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The Teachers Convene This Week.

SCHOOL administrators and teachers from all over the state will gather on the university campus this week for a three day educational conference designed to do several things. First of all the conference is an emergency measure to aid secondary school instructors meet the recently voted raise in requirements for schools accredited by the North Central association of colleges and secondary schools.

In the second place the conference will attempt to meet some of the problems that arise in teaching and supervision of high schools. Stress will be placed upon this phase, particularly in the light of recent developments.

Through the well directed efforts of the university Teachers College, several outstanding men and women in the field of education of national prominence have been secured to deliver lectures during the three day conference. In addition, several outstanding people in the field of education of this state have been selected to participate in the program.

But a most significant aspect of the conference is likely to be overlooked.

We note with some interest that a good deal of the program is being devoted to the place of education under the new deal and the changing social order. And more particularly are lectures being built around the place of social sciences in the secondary school curriculum.

The Nebraskan feels that this phase of the program is extremely worth while, and needless to say, very much to be desired. But perhaps those who have been within the pale of "higher education" during the past year are prone to jump at a hasty conclusion. For it has been their experience to hear, time and again, the frequent challenge for men and women to accept the philosophy of the new deal.

Essentially it means that the social sciences, during the next decade, will play a vastly more important part in the makeup of our society than did they during the boom period of the trusting twenties. Social order and specialization in the processes which govern human conduct in our crowded society will be the order of the day.

Whether this philosophy has penetrated the small towns and rural communities of this country, and this state, is extremely unlikely. Evidences seem to indicate that the "new deal" has not yet made its impression on the minds of men and women, and more particularly the youth, of our rural areas. But perhaps this is natural. For all evolution, be it physical or social, is a slow process.

Most educators are willing to admit, however, that the part secondary education will play in the new social order is an integral one. It seems rather obvious that education will bear the burden of enlightening our youth who never will have the chance to attend universities and colleges. In short, if the desirable aspects of the new deal are to be fully accomplished, then secondary education must bear its rightful share of the burden.

And well might teachers accept it. During the past few depression years, the fruits of the "rugged individualism" have wrecked damaging influences on both their pocket-

books and their mental outlook on life.

It is with this thought then, that we drew attention to a single aspect of the forthcoming educational conference. An aspect, which we believe will be pregnant with significance during the next decade.

College Editors And the Digest Poll.

THE Literary Digest's much ballyhooed straw poll on the acceptance of the Roosevelt policies by the average American was extended recently to include the universities and colleges of America.

The comments of the collegiate press on the Digest's efforts have been, to say the least, rather profuse. While the poll showed a distinct tendency on the part of the American undergraduate to accept Mr. Roosevelt's actions in Washington, the real significance of the poll lies in the attitudes of the collegiate editors.

Briefly this is what has happened in many cases to the written opinions of many college editors and writers. They have, for the most part, accepted the new deal as a part of a new social era, and as a result have changed the tone and direction of their editorials to meet the current opinion on our university campuses.

The editor of the Literary Digest, Arthur S. Draper, who was a newspaperman for many years in this country and in England, recently commented on the sudden interest and understanding of current events that has developed in American colleges:

"In England the average college man has always had a good grounding in government, a matured grasp of current trends. Politics is a career, there, just as law and medicine are in America," said Mr. Draper. "That could not be said of American undergraduates four years ago. Today, it can. Something has happened to our college men and women since 1929. There are more empty pockets, and empty stomachs, in America today. That is new to our 'younger generation.'

"These things have made American college men think, compelled them to reason.

"But I find all these things better expressed and clearly understood in the editorial columns of college newspapers. Even the news columns of today's college newspapers reflect an undergraduate interest in things outside their own little world of the college campus. That is proof enough for me. College editors, like all other editors, print what readers are interested in. They have seen the change.

"These college editors have an advantage over other older newspaper men like myself. In their college papers, these young editors have a medium at hand that is, or should be, dedicated to stimulating further interest and understanding of current events among their contemporaries. Their opportunity and their obligation is rapidly becoming a realization, a fact.

"I have just been thru a stack of these college newspapers. I can see that these things are so. These young undergraduate editors are awake, keenly alive to their opportunities.

"I am confident that the college year that begins next fall will see them develop into a real factor in arousing, informing, and shaping their own important part of public opinion—youth. The Literary Digest shall follow that development with keen interest."

The Home Town.

In the current American Mercury Lowry Charles Wimberly, professor of English at the state university, writes about Lincoln, seat of the university and capital of Nebraska.

His piece is a trifle on the satiric side. His theme is "How a Dull Western City Takes on Class." That somewhat smug feeling of superiority which once brought Lincoln the derisive title of the "holy

city," is fully discovered by Mr. Wimberly. He reports that "Lincoln is strong in the belief that its destiny has always been a special concern to Providence. Its God is, to be sure, of the republican faith and the Methodist persuasion. But it has served this God long and zealously, with the result, so it feels, that it has been the recipient of many divine favors."

He lists the usual chamber of commerce boasts, Lincoln's lack of serious crime, its claim to every great and famous person who ever set foot within the city, such as Pershing and Lindbergh. And he comes pretty close to explaining Lincoln's peculiar individuality when he writes:

"The population of Lincoln itself is about 75,000—the female population exceeding the male by some 2,000. This preponderance of women, banded together as the women are in various sisterhoods, is said to account, in large measure, for the sanctity of the town—its Sunday blue laws, its expurgated movies and libraries, its clean alleys, and its general freedom from crime. It accounts, too, no doubt, for Hoover's polling 4,000 more votes than Roosevelt in the last election—this in the face of a Nebraska landslide for Roosevelt. That the latter was elected has strengthened rather than weakened the city's faith in Hoover. And were Hoover to run again, the women would again—with their republican men in tow—march to the polls for him."

This then is Lincoln, appraised by an expert who is fully aware that her people love their community. Easterners may wonder that anyone ever built a city upon the flat plain drained by Salt creek. Omahans, who have a bit of the devil in their makeup and who pursue with great gusto the delight of living in their more beautiful environment, may find Lincoln chiefly interesting when the Cornhuskers are playing in the university stadium. The point is that any community is bound to allure an dhold people of kindred tastes. The cosmopolite might flee in terror from the female-dominated Lincoln, but consider how miserable the true Lincolnite would be in a Greenwich village!

Cities and towns have personalities, although it is difficult to determine whether the residents take character from their environment or whether the town gets its color from its inhabitants. The traveler crossing any state is sometimes depressed by a tank-town which has only an ugly main street, a few straggling homes, the frayed appearance a little place gets from merciless summer sun and bitter winter blizzard, and he wonders why people gather there to make their home and raise their children.

Or his wanderings may take him into a city like Chicago where his ears are constantly assaulted by the terrific din of machine-age life; where his mind rebels against the narrowness of the newspapers with their enormous circulation but petty point of view; where his reason tells him that it must be intolerable to live in a community which for years, was racketeer-ridden, where violent crime is an hourly occurrence and whose teachers are unpaid.

It is not enough to say that economic forces compel one to live here and another there. Americans have always been a people willing and anxious to move on. They live, as a general rule, where they choose to live. If happiness does not come in one place they move to another. They stay where they find a sympathetic environment, where the community, large or small, provincial or Bohemian, fanatically straitlaced or broadly liberal, offers them congenial friends and a sympathetic environment.

The people of Lincoln are happy, as Prof. Wimberly would be the first to testify. If they gain some small measure of pride from the

fleeting visits of a Pershing, who would deny them that? They conscientiously regard the presence of the university and other colleges with their student bodies as a burden laid upon them to be formally Puritanical.

The people in the tank town like the easy simplicity of living without stress, with kindly friends whose talk is homely and good, and where the day's greatest excitement is the shrieking rush through town of the fast mail. Even the people of Chicago may delight in the beauties of Michigan avenue along the water front—surely one of the most imposing facades of any business section—and they have a deal of fun in staging a diverting street carnival and calling it a world's fair and getting the world to come to it!

The good Lord, one concludes, loveth all and provides each a place where he may be happy. It is as true as it is trite that it takes many kinds of people to make up the world. Life only has flavor because it is so diverse. A robot city, built according to a formula no matter how perfect in theory, would be the duller of all. Charm lies in variation, and it is as interesting to contemplate the sanctity of Lincoln as it is to shudder at the hellishness of the Barbary coast.—Omaha World-Herald.

Views and Reviews

By CLARKE C. BRADLEY.

Why the excellent entertainment and education to be derived from the reading of plays is so sadly neglected by even those who do considerable reading along other lines has long been a perplexing problem to me. My only explanation is that, as a whole, our schooling has been at fault.

It is true we were forced to read Shakespeare's plays in high school and perhaps a few others in college English courses, but even the average university graduate has read less than a dozen plays in his life. This, to my way of thinking, is a lamentable condition.

If we lived in a section of the country where it was possible to see good drama performed on the stage, this situation would not be so serious, but in Nebraska the reading of plays affords practically the only means for the appreciation of drama.

The importance of drama as a part of the cultural education must be readily recognized, when we consider that many of our greatest masters of literature used this medium of expression.

Those who minimize the value of reading plays by insisting that the play must be performed to be appreciated are simply disclosing their lack of capacity for such a type of intellectual entertainment.

In appreciating drama it is not necessary, however, to turn solely to the field of classics for material. Like in other fields of literature and art, the plays we would list as the classics are simply those that have gained the stamp of approval thru the years.

It is the contemporary drama that I feel is most seriously in need of an intelligent and appreciative following, for the classics have been proved capable of taking care of themselves in the past, and I do not fear for them in the present or future.

By way of recommending some plays to be read, which I am certain any college student will find instructive and highly entertaining, I first suggest Wexley's brilliant drama of the present day south, "They Shall Not Die."

This play should interest the reader not only because it is most dramatic and absorbing drama, but because it is also a social question that is very real and vital.

One might be justified in saying that this play is propaganda, but that does not detract a bit from the profound and gripping drama of the work. To say that it is an accurate reproduction of the famous Scottsboro case, which has been a burning social and political problem for the past several years, would be placing unwarranted

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Dinner Tickets Are Available Thursday In Teachers College

Tickets for the all university dinner which will be held next Thursday evening, June 28, at 7:30 p. m., in the Student Activities building on the campus, will be available Thursday. The members of the recreation committee will have charge of the ticket sale in the Teachers College building.

There will be special music at the dinner, in addition to the panel discussion which will be led by Mr. Charles A. Bowers, secretary of the Nebraska State Teachers association. Chancellor E. A. Burnett will preside at the meeting, and many administrators of the state will be on the program.

This is one of the outstanding events of the educational conference that is being held in Lincoln this week, so it is hoped that many students of the summer session will take advantage of the opportunity offered them to attend this dinner.

judgment on the incident that inspired the play; but there is adequate reason to believe that this play might present the authentic story of the Scottsboro case.

Passing from a play with its setting in the south, one might take up Maxwell Anderson's historical drama, "Mary Queen of Scotland." This play is still running in New York, and if Lincoln continues to have the good fortune it did last winter in getting stage productions here, there is a possibility that it may be brought to the local boards.

This play was involved in the controversy over the selection of the Pulitzer prize play this year. It has been reported that Anderson's play was recommended by the committee of judges as being the best play produced in New York during the past season, but the awards board ignored this recommendation and presented the prize to "Men in White."

This latter play is certainly worthy of high acclaim, and many have no doubt seen a rather satisfactory screen version, if such a thing is possible.

To mention the names of a few more good plays, produced last season, I might list—"Ah, Wilderness," "Dodsworth," "Green Bay Tree," "Her Master's Voice," "Tobacco Road" and "Sailor, Beware."

Are you familiar with any on this list? If not you should be before the summer's over.

To N. E. A. Conclave.



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