

these inhuman events, will do all of these good things, but Cuban fevers and starving stomachs will not wait for official work.

By the way, the government milk is not a success. It is uncertain in quantity and quality. It is as uncertain as government orders. The only thing perfectly sure, grand and heavenly in intention, at all times, is the order itself. This is where the lack of preparation comes in. There are no facilities for carrying out heavenly orders. It is, so far, talk, and the soldier dies in the mountain.

When 2,000 gallons of milk daily were ordered by the secretary of war, it sounded refreshing and comfortable but the 2,000 dwindles nearer 1,000, and this has a way of getting sour. Three thousand gallons have been ordered now, but these orders for milk do not obviate the difficulties of transportation. Railroad facilities are inadequate and so, too, is wagon transportation after the milk arrives at Montauk.

The water supply is as uncertain as the milk supply. The small engines that pipe the water over the hills to the hospitals and camps break down, and sick soldiers, well soldiers, nurses and doctors are left without a drop to drink—no coffee, no tea, milk sour, with only ice to melt, if perchance this luxury is on hand. The other night—when the water supply was cut off from nine at night until twelve the next day—alcohol was needed at the general hospital to bathe the patients, and there was not a drop of this to be had.

Now it was not neglect on the part of officers in charge. Requisitions had been made, telegrams had been sent. But no facilities again for carrying out good intentions. The Western Union Telegraph company is as bad or even worse than other contractors. Dispatches pile up and are delayed from four to five days. The operators use their own judgment about the importance of a message and send out first what seems to them the necessary, the hurry ones. The consequence is, the only perfect system abounding at Camp Wikoff is the one of waiting, unless added to it is the one of dying.

Every afternoon at three o'clock the dead are laid to rest over on a hill where the graves are marked with wooden crosses. There are no beautiful taps sounded, no volleys fired. It disturbs the sick and there are so many to bury. Yesterday I sat in General Wheeler's tent when a young man came for permission to remove the body of his brother. He was told to go to some one—that every lasting some one else! He said:

"I have been going all day from one to another, and now my boat has gone. I come to you for a direct order, so that when tomorrow comes I can take what is left of my brother without further delay."

It would never do for a great general to do things directly, but a nearby aide wrote some kind of an order, and the man went away with face so marked with sorrow that I cannot forget it.

General Wheeler's theories are all right but somehow all of the men in power love to expiate on what they do, would do, have done, and how the other fellow does not do. It sometimes strikes me, when I hear them expatiating on how they—in the civil war—mounted their colonel-horses, and attended to things personally, that it would be just as well to mount general-horses and do the same thing now. They take an interminable time to talk. While I sat there a surgeon from the brigade which included the Sixth and Sixteenth infantries, U. S., and the "Gallant Seventy-first," came in. He said:

"General, I made a report in writing and sent it to headquarters, and can get no immediate attention. I am in great need of medicines, hospital room and nurses. I have seventy or eighty sick men and nothing for them. My report covered ten pages."

"Too long, too long," said the general. "It is always the way too much elaboration and no headlines, and no time to wade through the reports. Headlines are what you want."

"Well, general, my report was ten pages of nothing but headlines. I could not tell the needs of my men with a page less."

General Wheeler immediately called a meeting of all the surgeons at headquarters (the general hospital), for ten o'clock the next morning to hear this report. Some of them had made to him statements not inconsistent with these facts, reported by this surgeon.

Dr. Nicholas Senn went into the Annex where are the sick of the First Illinois infantry and promised them a load of ginger ale, champagne and delicacies that afternoon. They waited anxiously. Finally, after hours, a third of a barrel of ginger ale came tumbling in. The rest of it, and the champagne and the delicacies had been confiscated by the doctors and nurses and anybody that could get their hands on the supplies. It is not called stealing here. A laugh is the only reply you get if anything is said. It looked to me as if Dr. Senn would make things lively for somebody.

Mail wagons are unheard of here in this "white city" of 1,000 people. Soldiers and men carry mail bags on their backs or drag them along on the ground. It would seem as if Uncle Sam could take better care of letters than this. When you sum up the inefficient railroad facilities, the lack of wagon transportation, the miserable telegraph work, the utter lack of postoffice accommodation, what can you expect in results? With chloride of lime as a disinfectant, with some attention paid to drainage, with a supply of doors to latrines, with an order to burn garbage—in fact, with preparation, Camp Wikoff would be one of the finest military posts in the country.

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Nashville, Tenn., Christain endeavor annual meeting, July 6 to 11. Limits and rates to be announced later.

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For full information call on or address E. B. SLOSSON, General Agent

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