

ARMY LIFE FILLED WITH MANY CHANGES

Fifteen Hundred Men Flock to Enter Unit Early in Month of October.

Morale of Men Falls with Fading Chances of Going Over Seas.

Thanksgiving day, two months after the inauguration of the Nebraska University Students' Army Training Corps, finds the local unit existing under very different conditions than most of its members had anticipated. Members of the students' army training corps came to the University this fall with an intense longing for immediate service in France, and with ambitions to become leaders in the field of their choice.

When notice was given at the Nebraska University early last summer that a large unit of the S. A. T. C. was to be established here, Dean George R. Chatburn was appointed campaign director for the state of Nebraska. Acting in this capacity, Dean Chatburn conducted a most vigorous campaign to get enlistments in the Nebraska University students' army training corps. His success was very gratifying, over fifteen hundred men joining the Nebraska unit at the opening of the school year. Gradually this number was increased, new inductions adding a goodly number. At the present time approximately twenty-five hundred men are enrolled as student soldiers.

Training School for O. T. C.

Because of the great demand for competent company officers, the S. A. T. C. was designated at the outset as the logical preparatory school for officers' training camps. Civilian applications for entrance to central officers' training schools were no longer accepted by the government after the inauguration of the new army training unit. Frequent calls were made for embryo officers, and over three hundred Cornhusker soldiers were transferred to O. T. C. to take the courses of

special training prescribed by the government.

The government had two main objects in sending the boys to the Nebraska University as members of the regular army. The first of these was to prepare the men for immediate service in France as leaders and as officers, and the second was to give each man an education which would be of lasting benefit at the close of the war and which would be of great value during the reconstruction period.

Armistice Injures Morale

The signing of the armistice, which called forth the greatest burst of military enthusiasm ever witnessed in Lincoln, found the Nebraska student soldiers training with genuine sincerity. Naturally all incentive for overseas service was lost, and the morale of the men was seriously impaired. The fact that every member received valuable instruction is certain to demonstrate that the S. A. T. C. has been worth while.

Following the organization of the S. A. T. C. on the Cornhusker campus, Capt. Edmund J. MacIvor was appointed as commander of the unit. Prior to that time the former commandant had acted as commanding officer of the special training troops now known as Section "B." Captain MacIvor made an ideal leader for the student soldiers and the men under his command respected him and took him as their inspiration and guide. He was an ardent exponent of strict military courtesy and insisted on strict enforcement of discipline. At one time the men were severely reprimanded because of a breach of military discipline and a lasting impression was left with each student soldier.

Captain MacIvor's sudden departure from the local army unit came as a great surprise to all the men under his command, as well as to his many friends in Lincoln. When the announcement that the war was at an end was flashed throughout the world Nebraska's war leader felt that there was little incentive for future work as leader in the S. A. T. C. here. His resignation was accepted by government officials two weeks ago, and he left for Washington immediately to descend into civil life once more.

Athletics Play Stellar Role In Developing Fighting Men

While the war has temporarily paralyzed athletic activities, it has brought out the insignificant fact that a nation's efficiency depends upon the physical and intellectual health of the individual, and that both of these can be attained through physical culture. Most people have a mistaken idea about gymnastics and athletics. They think the main purpose of physical culture is muscular development. While this is undoubtedly the fundamental purpose of athletics, yet it is by no means the only benefit to be derived from systematic physical exercise. In its broadest sense, physical training involves mental, moral, and physical development. All the requisites of a good soldier are found in a successful athlete. Both must lead a clean life, and be regular in their habits. Immorality, drunkenness, and gambling, the vices that military authorities are successfully combatting, are not tolerated by any supervisor of athletics. The same code of morals, the same standards of right and wrong are to be found among the men in cantonments and those in athletic organizations.

The athlete has to study, understand and obey the laws of health in order that he may reach the highest efficiency. The same is true of the soldier. He must live right and think right. Men have learned more about attainment of efficiency through athletics than through moral instruction. An athlete or soldier soon finds out that he can not do his best when using alcohol or tobacco, and he learns the great lesson of self-mastery, self-possession.

Discipline of Athlete

Discipline, the main factor in the maintenance of an army, is the chief moral value of athletics. Not compulsory discipline, but voluntary obedience, are the distinguishing characteristics of the successful soldier and athlete. An athlete must exercise self-control in contests of rivalry. He must be prepared for the crisis when the winning of the game de-

pends upon him. Courage, unselfishness, generosity, and modesty are prevalent characteristics of both the athlete and soldier. The man with a streak of yellow will never occupy a prominent place in athletics. Football and other competitive sports develop the confidential, self-reliant fellow, the fellow that will buck the line, and go over the top. Cowardice and treachery are the worst sins of which either an athlete or soldier can be guilty.

From the efficient soldier comes the development into officer material. A square-shouldered, athletic fellow, whose very structure vibrates with superb strength and vigor, is the one who will make the successful leader and gain the confidence of his man. It is not always the size, but the soundness of the individual that counts. The opponent to be feared is not the loud-mouthed, town bully, but the calm, deliberate individual, who carefully studies his antagonist.

Physical Education and Sound Health

Physical education prepares one not only for active service at the front, but also for the work of reconstruction. With our present complicated system of living, good health is almost an impossibility. And yet good health is the base of all business success. A man puts out his noblest efforts when he enjoys doing a thing, and to enjoy business or to enjoy life a man must be in sound physical condition. Any young man who desires to be a leader, a winner in a business game, or any other game, should early realize the importance of strengthening, building up and tuning up his physical machine.

Of course it is necessary to have an ambition, but ambition alone will not get a man anywhere, unless he has a head, a body, and hands to carry out his ambition. He must back up his wishes with action, he must be alert and tactful. All these qualities are directly dependent upon a man's physical condition.

Popularity of Baseball

Of all forms of athletics, baseball

has been the most popular with the American soldiers. The introduction of the game into France was received with great ovation, and proves another binding tie between the Americans and French. The game, hitherto unknown to the French people, has gained immense popularity since the landing of American troops on French soil. Baseball has been the greatest recreation of the boys "over there." The marking out of a baseball diamond was the first thing done by the soldiers when establishing new quarters.

Football has proved to be tremendously popular among the men in the cantonments, especially in colleges and universities having S. A. T. C. units. While most of the colleges are sadly depleted of football material, yet the same former spirit of rivalry exists. Military authorities recognize the great value of this game of games, and in most cantonments football practice is compulsory.

The Olympic Games

The Olympic games are probably the oldest form of organized athletics, having a direct military bearing. The Greeks were the foremost people in recognizing the value of systematic physical exercise as a war preparedness measure. Their methods were crude, however, and their main object in physical exercise was the acquirement of brute strength. They failed to develop mind and body or to produce athletes of symmetrical proportion. It is this feature that made the Greeks a sturdy, rugged, warring nation. Their system of physical training was mostly along military lines.

Athletics are fast gaining a place of recognition in the curriculum of military training. The variety of competitive sports appeals to the average soldier more than the strict regulations set down in drill manuals. Furthermore military training is suggestive of monarchies and autocracies, and for that reason it is very unpopular among democratic, liberty-loving people. Compulsory physical education and physical culture are the nation's best means of preparedness.

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