

STEELE HOLCOMBE WRITES FROM EGYPT

Nebraska Grad Tells of Y. M. C. A. Work in Egypt And of Conditions There.

Secretary Bill Day received a letter yesterday from C. Steele Holcombe '16, who is doing Y. M. C. A. work in Egypt. Mr. Holcombe was very prominent in school affairs while he was in school and many students will be glad to hear from him. The letter follows:

Cairo, Egypt.
November 24, 1921

Dear Uni. Friends:
To give you some idea of the problem of organizing a Christian organization in Egypt, I am enclosing a copy of Dr. Zwemer's article published in "The Moslem World," which gives some illuminating facts about this great city.

We are now deep in plans for opening work among Egyptians. Hitherto there has been only work for Americans and Englishmen. This "beginning process" promises to take some time, and foundations must be laid for everything—committees, membership and basis, finance, building and equipment, etc.

You will be glad to know that the secretarial staff for the Cairo association now includes three Americans, Messrs. D. B. Atwell, C. S. Holcombe, and W. B. Smith; and Messrs. MacQueen, Richmond and Conardine from Great Britain.

The crisis anticipated in the political condition has come. Negotiations between the Egyptian and British governments have broken down. Nobody can foretell what the ultimate settlement will be. The country is divided between two Egyptian leaders, but evidently more or less united in opposition to anything like foreign control.

The chief difficulty in the negotiations seem to have been the matter of adequately safeguarding the Suez canal. I believe there is also a vital difference in point of view regarding control of finance and justice within the country.

One's sympathy is naturally with the Egyptians, but at the same time one has to face the facts in a country ninety per cent illiterate, where political power is centered in a small group of Moslem land-owners. The native Christian community numbers only about 800,000, while the foreigners of various nationalities probably do not exceed 500,000. The commercial enterprise of the country is pretty much in the hands of Greeks, Italians, English and French. It would seem necessary therefore, that along with self-government, there should be some measure of advice and help from outside. The practical problem seems to be to combine freedom with a really responsible government, and devising measures whereby advice and assistance may not become domination and paternalism.

If you are specially interested in the political problem here you will find Sir Valentine Chirol's recent book "The Egyptian Problem" (MacMillan) a fair criticism of both British administration and the national weaknesses of Egypt, and generally a broad-minded treatment of the whole situation.

This letter brings holiday greetings from Cairo to our friends at home, and the wish that the New Year may be full of those blessings which God has so generously bestowed upon all our brotherhood.

Very sincerely yours,
C. S. HOLCOMBE.

SHERWOOD EDDIE TO HOLD MEETING HERE

A series of meetings will be held in honor of Sherwood Eddie, the most prominent student worker in the world today, who will be at the University of Nebraska February 8, 9 and 10. Nebraska has been exceedingly fortunate in securing Eddie for these meetings.

A large committee consisting of a member from every organization on the campus will be organized to take charge of the meetings. The executive committee has been appointed as follows: H. N. Barnard, Herbert Brownell, Harry Hubbard, Clarence Swanson, Floyd Oldt, Asa Hepperly, Don Mitchell, Betty Scribner, L. Dittmann, Mary Herzing, Grace Staff, Margaret Henderson. Faculty members are Dean Engberg, Director Leubring, Dean Burnett, Mrs. Williams, Dr. Winifred Hyde.

The chairman will be chosen at the first meeting.

PICTURE OF C. R. GRAY IN EXECUTIVE OFFICES

A large picture of President C. R. Gray, of the Union Pacific Railway company has been received by the University of Nebraska agricultural college and now hangs in one of the executive offices.

President Gray sponsored the plan whereby boys in many Nebraska counties can by their achievement in the corn, wheat and potato projects of the agricultural college's junior club work win \$75 scholarships to assist in paying their expenses in any of the various courses in the agricultural college and school of agriculture at Lincoln. It is expected that 15 to 20 boys will be able to take advantage of these scholarships after the first of the year, 1922.

The agricultural college people in the University of Nebraska appreciate the efforts of such educational supporters as President Gray. This contest among the boys clubs will enable the agricultural college and the school of agriculture to widen their fields of educational influence materially during the next 13 years.

SEARSON TALKS ON OKLAHOMA CONTEST

Talks to Community Problems Class of Better Cities Contest in South Last Year.

P. of J. W. Searson of the University extension department spoke to Dr. Hattie Plum Williams' class in "Community Problems" recently on the "Better Cities Contest" carried on in Oklahoma last year. The contest originated when the Shawnee Oklahoma Rotary club offered a \$2,500 prize to the city showing the most improvement in one year. In this contest in which Mr. Searson was one of the judges, twelve cities were competing. The rating of the cities was on the basis of ten points outlined by Dr. William A. McKeever as a score sheet for cities. The ten points are: Play, industry, schools, health, sanitation, moral safeguard, socialability, religion, service and housing.

It is interesting to notice some of the effects the "Better Cities Contest" has had upon all of the cities in the contest.

Newspapers.
Although the armistice conference was in session, the better cities contest was given top honors and entire page heads in every city visited. The local publicity given by the newspapers to the better cities contest varied in amount from 100 columns to 517 during the year. In every town where the newspapers were giving this publicity practically every citizen was a subscriber to the local newspaper.

Churches and Sunday Schools.
Church and Sunday school attendance in all cities was increased from 50 to 100 per cent. A large number rooms were provided and many new modern churches were built or planned. The churches generally adopted the policy of regularly advertising their services in the newspaper.

Public Movements.
The contest revealed a general condition of poorly organized and inefficient public charities with a definite desire to remedy the condition.

Nowhere was a finer awakening shown nor better results exhibited than in the public schools. The public in every case was quick to vote the maximum school levy to provide adequate equipment and to vote bonds for new buildings. Parent-teacher associations were everywhere organized or in process of organization and the public generally was more interested than ever before in the outside school activities of children, and the definite work of the school.

In every city some definite, intelligent, forward movement was under way for safeguarding the health of children. The school, city and county nurses were being employed; sick baby clinics, and well baby clinics were being established in many places; hospitals were being improved, new hospitals built. Everywhere there was a concerted movement to improve preventive health measures.

A gleam of co-operation was revealed in the better cities contest. As yet most of the clubs are discussing art or literature, passing resolutions or spending their energies in manipulating loaning funds for students. Here and there the clubs are beginning to awake to their finer opportunities for community building. Chambers of commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and business women's clubs were everywhere definitely co-operating to get back to the boy scout movement, the girl scout movement, the back to school movement, and the movement for the sane recreations. One of the most distinctive features of the better cities contest was the carefully directed and sanely organized co-operation of business men's

and women's clubs. **Recreation.**
In all cities the need to provide larger play centers, better playground equipment, and finer indoor and outdoor recreations was clearly recognized. Safeguarding public dances, controlling motion picture theaters, and organizing true merry-maker's clubs were activities generally espoused by the better cities movements. Business men's clubs openly condemned the use of cigarettes and the members refused to set bad examples for children.

The back-to-the-home movement was clearly evident everywhere. Homes were made modern, more pleasant for children, and parents began to show a willingness to assume complete responsibility for the control of their children. Home tasks and home recreations were more definitely provided.

Every city in the contest improved materially in appearance. Housewives painted, lawns neatly trimmed, parkings cared for, streets paved or curbed, and back yards and alleys cleared. Trees were planted, parks were improved, new city buildings were erected with due regard to architectural beauty, and a beginning of city planning was everywhere in evidence.

Community Co-Operation.
Through the establishment of community councils, representative of all the city organizations, a finer type of community building was made possible. Luncheon conferences made business men and women acquainted with each other and set all to work for the common good of the community. These community councils stimulated the efforts to build new school buildings, to encourage newspapers, to clean jails, to care for juvenile delinquents, to provide better public libraries, to open rest rooms and day nurseries, to make church going fashionable, and Sunday school attendance as reputable, and in a thousand other ways to stimulate every thing that had for its aim true community building.

The whole state of Oklahoma is benefited by the contest. Its revival for better cities is little short of a true crusade pointing the way to a definite means whereby our cities can be made safe places in which to rear children.

TRADES MEN PREFER POULTRY HUSBANDRY

Twenty-nine Take That Training While Nineteen Train as Auto Mechanics.

Three of the seven lines of training offered in the University of Nebraska trades school are offered at the agricultural college campus. These are auto mechanics, carpentry and poultry husbandry.

In the largest group, that of poultry

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husbandry, there are twenty-nine men registered. They share in all the work on the poultry farm such as trapping, caring for grounds, and chicken houses, mixing rations and feeding, incubating and brooding chicks, getting poultry and eggs packed and ready for market, keeping records, etc. In addition, each man is building himself a poultry house and equipping it in line with the most up-to-date methods. The work is necessarily individual and each man is given actual practice in all phases of the work.

In the auto mechanics, the second largest trade group, there are nineteen under the direction of Professor Smith and Mr. Laub. The projects are assigned to the men, varying in difficulty with the amount of previous training they have had. A novice is given some practice in the laboratory until he is skilled enough to start on the actual repair work. All types of carburetors, ignition timers, valves, etc., are studied and operated until a man is thoroughly familiar with all makes of cars and under the direction of skilled mechanics is able to do "trouble shooting" and repair work on them. A number of the men operated army trucks during the war and are now getting the theoretical as well as the practical side of the work, so that they may be able to take charge of repair shops of their own.

In addition to these two groups, four men are registered in the carpentry section, making a total of forty-eight men who are taking this work on the college of agriculture campus.

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COMMERCIAL CLUB WOMEN MEET TODAY

Miss Marie Wiesner, advertising manager of Miller & Paine, will give a talk on "Advertising as a Service to a Community" at 5 p. m. Wednesday, January 4, Social Science 305, to the members of the women's division of the commercial club. Miss Wiesner has served as advertising manager for Miller & Paine for the past six years and is considered an authority on the subject.

The plans of the division is to have some prominent business man or woman to speak at each meeting, in order to familiarize the students of the business administration college with really practical problems. This is the

second meeting of the division and every member is urged to be present.

ALPHA KAPPA PSI HEARS PROF. WOLFE

Alpha Kappa Psi held its regular monthly dinner at the Lincolnshire club Friday December 16. Plates were laid for forty members.

After the dinner several of the members gave talks on various lines of business they were experienced in. Prof. Wolfe also gave a talk on "Opportunities for the use of Statistics" in business and other lines.

The decorations were suggestive of yuletide.

Forest Estes and J. C. Bancroft, two of the fraternity alumni, were present.

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