

### AID TO DISABLED, LEGION'S FIRST DUTY

#### More Hospitals and Beds Are Needed; 71 Men Die Each Day; Nat'l Commander

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 15 — The American people were called upon to aid the American Legion in fighting for the proper hospitalization of 5,543 mentally ill veterans of the World war by O. L. Bodenhamer, national commander of the Legion, in an address he delivered today at the Annual Conference of Illinois American Legion post adjutants and commanders here.

The address follows: "The American Legion was formed partly for the purpose of taking its place in the work of reconstruction, which followed the World war. The problem of rehabilitation for our disabled was of primary importance. The welfare of the sick and wounded held the tender consideration of Legion leaders from the very founding of this organization. The welding back together of the broken cords of four million returned soldiers was a task which was met by the Legion, with the firm hand of patriots.

"Today the veterans of the World war are the beneficiaries of the most liberal government and of the best equipped hospitals in the world. And yet, there is still much left to be done. Still, additional hospitals are necessary. Poor farms and jails and penitentiaries are housing some of the veterans of the World war. Surely, no greater crime against American patriotism could be perpetrated than for the American people, through its congress, to longer delay in supplying the hospital facilities necessary to care for the ever-growing list of our disabled.

"And congress has already delayed too long, in authorizing additional hospital facilities. The Legion is urging, now, the immediate passage of a bill which will give prompt relief to more than 5,000 disabled veterans of the recent World war, who are suffering from lack of care, caused by a shortage in government hospitals. According to the Acting Medical Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, the total number of nervous and mentally disabled veterans. Of this number, 5,543 are now being cared for in over-crowded and under-nourished city, county and state institutions. These men are not in government hospitals, where they should be, and where they have a right to be, under existing laws.

"These men are herded together like cattle, and crowded into hallways and corridors, which should be left available for the uses for which they are intended. The American Legion has taken up the fight for these sons of America, lost in the shadows of a past glory, and the American people, when they understand the situation, will join, hand and heart, with the American Legion in this battle.

"You service men will recall the fact that the time element was paramount in the prosecution of the war. A week's delay might have meant the loss of a battle. But weeks have lengthened into years, for many of the men who laid their health upon the altar of their country's defense, and I am saying to you service men,

now, that the time element again plays a part. For these men, a week's delay in securing proper treatment may mean the loss or the winning of another battle for them—the difference between restitution to their rightful places in society, or sinking into the gulf from which there is no return.

"It has now been a little more than 10 years since we grabbed our newspaper and read with fear and trembling the casualty list. All that may seem a long time in the past, but the casualty list, which you read then, did not end with the signing of the Armistice. Yesterday, 71 American soldiers were added to that same list. Those 71 men died on the field of honor, just as surely as did those men who fell on Flanders' field. At this very hour, today, 71 more have been added to that same roll of honor. How many tears have you shed? What have you done to appease their pain? Are these to be allowed to suffer, day after day, with not one sign from us of our gratitude? Are their children going to be forced to pay the penalty of poverty and crime and poor citizenship, just because their fathers answered the call of your country and of my country? Surely not. Surely, the American people, under the leadership of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, will do the right thing, when they know the right thing to do. To deprive those veterans of that service and sympathy, to which they, as American soldiers, are justly entitled, means a tortured spirit in the grave of an American patriot.

"To deprive his orphaned children of that service and sympathy, to which they, as the children of an American soldier, are justly entitled, means that poverty and disease and crime will hold a firm grip upon the children of your heroes. To prevent such a calamity, is one phase of the work of reconstruction, to which the American Legion is dedicated, and one high purpose which will hold within its bonds the service men of this country, so long as there is a living disabled comrade to breathe the breath of life.

"And today, with congress in session, the Legion is calling attention to the torture and suffering which hold within their grip more than 5,000 of America's patriots, with the appeal that the men and women of America will join the Legion in demanding the passage of a bill, at the December meeting of our national legislative body, providing for suitable hospital facilities."

### Denies Woman Damages in Accident; Reasons

Taking the case away from the jury, Judge Claire C. Sdwards denied the claim of Mrs. Frieda Friedman in her \$20,000 damage suit against the North Western railroad in Circuit Court last week.

Mrs. Friedman asked damages from the railroad for injuries to her face which she received when the auto in which she was riding with her husband, then her fiancée, struck a crossing gate in North Chicago, and was turned over.

The evidence failed to show that the young lady had lost wages by her accident, and her injuries were held to have been slight, her chief complaint being a permanent scar on her face.

### Loose Washers Cause Water Pipes to Hammer

Keeping the plumbing system from hammering and "chattering" is a simple matter if plumbing goods of standard quality are selected and installed by a reputable plumbing contractor. Sounds as if hammering inside the pipes when faucets are closed or opened, are due to loose washers or worn valve-stems. When such defects occur, the water is shut off more suddenly than it should be and the water column is forced to stop with a bump. The way to prevent it is to have good washers well installed at the outset.

While the chief objection to these noises is the annoyance they cause, there are other reasons why they should be guarded against or remedied as soon as they occur. "Chattering" is hard on the entire system.

One loose washer may cause such vibrations that others will work loose. Eventually damaging leaks may occur.

Hammering is, if anything, even more potentially dangerous. If it becomes bad enough it may weaken the joints.

"Mamma, can angels fly?"

"Yes, dear."

"But cook can't fly, and Papa called her an angel."

"She will fly, dear."

"Do you like this cake, Mrs. Smith?"

"Yes, dear, it's delicious."

"I knew Mamma was wrong when she said you hadn't any taste."

"Why don't you marry the doctor?"

"Because then I could never persuade him I was ill enough to need a trip to the seashore."

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