A CHAISTMAS LETTER FROM A SOLDIER BOY

Brother of T. P. Rousson of Alliance Writes Family Letter from Paris Before Christmas

Robert Rolfson, a brother of T. ters brought to our attention and we enjoy reading it with us;

Paris, France, Dec. 22, 1918. Dear Folks at Home:

mence a letter to you. things to write you about.

way and in this "neck o' the woods," also reported delays to the couriers so to speak, and from the news I get who were carrying the messages befrom back in the good old U. S. A., I tween the Huns and General Foch, guess things are pretty much the but at twenty minutes past eleven, same "over there."

Of course, you have been watch-

to say much about what actually oc- this victorious end really meant to of the Red Cross, Knights of Columcurred over there on that eventful the French people; we all know that bus, others American soldiers, others but I can tell you from actual ex- to France and her people than any perionce, and being on the ground, other country taking part in the conthat something happened over here flict. in this "neck o' the woods," just the same, and an experience which I much in the afternoon, and at 4 If I had my choice, and as I look shop and go up on the main boule-back on those days, I don't suppose vard of the city and perhaps see

until Austria-Hungary fell in line ble army that could not be beaten".

with their white flags, lining up to street cars, the subway system, etc. go and have their little "conflab" This space was filled with people;

'somethin' was going to be a-doin' and that came as mighty good news. We felt we could see the beginning of the end, but we still anxiously awaited the anticipated news on dier and to be one in an American Monday morning. November 11, that uniform; we were saluted on every the armistice had been signed before hand; kissed by the ladies, as well

11 o'clock. We all went about our work as us-P. Rolfson, city cierk, on December usl on that morning, as the nothing France, vive la Amerique" on every 22 wrote an interesting letter to the unusual was to happen; I often look- hand. We had gone up the boulehome folks in the U. S. A. This let- ed out of our office window at the vard a few blocks when a French ter is one of the best descriptive let- big clock over in the large clock tow- colonel in uniform, accompanied by feel sure that Herald readers will station about three or four blocks five or six years, beckoned us over to enjoy reading it with us:

| Station about three or four blocks five or six years, beckoned us over to away); I took another look about them; he said his little girl had made two or three minutes to eleven, and Well, well, after several days, and disappointment came over me as it also several attempts to write you, I had been announced that we would the highest officer to the ordinary am finally down to where I feel like head a hundred cannon, as well as "poilu"; the strange part of it was I can take a few minutes and com- the pealing of the church bells, and So many wonderful things have sound came; the minutes went by, ly happened since I wrote you the last and I remarked to my fellow emtime, in fact some of the biggest playees in the office that it didn't er. We continued on up the boulethings I suppose that have ever hap- look as though the armistice was gopened in the world, that I ought to ing to be signed at this time, and we lique Square, which is also a large have one or two, and perhaps three began to give up hope that such square and contains a large monuwould be done, for the time being; In the first place, I will say that we felt perhaps that the abdication we are pretty busy people over this of the kaiser had upset the plans: 'Boom, Boom," and we knew the "jig was up with old Keezer Bill" ing the war news pretty close, and and his gang. The cannon kept on you are very happy, I am sure, to booming, as well as whistles began circle in order to be released. Well, think that "the combat with arms" to blow, and we seemed to see a new has actually ceased, and that this world dawning; everybody rushed to world of ours is, in a sense, at peace the windows everywhere pell-mell; again, and it must seem like a differ, people flocked into the streets frenent world to lots of people. As for zied with joy; flags were brought to myself, I don't suppose I will realize every window as the people had been the big difference until I am back in preparing for weeks, it seemed, for the good old U. S. A. and "Home such news; they were waved, cheer-Sweet Home." We don't know when ed, hung from the balconies, etc. such a good thing will come to pass, Soon the people commenced to paand about all we can do is to "sit rade, gathering here and there, and tight" as the expression goes, and everywhere, one might say, and it await developments, and when the almost seemed that business had right time comes for each of us over come to a standstill, and at least the here to come back, something will French people, by 12 o'clock, one and "bob up" to actually make it occur. all, had declared it a holiday. We It is needless to say very much in the office continued to work, half- talked to about it says it was the about how grandly our boys behaved heartedly up until 4 o'clock, not bethemselves with our Allies up on the ing able to get down to real business front, and wherever they were placed on account of the excitement, noise in the line of battle they showed and jollification on the streets, and little supper, and went to my usual themselves to be "as good as there everywhere, outside and below. is" and with the boche "better than About 12:30, after I had returned they are," and there is no doubt but from lunch, one of the younger la- vard, and I found it jammed, but that the efforts that our country put | dies who takes care of our offices/ forth, and the part taken by our came rushing in, all happiness, with the waiting and patience, I managed American boys, were the turning the words "La guerre fini," meaning to get something to eat, and then point of the war, and perhaps I the war was ended, threw her arms went out for "my night out". might speak definitely and refer to around each of us and kissed us on about all there is to say is that evthe battle of Chateau Thierry; there each cheek (French fashion); soon is no question but what that battle another grey-haired lady of perhaps will go down by history; where our 55, who also helps clean up our of- went "prison lock-step" fashion, boys went into the lines at a perilous fices, came in with tears in her eyes, moment against the crack Hun divis- with the same words happy and crylons who were so anxious and des-ing to think the war was really over; perately close to Paris; drove them perhaps she has lost her husband, back some fifteen miles in one day, and one or more sons, as they do or so fast that it staggered the Ger- say there isn't one family in this mans; gave confidence to our Allies country of France that has not had that the Hun could be beaten, and at least one member make the suvictory upon victory continued from preme sacrifice. Sons and daughters, that day up until the signing of the in fact, all have suffered more than armistice on November 11, another their share on account of this terriday which will go down in history. | ble war, and I don't suppose any of sisted of perhaps three or four Y. M. Of course, I am not in a position us can even begin to realize what

As I said before, we couldn't do will never forget as long as I live. o'clock, we were told to close up I would pick out any other place that something that we had never seen would rather have been to see such before, and perhaps would never see again. Mr. Schardt, our postal agent, told us this. So another one of the Of course, the news we had been boys in the office, and myself, hied getting, of how Bulgaria had gotten ourselves out and walked hurriedly "cold feet"; then defeat upon defeat up towards the bastile, a monument until Austria-Hungary fell in line some 150 to 200 feet high, and about with the Bulgars; then came along twenty feet in diameter, and which "Mr. Turkey", and all of the Allied maks the cite of the old bastile or prison which was captured during tinually hammering away at the the French revolution many years Hun, made us all feel confident that ago. This monument is in the cena catastrophe was soon to fall upon ter of an immense open space or the head of that kaiser and his "no- square and from which space runs several boulevads and streets, and is When we heard of that Hun bunch | quite a busy center for bus lines.

with General Foch, it seemed like the busses were not running, so my "somethin" was going to be a-doin' " partner and I decided to "hoof it" up to the "Y", taking the main boule vard, and it was some sight to be hold, and it was an honor to be a soldier and to be one in an American as little girls, and I might add, the older ladies, too, and it was "vive la er on the Gare de Lyon (a railroad his wife and a little girl of perhaps a special request to kiss each of us things seemed pretty quiet. A little as Americans. They all seemed happy, too, that the war was over, from that we never heard the words "Vive the blowing of whistles, etc., but no la Anglaise" or "Vive la Italis"; on-

"Vive la Amerique, vive la France", and generally both togethvard and in time reached the Repubment in the center on the order of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor; it was quite difficult to navigate on account of the congestion here; we were placed in circles by half a dozen or a dozen girls and quite often young men accompanied them, including French "poilus", and it was necessary to kiss each of the girls who were helping to make the it continued in this manner on up to the "Y", and it took us pretty close to two hours to get up there on account of the crowds, the jollification and excitement; well, all I can say is that what actually took place would be impossible to describe and you will just have to leave it to your imagination; this city in itself with its boulevards, which are wide, together with the pretty streets and large squares, etc.; makes it an ideal place for a celebration such as was taking place, and the conditions I described above were similar over most of the city, I guess, at least everybody same wherever they were.

After going to the "Y" and cleaning up a little, I went out to find a restaurant, which is a little off from the real busy section of the boulewaited my turn and after quite a literybody paraded sang, ran, joined acids with they one and everyone pulled German cannon which had been captured by the Allies and were on display in the "Place de la Concorde" to help boost the French Liberty loan then in progress taking these German war relics up and down the boulevards and streets loaded with girls, boys, "poilus," American; British, Italian, Cane tian or Australian soldiers; waved tlags. going in gangs some of which con-C. A. secretaries as leaders; others

day, except from some of the news- it means a great deal to us and our British, "also French, and some of paper accounts which I have read, country, but perhaps it means more mixtures of all the Allied soldiers, aching and during the day I would with civilian men, women, boys girls and children, in fact hundreds of thousands of human beings of every allied country and nationality. And so it went.

The cafes were also very busy places, and wine and champagne flowed quite freely, and coffee was drunk by several, including "yours truly". The cafes in France, and Paris, some of which are very beautiful, are somewhat different from the ones back in the States; that is, on the outside and in front of most all of them on the sidewalk, and under the awnings, the proprietors are allowed to serve coffee, wine, liquor to civilians, etc., on little tables, each of which is surrounded with from two to four or five chairs or seats of some fashion, and on a nice afternoon or evening, or special occasions such as I have been describing, one has to wait his turn to get into these places. It is quite interesting to occupy one of these seats and watch the crowds promenading by, every type of humanity and from every station in life. During the evening I had two or three rough experiences, too, getting in what is called a "jam" or something of that sort, and to describe it is to say that there are too many people trying to get into a certain amount of space; one ordinarily aims to move with the crowds but on these occasions the crowds became so dense, perhaps on account of some special music, here or there, or the stopping of the crowd or people coming from every direction and meeting at one point, and when thousands upon thousands of people commence to move on a central point, one might soon begin to

happen to somebody; of course, I

was big enough to manage to get out

of these two or three places and almost "swore" that I would never get into such a place again; anyone in such a place is helpless, and it was pitiful to see the women, the smaller

men, also girls and children, appealing for help. I understand the pa-pers the next day criticised the po-

lice and administration for allowing such a condition to exist, but no one

could do anything with that so-called

mob or crowd, and the only way to avoid it was to avoid holding any special doin's at any certain point which would draw such a mass of

humanity towards one point. Well,

to make a long story short, I moved along the boulevards until about 10:30 or a little later and then headed towards the "Y" and felt like I was ready to "hit the hay". next day I was at the office ready for as usual as though nothing unusual had happened, although everybody was talking about the experiences on the day and evening and night previous. It seemed like every evening during the week there were little street gatherings still wanting to celebrate the advent of peace, or the signing of the armistice.

(Continued next week)

SYSTEMATIC PUBLICITY A BUSINESS NECESSITY

Importance of Proper Publicity Is Shown in Report of Bradstreet's of Business Failures

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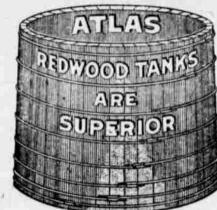
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