

county and we predict that they will meet with abundant success. We have given liberally in drives made by the many organizations away from home. This is for our own community and in honor of our men and women. We repeat every family in the county should have a part according to their means in the building of this memorial to our heroes.

The Hospital Committee and representatives from the townships and towns of the county will meet at the Gymnasium Saturday, June 14, at 8:00 o'clock p. m.

#### Nickerson Writes About France

Some of the things we put up with seemed to us in France almost unnecessary. While the fighting was going on everybody realized that the great thing was to end the war, and nobody complained of minor difficulties for we remembered what Sherman was supposed to have said, and grinned and bore it. But after the armistice was signed, we failed to note any appreciable improvement and during the long wait for the orders to return to the U. S. A., we had much opportunity to think over and discuss the conditions under which we were living, and what had occurred prior to the armistice. While an enlisted man is not given much credit in the army organization for having brains, the national army probably comprised as much in the enlisted ranks as existed among the officers, and the men of the national army and national guard have done a powerful lot of thinking in the last few months. Discipline, it is said, is necessary in an army to win battles. Granted, with the reservation that in the opinion of a large number of the men of the A. E. F. we won the war in spite of discipline—as practiced overseas—rather than because of it. But you have a large contract on your hands to convince me that, in order to win battles, it is necessary that men 400 miles from the front, after the war is over, be in their barracks at 9:30 p. m. daily, and that they be not permitted to leave their barracks for more than four hours at a time, after which period they report to a guardhouse to check in. In the city of Nantes, France, claiming a population of 80,000, there are two Y. M. C. A. huts, one for white men and one for colored. The enlisted men stationed in the city were supposed to use these huts. They were supported by the money contributed by you people, and we believe that you wanted us to use and enjoy the huts and have opportunity to attend entertainments there. The camp in which I lived was at least a mile from the white men's hut. I was off duty at 6 p. m. In case I wanted to go to town I would obtain a pass between 6 and 6:30, eat supper, change clothes and shave, walk the mile involved, and have at least 45 minutes—probably if I hurried it would be an hour and a quarter—at the Y., and then scurry home in order to be in at 9:30. There were 500 white men in the camp where I lived, and we sure did enjoy the opportunities for entertainment and recreation that you people provided thru the Y. M. C. A. Once in a great while a party of three could obtain a theatre pass, going in charge of a non-commissioned officer, who was responsible for their safe return, and then we were obliged to go straight to the theatre and straight back after the performances.

I recall attending a performance in the Municipal theatre at Nantes in company with two friends and a French gentleman who volunteered to interpret for us, and on passing at this gentleman's corner to say good-night, being ordered to move on by a military police. A trip across salt water does not change human nature. Your boy and your neighbor's boy were not any worse because they were in France than they are here. They should have been trusted as much, and if they had been, they would have showed themselves as worthy of the trust as tho they had been home.

We were just ordinary self-respecting American citizens, but we certainly were not respected as such. I believe that an enlisted man should salute and show proper respect to officers under all circumstances, and should conduct himself like a soldier and a gentleman and will not say a word about men being punished for failure to do so, but for the love of Pete, give the men a chance to show that they can do this. My company lived in Nantes from July last year to April this year in a camp surrounded by wire netting guarded by

negro troops and with a guardhouse in charge of a negro sergeant. Have absolutely nothing but praise for the negro troops we sent to France—I've seen too much sweat pouring off their bodies as they labored on the docks or on the railroad grades in the A. E. F.—but a criticism is surely warranted when they are placed as guards over a camp containing whites.

J. M. NICKERSON

#### Election Certified to Auditor

The county auditor has received from the secretary of state a certificate showing what laws are to be referred to the people on June 26. There will be seven measures referred, namely, Printing Bill, Board of Administration Bill, Tax Commissioner, Commissioner of Immigration, Industrial Commission, Judicial Districts and Bank of North Dakota bills.

There will be a change in the closing of the polls under the new law which is quoted in part as follows: "At all general or special elections held \* \* \* the polls shall be opened at 9 o'clock a. m. and closed at 9 p. m. Twenty minutes prior to nine o'clock p. m. the inspector shall proclaim to the electors outside, the number of minutes before the polls will be closed and that such closing will be at precisely 9 o'clock p. m."

#### Soldiers' Additional Travel Pay

Soldiers who are entitled to additional travel pay may secure blanks for that purpose at this office free of charge.—The Enterprise.

"There's a pot of gold at the rainbow's end" is an old saying; but if you take advantage of the bargains offered at the Mercantile Store this week, you will save a pot of money.

"The fellow who says that his town doesn't offer him anything is usually not offering his town anything."

**JOHN S AD**

Attorney and Counselor-at-Law

COOPERSTOWN, N. DAK.

# Victory

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