



Veteran Dying in Talc Mill Dust Saved by The Legion

By BILL MELLETT

American Legion News Service Staff
Correspondent

WATERBURY, Vt., Jan. 00.—Roy Hunter's job in the talc mill here was choking him to death.

The "old bellows", already wheezy from a whiff of the poison gas floated over the American and allied trenches in 1917, were clogging up from the stifling dust.

It wasn't the best place for Hunter—the talc mill. He knew it. Every day he worked there took two off the other end of his life.

But—he had a family to support.

He choked up pretty badly one day and they took him home.

Then The American Legion heard about "the game guy who worked in the talc mill until he almost passed out."

"We'll fix that," said the Legionnaires, and they did.

Now Hunter has a four acre "farm", and he gets plenty of outdoor work and fresh air, while his kids romp.

Hunter's claim before the Veterans' Bureau was pushed by a Legion committee and he received a back compensation check for \$1,766 in addition to a permanent monthly compensation check of \$25.00.

Organize to Care for War Orphans of Entire Nation

By The American Legion News Service

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—The American Legion's organization for carrying out its national child welfare program is being rapidly extended into every community in the country, it was stated here today by National Adjutant Russell Creviston. Child welfare officers are now being appointed for the first time by every one of the 11,000 posts. This marks a further step in the Legion's child welfare organization, which has hitherto embraced national and department committees. The Auxiliary and the forty and eight co-operate in this work.

Post child welfare officers will, under the program outlined, contact all cases of orphans of veterans of the World War for the purpose of making sure that they are now being cared for and also of arranging care for them if they are not now receiving it. Every orphan of a veteran will be followed up until he reaches an age where he is capable of looking out for himself.

An exhaustive survey of the total number of orphans of veterans in the country, their present situation and the care they are receiving is projected. It will be made just as soon as the physical organization has been completed.

Posts which have not yet appointed their child welfare officers are urged to do so at once. This is especially important, it was pointed out, as guardianship officers of the United States Veterans' Bureau are seeking to make contact with them to assist them. In a letter to all guardianship officers of the bureau, Davis G. Arnold, assistant director of the control service of the bureau, said:

"In order that the United States Veterans' Bureau may be of the greatest assistance to The American Legion in its most humane campaign to provide a home for every orphan child of a World War veteran, the guardianship officers are instructed to contact the local chairman of the department committee in charge of this work."

ADVOCATES "MEMORY FORESTS"

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan.—National "memory forests" as the most enduring and practical memorials the nation can dedicate to its dead of the World War were advocated by P. O. Anderson, state silviculturist, in an address here.

Mr. Anderson, a World War veteran and a member of The American Legion, declared: "We of The American Legion were able to get first-hand information regarding what provision the older countries had made regarding their timber supply. Europe has commercial and municipal forests. A timber shortage is inevitable in this country unless reforestation is done widely—why not memory forests which will perpetuate the memory of our boys enduringly. . ."

The American Legion both in national and state conventions has pledged itself to a program of conservation and reforestation.

WANT CLEAR FINGERPRINTS

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—American Legion officials helping veterans fill out the federal adjusted compensation blanks have been urged by Veteran Bureau officials to take especial care in taking the fingerprints as the fingerprint record will be referred to twenty years hence. Clear, legible impressions are imperative, it is pointed out, for a botched job of fingerprinting might mean long delay when the time comes to award compensation through question of identity.

WANT ARMISTICE STATE HOLIDAY

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 00.—The Kansas Department of The American Legion will make a determined effort to have the coming legislature pass a bill which will make Armistice Day a state holiday. Kansas is one of the nine states that does not observe Armistice Day as a state holiday either by legislation or by proclamation. Little difficulty will be experienced in passing the bill, it is predicted.

For Immediate Release

Legion Shows Big Increase in Enrollment

Membership by January 1
Seven Times as Great as
in Any Previous Year in
History.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—The American Legion begins the year 1925 with the greatest pre-January paid up membership in its history.

Prior to January 1, just five times as many paid-up memberships had been received for 1925 at national headquarters as had ever been received in advance since the Legion's organization.

This statement was made by Frank Samuel, director of the Organization and Membership Division of the Legion, who said that figures compiled indicated an unprecedented total for this year.

At the end of 1924, 38,059 paid-up membership cards for 1925 were in the files at National Headquarters. The greatest previous membership enrollment reported at National Headquarters by January 1, was 7,802 for the year 1923. To start the year of 1924 the Legion had only 5,114 paid-up memberships.

Departments have also turned in a record for pre-January membership. Leading the list is the Department of Illinois, which had sent in 7,709 membership cards by January 1. Following in order with commendable membership records are the departments of Minnesota with 6,155; Kansas with 4,001; Florida with 3,999 and Michigan with 3,048. These figures represent only paid-up memberships at National Headquarters. The membership in individual departments surpasses these figures substantially but the cards have not been received at National Headquarters. For instance, records at Illinois department headquarters indicate a 10,000 membership on January 1.

Director Samuel commenting on the membership achievements for 1925 said: "The splendid membership record made by the Legion for the coming year can be attributed to the fact that this was the first year we organized nationally to get a big advance membership. Five factors were instrumental in the increase. Membership cards were sent out in October, much earlier than previously. The Membership Division furnished a statement of dues form so that members could be billed in a business-like way for their dues.

"National Headquarters offered Distinguished and Meritorious Citations for posts going over the top before January 1, 1925. The American Legion Weekly was offered in advance for those enrolling early. And finally these inducements were supplemented by unexcelled post and department effort, such as the membership contests between the Department of Florida and Connecticut, the Minnesota Membership War, etc. The pre-January membership this year presages the biggest membership by far that the Legion has ever had."

DELAWARE WAS THERE

WILMINGTON, Del., Jan. 00.—Walter L. Fox Post of The American Legion here vigorously objected by resolution to the further publication or dissemination of an alleged "inaccurate history reflecting upon the patriotism of Delaware men in the World War."

It was reported the history, entitled, "The Story of Delaware," written by Miss Katherine Pyle, and now appearing in serial form in a local newspaper, would be used in the public schools.

Exception was taken by the Legion to the statements: "In the whole army there was only one regiment made up entirely of Delaware men. For one reason or other it was not sent abroad until 1918 when the war was almost over. They never reached the front or took part in any fighting." Legionnaires maintain that Delaware men participated in the various engagements of the war from the battle of Château-Thierry to the end of the war.

A MAN MAY BE DOWN

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 00.—Resolutions were adopted by the executive committee of the Department of Idaho, American Legion, asking that all district judges, clerks and probate judges designate on all commitments of men sent to the penitentiary or insane asylum whether the men are former service men or not. This is being advocated nationally so the Legion may trace former service men.

The next legislature will be asked to prohibit Orientals from owning property in the state. The Legion also plans to ask that Armistice Day be proclaimed a legal holiday.

Cardinal O'Connell Donates to Legion Endowment Fund

Is First Member of Honorary Committee to Contribute to Movement—Trust Will Continue in Perpetuity—Organization Work Is Begun in Three States.

By H. C. SMITH

American Legion News Service Staff
Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—First among the members of the honorary committee for The American Legion Endowment Fund to contribute to the fund was Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston, according to an announcement made here today by National Adjutant Russell Creviston. Cardinal O'Connell is also one of the first persons to contribute.

Terms of the trust for the Endowment Fund are nearly completed. Under plans for it, Mr. Creviston said, it will be a trust in perpetuity. Long after the Legion has gone, the fund will bear the name of The American Legion Endowment Fund. It will be administered by organizations designated by a committee composed of the then President of the United States and other prominent persons.

Work of organization for the endowment movement is now under way in three states. They are Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. From these states the project will be gradually extended until it covers the entire nation.

As field secretaries left national headquarters of the Legion here to co-operate with department officers in the three states concerned, members of the staff at headquarters contributed to the fund the total of \$1,495. Officials pointed out that on this basis Legion and Auxiliary members alone would make up a fund of \$20,000,000.

Acceptances of membership on the honorary committee for the fund have just been received from John W. Davis of New York City, Democratic presidential nominee in 1924; Will H. Hays, of Los Angeles, movie czar; Bishop Charles Henry Brent, of Buffalo, New York, formerly chief of the chaplain service in the A. E. F.; William G. McAdoo, of Los Angeles, formerly secretary of the treasury; W. W. Atterbury, of Philadelphia, designated to be president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; John G. Price, of Columbus, Ohio, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks; James A. Flaherty, of New Haven, Connecticut, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus; Jesse H. Newlon, of Denver, Colorado, president of the National Education Association; Major General James G. Harbord, of New York City; Mrs. Medill McCormick, of Chicago; Miss Anne Morgan, of New York City.

Heads of veteran organizations whose acceptances have just been received are: Dr. Louis F. Arensberg, of Pittsburgh, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic; Chauncey W. Herrick, of Washington, commander-in-chief of the United Spanish War Veterans, and George W. Harries, of Chicago, commander-in-chief of the Military Order of the World War.

THEY DID IT FOR THE LEGION

BLUEFIELD, W. V., Jan. 00.—Barney Oldfield, old master of the automobile race track, Ralph De Palma and a half dozen other famous race drivers wheeled their iron mounts around the track here in a five-day endurance race held recently under the auspices of the Bluefield Post of The American Legion. The racing fraternity with their fast cars were en route to Florida for the winter racing season there when local Legionnaires prevailed upon them to break their trip at this point and stage the racing carnival.

COMMUNITY ATHLETICS IN UTAH

OGDEN, Utah, Jan. 00.—A program of community athletics and recreation will be sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Utah, if recommendations to that end made by Herman Baker Post of the Legion here are adopted by the state body.

This decision was reached by the post following formal recommendation of the building of Weber gymnasium here which will be devoted to the physical, social and recreational welfare of the entire community.

According to M. A. Rommey, chairman of the athletic committee of Utah department, the Legion is more desirous of sponsoring clean and beneficial sports of a community nature than encouraging highly specialized athletic competition redounding to the benefit of the few.

TO HONOR DRAIN

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 00.—James A. Drain, National Commander of The American Legion, is to be given a great public reception when he arrives in Portland on an official visit late in January. Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and all patriotic organizations will join forces to greet Commander Drain with the greatest reception ever extended an honored guest here.

No Gas in This

ALLIANCE, O., Jan. 00.—As a relic of the stirring war day, R. A. Lamont of this city recently presented Alliance Post, American Legion, with a big gas shell. And thereby hangs a tale.

During the early stages of America's part in the World War, shell manufacturers experienced some difficulty in filling gas shells with a liquid that would produce the required results without corroding inside the shell and losing part of its "authority." Lamont perfected a formula for a varnish that remedied the defect. The gas shell presented to the Alliance Legionnaires is Lamont's test shell accepted by the government as sufficiently potent for use on the western front. The shell will be used as a flag holder in the new Legion quarters, recently dedicated.

Two Million Vets File Claims for National Bonus

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—More than one-half of the World War veterans eligible for adjusted compensation have already filed their applications with the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, according to an announcement made here by the national legislative committee of The American Legion. A total of 2,168,000 applications is now on file. Only sixty-four veterans have stated that they do not desire compensation.

The war department has received 1,875,000 applications; the navy department, 257,000; the marine corps, 36,000. The number of veterans eligible under the law was estimated by the senate finance committee at 4,293,000.

Approximately 600,000 adjusted service certificates were mailed out to veterans in the first distribution. These certificates represent \$750,000,000 of adjusted compensation insurance. Under the law certificates could not be issued until January 1. They are being sent out at the rate of 20,000 daily.

Some 30,000 checks for cash payments of \$50 and less have also been prepared and are ready for distribution. Under the law these cannot be mailed until March 1 next. On adjusted service certificates for veterans who have died since making application for compensation the government is prepared to make immediate payment.

ILLINOIS GOING UP

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Jan. 00.—The Department of Illinois, American Legion, had passed the 10,000 mark in membership for 1925 by January 1, it was announced by S. R. Kemp, department organization officer. This establishes a record for the department for pre-January paid-up memberships. As against the 10,000 membership by January 1, this year, Legion officials point out the department's membership of only 959 by January 1, last year. These figures presage a tremendous increase in the Legion's membership throughout the country for this year, it is predicted.

THE WORD IS L-E-G-I-O-N

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 00.—Cross word puzzle books were the favorite gifts requested of Thomas B. Wana-maker Post of The American Legion when it set out to learn what the 1,275 disabled veterans in the various hospitals of New York County wanted for Christmas. One veteran writing from the Neurological Hospital on Welfare Island drolly remarked: "We may lose the next war, but we'll sure win the next puzzle contest."

Another disabled veteran said: "I know a six letter word meaning service. It's L-e-g-i-o-n."

IN TIME OF NEED—THE LEGION

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 00.—Rehabilitation of the veteran in penal institutions has been made a new work by The American Legion in California.

A Legion committee on penal institutions will work to get the first time offenders into contact with their families when their terms expire and to get employment for the veterans. A recent survey of San Quentin prison by the Legion committee revealed that of 3,000 prisoners there, 634 were veterans.



Executive Group Prepares to Speed Endowment Plan

Legion Committee Arranges to Extend Movement for Disabled and Orphans Fund as Prominent Persons Endorse Nation-Wide Effort.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—Following a meeting of the national executive committee of The American Legion and of the executive committee of the Legion Endowment Fund here recently, steps are being taken to speed up the nation-wide movement for the fund, it was learned here today.

Organization work is now well under way in the first three states in which the project was started. The next step, it is understood, will be the broadening of the effort to include another group of states. Ultimately the appeal will be carried to the entire nation.

Acceptances on the honorary committee for the fund have been received recently from General James A. Thomas, of Dublin, Ga., commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans; Otto H. Kahn, New York banker; V. M. Johnson, Rockford, Ill., international president of Kiwanis International; John Drew, New York City, actor; James Chandler, imperial potentate of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and Charles Dana Gibson, of New York City, artist.

In a recent letter, Secretary of Labor James J. Davis, member of the honorary committee, said of the endowment movement: "I am one of those who believe that the greatest happiness that can come to the human heart grows out of helping others—particularly the helpless. I feel sure that all who join with you in aiding the men disabled in the service of our country, and in helping your child welfare work will be more than repaid in the peace and contentment which true service to others always brings.

"Service to childhood lies very close to my heart, for my life has been dedicated to that service through the Loyal Order of Moose, of which I am director general. In your work for childhood, you have, therefore, my most complete sympathy and support. But the aid of our disabled soldiers is a patriotic duty which devolves upon every loyal American and I am glad to join with you to further that purpose."

ODDMENTS ABOUT THE BONUS

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—In helping veterans file adjusted compensation blanks with the Veterans' Bureau here, American Legion rehabilitation officials throughout the country have revealed many peculiar incidents bearing on the bonus.

A World War veteran in Texas was writing in the name of a beneficiary other than his wife when his wife shot him.

A university class wished to assign to the university its members' compensation.

A Legion post formed a trusteeship to which many of its members assigned their compensation for the ultimate use of deserving widows and orphans of ex-service men.

A veteran with only one day's service applied for compensation.

One veteran wished to assign his rights to another disabled veteran.

A Chinaman requested adjusted compensation for four wives; one in this country and three in China.

LEGION HELPS NEEDY

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 00.—American Legionnaires here sold newspapers on the streets and with the receipts of their sales bought coal for the needy of the city.

Widow Gets First Check

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—The first payment to be made under the insurance feature of the adjusted compensation act was made to Mrs. Irene C. Crisp here, widow of former Lieutenant Fred William Crisp, who was accidentally killed while in service in Hawaii. The widow received the full amount of the policy, \$1,550.

American Legion rehabilitation officials here pointed out that the widow of Lieutenant Crisp is more fortunate than those beneficiaries of veterans who died without filing their claims. In such cases approximately only one-third of the full amount of the policy can be collected. More than seven hundred veterans of the World War have died since filing their adjusted compensation claims. The Legion has repeatedly warned veterans throughout the world not to delay filing their claims that their beneficiaries may be fully protected.

For Immediate Release

The Man Whom Nobody Knew

By HOWARD C. SMITH
Staff Correspondent The American Legion News Service

PRINCETON, Ind., Jan. 00.—Nobody knew John Burger, really knew him.

Rumor about town had it that he came from Czecho-Slovakia. The wise ones claimed "positive information" that Burger was not the man's real name.

It seemed he had been born Wenzella Burger Sirtar. He had changed it, the knowing said, "to be an American."

Others added that a son lived in Wisconsin—somewhere. And a brother was supposed to be in Watertown, New York. But nobody knew.

There was his little tailor shop. Nobody—hardly—ever went there, even on business. It was a mean, inconspicuous sort of little place. Only, on patriotic days a flag hung always at the window—the flag of America.

A story passed about that the tailor was ill. Some said he had long been in failing health. Nobody paid much attention. Then one day—despondent over his continued illness, the man whom nobody knew killed himself.

The mayor did his best to find relatives but gave it up. The local post of The American Legion took up the task. They had an administrator appointed. They sought relatives far and wide. Finding none, they ordered the last rites for the lonely, forgotten man.

In the little shop they had found a worn uniform of the American army, neatly pressed. Everything indicated that the dead man had served, as a master tailor, they thought, in the American forces in the Great War.

They bought a large plot in the local cemetery to bury him—and other unknowns of years to come. They turned out in force to do him honor and taps blew and the volley crashed the tribute of the soldier to a soldier.

And over his casket they draped the flag which he used to hang—the man whom nobody knew—from the grimy window of his little shop on America's days.

CHATS WITH LEGIONNAIRES

By JAMES A. DRAIN
National Commander

Recently an extraordinary thing happened in the Veterans' Bureau. It is not often that money is returned to the government. Yet, morning after morning, the cash came—in six months a total of \$100,000.

Why? The bureau had sent letters to the 40,000 clerks of probate courts in the country inquiring into guardianships of incompetent veterans and children of veterans, many of them orphans.

Word of an "investigation" went out mysteriously to the guardians. Numbers bethought themselves hurriedly of certain government checks they had withheld from their wards. Then the flood of uncashed checks began to descend upon the Veterans' Bureau. One letter brought a series of \$100 checks going back to 1919.

Here is a task for The American Legion. You and I know these supposedly cared for men and children are being defrauded unscrupulously of their rights. They are our comrades and the children of our comrades. We must see that they benefit to the last cent by the money which the nation is generously providing for them.

This work is one of the tasks contemplated in our program of rehabilitation and orphan care. Our Endowment Fund will make it possible for us to give this great service more thoroughly, to leave no means untried for their advantage. We must, we will protect them from the sharks who would prey upon their helplessness.

Florida Wins Big Membership Race From Connecticut

By The American Legion News Service

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—Florida Department of The American Legion is continuing its spectacular winning streak. To the numerous trophies, prizes and awards which it carried off at the sixth annual convention at St. Paul last September, it has just now added a membership victory over the Connecticut Department.

Florida's official delegation to the seventh annual convention at Omaha will be the guests of the Connecticut Department at a banquet, the prize of the contest.

The two departments some months ago started out to see which would have the larger percentage of its 1924 membership paid up in advance for 1925 by January 1. The contest closed at midnight of December 31.

The tabulation showed that Florida had 50,777 per cent of its 1924 membership paid up for 1925 by the closing hour. Connecticut had 20,094 per cent. Florida's membership paid up by January 1 was 4,146, as compared with a total 1924 membership of 8,165. Connecticut's enrollment by January 1 was 1,650, compared with 8,211 for last year.

The drive for members in Florida was conducted by Department Commander James W. Morris, Jr., and Department Adjutant C. Howard Rowton. Connecticut was led by Department Commander E. P. Armstrong and Department Adjutant Edward L. White.

Other departments which have made remarkable advance membership showings are: Oregon, with 34 per cent; Kansas, 24 per cent, and Kentucky, 23 per cent. On the basis of percentages, Florida heads the list, with Connecticut in fifth place among the fifty-seven departments of the Legion.

GOLD STAR MOTHERS ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—In response to inquiries, officials of The American Legion Rehabilitation Committee here, announced that Gold Star Mothers are entitled to the federal adjusted compensation which their sons would have received if they had lived. In case the mother is deceased and the father is living, the father is entitled to compensation. Investigations revealed, said the Legion officials, that many Gold Star Mothers had failed to apply for the compensation through ignorance of the act's provisions.

LEGIONNAIRING ABROAD

LONDON, Eng., Jan. 00.—London Post of The American Legion here is one of the active and growing organizations of former service men in London.

The post is made up of 126 members which represents an increase of eighteen over last year's membership. "The post continues to grow," according to a recent post bulletin, "although it is tragic how the boys will go home."

The membership of London Post includes diplomats, general agents, newspaper editors, medical men, military men and others in foreign service.

At the recent British memorial exercises at the Cenotaph, London Post of The American Legion was the only foreign body represented at that peculiarly British function where post members placed a wreath.

Members of the post recently attended the funeral of William F. Schroeder, Confederate veteran, and last surviving member of Stonewall Jackson's staff.

The post's bulletins are informal and unique. Extracts from a recent one read:

"The old bird 'Doozerdoo' has arrived and is clamoring for one pound ten shilling. . . . Apropos of croaking, the Battle Monuments Commission, of which General Pershing is chairman, has just written that we can all have a permanent bed in the National Cemetery at Brookwood when we ask for it, with a nice stone cross for a pillow unless we prefer the Star of David. . . . Some of us went to the American Society dinner at the Savoy on Thanksgiving day. We seemed to have greater lasting powers than the majority of the guests and during the last hour or two it was practically a Legion dance. . . . What do you think of the visit of the Giants and White Sox? We welcomed the idea and supported it, but deprecated the press advertising which emphasized the huge salaries paid and featured interviews in which it was declared baseball, once seen by an Englishman, must become his one and only sport. . . . Armistice night we had open house to the veterans of all wars."

PAY YOUR DUES NOW

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—Beginning with the issue of February 6, 1925, The American Legion Weekly will start dropping from the mailing list those members of The American Legion who have not paid their 1925 dues, according to announcement of Robert F. Smith, general manager of the Weekly. By June 30, 1925, no delinquents will be on the mailing list, said Smith.

Will Legion Convene in Paris in 1927? Mais Oui

National Executive Committee Authorizes Commander Drain to Appoint Committee to Look Into Advance Preparations—National Standing Committees Ratified—Convention Dates Approved.

LEGION BRINGS DISABLED VET A MERRY CHRISTMAS

LODI, Cal., Jan. 00.—There was a very merry Christmas in the home of Emil G. Wittmayer here. For the first time in their young lives his two children, three-year-old Doris and six-year-old Raymond, gazed with pardonable wonderment at a glittering Christmas tree drooping with toys.

Santa Claus had been six years getting to the Wittmayer home, and he might not have come then but for The American Legion.

Wittmayer, a World War veteran, totally disabled during the war, had attempted to collect compensation from the government. For three years his claim was denied. Money gave out. Their second child was born. Mrs. Wittmayer was obliged to go to work. The family got along somehow but it wasn't easy.

Then Lodi Post of The American Legion came to Wittmayer's aid. Wittmayer's claims were authenticated. Senator Johnson took Wittmayer's case to Director Hines of the Veterans' Bureau. The Bureau approved the case.

Legionnaires carried back a compensation check for \$3,009 to the Wittmayer home on Christmas eve and an order promising \$100 a month to the father for life. Then began the greatest Christmas the Wittmayers have ever known.

Thousands Received by Veterans Under Reed-Johnson Law

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—All cases of disabled World War veterans whose claims had been disallowed are now being reviewed by the Veterans' Bureau, at the suggestion of The American Legion, to see if they are entitled to further consideration under the Reed-Johnson law, it was learned here today.

At the same time, the national rehabilitation committee of The Legion, which was largely instrumental in securing the passage of the Reed-Johnson bill, announced that more than 15,000 disabled veterans have already received \$3,177,853 in increased benefits under this legislation. There has also been an increase under it of 4,637 in the number of veterans receiving treatment from the Veterans' Bureau.

To carry on the general review of cases disallowed under legislation prior to the Reed-Johnson bill, Director Frank T. Hines has set up a special section of the bureau. More than 60,000 cases have already been reviewed. Favorable action has been taken or is contemplated in some 6,000 of these. Awards have been approved for payment in 1,855 cases.

Numerous death cases are among those which are being reviewed. Disability cases which had been disallowed before the decentralization of the Veterans' Bureau in 1921 also figure largely. The latter had been held inactive in the Central Office of the bureau at Washington without information concerning them. If the claimant is found to be entitled to benefits under the Reed-Johnson bill, efforts are at once made to trace him.

Among the 15,000 veterans who participate in the \$3,177,853 benefits under the bill are 5,529 tuberculous cases, \$2,000,000; 3,623 mental disorder cases, \$700,000; 5,097 dependency cases, \$256,608; 458 cases of allowance for a nurse, \$75,493; 250 blind veterans, \$63,032; 175 cases of sleeping sickness, \$60,799; 69 of amoebic dysentery, \$16,106; 32 deaf veterans, \$5,815.

Aliens Oust Veterans, Legionnaires Charge

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 00.—Hundreds of World War veterans and citizens have been dropped from the payrolls of the Boston Elevated, while aliens have been retained, was the charge of Leo M. Harlow, State Commander of The American Legion, in a letter recently to the public trustees of the company. He requested the trustees secure from the attorney general a ruling on the legality of the condition.

Harlow scored alien motormen and conductors who are, he said, flocking to the naturalization bureau in order to freeze out veterans on the seniority lists of the Boston Elevated.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—Appointment of national standing committees of The American Legion, fixing of the dates for the seventh annual national convention and preliminary preparations for holding the 1927 convention in Paris were the outstanding developments of the meeting of the national executive committee here recently.

Chairmen of the committees are: Rehabilitation, Watson B. Miller, Washington, D. C.; child welfare, Mark T. McKee, Detroit, Mich.; Americanism commission, E. K. Bixby, Muskogee, Okla.; foreign committee on Americanism, Harry W. Berdie, Tampico, Mexico; legislative, O. L. Bodenhamer, Eldorado, Ark.; finance, Wilder S. Metcalf, Lawrence, Kan.; naval affairs, E. E. Spafford, New York City; military affairs, George E. Leach, Minneapolis, Minn.; aeronautics, Reed Landis, Chicago, Ill.; foreign relations commission, H. Nelson Jackson, Burlington, Vt.; distinguished guests, Alton T. Roberts, Marquette, Mich.; trustees Overseas Graves Decoration Trust, Milton J. Foreman, Chicago, Ill.; oriental, Thomas Swale, Seattle, Wash.; world peace, Thomas A. Lee, Topeka, Kan.; trophies and awards, Asa Candler, Atlanta, Ga.; revocation of post charters, J. Robert Reichardt, Fort Smith, Ark.; national convention work, Samuel Reynolds, Omaha, Neb.; source records, A. Eugene Pattison, New Jersey.

October 5 to 9 were selected as the dates for the convention to be held at Omaha, Neb. These dates were chosen in order to enable the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, a Nebraska organization, to co-operate with the Omaha committee in entertaining the Legion convention. Elaborate plans for entertainment of the visitors are rapidly being developed, according to Samuel Reynolds, chairman of the national convention work committee.

At the suggestion of National Commander James A. Drain, he was given authority by the executive committee to appoint a France-National-Convention-Travel committee. This committee will study and perfect plans for handling transportation to Paris on a national basis. It is estimated that between 15,000 and 35,000 Legionnaires wish to attend the convention.

Commander Drain suggested that 1927 was a very suitable time for holding a convention in Paris, as that year marks the tenth anniversary of America's entry into the World War and also of the landing of the first units of the A. E. F. on French soil. It had previously been suggested that 1928 be chosen as the Paris convention year. Final action on the plan rests with the national convention.

Independence Site Is Given to Legion

INDEPENDENCE, Kan., Jan. 00.—Title to the 388-acre farm near here which was presented to the Kansas Department of The American Legion for the erection of Regional Children's Billet No. 2, as part of the Legion's program to care for World War orphans, is now vested in the department. The deed to the farm was turned over to the Legion by Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Dabney of this city, the donors, at a ceremony held here recently by Harold R. Andrews Post, No. 139. Speeches were made by Department Commander Frank Hauke and by Mr. Dabney.

Mr. Dabney's gift was made conditional upon the department's depositing in a local bank the sum of \$50,000. The department carried on a campaign for funds to support the work and raised \$100,000. The deposit was then made and Mr. Dabney turned over the deed.

The donors have also agreed to give the Legion \$25,000. Of this amount, \$5,000 is to be paid when the billet is ready to be occupied, which is expected to be some time this summer. The remainder will be paid at the rate of \$1,000 yearly for twenty years.

POST PROTESTS WATER PROJECT

SCHWENKSVILLE, Pa., Jan. 00.—If Schwenksville Post of The American Legion has its way, the city of Philadelphia will have to look elsewhere for its water supply other than Perkiomen Creek, a proposed source. The Legionnaires of Schwenksville, in the Perkiomen valley, maintain by resolution that the proposed Philadelphia water project would seriously injure the business industries of the valley and would tend to destroy its beauty and utility as a summer resort, causing a consequent depreciation in land values. The bringing of "undesirables" into the valley to build the waterway was also objected to.



They're Off! Big Lindsley Derby Gets Good Start

By EARL N. WALLER,
Staff Correspondent American Legion News Service.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—The annual inter-departmental membership derby for the Henry D. Lindsley trophy is on, and all signs indicate a fast pace.

This trophy is awarded to the department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 1, each year.

Florida now holds the Lindsley trophy, and according to Howard Rowton, department adjutant, has made no plans to relinquish it. To prove it, Florida just defeated Connecticut in a membership squabble which gave them a firmer grasp on the Lindsley trophy. But in that latter regard, "it's a poor game that doesn't work both ways," says Connecticut, only slightly groggy from the Florida defeat and much stronger for the Lindsley derby.

"Kansas department has a wonderful opportunity to win the Henry D. Lindsley trophy this year," admit department officials, who go on to say: "We had 1,500 more members at Headquarters on January 1 than ever before. With this start there is every reason to believe that we can have 20,000 members by March 1. That should win."

In its bid for the Lindsley trophy the Department of Oregon reported a record paid-up membership for 1925 of approximately three-fifths of the total 1924 membership by January 1. "That's well on the way towards the Lindsley silverware," the Oregonians maintain.

Wyoming, with one-fourth of their 1924 membership signed up by January 1, is busy polishing off a pedestal imposing enough to support the Lindsley trophy.

With an unprecedented membership of 10,000 on January 1, Illinois remains non-committal; "like Cal Coolidge," said Frank Samuel, Director of Membership at National Headquarters, "that Illinois bunch will probably do their talking around the early part of March."

Minnesota department is engaged in a "membership war" which resulted in 6,000 and more members signed up by January 1. They are casting a covetous eye on the handsome trophy.

The Department of Michigan is not reticent in its avowed intention of bringing the Lindsley trophy north, and with good reason; Michigan was among the first five departments in membership by January 1.

Yet, after all, this is a dope sheet; many a derby has been won by a dark horse.

WILL USE FOUR YEARS AVERAGES TO FIX PARADE PLACES

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—Position of the various departments of The American Legion in the parade and their preference in housing and seating arrangements at the Omaha convention from October 5 to 9 next will be decided on the basis of their membership of June 15 as compared with the average for the past four years, it was announced here today. Decision to this effect was made by the national executive committee. Last year the highest membership ever attained by the departments was used in figuring their percentages.

One of the features of the convention will be a contest between men's glee clubs. Other contests already decided on are a trap shoot, a pistol shoot, competition between Auxiliary drill teams and bugle corps contests. The Omaha quartet, which appeared at the St. Paul convention, has been designated as the official quartet of the Legion.

LEGION HELPS BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—Five hospitals will soon be designated in various parts of the country to receive World War veterans suffering from habitual use of narcotics, according to advices received by American Legion rehabilitation officials from the Veterans' Bureau. A special staff is being trained in this particular branch of medicine.

Estimates indicate that a considerable number of veterans would welcome an opportunity to avail themselves of this treatment. Many of these men have become drug addicts as a result of treatments for disabilities suffered during the war. The American Legion is co-operating with the Veterans' Bureau to expedite action in the matter.

An Editorial Short

The "Iowa Legionaire" says, "Service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy in this world. If years ago you belonged to The American Legion, and for some reason don't now, you're not paying your rent. So live and serve that when you come to die folks don't tiptoe around for fear of waking you up."

OLDEST LEGIONNAIRE DIES

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—Colonel William Noble Williams, U. S. A., retired, said to be the oldest member of The American Legion, died at the Walter Reed Hospital here recently. He was 88 years old at the time of his death.

He was active in the Civil War and fought through three Indian Wars, and although declared too old to serve in the Spanish-American War, he came back and served during the World War as a member of the Quartermaster Corps.

Colonel Williams was a member of George Washington Post of The American Legion here where funeral services for the aged comrade were held.

Omaha Is Getting Ready for Legion's Big Convention

By M. E. JAY,
Special Correspondent American Legion News Service.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 00.—A brilliant electrical parade with "The American Legion" as the theme and costing approximately \$50,000, will be one of the innovations of the Legion's big annual convention October 5th to 9th, inclusive, at Omaha, according to an announcement made by the Omaha national Legion convention committee.

This spectacle will be put on by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, who each year present the "Mardi Gras of the Middle West" at Omaha, and whose fame as royal hosts has spread to the four corners of the land.

"Nothing can express the scope, the carefully worked out plans and the spirit, which we are confident will make the 1925 convention the greatest in the history of the American Legion," said Everette Buckingham, chairman of the committee.

With \$50,000 already in the bank and an additional \$75,000 pledged by Ak-Sar-Ben; with an ideal central location; with a convention committee consisting of the city's most influential men, Omaha is tackling the problem of feting a multitude, which it is expected will reach 100,000, with vim and vigor.

Instead of the usual one parade, there will be three, each of which will be worth coming to Omaha to witness. Major General George B. Duncan of the Seventh Corps area promises to mobilize the entire area in Omaha to stage one of the greatest military spectacles ever held in America.

There will be auto tours, broncho-busting and cow-riding stunts at the stockyards, athletic contests, band concerts, and the Ak-Sar-Ben carnival which will be developed into a street exposition and will be the playground of the thousands and thousands of guests.

Plans for the convention call for a meeting of all former combat commanders of the army, navy and marines, and the present corps commanders.

They Waited Too Long

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—Two men under sentence of death attempted recently to reinstate their government insurance just before they were executed, according to information received by rehabilitation officials of The American Legion here. They had allowed their insurance to lapse ever since their discharge from service.

Their last-minute attempts failed, as their applications were denied by the Veterans' Bureau. Director Frank T. Hines has issued orders that reinstatement of government insurance by persons under sentence of death shall not be permitted.

Legion Offers Reward

MARIETTA, O., Jan. 00.—Marietta Post of The American Legion here is offering a \$500 reward for the arrest or clue leading to the arrest of the slayers of Patrolman Harrison L. Boyd, a member of the post, who was shot down by four bandits January 11. In addition to the reward offered by Marietta Post, the city of Marietta is offering \$1,000, Washington County \$1,000 and a private citizen, \$1,000. Boyd left a widow and two children.

NEW LEGION PUBLICATION

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 00.—"The Virginia Legionaire," is the name of the state Legion publication which made its initial bow this month. It is a standard size newspaper carrying four pages for the first issue, and has a circulation of 10,000. Dick Ham, Virginia newspaper man, who was recently with the Pulaski Southwest Times, and active in Legion affairs, is its editor.

For Immediate Release

K. of C. Gives Legion \$75,000 for Program of Rehabilitation

AUXILIARY AND 40 AND 8 DONATE \$25,000 EACH FOR CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—Trustees of the Knights of Columbus have appropriated \$75,000 to enable The American Legion properly to carry on its rehabilitation work during the present year, while the Legion is raising its Endowment Fund to insure that this work shall go on so long as there is need of it, it was announced here today by National Adjutant Russell Creviston.

At the same time, Mr. Creviston stated that The American Legion Auxiliary and The Forty and Eight have each pledged \$25,000 to finance the Legion child welfare program for 1925, pending the completion of the Endowment Fund. Resolutions setting forth the Legion's appreciation are being sent, by order of the national executive committee, to each of the contributing organizations.

"It was found necessary," Mr. Creviston said in announcing the gifts, "to secure assistance from sources other than the regular income channels of the Legion to carry on its work for disabled veterans of the World War and orphans of veterans properly during the present year. The Knights of Columbus, The American Legion Auxiliary and The Forty and Eight have come forward generously to supplement the finances of the Legion for these purposes."

"Their gifts make it possible for the Legion to continue in 1925 these services, so important to the nation as a whole, on the same high plane as in the past. They will also permit the needed extension."

"The immediate emergency has been met. It remains for the Legion to make sure beyond peradventure of doubt that this work shall be carried on effectively so long as there shall be a disabled veteran or an orphan of a veteran who needs our aid. That object will be accomplished by the American Legion Endowment Fund of \$5,000,000, which we are now raising throughout the nation."

Editorial

An old philosopher once said, "Most men do their duty in this world. Some men do just a little bit more. And it is the men who do the little bit more who move the world."

A few days ago Eugene Post of The American Legion at Eugene, Oregon, sent national headquarters \$75 for the great endowment project for the disabled and the orphan. And C. H. Berry Post at Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, sent its check for \$17.13 for the fund.

These posts had not been solicited. The movement had not officially begun. They simply read in the newspapers about the project. Their wish to support it did the rest.

These posts are composed of men who do just a little bit more. And they are typical of the Legion. It is men like these who make up the Legion. When this splendid movement is fully under way, with Legionnaires everywhere answering the call of duty, America will know the true heart of the Legion. It will know that Legionnaires in time of peace do their part and something besides, just as in the greatest war of all time they gave an added bit in devotion and sacrifice.

"IOWA GOLD STAR HIGHWAY"

DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 00.—Governor Kendall has designated the White Pole road, extending from Council Bluffs to Davenport through Des Moines, as the "Iowa Gold Star Highway." Along this memorial road a tree will be planted for each of 3,600 Iowa service men and women who lost their lives in the World War. Where planting is impossible a bronze marker will be placed. There will be "courts of honor" in the larger cities through which the highway passes. The American Legion, Department of Iowa, sponsored the "Gold Star Highway."

Eddie Collins Works For Legion

LANSLOWNE, Pa., Jan. 00.—Edward Trowbridge (Eddie) Collins, newly appointed manager of the Chicago White Sox has accepted still another athletic responsibility. A member of Albert Clinton Wunderlich Post of The American Legion here, "Eddie" has agreed to head the post's Athletic Committee for the year. The "Laird of Lansdowne," as the sports writers call Eddie, is covering the athletic situation here as he covers the key-stone sack.

Endowment Effort Starts in 12 States in February

LEGION HELPS STRANGE JEKYLL AND HYDE CASE

HOBOKEN, N. J., Jan. 00.—A bit of shrapnel is going to wreck the life of Henry Charles Odell of 103 Beacon Avenue, and his mother's too, unless the efforts of the Hudson County American Legion are successful.

It is a strange Jekyll and Hyde case which the police want to punish with prison and the Legion to cure with hospital.

A decade ago, Odell, a medical student, supported his mother and lived such an unimpeachable life that even the neighbors praised him. The toxin of war sent him to France and there at the front a splinter of shrapnel ripped open his scalp as if with a knife. Home again, he could not find work; his head ached. His efforts to obtain compensation failed. Desperate and down to rockbottom, Legionnaires say, he purloined letters from the mail. Postal inspectors caught him. Jail awaits him—unless the Legion succeeds in getting him sent to a Veterans' Bureau hospital for treatment. The Legionnaires say that if Odell is hospitalized instead of imprisoned, he can be cured of criminal tendencies.

TO HONOR PERSHING

NEW YORK, N. Y., Jan. 00.—General John J. Pershing is to be tendered a national testimonial from The American Legion in this city on May 10, the anniversary of the date General Pershing was given command of the A. E. F., it was announced at state headquarters of the Legion here.

Plans for the affair were completed during the recent visit to New York of James A. Drain, National Commander of the Legion. Commenting on the testimonial, Commander Drain said: "The entire membership of The American Legion has felt for some time that a proper expression of the esteem in which our war-time Commander, General Pershing, is held by all former service men and women should be given in a way to bring home to the public generally his remarkable service during the World War."

The feature of the testimonial will be the presentation of a bronze bust relief of himself to the General. The presentation will take place in the Hippodrome which has been donated for the occasion by E. F. Albee, head of the Keith vaudeville circuit, and Mark Luescher who will present the special tableaux for the event. A theatrical performance participated in by a host of stars will be a part of the program. President Coolidge will be invited.

Xmas Came to "Mulligan's Acre"

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Jan. 00.—The kids of "Mulligan's Acre," here never got very excited over the prospect of Christmas. Heretofore Santa Claus had always given the shabby district back of the packing plants the go-by. But this year "Mulligan's Acre" was included on the benevolent old gent's itinerary.

Informed that the kids of the Acre weren't going to have any Santa Claus, the American Legionnaires of Voiture 169, Forty and Eight, playground society of the Legion, said, "that will never do," and sent Santa Claus around with a loaded sack containing gifts for every kid on the Acre. And race suicide is not one of the misfortunes of the Acre, so it was a big load.

PROVO GETS PLAYGROUND

PROVO, Utah, Jan. 00.—Through the instrumentality of the local American Legion Post, Provo has been awarded one of the fifty playgrounds which are being established in qualified cities by the Harmon Foundation, New York City. More than 750 cities applied for the playgrounds. The American Legion here made application for the Provo playground and took the initial steps to secure it. The Legion will maintain it the first year.

LIKES THE LEGION

READING, Pa., Jan. 00.—When Miss Ruth Malcolmson of Philadelphia, chosen "Miss America" at the Atlantic City beauty contest as the most beautiful girl in America, appeared in this city recently, she was given the privilege of choosing her guard of honor. Asked what organization she would like to perform that service, she replied quickly: "The American Legion boys, that will be an honor indeed. I love them all."

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 00.—

Twelve states, mostly in the south, will be added during the coming month to the list in which active work for the American Legion Endowment Fund is being carried on, it was announced at national headquarters here today. Plans have been perfected to start this work in February.

Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, West Virginia and Ohio are the twelve states to be added to the list. The first group in which the project was launched comprised Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky.

The first posts of The American Legion to send in contributions to the fund are Eugene Post, Eugene, Oregon, and C. H. Berry Post, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. The post in Oregon sent a check for \$75 and that in Pennsylvania, a check for \$17.13.

Adjutant Arthur S. Wolfe, of the Pennsylvania post, in transmitting the check, said, "This represents voluntary contributions from the members of this post, such contributions having been taken after each post meeting for the last few months."

"I am very strong for this move and only wish I was financially able to donate \$50 or \$500," said Lloyd W. Kendall, Legionnaire of Farmer City, Illinois. He sent a check for \$5.

Recent acceptances on the national honorary committee for the endowment movement are: General James A. Thomas, Dublin, Georgia, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans; General John H. Dunn, Boston, Massachusetts, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; William Green, Washington, president of the American Federation of Labor; Booth Tarkington, Indianapolis, author; John Drew, New York City, actor; James Chandler, imperial potentate of the Shriners; Charles Dana Gibson, New York City, artist; John R. Quinn, Los Angeles, California, past national commander of the Legion.

General Thomas, in accepting, said, "All my sympathy is with and for the Legion. I had a son, who was colonel of the 121st U. S. Infantry, to die aboard the transport in the harbor of Brest, France, the day of its arrival in port. So you see my ties to the Legion are of the strongest and most lasting."

NEBRASKA HAS FINE RECORD

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 00.—Wide-spread and unselfish activity by The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, was shown by the returns from a questionnaire sent to 165 posts in the department. Following are some of the facts revealed by the questionnaire:

The 165 posts have accumulated property to the value of \$164,000; they own eighteen buildings and operate 93 clubs; they helped 1,689 needy veterans; they held 287 public meetings of which 96 were Americanization meetings; thirty-three posts installed uniform flag decoration in their cities; four improved city parks; one improved the city streets; twenty sponsored and assisted boy scout troops; one sponsored a community club; one financed a lyceum course; one sponsored a community club, etc.

Asked what The American Legion should do to improve its usefulness, the outstanding suggestion was: "Take even a greater part in community service."

WISCONSIN DOES WELL

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 00.—Handling an average of fifteen cases daily, the state service office of The American Legion here set a new record for service work for Wisconsin veterans during 1924, according to a report by James F. Burns, department service officer.

More than \$200,000 in back compensation was obtained by the Wisconsin American Legion during the year. Ninety per cent of the claims handled by the service office had been previously disallowed by the United States Veterans' Bureau.

WANT MEMORIAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 00.—Representative John C. McKenzie, of Illinois, has introduced in the House a bill which would create a War Memorial Museum in the Pension office. The proposed exhibit, to consist of implements and flags and mementos of all American wars, would be selected and grouped by a commission composed of the Commissioner of Pensions, the Commander-in-chief of the Spanish-American War Veterans, and the National Commander of The American Legion.



Gen. Hines Declares Legion Endowment Fund Is Needed

Veterans' Bureau Chief Admits Necessity of Selective Assistance by Legion—Says Government Has No Machinery to Aid War-Orphans.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 00.—General Frank T. Hines, Director of the U. S. Veterans' Bureau, has pledged his earnest support to The American Legion Endowment Campaign for five million dollars, in a letter to National Commander James A. Drain, of the Legion, which sets forth the government's view of why government aid to the disabled and the orphans should be supplemented by the relief work of the Legion.

After pointing out that the government, through Congress, has been liberal in its aid to the disabled, Director Hines adds: "It is a well known fact that many detailed types of assistance fall into the hands of local Legion posts for fulfillment and it has been further disclosed that funds for the carrying on of the specific emergencies have been noticeably deficient.

"It is therefore an opportunity that this call comes from the Legion with so well defined purposes that the public and other interested organizations may comprehend at once the necessity of the call. It is true that millions of dollars have been appropriated for rehabilitation and hospitalization, and these expenditures will continue in decreasing number as the work nears completion, but the continuing liability remains in the instance of the mentally disabled and of the minor dependents of all veterans of the World War.

"From a survey of disclosures obtained through the intensive study of records in the Guardianship Sub-Division recently organized in the Bureau, circumstances affecting the children of veterans are not in many instances what the public or the Bureau would desire them to be. The initiative taken by the Legion in launching a campaign for the endowment of five million dollars is to be commended and ought to meet with the endorsement of all public spirited citizens as in the securing of these funds each veteran of the World War feels his personal obligation to the children of his less fortunate comrades. Up to this time the legislation providing in general for beneficiaries of the Bureau is not imminent in the instance of minors denied the rights of childhood and the privileges of training conducive to economic independence.

"The Bureau is preparing from its records available on the subject an itemization of all minor beneficiaries, and anticipates releasing these data to various Legion posts, who in turn will gladly co-operate with the Legion and affiliated organizations in securing specific information as to the immediate needs of the minor dependents of veterans in their various communities."

General Hines concludes his letter with a ringing endorsement of the Legion's effort, saying:

"I thank you for the privilege of endorsing this splendid work and insist that the resources of the Bureau be at your disposal in every instance where they will serve toward the perfecting of your plan and the realization of an American ideal by Americans for Americans."

ILLINOIS STEPS OUT

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Feb. 00.—The American Legion, Department of Illinois, led all departments in paid-up membership for 1925 by January 1, with an impressive total of 10,260. The Legion in Illinois is approximately 8,000 members ahead of where it was at this time last year.

Ruel Neal Post, LeRoy, on January 15 led in the state contest for posts with the greatest percentage of membership increase over their 1924 membership with a 246 per cent greater membership than last year.

Night Skating by Searchlight

LOGAN, Utah, Feb. 00.—Night ice skating by the use of searchlights is the unique diversion citizens are enjoying here. Logan Post of The American Legion, recently opened a community skating pond which they lighted with powerful searchlights for the benefit of nocturnal indulgers in the swift, swerving sport of ice and steel.

FIRE WON'T BURN FLAG

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 00.—American Legionnaires here are convinced of the inviolability of the American flag. When everything else burned in the headquarters of Acacia Post of the Legion here recently, the American flag and the post colors escaped the fire that gutted the quarters. Examination revealed no tangible reason why the national and post colors had escaped the flames untouched.

Auxiliary Is Authorized to Distribute Official Poppy to Legion Posts

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 00.—Attention of departments and posts of The American Legion was called by national headquarters today to the fact that The American Legion Auxiliary is the only organization or person authorized by The Legion to distribute poppies to Legion units.

Only poppies made by needy and disabled former service men and women and by units of the Legion Auxiliary will be supplied by the Auxiliary to units and posts for their Memorial Day and other sales, it was announced. In order to insure a sufficient supply, departments wishing to purchase poppies are requested to send in their estimates as to the numbers needed at a very early date to Miss Bess Wetherholt, national secretary of The American Legion Auxiliary, Indianapolis, Indiana.

At the St. Paul convention, the Auxiliary adopted an official poppy program. This eliminated the commercial poppy from use and restricted its sales to poppies manufactured by the needy and disabled veterans and by units. An official poppy was adopted. This is a four-petal crepe paper poppy. Every poppy sold by the Auxiliary must bear the official Legion and Auxiliary sticker, which will be attached to all poppies when shipped.

Poppies are now being made for national distribution in Kansas and Minnesota under the direction of Mrs. Adalin W. Macauley, Menominee, Wisconsin, chairman of the national poppy committee of the Auxiliary. They will cost \$20.00 per thousand, when shipped as one order to Auxiliary or Legion departments, or \$22.50 per thousand on individual orders from posts or units.

CHATS WITH LEGIONNAIRES

By JAMES A. DRAIN, National Commander

Trustees of the Knights of Columbus recently gave The American Legion \$75,000 to enable it properly to finance its rehabilitation program for 1925. The American Legion Auxiliary and The Forty and Eight have each pledged \$25,000 to finance our child welfare work this year.

These are highly significant things. They are tokens of the public confidence in The American Legion. They are as well signs of the public faith in the effectiveness and high character of the work which the Legion is doing for its disabled comrades and for the orphans of veterans.

These splendid gifts solve our immediate problem. But they do more than that. They possess a significance far beyond that, important as it is. They foretell that the nation is with us in our efforts through our \$5,000,000 Endowment Fund to make sure that this great work shall be carried on as long as there shall be a disabled veteran or an orphan of a veteran who has need of it.

SOME MEMBERSHIP STUNT!

VALLEY, Neb., Feb. 00.—A new membership stunt was worked successfully by Valley Post of The American Legion here. Handbills were printed reading:

"REWARD!—A prize of \$2 will be given to the high school student furnishing the largest and most neatly written list of names of World War veterans in the community."

The handbills carried blank spaces for school children to write names and were mailed to all school superintendents in the adjoining towns. By this method many men living near Valley, whom the Legion had never heard of, were secured.

School superintendents co-operated fully with the Legionnaires in their membership plan with the result that the membership of the post was appreciably increased.

For Immediate Release

Judo Is Great Stuff Till Captain "C" Socks Jap Expert on Jaw

(Foreign Correspondence of A. L. News Service)

TOKYO, Japan, Feb. 00.—Members of Tokyo-Yokohama Post of The American Legion, have introduced much that is American in the land of the cherry blossom and jujitsu—including the right cross to the jaw.

At a dinner given here recently attended by General Ugaki, Japanese Minister of War, and Captain "C", Attache of the American Embassy and a member of Tokyo Post of The Legion, the relative merits of "Jujitsu" and boxing as a means of self-defense were discussed. The consensus of Japanese opinion, after witnessing a boxing match between Captain "C" and Jack Tynan of the Tokyo Post, was that boxing as a means of self-defense would not be of much use against the Japanese art of Judo, familiarly known as Jujitsu. To settle the argument, the Minister of War suggested that a match be arranged between Captain "C" and the instructor of Jujitsu at a Japanese military academy. Captain "C" explained that the purposes of the two arts were different and could not be well compared, but his hesitancy was interpreted to mean that he recognized Jujitsu as the superior art. The Japanese insisted on the match—so it was arranged.

The Judo expert was the same weight as Captain "C", 170 pounds. The Japanese had taken the precaution to witness several boxing matches to know what to expect. The Captain knew only what he had heard of the cunning and cruel Judo art.

The two faced each other. Captain "C" feinted with his left hand. A brown hand flashed out and the white man's left wrist was gripped in an unrelenting vise. Then, by the hold known as the "flying mare," the wrist was twisted until the body of the white man was brought to the leverage, where with a quick jerk and heave it was thrown over the Jap's shoulder to the floor.

Loud applause greeted this result and the smiling Japanese bowed to the audience. He smiled at the Captain, which was a foolish thing to do.

Again the two faced each other. Again the Captain feinted with his left, but with the speed of a snake's darting tongue he smacked home a crashing right cross to the Jap's jaw. The Judo expert took the count—in the usual way.

When the Japanese was revived the Captain remarked that as each had scored one "fall" they had better have another to settle it. The Japanese shook his head and was led to the dressing room.

Boxing has been added to the curriculum of Japanese military academies.

Panama Cables Fund Pledge As 2 States Pick Chairmen

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 00.—Receipt of the first pledge to The American Legion's \$5,000,000 Endowment Fund from a department of the Legion outside Continental United States and selection of state chairmen in Indiana and Kentucky, are the latest developments in the movement, it was announced at national headquarters here today.

The Department of Panama, through its commander, William B. Boggs, cabled national headquarters that it will give \$2,500 to the fund. This action was purely voluntary. The Legion in the United States proper had decided to leave it to each foreign and insular department to determine for itself what support it should give to the movement.

The membership in the Panama Department is 316. This makes an average pledge of nearly \$8 to the man.

Judge Robert W. Bingham, editor and publisher of the Louisville Courier-Journal, has accepted the chairmanship of the state committee to direct the endowment movement in Kentucky.

Marcus S. Sonntag, of Evansville, Indiana, chairman of the Indiana World War Memorial Commission, which is in charge of Indiana's \$10,000,000 memorial plaza project, was selected as chairman of the Indiana committee. Preliminary plans for the work in Indiana were made at a meeting at Indianapolis held at the call of Governor Ed Jackson.

Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle, of South Bend, was chosen as vice-chairman. A committee is being organized in each congressional district in the state. The chairmen of these committees will be members of the state committee.

The Epworth League of the Epworth Church, Norfolk, Virginia, sent a check for \$7 for the fund. This is the first church organization as such to contribute.

Recent acceptances on the national honorary committee are Mrs. Mary Lord Harrison, of New York City, wife of the late President Benjamin Harrison, and John H. Dunn, of Boston, Massachusetts, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

These Horses Love Legion

CAPE MAY, N. J., Feb. 00.—"Dick" and "Harry," a couple of stalwart fire horses, lost their jobs on the Cape May fire department recently. They had served long and faithfully and when the mechanical era overtook them they were through. Cape May Post of The American Legion, didn't think the old fellows had been given a square deal. The Legionnaires got them a soft job on The American Legion convalescent farm at Menantico where all they have to do is pull a light water cart, graze in the pasture and repair to the barn for oats.

To Fight Ground Squirrel

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 00.—Co-operating with the United States Public Service and the Department of Agriculture, The American Legion, Department of California, has called upon its 300 posts to launch a drive for the extermination of the ground squirrel, a carrier of bubonic and pneumonic plague. Enormous losses are annually experienced by the farmer from the ground squirrel's inroads on the crops.

To Start Xmas Tree Farm

MAYVILLE, Pa., Feb. 00.—A Christmas tree farm will be started near here by The American Legion, which is securing trees from the State for the purpose. Boy Scouts will co-operate with the Legion in the care of the trees for eight years, when they will be cut. Enough trees will be left to make timber. Dr. Guy L. Granger donated the site for the Christmas tree farm.

Nurse Is Honored

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 00.—Miss Margaret Strycker, World War nurse, who served five years overseas and has been decorated by two foreign governments, was elected commander of Jane A. Delano Nurses' Post of The American Legion here. Miss Strycker went over on a Red Cross ship in 1914 and later entered the army, serving in England, France and Italy. The French government has decorated her with the Medaille de l'Honneur des Epidemies and Italy with the Fatiche di Guerra, given only to those who served for at least six months in the advanced zone.

FIRST POST GOES OVER TOP

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 00.—Stearns Post of The American Legion, of Stearns, Ky., a small mining city, is the first post in the United States to "go over the top" in The American Legion National \$5,000,000 Endowment Movement.

Twenty-four hours after the quota for Stearns Post was announced, a check for the amount, \$100, was on its way to National Headquarters here.

The quick response of Stearns Post gave added impetus in Kentucky to make that State first in the group of three, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky, where the movement was inaugurated.

FINGERPRINTED IN GRAVE

PUEBLO, Colo., Feb. 00.—Opening of a coffin just as the grave yawned to receive it, was carried out recently here to get the finger prints of an ex-service man to accompany his application for adjusted compensation. Friends of John McNichol, of Durango, Colo., were grouped about the grave when an automobile drove up and a group of American Legion men stepped from it. They made known their request, which was complied with.

During his last hours McNichol's friends made out his application papers for compensation. He was so weak that he could only affix a scrawled mark to the papers in the presence of witnesses. At the last minute it was discovered that his finger prints had not been affixed to the papers, and the posthumous finger print was taken.

NEED HOSPITAL AT ONCE

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 00.—Hundreds of war veterans in the tenth district are without hospital care and scores will die unless the government acts immediately to begin construction of the promised tuberculosis hospital for that district, according to the report of Byrle J. Osborne, secretary of a special American Legion investigating committee. The report was forwarded to General Frank T. Hines, head of the United States Veterans' Bureau.

"Even if the hospital is built immediately it can care for only three hundred veterans, leaving hundreds inadequately hospitalized," said Mr. Osborne.

Collects Pennies for Orphans

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 00.—St. Paul Post, No. 8, of The American Legion, has a novel way of contributing to the Legion's \$5,000,000 Endowment Fund for orphaned children of the World War and disabled veterans. It is a "penny in the slot" plan. At each post meeting the members deposit their pennies in a collection box and the collections have averaged more than five dollars per meeting. When the Legion Endowment Campaign opens in Minnesota, St. Paul Post will have raised much of its quota by the painless penny method. Commander I. E. Gottlieb believes that every Legion post in the country would find the penny collection method worth while.

Urges Review of Post History

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 00.—Posts of The American Legion are urged by National Historian Eben Putnam to hold a meeting in late winter or early spring at which the history of the post during the past five years should be reviewed. Lively interest in the duties of the post historian and the possibilities open to him was manifested at the New England Department Conference at Providence recently. The conference adopted a resolution urging that a history review meeting be held by every post.

Chicago and New York Will Battle

NEW YORK, N. Y., Feb. 00.—The American Legion in New York City has accepted a challenge by Chicago Legionnaires to hold a membership contest between the two cities. The contest will end on July 1. It is based on percentage of gain.

Chicago led until recently, but a spurt on the part of New York left its rival slightly behind. Posts in New York which are active in the campaign, include Lafayette, Police, Jane A. Delano Nurse's Post, East Side, Caduceus and Lexington.

Legion Aids Tuberculous Vets

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 00.—One of the most important amendments to the World War Veterans' Act, which The American Legion is trying to secure at the present session of Congress, is the inclusion of a provision for a permanent rate of pay for those veterans suffering from tuberculosis whose cases have reached a stage of arrest.

Watson B. Miller, chairman of the Legion's National Rehabilitation Committee, has submitted testimony from tuberculosis specialists of the country protesting against wiping out a man's compensation upon his reaching a condition of arrest. It is pointed out that an arrested tubercular might easily work himself back into active tuberculosis unless his compensation pay is maintained. "Once a man has had tuberculosis he can't buck the game as he once did," say the Legion officials.