

The AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

WILL WRITE POST'S HISTORY

Rupert Hughes, Author, Will Chronicle Happenings to Members of Robert Stowe Gill Body.

The history of one American Legion post will be written by no less a figure than Rupert Hughes. With an eye to his versatile pen, members of the Robert Stowe Gill post of the Legion in New York, have made the author their historian. The membership of the post is made up entirely of members of the Lamb's club—writers and actors for the most part.



"Long in time and short in importance" is the way Mr. Hughes describes his military career. As a matter of fact he was a fairly important soldier. He started as a private in the Seventh regiment in 1897. Ten years later he was offered a lieutenant colonelcy, which he did not accept. He served on the Mexican border as a captain, and only deafness kept him from service abroad during the World war. During the raising of troops in New York he served as adjutant general, where his deafness was an asset rather than a liability with the pacifists tooting their tin whistles, and then he became a captain in the intelligence service, being just as intelligent when deaf as when sharp of hearing.

"I joined the Legion," Mr. Hughes wrote, "because I believe in its principles and I believe it to be one of the most important organizations in the country." Mr. Hughes has recently come into public notice for his stand against censorship.

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HIGH ON LEGION HONOR ROLL

Minnesota Newspaper Man Wrote 3,236 Personal Letters to "Home" Workers During World War.

One of the world's most enthusiastic letter writers is M. W. Grimes, editor of the Le Sueur (Minn.) News. For his remarkable service as "self-appointed correspondent" during the war, he stands high on the honor roll of the Minnesota department of the American Legion. Le Sueur and vicinity sent 280 men and seven women to the colors. Editor Grimes sat down and wrote them 3,236 personal letters while they were away from home, an average of one letter a month for each fighter or nurse. In addition he mailed a copy of the hometown paper to each of them every week. The letters were not the "Dear-Jim-I-remain-your-truly" variety; they contained the bits of "home gossip" and local color for which the doughboys were willing to give their last cigarette.



When the veterans returned, Editor Grimes assisted in the formation of a post of the American Legion and devoted an entire edition of the News to reproducing the pictures of every Le Sueur boy that had lost his life in the war.

AN EYE ON NEXT CONGRESS

Official Washington is Speculating on How Many Ex-Service Men Will Be Returned.

Official Washington is wondering how many ex-service men are to be returned to congress at the election next fall. Speculation is rife, with the bonus controversy at full tilt.

Veterans of the World war already have formidable strength in the house, 31 seats being occupied by former service men, according to a canvass by the American Legion. The senate has two veterans—Senator Newberry of Michigan, and Senator Elkins of West Virginia. Twenty-one states are represented by ex-service men in congress, New York leading with four, Massachusetts and Tennessee being second with three each.

Far-sighted persons have hazarded the opinion that when the votes are counted in November, it will be found that the number of ex-soldiers in the house has been materially increased.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR APRIL 2

ASA RELIES ON GOD

LESSON TEXT—II Chronicles 14-15. GOLDEN TEXT—Help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on Thee.—II Chron. 14:11. REFERENCE MATERIAL—II Chron. 14:13-14; Isa. 41:10-12. PRIMARY TOPIC—A King Who Trusted God. JUNIOR TOPIC—God Helping Asa. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—A Ruler Who Relied on God. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Source of Personal and National Power.

I. Asa's Reformation (vv. 1-5). Asa was the grandson of Behoboam. Both his grandfather and father favored idolatry, but in spite of this record of his ancestors, Asa had a will of his own, and though young when he came to the throne, inaugurated a campaign of reform which brought great good. He not only had the handicap of the idolatry and immortality fostered by the two former kings, but he had to contend against the influence of his mother who had encouraged immoral worship (I Kings 15:13). In order to carry out his reformatory measures he had to wrest authority from her by deposing her. Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord (v. 2).

1. Cleared the land of idolatrous emblems and images (vv. 3, 5). (1) Strange altars. These were the altars devoted to other gods. (2) High places. These were places where unlawful sacrifices were offered. (3) Broke down the images. These were upright stones connected with idolatrous worship. (4) Cut down the groves. These were trees or poles connected with tree worship. He had all these relics of idolatry destroyed in Jerusalem and other cities throughout his kingdom.

2. Commanded Judah to seek the Lord (v. 4). He knew that if the reformation was to be effective it must be by the positive seeking after and worshiping of God, accompanied by obedience to His commandments. Destructive work avails little unless followed by constructive.

II. Asa's Defensive Preparations (vv. 6-8).

1. Built fortified cities (v. 6). The cities are not named, but the meaning, doubtless, is that it was a general system of defense which involved the cities at strategic points.

2. He erected walls about the cities (v. 7). These were usually of stone. Upon the walls were observation towers from which the position and movements of the enemy could be seen, and from which defensive warfare could be waged.

3. Made gates and barred them (v. 7). The reason he assigns for these defensive preparations was that they had sought the Lord God. Those who really trust God will make every effort to provide defense.

4. Had an army of spearmen (v. 8). These spearmen were also protected with large shields. The army was made up of 480,000 brave men. They were prepared to wage an offensive as well as a defensive war.

III. Asa's Victory Over Zerah, the Ethiopian (vv. 9-12).

1. Asa set the battle in array (v. 10). He went out to meet the enemy, his first made a disposition of his means of defense. This was wisdom on his part. Intelligent faith moves the possessor to do first that which is within his power.

2. Asa's prayer (vv. 11, 12). He cried unto the Lord. He sought the source of national power. In this prayer note (1) his conscious helplessness. As he faced the Egyptian army two to one against him, he was clearly conscious of his impotency. The first requisite in obtaining help from God is conscious weakness. The Christian conquers not by self-reliance, but by self-distrust and faith in God. (2) Appeals to God for help. He knew that though they were helpless before the mighty enemy, with God's help they could win the victory. One man with God is a majority. (3) Reposes faith in God. The word "rest" means to lean upon—to cast the entire weight upon. In the measure that we realize our need of support will we lean hard upon God. (4) Advanced courageously. He went forth depending upon God to fight for him. Real faith does not wait until it sees its way clear, but goes forth expecting God to clear the way. (5) Flung himself upon God's arms. "O Lord, thou art our God." His cause was God's cause. If God has taken us for His people, and if we have taken Him for our God, no enemy can prevail against us. May we experimentally say, "Thou art my God," and hear Him say, "I am thy God!"

3. The Egyptians smitten (v. 12). The enemy fled before Israel and could not recover themselves.

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