

Walter Thoreson Writes From Poland

The Enterprise is glad of the privilege of publishing the following interesting letter written to his parents in this village from Sergeant Walter J. Thoreson now at Warsaw, Poland, where he is a member of the Polish Typhus Relief Expedition under Col. H. L. Gilchrist:

Warsaw, Poland, Sept. 25, 1919

We arrived here Sunday. We had a pleasant trip coming up, as myself with seven men came up in charge of a U. S. hospital train, loaded with supplies, so we had the best of accommodations. Germany is the prettiest and best kept up country I've seen over here yet. The people do not seem to be suffering for want

of anything. I don't believe I saw an idle person all the way thru Germany. Everybody works, men and women alike, and any kind of work. They were all pretty well clothed, but there seemed to be a shortage of shoes, as on the farms they all worked bare-footed. On the whole I think Germany is in better condition than any country that was in the war. We were treated fine by the people. My German served me to good purpose as I had to act as interpreter. We had a little difficulty in crossing the border into Poland, being held there a night and part of a day. Some of our trains were held as long as a week. The border is well guarded on both sides, and the Germans have an armored train in every town on the border. They mix every once in a while. The night we were there—in Lissa—there was fighting on both sides of us. No one was allowed to enter the town.

Although I've been here less than a week, I've seen all I wish to see of Poland. The country is beautiful, and level as a floor, but the conditions are very bad among the people. There doesn't seem to be any middle class here. They seem to be doing well or not at all. The lower classes, including the peasants, have scarcely any clothing and no shoes, although it is so cold here now that we have to wear overcoats the greater part or the time. They are all working but the wages are so low and the money worth so little that they can hardly live. The Polish mark is worth a fraction over two cents, and they get from five to fifteen or perhaps twenty marks a day. There isn't as great a shortage in food as there is in clothing and shoes for which they have to pay an enormous price. The Germans took all their machinery, but new machinery is being shipped into the country now. If the people will work together under the present government it is only a matter of time until Poland will be one of the greatest countries in Europe. They have almost everything they want at home if they will only get settled and go after it.

I think one of their greatest setbacks are the Jews, with whom the country is over-run. One could hardly call the class of Jews they have here human. They bear a greater resemblance to the ape than the human being. Hair cuts and

shaves are unknown to them. There are sections in Warsaw where a white person can hardly go because of the smell. You simply can not imagine such filth until you see it. I've seen several towns and cities that I've thought filthy, but nothing compared to this.

I've never seen a Jew engaged in any heavy work here yet. Most of them have a business of some kind, anything from buying rags to good sized places of business. But they never do anything toward building up the country. Every sou they get is salted and never goes back into circulation. They all wear the little black skull caps, and practically the same dress—either rags, which most of them wear, or long black coats. Outwardly they may appear as poor as Job, but their appearance by no means correspond with their hoards. My buddy is a Jew, and a regular fellow, but when he saw these he was ashamed of his nationality. If the Jew could be, I would say exterminated, in this country, it would take much less time to put the country on a sound basis.

I have an opportunity to go to Turkey, with the Red Cross when my time is up here, but it doesn't appeal to me at all. Since I've been over here I've been in five different countries, but all of them put together don't look one halt as good to me as the U. S. A. If I had known what work they had in store for me I wouldn't have volunteered to come here. Still I don't think I will regret it. At that time I'd thought I'd be home by Christmas, but it looks very doubtful now.

Sgt. Walter J. Thoreson

Has Red Cross Made Good?

President Wilson's proclamation calling for loyalty to the American Red Cross has been issued to the American people. He advises universal membership and whole-hearted support to this great cause.

This proclamation will be welcomed by the people of Griggs county because it gives them another opportunity to show the open-hearted, generous American spirit that has characterized them in all these movements.

The Red Cross membership has come to be regarded by a great many
(Concluded on last page.)

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