

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE

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Failures in Higher Education

Probably the greatest failure of the higher educational system of the United States thus far has been its lack of suitable selectivity, its disregard of the unhappy consequences of permitting, even persuading, young men and women to attempt to prepare themselves for pursuits in which they are not fitted to succeed. . . . In state institutions the problem is still very acute, . . . largely because of the impossibility of absorbing into the pursuits which require high intelligence and training the mass of untrained—and, in many cases, essentially incompetent—degree holders who have been misled into supposing that a degree alone has any power to open doors regardless of competence.

A second great weakness of American higher education . . . is the tendency (so prevalent in American universities) toward over-specialization and over-departmentalization; otherwise stated, the tendency of staff members to burrow so deep and so long, each in his own particular hole, as to lose contact not only with his fellow workers but more seriously with the real needs of the society which in the last analysis all educational institutions exist to serve.—President Robert A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology.

Speed Takes More Gas

We heard of a motorist who, when he suddenly discovered his gasoline was very low speeded up so as to get to the next filling station before the gas gave out. Of course, he should have known that to get the most mileage out of a given amount of gas one must not drive faster than about 20 miles an hour.

Many tests have been made to determine the rate of gasoline consumption at various speeds, and these tests have invariably shown that the faster one drives the greater the consumption per mile. A typical illustration is given by the Bureau of Standards, taking a car that gets 18.9 miles per gallon at a speed of 20 miles per hour.

At 30 miles an hour the same car got 18 miles per gallon.
At 40 miles an hour it will get 16.4 miles per gallon.
At 50 miles an hour, 14.6 miles per gallon.
At 60 miles an hour, 12.6 miles per gallon.
At 70 miles an hour, 10.6 miles per gallon.
At 80 miles an hour, 8.6 miles per gallon.
It is shown that the consumption of oil at 60 miles an hour is six times as great as it is at 30 miles an hour.

Excessive speed places a great strain on an automobile and shortens its life, as the engine, tires and steering mechanism are all subject to unusual wear and tear. Not only as a matter of safety, but as a measure of economy as well, driving at moderate speeds is recommended to all motorists.

There is so much trouble in other parts of the world that a report of a revolt in Chile leaves one cold.

Origin of Ice Cream

Attempts to trace the origin of ice cream have been generally inconclusive, the invention or discovery of this popular dish being attributed to various nations and periods. But ice cream, or something closely akin to it, has been traced as far back as the middle of the sixteenth century, when it was introduced into France, from Italy.

By 1630, it is said, an enterprising Sicilian had established the Cafe Procope in Paris, where ice cream was the special delicacy. It became known in England and Germany much later, and was probably not introduced into America until about the time of the Revolution.

The first advertisement of ice cream appeared in New York on June 6, 1786, but it was not served in Washington until nearly a half century later, when Mrs. Alexander Hamilton used it as a dessert at a dinner given for President Jackson. The wholesale ice cream business was originated by Jacob Fussell of Baltimore in 1851, and met immediate success.

In recent years the use of ice cream has been increasing with amazing rapidity, until its production has almost reached the proportions of a major industry, being about 350 million gallons annually. The increased consumption of ice cream is entirely desirable, as it is not only an aid to the dairy industry, but also is in the interest of better nutrition and consequently good health.

Practical Education

An intelligent contribution to the current discussion regarding what is desirable in the way of present-day education was made by Dr. John J. Tigert, president of the University of Florida, who declared that the true purpose of education is to fit the citizen to serve as well as to live.

He draws attention to two schools of current thought, one of which would stress cultural education, while the other would place chief emphasis upon vocational training. He admits the validity of both, but he would not to the extremes sought by the advocates of either. He favors a balanced program of education, with sufficient flexibility to meet the needs of each individual.

While not minimizing the value of cultural studies and their absolute necessity for those who would enter the learned professions, Dr. Tigert points out that "one can not live by culture alone; this is especially true of the great mass of our citizens who must engage in pursuits which involve the use of their hands."

Practical education should be planned in accordance with the needs of the individual in preparation of his life's work. At present too much time is given to preparing for college entrance examinations which only a small percentage of public school pupils will ever have the opportunity to take. The needs of those who must quit school at the end of grammar or high school courses should have more consideration.

"Man, Your Manners--"

Correct table manners seem to be based upon the idea that no one is revenously hungry.

Never butter a whole slice of bread at once; break off and butter a small portion at a time.

QUESTION: On which side are foods passed to which I am expected to help myself?

ANSWER: Foods from which you help or serve yourself are passed to your left.

QUESTION: What shall I do when I am served unfamiliar foods?

ANSWER: If you are served a strange concoction, slyly cast a detective eye or your hostess, or those near you, and do as they do.

QUESTION: When a person helps himself from a service dish which is accompanied by a fork and spoon, which implement is taken in the right hand?

ANSWER: The spoon is held in the right hand, the fork in the left, "prongs down" to steady the food.

As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

On the way to another fool's paradise. We are daily reminded by the press that prosperity is on the way back. The backlog of the aviation and steel industries runs into hundreds of millions of dollars. Carloading is ahead of last year so far. Christmas shopping is to run some 11 percent higher than last year. Our Latin American trade has gone up 18 percent since last month. The earnings of corporations are being broadcast from the house-tops, accompanied by promises of big year-end dividends. The war, of course, is a contributing factor to this revival of prosperity. So far the stock market has not responded to these stimulants, but it may follow yet. It would not be surprising at all if we are again confronted with an army of economic coothesayers with their profuse promises of economic independence, something we all crave, but which few attain. As our prosperity increases, prices are apt to go up, and to placate the public the press will constantly remind us that our standard of living is the highest in the world. Indeed, they will lead us to believe that poverty will soon be banished from the United States. And, "if one must go to the poor house, he shall go there, at least, in his own automobile." Also, remember, "two chickens in every pot."

This would, indeed, be an ideal for which to strive. Mankind has worked and prayed (mostly prayed) for such a heaven on earth. Still in our past periods of prosperity we have not increased wages, not always the prices of farm products, nor the salaries of the white-collared classes. Those classes constitute a majority of our population, and if they are not going to share proportionately in the coming prosperity, we will again be living in a fool's paradise. If our memory were a bit longer, depressions would likely become shorter and less depressing.

While there is no hope for an immediate end of hostilities in Europe, some Europeans are beginning to think about post-war Europe. Viscount Halifax, English secretary for foreign affairs, November 7, said, "We have no idea what the shape of the post-war world will be. We do not know the circumstances in which hostilities will end or the materials which will lie to our hands in building the edifice of peace. There are some who believe that the new order will only come through surrender in some measure by the nations of their sovereign rights, in order to clear the way for some more organic union." Some commentators have interpreted Halifax's remarks as looking toward a stronger union than the League of Nations provided. One is tempted to accept this interpretation since Halifax uses such expressions as "surrender—in some measure—of foreign rights in order to clear the way for some more organic union." Long before the last war ended the late President Wilson began to sound out public opinion about a "League of Peace" or a "League of Nations." Should Lord Halifax succeed in cementing European nations into a federation, the American people would heartily sympathize with his efforts. To effect a European federation, something like our own, would be a herculean task. Almost insurmountable obstacles would have to be overcome. Language, religion, race, traditions, territorial adjustments, and even sectionalism as we understand it here, are some of the essential problems that will have to be ironed out by the next peace conference before Europe can begin to think about a foreign rights in order to clear the way for some ference before Europe can begin to think about a federation in the future.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

"Backwash: An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence."—Webster.

Well all right . . . Two professors were overheard making bets in the Aggie Inn—while drinking their afternoon coffee—that (1) A. & M. would receive a bid to the Rose Bowl and (2) The college wouldn't accept it if the bid was received. The profs stipulated, however, that the bets didn't become effective U N LESS the Aggies defeat Texas next Thursday . . .



Fuermann

They don't live together but they do study together. The result is the formation of the "Walton Hall Suite" in G-9 Walton. Bert Burns, George Steurer, and Don Peterson are the three involved and they claim they're going to invite "Sully" Sullivan to be a fourth . . . The traditional Thanksgiving game bonfire which the freshmen are now building will probably be the largest in A. & M. history . . .

Shaw, Kay Kaiser, Fred Waring, and many others.

And speaking of A. & M. songs on coast-to-coast radio networks, here's a good laugh concerning Bob Chester's attempt:

It seems that Bob and his orchestra wanted to pay tribute to the Aggies' famous football team, so the A. & M. alma mater song was announced as the next number. At this time a not-so-demure songstress stepped to the " mike" and gave forth with "Shoot The Sherbert To Me Herbert."

Immediately following the song an announcement was made to the effect that a mistake had been made and that the A. & M. song would be played on Chester's next coast-to-coast hookup.

Last of the Houston corps trip stories concerns Coast Artillery's Bill Slaton.

On his way to get his Saturday night date, Bill passed by a blazing home and, his curiosity getting the best of his better judgment, he stopped to investigate. Within was an elderly woman who was apparently too aged to leave the burning home without help. Bill rescued her and sighed with relief, believing that his good turn for the day was done. But no! There were still three puppies, a canary, and a small amount of cash which the elderly one wanted Bill to rescue. Had she been 16, Bill declared, instead of 60, he might have made a try!

Movie Review

by Bob Nisbet

Last night the new Queen Theater in Bryan was formally opened. Another theater means "more meat for the larder" for this column. However, at present "Fifth Avenue Girl" is still on and will play through today.

The story is a fantastical allegory trying to show the necessity of death. A weak two grade-points.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Thursday and Friday—"ON BORROWED TIME," with Lionel Barrymore, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, and Una Merkel.

AT THE PALACE
Thursday and Friday, and Saturday—"ANOTHER THIN MAN," with Myrna Loy and William Powell.

AT THE QUEEN
Thursday—"FIFTH AVENUE GIRL," with Ginger Rogers and Walter Connolly.
Friday and Saturday—"FOUR FEATHERS," with Ralph Richardson, C. Aubrey Smith, and June Dupey.

HORSLEY SPEAKS FOR KREAM AND KOW KLUB

W. R. Horsley spoke to the Kream and Kow Klub Tuesday evening at 7:30 in the creamery lecture room on the function of the United States Forestry Service.

Mr. Horsley was formerly with the U. S. Forestry and National Park Service before coming to A. & M. to teach in the Landscape Art Department.

A most interesting talk, as well as a movie was given to students of dairy husbandry.

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Collegiate Review

The College of the City of New York movie club is making a special film of undergraduate life at the metropolitan institution.

In New York City, about ten persons a year get themselves so entangled in a turnstile or a revolving door that they have to be extricated by the police.

Great Britain is rationing motor fuel on a horsepower basis as a wartime precaution. Owners of 20 horsepower cars are allowed ten gallons a month.

William Hajek of Seattle has a repertoire of 7,800 piano compositions, and can play for 48 hours at a stretch without repeating a single number.

In spite of the fact that he has undergone 136 major operations since he was ten years old, H. B. Smythe of St. Louis is hale and hearty at 69.

A Detroit, Mich., taxicab concern removed rear-view mirrors from its vehicles, explaining: "The drivers try to cop a peek at the honeys on the back seat and bang! They smack into somebody."



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