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the head of the army, the Oxford schoolmaster was one of his valued advisors. "Lord Roberts was always glad to listen to anything Spencer Wilkinson had to say," according to Field Marshal Nicholson, who was a member of "Little Bob's" staff.

The request by the United Press for an interview resulted from seeing the reception given Prof. Wilkinson at the British front a short time ago, on the occasion of his first visit there since the war began. Had he worn the red stripes of the general staff and decorations by the dozen, his welcome could not have been warmer. His tall vigorous figure was to be seen passing portals forbidden to other guests; his gray-bearded head listening to things others were not told.

"Oh, the Professor," the officers smiled in explanation; "—he knows! Some of the army heads learned war from him; some of them are still learning from him."

It occurred to me to go and do likewise. The professor was quite willing to talk and willing to reveal many of war's secrets—the sort of secrets everybody ought to know. In the stillness of Oxford, the special stillness that has followed giving up all



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PROFESSOR OF WAR OF OXFORD WRITES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OXFORD UNIVERSITY NOW HAS A PROFESSOR OF WAR

BY LOWELL MELLETT
(United Press Staff Correspondent) Oxford, Eng., June 30.—(By mail) Today in his study at Oxford University the only Professor of War boasted by any university in the world, gave to the United Press for its readers in America, a series of

talks on war. The professor is Spencer Wilkinson, listed as professor of military history known to students of war everywhere. No other school has the course of study which he directs. Among the books for which he is best known is "The Brain of an Army," which is credited with causing the British army to adopt the general staff as part of its organization, the American army later following suit.

In the days when Lord Roberts was



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but 200 of her 3,000 students to the war, he explained with great exactness some of his views on the business now engaging all the energy of the world. The Professor of War did not glorify war, any more than the great surgeon glorifies disease. He simply urged his belief that when a nation is compelled to fight it should fight as intelligently as possible.

He talked about Grant and Lincoln and about the relation of the bullet to the soldier's soul.

He told why it is more important for the commander to have character than to have genius.

He mentioned Napoleon, Prince Hohenlohe and the private in the ranks. All these things in the light of America's entry and the things America should do.

And he consented that the interview thus given should be made into a series of articles for American readers. The first of these, under his name follows:

(By Spencer Wilkinson, Professor of Military History, Oxford University.)

London, July 5.—(By Mail)—(United Press)—In my judgment the important matters for a nation going into war are these: First of all, the statesmen and the people should have a true conception of the nature of war and of the character of the particular war they are taking up. Otherwise the leading cannot be right. The supreme leader is always the statesman and in a democratic country the people must understand and sympathize with the statesman. If he sees too far ahead they won't follow and if the popular ideas on the subject of war are not true the greatest leader may be crippled. In the military sphere the first thing is the choice of a commander and his assistants. When raising an army the vital matter is the choice and education of the officers. In the training of troops all soldiers will say the thing to aim at is discipline and the best means of giving it, providing the officers have been well chosen and rightly taught, is to teach the soldiers to shoot and to march. "In war," said Napoleon, writing to his brother Joseph, "the men are nothing. One man is everything." At the end of his career Napoleon dictated a pamphlet which he called Notes on the Art of War, the purpose of which was to explain to governments and nations about to go to war how to set about it. He said "the principles of the art of war are those which guided the great captains of the past—Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus, Adolphus, Turenne, Prince Eugene and Frederick the Great." Reviewing the campaigns of these commanders Napoleon pointed out that on all the vital points the practice of all of them was the same. He then reviewed his own campaigns and concluded by saying that "you should make your war as they made it and model yourself upon them," for

there is no other way of mastering the secrets of war. In other words "a knowledge of the high arts of war can be obtained only by studying the history of great campaigns and by experience." In an army that has passed through a long period of peace, experience is necessarily lacking; a knowledge of war is possessed only by those who have studied it in the way Napoleon recommended. Such a student was the late Admiral Mahan

(Continued on Page Eight.)

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