

Penn State Collegian

Published weekly during the College year by students of the Pennsylvania State College in the interest of the Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends of the College

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Wednesday, May 23, 1917

News Editor For This Issue A. R. Leibach

LET THE GOOD WORK CONTINUE

Penn State is rapidly gaining a reputation on all sides because of her attitude in the present war crisis. Word has reached us from outside sources that this college is practically the only one in the country that has been able to maintain anything like its customary order and proceed with its daily work in so successful a manner. Recent visitors at Penn State, notably men who have had occasion since the declaration of war to visit colleges and universities in all sections of the country, have stated that the attitude and organization of the students at Penn State under the resulting strain have no precedent in the land.

Yet this does not indicate that this college has not been doing its share in the sacrifices for patriotic service. Eight hundred of the more than two thousand men students are now engaged in assisting the Nation to prepare for the biggest struggle in its history. There is a hidden something in the constitution of the college man that makes a call such as has been issued in the past month totally irresistible. Those who have gone have felt the call the strongest. Those who remain have gone through the same experiences, yet await a more urgent summons to duty. It is this latter class that is now striving successfully to keep the college on its feet and prepare itself for the future service and which has assisted in no small degree towards acting as a safety valve in college affairs.

And now there comes to this class—to "those who remain"—a great opportunity in the line of unlooked for service. Prompted by his patriotic and entirely unselfish spirit, our Commandant has come forward with a plan that should be seriously considered by every student. The lack of proper interest in military drill at this college in the past has already been commented upon in these columns; and now there is offered this splendid opportunity for every student to "brush up" on the finer points of military tactics and thereby render his state and country an invaluable service by becoming more efficient in this respect. The call is a most worthy one and should meet with a great response from members of the faculty and of all classes in the student body. It is a plan that follows somewhat after the suggestion made by "The Collegian" when the abolition of final examinations was first advocated, as a feature to be employed in using the time thus saved.

The advantage of being well versed on military service when the call comes is readily seen. The fact that the college authorities have consented to allow credit for class work missed is in itself a strong argument in favor of the step. It is worthy of a general response from all, and a maximum number of candidates should be on hand for the first drill.

THE APPROPRIATION QUESTION

Penn State's welfare and progress for the next two years now hangs in the balance at Harrisburg, with the state legislative bodies and the Governor acting as judges. Within the next two or three weeks the entire state will know whether or not its law-makers have deemed it wise to support in a fitting manner the greatest need of Pennsylvania—her own State College. The college appropriation bills are now being considered by the legislative bodies, and one of them has passed second reading in the House of Representatives without meeting any obstacles.

Right now is the time to remind our representatives in the Senate and House of the pressing needs of Penn State. True, existing conditions of military unrest may have some influence with a possible reduction in the amount of the appropriation asked for, but there should be no cause for this, as Penn State has shown in this great war crisis that she is one of the very few colleges in the country that has "kept its head," as well as given its full quota of men for the needs of the country in military and agricultural lines. Present indications are that the college will open in the fall with a large number of students on hand, particularly first year men, and the crowded conditions here for this class are generally known.

Let us work to see a change in the statement that "Pennsylvania is second in population, third in taxable wealth, but FIFTEENTH in support of its land grant college."

NEEDFUL COURTESY

For many years there has existed in the student body of this institution a feeling that military drill, the Commandant, and in fact, the whole military department are necessary evils and that any attempt to shirk work or have a little fun at the expense of the department is justified. This feeling is easily explained in times of peace, when there seems to be not even the remotest possibility of war. But it is never excusable during such times as these, when students in civilian clothes deliberately attempt to cause confusion in the ranks by shouting false commands from the sides of the drill field. Such practice is a discredit to our college and actually an unpatriotic offense. Such an incident occurred last Thursday during drill hour and in our knowledge it has occurred many times previously. We feel that the Commandant is fully justified in becoming indignant at such treatment, and we further believe that any student guilty of such conduct should be severely censured by the student authorities. It is obviously the duty of each man in the present crisis to give to the Commandant every possible assistance.

A word of deserving praise is necessary for the pleasing manner in which the members of the Girls' Glee Club gave their performance—"The Feast of the Red Corn"—in the Auditorium last Friday evening. It showed the effect of hard work and consistent practice on the part of the cast and coaches and was deserving of an audience twice the size of that which was present.

Attractions in and about State College on Saturday afternoons appear to be stronger than our general idea gives us reason to believe. We cannot help but wonder where the three or four hundred Freshmen put in the time last Saturday when they had a chance to witness a most interesting baseball game between their class team and the University of Pittsburgh Freshmen. Can it be possible that the first year men do not know that it costs them nothing to see their team play?

These fine spring evenings are bringing out the "rail hawks" in large numbers to perch upon the railing on either side of the hotel entrance. This habit forms one of the most unpleasant features of the

student-town life. When the rail is full, the overflow meeting congregates on the curb, leaving a narrow, gauntlet-like lane through which ladies and their escorts are forced to pass single file and at the same time undergo a rigid examination that to say the least is most uncomfortable. Practically the same "crew" gathers night after night; how much better it would be if they would only cross the street to where the campus wall offers a much more comfortable resting place, and there start off a good old college song!

We learn that our comments upon the abolishment of final examinations have led several members of the faculty to believe that we were spreading the impression among the student body that now everybody would be given full credit in all subjects regardless of his or her grade. We feel justified in saying that we have given no reasons for such a belief. We advocated and approved the abolishment of final examinations only because we wished that valuable time might be saved for the purpose of military instruction, or the further pursuit of advance class room work. We fully realize that our standards of scholarship must not be lowered because of the mere abolishment of useless and time consuming examinations; on the contrary, they should be greatly raised.

ON THE CORNER

News from the Front
Are Still Scarce This Week

Somebody's been up to something
Up to something
Somebody's been up to something, etc.

AND that "somebody" consists of the co-ed Glee Club and the "something" was a lousy little show in the Aud the other night.

THE nine out of every ten fellows in college who failed to see this production missed one of the best theatrical stunts seen here in years.

AND now the Thespians better look to their honors for that Commencement show.

HOOT! Who's the guy that wished it would get WARM!

THAT W. K. singing 'Love's Bug' is getting in its deadly work again.

WE lamped by the calendar in our o that last Friday was "Peace Day" Wudd'ya mean—Peace!

WELCOME back, Bob! T'was a clever little cartoon last week—saved us the trouble of mobilizing this column of would-be overconfidence on nothing.

STRAW dome pieces are now the o of the d. We see that quite a few are of last year's vintage.

THAT'S just another indication of that buckeyed phrase—"was cond' tions." We should worry about that though, for ours is of the l y v too.

THAT "Moving Up Day" stunt at Syracuse is not so new. Something just like that is needed badly at Penn State, now that the big class scraps are lost forever.

WE almost fell thru the floor at the main parlour when there were finished across our vision when the effect that dances could be obtained during the lawn fete at the W. B. for a jitney per each. Will wonders never cease?

LET'S all join the army! Nice red, juicy, tender beef steak for breakfast—and genuine spuds starting up in the face three times every twenty-four hours! Sounds too good to be true.

THERE'S a chance for someone to win a handsome copper bus relief of A. Lincoln as a reward for furnishing "goldies" for the rail hawks that night. In fact our Commandant has already made a fine arrangement and would do away with the spit be-spattered sidewalk that we are now forced to walk through.

SUPPER'S wings! Wass'nasser? "Dot" actually walked half a block the other morning without "Dash!"

"CHANGING WINDS"
St. John Ervine, author of "Mrs. Minchin's Man," and other popular writings, has written a story on the war, which has just been announced by the publishers, and is presented under the title "Changing Winds." The story is dedicated to the famous sonnet "The Dead" by Rupert Brooke, and it deals with the great moral and political issues of the present war. It presents the position of the English college man in the war.

"Old men make war, and leave young men to pay the price of it." In this one sentence might aptly be summed up the real theme of the story. "The tale begins in Ulster and changes rapidly from Ulster to Devonshire" and shifts to Dublin and London and back again to Dublin. It embraces rather an interesting account of the Irish rebellion.

The novel is the longest and most ambitious that Mr. Ervine, an English author, has yet written and seems destined to rank high among the best books of the year. It is published by the Macmillan Company, New York, and sells for \$1.50. Arrangements have been made with the local bookstores to have the book placed on sale here.

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Looking Backward

(Week of May 23)
FIVE YEARS AGO

The Freshmen won the annual flag scrap from the Sophomores by getting up at 5:10 A. M. and planting their flag pole back of the ladies cottage before the sleeping Sophomores could get on the field.

The third annual Interscholastic Track Meet under the auspices of the Penn State Athletic Association was held Returns from the Penn Relays gave Penn State third place.

The baseball team won from Dickinson in a closely played game by the score of 3-3.

TEN YEARS AGO
State lost its first game, after sixteen straight victories, to Villanova College by the score of 6-2. In the same week State trounced West Point to the tune of 12-7 and Lehigh by the score of 3-2.

The Football schedule for the ensuing fall had a total of eleven games, among which some of the largest colleges were scheduled.

The Co-eds gave two short plays on Friday evening entitled "The Ghost of an Idea" and "The Hunter's Wife." This was something new in the line of entertainment.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO
The baseball team won three out of four games on their eastern trip. Georgetown was defeated by the score of 7-4 and Dickinson met the same fate by 10-5. St. Mary's was easily beaten by 12-2, while Gettysburg registered the first defeat for State by the score of 4-2.

The Juniors carried away the honors in the interclass track meet, the Freshmen getting second place.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
The track team won second place in the State inter-collegiate meet at Swarthmore.

The Baseball team dropped three straight games on its southern trip. Gettysburg was defeated by the score of 5-2, Dickinson by 3-1 and Bucknell in a closely played game by the score of 6-0.

The college trophy room was opened for the first time to the public. One of the most curious things was the "Pipes of Peace" left by the class of '74.

LIFE INSURANCE DISCUSSED
"Life Insurance and its Relation to the Fabric of Business" was the subject of a talk given by Charles J. Rockwell, of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, to the class in Corporations recently. Mr. Rockwell emphasized the value of life insurance as an important factor in enabling the business man of today in securing credit and financing his business.

CRAB APPLE CLUB
All further meetings of the Crab Apple Club, which had been planned for this year, have been called off because of the absence of a large number of the members.

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Urge Students To Come To College

In order to urge students in high and preparatory schools to enter colleges in the fall so that they may be educated to take the places of those who have been called away because of the great national crisis, President Sparks has sent a letter to the principals of all such schools in the state, with the request that they read it to their students and impress them with the importance of going to college if it is at all possible. In his letter, Dr. Sparks lays particular emphasis on the necessity for all students who can do so to go to college in the fall. "The colleges should accept every applicant who is at all prepared to carry the college studies I can promise you that the Pennsylvania State College will do its part in fitting the admission to the disturbed conditions of war-time and the necessities of the future," the letter says, "and other colleges will do as well or better."

Doctor Sparks also brings out the fact that Germany is probably the most efficient nation on the globe due largely to its educational system. Even now in war time, they keep up their schools as best they can, and the American nation must do likewise. The war of the present day is a battle of brains and educated men are needed to carry it on. But the chief argument in favor of the high school student coming to college, according to Dr. Sparks is that after the war, trained men and women will be an absolute necessity in rebuilding the world.

LANDSCAPE GARDENERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

The new officers of the Landscape Gardening Society were elected when the society met last week. H. E. Barrow '18, was elected president; C. J. Pierce '18, secretary; R. P. Stevens '18, treasurer, and Miss D. S. Scherer '18, treasurer.

A. A. Farnum, the new instructor from the University of Illinois, was formally welcomed into the society and obstacles to be met with by Landscape gardeners in St. Louis. Other short addresses were made by Miss S. L. Pattee '17, H. E. Dahl '17, R. P. Cope '18, C. J. Pierce '18, and E. L. Bathurst '20 as representatives of their respective classes.

One of the things upon which much stress was placed at the meeting was the value of membership in the United Landscape Architects Society which is a competitive honorary national fraternity.

MIXED QUARTET AT CHAPEL
A mixed quartet, consisting of Miss Anna Geist '20, soprano; Miss Bertha Redder, alto; N. C. Farr '20, tenor, and H. D. Walter '17, bass, gave an excellent rendition of Elgar's "Ave Verum" in chapel last Sunday.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE FACULTY

DR. WILLIAM ROSS HAM

Dr. William Ross Ham, head of the Physics Department, was born in Lewiston, Maine, in 1875. He studied at the University of Maine, Chicago University and Bates College. In 1901 he received his B. A. degree from Bates, and in 1909 his Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago. After teaching at the University of Maine and the St. Louis High School, he came to Penn State in 1909 as head of the Physics Department.

Dr. Ham is one of the foremost investigators of the Cathode Ray work in America. During his time at Penn State he has contributed the following articles: "Polarization of X-rays" (Physics Review, 1910); "A Null Method of measuring Relative Intensities of Rontgen Rays" (Proceedings of the Franklin Institute, 1911); "Photographic Null Method for Measuring Absorption in the Ultra violet" (Journal of Franklin Institute, 1914). He has also worked out a new method of determining the depth of complete scattering of cathode rays in metals. Besides this, Dr. Ham has discovered a new method for the determination of the coefficient of absorption of cathode rays in gold, silver and aluminum.

He is a member of the Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity, Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi Fraternities, and is an associate member of the American Physics Society.

A. DEAL

SANITARY PLUMBING, STEAM,
HOT WATER VAPOR AND
VACUUM HEATING
State College, Pennsylvania

Francis Miller To Speak Here

Francis Miller, travelling secretary of the International Y. M. C. A., will be here next Sunday and will speak at the regular 6:30 meeting Sunday evening. He comes from the University of Pittsburgh, where he is at present active in the interests of the Northfield Student Summer Conference for the students of the East. He will undertake similar work while here this week-end.

Mr. Miller and his brother are familiar to most Penn State students chiefly because of their many visits to this college, and especially, this year, because of their work here last November when over \$4,000.00 was raised for relief work among the war prisoners in Europe.

Francis Miller has been very active since the opening of the Officers' Reserve Camp in New York in getting the Y. M. C. A. work started there among the students. He is one of the men who will have charge of the Northfield Conference this year, a gathering which promises to be unprecedented or even unapproached by any of previous years because of the type of men who are to speak and the peculiar world situation at present.

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