

## Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association

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 A Department Devoted to the Interests of the Volunteer Firemen of the State of Nebraska  
 Edited by Lloyd C. Thomas, State Publicity Chairman.  
**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS DEPARTMENT ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED**  
 Address envelope to: State Publicity Chairman Firemen's Ass'n, The Alliance Herald, Alliance, Nebraska

### STATES CONVENTION WAS CALLED OFF

The York Democrat of May 9 seems to be of the opinion that the annual state convention for 1918 has been called off and that it will not be held in that city. We have not yet been advised of this fact and do not wish to convey the impression that such is the case until the officers of the association have so advised us. We hope to be able to give definite information in our next issue for the benefit of the boys over the state.

The York paper contained the following article in a recent issue: "The state convention of volunteer firemen will not meet in York next January, as contemplated. There are several reasons for this. The first one is the fact that the new hotel will hardly be available by that time, and York's hotel facilities are not of the best. Another one is the fact that this is not deemed a good time to be figuring on spending money for big social gatherings. Right now there is something bigger at stake than conventions.

Many big organizations are calling off their annual conventions in view of the war situation, having decided to devote all their energies and money to the national defense. It is estimated that the firemen's convention would have cost York not less than \$2,000, and it has been decided that this, together with inadequate hotel facilities, render it inadvisable to go further with the project.

### 1918 CONVENTION NOT GOING TO YORK

Fremont, Nebr., May 29—The 1918 annual convention of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association will not be held at York. Harry J. Hauser, president of the association, has received the following letter from the York department: "Owing to the fact that our hotel will not be completed in time for the 1918 convention York will be unable to entertain the convention at that time. (Signed) Lee Carey, President; Roy E. Davis, Chief; W. J. Gardner, Secretary."

The board of control and officers of the state association are making an effort to have another Nebraska town act as host for the convention. Scottsbluff planned on asking the 1919 convention. They may decide to take it one year ahead. With two new hotels being erected there they should have ample facilities for caring for the delegates.

### CHEMICAL WAGON FOR MITCHELL DEPARTMENT

The following item regarding the purchasing of a chemical auto truck for the Mitchell volunteer department is taken from the Scottsbluff Republican:

A representative of the Republican was at Mitchell Wednesday and was a guest at the Community Club dinner. The city of Mitchell together with a number of farmers of the community have ordered a chemical fire wagon, and it will be used by both the city and the farmer, in case they need it. The wagon has been ordered, and will cost \$2,100 laid down. The Community Club has done a great deal to bring the people of Mitchell and the farmers surrounding them into close relation, and we know of no place where the farmer and the merchant are more closely allied than are the people of Mitchell and surrounding country.

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## GERMANS LOST HOPE SAYS COLORADO MAN

Member of Colorado National Guard Who Visited Battlefields Tells of Atrocities Practiced in War

Denver, Colo., June —This is a story of "No Man's Land." It is a story of the depravity that can so debauch the soldiers of one nation that their foemen scarcely will believe until they see for themselves. It is a story, too, of No Man's Men—of the stricken people who once called Belgium home; of the men and the women, and, worst of all, of the children of that country, who have felt the weight of Prussian wrath thru three years of increasing misery.

It was told by a strong-limbed, swarthy young American who had spent six months in Europe and who came back to the western country to join the hosts these states will send across seas. He is Louis S. Moriarty, one-time student of psychology and lecturer on metaphysics, now Corporal Moriarty in Troop E, First Colorado cavalry, now in service in Golden.

"I have seen British officers who had been crucified alive on the side of a barn, pitchforks driven thru their chests, their tongues torn out by the roots and planned to the breast of their uniforms—and I come back to the United States to find the pacifists telling you America has no business in this war.

"I have seen Belgian boys and girls of 5 and 6 years of age with not only their hands chopped off, but maimed for life in ways that sickened me—and I come home to find peace-at-any-price advocates telling you America has no moral right to interfere in European quarrels.

**Went as Student**  
 "When I went to the battlefields of the Mons and the Somme regions," he continued, "I went as a psychologist, to study the effects of war upon human nature and human minds. I found the trail of a ruthless bestiality that led, every time, to Prussianism—to 'Kultur.' I have returned

from the cauldron of hate and blood and fire only long enough to fit myself as a member of the American army so that I may go back with a rifle and sabre in my hands instead of a pen and camera, as I went before.

"The first study I undertook was that of the facial expressions of the men of different nationalities as they met death in battle. After several battles I would look on the features of men of both sides who had died in action. So I have developed, from the sum of many fallen soldiers, a sort of symposium of the emotions of these different races or nations.

"The British—by that I mean, of course, the Canadians and Australians as well as the English, the Irish and the rest—invariably died with a grim smile on their lips, as if they had relished the thought of doing what they could to drive the Germans from France and thereby avenging Belgium. It was a smile not of mirth but of cold determination. It was typical of the Anglo-Saxon, too, that he is able to 'grin and bear it' under any conditions.

**Lips Are Unpressed**  
 "The French died usually with their lips compressed or their features contorted in a look of intense feeling, either of hatred or of exultation. The poilus seemed to die with fire in their eyes, with the spirit of the patriot who is fighting for not only himself but wife, child and country.

"The Germans and the Austrians offered a contrast to both French and British. The dominating emotion, shown by their dying expressions, was that of haunting dread, of the fear that comes to men who are fighting with their backs to the wall and who know it is hopeless. The Teuton prisoners I saw brought in had the same look of a hunted animal—I have seen them hold up their hands at the approach of a British or French soldier, long after they had been brought into the allied lines, as if they expected even yet to be shot down.

Moriarty has been around the world and made friends among all peoples. He already has lost many of his French and British friends and the saddest experience, from his personal viewpoint, he related with a wholesome anger.

"A young Parisian, a chum of mine while I was at the front, sent word to me that he was dying and wanted to see me. I found him wounded and mutilated, with death a matter of minutes. For three-quarters of an hour I held his head in my lap and listened to the messages I was to give his family and friends—and when he died, altho I am not superstitious, I went to a mirror to see if my hair had turned gray. " "He was the best friend I had in France—and I know then that sooner or later I must get in the fight against these enemies who were laying waste the manhood of nations.

**Loyal to America**  
 "But I did not enlist in an allied army, for to do so I would have had to give up allegiance to the United States. I instinctively felt America would enter the war and I knew it would have been in long ago if its people could have known what I have known and seen."

Psychology is not uppermost in Corporal Moriarty's mind just now. But he digressed a space to touch on the psychology of religion in its relation to the men in the trenches.

"Men have gone into the war firm in their Christian belief, substantial and sincere worshippers of God," he said, "and these same men have come out, often, with every shred of faith stripped from their souls. Others have gone to the trenches agnostics—atheists, some of them—and have emerged from the inferno staunch converts to the teachings of Jesus Christ. How can you account for such anomalies? It's beyond me.

"I recall one incident when I witnessed a whole company of British soldiers transformed in a trice into raving nonbelievers. I guess most of them recovered their poise afterward, but for the time they were madmen; for them for the moment there was no God, no heaven, no faith in man or beast. It came about while they were attending the burial services for their company captain. The chaplain, who was kneeling at the side of the open grave, had been with them since they entered the trenches; he was the favorite of the regiment, if not, indeed, of the division.

**Falls into Grave**  
 "As he was commending the soul of the commander to the Almighty, a shrapnel shell burst a few yards away and a stray piece struck the chaplain in the head, tearing off the side of his face. Of that entire company, he was the only man hit. His body fell into the grave beside that of the captain.

"Someone yelled a curse upon the Germans. In a moment it had turned to blasphemy, and a dozen maniacal soldiers seized the chaplain's Bible and stamped it under foot—stamped and pounded it until it was pulverized into the dirt from the new-made grave."

Corporal Moriarty had a sight of the German liquid fire at work when he was with the French army. But he does not like to talk of that, for he knows that no protection against it has been invented by either side, and he knows, too, that the Germans will be the last to give up its use.

"My most vivid recollection of liquid fire is based on an incident after the Germans had repulsed an attack of French troops by resorting to it. After the engagement we in the trenches heard a shriek that seared our hearts with its agony. I looked out thru a periscope and saw a French soldier staggering about in circles, clutching at his face and neck and gouging chunks of flesh from his cheeks. He tottered toward our trench, ribbons hanging from his face and blood streaming from head and hands. We could see the liquid fire eating into his body as he fell in the last paroxysm a few feet from the periscope. " "Then the French went right out and captured the opposing trench from the Germans—and I don't think they bothered to take a single prisoner, either!"

**Doctor Kills Sufferer**  
 Part of Moriarty's time in the lines was spent in company with a French army doctor. One day they were walking over a strip of No Man's Land that had been taken by British troops that morning. A wounded man raised himself on an elbow and called to the doctor and American.

"For God's sake, doctor, can't you do something for me?" he cried out. "The fellow had lost both legs and his body was shattered by a shell explosion. His face was distorted with suffering, and as he pleaded for surcease his sobs choked off his words. " "Give me ether—shoot me—only do— " and the soldier collapsed, only to writhe in mortal pain at the doctor's feet.

The medical officer gave no answer, but, without tremor or hesitation, he stopped and struck the soldier's head with a short, thick cane he carried. It was ended. The doctor walked on, but Moriarty stood rooted to the spot, the echo of that crunching blow on the skull lingering in his ears.

"Is that right, do you think?" Moriarty asked of the doctor later. "It is my idea of right," he answered.

"Does headquarters know you are doing it?" "That is my business." And the incident was closed.

**He Rebuffs a Woman**  
 Moriarty thought he had run the gamut of anger by the time he had reached Colorado. But the other day he met a woman in Golden who stopped him to say:

"You ought to be ashamed to be wearing that khaki uniform." "Madam," he told her, "I would be ashamed, after what I have seen in Europe, if I did not wear it."

The woman ignored the rejoinder. "Well, I'm glad no son of mine has enlisted."

Moriarty tarried only long enough to say: "Perhaps so, but who will protect you and your son or your daughter if the German army comes to this country, which it is not at all impossible for it to do—who would protect you to their last drop of blood but the young men who have donned the khaki that you despise?" And so Corporal Moriarty is going

back to No Man's Land to join, with the other American legions, those allies of humanity who know there can be no compromise with the outlaw army, who know they would be untrue to the faith that is in them if they make peace until militarism is dethroned.

**Stomach Troubles and Constipation**  
 "I will cheerfully say that Chamberlain's Tablets are the most satisfactory remedy for stomach troubles and constipation that I have sold in thirty-four years' drug store service," writes S. H. Murphy, druggist, Wellsburg, N. Y. Obtainable everywhere. Adv.-June

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**To the Public**  
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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEBRASKA STOCK GROWERS ASS'N.

The Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association will be held at Valentine, Nebraska, on Monday, June 18, 1917.

Provisions have been made to take care of a large attendance. We hope and wish that all stock growers of Northwestern Nebraska will be present at this meeting. Matters of interest and much importance will be discussed.

CHAS. C. JAMESON,  
 Secretary-Treasurer.



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