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HISTORY OFF THE BAT

Interpretations of Current Events for the Emerald by John Almack.

Mr. Roosevelt

A short time ago, ex-president Roosevelt announced he had a list of 187,000 men who wished to serve with him in France, and offered the services of this large body of volunteers, fully equipped for war, to the government, specifying only the right to serve with them with a commission as brigadier-general.

The president, acting on the advice of the General Army Staff, did not accept the offer, and resolutions looking to its authorization by Congress failed repeatedly of adoption. Recently, however, Congress has seemed disposed to reconsider its earlier action, and to permit the expedition to depart for the battle front as soon as it can be mobilized and organized. Mr. Roosevelt holds there is urgent need for an American army at the front for moral as well as physical effect, training to be given the men "when they are in the trenches."

Mr. Roosevelt's argument is unquestionably sound, and some specific move should be made at the earliest moment it can be made practicable and efficient. Even a small force would have an influence that far exceeds its numbers. Yet there is much to be said for the other side; a volunteer unit has no place in the modern army system. The whole nation should be so organized that each element will be the most effective regardless whether that means service in the trenches in France or on an Oregon ranch. A great deal was lost by hasty action in response to popular clamor at the beginning of the Civil war, and the present struggle promises to be of as long duration as was that. Nothing can be gained in the end by ill-advised, impulsive activity. Conscription means the organization of all our resources, and their wise direction according to expert authority. Under penalty of committing less majesty I venture to suggest that the ex-president probably may best show his patriotism by freely offering his services to the government without specifying in what capacity they shall be rendered. Mr. Roosevelt can be of great help to his country in this crisis, maybe of greater aid at home than commanding a brigade against the Germans. Patriotic men are asking what they can do in this war to bring it to a speedy and successful conclusion; they are not criticizing the administration in this emergency; they are supporting it.

However great Mr. Roosevelt's reputation in other lines, he is not celebrated as a military strategist, and the men who have so freely offered to fight under his command have truly shown the superlative of courage, yet are we justified in permitting a sacrifice not sanctioned by military expediency, and expert judgment? As an ex-president, a man of high principles and known courage, if Mr. Roosevelt asks for a commission it should be granted, and in selecting men to serve under him there is much to be said in favor of the volunteer system. Unless facing a more dreaded alternative, no man should be forced to serve under a man lacking military skill, no matter how brave he may be.

The particular situation is not without its humor. Mr. Roosevelt understands temper and character of the American people better than anyone else, and it was a grand instance of this knowledge which caused him to insinuate that the consent of the administration to the expedition was denied because the president feared him as a political rival when covered with glory he returns from abroad. The idea took at once, for we like to be up and doing, and appreciate audacity. The nation enjoyed to the limit the grim humor which would have done credit to Swift, when Mr. Roosevelt stated that he was willing to enter into a gentlemen's agreement with the president, that if not killed in battle he would take bichloride of mercury the minute he set foot in America, and thus prevent any danger of usurping Mr. Wilson's place in the sun. It goes without saying that the president is incapable of acting from the motive attributed to him, and if he were would seize the opportunity presented and send Mr. Roosevelt abroad. This phase of the matter is not to be taken seriously, and to do so would inflict an injustice upon both men.

REGRETS

Tardy moon—
Hurry up!
Are you so slow,
Because you know
We are waiting?
The canoes
Are all ready,
Why do you not come up?
Last night
You winked,
When you smiled,
I thought it was
Because you were happy
To get our invitation.

You old rascal—
Stop laughing—
You did not come at all.
Was it because you feared
To disgrace yourself
Laughing at bubbles?
L.M.

U. GIRLS TO CONDUCT EIGHT WEEKS CLUBS

15 Will Try to Help Home Town Girls Organize for Study, Work and Play.

Emphasis Will Be Laid on Red Cross and First Aid Work and Gardening.

Fifteen girls of the University of Oregon will conduct Eight Weeks clubs this summer in their home towns. This is the first year that there have been any organized plans among the University girls to establish these clubs.

The Eight Weeks clubs are formed by college girls all over the United States under the direction of the National Y. W. C. A., for the purpose of giving to girls in small towns something of what the college girl has gained. The underlying motive is community service. The clubs are organized with the three-fold motive, study, work and play.

The girls desiring to form clubs are trained to become club leaders in preparatory classes the last few weeks of the college year. Local leaders select the girls whom they think fitted to carry on the work and the final appointments are made by the field secretary.

At this University there will be but two training classes; through personal conferences about the problems in their special districts, the girls expect to gain more than from the larger classes. Miss Frieda Goldsmith of the department of physical education for women, spoke to a training class Wednesday evening on the recreational side of the work, emphasizing the need of concrete community organization, and giving suggestions for starting the work through playgrounds.

The training class met the first time Thursday, April 26, at the home of Mrs. E. C. Robbins, advisor of the Eight Weeks clubs, who explained the organization of the clubs, appointments, and the educational features of the club programs.

The clubs which the girls will organize in their home towns will meet once every week. Especial emphasis will be laid this summer on Red Cross and first aid work and gardening. The club leaders will co-operate with local organizations, or if there are none carrying on this work, will start the movements themselves.

The programs will include, aside from the subjects just mentioned, nature study, sewing, cooking, games, such as tennis, volley ball, and basket ball, sanitation in the home, thrift, canning, and preserving, reviews of books, music, and Bible study. Many of the meetings will be held out of doors and there will be hikes and hay rack parties.

The University school of extension will cooperate with the clubs in furnishing stereopticon slides, particularly in connection with nature study work.

The University of Oregon girls who will conduct clubs this summer are: May Corpron, North Yakima, Washington; Hester Hurd, Florence, Oregon; Mae Harbert, Thurston; Essie McGuire, Bridal Veil; Lois Laughlin, Carlton; Eva Hadley, Newberg; Ruth Wilson, Medford; Lillie Miller, Pioneer; Goldie Wells, Halsey; Helen McDonald, La Grande; Alice Striker, Oakland; Adda Martin, New Bridge; Beatrice Gayland, Tillamook; Katherine Hartley, Bend; Sara Barker, Astoria.

The Eight Weeks club work has grown until it now reaches about 14,000 girls in the United States. There were 12 clubs last year in the Northwest Field, with 159 girls enrolled. There were 1118 college girls last summer who organized successful clubs.

The first and only club conducted by a University of Oregon girl until this year was that organized by Agnes Dunlap at Central Point two summers ago.

Same Old Stuff

(Anonymous).

It was about dinner time.
"Say Bill, you're no going are you? Can I borrow your dress suit?"
"Damn these proms in war time. Why the formality?"
"Well, I couldn't find it!"

There is a petition on foot at Purdue University for every student to sign, which will be sent to the state legislature asking them to vote for the statewide prohibition bill.

Miss Josephine Holmes, a Northwestern University co-ed holds the world's record for the girl's 50-yard low hurdles. She got over the sticks in 7 2-5 seconds.

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PLAN NEW GLEE CLUBS

School of Music May Put on Opera Next Year.

Will Broaden Scope Under New Direction; Recital Series Promised.

"Less about music and more music" will be the motto of the school of music next year, says Dr. J. J. Landsbury, who will be dean of the department. "I want to give music to everyone who wishes it, to make it more of a community affair instead of confining it locally in the school itself."

In accordance with this idea of reaching everyone possible, there will be four glee clubs next year. There are many who like to sing and who can sing well, but for whom there is no place on the regular glee clubs. The two new clubs will give them their opportunity. "It is to be distinctly understood that these clubs will not be playing second fiddle to the regular glee clubs but will have an end in themselves. They will have their own activities, and will appear at assemblies frequently." They will form the source from which new members will be drawn for the regular glee clubs. These new clubs may take the form of essentially freshmen glee clubs, although freshmen will still be admitted to the regular glee clubs if they qualify.

More attention will be paid next year to training teachers for teaching music in the public schools. "It is my firm belief that the solution of the University problem lies in proper training of students during their school experience," stated Dr. Landsbury.

There will be series of recitals by well-known musicians of the state next year, if Mr. Landsbury's plans materialize. Mrs. Thomas Carrick Burke, of Portland, will give the first one in the fall.

Dr. Landsbury has put his private library in the University library so as to make it available for general use. His library includes original subscription editions, which he began collecting in Berlin in 1904. Many of them are single copies which are not on the market.

The school of music hopes to put on an opera next year, and in that event the four glee clubs will be of assistance.

VOISE LIBRE—YOUI

If spring would only come
Ah — — — — —!
Somebody might give a party,
Or there might be a picnic
Or any old thing might happen—
But alas!
Spring does not come.

If the birds
Would sing
Some young man's fancy might turn to
Giving away his frat pin.
There might be news — — —
But alas!
There is no news.
Spring does not come.
Alas! — — — — —

(N. B.—This is free verse,—it doesn't cost anybody a red copper cent.)—University of Idaho Argonaut.

Roller skating is the fad of the hour at DePauw, and the concrete walks are being used as rinks by both sexes.

RED CROSS IN SUMMER SCHOOL

A feature of the summer school work this year will be the special course in Red Cross and first aid work, under the direction of Miss Lulu Geil, graduate Red Cross nurse and an instructor in first aid.

A campaign has been started at the University of Oklahoma to raise \$110,000 for the erection of a new Y. M. C. A. building.

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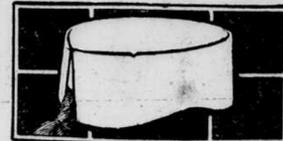
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