# FRENCH YOUTH WRITE OF WAR

### Children of Devastated Regions Pen Their Observations.

## ORIGINAL AND INTERESTING

**Little Peasants in Primary Schools Who Saw the War Tell What They Remember of It and What They Thought—Valuable to the Future Historian as Well as to the Psychologist of the Present—Letters Show Remarkable Gift of Observation.**

Gournay-sur-Aronde is a township of 700 people, situated in the Oise department a short distance from Lassigny and Ressons-sur-Matz, one of those villages which have known for four years the worst devastation, the worst misery.

A short time ago, while visiting the ruins of Lassigny and its "Country Community Center," I expressed regret that nobody, neither the director of primary instruction nor any school inspector in the devastated regions, had thought of conducting a kind of inquest written by the children of these regions; of asking the little peasants in the primary schools who had seen the war what they remembered of it and what they thought. I thought that some future historian, as well as some psychologist, at present might find in some thousands of these compositions a little library of a very original type and of the highest value.

M. Delacourt, schoolmaster at Gournay-sur-Aronde, knight of the Legion of Honor, and an ex-soldier who had just come back to his little school from the front, read our suggestion in the Primary Education Review, found it good and has utilized it in his classes. A few days later I received, with a group of compositions, the following letter:

**A Nine-Year-Old Historian.**

"I am sending you the compositions just as they were handed in, without correcting either grammar or spelling. I must ask you to make many allowances for my poor children. They were compelled to flee twice before the enemy, some of them three times. Since they have been shifted about from one end of France to the other they have hardly been to school; most of them did not even know how to read a year ago."

The youngest of all is Maxime Picard, nine years old, who had a big brother killed in the war. The teacher has taught him the events he could not remember. He knows what the victory of the Marne is, but his own memories begin only at 1916, when he was five years old. He remembers the return to the village after the exodus of 1914.

"In 1916 we came back to stay in our house. It was destroyed."

At seven, in 1918, Maxime Picard was struck by the disorder of the fields, where people had dug trenches, where they had brought tables and made listening posts along the parapet, "little holes for one man dug along the edges." But the schoolboy tells us that "the country is gradually being repaired," and since at the moment he was finishing his composition the teacher probably was speaking of the loan, he remembered his master's explanations, which form the end of his theme.

"France has suffered severely because she had not enough money to pay for her soldiers and munitions and it is for this we should love her, and lend her money to pay what she owes to foreign countries."

This at nine years old!

**Child's View of the War.**

Louis Lefevre is ten:

"In 1914 papa was mobilized. We heard the cannon roaring far away. Three days later we had to leave with almost nothing. We couldn't take anything, as there was no room in the carriage. At night we heard airplanes sailing over our heads, we heard gun shots, we had to go to bed all dressed. One night we had to go to bed in the street. Uhlans were passing and we left for the Seine-Inferieure. The next day the country was taken by the Germans."

They fled to Neufchatel, then to Dieppe, "on the shore of the Atlantic ocean." The youngster, too young to remember himself, tells what his parents told him about this journey, but, like Maxime Picard, he remembers his emotions on returning, "burned chairs with the ashes still there," and that the goat had stayed in the stable.

Marcel Denain, eleven years old, took things with less philosophy. He had seen war and understood it. And, with a good, small, firm handwriting, he knows already how to narrate, and observes the beginning of the bombardment of his village with a soldier's coolness.

"I noticed that after the cannon fire of the Germans black clouds formed, while the French guns made white ones."

**Skirts and High Heels Cause Mishaps.**

Tight skirts and high-heeled shoes are blamed in the annual report of W. C. Culkins, street railway director of Cincinnati, O., for the increased number of street car accidents.

**More for Tobacco Than Education.**

Americans spent $90,000,000 more for tobacco during the past year than they did for education, according to Philander P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education.

**Pretty Irish Superstition.**

An old Irish superstition says that it is dangerous to sleep out of doors in the month of May, for that is the time when the fairies are most powerful and on the watch to carry off the handsome girls as fairy brides, the young mothers as nurses for the fairy babies, and the handsome young men for husbands for the fairy princesses.

# HUGE MARINE MONSTER FOUND ON FLORIDA COAST

### Leviathan Has Skull Weighing Tons and Tons—Believed to Be a Giant Squib.

Miami, Fla., is very much wrought up over the discovery off Soldier's key of a huge marine monster which is believed to have come up from the depths of the gulf stream and drifted into the shallow water north of the key. It was discovered dead by Elmer E. Garretson of Miami.

A fragment of the leviathan's skull, weighing three tons and measuring 16 feet in length and 7 feet across, was brought to Miami by Mr. Garretson and Capt. Charles Miller in tow of the yacht Corsair. Ten men with heavy lifting devices were required to pull this bone onto the dock.

Hundreds visited the dock, but none could name the creature, and Garretson was uncertain as to the genus and species. He is inclined to the opinion that it is a giant squib, for the only bone he could find was the skull.

Garretson declared when he first saw the monster it was surrounded by great sharks which were devouring the flesh. He did not know how long it was, as he saw only about eighty or ninety feet of it, with the head protruding six or eight feet above the water.

An examination indicated the body was composed of cartilage, with sinews as large as a man's arm connecting the gristle to the skull.

Garretson, with the aid of the yacht, pulled the head from the body and in doing so broke the skull. He is confident there is another piece of the skull as large as the fragment he brought to Miami. He intends going down to Soldier's key with a party to make a further search.

Garretson said this creature seemed to be large enough to swallow whole the fish Capt. Charles H. Thompson caught some years ago south of Miami and which for years has been described as the largest fish in the world. This fish was 45 feet long and weighed 30,000 pounds.

# THIEF A BROKER BY DAY

**New York City Man Admitted Leading Jekyll and Hyde Life.**

A burglar by night and dealer in stocks and bonds by day, nineteen-year-old Thomas R. Jones, of Brooklyn, is under arrest in New York City. He confessed to more than 25 robberies that have been puzzling the police for more than a year.

It was revealed that while visiting Canada a year ago the youth married a young woman on whom he spent large sums for jewelry and furs, she believing he was a rising young broker, and spent many of his nights away from home in closing important deals, as he told her.

Jones told the police of several hairbreadth escapes. Several months ago he entered a house and found a burglar at work. He frightened the man away and then completed the job himself.

# GIRLS DESECRATE CHURCH

**Freed by Court After They Apologize to Parish.**

Two girls of North Kelsey, Lincolnshire, England, who had pleaded guilty at Caister court for unseemly conduct in the parish church, have just made a public apology before the church congregation.

The girls, Margaret Williams, eighteen years old, and Elsie Beecroft, twenty-three, entered the church, tied knots in hangings and inverted some of the altar candlesticks. They were taken to court, but were released after they had made a confession and apology before the assembled parish at the usual Sunday service.

**Dentist Failed to Hypnotize Wife.**

His attempts to cure domestic unhappiness by hypnotism and the failure of his methods were described by Dr. Warren H. Stover, a dentist of Trenton, N. J., when he testified in the suit of his wife, Adelia, for divorce.

**Robbers Tried Place Once Too Often.**

After staging two successful holdups in a month at the "Chicken farm," south of Gary, Ind., and obtaining nearly $1,000, three robbers came to grief when they attempted to hold up the gambling resort the third time.

**Woman Gave Candy in Campaign.**

The expenditure of $25 for candy to further her appeal to the voters is shown in the expense account filed by Miss Alice E. Cramm of Boston, campaigning as Democratic candidate for state auditor. She was defeated.

**Aviators to Become Rain Makers.**

An aerial irrigation company is being formed at Port Arthur, Canada. It is planned to produce rain by sending airplanes into the air to condense atmospheric moisture by spraying the clouds with liquid air.

**Highest Rent in Village $8 Month.**

Repaupo, a small village four miles below Paulsboro, N. J., is the only town in Gloucester county, New Jersey, where $8 per month is the highest rent paid by any resident for a dwelling.

**Negro Woman Will Run for Alderman.**

The first negro woman to be a candidate for alderman in the city council of Chicago, is Mrs. Lulu M. Sims, who is a candidate from the Fourteenth ward on the West side.

Joseph Pennell, in characteristically caustic English, suggests that the Metropolitan museum meet its financial difficulties by showing the work of living artists, instead of "making itself a graveyard of dead art." There is point to the suggestion, though it would, of course, be a serious mistake to regard the work of the great masters of the past as "dead art."

# KEEP FAMILY IN REIGN OF TERROR

### Mysterious Death Threats Pinned on Front Door With Butcher Knives.

## BLAME FORMER SUITOR

**For More Than Year Chicago Family Has Been Kept in State of Constant Terror by Black-Hand Letters.**

Chicago.—Mysterious death threats pinned to the front door with butcher knives; crude skulls and crossbones drawn on window panes by an unseen enemy; black-hand letters demanding money—these are some of the experiences which have caused the family of Jacob Kolb, a machinist of 4846 Altgeld street, to live a life of terror for the last year.

The climax came at ten o'clock one night recently when Mrs. Sophie Kolb answered the telephone.

"This is Black-Hand Kite!" came a man's voice in gruff tones. "If you don't come across with that $5,000, we'll blow up your house! This time we mean business! Bring——"

**Woman Faints at Threat.**

Mrs. Kolb heard no more. She sank to the floor in a faint, leaving the receiver dangling. Motorcycle Policemen Anderson and Maloney were rushed from Shakespeare avenue station and the Cragin station was notified. Mrs. Kolb was hysterical.

"I'm sure I recognized that voice," she said after she had been calmed. "It sounded like Frank Pobloski, a young man about eighteen years old, who used to run around with Conrad Braemer of 1767 Clybourn avenue, who tried to go with my oldest daughter, Amelia, sixteen. I knew Braemer had been arrested, so I forbade him to see my daughter.

"'I'll get even with you,' he threatened, but I've never seen him since.

"A year ago, when we lived at 4944 Belmont avenue, the first death threat came. A note was pinned to the front door with a butcher knife. The note read: 'Your turn is next.' It was signed with a skull and cross bones. Four months later a letter came demanding $5,000 be brought to an ice cream parlor at Cicero and Fullerton avenues. It stated our house would




The First Death Threat Came.

be blown up if the money was not paid.

**Fright Almost Kills Son.**

"Two more letters came, then another butcher knife was found imbedded in the door. My little son, Jacob, saw it, and collapsed from fright on the car tracks. A motorman stopped the car just in time. Then Julia came home one day and found a message and crossbones smeared in tar on the glass panel of the door. It said: 'You're next.'

"Both Jacob and Julia were so frightened they were under the care of Dr. Martin Schupman for three months. My health broke down, and Amelia is on the verge of nervous collapse. She has been receiving anonymous phone calls threatening her and ordering her to meet some man at different places. A few days ago they tried to lure her to the Alexian Brothers' hospital on the pretext that a 'dear friend' was dying.

"A man named Kite runs a dry goods store next door to where Braemer lives. That's why that fellow tonight used the expression 'Black-Hand Kite.' We notified the Irving Park police on the former occasions, but nothing ever came of it."

A police guard was stationed at the Kolb home.

**Pension for Horses.**

Greenville, S. C.—Dan, the faithful horse of Capt. O. K. Breazele, which has carried United States mail a total distance of more than 75,000 miles on one route, was retired one day recently with a pension after 17 years' service. Captain Breazele, the mail carrier, also was pensioned.

**Curious Egg.**

Lancaster, Ky.—Perry Long has a curiosity in the shape of an egg presented to him by one of his favorite hens. It is an exact replica of a well-developed kershaw, though not so large as a kershaw, displayed a few weeks ago.

**Drum With Harmonics.**

Musicians find the drum an unsatisfactory instrument for lack of harmonic overtones. From India comes the description of a drum the parchment head of which is loaded with an adherent composition containing finely divided iron. Such composition lies in a central circle. Around the edge a second ring-shaped membrane is secured and the effect of the loading is to produce good harmonic overtones.

# SAID ONLY BROTHER DIED 150 YEARS AGO

### Brussels Pauper's Story Amazed Relief Agent, but It Was Proved to Be True.

"Have you no kinsmen to help you?" was asked of a poor man who applied for relief in Brussels a few days ago.

"My only brother died 150 years ago," answered the applicant.

Amazing as was his statement, it proved to be true.

A still more extraordinary lapse of time between the birth of two brothers is recorded by Henry Bellenden-Ker, a well-known English lawyer of the early Nineteenth century. One of the witnesses in a probate action in which Bellenden-Ker was engaged was asked if he had any brothers or sisters. He replied:

"My only brother died 152 years ago."

A murmur of incredulity ran through the court, yet documentary evidence was produced to confirm the old man's statement. His father had married at the age of nineteen, and by this wife had a son who died in infancy. He married again at the age of seventy-five and had another son, the witness, who was ninety-six, when he gave his evidence.

The Fox family can show a remarkable record of this type. There were only two generations in the direct line of descent between Sir Stephen Fox, who was born in 1627 and (so it is said) attended Charles I. on the scaffold, and the third Earl of Ilchester, who died in 1858. Thus it happened that of two aunts of Charles James Fox one, his father's half-sister, died in 1658, and the other, Lady Sarah Napiner, his mother's youngest sister, died in 1828.

The Maude family is another long-lived line. Capt. Francis Maude, R. N., was born in 1798 and survived until 1886. His paternal granfather was born in 1673, and his father, the first Lord Hawarden, in 1729, the three generations covering 213 years. Lord Hawarden married in 1777, for his third wife, a bride of eighteen, who died in 1851. There were thus 122 years between the birth of the husband and the death of his wife.

# GIRLS LIVE CHEAPLY

**Menus for Three Days at a Cost of 35 Cents Per Person.**

A group of young women students of household economics at the Western College for Women at Oxford, O., has solved the high cost of living. They carefully studied food values, considered a variety of dishes, arranged menus, bought and prepared food, and then fed themselves for three days at an average cost per person of 35 cents. Here are the menus:

First Day—Breakfast, oatmeal and dates, eggs a la Buckingham, toast, coffee; luncheon, cream of tomato soup, potato salad, orange marmalade; dinner, fried pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, cabbage, salad, bread and butter, apple pie.

Second Day—Breakfast, shredded wheat, waffles, syrup; luncheon, potato soup, baked apples, bread and butter; dinner, Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, corn bread and butter, whipped gelatine with cream.

Third Day—Breakfast, cornflakes, stewed fruit, toast, coffee; luncheon, bean soup, bread and butter, ginger bread; dinner, beef stew with dumplings, Waldorf salad, bread and butter, Scotch pie.

# MOSQUE TO RISE IN PARIS

**Parliament Appropriates 500,000 Francs for Construction.**

Paris is soon to have its first mosque for the benefit of the Mohammedans in French possessions in northern Africa—Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The people of those colonies have subscribed to a fund for the erection of the building and Algeria has nominated an Imam, or leader, for the mosque.

The city of Paris will present the grounds on which the mosque is to be built, and the French parliament has appropriated 500,000 francs for construction purposes. Attached to the mosque will be a Mussulman institute.

# HAS TEN, ADOPTS ANOTHER

**Mother of Big Family Will Raise Orphan Like Her Own Children.**

Mother of ten healthy children and yet yearning to "mother" all the motherless children she hears about, Mrs. Hans Hansen of Cedar Falls, Ia., yielded to her strong maternal instinct and adopted a baby girl.

"I love babies," she smiled when asked if she didn't think her family large enough, "and this one has no mother. I shall love it as my own."

**Church Has Banned Passing of Plate.**

Believing that the passing of the collection plate in church smacks of commercialism, the congregation of the First Baptist church at Dunkirk, N. Y., has voted to discontinue the passing of the plate during services and will use free-will offering boxes.

**Contractors Cut High Cost of Building.**

Contractors of Edwardsville, Ill., have announced that a campaign conducted by them has resulted in an average reduction of 25 per cent in building costs. The campaign was conducted to stimulate building.

**The Rule in Texas.**

Maybe you also have noticed that when a woman is raising seven children her favorite dog is a dead one.—Dallas News.

**Set With Any Gem.**

The episcopal ring was formerly set with any gem. It is, however, at the present time generally set with an amethyst or a sapphire.

# HEROISM SHOWN BY AMERICAN WORKERS OF NEAR EAST RELIEF

### Cables Reveal Appalling Armenian Need—Hundreds of Thousands Starving.

By CHARLES V. VICKREY
General Secretary, Near East Relief



Charles V. Vickrey

Approximately 500 American men and women are standing loyally and heroically at their posts in Armenia, Turkey and the Near East. Many of them during the long winter of isolation are undergoing what we in America call "hardship." But these, our fellow citizens in the Near East, are volunteers serving with a high purpose, and they do not recognize hardship when they meet it.

They have had their opportunity to withdraw with honor from the field of famine and desolation. They have refused to leave, because they know that their departure would mean death for tens of thousands of women and children whom their efforts have kept alive and whom they are determined to save for a better future.

A dozen cables are on my desk from various centers in Armenia, Anatolia, Cilicia and Syria pleading piteously for the lives of hundreds of thousands who are homeless: "Sixty-five thousand refugees Constantinople alone;" "Refugees flocking into Aleppo;" "Twenty thousand refugees at Ismid;" "One hundred thousand people at Alexandropol will starve unless relief is provided;" "Refugees arriving from Caucasus, escaping persecution, naked, destitute! Urgent need to save most of them from death;" "Two hundred thousand starving between Kars and Alexandropol! Severe winter adding to distress."

Above all towers the mute appeal of the more than 100,000 little children, orphaned, homeless, whom these American relief workers have saved and whom we here at home must sustain not only through the winter and spring, but through the summer and autumn as well. If we do not provide, they perish! And with them dies the hope of a New Near East.

The Easter season is here—the season that commemorates the Great Sacrifice for mankind. America is known as a Christian nation. She is also the wealthiest nation that history has ever known.

Can we really enjoy our wealth and claim the name of Christian if we turn a deaf ear to the appeal which General Leonard Wood, in behalf of the Near East Relief, has sent forth broadcast for a Lenten Sacrifice Offering to save these little children in Bible Lands?

# ASK AID FOR THE SUFFERING ARMENIANS

### Distinguished Names on Lenten Sacrifice Appeal.

Major General Leonard Wood, U. S. Army, is head of a nation-wide committee making an appeal for a Lenten sacrifice offering for the relief of the starving Christian populations of the Near East, in behalf of the Near East Relief, 1 Madison avenue, New York City.

Among those who join General Wood in asking support of the work of the Near East Relief are: Andrew W. Mellon, of Pittsburgh, secretary of the treasury; ex-President William H. Taft; Frank A. Munsey; W. W. Atterbury of the Pennsylvania Railroad; President John Grier Hibben, of Princeton University; Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute; Mrs. Carrie Champman Catt, the suffrage leader; Mrs. Corinne Roosevelt Robinson, sister of the late President Roosevelt; Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company; John C. Shaffer, owner of the Chicago Post and other newspapers; Dr. Henry van Dyke; Miss H. F. H. Ried; Miss Elizabeth Marbury; Samuel Gompers and Warren S. Stone, labor leaders; John G. Milburn and Moorfield Storey, of the American Bar Association; Mary Garden; David Belasco; Mrs. Medill McCormick; Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. George Maynard Minor, head of the D. A. R.; Miss Anna A. Gordon, head of the W. C. T. U.; Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker, of the League of Women Voters; Mrs. Philip North Moore, president of the National Council of Women; Miss Alice Stone Blackwell; Mrs. George Horace Lorimer, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Mary Roberts Rinehart, the well known novelist; Rupert Hughes and Emerson Hough, authors; Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah; Governor John M. Parker, of Louisiana; Dr. Frank M. McMurry, of Teachers' College, New York City; William C. Bobbs, of Indianapolis; J. Thomson Willing, the artist; Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge; Mrs. Henry Morgenthau; Mrs. Edwin M. Bulkley; Bishop-elect William T. Manning, of New York; Mrs. Stanley White; Mrs. William Nash Read, of Montgomery, Ala.; Arthur Brisbane; John S. Drum, San Francisco; John McParland, Labor leader.

**Has Nothing to Do With Porker.**

"You have got the wrong sow by the ears," has nothing to do with the grunter in the yard. "Sow" was a large tub used for pickling or "sowsing," and the word is often used in modern speech. The expression, therefore, means that you have the wrong vessel by the handle, lug or ear, or, as the Latin phrase has it, "you brought me the little jug instead of the great gotch." The French word "seau" means a bucket.


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