

an organization that now numbers within its ranks more than 11,000 separate posts.

"For God and Country," to quote from this Preamble, "We associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy."

How well the Legion is doing the work it has set apart for itself, perhaps not everyone realizes fully. Interested as we are in our posts, we take a lively part in seeking to achieve the particular objectives set up by our own post officers, and we try to the best of our ability to spread the gospel of true Americanism, and of resistance to disloyal preachments and activities. Sometimes we may not realize how important this individual striving of ours may be; sometimes it may seem relatively unimportant to us that we have been able to uproot, in someone's mind, the damaging seed planted there by adverse propaganda. Sometimes it may even seem like trying to hold back the waves of the ocean with a tiny barrier of sand when we strive, by our efforts with the younger generation, to build them up into good citizens, and to render their minds less fertile soil for disloyal doctrines that assail them on many sides.

If ever we are tempted to underrate the achievements of the American Legion on behalf of God and Country, because we can see only our own efforts, we have only to remember that, although we are but part of the Legion, yet anything we are able to accomplish that in any way furthers the interest and insures the continued security of our country, is multiplied more than 11,000 times in the activities of all the Posts of the Legion. Even the smallest results assume gigantic proportions when multiplied 11,000 times!

What I like possibly more than any other one thing about the American Legion is that it is truly American, in the broadest sense of the word. It is NOT an association of Easterners, or Southerners, or Westerners, or Northerners, working for the advancement or the security of any particular section of the Country. It is NOT an organization dedicated to the good of any one color,—or nationality—*or* creed. Rather it is an all-American organization in which every decent, patriotic American who has rallied to his country's assistance is eligible and welcome: It is an organization where white and colored, Gentile and Jew, where persons of every denomination and no denomination mingle on an equal basis, and work towards a common good. After all, every one of those diverse elements was represented in the throngs that once responded with equal ardor and love of Country, and fought together that the ideals of Democracy upon which this country is founded might be preserved to the world.

Today, with the War-that-was-to-end-all-wars twenty years behind us, the American Legion has assumed a tremendous significance in the life, and for the future, of our Country that it never could have assumed during the earlier years of its existence, because there was not the need then for the influence of the Legion that there is now. The American Legion today is one of the most potent of the means at our command to fight the good fight of Democracy and free institutions, against the "All for the State" policy that self-seeking groups and individuals will seek to impose upon us, unless we keep everlastingly upon our guard.