

Belgian Boy, Mascot Of 27th Division, Can't Find Parents

Waif Adopted by Former Chaplain of American Red Cross Can't Remember Father's Name.

Brussels, Oct. 23.—Belgium is being searched far and wide for the parents of a 12-year-old war waif, now living in America, who cannot remember his family name. The boy has found a home with Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Conover, of Indian avenue, Newport, R. I. Mr. Conover was formerly a chaplain of the American Red Cross attached to the naval hospital at Brest, where he found the little Belgian lying sick and took him under his own care, later taking the boy to his home in America.

Mr. Conover, thinking the boy's parents may still be living, has appealed to the Belgian authorities to find them. The search is particularly difficult in view of the lack of details concerning the young Belgian's past. The boy dimly recalls that his first name was George. He vaguely remembers the prefix "van" to his surname, indicating that he is of titled birth, and believes that his father was called Baron.

Germs Occupy Brussels.

In telling his story he says that he was about six years old when the German army occupied Brussels, where he lived in very comfortable circumstances with his father and mother. He was an only child. His father, he says, was too old to go to war. He remembers very little of his mother, but recalls that his father was extremely fond of him, spending a great part of the day in his company, teaching him Latin and music and helping him with his other studies.

He remembers that his father once told him that he was the last of a very ancient family.

When the German armies approached Brussels the boy's parents fled to a chateau near Dixmude. Here they were overtaken by the invading forces and the boy was separated from them. He never saw his parents again and does not know what became of them. He himself ran away and reached the British lines, where he was adopted by a British officer.

Joins Yank Soldiers.

He lived for nearly four years with British troops until the sector was taken over by the American Twenty-seventh division. He remained with the Twenty-seventh and followed his American friends to Brest after the armistice. Several attempts to board transports and follow the division to America proved fruitless. Finally the little Belgian fell sick and was taken to the naval hospital at Brest, where Chaplain Conover found and adopted him.

These facts are now in the possession of the authorities in Brussels and it is hoped that by their aid some trace of the boy's parents may yet be found.

Slang Is Esperanto of America

"You Tell 'Em; My Tongue's in My Shoe," Declares Shop Girl When Asked If English Purists Have Right Dope on "Universal" Language.

By A. A. GROH.

"You tell 'em, Sugar; you're so refined."

"You tell 'em, Puget; I can't make a sound."

"You tell 'em, Cotton; you're out on bail."

"You tell 'em, Corsets; you're around the ladies."

"You tell 'em, Niagara; you never stop."

All age members of the "you-tell-'em" family, the latest addition to the local slang tribe, and a very numerous progeny, indeed.

There's more slang used now than ever before.

A glossary of slang expressions used in Omaha would require pages. You hear them everywhere. In the more or less august city council chamber, one councilman has been heard to address another in this unclassical manner: "Aw, tie that ball outside" and the other councilman has been heard to reply, "How do you get that way?"

Judge Is Slangy.

A judge of the district court used to dismiss juries for recess by remarking to them:

"You can go, chase yourselves for about 10 minutes."

Where do slang expressions come from?

Nobody knows. Nobody knows. They sweep into being and wax in popularity mysteriously. You can no more explain it than you can explain why a bean vine goes around the bean pole from left to right instead of from right to left.

Live Short Lives.

And when the slang expression has run its course it dies a death as mysterious as was its birth.

A person who would say "Ishkabibble" nowadays would be marked at once as decidedly behind the times. Yet, only two or three years ago, everybody was saying "Ishkabibble" or its English equivalent, "I should worry."

Today, if one would be in the

swim, he must employ the more modish expressions, one of the "you-tell-'em" family, or "How Come?" or "Where do you get that stuff?" all creatures of mysterious birth and existence.

Purists All Wrong.

Purists mourn what they are pleased to call the decadence of the language. But the purists are wrong. They are blind to the fact that many of our purest idioms started out in life as slang.

They have their lowly birth, but, by paying strict attention to business, doing their best day by day, fitting themselves into the language in a useful manner, they finally gained a foothold in etymological society and are admitted among the aristocrats and come to be used by Addison, Swift, Kipling and the present writer.

Slang Old as Pyramids.

They had slang expressions in ancient Rome and before that.

But the dry-as-dust historians have tried to cover them up and clothe the sayings of great men in solemn and stilted language.

They tell us that while J. Caesar was being assassinated he gazed sadly at his friend, Brutus, who was holding a big knife, and murmured meekly, "Et, tu, Brute."

Now does that seem reasonable? Not by a jugful! Caesar was a glib "full of pep, pepperino, tobacco sauce and barbed wire," as Rev. Billy Sunday would say, and he wasn't the kind of guy to die with any such piffing expression. It is extremely probable that Caesar looked at Brutus and exclaimed:

"You big bum, I'll 'get' you for this. I'll make your hair curl, you double-crossing porch climber!"

Nero Was Slang Artist.

And Nero! Do you suppose that wicked emperor merely played his fiddle while Rome burned. No, he probably remarked to Poppea: "Some fire, eh, kid?"

And Poppea probably replied: "I'll say so!"

Lavender Pajamas Scare Passengers

Wealthy Oakland Business Man Loses Suit While Sleeping in Pullman.

Oakland, Cal., Oct. 9.—Attired in pale lavender pajamas, wearing a straw hat and carrying bamboo cane in one hand and a collar and tie in the other, a passenger left the train at the Sixteenth street station here, dashed wildly through the station out to a taxicab and was speeded away. Today the unconventional traveler had been identified.

He was Julius Landsberger, the wealthy president of the Hunt Bros. Canning company, and he was returning from a trip to Exeter, Tulare county, where he had been inspecting one of the company's plants. He

brought back a fine report, but nothing much else besides his pajamas. The embarrassment of the bystanders in the station was equalled only by his own.

Landsberger found that he was tireless when he woke up on the way to Oakland. Hence the dash to the police on his way home he had to remain in the taxicab while the desk sergeant came out of the station.

France Leading World in High Cost of Living

Paris, Oct. 23.—The cost of living is higher in France than in any other allied or neutral country, according to the report of the council of the league of nations prepared for the Brussels financial conference.

The figure 100 is taken as the unit cost before the war of necessities, and the present cost is estimated as follows:

France239	England231
Italy300	Holland199
Spain294	United States193
Switzerland237		



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London Taxi Drivers Quit

When Asked to Pay for Gas

London, Oct. 23.—A partial taxicab strike in London was called recently because of the owners' demand that drivers bear part of the increased price of gasoline. The price was jumped 14 cents a gallon, making the actual price over \$1. About one-half of the employed drivers were on strike, but owner drivers were almost all working.

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