

**The Co-Operative News**  
"Each For All, And All For Each"

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**U. S. SERGEANT MUST SERVE THIRTY YEARS**

CAMP DEVENS, Mass.—Sergt. Ernest Flentje of Cambridge, Mass., was today sentenced to serve 30 years in the military prison at Fort Jaw, N. Y., following a court-martial trial for unpatriotic remarks. Referring to the national army, it is alleged he said: "If the German army ever saw this bunch they would laugh themselves to death."

When a drill sergeant is confronted with the task of making competent soldiers out of awkward, stiff-legged, hump-backed recruits in a third of the usual time he can be expected to break out occasionally with some such remark as the one reported. The boys who have drilled under him, and who become acquainted with him around camp, no doubt know that he is not a German spy and the imposition of such an outrageous sentence on him will plant in the hearts of his acquaintances the seeds of resentment is not of rebellion.

If the boy were Pro-German it is not likely that he would have taken enough interest in military work to have become a Sergeant. The fact that the Court-martial laid on a 30-year sentence is further proof that the Military caste of this country is drunk with power and somewhat unbalanced. Are they riding to a fall?

**CAMP LIFE**

The following interesting letter is from a soldier at a Training Camp;

Dear Daddy:

I suppose you have not felt like writing lately so will not wait for a reply to my last letter. We have been here at Camp Hancock since the 29th of Dec., and I feel that in that time I have learned much that will be of value to me after the war, and a great deal of value to me during the war. I have my first feeling of regret to experience yet in regard to my enlistment. I often wonder how it will seem to be camped beneath those European stars, going about the daily mess, knowing that just a few miles beyond, human Devils are raging and tearing at each others throats and that any moment a flying thing may drop a bucket full of Lydite or Dynamite into your coffee, and Daddy, if I ever get back I am sure going to try a little of the mental dynamite dropping myself; and I am not the only one wearing the khaki who feels that way. Yesterday I was talking to a lad who was drafted from the state of New York, a personal friend of Meyer London. He is a red of the real human type; he joined the Party in 1915. He was so tickled to meet a Western Red that he almost wept. In this mess there is not a lad

but what I have talked to, and at least half of them see the reason. Even my captain and I have locked horns, and if he wasn't such a good Methodist he would be a Red too. He has two babies at home and it is beginning to worry him like Sam Hill. The funny part of it is Uncle Sam is not extending any more courtesy to his Captains than he is to his privates. And now, when an army goes into battle the officers say: "Come on boys," and must lead his men. Whereas, they used to believe that the boys should go first. Heading a bunch of Yanks into a well drilled Hun army is no fool's dream—not much like charging down the football field with the crowd yelling and the grandstand looking on. It's getting their goat, dad, and more than one of them are beginning to wonder who may pay.

This war won't be the end of Socialism, neither is it going to exterminate the working class. I think Pierpont and John D. are both rather in bad and will soon find that it does not pay to buy second hand goods, even when they are trading in wars. Of course, we are going to win it for them. But when we have done that they are going to be disappointed in their investment.

Now, I am going to tell you a few facts about army life that you don't read in the capitalist press. I take Camp Hancock and Augusta as an example. Camp Hancock is located 5 miles from Augusta. There are in Augusta about sixty thousand people. Every hour of the day auto busses are flying from one place to the other and the roar of their gas engines make the night hideous. There are located in Camp Hancock about 18,000 of Pennsylvania Infantrymen. To accomodate their sexual desires six hundred Pennsylvania lassies were imported by only the Devil knows whom. Some are married to the boys in khaki but candidly admit that they cannot possibly keep straight for they had only known their husbands a week or so before wedlock (and I guess some of them would need to be introduced to their hubby if they were to meet him on the street.) Result, well we have in the army hospital department what is known as "Prophylactics," vulgarly called "anti-syph treatment." When our brave boy returns from an evening with his made-to-order wife he gets his for failure to report for medical treatment is punishable by courtmartial—result again—nine out of ten of our best blood and youth are taking the headlong tobogan into Hell. There are, living in Augusta, over fifteen hundred of these dirty vampires, and I know that they are the best ally the Kaiser has in America. Morality is scoffed at, and yet we have the members of all creeds, from the Jew to the shouting Methodist. The Y. M. C. A. is filled to overflowing and in their camp alone, there are dozens of them. The Knights of Columbus is as well patronized, but all fail to stop the headlong rush into pedition. Thus far it has been the crazy Socialists and the ranting I. W. W. who were keeping a cool head and more and more I am convinced it takes real grey matter to make a Socialist. Also, if I fail utterly in the work I have attempted, I will have the sat-

isfaction of knowing that I did not lay down on the job.

Well, I must close, etc.,  
Affectionately, J. K.

**FAMINE AND TYPHUS IN PERSIA, IS REPORT**

WASHINGTON—Conditions in Persia are described as desperate in a dispatch to the state department Tuesday from the American legation at Teheran. Famine is increasing and typhus, the message said, is prevalent in most of the cities. The food shortage, the legation reported, has forced the population to eat dogs and even practice cannibalism.

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**CIVILIZATION**

(Continued From Page One)

primeval man, would either permit or allow the young of their day and age to be enslaved or starved. When did the wild uncouth and barbarous cave dweller ever look upon the white lips and pallid face of a starving infant and be content to let that condition prevail in quietude and self complacency? Never. No tread-mills were erected for the feet of infants nor any cry of hunger from a child remain unanswered. Childhood, youth, was at least free and had life in abundance according to their primitive needs in a savage society. It is left to their descendants the cultured and refined of this day and age of so called Christian civilization to see not one child but many thousands, even millions practically starving to death in a land of plenty. The world lies at our feet a priceless legacy to all mankind. Light, air, water and soil—these gifts of the Creator combined with the brain and brawn of the working class can produce enough and more ten-fold than all the people can possibly use or consume. Think then of the undernourished and starving children—of the myriads of little ones suffering for the want of clothes, food and decent and habitable homes in which to live. When I think of these things I believe that around the footsteps of every child on earth an invisible Goddess hovers with the scales of Justice in her hands, woe be unto those who are responsible for these conditions for the malefactors of the earth, when the clock strikes the hour and Justice demands an even balance on the scales. A civilization which destroys the young of its race will either change its methods or perish. That system of society which does not conserve the health and happiness—the very lives of all its children is doomed

to inevitable extinction. It would be well for that small class, surfeited with the good things of life who are sitting on top of a mountain of wealth so high up they can easily discern the sordid misery and human degradation beneath them to read again and again, many times if necessary the story of Dives and Lazarus and to remember also this warning which comes to them across the abyss of twenty centuries. In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me.

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