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News Editor
LAURENCE SLATER
 For This Issue

THE UNIVERSITY'S WORK

One cannot watch the two thousand Nebraska lads, now soldiers in the students' army training corps, as they carry on their military work on the athletic field; stage hikes through the main thoroughfares of the city or enjoy the new life in the barracks, without marvelling at the great change that has come to the University within the past few months. Military spirit and life dominates and all else must stand aside to make way for the training of the men who will soon make new records for Nebraska and for their country.

News of interest to those in the University is military news; football plans are buffeted this way and that by the army rulings; university traditions are tucked away for safe keeping and normal school activities are at a standstill. For all this change, however, not a complaint is heard. The training of men to fight Democracy's battles is the all-important thing of the hour and no one is willing to do that which might in any way interfere.

New students in the University last year realized the comprehensive program mapped out by the war department and foresaw the transformation which was to take place. As a result plans for the carrying on of some of the normal activities were roughly mapped out for the present year. Scarcely had the University opened when, seeing the real work of the year, men and women alike shoved plans aside and stood ready with only one aim in mind, and that to take an active part in their country's fight.

Even more marked than last year and worthy of commendation is the lack of interest in what might in the slang term be called the "trimmings" of University life. The institution has been shorn of the unessentials and is now a training camp from which come trained men and women ready to take their places in the nation's industrial plants, the Red Cross huts or upon the battlefield.

No better agent can be found in the army for the manufacture of fighting spirit and "pep" than music. Whether it is in a Y. M. C. A. hut, in a little corner of the barracks or out in front of a pup-tent in the evening, the little group of camp musicians is surrounded by a crowd of eager soldiers, worn weary from the long days and yet showing no trace of their weariness as they laugh and joke and sing under the near-magic of melody.

On the march, four miles out and four miles yet to go, as a few begin

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to lag behind others frown over blistered feet, a few peppy strains of ragtime march from the faithful band works wonders. The stragglers spring into place; shoulders are squared and the next mile is reeled off in record time.

And as the band is a fun-producer it is also impressive. As the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" float out over company after company of uniformed men, their commanders at salute, the ideals for which we are fighting comes clearly to every mind and the soldier squares himself in grim determination to do his best. The soldier who plays in the military band is playing as big a part in army as the one who carries a gun.

Q. E. D.

Merely winning the war would not make the world safe for democracy if victory came undeserved. Beating the Junkers by a fluke would leave the Junker tradition intact. In a Germany so defeated the Junkers would arise sooner or later and say to a vengeful people: "It is true that we were beaten, but look at the odds against us, and see how near we came to turning the trick as it was. It took a miracle to save the allies in September, 1914. In March and June, 1918, we had them reeling, but it began to rain. Next time the breaks will be the other way."

The world will be safe for democracy when the Germans have learned the truth—they are well on the way now—that their Junkers were not beaten by miracles or by unadventurous thunderstorms which clogged the movement of the heavy guns, but by the spirit and physical force of democracy. It was not German miscalculation which lost the first battle of the Marne, but the heroism and enlightenment of a democratic people as embodied in Joffre and his men. It was not rain which stopped the German rush on Amiens and Calais last spring, but the desperate courage of a democratic nation to whom its commander in chief dared to say, "We are fighting with our backs against the wall." It was the inflexible will of a democracy whom its leaders can trust that enabled Foch to hold out during the dreary months that preceded the dawn of last July. It is the fundamental capacity of a democracy to rise to the highest needs of the moment, to display prodigies of sacrifice, insight, ingenuity, organization—and the combative spirit—that enabled America to turn the scales against the Junker.

Through nearly four years of war the Germans were fond of arguing that victory was bound to be theirs by the laws of nature, including human nature. It has been the saddest of the Hohenzollern miscalculations. The laws of human nature run the other way. In spite of tragic delays and costly errors, democracy will have won the war because it is the stronger weapon as well as the better cause, because we deserved to win.—Collier's.

SOLDIERS TO GET REAL LEMON DROPS

War Department Using 200,000 Pounds Per Month—New Shoe Perfected

(By Harvey O'Higgins, Associate Chairman Committee on Public Information.)

They are small things in themselves—lemon drops—but in the manner of their handling by our war department they are indicative of much larger matters.

When our draft armies first came into training, it was found that the lemon drop was a favorite candy among the men. It was found also that most of the commercial lemon drops were made of glucose, flavored not with the fruit but with an acid imitation. The military authorities obtained samples of lemon drops from practically all the candy makers in the country, analyzed these, chose the best one, obtained the formula for its manufacture, and distributed orders for a supply of lemon drops to be made according to the accepted recipe.

Consequently, the soldiers are now being supplied with a lemon drop that is made of pure granulated sugar and flavored with an emulsion from the rind of the lemon. This confection "has the thirst-quenching quality of good lemonade." And it is being

used by the soldiers at the rate of two hundred thousand pounds a month.

The country's supply of soluble coffee has been taken over for the use of the men in the trenches. Experiments have been conducted in order to obtain an especially good quality of coffee, one that can be put up in stick form, like chewing gum, in waterproof wrappers, and one that is easily dissolved in cold water so that the soldiers in exposed posts may have their cup of coffee without lighting a fire that might attract the attention of the enemy. So much of the coffee is now called for by the army that the supply is not equal to the demand, and new companies are being formed for its manufacture.

New Army Shoe

A new shoe is being issued to the men that is "superior in construction and quality to any shoe produced commercially in this country hitherto." It has three heavy outer soles cut from the best portion of the hide. The leather of the uppers is "tanned and stuffed in a more thorough way" than ordinarily. It has steel toe plates and heel plates. Instead of being stitched, it is "metallic fastened." The soldiers are using up shoes at the rate of three millions pairs a month and it has become necessary to restrict the sale of sole leather for civilian use.

For the first time in the history of the army, razors are being issued to the troops. They are safety razors, and new blades are furnished as they are needed. The army has learned by experience that a clean shave and a good appearance greatly sustain the morale of the men.

If you find it impossible to buy soluble coffee, thick-soled shoes, or your safety razor blades, it is because the army needs them. These are little things. But as the wit said, "Perfection is an affair of little things, yet perfection is not a little thing." The showing which our troops have made in France is largely due to that efficient foresight of the military authorities which has not overlooked even the lemon drop as an aid to victory.

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