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Half the fun of watching a football team develop and "wade through" a stiff schedule is lost if the opening game is missed. Lincoln people seem to realize this better than University students themselves, for the business men have promised that there will be five thousand people at the game with Wesleyan Saturday. Against these five thousand townspeople, Nebraskans so far have purchased sixty-seven season athletic tickets. As few will go to a minor game at single admission prices, this means that so far only that many have made arrangements to watch the first kick-off. Season athletic tickets will be purchased, there is no doubt about that, for the bargain is too big to pass up. But they should be bought before the first game so that the buyer may get the use of them at the season opening. And the first game this year is to be a practice cheering session, so that every rooter who is planning to do big work at the more crucial games later on will be there to run through a few vocal fomatons.

SUBSCRIPTION DANCES

In the first two weeks of school there have been three subscription dances attended largely by University people. This is a good batting average even for the piping times of peace; as an indication of how Nebraska is to live during war time it is startling. One of the affairs was given as a Red Cross benefit, and therefore it may be excluded from discussion, leaving one perfectly useless dance a week to consider. Both of these depended almost entirely upon University patronage although neither of them were strictly under student control. If we are to believe this just a good start for what is coming later, what, then, may we expect of the social program as a whole. Is Nebraska to dance through the year while former classmates are fighting in France? Certainly our desire for diversion and amusement does not require such an elaborate and extravagant program to satiate it as this hints at. There is no time for meaningless parties promoted by individuals for individual benefit. Students should withdraw their support absolutely from subscription dances. It is not a question of economy at all; it is a question of patriotic duty. Money comes too dearly in the work of the Red Cross, the Serbian relief, the Red Triangle, and similar war causes, to waste it upon an institution that is as out of place in University war-time life as the policies of the Kaiser are in the modern conception of world relationships.

THE —S IN ACTION

(The New York Sun)
The —s have gone into action. They are a family, not a regiment. Their name cannot be given here because the names of all the units, even the smallest, must be withheld. Nor is it possible to distinguish them by a sobriquet. Were they to be referred to as the Fighting —s the German intelligence office would say, "Oh, yes, the Fighting Flannagans." And a mention of the Ready — would bring prompt comment. "So the Ready Roosevelts have taken the field. And they think to disguise it!"

The —s, just the —s, will have to do. Perhaps we can get around the difficulty by using first names. Besides the father and mother there are three boys—John, George and Joseph—and two girls, Mary and Jane. None is married, but Mary is betrothed. She was to have been married, but her affianced does not wish to appear to be a slacker. So he is waiting until he has been certified for the National army. Then there will be a quiet home wedding with no rice thrown, because rice is a food-stap and Mrs — is a member of the food administration.

While the wedding is necessarily delayed preparations for it are going forward at a great rate. Mary's trousseau is nearly completed and the groom is not buying any, expecting

to receive one from the quartermaster's department at Camp Upton. Jane who will play the wedding march, is having trouble. Most of the wedding marches were written by enemy aliens and are obviously unsuitable at the marriage of her sister to an American soldier. Probably she will select one of Mr. Sousa's compositions. If she cannot find a piano arrangement the phonograph will have to play it, it being obviously impossible to hire a brass band. A band for a wedding is an extravagance in war time.

The fact that the bridegroom will be outfitted by the largest firm in North America does not preclude his receiving accessories of one sort and another made by the folks at home. As any one who owns an automobile knows, accessories are practically endless and consist of anything the immediate usefulness of which is not apparent. There are accessories before and after the fact whether the fact be the purchase of a sixteen cylinder gadabout or entry into the military service of the United States. The greatest peril of Mary's prospective husband is not however, the lists of "Things Your Soldier Boy Will Appreciate," compiled on an assumption, and a doubtful one at that. His future peace and comfort are mainly jeopardized by Jane's passion for knitting. She has nearly completed an outdoor sleeping suit which will make her intended brother-in-law resemble a well-to-do Eskimo rather than a private, U. S. N. A.

While the impending wedding engrosses the minds and fingers of Mary, Jane and their mother, John, George, Joseph and their father are at odds over large questions of production and supply. The parent is a farmer, John is working for Mr. Hoover down in Washington, George is a contractor's man in charge of cantonment construction, and Joseph is raising sheep in Texas. Mr. — put in a large crop of wheat and another of potatoes. His wheat came out rather poorly and the price set by the government won't give him much of a profit. He is patriotic enough not to mind this, since he has added to the amount of wheat in the country—the main thing. But the money to pay for his subscription to the next Liberty loan will have to come out of the potatoes. He is afraid the potato price will go below \$1 a bushel. It cost him \$125 an acre to plant them, and the crop averages 250 bushels to the acre. Well, that's all right if the price stays at \$1, a bushel. Can't John suggest to Mr. Hoover that the price of potatoes be established at that amount?

John's replies are evasive and his father is just a little disgruntled in consequence.

George has had a serious row with his father because, under the spur of haste, he has paid common laborer's \$5 to \$8 a day in building the cantonment not many miles away. Mr. — found it impossible to compete with this wage scale in getting farm help. He spoke to George about it and they had some words, but after the cantonment is finished and the harvest is in it will blow over.

From Joseph have come several scathing letters. He wrote from his sheep range to John, asking if the government was going to neglect sheep. Joseph wanted to know if clothing to wear wasn't as important as food to eat. An epistolary mention of the outdoor sleeping suit caused Joseph to indite a regrettable letter to his younger sister telling her that it was girls like her who were wasting the visible supply of wool. Jane's answer—she had always deprecated Joseph as a sheep raiser—was brief. She wrote:

"Much cry and little wool."

What of Mrs. —? The poor woman is having a hard time as family mediator and arbitrator, a role which she had had to fill, like all women, from the time she became a mother. Added to the delicate task of bringing about daily peace by understanding with no annexations and no indemnities, but with restitution and reparation and guarantees for the future—added to this are all of her war functions. She is a member of the Red Cross and makes surgical dressings. She cans and preserves and serves butter in one-third ounce portions. She helps her husband in the outdoor work of the farm as a demonstration of woman's ability in war time. She knits. She has joined a "Take a Soldier Home to Dinner" movement and once or twice a week seats at her table some bashful youth from the neighboring cantonment. She is on a committee to help provide visiting soldiers with healthful recreation. She watches the kitchen for waste. She does other things in spare moments. At present she is taking a census or inventory of the farm's resources in foodstuffs. Nobody will ever be able to take an inventory of her activities.

The —s have gone into action. Those who know them do not think of them as especially engaged. Every one else, pretty nearly, is doing the same things, or some of the same things, and others equally eager, well meant, occasionally misdirected but mostly of value in winning the war. Like the millions of their fellow Americans who have been ordered into

action and have gone with relish the —s think of their enterprises only in terms of winning the war. They don't realize that what they are getting is a combined mental, physical and spiritual training, a kind of splendid series of setting up exercises of inestimable worth to them the rest of their lives. Though they never stop to think of it, winning the war is the most effective way of preparing for peace.

Adjutant General McCain Tells What We Should Get From College

What are the things most worth while in a student's life? What experiences will be most valuable to him? What habits should be formed? Wherein lies success? Over half of the applicants for commissions at the Reserve Officers Training Camp at the Presidio, San Francisco, found that they did not possess sufficient of the essentials of success to secure an office in the army of the United States. The reasons being behind the failure of this large percentage as conceived by one applicant are admirably set forth in the following communication issued by Adjutant General McCain:

"Believing it might be interesting and helpful to schools and colleges in the present emergency, your attention is invited to the following observations of a candidate at one of the reserve officers' training camps, as to the probable causes of the considerable number of rejections of candidates for reserve officers at the training camps:

Perhaps the most glaring fault noted in aspirants to the officers' reserve corps and one that might be corrected by proper attention in our high schools, preparatory schools and colleges, might be characterized by the general word "slouchiness." I refer to what might be termed a mental and physical indifference. I have observed at camp many otherwise excellent men who have failed because in our school system sufficient emphasis is not placed upon the avoidance of this mental and physical handicap. In the work of the better government military schools of the world this slackness in thought, presentation and bearing is not tolerated, because the aim of all military training is accuracy. At military camps throughout the country mental alertness, accuracy in thinking and acting, clearness in enunciation, sureness and ease of carriage and bearing must be insisted upon, for two reasons. That success may be assured as nearly as human effort can guarantee it with the material and means at hand, and that priceless human lives may not be criminally sacrificed. Only by the possession of the qualities referred to does one become a natural leader.

A great number of men have failed at camp because of inability to articulate clearly. A man who cannot impart his idea to his command in clear, distinct language, and with sufficient volume of voice to be heard reasonably far, is not qualified to give commands upon which human life will depend. Many men disqualified by this handicap might have become officers under their country's flag had they been properly trained in school and college. It is to be hoped therefore that more emphasis will be placed upon the basic principles of elocution in the training of our youth. Even without prescribed training in elocution a great improvement could be wrought by the instructors in our schools and colleges, regardless of the subject, insisting that all answers be given in a loud, clear, well-rounded voice; which, of course, necessitates the opening of the mouth and free movement of the lips. It is remarkable how many excellent men suffer from this handicap, and how almost impos-

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sible it is to correct this after the formative years of life.

In addition to this physical disability and slouchiness is what might be termed the slouchiness of mental attitude. Many men fail to measure up to the requirements set for our officers reserve because they have not been trained to appreciate the importance of accuracy in thinking. Too many schools are satisfied with an approximate answer to a question. Little or no incentive is given increased mental effort to co-ordinate one's ideas and present them clearly and unequivocally. Insistence upon decision in thought and expression must never be lost sight of. This requires eternal vigilance on the part of every teacher. It is next to impossible for military instructors to do much to counteract the negligence of schools in this regard. This again has cost many men their commissions at camp. Three months is too short a time in which to teach an incorrigible "beater-about-the-bush" that there is but one way to answer a question oral or written, and that is positively, clearly and accurately. The form of the oral answer in our schools should be made an important consideration of instruction.

I have further noted at camp that even some of our better military schools have turned out products that while many of them may have the bearing of a soldier in ranks, yet their carriage is totally different as soon as they "fall out." Schools, military and non-military, should place more insistence upon the bearing of pupils all the time. It should become a second nature with them to walk and carry themselves with the bearing of an officer and a gentleman. This again is a characteristic that cannot be acquired in a short time and, when coupled with other disqualifying elements, has mitigated against the success of men in training camps.

As a last important element that seems to me has been lacking in the moral and mental make-up of some of our students here is the characteristic of grit. Not that they would have proved cowardly in battle, necessarily, but some have exhibited a tendency to throw up the sponge upon the administration of a severe rebuke or criticism. Their "feelings have been hurt" and they resign. They are not ready for the rough edges of life. The true training school should endeavor to inculcate that indomit-

able spirit that enables one to get out of self, to keep one's eyes fixed upon the goal rather than upon the roughness of the path, to realize that one unable to rise above the hard knocks of discipline cannot hope to face with equanimity the tremendous responsibilities of the officers under modern conditions of warfare. This ideal of grit belongs in the school room as well as upon the campus.—U. of Nevada Sagebrush.



Marjorie Davis AT THE BRANDEIS

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