

Interesting Letter from Oie

•Fogderud, of Fairmead, Cal.

Under date of February 9th, Mr. O. L. Fogderud writes from Fairmead, Calif., as follows:

When I left Hannaford a year ago last fall, I promised that I would write and let my old friends hear from me. The reason I have not written sooner is that it was our first duty to write to the soldier boys, but now, praised be God, the war is over, and the boys are coming home.

It was pretty cold when I left Hannaford in the fall a year ago. I went by way of Minneapolis in order to take the shortest route to California, as the journey always appears rather long to me. I left Minneapolis in the evening via the Great Western, and arrived at Omaha, Neb., at 10 o'clock the next morning where there was an hour's wait. This delay I took advantage of to view the sights of the city. Omaha seemed to be on a boom; there were many houses under construction, among them several skyscrapers.

The journey was resumed over the Union Pacific to Ogden, Utah, and I had an opportunity to see the famous Platte River Valley in Nebraska. There was section after section as far as the eye could see, planted to corn which they were at work husking. Throughout the whole day the train sped through the same monotonous fields of corn. The next morning we were in Wyoming; from the train there was not very much to see—only an occasional ranch. Towards evening we arrived in Ogden, beside the Great Salt Lake. Here we remained only about thirty minutes, leaving on the Southern Pacific. When I awoke the next morning, I saw the Great Desert of Nevada. Here the sand was piled up in drifts just like snow drifts and nothing living was to be seen; not even a bird. At noon we arrived in Reno, which is Nevada's capital, and also a resort for the millionaires of the East who have here the privilege of securing divorce easier than at any other place in the United States. By evening we were in the Sacramento Valley, and about 10 o'clock we arrived home, the trip from Minneapolis having taken only three days.

Winter passes rapidly here as there is always so much to do, and the climate is of such a nature that it is a pleasure to work. The summers are long and hot. The farmers in this vicinity are long since through with the seeding. The big mule-drawn outfits are becoming less numerous and in a few years they will be a memory only. Large gasoline tractors have taken their places, and here they are very convenient as there are no stones to hinder their successful operation. The size of tractor in most common use is of 75 horse power which draws a 12-bottom plow, drill and harrow. The whole outfit is operated by two men so the labor problem is not very serious. In time the large ranches will be divided up into smaller farms, but not until irrigation ditches are built so water can be brought onto the land. Anything and everything will grow here if only sufficient water can be obtained—we have surplus of heat and sunshine.

It is remarkable how much they can raise on a small farm here. Near here is a farm of 120 acres, where they have 125 milch cows, 4 horses and a herd of hogs—all fed from the products of the farm as the owner never buys any feed, and sells cream for from \$1500 to \$2,000 per month.

Fruit growers have also made good money the past few years when fruit has been so high-priced. Many are now planting fruit trees, but it is an expensive proposition. For one thing the trees, as well as everything else, are now high priced, and for another dynamite is very expensive, but it must be used as the trees thrive best where the ground has been blasted.

On my farm I am going to plant 3000 grape trees, 200 citrus and 50 olive trees this spring in addition to putting in some more alfalfa, and constructing a 1200 foot cement pipe for irrigation purposes, so there

Lutherans to Raise \$300,000;

Griggs County's Quota \$1000

This week and part of next is the time set aside for a campaign to raise \$500,000 in the United States to be used for international reconstruction work. Rev. T. E. Sweger, of Cooperstown, is county chairman for Griggs county, and is in charge of the work of raising the quota for this county which is \$1000.

The time reserved for the drive is from the 16th to the 26th of February, and the Lutheran church must raise \$500,000 in order to furnish what is needed for the work among our soldiers after the war in the industrial centers where thousands and thousands of Lutherans are working in the great industries of our country; and then last but not least, for the international reconstruction service, namely, for the great work that must be done for the Lutheran Church in France, in Alsace, in Finland and many other European countries. The Lutherans in these and other countries need our material help, but above all, religious and spiritual help. The Lutheran Church is called upon to help her brethren in Europe, and we have the means with which to help them. The opportunity offered to build up our Lutheran church in France and other countries, is greater now than at any former time.

The Lutheran Church has never faced an hour like this. It has faced serious times before. In Luther's lifetime already an alliance was formed to end her existence. After his death the strife broke loose in the Smalcald War. She was strong within to weather that storm.

In the Thirty Years' War again she fought for her existence. Then, too, again and again, her power was proven by the willingness of her people to sacrifice all for their faith.

Today the society in which she lives is disintegrating and only heroic measures can save her from ruin. She is being ground between the upper and nether millstones of Bolshevism and Catholicism.

The situation concerns not only the Lutheran Church within. It concerns the future of the whole Protestant cause. If the Lutheran Church of Europe is enfeebled it will be an irreparable blow to Protestantism. The saying was—"As goes America, so goes the world." It is proper to change it now to read—"As goes Europe so goes the Protestant cause of the world." With the Lutheran Church of Europe out of the running Protestantism is only a shell.

When the solicitors call to see you be prepared to give your share cheerfully to this good cause.

is plenty to do. Elmer is here now, so I have help, but summer will be here before the work is completed.

Land is rising in value here as well as other places. Unbroken land costs from \$100 to \$400 per acre. Land planted to fruit costs from \$300 to \$3000 an acre. The reason the land is so high here is that we have a better climate than anywhere else. There are people from all states in the Union here and they all say the climate is better than where they came from.

This winter has been cold for this country. We have frequently had frost the past two months, but not sufficiently severe to do any damage. Vegetables grow here the whole year around; now the grass is beginning to grow, and the fruit trees to blossom, so we see that summer is near. To date we have had but little rain this winter, only about five inches, but I hope there will be more.

O. L. FOGDERUD

