. C. A. alone was permitted to serve the prisoners on both sides from almost the beginning of the war. I know I am well within bounds when I say we have been the means, directly or indirectly, of saving the lives of many hundreds of thousands of prisoners and that we have saved the sanity of thousands of others."

"You have not heard anybody, enemy or ally, say anything of the fact that the Y. M. C. A. has had in operation in the American Expeditionary Force 1,500 huts, rented the buildings and tents, the free use of which is given to every man in uniform. Last winter we did not criticize when we paid between \$50 and \$70 a ton for coal in order that in hundreds of villages there might be one place where the winter men did not themselves and get some warmth and light to read and write."

"How many have criticized the fact that we have sent hundreds of athletic directors above draft age and that we have spent between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000 on athletic supplies for the use of American soldiers and sailors? Have you heard criticism concerning the fact that we are maintaining over 100 entertainment troupes, and that we have spent in free musical instruments for the soldiers and in sending musi-

clans and musical companies, including the daughter of the President? "We have sent free of cost to the boys themselves, to the members of their families, more than \$10,000,000 in remittances aggregating more than \$12,000,000. Have men complained that for months and up to within a week, the only working support of the army was Y. M. C. A. workers? I have heard no complaints that the hundreds of American city Y. M. C. A. in league with our work in France, have sacrificed their ship privileges free for at least three months to all men in uniform, and that in addition to all this we have made one of the most important contributions to the helping of men in the matter of reemployment."

The fact that the Y. M. C. A. charged more for goods on sale in its canteens than did the Quartermaster's Department was due to the fact that the association had to pay transportation and freight charges, while the army did not. Dr. Mott said. "This matter was later adjusted and complaints on this score were now, he asserted, a thing of the past. He said that the association had been profiteering had been twice investigated by the War Department and found groundless."

Park Ave. Ramp

OPEN BY APRIL 1

Viaduct at Grand Central Also to Be Completed by That Date.

Unless unforeseen delays occur, Borough President Dowling hopes to open Park avenue for through traffic on April 1. The contractors, who have been throwing the viaduct across Forty-second street, so that traffic may continue around the Grand Central Terminal on the raised roadway to the west, and who are now constructing the ramp around the eastern end of the Park avenue tunnel. Thirty-fourth avenue tunnel. Thirty-fourth street, have promised to turn the work over by that date unless unusually severe weather intervenes.

It is expected that when these improvements are completed between 400 and 750 vehicles an hour, most of which now use Fifth or Madison avenue for north and south bound traffic, will utilize Park avenue. Until the Borough President has been able to learn definitely just what measure of relief this will give to congested Fifth avenue he will take no steps to open Madison avenue. The latter project has depended upon him for some time by traffic experts.

Seeks Deal With Railroad.

However, the Borough President has in mind a further extension of the relief to be given by Park avenue, which, if undertaken, he believes will make the widening of Madison avenue unnecessary. According to the Borough President, the necessary railroad traffic will have to use the narrow roadway at the western side of the terminal. The necessary railroad traffic will have to use the narrow roadway at the western side of the terminal. The necessary railroad traffic will have to use the narrow roadway at the western side of the terminal.

6,000 Daily Each Way.

While it is unnecessary to cite traffic figures to prove that Fifth avenue is necessarily congested and that relief is necessary it may be interesting to know that counts made at Forty-fifth street show that the average traffic for a ten hour period from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M. each day is 6,000 vehicles in each direction. At Thirty-fourth street the traffic in the same period is 6,500 vehicles.

The traffic in Madison avenue at the same intersections is about 60 per cent less than that on Fifth avenue. Counts at Thirty-fourth street below the construction work now going on there show that 2,500 vehicles use Park avenue every ten hours. Above the construction work at Forty-eighth street, approximately 4,200 vehicles pass in the same period. Traffic experts believe that with Park avenue opened to through traffic by the removal of the barrier at Forty-second street and the additional ramp at Thirty-fourth street this thoroughfare will be able to clear more vehicles than either Fifth or Madison avenue.

INFLUENZA SHOWS GAIN.

Ninety-one Cases More Than on Friday, But Deaths Fall.

Influenza and pneumonia cases reported yesterday to the Health Department show a gain as compared with the preceding twenty-four hour period. Deaths from both diseases, however, continue on the decline. The total number of cases in Manhattan is far above the combined total of all the other boroughs. Influenza cases reported yesterday numbered 297, an increase of 91 over Friday. Deaths were 42, seven less than the previous day. There were 118 cases of pneumonia, a gain of 44. Deaths from pneumonia totaled 70, a decrease of 80.

Following are the new cases reported yesterday, by boroughs:

Manhattan.....	297
Bronx.....	14
Brooklyn.....	1
Queens.....	6
Richmond.....	4
Totals.....	297

Hyman Reappoints Mrs. Hearst.

On the report from Mrs. W. R. Hearst that the work of the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defense, of which she had been chairman, had been completed with the signing of the armistice and suggesting its dissolution, Mayor Hyman accepted yesterday her suggestion and reappointed Mrs. Hearst as head of a new organization to be called the Mayor's Committee of Women on Reconstruction and Relief. She has spent in free musical instruments for the soldiers and in sending musi-

EDISON 72 TUESDAY, BUSINESS OPTIMIST

Sees Plenty of Work for All if Employers End Watchful Waiting.

GOING SOUTH FOR REST

Warns "Long Headed" Men Holding Back for Lower Prices They Injure Selves.

Thomas A. Edison, who will pass Tuesday his seventy-second birthday, en route his last plantation at Fort Meyers, Fla., chatted with newspaper men on the eve of his departure yesterday in his laboratory in Orange, N. J. "The man who leads and backs up his statements he suggested that jobs will be found for fighters and workers home from the war if business men will go right ahead and not stagnate affairs by waiting for lower prices."

Mr. Edison then made a rapid calculation and said: "I see their three ages totalled 300 years," and then with a twinkle, "I hope to maintain this century average."

Public Ready to Buy.

When asked about the problems of reconstruction Mr. Edison said: "The man who leads and backs up his statements he suggested that jobs will be found for fighters and workers home from the war if business men will go right ahead and not stagnate affairs by waiting for lower prices."

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