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THE FIRST FOREST REGIMENT GOES ACROSS

They've changed the Hun's ships names around;
Send us along, boys, send us along!
They didn't like Teutonic sound.
Send us along!
We're overdue beyond the seas,
To hold us here is just a tease,
So send us over, if you please,—
Send us along, along!

Chorus:

As "Leviathan" the "Vaterland"
Will gather no more moss;
From "Hamburg" to the "Powhatan"
Our gain is Prussia's loss,
But we don't give a rip
For the name of the ship,
So long as we get across!

We itch to get there on the ground;
So send us along boys, send us along!
Right in the scrap we would be found;
Send us along!
We do not look for any ease,
We'll work at first among the trees,
Then we'll fight in the final squeeze,
So send us along, along!

Chorus:

"Susquehanna" exchanged for "Rhein"
In river names is fair;
Our "Pocahontas" with "Irene"
As a Princess doth compare;
And the "Antigone"
Is as "Neckar" to me,
If she'll put us "over there!"
—*New Song.*

THESE were the sentiments expressed by members of the Tenth Engineers (Forest) in the early days of September, when each one of those days that passed in the camp at American University grounds seemed very late, rather than early. They lengthened out instead of growing shorter as all September days should do, and all because the regiment had not yet departed from a seaport on the Atlantic coast for somewhere in France.

In the latter days of August the regiment had passed in review before the Secretary of War and Assistant Secretary Vrooman of the Department of Agriculture. While the Tenth Regiment is a regularly organized military unit, and a part of the war forces, it remains true that in great measure the work of getting the regiment together had been done by the Forest Service, one of the bureaus of the Agricultural Department, so Mars and Ceres, figuratively speaking, together watched the regiment swing past.

And it did swing past, with the stride of a veteran organization; yet it had been given only a few weeks of drill. The men had real quality to begin with. Bystanders remarked how tall and broad they were, how bronzed and fit they looked. Why should they not appear to be what they were—men used to working outdoors, at jobs that required strength and alertness. Among the lot, also, was a very considerable sprinkling of college men, including not a few recent graduates and undergraduates from the forestry colleges, from California on the West to Yale in the East. "Eddie" Frey of Cornell was one of the intercollegiate champions in the two-mile run when he helped his Alma Mater clean up all four places in the event against the picked men of all the leading universities of the country. Another Cor-

nellian, and one of the smaller men, was George Kephart, coxwain of the Varsity eight-oar champions who had swept the Hudson at Poughkeepsie; and after that he was a member of Cornell's intercollegiate championship wrestling team. These men were typical of those who marched along with others who had achieved championships in "burling," cordwood-cutting, and the like.

After the final review, in which their fitness was everywhere apparent, they began to get impatient. They had men enough, and more than enough, for the unit which was to go across. Their equipment was complete, their personnel ready, chaplain and all.

The equipment included, besides sawmills and logging machinery and implements, a Red Cross ambulance and kitchen trailer, marked with the pine-tree badge of the Forest Service. These additional parts of the equipment were given by the members of the Forest Service, the funds being gathered in small contributions from office and field forces in Washington and on the National Forests, and in the various District headquarters in the West. Women clerks in the office and fire guards in the woods each gave her or his bit to these useful gifts, which were gladly accepted by the War Department and that department provided transportation for them along with the rest of the goods. Funds for an additional ambulance and trailer have been raised by District Six, which includes the administration of the National Forests in the States of Washington and Oregon. These will accompany additional forest engineer units now being recruited to follow the first one.

The welfare of the men is being looked after in other ways, and while no Y. M. C. A. unit accompanied it abroad, the work of such an organization is

being done by the regiment itself through men attached to headquarters. The Chaplain, assisted by Private Knowles Ryerson, who had specialized in rural social organization in California, will help to provide recreation, reading matter, and other comforts and conveniences. He took along a phonograph for each company, and was busily looking before he left for an angel to donate a motion picture projector. Six dozen talking machine records will help to introduce American ragtime to sylvan communities in France, and after they have been played out others will follow over. The Forest Service will help to supply the regiment with reading matter, and with various other necessary luxuries, under a systematic plan; and the American Forestry Association will see that they are supplied with tobacco and other comforts. If some of the fellows wear all the olive-drab knitted sweaters and mufflers that have been promised them they will be so swaddled up that they cannot move to do any work!

The last days at the camp were full of seeming confusion, but every activity was bent toward hastening the final get-away. Some of the last-minute hustle was due to the effort on the part of many of the newer arrivals in camp to make sure that they would be included in the first contingent, in case somebody, for any reason, might be unable to go at the last minute. No one wanted to remain as part of the nucleus of the following battalions. But everyone was cheerful and everyone was busy. Here was a group checking up the service records of the men who were going; there was another squad stencilling labels on boxes that were standing on every hand, while others with black paint and brushes were marking some of the boxes for use on the boat going over and some to go into the holds of the ship.

Major Dubois was omnipresent, gathering up the loose ends, and, as he expressed it, "busy like a bee." Major Chapman, with a most unpractised hand, was endeavoring to sew indelible name labels on his blankets and articles of apparel, while Major Benedict interrupted his own work of making a will to cast aspersions on Chapman's sewing, telling the latter to use white thread instead of black, to take shorter stitches and more of them, and finally to stop sewing said Chapman's name on his, Benedict's, blankets. There is no telling how much seriousness was cloaked under the raillery; possibly there was nothing but a boyish gladness at the prospect of their early departure. Captain Mason, at an Atlantic seaport—to use the phraseology of the "Official Bulletin"—was looking after the procurement and stowage of supplies; Eldredge was busy with equipment; Colonel Woodruff, in his office in the headquarters building, was the guiding center of all, to and from whom a succession of officers came and went on many errands. Every one was busy, clear down to the last private doing a fare-well clothes-washing before he had to learn the methods of French laundering.

And now they have gone, sooner than most persons thought they would get away; sooner than seemed possible when the very barracks were begun only in late July; sooner, indeed, than they themselves had dared to hope.

A second regiment is already forming, with a good start in the later arrivals who came in for the first regiment, which was overmanned from an abundance of volunteers before the time came to go. The next regiment is to have ten battalions of lumbermen and

woods workers, the first two battalions to be raised at once, with the help of the Forest Service; the other eight are to follow in a short time. In addition, nine labor battalions to be used in connection with the forest regiments are to be recruited, two of these to be made ready just as soon as possible.

Both the officers and the rank-and-file have been rapidly gathered for the following contingents, and the activities at the engineers' camp at American University have not been greatly slackened by the departure of the first twelve-hundred. It is hoped that the next unit will be ready in as short a time as that taken by the first regiment, and that they can quickly be put to work for the triumph of democracy in overseas service. More men are wanted, between the ages of 18 and 40, and preferably with skill in woods work. Lumberjacks, portable-mill operators, tie-cutters, logging teamsters, camp cooks, millwrights and charcoal burners are among the types of men desired.

Majors Graves and Greeley, already on the other side before the first contingent started, saw the great possibilities of usefulness for many more men than went at first. The British authorities first called attention to the need of the foresters: now General Pershing's army needs the aid of forest engineers quite as much as do the English and French.

The regiments which follow promise to be equal to the earlier one in everything except possibly in youthfulness and "pep." They already show a probability of being ahead of it in maturity of personnel and seriousness of purpose. A spirit of adventure undoubtedly allured many of those who went over with the Tenth; sober judgment and a deep realization of duty are calling the others. Even at that, it seems that many a forestry college will give of its undergraduates for the forces now gathering, provided they can get in by passing the required tests of physique and experience. Last year the professors were urging their students to stay in school and complete their courses; this year all are more strongly imbued with the idea that every one who can go over should do so, and in the capacity for which he is best fitted. Young men in the forestry schools ought to make good in the forestry regiments, and they will undoubtedly gain invaluable experience. The facts that some forestry students were among the first to go, and that the call for all able-bodied men to get into action is so clear and insistent, are incentives for an increased number of applicants from this type—a type which can be very useful, especially among the lower grades of non-commissioned officers. Preference is being given, however, to men who have had actual woods experience.

The first of the "goodlie companie" of foresters has gone. Others will follow soon. It is a good thing for the profession of forestry, and it is a good thing for the business of lumbering that both classes are working shoulder to shoulder in the forests of France. It was in these same forests of France, some four hundred odd years ago, that two classes—knights and yeomen—fought side by side and learned the beginnings of democracy, and the dependence of one upon the other. American foresters and lumbermen have been learning this interdependence to some extent already; there will be a hastening of the process in the solidarity which is bound to spring up from a common experience on the same ground in a far greater struggle.