

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Official Paper of the University of Nebraska

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Published every day during the college year except Saturday and Sunday.
Subscription price, per semester, \$1.

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

With the discovery of three new cases of smallpox among Nebraska students the optimistic attitude of yesterday becomes out of place. It will be a week, perhaps, before the full total of results from exposures has come in. In the meantime the policy of vaccination and examination must be strictly adhered to by students, who endanger their own and their classmates' safety by temporary neglect of the order.

Chancellor Avery's article in appreciation of President Wilson's message to congress, found elsewhere on this page, calls the attention of students to this remarkable document. It is, as the chancellor points out, of international appeal, "the best expression of altruistic political thought to be found anywhere." University students, upon whom shall fall a heavy part of the burden of war and reconstruction, can find inspiration and enlightenment in this article which is destined to take its place as one of the greatest state papers of the time.

When tickets for the Varsity banquet—which, it is hoped, will become an annual fall men's dinner dedicated to the Nebraska of today and tomorrow—were placed on sale, they were distributed under the stipulation that every purchaser fully understood that he is to attend an all-University banquet where he is expected to deport himself as a Nebraskan should. There is no common means of comparison between the Varsity banquet and the Cornhusker banquet of old, for none of the bad features of the latter have been considered in planning the new tradition. But, it is important, that every student realize this. He is going to a real banquet Friday, one which will be something worthwhile instead of something merely tolerated.

CHANCELLOR AVERY ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The president's message is an international message dealing with international conditions in a war involving every continent of the world. It will encourage our French, English and Italian allies. It will afford comfort to all people struggling for national unity and the right to work out their own destinies. It should instill some measure of sanity into Russia. There is charity and sympathy in it for the misguided people with whom we are at war. It helps us to feel that a world fellowship of all right-minded people may yet become something more than a day dream.

It is an American message. It voices America's toleration where toleration is possible. It voices America's inflexible determination to banish from our midst those things that cannot be tolerated while we are engaged in a world struggle. The traitor must feel the iron hand under America's velvet touch. For the babbling, irreconcilable pacifists it voices the contemptuous pity in the heart of every true American.

The president's message is a message of practical idealism. In wonderfully accurate phraseology it gives perhaps the best expression of altruistic political thought to be found anywhere. Compared with the crude proclamations of the Petrograd enthusiasts it is like a marble palace to a mud hovel. It shows our entrance into the world war in its true light as a crusade for justice, for humanity, and for the establishment in world affairs of those principles which have been exemplified in the private conduct of the best of humankind since the beginning of our era.

SUCH STUFF AS WARS ARE MADE OF

A pamphlet entitled "Japan" that came to Collier's not long ago is a good example of the way people who presumably want to avoid wars help to make them inevitable. The object of the pamphlet is to arouse Americans to a realization of our unsatisfactory relations with Japan and the necessity of improving them, as well as the need to strengthen our naval and military defenses on the Pacific. Most of the reading matter, consisting of reprints from "The Military Historian and Economist," is legitimate enough expression of opinion from responsible sources; but the section intended to show what Japan thinks of us is utterly misleading and dangerous. It is headed "A Japanese Opinion (in October, 1916)." Here are some characteristic extracts:

Fifty millions of our race wherewith to conquer and possess the earth. It is indeed a glorious problem. Rome built an empire with less; Napoleon nearly did it with less; and England will have done it with less, if she wins—if she wins.

To begin with, we now have China; China is our steed. So becomes our fifty-million race five hundred millions strong; so grow our paltry hundreds of millions of gold into billions.

As for America—that fatuous booby with much money and much sentiment, but no cohesion, no brains of government, stood she alone, we should not need our China steed. Well did my friend speak the other day, when he called her people a race of thieves with the hearts of rabbits. America, to any warrior race, is not as a foe, but as an immense melon, ripe for the cutting. North America alone will support a billion people; that billion shall be Japanese, with their slaves. North America, that continent so succulently green, fresh, and unsullied—except for the few chattering, mongrel Yankees—should have been ours by right of discovery; it shall be ours by the higher, nobler right of conquest.

But is it wise to pluck, even at first, but half the fruit? England has said: "Nay, you may not take America, not even California." Germany has said the same. But now, after two years' effort? Would she say it now? Would she rather be beaten by England than divide the world with us? Cannot Germany be brought to terms with us?

Now, if that really is the way Japan feels, the only thing left for us to do is to mobilize three million men on the Pacific coast and prepare to sell our lives dearly. But does Japan feel that way? To head the item "A Japanese Opinion," without telling us what Japanese opinion, leaves us nowhere. The thing may be a speech or an editorial; it may represent the views of a Japanese statesman, a Japanese lunatic, or a Japanese Hearst. The passage may, of course, be of the gravest import. But those who quote it ought to give us some chance to find out. The worst of circulating such stuff without telling its origin is that it thereby gains a weight all out of proportion to its importance. The average reader doesn't stop to ask where it came from; unconsciously he assumes that unless such a statement were immensely important nobody would bother to reprint it. Unfortunately some people would, and do. Mr. Hearst's views on Japa and Mexico strike no responsive chord in the heart of the average adult American, and we are properly indignant when Japanese jingoes quote his gibberings as representing American public opinion. But perhaps they are merely taking a hint from what American jingoes are doing.

The Prussian autocracy spent forty years imbuing Germany with the conviction that if she did not crush the rest of Europe, the rest of Europe would crush her. Only now are her people beginning dimly to realize that nobody does or ever did want to annihilate them. The best way to make a possible war a certain one is to make two nations afraid of each other; and the best way to do this is to circulate anonymous rubbish like "A Japanese Opinion." Collier's Weekly.

MILITARY NEWS

Dean O. V. P. Stout of the department of engineering has received a bulletin from the navy department announcing the appointment annually of thirty acting ensigns, authorized by congress at its last meeting. Graduates of this University, with a degree of mechanical engineering or electrical engineering, are eligible to apply for appointments.

Applicants must be also physically qualified, and not under twenty-one nor over twenty-six years of age. Mental examinations for the position will be given January 2, 3, 4 and 5, 1918, at this school. The physical tests follow these examinations. Those receiving the commissions will be required to perform engineering duties

only. They will have the same ranking as regular officers of the navy, and receive the same pay, and have the same chances for promotion. Further information may be obtained at Dean Stout's office.

LETTER FROM CAMP

The following alumni and ex-students are now stationed at Fort Monroe, awaiting orders to leave for France. First Lieutenant Lloyd Walter, C. E., '12; First Lieutenant Roy Cochran, '10; Second Lieutenant Kirk Fowler.

C. C. Towne is now a second lieutenant in active service in France.

Paul Raber, C. E., '17, second lieutenant field artillery, stationed at Ft. Sheridan, visited the engineering departments the first of the week.

Glenn Montgomery is now second lieutenant field artillery (regulars), stationed at Ft. Snelling.

Albert Busboom, who was in the architectural school last year, is now second lieutenant of field artillery at Camp Dodge.

Capt. H. P. Letton, C. E., '09, First Lieutenant E. W. Bennisson, C. E., ex-'09, and First Lieutenant R. F. Lyman, C. E., '14, are stationed at Fort Leavenworth in the Engineer Officers' training corps.

J. E. McLafferty, C. E., ex-'14, J. A. Christie, E. E., ex-'18, and Roy Cameron, M. E., '17, are in training in the government balloon school at Omaha.

Lieut. Col. Chas. Weeks, E. E., '98, chief of staff at Camp Custer, spent Thanksgiving here with his family.

The following letter received from Wallace Overman, '17, now at Camp Funston in Y. M. C. A. service gives an excellent idea of the way Nebraska men at the front appreciate their schools record in the Red Triangle campaign:

"Camp Funston, Nov. 30, 1917.

"A few days ago, when I read in the 'Rag' that Nebraska had really failed to live up to her trust and had subscribed a mere \$8,000 out of its quota of \$15,000, a feeling akin to shame came over me. I felt that surely something was wrong, surely Nebraska had not been awakened to the real needs.

"Today, when I received a Rag, and a program of the great meeting at the auditorium, and read that old Nebraska has "gone over the top" by over \$8,000, I feel like throwing up my hat and yelling.

"To one who is in such close touch with army life and the real needs of the "boys in khaki," it is surely a supreme satisfaction to see his old school respond so liberally to this call.

"I can only express to the faculty and student body who responded so grandly to this call, a feeling of greatest appreciation. From every Y. M. C. A. secretary in every army camp, this feeling comes, as a result of the overwhelming success of the campaign throughout the whole country.

"Just at present the work here is somewhat hampered because of the quarantine, so about the only type of service we can render is that of keeping the boys supplied with stamps, stationery and reading matter. No public meetings of any sort are permitted in any of the Y. M. C. A. buildings. This means that thirty-six moving picture shows, thirty-six religious meetings, twelve "stunt night" programs and twelve educational programs are lost to the boys each week. We are hoping for a speedy lifting of this quarantine. Until then, we can only do our best with what we have to do.

The Rag gets to me about once or twice a week. Day before yesterday I received the issue of November 1. I think it is the fault of the mail service. With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
WALLACE L. OVERMAN,
Y. M. C. A. No. 4,
Camp Funston, Kan.

Ask for Soil Exhibit

The United Soil survey has been requested by the Union Pacific railway to install a soil exhibit in the Terminal building at Omaha. The exhibit will include specimens, maps and soil materials along the Union Pacific line in Nebraska. The survey will place a large soil column sixty feet high in a glass case. The State Conservation commission has received a great many requests regarding prospecting for oil in Nebraska. This commission has the duty under the law of keeping constant records of soil prospecting and the purpose is to gain knowledge of formations encountered. Drilling for oil is now under way near Red Cloud, Table Rock, Stockville and Harrisburg, and at points in South Dakota and Wyoming near the Nebraska line. Dr. Condra recently went over the and prospected near Ardmore, D., and Lusk, Wyo., both of which are points close to the Nebraska line.

On the Long Green

"My time," said the magnate, "is worth one hundred dollars a minute."
"Well," answered his friend casually, "lets go out this afternoon and

play ten thousand or fifteen thousand dollars' worth of golf."—Boston Transcript.

Lost His Enthusiasm

The worried countenance of the bridegroom disturbed the best man. Tiptoeing up the aisle, he whispered: "What's the matter, Jock? Hae ye lost the ring?"

"No," blurted out the unhappy Jock, "the ring's safe eno'. But, mon, I've lost me enthusiasm."—Southern Woman's Magazine.

"Does your grocer attempt to explain high prices?"

"He did at first. Now he merely shudders as he accepts the money, and I groan."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Accurate

An editor had a notice stuck up above his desk on which was printed: "Accuracy. Accuracy. Accuracy," and this notice he always pointed out to the new reporters.

One day the youngest member of the staff came in with his report of a public meeting. The editor read it through and came to the sentence: "Three thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine eyes were fixed upon the speaker."

"What do you mean by making a silly blunder like that?" he demanded wrathfully.

"But it's not a blunder," protested the youngster. "There was a one-eyed man in the audience."—Minneapolis Tribune.

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