

Humorous Department

His Life's Mystery.—There is a man in Bozeman, Mont., who will probably go through life bewailing the injustice of the draft board that certified him for service, despite the fact that he presented a letter written by his wife to prove that he had a dependent family. Here is the letter:

"Dear United States army: My husband has not to write a recommendation that he supports his family. He just takes him. He ain't no good to me. He ain't done nothing but play a fiddle and drink lemonade since I married him, eight years ago, and I got to feed seven kids of his. Maybe you can get him to carry a gun. He's good on squirrels and rats." Take him and welcome. I need the grub and his bed for the kids. Don't tell him this but take him. —New York Tribune.

A Sporting Compromise.—A canny Scot owned a wonderful hound. It was reported no dog could tackle him. However, a friend of his had a dog he proposed to back against the hound and a match was made for two months' time. As the time drew near there were rumors that the Scot was not right with the dog, and the Scot's friends were making sure victory for him.

Imagine their surprise and disgust when they heard that McTavish had accepted \$50 as a compromise in lieu of the £100.

"You've been done, Mac," said one of them. "That dog is so many and unfit he could kill a rat."

"Ah, ah!" said McTavish. "I dare say, but my hound is dead." —London Globe.

And Don't Swear.—Reuben bought an evening tie, and wishing to be immaculate, asked the shop-assistant to tell him the correct way to tie it. "Well, sir," said the obliging assistant, "you hold the tie in your left hand and your collar in the other. Slip your neck in the collar and cross the left-hand end of the tie over the right, with the left hand, steady the right end with the other hand. Then drop both ends, catching the left with the right and the other with the left. Reverse hands and pick up the loose end with the right hand. Pull this end through the loop with your unfused hand and squeeze. You will find the bow tie and all you have to do is to disentangle your hands." —Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Well, You Try It!—The day was drawing to a close. Judges, jurors, witnesses, and lawyers all were growing weary. Counsel for the prosecution was cross examining the defendant.

"Exactly how far is it between the two towns?" he asked at length.

For some time Paddy stood thinking, then, "About four miles are the cry flows," came the answer.

"You mean 'as the flow cries'?" corrected the man of law.

The judge leaned forward. "No," he remarked suavely, "he means 'as the fly crows'."

And then all looked at one another, feeling that something was wrong somewhere. —Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

A Truthful Scot.—A lawyer was examining a Scottish farmer. "You'll affirm that when this happened you were going home to a meal. Let us be quite certain on this point, because it is a very important one. He good enough to tell me, sir, with as little 'You would like to know what meal it was you were going home to'?"

"Prevarication as possible, what meal it was?" said the Scotsman.

"Yes, sir; I should like to know," replied the counsel, sternly and impressively. He sure to tell the truth."

"Well, then, it was just oatmeal," —Rochester Times.

Dad Was Wise.—When the conversation turned to the subject of romantic marriage this little anecdote was volunteered by H. M. Asker, a North Dakota politician.

"So you were married ten years ago. Two places in the church, I suppose, with bridesmaids, flowers, cake, and the brass band?"

"No; it was an elopement." "An elopement, eh? Did the girl's father follow you?"

"Yes, he has been with us ever since." —Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

His Real Accomplishment.—A little boy was on his knees recently one night, and, kneeling, praying at the house, was present.

"It is a pleasure," she said to him, afterward, "to hear you say your prayers so well. You speak so earnestly and seriously, and mean what you say, and care about it."

"Ah," he answered, "ah, but, auntie, you should hear me gargle!" —Tit-Mis.

His Precocity.—"Ah, what a bright little fellow!" admiringly said the look-alike, gazing at Bearcat the four-year-old son of Gap Johnson.

"That's what he is!" proudly responded the lad's sire. "Why, poster, he can cuss down right as peart, right now, as I can."

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

Strange Animal In Considerable Variety.

SOMETIMES THEY ARE VERY USEFUL

But No Matter How Conscientious a Man May Be About Being Unwilling to Kill Wild Animals, His Fellow Soldiers Always Look Upon Him As Being Yellow.

(Passed by the Censor.)

Correspondence of The Yorkville Enquirer. Camp Sevier, October 19.—There's one species of man (?) here at Camp Sevier and at every other camp, and cantankerous over the country whom I have been intending to tell about for some time; but I haven't because I didn't have the heart. I have referred to C. O.'s. Those initials according to the army legend, stand for two things—commanding officers and conscientious objectors. It is concerning the latter I would say a little. I don't know how many there are in this camp. Maybe there are fifty and maybe there are more. I have talked to a few of them, and after those interviews I was filled to a feeling of pity and at the same time a sort of loathing and contempt for them. Some of them are really "conscientious" in their object of fighting; but most of them if I am any judge of human nature are just plain "Yellies." They go around camp with that half-frightened, tail-between-my-legs expression and carriage; they are careless in their dress and general appearance and they profess to be very religious. They usually stick by themselves, having little to do with red-blooded American soldiers and if they do happen to be in a crowd of fellows and that crowd or any member thereof, starts to talking about the terrors of Europe and expresses a wish to go over, and lets out a stream of peevish stuff because he hasn't yet got across, why the faces of those C. O.'s turn a kind of yellow color and they act like they have had a look at the valley of the shadow of death and are afraid something dreadful is going to happen.

I am more charitable toward them though, than are most of my fellow back privates who characterize them as "D— yellies" and "men without any hearts." It takes all kinds of men and people, though, to make up an army like this. Hence the C. O.'s.

Their work, though, and work pretty well. And they eat, my, but they eat. I watched one of these birds at breakfast this morning. He was a wee little bit of a dried up shrimp; not nearly so long as I. The breakfast was corn. There was grapefruit and zood flakes and milk and brains and eggs and a lot of other things. I was seated at the table across from him. On each side of him was a big husky Irishman, healthy red faced fellows with lots of hair on their chests and arms, and according to their authorities, could naturally eat twice as much as this little conscience-troubled fellow. But he gobbled up a mess full of chow and was back after "seconds" (that is a second helping) before all the firsts in the line were served. I wondered how a lad who ate as much as he does and who seemingly enjoyed eating for eating's sake, could conscientiously object to jabbing a bayonet or lodging an Enfield bullet in the hide of a Hun who would take all his chow away from him if he could.

There are conscientious objectors here of every variety and they belong to various and sundry crowds. I ran across one sometime ago who is a Seven Day Adventist or something of the sort, and he not only believes in keeping away from fighting; but he believes that Saturday is Sunday and Sunday isn't. At that time it was necessary to have an enlisted man work Sundays checking loads of manure which were being hauled by the government to a contractor. The lad who had the job, a little fellow from Savannah, did like the idea of working on Sunday checking manure. It was not because he was especially religious; but he had a girl around Paris mountain somewhere, and he made a kick as to how he would like to spend his Sundays with her. The commanding officer saw a way to please them both. He put the C. O. on the manure job on Sunday and gave him holiday on Saturdays. And the fellow with the girl on the mountain is now relieved on Sundays and spends the day with her, telling her what a time he has with her. When the girl is over. Thus C. O.'s are useful occasionally.

These conscientious objectors range from the doubtful ones who rapidly develop exacting consciences even while one waits, to a few who are so honest and so deeply sincere in their belief that they are willing to die for their faith. One of these men went to his commanding officer several nights ago and asked for a pass out of camp in order that he might attend to a matter of business. His officer told him that he could not grant a pass for that purpose; but if he would state on his application that he desired the pass for business or other reason, he would grant it. "But that would be lying," the conscientious one argued. "I thank you, sir; but I guess I won't go to prayer meeting." That conscientious objector is honest and sincere. If they were all like him, it would be different.

When Uncle Sam went to war in April a year ago he firmly declared his intention to giving all sincere conscientious objectors a square deal. As a consequence certain provisions were made whereby those who could give satisfactory proof that they were affiliated with a "well organized religious sect or organization organized and existing May 18, 1917," whose creed forbade any participation in war, could be exempted from strictly military service.

They dig ditches and are employed in construction work, and farms and the like. There have been instances in this camp where these fellows after being given tedious and disagreeable tasks to do, have quickly gotten rid of their consciences and been glad to go into line companies or any other branch of service in which the military authorities might see fit to place them.

Everybody at Camp Sevier has to put out. Loathing about any military camp is strictly tabooed. If a man stubbornly declines to drill and doesn't appear for duty in the alternative service to which he was assigned, he is given a pick and a shovel and ordered to keep busy. Further objections are met in a way that does not permit of argument when the doors of the guardhouse open to him. There he may be left from a few days to a month. He has ample time to debate the matter in his own mind.

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At the government's request in order to insure prompt and uniform enforcement of the statute, the United States supreme court agreed Monday, to expedite proceedings involving interpretations of the law prohibiting transportation of intoxicating liquors into dry states and fixed December 7 for hearing arguments. Lower court decisions have held the act does not prohibit transportation of liquor through dry states.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British armies in France has sent the following letter to the general commander of the American troops: "I wish to express to you personally and to all officers and soldiers serving under you, my warm appreciation of the very valuable assistance and gallant service rendered throughout the operations of the Fourth British Army. It does not need me to tell you that under heavy fighting of the last three weeks you have earned the lasting esteem and admiration of your British comrades in the army whose successes you have so nobly shared."

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Without question, it is said, these avenues of supplying the advancing armies already are being opened to free the longer lines back into France of that burden and consequently officers cannot see any tactical advantage gained by the enemy unless he intends to fall back at least to the line of the Meuse.

The first stage of the great retreat is almost complete. The German right flank has been swung back like a gate all the way from Solesmes south of Valenciennes to the Dutch border. South of the pivot, however, there has been little change on the front from the Oise to the Meuse. It has been noted that the heavy concentration of forces at the Meuse-Oise-Serre front, and also the American pressure northwest of Verdun. Without question the retention of these lines unbroken was vital to the German plan of action. Now that the withdrawal in the north has progressed so fully, however, it would cause no surprise if a retirement between the Oise and the Serre were undertaken without delay to recapture the whole line.

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So far as the German peace overtures are concerned, army officers hold that manifestly it is the time of times for a new and crushing blow. With the hope of early peace being dashed before the eyes of the war-torn German troops their morale will be at its lowest, it was said, while to the Allied and American ranks the round about German admission of defeat can only have given new zeal for the fight.

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