

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

MAJOR DIEMER ADVISES ON ORDONANCE ENLISTMENT

So many of my State College friends have written me, asking about the work of the Ordnance Department, also my work here, that it occurs to me it will be of interest to others to hear a little concerning these matters. Every week I receive a number of letters from alumni and former students, asking me how to secure a commission. A person desirous of securing a commission should write to the head of the department for which he thinks he is fit, in the case of the Ordnance Department, for example, to the Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C., asking for a blank application for commission. This application, when accompanied by three letters of recommendation, is referred to an Examining Board, who determine whether it is worth while to call in the applicant for a personal hearing. If the latter course is decided upon, he is notified to make a physical examination. If he passes same, he is given a personal hearing. A certain percentage of those who are recommended for a commission, in accordance with their intelligence, address, personality, and general fitness for the service. The Ordnance Department has two broad divisions: the first covering Field Service, the second, service in manufacturing plants. The higher commissions in class work, where they have been to civilians, have been awarded to men above draft age, possessing special training qualifying them for the technical work involved, and as a rule, receiving a higher income as civilian than the corresponding commission would pay.

A considerable number of younger, technical men, however, have been required as inspectors. Other things being equal, preference has been given to college-trained men, who, in addition to their technical training, have had actual service in the National Guard, or in training camps. I have had a good many letters from alumni, written to me after they had received notice to appear for physical examination. Allow me to make this suggestion to men who are subject to draft: If you consider that you are worthy of a commission in any branch of the service, by reason of special training, or experience, do not procrastinate until you have received your notice to appear for physical examination, as it is more than likely that you will have been drafted, you will remain in the branch of the service to which you are assigned at the time of draft. There is, of course, a chance that your Commission will interest yourself in you and request your transfer, but it is easier to join in the branch which you prefer than to secure a transfer later.

As to the work at this station, it includes the supervision of a chain of quality and quantity, and custody of materials required in manufacture, verification of costs, reports on progress and production, testing work in process, ballistic tests of ammunition with rifles and machine guns, and general accountability for United States property. You can readily see that it combines experience in accounting, industrial engineering, technical tests of materials and ammunition, and administration.

We are in an interesting part of the country, close to many historical points, which are easily reached by automobile, such as Gettysburg, Concord, Lexington, etc. Last Saturday I drove to Boston, and visited the new buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They are of impressive Roman architecture, of dignified design, facing the Grand Charles River, and a worthy tribute to industry. Let us hope that at some time soon Pennsylvania, whose industrial wealth and production is greater than that of Massachusetts, will see the importance of putting up a similar group of inspiring, dignified buildings, devoted to industry. The Harvard Museum and the Peabody Museum also afford us interesting places for visits. The Harvard Stadium is, of course, the centre of interest on Saturday afternoons at this time of the year.

I feel that I am not quite out of educational work, as some of the department heads here have asked me to conduct a class in industrial organization, and I am delivering a course of lectures along similar lines to the department heads at the Norton Company, at Worcester, Mass., under the direction of the Extension Division of the State of Massachusetts, now in charge of Professor Meyer, formerly of State College.

With best wishes to all, I am Sincerely yours, Hugo Diemer, Major, Ord Dept. U. S. A.

DAVID ETTERS HAVING FINE TIME IN FRANCE

U. S. Expeditionary Force in France October 1, 1917.

I was glad to hear that the college people can see such a good future after the war. You can bet I will not turn any good positions down even though they are in a foreign country. This trip is tenting time, I still have hopes of getting something more in my line over here.

We have been having fine weather till today. The moon has been full rather cool but the afternoons get quite warm. The soil is very sandy in this part of France and must have been an old lake bed at one time. Outside of being very dusty when dry weather, the location is ideal. There is an old canal along here and the boats still run. There are lots of grapes in this section and the wine making season is in full swing. It is interesting to see them make wine with an old screw press on a small wagon. The grapes are first ground up, then put in the press, which has slots in the sides, and pressure applied. Cleanliness is something unknown in France and the dirt helps to make the wine a better flavor. Everybody makes wine I guess, from the looks of things. Every house has a vineyard, even though it be small. You see, the French only use water to wash with when they wash at all.

Curious Method of Washing. It sure is funny to see about 12 or 15 old women along the inner bank washing. They stand by the water half way to their knees and have an apron made of weeds to protect them. The clothes are washed on a board about four feet long and legs three feet high. The clothes are pounded with a paddle and rolled into a wad. This operator is gone through several times, but I don't think the clothes are done. The old men usually wheel the clothes, on a crude wheelbarrow, to

and from the river, but the men are scarce now and the women do most of the work. Many Places of Interest. I had an interesting trip to a large city on Tuesday. I saw real street cars for the first time in many weeks and several other features which made me realize that not all of France was slow. On the way to this city, I passed a town built in the cliffs. It sure was interesting to look at and must have been built way back in the fourth or fifth century—possibly earlier. The rooms were carved in the stone cliffs and the chimneys came up through the top. I would like to see one of the places more closely, but do not have time. Even the stables and storage houses were carved in the rocks. Of course there were very few windows to the houses but few openings and the new houses have some windows but these are mostly kept closed. Also passed a few old chateaux of some note. In this city I saw one of the most historic cathedrals in France. It took several hundred years to build it and there are many styles of architecture on it. Some of the colored glass is original and is of such a fine nature that we of the present age cannot duplicate it. The carvings are very fine and—believe me—there is some carving on that building. Of course now it is out of repair and they are always at work fixing some parts of it. The government is treating us very fine and just might I get an issue of another blanket. We get the best of everything and have no grounds for complaint even though we are at war and away from our home use of supplies.

D. O. ETTERS.

HOUTZ '17, IN SPECIAL DROP BOMB SECTION

New Haven, Conn. Oct. 24, 1917.

Dear Mr. Pond:—A group of seven lieutenants are stationed here in New Haven at "Liberty Field," an experimental Drop Bomb School. Out of our group at Washington, Col. Hoffer, was the only man in the Drop-Bomb Section of the whole army. Being the "pioneer" in this field and working in connection with the aviation corps, our army is very interested in our work. A \$200,000 experimental plant built by this company, consisting of two large hangars, a half-dozen air and water machines, and an experimental building for the assembling, packing and arming of the drop bombs, is our "Liberty Field." It is situated on the sandy beach at Long Island Sound a month more here and we will be qualified "Drop Bomb Specialists" and the nature of the different metal parts of the different kinds of bombs. On an examination at Washington three weeks ago, which covered a month's study on French W. F. U. bombs, our group of five, out of a group of twenty-three men, I managed to get the second highest grade. We live on Yale Campus and take our meals at the Yale Dining Club.

Respectfully, (Lt.) Robt. L. Houtz.

ANOTHER FROM "LOCO-MOTIVE" BROWN

All of the State men in our regiment are coming along in fine shape—all well in my company there are: Captain B. Kline, Lt. E. '06 or '07 or '08, Private G. S. West, '17, R. M. E. Housholder, R. W. Sively, '16 M. E. There are several other State men in the regiment, but as all the companies are detached, I do not have their names or classes in mind. Now and then we see some of the State boys in the 15th Engineers, some of whom are about 45 to 50 miles from here. Captain Walker, formerly head of the C. Department has been over to our station and it was a pleasure to meet him.

Yours for "State", C. G. Brown, Jr.

LIEUTENANT MORRIS '19 WRITES FROM VIRGINIA

Nov. 9, 1917.

As Thanksgiving time approaches, I only wish that it were possible to get back to see our team with from Pitt. I have been reading the COLLEGIAN with interest and note that notwithstanding the losses, the team has been doing well. I was a member of the 1919 Class and left State in May to attend Collier's

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Give Us a Chance To Show You

Training Camp at Madison Heights, N. Y. when a commission as Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army was secured—you have probably heard of the "knelling" back-breaking training we had to undergo, so will not relate it here. When assigned to the 43rd Regiment, U. S. A., at Syracuse in August, I came to Newport News in September, and have just been stationed here. Our Company is guarding the docks and railroad yards and the work is very interesting. The COLLEGIAN is the best means by which to keep in touch with college activities, and the students giving their time and energy to put it out weekly should feel that their efforts are appreciated by the "men who have left."

ROUND NECKED SWEATERS FOR THE CHEER LEADERS

In its recommendation for a new cheering system, Student Council has determined upon a new and distinctive idea in the matter of suitable uniforms for all three Section cheer leaders. Instead of the V-necked sweaters that was authorized in the original draft for a new system, Council now recommends that a round necked sweater be adopted, to be pure white with the exception of a band of blue, one and a half inches wide that will encircle the neck at some distance from the round opening. This will comprise a practically new idea, as the only sweater ever before coming into general use, and no combination of this kind is being used as yet. This decision was met last week by Council after several discussions on the matter, which a week earlier brought out the idea of having all of the Section cheer leaders' sweaters conform with that of the song leader, in that it would have the extra band of blue on the V-neck sweater. Plain white sweaters with the round neck and the round band of blue will be ordered as soon as the Athletic Association ratifies the proposed cheering system.

FRUIT JUDGING CONTEST WILL BE HELD HERE

The Intercollegiate Fruit Judging Contest will be held in the Hort Building, Friday, December 14. This is the fourth annual contest, and will be conducted by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, in cooperation with the Agricultural College, Pennsylvania State University. The contest will be composed of the most extensive and complete showing of the greatest number of fruits and vegetables ever before shown in the individual making the highest score in the judging. The contest will consist of identification of plates of 25 or 30 different varieties of apples, and will be conducted by the local Hort Department. Professor Fletcher, of the Hort Department, will coach the Penn State team in the absence of Professor Pagan, who acted as their coach in former years. Already apples are being collected by the department in order to give the members of the team sufficient practice.

SNOWSHOE EXPERIMENTS ATTRACTING ATTENTION

The experiments near the town of Snowshoe, which are being carried on under the auspices of the Agricultural Experiment Station, have recently attracted marked attention throughout the state. Last Friday a large party composed of hotel business men of Philadelphia and Baltimore, business professional and representatives of several Philadelphia papers made a trip to Snowshoe to view these experiments. The object was to endeavor to stimulate public interest through the newspapers and to explain to the people of the state some of the valuable work which is being done by the college. These experiments are part of a series which will prove to be of incalculable value to the farmers of Pennsylvania who find their land in a condition similar to that near Snowshoe. These experiments should also be of importance on account of the need for increased production to meet increased consumption at this time when it is important that all food possible should be conserved.

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Athletic Store

Our Business is to Supply Your Every College Need; we are Prepared to Do It. On the Co-op Corner.

News From Other Colleges

CORNELL—By a unanimous vote of the Interfraternity Association of Cornell University it was determined to abandon plans for Junior Week this year. It was considered that fraternity home parties are out of place in winter time.

COLUMBIA—The students of Columbia University recently presented to the government a portable field hospital building which cost \$241,000. Cornell Tech., Pennsylvania College for Women and the MIT-Bright and Western Theological seminaries have united in an effort to raise their share of \$71,000 to be given by the Pennsylvania Colleges for the support of the Y. M. C. A. work among the military forces of the belligerent nations.

W and L—President Smith of Washington and Lee University has recently instituted a co-operative University dining hall in an effort to reduce the high cost of living.

Engineering News

A second lecture for senior engineers will be given by Harry E. Stitt, '11 Civil, who is now Chief Engineer with The Standard Oil and Gas Company of Cleveland, O. Mr. Stitt will speak on "Standard Buildings," and will illustrate his lecture as Chief Engineer he has developed a method of rapid construction of large buildings for industrial plants. A mile of buildings of this type was constructed this summer in record time at Buffalo. The lecture will be given in Room 200, Engineering Bldg. at 1:30, Nov. 16th. President Sparks and Dean Sackett attended a conference of the State Board of Education in Hartsville, Md. which the subject of industrial education was discussed and various plans considered for preparing teachers in industrial training, vocational and continuation schools. At the convention of the Land Grant College Association to be held in Washington on November 14th to 16th, Dean Sackett will discuss a paper on "Engineering Experiment Station Legislation." Professor G. H. Resides, of the Department of Industrial Engineering, attended a Superintendent's Convention at Clearfield, Pa. on Oct. 26th and 27th where the subject of manual training was discussed.

Five Candidates For President

W. A. Gehring, R. K. Hodder, G. A. Swell, S. C. Collum, and P. D. McElfish are the contestants for the office of president of the Freshman class, having survived the latest cut at the meeting held Nov. 8. After each of these men has had a 15-minute address at a regular meeting, the final selection will be made. Elections of the different managerships resulted in the selection of Hines as manager of soccer, Shultz of wrestling, and Warner of lacrosse. Shultz talks were given by G. W. Culp, '19 and G. C. Smith '19 the former making a longer talk than of any man and the latter having "college spirit" for his topic.

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Gridiron Gossip

There was entirely too much fumbling in the game last Saturday. There is some excuse for no touchdowns in the first big game of the year but Penn State should be used to crowds by this time. If the Blue and White could only fight in the first half like they came back in the second, they would never be scored on. It seems to be necessary for them to work under a handicap. Well known critics who have seen Way in action, claim he is the best quarterback of the year, and that there would be no stopping him if he had the right interference. Rauch and Captain McGinnis were both put out of the game for slugging. Needless to say, their loss handicapped both teams. Lehigh's ends played fine football and they broke through and nailed the runner time after time.

SYRACUSE—The Honor System was adopted at Syracuse University at a special class election on October 31st by a vote of 688 to 147.

GRIOLE CITY—Students of Grove City held several mass meetings during the past week protesting against the suspension of several men for their participation in a hazing episode. Classes were not held for two days. The women students of the college took active part in the student protest.

CORNELL—The alumni of Cornell University have contributed \$15,000 in Liberty Loan Bonds to the Cornellian Cornell Alumni Fund.

DR. CRANE IN CANADA

Dr. H. W. Crane, dean of the School of Mines, spent a week from October 31 to November 7 in the neighborhood of Paris, Ontario, Canada, examining mineral deposits which might be a source of potash for fertilizer. He reports seeing some other very interesting mineral deposits, the economic value of which had apparently been overlooked.

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W and J save Pitt the battle of her life. Three points is not much of a margin to win by. Unless the State backs can hang onto the ball, that Thanksgiving Day battle may be a riot, for Pitt is sure to convert every fumble into a score. Apparently, the Penn State attack is gaining power, but it is merely a question of time whether they will be ready for Pitt.

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