

GOOD BYE TO CAMP CRANE; ITS ABANDONMENT ORDERED

Will Likely be Merely a Memory by February First—Brought Five Million Dollars to Allentown in Year and Half

Immediate abandonment of Camp Crane has been directed by the war department and work on the removal of buildings and soldiers will commence at an early date. By the end of February it is expected that Camp Crane will have passed into history. The soldiers now stationed at the fair grounds will either be mustered out of service or transferred to other camps. The salvaging of all buildings, other improvements and equipment will be directed by officers of the camp. When this work is complete the various materials will be sent to places directed by the war department.

With the removal of the camp from this city, as going will leave more than memories behind it, it will mean a deep hole in the coffers of various mercantile places, hotels, restaurants, places of amusement, barber shops, drug stores and numerous other diversifications in which the U. S. S. A. C's split their monthly wage from Uncle Sam's treasury.

A vague idea of what the camp's departure means to this city can be gleaned from the following approximate figures which were compiled recently at the camp headquarters: \$5,000,000 was expended in this city since the camp was established here. Soldiers' pay amounted to nearly \$2,000,000; \$220,000 was spent by the post exchange in candies, cigars and tobacco; \$350,000 was spent in the construction of new buildings and \$90,000 in labor.

The latter item was for work on the erection of the new buildings, all of which went to workmen from this city. The materials for the buildings for the most part were all purchased in and around this section. The \$220,000 expense account of the post exchange represented an amount spent entirely in business places in Allentown.

In addition to the above the camp fed an average of 4,000 men daily for the past eighteen months at a cost of fifty cents per day per man. All the edibles to feed this army were purchased within the city, excepting large quantities of vegetables which were bought up in the rural sections. Other large sums represented showed

the amounts paid for accommodations in the hotels and hospital. The amusement provided on the camp ground for the most part was gratis, but sums spent in the theatres, moving picture houses, pool rooms and other places of pleasure, totaled thousands of dollars. What all this will mean to Allentown and surrounding places visited by the soldiery of the camp, can best be explained by those who profited during its period of operation here both as a training and an embarkation site.

Last evening 280 soldiers, forming a motor company, arrived at the camp, coming from Buffalo to this city. This morning they will secure a number of trucks at the Bethlehem Motors Corporation and proceed to Camp Holdabird, Baltimore with them.

By February 1, the property will again be in the hands of the Fair Society. The government paid the latter \$30,000 a year rental, and is required to restore the property in the same condition in which it was received.

The camp was established in May, 1917.

Organizing as a training school for ambulance service men, Camp Crane, named in honor of the Surgeon General of the Union army in the Civil War, soon expanded into a general medical camp, and fully 20,000 men of that service were given their lessons in warfare here.

The first units to arrive were mostly college men, coming from nearly every State in the Union, and representing nearly two score of the leading universities and other educational institutions. Most of these men have rendered heroic service in France, Italy and Belgium, several hundred of them being in the casualty lists.

The first commander of the camp was Colonel E. E. Persons, now in Italy, who was succeeded last summer by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Slee, Colonel H. McC. Snyder taking the latter's place a few months ago.

For the past few months the population of the camp, made up principally of drafted men, has been steadily reduced until now it numbers less than 1,500 men.