

THE BATTALION

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A NATIONAL PROBLEM FROM THE STUDENT'S VIEW POINT

A demand is growing for an extension of the functions of government, to allow all people in our country, without regard to sex or color, to vote directly for all laws, and to have equal voice in government. It can not be denied that such a theory of government is ideal, and we all hope for its realization, at least for the coming generations. But, as a people, are we prepared for a much larger participation in the affairs of government than we have already assumed? Is the average American sufficiently intelligent to use discrimination in voting?

Statistics show that in the recent war draft, when the men from twenty-one to thirty-one were called that over seven per cent could neither read nor write. According to a recent census of the United States, there were more than five million persons past the age of twenty-one who could neither read nor write.

No argument need be required to convince one that the large number of illiterates present in the United States today can accomplish but little, especially participating in the affairs of government. We may as well face the fact that a people without a fairly high degree of intelligence is unfitted for a direct participation in the affairs of the government. The most ignorant person knows proper conduct in simple life; but to the citizen of a world nation, more knowledge is demanded to acquaint himself with his moral duties. The immediate problem, therefore, is not to extend the opportunities of the individual to participate in his government, but to give each person from every class of society an opportunity to train himself and thereby change conditions.

The question is, what can we do? It will require a program for a generation at least, but it must be followed. Every child must be protected by safeguards surrounding marriage, divorce and education, so that he will have a favorable environment in which to develop. Another step should be taken. Commence immediately the "Americanization" of our thousands of foreigners, many of whom can neither read nor write our language. Instill into them American ideals together

with our forms of speech, and teach them our conceptions of government.

DEBATING CLUB TO MEET

The A. and M. College Debating Club is now fully organized and will hold its first meeting tonight at 6:30, a debate being presented on the Blanket Tax. It will be handled by Howell, Willis and Mason on the affirmative and Seals, Woolsey and West on the negative. General discussion will be held followed by several extemporaneous speeches. All students of the College, especially those interested in debate, are eligible for membership and are invited to attend. This club is a student organization and will hold regular meetings for practice in parliamentary procedure, debate, etc. It is deserving of the support of everyone because there is nothing that can be of more value to a man than to be able to face a crowd or take charge of meetings or assemblies. This is the first organization of this kind on the Campus in many years, but it is here to stay. It is probable that contests will be held with other schools in the future.

NEW SOCIETY ORGANIZED

The Texas Branch of the National Society of Agronomy has been organized and held its first meeting last Monday evening. The following officers have been elected: F. C. Brunneman, president; H. V. Mathews, vice-president; C. Clinton, secretary-treasurer. A constitution drawn up by Messrs. Nussbaum, Mathews and Lloyd was adopted with a few minor improvements. This is another organization, the need of which has been felt a long time to replace the lost S. A. A. and other attempts at agricultural conferences or assemblies. Mr. C. A. Wood has been very instrumental in founding the organization and with his support and the office material listed above a successful year is forecasted. Only organization meetings have been held so far but the interest and enthusiasm shown by the new members indicates a justification of its existence and proves that it will be interesting and instructive.

FOR BLANKET TAX 850; AGAINST BLANKET TAX 41

In the ratio of 21 to 1 the students by an overwhelming vote of 850 to 41 endorsed the proposed Blanket Tax in the election held last Friday. Sixteen Federal students voted against the tax. The total number of ballots cast lacked 61 of being two-thirds of the voting strength of the students. The large majority received by the tax represents the views of the students and should have the desired effect upon the Board of Directors. The proposition is to be submitted to the President through the Students' Welfare Committee. It is hoped that the Board will act upon the matter in their meeting during Commencement week next May.

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