

### BOOSTERS' CLUB LAUDS BEE FOR FIGHT ON H. C. OF L.

West Side Organization Votes Unanimously to Extend Thanks to Paper for Exposing Profiteers.

The West Side Boosters voted unanimously at their meeting Tuesday night to extend The Omaha Bee a vote of thanks for the fight this

newspaper has been waging against the high cost of living. George S. Collins, president of the club, acted as chairman of the meeting, which was held in Fenton's hall, and speeches were made by a score of members, lauding The Bee for exposures in connection with the profiteering demands of landlords. Attention also was called to The Bee's protests against the high prices being asked for foodstuffs and necessities. Clyde Fisher, secretary of the club, was instructed to write a letter to The Bee expressing the organization's appreciation for the paper's efforts in behalf of the public. Among the requests for consideration on the part of the city administration, the West Side Boosters voted to demand that speeding in Thirty-sixth south of Q street be stopped. This matter, it was said, will be taken up with Commissioner

Ringer, in the hope that he will instruct his policemen to give the matter better attention than they have done in the past. The members of the city council will be asked to cut the weeds in the western part of the city, and to furnish better park facilities. **Housemaid Threatened to Kill Mrs. R. T. Byrne, Say Police** Following a threat by Ethel Kelly, house maid, to kill Mrs. Roy T. Byrne, 410 South Thirty-ninth street, wife of a department manager of Byrne-Hammer Dry Goods Co. police Wednesday night made a hurry call to the Byrne home and arrested the girl. She is believed to be demented. Police say she attacked Mrs. Byrne with an ice pick and threw kettles and chinaware about the rooms.

## Pershing Hazed at West Point---Becomes "Beast" and Carries "Tear Bucket" at Rat's Funeral

Turned Out in Chilly Morning to Chase the Eagles Off the Company Streets—Midnight "Dragging" and Picking Up "Logs of Wood" Another Diversion—Jack Finally Gave Hazers a Good Whipping, Says Charlie Spurgeon.

The huge gray buildings loomed near. The grandeur of them, such grandeur as one graduate of West Point has said might have inspired Rus-

kin's thought, "frozen music," their sternness and solemnity, so symbolic of the discipline and strength of the academy, made an impression upon Pershing that has never been effaced. He knew by this time—what cadet entering West Point does not?—West Point's history, dating back to the revolution, and so interwoven with the revolution as to be a part of the very heart and soul of it. But it had all been a dream. Now it was real—John Pershing was there.

**All Remember Woods.** He reached at last the office where the new cadets of those days reported. There is at West Point today a man who was there on the day of which I write. He is William C. Woods, messenger to Col. Samuel E. Tillman, the present superintendent of the academy. And there is not a West Point man alive today but who remembers "Billy" Woods. Nor is there alive, either, a West Point man but whom "Billy" Woods remembers. "Yes," the old man told me when I visited the academy, "I was here the day 'Jack' Pershing arrived. It was to me that he presented his letter of appointment. All the young men did. Then I had to line them up and march them to barracks. "What do I remember about General Pershing—Jack? Not much. He was as the other boys who reported that day as the boys who had reported before him, and as the boys who have reported since—a fine, clean, upstanding young man, worthy of West Point and of West Point traditions."

**Pershing Becomes a Beast.** "Barracks," to which old Woods marched Jack Pershing, was then and is today known as "Beast Barracks." And the cadets marched there are known as "Beasts," a degree lower in the cadet hierarchy than Plebes. There followed the usual program for Jack Pershing. He deposited with the proper officials the small sum of money required by government regulations and with it all the jewelry and valuables he carried. Government regulations prescribe the amount of money they shall have to spend—50 cents a week, as I recall it—and the amount of money they shall be paid. Which amount, however, is not paid until they are graduated. Each boy has the same chance. A true democracy is West Point—giving much, demanding much.

Oh, the commands of that "breaking in" period, snapped out by stern drill masters, yearling corporals, who act under the direction of former cadets, now officers in the army and back under special orders to serve for a time as tactical instructors, or "Tacs," as the cadets call them in their own slang. "Fall in!" "Fall out!" "Hold up your head!" "Drag in your chin!" "Suck up your stomach!" "Get those shoulders back! More yet! More yet!"

**Lordly Young Men.** How those Yearling corporals could yell and did yell at "Beasts." And if one forgot to salute those lordly young men or the "Tacs," or forgot to address them as "Sir!" Oh, those "Beast" days! Especially the days when that most highest of all, commander even of the "Tacs," the Commandant of Cadets and Tactical Officers, put in appearance! Why, it was even prescribed how cadets should sit at mess! There was no end of regulations. Rooms must be kept just so; beds must be made just so; bedding must be kept just so; equipment, all of it, must be kept just so; everything must be kept just so. An inch out of the way, a shoe or a paper misplaced, and—woe to the offender! Camp lasted until September—camp with all that the name implied. It meant sleeping in the open, drills—never-ending drills—guard duty, swimming, dancing. Oh, the fun of it and the work of it! The trouble was then, even as today, the Plebes were always the butt of the fun.

Will Jack Pershing ever forget the first time he heard the order: "Chase the Eagles." "Turn out, you Plebes, and chase those eagles!" What did it mean? An unoffending, chirping sparrow had alighted in a company street, between rows of tents. Poor sparrow! He was a trespasser and must be ejected. So the Plebes chased eagles. Or did Jack Pershing forget another order: "Pick up those logs of wood, you Plebes!"

**The Funeral of a Rat.** What did it mean? Some one had thrown matches in the company street. The Plebes must pick them up. Yes, most of the police duty fell to the lot of the Plebes. And the tasks they had to do for upper classmen. For West Point, in the days of Jack Pershing, boasted that English school system of "fagging." How the yearlings and the second class and first-class men did all within their power to make guard duty for Plebes memorable. Jack Pershing walked his post. Out of the darkness of the night would appear a number of white wrapped forms—suspiciously like cadets with sheets draped about them.

"Who goes there?" the sentry would cry. "A flock of angels," would come the answer. And then, before the corporal of the guard could be called, the ghosts would vanish. Most always the camp held a rat funeral. Somewhere a rat would be found. Obsequies would be held and the dead rodent's body taken away for burial, the Plebes following the bier as mourners and carrying buckets in which to catch their tears, while upper classmen shrilly ordered: "Louder, weep louder, you Plebes!" "Midnight dragging" was a form



Mrs. Arabella A. Lomax, formerly Miss Arabella Artlip, who might have become Mrs. Gen. J. J. Pershing.

### Detectives Arrest Men Because They Have Big Bankrolls

C. R. Lowell, a railroad brakeman, and George Ball, a hotel man, were arrested yesterday by Detectives Knudson and Jensen, on a charge of vagrancy, and fined \$25 and costs each by Judge Fitzgerald in central police court. Ball and Lowell were routed out of their beds in the Hotel Rome at 2 in the morning, just five hours after they had arrived in Omaha from Chicago. Because each had a large roll of currency the detectives suspected them of being "confidence men." Ball had \$825 and Lowell \$440. They were detained in jail without bonds until their hearing in police court. When arrested both men had tickets for Chicago.

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- Fumed Oak Rocker, genuine slip leather seat, finely finished \$12.75
- Fumed Oak Rocker, high backs, tapestry slip seats, only .....\$14.50
- Golden Oak Rocker, with genuine leather seats .....\$14.50
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Yours very truly,  
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Total premiums paid Company.....1,164.00

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