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EDITORIAL

The article on the European war entitled "The War and the Problems of Life," appearing in this issue of the Nebraskan by Dr. H. B. Alexander, of the Philosophy Department, is contributed in accordance with the request of the managing editor. About a year ago Dr. Alexander contributed an article on the war up to that time. Since that Europe has been plagued with the most severe war in history, and we are sure that a resume of the war to date will be welcomed.

THE WAR AND THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE

More than a year has passed since Europe was stricken with war, and the horror of the event has hourly grown in intensity. The shock of amazement, that such a thing could be, which greeted the outbreak of the war, has given place to a settled acceptance of the grim fact; but this settled acceptance makes the thing itself no less black. Rather, in showing us how foolish and vain were our idealizations of a civilization we deemed above ambitious murder, it has brought to us a graver and darker sense of the problems that beset the life we must live.

Here in Nebraska, the past summer, surrounded by quiet pastures and gloriously green fields, the war has seemed like some uncanny mirage lifting above the crest of our horizons its unreal images of maddened death. On the streets we have met the good-humored countenances of our fellow men; in the fields, the smiles of a generous nature; and we have all been pacifists at heart. But daily our eyes have been lifted to the lurid glow of war—constrained to behold, in spite of us; and we have ended with a double sense of illusion, not knowing whether the reality lay most in the peace which greets our physical vision or in the red images revealed to our intelligence.

The University opens, outwardly as in other years; but the youth who are crowding its halls represent the generation upon which most heavily must fall the consequences of a war which is transforming the destinies of the world. Future generations of students will study the records of the conflict, as those of today study the past; and generation by generation its meaning will become clearer and easier to master. But none of them will have more need of understanding than have the youth of today, for whom the war is creating the new conditions of a new

life,—and for none will understanding be so dearly bought.

There are those who think that America can be affected by the war, if at all, only favorably. This is a crass and fatal view. Wisacre veterans of the Civil War have been telling us that the copious rains of the past summer are the reverberation of Old World cannonadings: battles bring rains, they say. And this view—however fantastic to the meteorologist—is a fair allegory of our short-sighted American optimism. In a way it is true that our fields are being rendered fruitful by the blood which drenches Europe: market for our produce and manufactures (at least for so long as Europe is rich enough to wage war is assured, and Old World gold strains our coffers. But the American who sees in the war only this brief material gain must regard his countrymen as a nation of vampires fattening on the blood of their kindred. We are not yet that!

But what means the war—what for us? Time and events are disclosing. In the beginning, when the war was first forced upon unwilling peoples by the decision of kings, it seemed to us but the egotistic madness of ambitious monarchs eager to sear their names into the imaginations of posterity. As men more fully expressed their thought, in that great and strange apologetic literature which the war has called forth, we saw that, while indeed the monarchs had made the occasion and given the signal for war, the conflict itself is the expression of far more than the idiosyncracies of royal personages. Week by week we have seen what first appeared to be a struggle precipitated by dynastic arrogance, reveal itself as the struggle of discordant conceptions of human government. On the one hand, a mechanical imperialism, wonderful in capability and intelligence, asserting its right to rule as a kind of earthly providence; on the other, self-willed democracies, full of stupidity and contrariety, but full, too, of love of that liberty which to certain races of men has ever seemed dearer, even when it entails imperfection, than can be the most benevolently softened servitude. Between these ideals it is for us, as Americans, no difficult matter to choose. We know them both in our own experience, for no nation is consistently one thing or the other. We have much to shame us and much to be proud of, in our conduct both as imperialists and as democrats. But when we face the issue in its ideal form, and ask ourselves intimately which, in the long run, we would have our country be, imperialistic or democratic, the spirit of our institutions and of our history gives us but one possible answer.

But with the marshalling of our sympathies, spontaneous and inevitable according to our dispositions and antecedents, our concern with the war, as Americans, does not cease. As events unfold and the effects of the war are brought nearer to us, it becomes increasingly evident that the struggle in Europe has precipitated in our midst issues that we must face. It is not enough to say that our institutions are democratic in spirit; we must yet answer, shall they continue to be so? The war has brought to our national consciousness perils and threats that we had never before realized—the perils of internal disruption, owing to the conflicting ideals of our citizenship; threats of external aggression, for when we see war hurled from the clear upon unsuspecting peoples, as was this war, we realize that no nation is secure from enemies because it is conscious of no enmity.

These issues—the issue of the internal and the external perils—are issues which the young men and women of the entering generation must solve. Of the two, the problem of meeting external peril, foreign aggression, is the simpler of solution. It is a question of the minor sacrifice

of money, time and effort in the interest of military preparedness. As it affects students in the University, for example, it touches the matter of willingness to drill and of zeal in acquiring that modicum of military knowledge which the citizens of states which are to preserve their independence must possess. In a yet broader way, it touches the whole question of public support of a policy of national defence. There are at present two policies urged by our public men: the one, that we reject all armament and rely for our defence upon our virtuous consciousness of fostering ill-will towards none; the other, that we arm, not for wars of aggression, but for the preservation of our ideals on an earth which harbors nations whose political aims can thrive only in a policy of aggression. Between these policies we must choose.

The internal peril is yet more searching and serious. It turns upon the question of love of country and loyalty to its ideals. The statement has come to my ears that many, very many, of our young men are saying that they would not go to war at the call of the United States no matter what the issue or what the danger—that they value their personal safety more than the perpetuity of this or any other nation. I can hardly credit this, but if it be to any extent true we as a people are surely riding to a fall that will destroy us; and if it be true of the young men whom the state is educating in free institutions, there can be no more damning mockery than is such state-education. Our country may, on occasion (for this, too, must be rare), have welcomed to its privileges aliens who have accepted its citizenship without giving it their allegiance; but surely the youth of such a land as ours are not being reared to betray it, or in utter want of those ideals which have been the stay and inspiration of all greatly historic peoples.

Yonder in Europe men have died and are dying by the thousand for beliefs that are dearer to them than life. And if we of the United States of America have no beliefs, no national ideals, which for their preservation could inspire a similar sacrifice, we are of all nations the poorest and most pitiable.

H. B. ALEXANDER.

Music—Louis P. Hagensick, F2042.

ALL DAILY NEBRASKAN SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS MUST BE TURNED IN TO T. A. WILLIAMS' OFFICE AT ONCE.—BUSINESS MANAGER.

F. F. Laune, who graduated from Nebraska in '14, was in Lincoln the first of the week for a few days on his way to attend the University of Chicago, where he has a fellowship in Economics.

Scott's Orchestra. Call, B-1482.

* Chorus Registration *
* Registration for Chorus is still *
* open, announced Mrs. Carrie B. *
* Raymond today. Men who drill *
* may rehearse Monday at 7:00 *
* o'clock and Friday at 5:00 *
* o'clock. All others come to class *
* Monday, Wednesday, and Friday *
* at 5:00 o'clock. One hour credit *
* is given for the course. Rehears- *
* als are in Art Hall. *

Jones, Orchestra. Phone L-9121.

Reporters Wanted
There are a few positions to be filled on the Daily Nebraskan reportorial staff. Those desiring such work may apply at the Nebraskan office in the basement of University Hall.

Board
Excellent board at reasonable prices may be secured at Mrs. Lehliter's, 1428 S street. 101-4-8



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Velvet Joe

TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL CROWDED
College Course at the Temple—Very Popular—130 Students Are Registered

One hundred and thirty students were registered in the Teachers' College high school in the Temple last week. Over two-thirds of these come from the rural district surrounding Lincoln. Because there are accommodations for no more, about 100 prospective students were turned away.

The courses here offered are those of a regular high school, no college subjects being treated. The school is maintained primarily for training the members of the Teachers' college, who constitute the entire corps of teachers.

Only one semester of the practice work is required for a certificate, but it is often advantageous to continue the work during both terms and thereby subtract one year from the usual three years necessary for a life certificate.

Margaret Haley, of Valentine, was married this summer to Harry Campbell, of Valentine. Miss Haley was a sophomore in the University and is a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

Alice E. Day, '15, has gone to Wolcott, N. D., where she will teach the coming year.

Joe Freydenberg, '07, spent the weekend at the Alpha Theta Chi house.

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FRESHMEN MUST SUBSCRIBE FOR THE NEBRASKAN THIS SEMESTER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE.