ADDRESS TO AMERICAN LEGION

Delivered Last Saturday By Col. Ivers W. Leonard, Of Kent County, In Chestertown At The Annual Armistice Day Celebration

After being introduced by Dr. Gould, president of Washington College, Col. Leonard spoke as follows:

I do not suppose that anyone who has never campaigned can conceive of the bond of feeling which exists among soldiers. For what man, NOT a soldier, ever combined in his one lifetime, all the experiences from which military friendships are born?

First, there is the common undertaking, in which each and all pledge not only their supreme efforts, but their very lives as well. Then there is the submission to the stern discipline and the acceptance of the common, frugal fare. All wear the same uniform. The simple beds, when beds there are, are all alike. The very step and gait are the same for all; the tall man and the short man must conform. The rich man's son and the poor man's son receive the same correction, experience, the same hard justice. Both march in the same heat, receive upon their heads the same rain or snow, wade the same mud, and, in the field, lie upon the same sod, look up to the same canopy of stars or clouds, breast the same storm of bullets, face the same hedge row of bayonets, and, if stricken on the field of battle, share the common grave. Here, and here alone, is real democracy.

One civilian may, in time of stress, receive from another half that other's last cracker, or gill of water. One civilian may have been rescued from death by another's heroic self-sacrifice. A man in civil life may, when footsore and exhausted, be helped on his way by the arm of some other weary but stronger traveller. Many have sat by the hunter's camp-fire, and with boon companions, held the individual coffee cups over the flames, toasted bacon over the embers, swapped stories until even later than Taps, and then rolled up in their blankets with no other canopy above them than the sky. One not a soldier may have tramped barefoot over stony roads; he may have gone hungry and thirsty, but what man, not a soldier, has ever known ALL the experiences that the soldier in war knows? And if he has not lived the military life, shared its hopes and disappointments, its hardships and pleasures, its triumphs and defeats, its joys and its heartbreaks, its perils and escapes, its sickness, its wounds and recoveries,—if he has not known it all, he cannot possibly understand how you feel toward me, how I feel toward you, my comrades. The soldier'slife! It is truly the simple life, and yet the richest of all lives. Its friendships are, therefore, the simplest, most frank, the most binding and the most enduring. And it is only because you of the Legion were soldiers, that I consented to talk to you today. I had intended that my days of public speaking were over. But when your commander asked me to talk to you, how could I refuse? You were soldiers; I am a soldier. We talk the same language.

I do not know what you would most desire to have me talk to you about. But it has seemed to me that I need not dwell upon your past achievements, for they are already inscribed in the Hall of Glory itself. So it has occurred to me that I might better talk of what the American Legion can do and should do now.

Three score years ago our country emerged from what, up to that time, was the greatest war of history,—the Civil War. Since it was a civil war, in which one part of the nation had been arrayed against the other part, it was natural that when peace came, the surviving soldiers of each section, those of the South, on the one hand, and those of the North, on the other, should organize into two separate military societies, the Confederate Veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic. I say it was natural that they should do that. One might go farther and say that it was inevitable that they should do so. But how very unfortunate that, the war being over, and the country nominally and legally re-united, the soldiers of both North and South could not have organized into a SINGLE society, but with the double purpose of wiping out all the bitterness the war had engendered and of rebuilding the prosperity of our whole country! Just think what it would have meant to the South; for could this have been possible, there would have been, for instance, no "Carpet Bag" regime, and the South would have been now half a century ahead of where it now is in prosperity and in population. But with human nature as it is, such a military society was impossible at the end of our Civil War. It could only come about at the end of a war in which the nation was united. It is true that, to a small extent, such a society grew out of the Spanish-American War. But that war was so small, so brief, and the number of men engaged in it so few, that, though all parts of the nation were represented in the Society of the Spanish-American War Veterans, the effect was not so complete as was needed, though much good was done.

But when the World War came on, by far the greatest the world has ever known, and when 4,000,000 of men were called to the service, there came about a truly national representation. And so, when the greatest of wars ended and the American Legion sprang up, with posts in every city, town and village of the land, the agency for good which our country most needed came into existence. My own membership illustrates how truly national is our great organization. A native of Indiana, and a member of the Regular Army, I first entered the Legion as a charter member of the post at San Antonio, Texas.

I am now a member of the post at Charleston, West Virginia, and have chosen Maryland to be my home when the War Department consents to retire me from active service. So that I can, as it were, bring you greetings from our comrades in Indiana to the North, from Texas to the South, and from your neighboring state of West Virginia.

And now that we have this great organization, what shall we do with it, for what purpose shall it be used?

Of cource it is not only natural, but right and fitting as well, that we should use our posts and these reunions to preserve our comradship, to perpetuate the memories of our military experiences, to rekindle the camp fires, as it were, if not in the dug-outs of France, at least in our hearts; to strengthen the bonds which bind us together as soldiers. But we cannot stop there.

Sacred and delightful as all this may be we have other purposes, other duties to perform.

We have "Saved the world for Democracy", we have preserved our civilization;—it is now up to us to make them better than they were before. And how shall we do this? Of course the answer we have all heard so many times comes to us at once, "By each member striving to be the very best American citizen he can be." But I want to get down to detail a little more than that. Such a statement, although absolutely true, is,after all, but a glittering generality.

It seems to me that the very first thing each one of us should do as a step toward becoming the very best citizen possible, toward making our democracy, our civilization, better, is to resolve to respect and obey every statute of the law, no matter what that statute may be, whether we like it or not. You know that since the World War ended, our country has been swept by the greatest crime wave in its history. A gentleman last night tried to tell me that this was not true, —that the amount of criminality during the last four years was no greater in proportion to the population than it was before the World War. Now if a business man is to succeed in his undertakings, the very first thing he must do is to look facts fairly and frankly in the face. It does no good to deny disagreeable facts. If they ARE facts they will be no less facts for denying them. For instance, to deny the present coal shortage will not make coal any cheaper, will it? So I told that gentleman that while I was stationed at Chicago during the first six months of 1919 there were more bank holdups and holdups of stores in that one city and its immediate suburbs than had occurred in the whole United States during the fifty years preceding the World War. Yes, the great crime wave is a real fact, a terribly real fact. So the question arises, what shall you and I do toward stopping it The first thing to do is what I said a moment ago. Let every man jack of us, you and I, comrades, scrupulously obey each and every law on the statute books, whether we like the law or not. And let me suggest some that we are likely to overlook. One is the fish and game law; another is the prohibition law; another is the law against gambling. Still another is the law against reckless automobile driving, and so on. Now you may say these are small matters as compared to bank holdups, the gigantic war frauds, etc., etc. Nevertheless, the laws in question are LAWS and if you violate one of them you are acting criminally, and putting yourself in the same position as the man in the glass house who threw stones, when it comes to protesting against any other form of law breaking. Then, too, you are losing out, in your efforts to make the country better, the great force of example, and that is the greatest of all human forces. "Actions speak louder than words."

Now do not misunderstand me. I am not saying that all game laws are exactly what they should be. I am not trying to make you favor the Volstead Act if it does not accord with your views. Bless your souls, before it was passed I always took a glass of beer if I wanted it. I sometimes drank a little whiskey. But now we HAVE the Volstead Act, let us obey it while it is on the statute books. If you do not believe in the Act, vote against it every time you have a legal right to do so. Electioneer against it all you want to. But while it IS the law, obey it, that is all. And so with all other laws.

The next step toward better citizenship and a better country is to aid in law enforcement. That is to support the constituted authorities in their efforts to enforce the law. Here, too, it makes no difference whether you or I like a particular law or a particular officer of the law. You know how it would have been in the service if every soldier who did not like a rule or regulation had refused to obey it, or if he disliked a particular officer and had refused to obey him. Why, the army would have been no army at all; it would have been a mere mob! So if we are to stop or help to stop the crime wave, we must support the officers who are trying to enforce the law. And this does not merely mean that you are to give testimony in court, if you know anything that will help in the administration of justice, or help make arrests; it means far more than that. It means that we must talk and use our influence for the officers who are trying to enforce the law, whether they are of our political party or not, whether we like them personally or not.

Our great Legion is non-political. And that fact makes it all the more powerful for good. For it leaves each member free to vote as he pleases; and we cannot all of us honestly vote alife, because we cannot all think alike.

There is still another way in which we can improve our citizenship, and that is by honest service in our business relations. When we accept employment in civil life let us go at our work exactly as you went at your objectives in France. You know how it was: the lieutenant told you that the platoon must reach, capture and hold a certain Bosch trench by a certain hour. You knew that you might be killed—that many of the platoon surely would be killed long before that trench could be reached. But you shut your teeth together and determined that if you lived you WOULD reach that trench, that you would capture it and that you would hold it so long as you had life and strength enough to pull a trigger. The task called for all, for the very best you had in you; and you brought that all, that very best to bear. So if we are to ever "get back to normalcy," we must bring our very best to bear in our civil pursuits.

Then there is another thing we should do. You know that you went into the World War to save the liberties of the world. The Kaiser was determined to rule the whole world, to dictate to every man, woman and child as to what should be "Verboten" and what should not. We were determined that he should not tell us what we might or might not do. We were determined that our liberties of action should be preserved as guaranteed by our own beloved constitution. And we won as against the Kaiser. But today there are those in our fair land who would dictate to us as to what we may or may not do, where we may work, for whom we may work and for how much we may work. Now, if I may compel you to work or to stop work, to work for more or less than you choose, to work or refuse to work for a particular employer, you are no longer a free citizen. And so it behooves us, if we are to remain free citizens, to oppose with all our mights, with all our influence, every effort of any man or set of men to interfere with the free sale of our labor, especially when they seek to interfere by force and violence. I am proud of the stand the American Legion has taken as against the I. W. W.'s and similar organizations, and I believe that I speak the simple truth when I say that but for its stand against this menace all that we saved from the Kaiser would have been lost to would-be American tyrants, as ruthless and cruel as the Kaiser himself. With those who unite together to better their conditions by fair and legal methods the American Legion has no quarrel; but as against those who would dynamite and burn the property of others and maim and murder, the Legion stands, and must continue to stand, as firmly as you stood against the counter attacks of the Huns in France if we are to remain a free people.

Then there are those who would persuade us that we have outgrown our constitution, our republican form of government. Whoever they may be, and wherever they may be, we must combat these, and their false teaching. It took centuries of war and cost oceans of blood to make such a consitution as ours possible: A thousand years ago the contest was begun in England and a century and a half ago it was gloriously won on our own soil, when in the neighboring state of Virginia Lord Cornwallis surrendered to our own George Washington. Let us never forget the price paid for our inestimable liberty; let us always remember that when our constitution falls we lose this priceless heritage. And so let us, by precept and by example, teach and preach always, respect, love and veneration for our flag as the symbol of what our constitution guarantees to us.

There are still others that will have us believe that there will be no more war and that, therefore, we need no army. The state of unrest in the world today is an ample answer to such teachings. True, we need not a standing army of a million men. Congress has devised a scheme by which we can get along with a comparatively small regular army. This scheme provides for a real, highly trained National Guard and for organizing the former officers and enlisted men of the World War armies into an organized reserve force of over a million, which can be maintained and trained at a slight cost but can be mobilized at short notice. The scheme makes use of the R. O. T. C.'s of our colleges and universities and our Citizen Military Training Camps to recruit the reserves and keep them up to the required strength as the World War Veterans became superannuated, or, for other reasons, drop out of the Reserves. But there is a minimum below which the Regular Army must not be reduced if the National Guard and the Organized Reserves, the R. O. T. C.'s and the C. M. T. C.'s are to be properly administered and trained. As good citizens, you should all use your influence to see that this insurance against war is kept up, exactly as good business men keep up their fire insurance policies. And those of you who can should enroll yourselves in either the National Guard or the Organized Reserves, if only for the sake of example. Remember that at no time in the world's history was there so much talk about universal and everlasting peace as there was in 1914, up to within a week of the outbreak of the greatest war ever known. Had we had such a military organization at that time as the present National Defence Act provides for, it is doubtful if Germany would have dared to invade Belgium, and if she had not dared to do that she would not have declared war at all, since it was only by going through Belgium that she could hope to succeed. So as a part of good citizenship, combat wherever you meet it all efforts to reduce our military organization below the safety mark.

It has been a great pleasure to me to be with you today. I deem it a great honor to have been invited to talk to you. What honor could be greater than that of being asked by some of the very men who did the greatest thing that was ever done in the world's history—the men who saved our civilization in the greatest war ever fought. And I trust that what I have been able to say to you may not be without help in pointing out some of the means by which our grand Legion may become worthy of its name.

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In The Matter Of William T. Lusby, Trust Estate.

In the Circuit Court for Kent County. In Equity No. 1880.

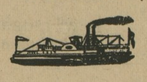
Ordered, this 4th day of November, 1922, by the Circuit Court of Kent County, on the petition, exhibits and affidavit filed in this cause, that Thomas W. Perkins, the Trustee in the above entitled cause, give notice of his application to be relieved and discharged from the further execution of the trust, by advertisement inserted in some newspaper published in Kent County, once a week for four successive weeks, warning all persons to show cause, if any they have, on or before the 15th day of December, 1922, why the application of the said Trustee should not be granted.

LEWIN W. WICKES.

True Copy—Test:
n11-5t. ROBERT R. AYRES, Clerk

Chester River Line

SCHEDULE



In Effect October 19, 1922.

Steamer leaves Batlimore, Pier 9, Light St., Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 a. m. for Rock Hall and Chester River landings, arriving at Chestertown 5.30 p. m.

Returning steamer leaves Chestertown Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7.30 a. m., stopping at Chester River landings, arriving at Baltimore at 1 p. m.

Steamer leaves Baltimore, Pier 9, Light street, Saturday at 3.00 p. m. for Rock Hall, Md.

Returning steamer leaves Rock Hall Saturday at 5.30 p.m., arriving in Baltimore at 7.45 p. m.

SUNDAYS

Steamer leaves Baltimore, Pier 9, Light St., Sundays at 8.00 a. m., arriving in Rock Hall 10.15 a. m., Love Point 11.15 a. m., Queenstown 12.15 p. m.

Returning steamer leaves Queenstown Sundays 3.00 p. m., Love Point 4.00 p. m., Rock Hall 5.00 p. m., arriving in Baltimore Sunday 7.15 p. m.

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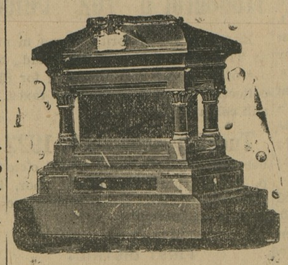
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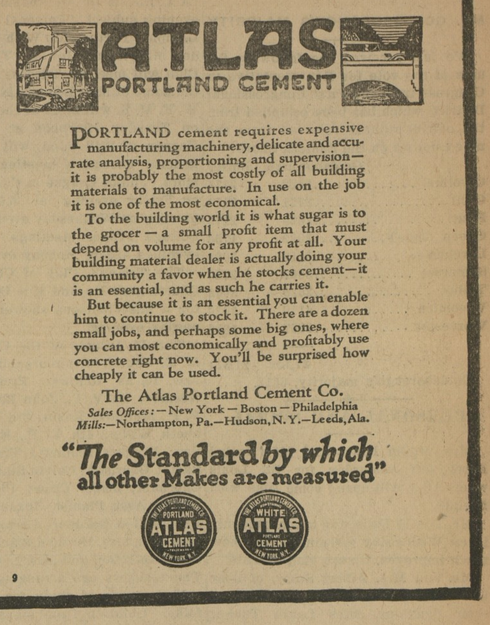
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