

**EX-SERVICE MAN  
DECRIES "CASTE"  
SYSTEM IN ARMY**

Interesting Letter From Paul Bentley  
Regarding Proposed Universal  
Military Training.

March 6th, 1920.

Editor Downers Grove Reporter,  
Downers Grove, Illinois.  
Sir:

There are at the present time several bills before Congress covering various systems of universal military training. These bills, some of which are good and some bad, all have their supporters as well as opponents. The opponents of universal military training have as their main objection the belief that such a system of service will but lay the foundation for an autocratic military rule. To the ex-soldier this is a very sensible objection, but the question that arises in mind in connection with such opposition is, "Why should this be true?"

The last American Army to take part in active warfare, the army just demobilized, was the finest example of caste rule that this country has ever produced. The lives, welfare and destinies of hundreds of thousands of youthful Americans were placed in the hands of a few individuals. And unfortunately but none the less true, some of these individuals grossly abused the power and authority placed in their keeping by the people of this nation. Too often were the men over whom they ruled subjected to cruel and totally unnecessary discipline, too often were these men subjected to abuse and imposition for which there was absolutely no excuse. The caste rule that prevailed in the army of the world war will also prevail in the army mustered into service by a universal military law unless the people of this land demand that caste rule be abolished.

Another grave objection to the proposed plans of universal military training is the present court martial system, a system that long ago became obsolete, that has no place in an army of democratic American soldiers. A court martial system that allows one man to prefer charges against a subordinate, sit at the defendant's trial, appoint his counsel, and pass judgment upon the accused, is wrong and should be abolished or at least revised. And furthermore, what chance has the accused under such a system.

Brigadier-General Ansell, the only man who possessed the courage to denounce the army caste system and the obsolete court martial system was kicked bodily out of the army. Fired because he dared to speak for four million of his fellow countrymen, because he dared to denounce a malicious practice, a rank injustice.

This is a self-governing nation, the people of this land have the ballot they elect their representatives in the legislative bodies and there are a voice in the making of the laws by which they are to be governed. Why shouldn't the men who serve one, two, or four years in the army have a voice in the making of the rules and laws by which they are to be governed?

It is not the writer's intention to discredit military training. Properly handled such training could have nothing but a beneficial effect upon the youth of this land, physically,

**NEW FRANCHISE  
CALLS FOR NEW  
PHONE SYSTEM**

Removal of Poles Between Warren  
And Maple Avenues, on Main  
Also Provided For.

Downers Grove will have a change in the telephone system sometime within the next two years, the franchise which will be put before the voters on April 20, provides. Another wise provision is a section calling on the company to remove all poles on Main st. between Maple ave. and Warren ave., within 12 months. These are probably the two provisions in the ordinance, granting the Chicago Telephone Company the right to use the streets and alleys of the village, which will most interest local subscribers.

The change in the system means that the present "ringing" system, by which one turns a crank to signal the operator, will be changed to the "relay multiple telephone system" that one where the mere lifting of the receiver from the hook flashes a light in the operating room.

It may seem strange that the company is granted such a long time in which to make the change. There is a very good reason for this, however, and that is the impossibility of the manufacturers of this type of apparatus making deliveries much before that time. Like everything else, there is a real shortage of telephone equipment on account of the war.

In addition to the above, the Village will receive eight telephones for village use only, free of all charges during the term of the franchise and free tolls on all lines in DuPage Co. and to cities between Chicago and Aurora, inclusive, not to exceed \$100 worth in any one year, to be used only for village business.

The ordinance is published in its entirety on page seven this week.

morally, and mentally. But if not properly handled it can have nothing but a bad effect upon our young men. Subject the youth to injustice and he will become resentful and vicious. Give him a square deal and he will become a good and useful citizen.

Caste rule in the army and the present court martial system must go. In their place must come a just and fair rule in keeping with this nation's spirit of democracy. It is the opinion of the writer that under the circumstances the people of this land, as a whole, are opposed to universal military training and certainly it is the duty of every man's parent to vigorously oppose any bill now before Congress proposing any such training, until the present court martial system is revised and caste rule in the army abolished.

Yours truly,  
Paul Bentley.

Put your orders in at once for  
Irish Ice Cream, Puffer Pharmacy.

**Mistake and Mushrooms.**

An unusual occurrence is reported from Letchworth golf links. It appears that an enthusiastic beginner mistook a mushroom for his ball, and did not discover his mistake until five strokes afterward.

Church Notices on Page 6

**SECOND SUNDAY  
SCOUT HIKE A  
HUGE SUCCESS**

Found "Treasure" and Made Fire  
Without the Use of "Civilized"  
Matches.

The second hike of the year for Troop No. 1 of the local boy scouts, was last Sunday. Fourteen boys attended and left Mr. W. W. Heintz's home at two o'clock in the afternoon to follow a trail left by five scouts who had left in the morning. With the aid of field glasses they were trailed for an hour covering a distance of two miles. Finally the end of the trail was reached and the boys found a note saying a treasure was hidden within 100 yards, "up or down."

The search lasted for about twenty minutes when it was rudely interrupted by LeRoy Sullivan, who with a triumphant shout announced the discovery of a large piece of chocolate.

From there they were led to a camp fire which had been built without any matches, being made by the bow method of firemaking after the expenditure of much energy on the part of Bud Smith.

There two pails of hot chocolate had been made and this along with the sandwiches which had been brought along by the individual scouts, made a very fine meal.

After lunch all hands joined in for some fun and this was found in sliding on the ice which was kept up for about 20 minutes when the search for more fun began. This was to be found on the pond—the Barker—in the form of a Fox and Goose game.

This game was kept up for an hour and at the end of that time they all returned home, having covered seven miles and deciding on a moonlight hike for the next night for skating.

Skating Not Very Good.  
Instead of an indoor meeting the scouts of Troop No. 1 went on a hike Monday evening as they had previously decided. There was a fine attendance, over twenty members being present (there are only about 25 in this troop at present). Each brought weinies and sandwiches.

After a brisk hike they arrived at the camp site near the Barker and built a fire. The skating not being very good, about 7:45 they started to cook their weinies and cocoa, over the fire. In all it is estimated that at least 140 weinies were consumed by the hungry mob and it was a picture to see those twenty boys huddled around the fire, each trying to find room at the blaze to "cook" another weinie.

After everyone's hunger had been appeased, Assistant Scout Master Ed Garrison, read two excellent poems. One was a very funny one entitled "The Cremation of Dan McGee."

On the way home a creek had to be crossed in which operation Mr. Heintz submerged both "pins." All arrived home safely at 9:15.

Next Sunday another hike is scheduled and it is thought this will be the best of any so far.

By "A Scout."

**Mammoth American Spring.**

What is the largest spring in the world? Florida has one which must be near the head of the list. This is called Wakulla spring. It is 400 feet across, is 80 feet deep and flows at the rate of 120,000 gallons of water every minute. It gives rise to a river 250 feet wide at its source. This mammoth spring is situated about 15 miles from Tallahassee.—The Outlook.

**Steel Needles Chinese Invention.**

The Chinese were the first people in the world to use steel needles. The Chinese needles slowly made their way westward until they were brought into Europe by the Moors.

**BUNNING AVER-  
AGED HIGH IN  
DETROIT MATCH**

Totaled 1290 for Six Games at Bowling  
Tournament in Auto  
City Sunday.

L. E. "Babe" Bunning, local bowling star, rolling with such Chicago stars as Marino and Carmichael, totaled 1290 pins for six games in a tournament at Detroit last Sunday.

The team bowling under the name of the "Avondales" took fourth place in the tournament for a total of \$350 of the prize money. Bunning averaged 215 for the six games in the five man event and 195 for the nine in the singles. His team mates were Marion, Carmichael, Wernecke and Joe Shaw. Every one of them well known among the pin getters of the smoky city, where Bunning is getting the reputation of getting the wood when he needs it.

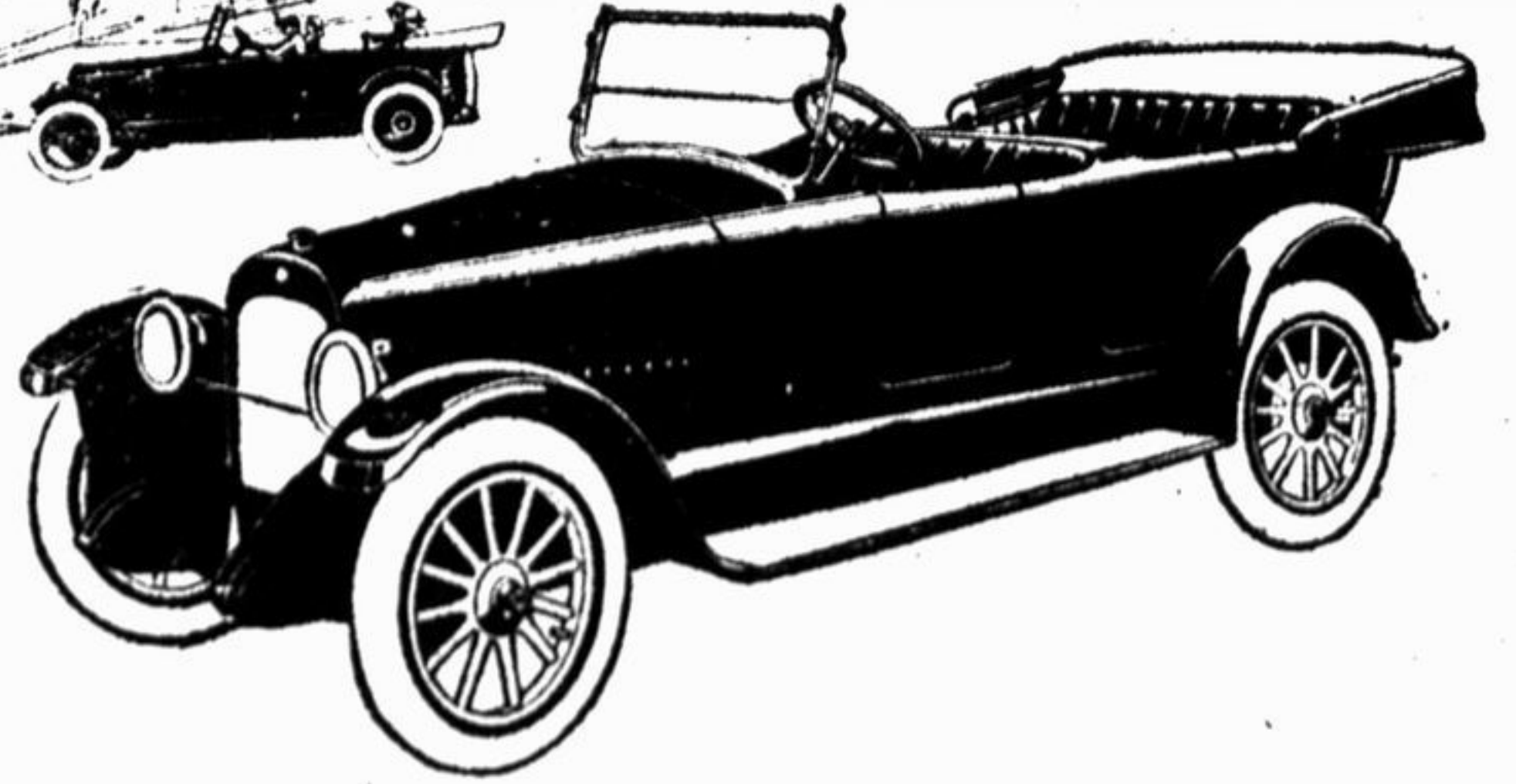
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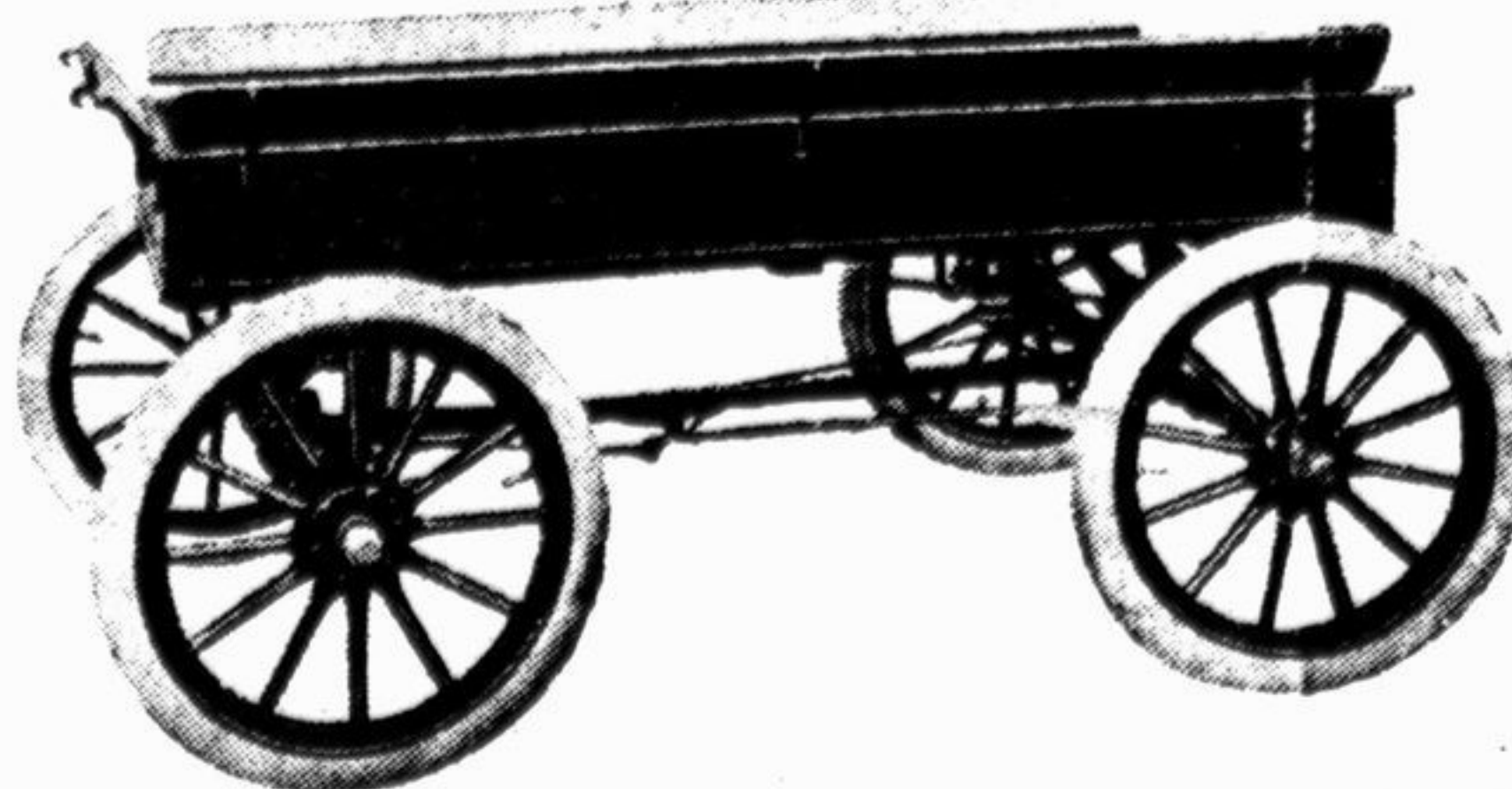
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For one year the Bell Telephone System, as well as other telephone, telegraph, cable and radio systems, was under control and supervision of the government of the United States. This was a war measure, designed to give the war agencies of the country the fullest use of all facilities of communication.

During this time the normal development and expansion of all telephone systems was necessarily subordinated to governmental needs. Materials and equipment had to be utilized first in the construction and maintenance of lines for war purposes. Ordinary development and expansion waited.

The Bell Telephone System is making headway in its effort to overtake the demand for service which developed during this period of suspension, but some time will yet be required before the expansion of the business can proceed at normal speed.

CHICAGO TELEPHONE COMPANY