

THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

This Issue 16 Pages

THE INDEPENDENT HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY WEEKLY IN THE STATE

FIRST SECTION

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LIEUT. JOS. BLAISDELL WRITES FROM FRANCE

Tells of a Ball Game, the First Ever Seen by People in That Section of France.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Blaisdell received a very interesting letter from their son, Lieut. Joe Blaisdell, from "somewhere in France." It was written March 13. He says in part:

"This morning I had a lot to do, but this afternoon has been a vacation. Right after dinner, all the officers of the Battalion had a game of ball which was something entirely different from anything these French people have ever seen, so we had quite a congregation, and also lots of fun. We laid out a diamond in an old pasture. I was umpire and believe me the decisions were rotten as I had to keep the score tied at all costs. When the game was over we all came into town and had a bottle of French beer. This is a much lighter beer than our American beer and I think corresponds to our 'near-beer.' Anything heavier is forbidden to be sold to American soldiers and unlike North Dakota, there are no bootleggers.

As I am writing this, I am also playing the phonograph. Believe me, that is the pride of the 3rd Battalion and is on the go all the time. Music is sure wonderful stuff to keep one's spirits up. Not that my spirits are low, but I like the music.

Right now I'm as happy as a lark all the time. It's a wonderful feeling to be back after being away from the organization for five weeks. We have a wonderful mess here. It is quite extensive, taking about half my present income, but it is sure good. This is the only town in France I have been in where there were not ten women to one man. It's a great little town, a little larger than Des Lacs, but a town I think that must be 2,000 years old. There are old buildings with loop holes in the walls to shoot at outlaws and as a matter of fact I don't suppose there have been such things in the country for 500 years. Last night I had some of that instant coffee with real sweet cream and sugar. Believe me it was good. Lieut. Olson, a First Lieutenant in my company, had a cup with me and by a vote of 2 to 1, we pronounced it the best we had had in France."

(Lieut. Olson referred to was the Lieut. Olson from Hillsboro, N. D., who met death in action since Lieut. Blaisdell wrote the above letter.)

Says Kaiser's Troops Will Learn Undreamed of Things.

Christ Demopoulos, of the Valet Cleaning plant of Minot, who left in the draft for Camp Dodge, Ia., recently, writes the Independent an interesting letter as follows:

We came on the 3rd inst., and joined Co. K, 3rd Bat., 168 Depot Brigade. Our officers are just dandy people and the location and climate are much better than we expected. The water is fine—plenty of feed but strict rules, no wasting, but milk and sugar mighty scarce at the present time. We have not been given our uniforms. Quite a few of the boys got sick on account of the inoculation and vaccination. We all suffered from it more or less. We would be mighty thankful if that was all. We haven't had much training yet. Hundreds upon hundreds coming in and those who are trained are shipped out just as fast. Oh, I am just as positive as I am alive that when these troops get to France, the Kaiser's troops will see something that they never dreamed of seeing. We are all quarantined in our quarters just now and will be for two weeks longer. We are not allowed to visit other camps nor the Y. M. C. A. or K. C. clubs. About 45,000 soldiers are in this camp now. There are never less than 40,000. I know that from good authority."

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Canadians Display German Trophies.

Members of The Volunteer Co., the company of returned Canadian soldiers, who appeared at the Hippodrome Wednesday night, displayed a rare exhibit of German trophies which they captured while on the field of battle. These were on exhibition for two days in the window of the Temple Court pool room and attracted much attention. The Canadians were not very particular what they took away from Fritz. The exhibit consisted of some Prussian belts, on the buckles of which were engraved the words "Gott Mit Uns;" a brilliantly decorated German pipe; shrapnel bullets and pieces of shells; shrapnel helmets and artillerymen's helmet; German, English and French bullets; British gas mask; marble from the cathedral of Rheims; German cigarette case; tassel from officer of the Prussian Guard; German mess knife and fork, etc.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Benno Boys are Hustlers.

Leslie and Arthur Benno, who are doing some extensive farming out on the Berthold reservation, have 700 or 800 acres of wheat and rye already in the ground and plan on putting in a solid section to flax. They will have in better than 2,000 acres of crop. This week's rain has made conditions very rosy for them. They are using two tractors and horses for seeding. Lee Benno, who has charge of his father's farm southwest of the city, has seeded several hundred acres.

Donnybrook Store Robbed.

H. J. Schmidt's general store at Donnybrook was burglarized last Thursday morning between the hours of 12 and 1 a. m. About 35 men's suits, valued at from \$20 to \$30 were taken. There is no clue to the burglars, tho the sheriff has been notified and has sent cards out over the northwest. Sheriff Nedreole offers a reward of \$100 for the arrest and conviction of the guilty parties.

It appears the burglars drove into town in an automobile. They entered the store by breaking open a window in the rear of the building. Mr. Schmidt heard a man in the store but that it was one of his clerks arriving home.

The coat hangers have been found in a railroad culvert five miles south of Carpio, but here all traces of the burglars is lost.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

George S. Reishus Announces His Candidacy.

George S. Reishus, who served the 20th legislative district as representative during the past two years, announces in this week's issue his candidacy for re-nomination.

Mr. Reishus proved two years ago that he is a vote-getter. He has a wide acquaintance throughout Ward county and will ask for renomination on his record during the past two years.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Sergt. Vandenoever on Furlough.

Sergt. Justin Vandenoever arrived from Camp Dodge, Ia., Friday and is spending a week's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vandenoever. He will return Friday, accompanied by Joe Frank, who has enlisted in the service of his country. Justin is assisting in the training of recruits and looks as the army life is agreeing with him perfectly.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Pretty Milk Maid School Teacher.

Miss Coulter, the enterprising and efficient teacher of the Tasker school, was a Minot visitor Saturday. Miss Coulter assists about the farm work at the place where she boards, and helps milk the cows and drive them to and from the pasture and the other day when the hired man quit to enlist she hitched the team to the school bus and went after the pupils. She goes after them each morning and drives them home at night. Just to keep her hand in she has organized a Junior Red Cross society at Tasker and already the young folks have made a number of articles for the Red Cross. The Tasker school boys are said to be the best knitters in that community and it's a safe bet they'll do anything for the bright and cheerful little teacher who is helping them to "make the world better." Miss Coulter is from Williston and if Williams county has any more such as she it would pay the school boards of Imperial Ward to go scouting around for applicants out Williston way.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Colonel McVey Will Speak Here Saturday.

Colonel McVey, commandant at the University of North Dakota, will deliver an address at the Grand Theatre Saturday afternoon at 4:20 o'clock and another address in the evening at the Grand. His evening address will follow the Red Cross sale. Both addresses will be of a patriotic nature and the Colonel is a splendid speaker.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

A. P. SCOFIELD CANDIDATE FOR SHERIFF

Prominent Minot Businessman Makes Announcement This Week—Has a Host of Friends Who Will Support Him.

A. P. Scofield, one of Ward county's most prominent citizens, has made his announcement for the republican candidacy for sheriff of Ward county, at the June primaries.

Mr. Scofield was sheriff of Ward county away back in 1902 and he made a first class record in every way. He has resided in Ward county for the past twenty-eight years, and for the past twenty-two years has resided in Minot, where he has been engaged in various enterprises.

For twelve years he has been a member of the Minot school board and for several years has held the position of police commissioner for the city of Minot. In all of these various offices he has given a mighty good account of himself.

Mr. Scofield is a man who possesses a host of friends in all sections of Ward county and he is a candidate to be reckoned with.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Renville Farmers Receive \$96,901.00 in Drouth Settlement.

The farmers of Renville county have made a final settlement with the National Union Fire Insurance Co. of Pittsburgh, for \$96,901.00 in the 120 drouth cases. The money has all been paid to the various farmers and they are a happy lot for the money comes in mighty handy. E. R. Sinkler, Minot attorney, who had charge of the cases for these farmers, received a mighty nice fee, which runs well up into five figures.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

May Kill Hens After April 19.

The government has issued an order that after April 19, hens may again be butchered. The order forbidding the killing of hens went into effect some months ago.

F. C. UPTON SAW PARIS SHELLED BY BIG GUN

Minot Man Returns From France, Telling Thrilling Experiences—Says French Expected Retreat.

F. C. Upton, of the Minot Motor Sales Co., who for the past five months has been in France and England in the interest of an exporting firm engaged in the sale of farm tractors to the governments of the warring countries, returned Wednesday evening, accompanied by Mrs. Upton, who had gone to New York to meet him upon his arrival in America. F. C. is looking hale and hearty and despite the restricted diet imposed upon residents in Europe at this time his girth has increased quite materially and an enormous camouflage mustache has so disguised his features that even his closest friends pass him upon the street without recognition. Mr. Upton's return just at this time, when all thoughts are centered upon the terrific battles of Picardy and the fact that Mr. Upton has personally visited many of the scenes of that struggle, makes his observations of unusual interest to the public.

In speaking of the outcome of the war, Mr. Upton says there is no question as to its ultimate end. The allies will win, but this year will not see the terrible Hun vanquished. He says if any one doubts the righteousness of the Allied cause he should go to France and be convinced. He saw but three of the Minot boys in France. Chas. Clويد, formerly with the Stone-Orden-Wells Co., and C. G. Kinney, formerly custodian of the K. P. Home in Minot, he met in Paris. Martin Nelson, formerly with the I. H. C. he saw "somewhere in France" driving a motor ambulance. He visited Toul prior to its occupation by the Allied forces. He says that it is an important city and has great historical associations. At Avignon in southern France he saw an immense fortress, the strongest in France, which was built in the 13th century. He was in London during three air raids and upon several occasions when alarms were sounded, but the Boche planes were stopped by barrage or headed off by allied planes. He was in Paris when three air raids occurred. He was there when the Germans first began their bombardment of the city from a distance of 75 miles. The gun began firing Saturday, March 23, and that day fired 24 shells. The next day 24 more came along and on the following day but three. It was later learned that the gun had burst, killing five of the operatives. The bombardment was resumed three days afterwards.

Speaking of the big German gun shelling Paris, Mr. Upton said that at first the people of Paris could not figure out where the shells were coming from. The bombardment took place in the day time. Scouting planes were sent up to see if the shells could possibly be dropped from some sort of an aeroplane. The French got busy, and within a short time had made an actual photograph of the big gun from an aeroplane and the Paris papers were out at three o'clock that afternoon telling all about it. Mr. Upton was standing within 200 yards of a large building which was struck by one of the shells thrown by the big gun. He says that by the time the shell arrives its force is almost spent and the greatest damage done by this shell is from the explosive it contains. The shell is 9 1/2 inches in diameter with a three inch casing, giving a 3 1/2 inch chamber for explosives. The French estimated that the shell has to be thrown 20 miles high in order to travel 76 miles.

He was in Paris the first nine days of the Battle of Picardy, as the first great German drive was called, leaving Paris on the morning of the 28th. His knowledge of conditions was obtained direct from soldiers and the wounded returning from the battlefield and from Red Cross workers. He talked with American soldiers who participated in the Cambria drive. There were two wounded men who had been fighting along side the British. One was from Oklahoma and one from Indiana. The former had a foot shot off and the Hoosier had had a broken leg. One of these boys in replying to a question as to how the Americans fight said that he saw an American soldier when surrounded by the enemy turn upon his captors and kill two of them with a spade before they "got him." Mr. Upton, asked if he knew personally any details as to the losses on our side in the Battle of Picardy, said that he knew nothing except as he was told by a fellow traveler on the trip home. His informant was a bishop and his duties as an attaché of the Y. M. C. A. necessitated his visiting the front line trenches at frequent intervals. This man told Mr. Upton that upon the third day of the battle he stopped at a house where 28 American soldiers had dead ranged side by side awaiting burial and he asked one of the attendants what toll the Americans exacted in return and the young soldier pointed toward a ridge and said with significance, "Go up there and you will find over 400 dead Germans."

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

He said that he had no opportunity to see any of the atrocities at first

hand but got his information direct from eye-witnesses and had the names and addresses of his informants if any chose to verify his statements. He says that the current reports are not exaggerated in the least, in fact, that words cannot picture acts more horrible than those perpetrated by the Huns.

He says that when an air raid takes place the populace become panic stricken but that the damage from a military viewpoint is negligible.

He visited one camp where 10,000 American aviators were quartered. There were eight fields in the camp and the planes used are all of the French make. He brot back parts from a wrecked plane and has a very interesting assortment of plane parts to exhibit to his friends. The engines in the French planes are what are known as the Le Rhone rotary motors and are of from 80 to 120 h. p. Mr. Upton saw four Boche planes brot down in a recent raid on Paris. They were immense machines and each was equipped with two six-cylinder motors and carried four passengers. These machines were placed on exhibition at the Invalides of Paris where a park containing 18 acres is covered with war machines, representing the various makes from the time of the invention of the first cannon in the 12th century. The German planes do not contain rotary motors. They are crudely constructed and he noticed that one of these had its "spread" made from ordinary two by fours. These machines had a "spread" of 88 1/2 feet while the "spread" of the French is around 60 feet. He saw no Zeppelins in operation but at the Invalides there are several on exhibition. He says the effect produced by a bomb is terrible. He was an eye-witness to the destruction of several buildings. One of these, the John Bull building in London, was bombed late at night. This building is owned by one of the leading London newspapers and when the alarm was given hundreds had rushed into the basement of the building to escape the rain of shrapnel and bombs. A bomb fell upon the back of the building, killing 100 and injuring 169. He says it is stated on reliable authority that more fatalities result from the shrapnel which is sent up in barrage and falls upon the people than results directly from the bombs of the enemy planes.

While interviewing Mr. Upton our representative lighted his cigar with a cigar lighter made from a French shell case which bore the imprint of the French munition manufacturer. This led to a remark from Mr. Upton to the effect that matches were practically unobtainable in France and that these lighters are in common use. He said that matches, butter and sugar were the only necessities that were really scarce in France. Tobacco, he said, are limited in supply but there seemed to be sufficient to meet the requirements. There is no lack of meats or bread. The bread is war bread, of course, excepting some white bread which was served during a visit to the American camps he enjoyed no white bread during his stay abroad.

In speaking of the morale of the French people Mr. Upton said "The French people of every rank are determined to fight to the finish whatever the cost, and the British are as equally determined." The soldiers are being protected from evil influences in so far as it is possible. In no single instance did he see a case of drunkenness. While war is degrading as a business and inculcates the more evil tendencies of man, yet, generally speaking, the soldiers are being kept from the baser influences to a marked degree.

Mr. Upton says that the French were not at all surprised that the retreat was necessary along the line attacked by the Huns. This, he said, was a part of the program arranged by the Allies in case that they could get the Germans to attack first.

Mr. Upton says that in talking with the French people one might get the impression that they are tired of the war, but that if you put the question up to them point blank, they all declare emphatically that they would not think of accepting such terms as the Germans might give at this time, preferring to fight to the last man. "We'll still fight if the Huns should happen to drive us as far as Spain," was a remark Mr. Upton frequently heard.

During his stay in France Mr. Upton had occasion to cross France eight times and consequently his travels brot him into contact with the people in every quarter. He demonstrated tractors to representatives of the Roumanian government and to the officials of the governments of Italy, France and England. The agricultural affairs of the republic are now under military control.

Mr. Upton says that southeastern France contains the most picturesque and beautiful scenery he ever beheld, especially in the vicinity of Grenoble, which lies in a beautiful valley surrounded by the snow capped peaks of the Alps. He says there is a marked contrast between conditions in France and conditions in England. In the

latter country the food conditions are very restricted, while in France food is plentiful. In England as in France, one sees immense numbers of soldiers preparatory to being sent to the front. He saw many thousands of American soldiers in France and talked with a number who were aboard the ill-fated Tuscania. He says the American soldier "stacks up fine" as compared with the soldiers of the Allies, and when one meets an American soldier he feels a sense of pride in his distinguished appearance.

He says the Allies entered the war with clean hands and with no thought or intention of resorting to gas or the bombing of helpless civilians, but that it soon became necessary to meet the Hun with his own weapons and use the same inhuman tactics that he employs. The old Mosaic law, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is now their motto. On account of the inhumanities practiced upon the Scottish Highlanders, he says that the doughty Scots take no prisoners and the Hun is fearfully aware of the fact.

He says there is a better feeling now among the Allies as to the part America is taking in the war and the aid she is rendering, and that at the present time and for the past four months there has probably been between 25,000 and 40,000 American soldiers sent across the Atlantic weekly. One party whom Mr. Upton talked with said that in conversation with General Bing upon a recent occasion he stated that there were around one million men of all classes in the American forces in France.

One privilege accorded Mr. Upton which he will long remember was a trip of 35 minutes duration in a French war plane in company with a French instructor. They ascended fully 3,000 feet and despite the fact that the novice usually becomes nauseated when reaching the higher altitudes, he experienced no discomforts. He was strapped to the machine and if he had had an inclination to leap from the machine he could not have done so, and they landed safely after a particularly enjoyable trip. They traveled at a speed of 120 miles per hour while in flight.

Some samples of English grown wheat which Mr. Upton brought back indicates that the English variety resembles our macaroni wheat very closely.

Mr. Upton says a strange sensation creeps over one when he reaches the submarine zone in crossing the Atlantic these days; he knows he is 1600 miles from land if he starts back and 5 1/2 miles if he heads downward. His trip, however, both in going and coming, was without incident with the exception of a fierce storm which assailed them upon the return voyage when he gave a reverse exemplification to Jonah's famous act.

He says that his trip has left an indelible impression upon his mind that time can never efface and that war and its attendant consequences leaves one with a feeling of dread as he thinks of the appalling suffering and misery entailed upon those directly engaged in it.

Rev. Clifford of the First M. E. church has arrangements under way for Mr. Upton to give an account of his trip before his congregation next Sunday evening.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

ANOTHER RED CROSS SALE SATURDAY

Minot Folks Asked to Turn Out Enmasse—Will Take Place on Main Street.

Saturday's Red Cross sale held on the vacant lot opposite the city hall, was a success, the proceeds amounting to \$405.00.

The farmers responded liberally with poultry, and other products of the farm, and these together with merchandise contributed by the Minot merchants, afforded a big array of useful things that made bidding brisk.

The farmers turned out to the sale better than the town folks, and this is to be regretted. But this is not the last sale and it is hoped that the next one, which will be held on Main street Saturday evening, will be attended by several thousand Minot folks as well as by many of the farmers.

The money all goes to the Ward County Red Cross chapter and here is your chance to help.

The auctioneer Saturday was Geo. A. State, who made a fine record. Mr. State knows about every man, woman and child in this section of the county.

C. A. Grow and Fred Ward, members of the committee in charge of the sale, have done some effective work.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Orlando Brown Will Have 800 Acres of Crops.

Orlando Brown, bonanza farmer from east of the city, was in Minot Tuesday rejoicing over the fine rain. He will have in 800 acres of grain by the end of the seeding season, so why shouldn't he smile. He has 260 acres of winter rye, besides 200 acres of wheat seeded. He will seed 180 acres more of wheat, 140 acres of oats, 40 acres of barley, some millet and will plant a 20-acre field to corn. He operated three outfits and says he has some leisure time once in a while.

MINOT SOLDIER DIED AT CAMP DODGE

Carl J. Boardson, Who Left With Recent Draft Quota, Passed Away From Pneumonia—Buried With Military Honors.

Carl J. Boardson, who had been employed as bookkeeper for the International Harvester Co. in this city for the past five years, passed away in a base hospital at Camp Dodge, Iowa, Thursday, April 11, after a short illness.

Mr. Boardson left Minot with the recent quota from the selective draft and upon his arrival at Camp Dodge was given the regulation military clothing and had started with his drill work. He had done office work all of his life, and it is believed that the sudden change from indoor occupations to strenuous physical out-of-door work, together with the inoculation, brot on his illness. He fell while on a hike and was taken to hospital. Within a day pneumonia developed and he died within three days after being taken ill.

The funeral was held at Warren, Minn., Monday, April 15. E. A. Geer, manager of the collection department of the International Harvester Co., under whom Mr. Boardson worked for the past eleven years, attended the funeral. The remains were interred at Warren with full military honors. A Corporal from Camp Dodge had accompanied the remains to Warren. Eight members of the Crookston Home Guard with an officer, all in uniform and with arms, attended the funeral, in addition to several other soldiers who were home on furlough. A large number of old-time friends paid their last tribute of respect to the departed soldier.

Mr. Boardson was born on a farm near Warren, Minn., and was thirty years and one month old when he died. He had been employed by the I. H. C. for eleven years and was regarded very highly by the company. He was considered an expert accountant and was one of the company's most faithful employees. He was inclined to be a little reticent, but when once one really knew Mr. Boardson, he was found to be a young man of high ideals and a splendid gentleman in every way.

He leaves a father and three brothers.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

WAR PICTURES COMING.

The famous war pictures are now coming to Minot. The State Council of Defense has made arrangements with the Minot Sunday School Association to show the pictures at the Lyceum Theatre on Monday and Tuesday, April 29 and 30.

These pictures are of great interest at this time as they show in detail some of the things the army and navy are actually doing. One of the interesting reels shows the submarine in action. This is the only picture of its kind which the government has permitted to be shown. The idea is to let the people know what is to be done with the money they are furnishing the government through the Liberty Bond sales and what our fine boys are doing to prepare to make the world safe for democracy.

The proceeds of the pictures will go to the war work of the State Council of Defense and to the fund for furnishing a Bible for every soldier.

This last fund is handled by the American Bible Society, an organization instituted in 1816, and which has for more than a century been in the work of distributing Bibles to those who need them. They did this work during the civil war. They are doing the work now through the Y. M. C. A. which is furnished Testaments to give to each man who does not have one of his own. Every person in Minot should see the pictures.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

W. S. Shaw Returns From Father's Funeral.

W. S. Shaw has returned from Silex, Mo., where he was called by the sudden death of his father, James K. Shaw, aged 79 years. His father had resided on the old Missouri farm for more than 50 years, which he bought shortly after the close of the Civil war. His father was the last of a family of seven brothers and he had served with the Army of the North in the Civil war for three years and nine months, being wounded three times. Several of his brothers fought on the side of the South.

His father had been ailing for some time, but was in no worse condition than usual and had been preparing to make a trip to town for some special bone fertilizer. Early that morning, however, he suffered a heart attack and passed away. He had often joked with the undertaker in his town and remarked frequently that he had managed to keep the undertaker from getting his hands on a considerable sum of money. Mr. Shaw had selected his own casket, his shroud and his pall bearers and had looked after all of his own funeral arrangements, which were carried out to the letter.

—BUY A LIBERTY BOND—

Father Died at Madison, Minn.

John Schule, aged 88 years, father of Mrs. John Malinowski of this city, passed away Tuesday morning at 5:30 o'clock at his home near Madison, Minn. Mrs. Malinowski was at his bedside when death came.