

Drafting Youth for Education

Thousands of Young Men Acquired a Taste for Education Which is Now Making Itself Felt Throughout the United States

SERVICE WITH FIGHTING MEN—Article Five—

THE colleges of the United States are flooded with students. The pressure on many has been so great that they have been compelled to increase the severity of their examinations in order to control numbers. Many reasons have been given for the increased demand for higher education. No single cause controls but unquestionably one has been the great impetus given to many young men by their army experience.

Looking back a few years it would seem that the United States had grown somewhat complacent in its thought about its common school and higher education. The little red school house had grown familiar to our thought and we knew that there were colleges everywhere.

But the result of the draft examinations came as a shock. Not only was there a high percentage of illiteracy but altogether too many foreign-born young men had grown to maturity as American citizens unable to speak or understand the English language.

One of the first educational problems beyond the technical training of soldiers was met in the earlier officers' training camps by the teaching of French preparatory to overseas service. In addition to this, classes in elementary English and mathematics were arranged for contingents of the regular army and in the National Guard Camps.

EDUCATION AIDED BY THE NEWSPAPERS

The rapid assembling of the National Army brought a real educational task. During the first months of our war experience it was on a voluntary basis and informal methods were followed. Organization into class work was pushed at the same time, the largest classes being for illiterates and non-English speaking foreigners with which was combined a certain amount of instruction in civics and elementary history. The majority of teachers during these early months were volunteers either from among the soldiers themselves or from neighboring educational institutions. The military difficulty of dealing with soldiers who were not only unable to read or write but in many cases to understand English made this work most important. In May, 1918, the Development Battalion was formed for the purpose of giving intensive training to those who had not had previous opportunities.

At the same time the French methods and courses were systematized and provision was made for instruction to be given by the Y. M. C. A. under supervision of the Chief Intelligence Officer of each camp, attendance to be mandatory for such officers and enlisted men as he might designate.

No nation gains so much information and education from newspapers as does the United States. In the early days of the camps newspaper clippings containing important news were pasted on bulletin boards or newspaper headlines were copied on blackboards. During the summer of 1917 John Stewart Bryan, of Richmond, Va., as a result of his own enterprise in publishing a paper for Camp Lee, conceived the plan of a nation-wide paper issued at the same time from some 46 points, with the same editorial policy but each containing local news. Local arrangements were made and on October 8, 1917, the first issue of "Trench and Camp" in 32 editions, was distributed at as many camps.

While the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A. financed this undertaking, it was in every sense a soldier's paper. We quote from an editorial in the first issue: "Through 'Trench and Camp' all the soldiers will be kept informed of the activities of the army. They will have their news from home, news from the front, news from their own camps. We hope to make 'Trench and Camp' a vital, living transcript of the life of the army that has been formed to keep civilization alive."

Some of the foremost cartoonists, illustrators and special writers in America contributed especially prepared drawings and articles. The local papers were filled with articles,



Welfare experience demonstrated that the young soldier was anxious to learn, and he was given full opportunity. These scenes show classes in penmanship and typewriting.



news and pictures of interest to the camps where the editions appeared. At its maximum the publication reached editions of over 500,000 from more than 40 camps. Distribution to soldiers was free; civilians paid a nominal charge intended to cover the cost of paper and mailing. On January 19, 1918, Dr. Amos Phelps Stokes, Secretary of Yale, arrived in France under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. In February he made a report to the Chief Secretary for transmission to the Commander-in-Chief of the army. This report anticipated the problems when the fighting would be over. These plans were approved. In April, 1919, the Educational Commission was reorganized as the "Army Educa-

tional Corps in the American Expeditionary Forces." We quote from General Pershing's General Order No. 30: "The Commander-in-Chief invites the attention of organization commanders and all officers of the American Expeditionary Forces to the importance of national education. This citizen army must return to the United States prepared to take an active and intelligent part in the future progress of our country. Educational and occupational training should therefore be provided to meet the needs of the members of the A. E. F. in order that they may become better equipped for their future responsibilities. There were post schools, division schools, and a university at Bourges

in a base hospital camp containing 200 buildings. Here students began to arrive on March 7, 1919, and it was not long before 6,000 were working on a wide range of studies, which they attended "on detached service" with full pay. One of the needs of the men of knowledge was education. Funds were set aside for this purpose and a comprehensive plan made for

all grades of schools from the most elementary to colleges and universities; instruction was also provided in correspondence and night schools. One of the most striking lessons of the war was the discovery of the needs of better education for our young men. We have realized that more than 20% of those fitted for military service could not read a newspaper. This is a shame to the

Army has learned as it is today continuing to make not only better soldiers but better citizens by carrying on the educational plan established during the war days. There has come into our civil life, from an humble soldier's note, a wish for a better education. Would it not be well to have an educational staff for our young men?

DR. JERKO DENTIST

IT IS UNETHICAL FOR A DENTIST TO ADVERTISE, BUT THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT HIM FROM PARKING IN FRONT OF HIS OFFICE A TOOTHLESS WILLIE, THE SIGHT OF WHOSE NEGLECTED MOUTH WOULD AT ONCE SUGGEST TO THE PASSER-BY TO HAVE HIS TEETH LOOKED AFTER.



FLOUR MILLS HAVE IN THEIR ADVERTISING MATTER BEEN FEATURING WELL-RED AND HAPPY USERS OF THEIR PRODUCTS UNTIL THE PUBLIC HAS BECOME MORE RED UPON THE ADS THAN ON THE FLOUR. WHY NOT EMPLOY A SANDWICH MAN, OR, BETTER STILL, A SANDWICH WOMAN WHOSE EMACIATED APPEARANCE WOULD AT ONCE SUGGEST TO THE HOUSEKEEPER THE WISDOM OF USING NOTHING BUT FLOUR.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVERTISERS

CHARACTER SKETCHES BY A. RUSSELL



CONSORTIAL PARLOR

BATHS

LADY BARBERS

SUGGESTION COULD ALSO BE EFFECTIVELY EMPLOYED BY THE BARBER, BY POSTING ON THE SIDEWALK NEAR HIS SHOP A COUPLE OF UNKEMPT AND UNSHAVED PERSONS AS A SORT OF HORRIBLE EXAMPLE. THE BARBER'S BUSINESS WOULD NO DOUBT RECEIVE AN APPRECIABLE IMPETUS.

THE SIGHT OF A PAIR OF BAKED SHOES WOULD SURELY STIMULATE TRADE IN THE NEAR-BY SHOE STORE

SHOES



SUSPENSERS

IT IS HARD TO IMPRESS UPON MEN-FOKS BY MERE ADVERTISING THE WISDOM OF WEARING SUSPENSERS BUT BY KEEPING IN FRONT OF THE STORE A LIVING EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT WEARING THEM MAY LEAD TO, SALES WILL AT ONCE INCREASE. TRY IT BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR.

MEN'S TOGGERY SHOP



THE CLASSY TOGGERY IN THE SHOP WINDOW LOOKS CLASSY INDEED COMPARED WITH THE HOBBO'S TATTERED GARMENTS. YOU WILL WANT TO BUY A WORD TO THE WISE IS SUFFICIENT

ATHLETIC GOODS



THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING FIT IS BEING DEMONSTRATED BY THE ATHLETE IN THE WINDOW, BUT IT IS MORE STRONGLY IMPRESSED UPON ONE BY THE SIGHT OF A PERSON WHO DOES NOT KEEP FIT. COME IN AND GET YOUR EXERCISER. DON'T CROWD.

SOFT DRINK PARLOR

IT IS HARD TO IMPRESS UPON MEN-FOKS BY MERE ADVERTISING THE WISDOM OF WEARING SUSPENSERS BUT BY KEEPING IN FRONT OF THE STORE A LIVING EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT WEARING THEM MAY LEAD TO, SALES WILL AT ONCE INCREASE. TRY IT BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR.



ICE CREAM