

WAR DEPARTMENT
SPRUCE PRODUCTION DIVISION
U. S. SIGNAL CORPS

YEON BLDG., PORTLAND, ORE., April 9th, 1918.

Mr. Francois B. Morse,
% Associated Press,
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Francois:-

Your favor of the fifth with the enclosures was received, and I was very glad indeed, to get them. On reading your letter however, I realize that perhaps I may have failed to give you the right idea, for I am quite sure I am just as leathe as you to approach this great tragedy in a spirit of levity or humor. My idea was simply this: In preparing the contents for this little magazine it is very difficult to find anything of a humorous nature. The purpose of the publication, as you will readily see if you read it closely is purely propaganda, to inspire into the hearts of a bunch of semi-seditious foreigners and I. W. W. a certain degree of loyalty for our country and to encourage them to speed up in this work. In getting up the copy as I said, it is not advisable to use too much heavy stuff. I wanted, if possible, to get some lighter or humorous stuff, or descriptive matter, experience or otherwise that would appeal to such men as work in the spruce forests. I am quite sure you have the kind of humor that would make an awful hit with them, if you can translate it into words. Or if you could write a story about logging or logging methods in Japan or India or some of the other parts of the world where you have been, that would be cracker-jack stuff for them. I know you can give me just the kind of stuff that I want and can use to good advantage in this little paper if I am able to explain to you just the kind of material that is desired. I hope I have succeeded in doing this in this letter and shall certainly be glad to distribute the name of Mr. Franklin B. Morse throughout officialdam in Washington, and in addition you will be doing a real service for your country, bigger perhaps than I can explain to you in a letter.

I just heard that Jim Howe has been sent to France as your correspondent, and I also note in your letter that Guy Moiston has been sent to London. They were both unmarried and unattached, and both good men so I guess the A.P. made good selections. I certainly hope you will continue to go to the top and get a good advancement out of all these changes.

Kindly express my regards to Mrs. Francois and any other friends of mine you may happen to meet.

Sincerely your friend,

Spencer B. Best

MILITARY INFORMATION SECTION
Spruce Production Division
Signal Corps, U.S. Army
Yeon Bldg., Portland, Ore.

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