

## Legion Ready To Aid Veterans Of Present Conflict

More than 100 Legionnaires from all posts in Oswego county, gathered in William S. Monaghan post clubrooms, Oswego, one evening last week to greet Department Commander, William N. Lewis, who made his official visit to Oswego county.

Commander Lewis discussed the aims and objects of the American Legion program, asserting the organization is now particularly concerned with "the efficient and expeditious treatment of the men and women now serving our country" when the war is over.

The principal speaker told the gathering that indications point to a membership record this year. He declared that members who have served well in the past cannot sit back and feel that they have already done enough. "Our responsibilities are too great to have only a few carry on. Those who have served must still remain active," he said.

Reviewing the history of the American Legion, State Commander Lewis asked: "What prouder heritage can you leave to your children than the record of achievement and the high ideals of the Legion over the past 25 years?"

Judge James C. Feeney of Mexico, county adjutant, was toastmaster and handled the role in a capable and witty fashion.

Lt. Col. Ralph S. Manter, commandant of the 1210th Service Unit at Fort Ontario, sketched the work which is being done at the post along educational lines in fitting soldiers, who for one reason or another have had none or little schooling, to become good fighting men. He said that splendid results are being attained in the three-months course, with more than 100 educators from all parts of the country being assigned to the post for this work.

The speaker brought out the fact that many of the soldiers, who have had practically no education, demonstrate brilliance in mechanical aptitude tests. He also declared that up to 85 per cent of the men who have gone out from the post make good basic soldiers and said that through the country, thousands of soldiers are being made fit for service.

Stressing the need of protecting veterans of the current war, who are even now being discharged for combat disabilities, the state commander said the legion has a prime responsibility and will do its utmost in their behalf. Every effort will be put forth to insure the future of the new veterans, he asserted.

Called upon for brief remarks were District Vice-Commander Harold Phelps of Fulton; Lt. R. L. Cothran, post adjutant at Fort Ontario, District Adjutant George Storey of Vernon, Representative King of the Red Cross at Fort Ontario, and Howard Heckethorn, representing William S. Monaghan Post.

District Commander A. Edward Allen of Utica pledged full support of the Fifth district to the department.

Folsom Taylor, past grand chef de gare of the Tennessee 40 and 8, was introduced and he supplemented the state commander's assertion that the Legion must be deeply concerned with the rehabilitation of returning veterans.

Many Legionnaires from Mexico and Parish and other vicinity places attended.