

Items of Interest to Erie Men

1,421 Erie Men in U. S. Service

SINCE last month's report the names of thirty-five additional Erie men who have entered U. S. war service in the various branches have been added to the list. This list, together with others that are coming in every day, will be added to a supplementary roll to be published in the March number of the MAGAZINE.

Erie Agents Annual Meeting

THE twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Erie Railroad Agents' Association was held recently at Marion, Ohio, and the following officers were elected:

A. L. Conrad, Marion, president; L. W. Collins, Bradford, Pa., vice-president, and W. H. McDonald, Cleveland, secretary-treasurer.

Jamestown, N. Y., was chosen as next year's meeting place.

Erie Relief Association Officers

THE annual meeting of Erie Terminal Immediate Relief Association was recently held at Jersey City, and the patriotism of the members was shown when they decided to carry all members who have joined the colors. The following officers were elected for the present year:

President, J. M. Hurty; vice-president, F. H. Jaynes; secretary, W. Strange-way; treasurer, F. Rich. Directors, T. Hart, T. W. Kirkpatrick, W. J. Fenton, E. Hulbert, F. R. Ramsen.

Erie men wishing to join may communicate with the secretary.

Adjusting E. E. R. A.'s Affairs

C. L. FAIRBANKS has been appointed receiver of the Erie Employes' Relief Association, which was organized by employes of the company in 1911, and its affairs are now in process of adjustment. The collapse of the association is deeply regretted by all concerned, although at the outset many who had considered the basis of organization expressed the opinion that it was unstable. Officials of the company, while advising against its organization on the plan adopted, nevertheless consented that the company's treasurer, Mr. Bigoney, might become responsible for such funds as were deposited with him,

and they have been conserved and accounted for. In round numbers the association has, it is said, a monthly pension list aggregating about \$11,000, while its monthly receipts have not been more than about \$7,000. It has a membership of about 6,000.

The primary weakness of the association, according to those having actuarial knowledge, was that the membership list was unlimited and men 70 years of age were permitted to join; and a number of them quit work immediately afterward and began to draw pensions, the maximum being \$100 a month. The association ceased paying pensions last November.

From Somewhere in France

R. H. KESTER, an employe of the Erie's Kent division, is among the company's men who are at the front in France. He is a member of Company C., Thirteenth Regiment Railway Engineers, American Expeditionary Force.

He has written an interesting letter to Superintendent English, telling of some of the conditions as he has found them.

He says the power is none too good, as the better power is used further back of the lines, and the engines are almost like the old ones formerly used on the Erie and elsewhere, and known as "standard type," and but few have air, the braking being done by hand. The coal, he says, is the best Cardiff, and does not clinker very readily. Cleaning the engines is a task compared with our American engines, and the whistle signals are exactly opposite to ours, just as nearly everything else is. Trains are given three hours to make a run of twenty-five miles.

No lanterns are used nights, because it is necessary to have it dark as a protection from the enemy. He partook of but twenty-four hours' sleep in a week, and was exposed to the rain most of the time.

Relief Association Affairs

To the Members of the Erie Employes' Relief Association:

The Erie Railroad Company has received notice that an action has been begun in the New York Supreme Court, Cattaraugus County, in which William R. Martin is plaintiff, suing on behalf of

Will Fight for Uncle Sam

THE ERIE RAILROAD MAGAZINE is publishing from month to month the names of Erie men who have gone to the front for their country.

The type of men that the Erie is furnishing Uncle Sam is of the sturdy kind that is prepared to face whatever is offered by the German foe.

This is verified by the picture of one of them.

L. C. Zeger is the man in khaki that represents these boys. He is a hardy fellow, with snap and courage. His position with the Erie is that of boiler maker, and he is no novice at the fighting game, having served nearly three years in the service. He was at El Paso, Tex., during the



recent trouble with Mexico.

At present he is located at Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Ala., and is attached to Company L, 146th Infantry.

Taking Liberty Loan Bonds in Trade

"I HOPE that the merchants of the country, upon a more careful consideration of the subject, will discontinue their efforts to sell merchandise and take Liberty Loan bonds in payment," says Secretary McAdoo.

The secretary states that he has no doubt that merchants offering to take Liberty Loan bonds in exchange for merchandise are actuated by patriotic motives, but that such transactions tend to defeat a primary object of the bond sales, as they discourage thrift and increase expenditures. Bonds so taken in exchange in most cases are immediately sold in the open market, which tends to depress the market price and adversely affects sales of future issues.

The strongest efforts are made by the Treasury department to have these government bonds purchased for permanent investment by the people and paid for out of savings, thus not only providing funds for the government but effecting

himself and others similarly situated who wish to come in, and Charles L. Fairbanks as chairman of the Erie Employes' Relief Association is defendant, and that in such action Honorable Charles A. Pooley, Justice of the Supreme Court, has made an order appointing Charles L. Fairbanks receiver of the Erie Employes' Relief Association, and directing the receiver not to collect any money which the Erie Railroad Company or its treasurer has been authorized to deduct from wages and enjoining the association from collecting or accepting any such money. The receiver also notified the Erie Railroad Company not to make any deductions for the month of December on account of the Erie Employes' Relief Association.

For these reasons no deductions will hereafter be made on account of the Erie Employes' Relief Association, and payments will be made to you without any deductions on that account, unless further directions are received from you. This will not interfere with anyone who wishes to do so making payments direct to the receiver at Salamanca, N. Y.

D. W. BIGONEY,
Treasurer, Erie Railroad Co.

New York, Dec. 17, 1917.

Seventy Thousand Railway Men Join Colors

"RECENT reports from American railroads indicate that approximately 70,000 men have left railway service to join the colors," says the *Railway Age* in its current issue. Inquiries addressed to all lines, 100 miles in length or over, brought replies from 119 railroads with a combined operated mileage of 201,081, or about 77 per cent of the mileage of the country. These roads reported that 54,381 officers and employes had joined the armed forces of the United States since the declaration of war, of whom 1,417 received commissions.

"It is not unreasonable to assume," says the *Railway Age*, "that the remaining railroads of the country have supplied the army and navy with a proportionate number of men. At the rate at which employes of the 119 lines volunteered, or were drafted, the number for the remaining carriers should approximate 16,000, making the total number of railway men in army or navy service over 70,000, or nearly 5 per cent of all the railroad employes in the United States."