

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

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It is in truth a little thing we do when we write cheery letters to our soldiers, when we send them the home paper, a box of candy, or a book. It is, in fact, the least we can do, but to them it is much. It lets them know that we still remember them, that we talk of them and are proud of what they are doing. It shows then that we have in our hearts a picture of them as they were in campus days, as we are confident they always will be. Keeping fresh the memories is one of the sacred duties of every Nebraskan.

Student opinion on the question of social expenses found expression in the action of the inter-fraternity council last evening. Subscription dances were again taboed, and the number of "hall parties" limited to two a year. It was also recommended that the "big party" be shed of its formal and extravagant aspects. Although it will be the climax of the social season, the affair will not be a financial burden for the society giving it. If students will now organize a definite system whereby the money saved in this sensible reduction may be turned over to the Red Cross or a similar war work, Nebraska students will have shown definitely their desire to help in whatever way they can to win the war.

THE HOME TIES

Every Nebraskan should read the story from Fort Snelling in today's issue. It is the simple statement of a fact that has not been brought home to us, a reminder that we are neglecting, with bad effect, our Cornhusker soldiers. Our search for the diversion that will bring us forgetfulness of our own light burden has succeeded so well that we think too little of the ones who have already made and are yet to make the sacrifices of war.

It is needless to say that no one likes the practices, the atmosphere, of war, although millions of Americans, among them hundreds of our classmates, prefer it to peaceful unconcern in the face of German perfidy. The intense nervous strain of the impending, the fatigue and routine of the present, are depressing even to the most buoyant spirit and firmest conviction. In the lonesome minutes of reflection there is but one thing, besides the inspiration of the purpose behind his work, that will steady the purpose and freshen the resolve of the soldier, and that is the realization that he is bound to a home, to a circle of friends, by ties that cannot be weakened. If his confidence in the sympathy and interest of those at home wavers, then his resolve to keep unsullied his ideal of right living is assailed; he is driven to seek, in doubtful paths, that diversion which we ourselves desire, but for how much less a cause!

ON PUBLIC SPEAKING

An army officer was quoted recently as estimating that one-third of the men dismissed from the first officers' training camp at Fort Snelling failed to get commissions for no other reason than that they could not express their thoughts clearly, concisely, commandingly, in speech. The ability to talk lucidly and think logically while on one's feet is an asset in other walks of life for the same reason that it is in war; it is a talent possessed by every leader of men. All of us aspire to a clear head and ready tongue on the firing line, not only because it is a requisite of the man who is to do more than carry out the instructions of others, but because it is probably the most fascinating form of creative work. Nothing is more inspiring than to feel an audience respond to an idea one has conceived and so expressed that those who hear it take it up as their own.

The knack of speaking well is learned by too few because it must be acquired by a series of dreadful, stuttering moments when dry tongues stick and knees shake, when thoughts whirl through the brain as though scattered by a flurry of the wind. We should not be discouraged by such trying times as these; most of the men whose calm command of themselves we admire have gained it only after trials similar to those familiar to every high school graduate. The Bryans are few, but men who have learned to forget themselves in their subject are about us in every successful work of life. We, too, must learn our task.

THESE ARE HAPPY DAYS

These are happy days for the person who likes to do things for others. It seems that hardly a day passes but some big chance is offered to help someone else. The decision on the part of the university library to collect books and magazines for the men in the camps and at the front, offers another opportunity for those who are permitted to go to college to show that they are willing and ready to help those who have given up their college careers and other activities to go into service for their country.

Certainly there is nothing that the man in the service needs more than something to amuse him in his spare moments and to give him mental satisfaction. These books and magazines will fill that need.

Probably every man and woman in the university has some book that he or she would be willing to give to this cause. Think what it would mean if everyone gave one book or magazine. And who can measure the good that this literature will do—the ideals formed or strengthened, gloomy hours brightened and relaxation given? Why say more? The obligation is plain.—Ohio State Lantern.

THE GARAGE EFFICIENT

He walked in briskly and said to the man in charge:

"You are the one, I believe, who sold me my second-hand auto."

"Yes, sir."

"It hasn't run since I bought it."

"Yes, sir."

"The tires crumbled in pieces the second day."

"Yes, sir."

"The paint flaked off, the electricity wouldn't splutter a spark, the gas tank had a hole in the bottom, and all the spark plugs were missing."

"Yes, sir."

"Knowing that I have no recourse in the law, and that I can't get anything back, I have come in to do the only thing possible.—There being no policeman within call, I propose to give you the most magnificent thrashing that you ever had."

The man in charge touched a bell, and another man appeared, rather the worse for wear.

"Jim," he said, "how many times have you been thrashed this morning?"

"Three."

"And your contract call for—"

"Four."

"Pull off your coat and get ready for this gentleman, and then you can, if you like, take the afternoon off. Kindly step outside in the areaway, sir, as I haven't read my morning paper."—Life.

INVESTMENT AND PATRIOTISM

With the second Liberty loan campaign started, Americans should begin to realize how expensive war is, at least in the matter of money. This loan is following close on the heels of the first, and there is no doubt that it will be followed later by another and still another. In money matters, America is to assume the lead for the allies, and share the burden so long borne by Great Britain. That, in addition to the huge cost of financing our own military and naval establishments, is going to strain the country's finances, if the war lasts as long as many think it will.

But since the great demand must be met, it will be, and patriotic investors may also be consoled by the thought that the Liberty loan, besides being an expression of patriotism, is a pretty good investment. It is a safe investment, and free from taxation, except a surtax, in case of large investors, and this freedom from taxation makes it a fairly profitable investment.

These huge war loans, however, must be largely in addition to other investments. A nation as prosperous as this one may meet several of them without great strain, but ultimately the drain must be felt. And still, if the war continues, the demand for money and still more money must be met in America, just as it has been in poorer countries longer engaged in the war.

You may wonder how this can be, but it is safe to assume that it will be. New found wealth and the profits of war industry will play a part, even if the latter doesn't help as much as it should. But certainly one way to weather the financial strain of war will be for Americans to learn

to save, as the French and Germans have learned and as Great Britain is learning. For America, long the most wasteful of the nations, because it had so much to waste, that may be a difficult lesson, but it is coming and it is patriotic to try.—Aitchison Globe.

AMERICA AFTER THE WAR

In France, only a few miles from the devastated area, Gelett Burgess wrote "War the Creator." In America we shall soon enough share the intense emotion underlying the book, but just now we retain sufficient composure to survey more or less dispassionately some of the benefits this war appears destined to bestow. If we turn the dark cloud inside out and think of war as a constructive, creative force, it will be from no half-desperate determination to keep our own courage up.

The war will make us a nation. For years we have not been that. In the magazines (illustrations by Benda) the melting pot bubbled gloriously; outside the magazines it bubbled to small purpose. A horde, bread heaven knows where and perdition knows better, brandished flags with the motto, "No God, no country." The war is putting a stop to such scandals. After the war every American's motto will be "America first and America only." This war means the end of pro-kaiserism. It means the end of the I. W. W. Anti-patriots will be howled down by an army of veterans who have defended the colors abroad and will defend them at home ever after. Incidentally, this war means the end of maudlin pacifism. Sissyhood has departed, not to return. Manhood will take its place—a finer manhood than ante-bellum America could boast of.

Finer physically, for one thing. Already the draft has taught millions of Americans the value of medical examination. The stupid American habit of muddling along in ill health and not seeing a doctor will vanish. In all probability every American lad will hereafter be required to undergo military training (in itself beneficial), and the army chiefs will take care that no one remains unfit for service by reason of remedial ailments. At least one of the leading causes of disease will be checked, if not abolished, during the war. Our troops have temperance thrust upon them—temperance of a sort to be thrust upon civilians. Whisky and other distilled liquors may never regain their place among our national beverages.

In point of character post-bellum manhood will have gained enormously. Multitudes of young Americans will return from France the better for discipline, the better for having braved hardship and peril. Thousands will have been braced up morally by the responsibility of commanding men. Everywhere in business and the professions the presence of former army officers will stiffen morale. Never again in our day will there be a general prevalence of slackness and inefficiency such as Elbert Hubbard bewailed in his "Messages to Garcia." The "what, me?" type of employe will be scarcer than at present. So will the "let George do it" type. Their scarcity will contribute in no small measure to America's post bellum prosperity.

A lot is being said—truly enough—about the exceedingly hopeful outlook for business after the war. Allies of ours, the Spanish-American republics, will have banished prepossessions that hamper commercial dealings. It will be a long time before a defeated Germany can again compete with us. The war has revived shipbuilding in America; we shall not let shipbuilding decline. Aviation (for what it is worth) will be as extensive in America as abroad. Considerable numbers of women, unemployed hitherto, will have become trained producers. Meanwhile the war will have enforced a degree of system and organization that will give business a new efficiency. But, as we look at it, none of these things can in any way compare with the gains due to the disciplining of character. Many a civilian will have learned thrift before the war is ended. Many a civilian will have learned fortitude and the meaning of sacrifice. Americans will be made of sterner stuff; especially will Americans who have faced the enemy abroad and returned.

In speaking thus optimistically we do not intend to leave room for a suspicion that we at all under-estimate the horror of this war. It is monstrous, unutterable. It was not of America's seeking. It was forced upon us by a situation that left no other course open. Nor do we intend to incur the accusation that we look with too unappreciative eyes upon the America of ante-bellum days. We should not be so hopeful about the grand house-cleaning now in progress had we not a great and habitual esteem for the house.

Even its worst defect, that of an inordinate passion for money-making, has rescued civilization from bankruptcy and consequent defeat. The very Europeans who jeered our greed of gold have seen that gold interposed between them and irreparable disaster. And if American idealism has had a

(Continued on page four)

OCTOBER AT THE

First Congregational Church

13th and L Street—Near the Campus

Since entering the University this fall possibly you have not given your spirit a fair chance. Then let October be a month of recuperation. In the sanctuary of God, it will find refreshment and strength. The Church stands for friendship, worship, instruction, comfort, all of which every heart needs.

REGULAR SERVICES

October 7, 10:30.....The High Cost of Living
October 14, 10:30.....
Mr. H. G. Wells's Book, "God the Invisible King"
October 21, 10:30.....Good Roads to a Good City
(Based on a 1500-mile automobile drive to Lincoln)
October 28, 10:30.Moving: a Homily to all Recent Arrivals

SPECIAL SERVICES

October 14, 4:00 p. m.
.....Lord's Supper and Reception of Members
October 28, 7:30 p. m.
Author's Reading: "The Prodigal Son Ten Years Later"
You are welcome to come and bring a friend.
John Andrew Holmes, Minister.

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RITA ROLAND

The Charming Young Actress, Now Playing at the Orpheum, Who "Stole the Show" at Denver Last Week