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The Present Speaks— But What of the Future?

ON Sept. 7, 1871, the University of Nebraska opened its doors. On that occasion it was dedicated by J. Sterling Morton, whose statue stands in Washington beside that of William Jennings Bryan as one of the two great men of this state, as a "token of perpetual, systematized war against ignorance, bigotry, intolerance and vice in every form among the people of this state and the youth who in a few years will become its legislators, its judges and its governors."

For more than sixty years—nearly three-quarters of a century—the growth of the university, in size, in national renown and in service to the people of Nebraska, has paralleled the growth of the state in population and economic resources. Its progress, if faltering at times, has been steady.

This morning's Nebraskan details effects of the most drastic reverse, financially, it has suffered in all its history from 1871 until the present.

Seventy-two faculty members are cut off the staff. Salaries of those who remain are slashed 22 percent on top of a 10 percent reduction taken last year. The school of fine arts is reduced to the status of a department. Tuition scholarships, which placed Nebraska on a par with other schools of the state in attracting the scholastic cream of each year's high school graduating class, are eliminated. Graduate scholarships and assistants, which enabled the university to investigate and offer solutions for the problems of Nebraska's people, are curtailed 25 percent. Agricultural instruction and experimentation at four subordinate schools and stations are likewise reduced. Hospital and dispensary service, heretofore provided by the medical college for many who could not meet the great expense of private medical service, is severely reduced.

THIS story, as it appeared in the daily papers last Sunday, was big news. Doubtless it brought satisfaction to a small group who, for personal and selfish motives or from a misguided notion of the welfare of the state, goaded the legislature in recent session on to swing the axe on public education—and on the university in particular.

To others it brought feelings of a different sort—feelings tinged with regret that the institution of which Nebraska can justly feel proudest should have suffered from high priced economy brought on by temporary conditions.

For is it not high priced economy to take away from the state something whose loss will make its future poorer? Directly and indirectly, curtailment of the efficiency of its foremost service institution will cost Nebraska money. Where is the saving when tuition scholarships are eliminated,

when hospital and dispensary services are curtailed? Where is the saving to the state when its facilities for providing enlightened and better equipped future citizens is impaired?

CHANCELLOR Fred Hunter of Denver university answered those responsible for the action forced on the university when he spoke here Wednesday morning. Education, said Chancellor Hunter, is attacked as extravagant because its expenditure is open and above board where everyone can see just how much it is.

Democracy, he said, cannot progress if these attacks on our schools are successful. Greater than the need, which cost this country—and it is still paying—billions of dollars, to make the world safe for democracy, he might have added, is the need to make democracy safe for the world. For if the people are to rule, then it is only when the people are enlightened and equipped for the task that the world can expect intelligent ruling.

The real extravagances, Chancellor Hunter asserted, are those extravagances which are also vices, whose costs are less easily measured than education's. He mentioned crime and war as two. With these expensive vices as the direct result of the inability of an unenlightened people to rule themselves well and with education as the only means of enlightening them to the place where they can overcome these vices, where then is the saving when economy impairs the efficiency of education?

AS affects the university in comparison with private higher education institutions, the economies forced upon it will have another unfortunate result. Retrenchment once accomplished, reversion for former standards will be difficult. It will be many years before the resources of the university are restored to the 1929 level. The present figure will be taken as the standard from which future expansion to conform to future growth of the state will be measured.

Private schools, on the other hand, have suffered greatest income reduction as the result of shrunken returns from securities in which endowment funds are invested. Industrial recovery, which those who claim knowledge of such matters say is now on its way, will bring immediate relief to these schools.

Industrial and agricultural recovery will also bring increased enrollment to the university. But appropriations, having been once reduced, will come back to former standards with an inevitable lag.

SOME may condemn the Nebraskan for whining after "the horse has been stolen." To that we confess. It is nevertheless desirable that the forces behind this situation be known and that those whom it will adversely affect understand what the results will be.

It may be a long time before circumstances lead to a similar condition—we hope it will be—but it is necessary, in the best interests of the state, that the people of Nebraska recognize the differ-

ence between real economy and high priced economy such as has been practiced on the university.

BURR SPEAKS TO FARMERS

Nebraska Dean Tells Crop Growers Agriculture Outlook Bright.

Nebraska farmers in their Tuesday afternoon session of the annual crops and field day at the Nebraska college of agriculture, were told by Dean Burr that the outlook for agriculture is "looking up." The meeting was the last of a series held for farm people at the college this summer.

Dean Burr said advancing farm commodity prices, altho inflation has not yet taken place, indicate that the outlook is getting better. However, he declared, if other prices advance faster than do the prices for farm products, Nebraska farmers will not be benefited to such a degree as if the latter made the greater advances.

P. H. Stewart, extension agronomist at the college, told the visitors of the advantages of growing hybrid corn. He cited tests to show that hybrid corn has outyielded common varieties in Nebraska during the past five years.

MICHIGAN PROFESSOR CLOSES TALKS TODAY

(Continued from Page 1).
State and Local Government." At 11 o'clock will be address an all-university convocation on "Democracy in Peril." Classes assigned to each of these lectures are listed elsewhere in today's Nebraskan. Other students and faculty members may also attend. Both are in Social Sciences auditorium.

Thursday on the subject of constructive government economy, Dr. Reed spoke at 8 o'clock on the "True Basis of Government Economy" and at 9 o'clock on "Simplification of Areas of Local Government."

Dr. Reed, now professor of municipal government at Michigan, is director of the American Political Science association's weekly radio program, "You and Your Government." He was formerly city manager of San Jose, Calif., and has conducted municipal government surveys in Michigan and at Pittsburgh and St. Louis.

CRIME, WAR COST MORE MONEY THAN SCHOOLS—HUNTER

(Continued from Page 1).
its idealism is potent enough to bring into being new nations created in its likeness. But democracy cannot go forward if these assaults against its social institutions are successful.

"Extravagance in the schools," he said, "is attacked because everyone can see exactly what the schools cost. I want to call attention to some real extravagances, ones whose cost, while not so readily apparent, is far greater than that of the schools. Two of these are war and crime."

Citing statistics and reports of the National Educational association, of which he was at one time president, Dr. Hunter pointed out that crime in America is far more costly than education—and that the cost is going up every year. About a century ago, he said, the American and English homicide rates were approximately equal. Today ours is ten times that of England.

"If democracy is worth having,

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it is worth having from crime," he told his school-teacher hearers and issued a plea for the schools to take up the fight against the extravagance of crime.

The cost of past wars and preparations for possible future wars, he said, makes up two-thirds of the budget of the national government. Another war like the last one, he predicted, would send modern civilization surely downward to the dark ages again.

"I am not a pacifist," he declared. "I do not believe in laying down our arms until the rest of the nations do. But civilization could not survive another war. If the public schools would present the

facts—not propaganda, but true facts—so that the oncoming generation will know what war means, they would be doing the greatest service it is possible for an educational system to do."

For the schools to lead the attack against these real extravagances, Dr. Hunter explained, would answer the charge of extravagance now made against themselves.

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