

# The Battalion

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

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## Defense Day at A&M

THE BLARE OF BUGLES and the rattle of drums mark the year's first mounted review, a highlight in the festivities surrounding Texas A. & M.'s spectacular observance of National Defense Week. This is no ordinary review, but a great exhibition by the students in the world's largest military school for men.

An indispensable cog in the defense forces of the nation, the school is attracting national interest through magazines, newspapers and news-reels. With the corps in the fine cooperative spirit it is in, the review and the mass rally should leave an impression on the minds of the nation that will never be forgotten. It should be an exhibition of fine, clean, outstanding young men preparing and training themselves to serve their country in its time of need.

But even in this time of national emergency when men are quoted in ciphers and figured in terms of numbers, it is well to remember that the nation is composed of individuals, each with his own problems, his own troubles, his joys, his successes. Our democracy is a mosaic of individuals. Each man must carry his share of the responsibilities if the democratic principles so dear to the hearts of Americans are to be preserved intact for posterity.

Achievement of this goal will demand temporary personal sacrifices from each of the one hundred and thirty million individuals who now bask in the liberties and freedom that is their inheritance. Every true-blooded American's heart quickens its beat when the flag passes by or a band strikes up the Star Spangled Banner or soldiers march by. His heart beats faster because he realizes the security and protection that flag and music represents. He realizes that his heart is beating because those soldiers or his buddies have performed their tasks well in the past.

Today's review is a mammoth expression of this feeling on the part of the cadet corps of Texas A. & M. Today's review is a message to the American people that the Texas Aggies are ready to serve their country in any capacity that will serve its best interests.

## This Collegiate World

DARTMOUTH STUDENTS in higher mathematics find their exams tough—but far from dull. Two questions, propounded by Prof. Bancroft Brown, baffled and amused them.

"In the game of shooting craps, the caster rolls two dice and wins if (a) the sum be 7, or 77, (b) if the sum be 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and if this same sum reappears before seven is ever seen. To obviate the odds against the caster, a dishonest caster employs two dice, one true and the other so loaded that a certain number always appears on the top. What should this number be in order to give him the maximum advantage?"

The second question was given to test the future actuaries' knowledge of the calendar: "An ordinary monthly calendar for the leap year 1940 is hung in a western bar-room. On an unspecified day of the week January 7-13 a cowboy enters the bar-room, draws out his revolver, and shoots out the date, the bullet passing through all 12 sheets. What is the probability that the sum of the numbers punctured is odd?"

—Associated Collegiate Press

## Something To Read

BY DR. T. F. MAYO

### Do You Believe in Democracy?

OF COURSE there's a catch in this question. And of course the next question is "What do you mean by democracy?" You can't logically answer the first question unless you can clearly answer the second one, can you? Well, can you tell what you mean by "democracy"?

Does democracy mean equality? If that's all it means, then the slaves on a Southern plantation, being equal, used to have democracy. Common sense replies that they didn't. Yet undoubtedly we have a feeling that equality has something to do with democracy.

Perhaps democracy means equality of opportunity. Then, do you believe (with Plato) that all children should be taken from their parents at the age of three and given exactly the same chances? (I must say that I don't!)

Well then, does democracy mean freedom to do

what you like? But if you give everybody freedom to do as he likes, some will immediately get great power over others, who will then lose all equality of opportunity. Yet, without doubt, freedom too has something to do with democracy.

This column seems hardly the place to try to work out a complete definition of democracy. But it does seem that every thoughtful American ought to know what he means when he says "I believe in democracy". If Hitler ever causes us any serious trouble, as a matter of fact, it will be, I think, not because he is able to whip us, but precisely because we are so vague about what sort of set-up we believe in. Certainly, all the witnesses agree that such vagueness largely explains the ease with which he walked over France, Holland, and Norway. A similar vagueness in England has sapped the vigor from her foreign policy for year and exposed her, half-armed, to Hitler's bombers.

If you are interested, the library can offer you some books which will certainly help you to get your own ideas on the subject into some degree of coherence. Perhaps the best to begin with is a collection of short pieces, "Calling America". Read, among others, the articles contributed to it by Bertrand Russell and Hendrik Van Loon. They are as clear as crystal.

"American Stakes", by John Chamberlain, is a good book to read nowadays. He points out (in the last chapter, I believe) that American democracy's chief safeguard is the variety or economic systems that we maintain: monopoly capitalism (corporations); free capitalism (small personal businesses); state socialism (postoffice, schools); "private socialism" (country clubs, etc.); cooperation (the cooperatives). Each system acts as a check on all the rest. It is the government's business to keep them from swallowing each other. Thus most Americans have some freedom of choice as to which kind of economic world he is to live in.

"Which Way America?" by Lyman Bryson, defines very simply the terms "communism", "Socialism", "fascism", and "democracy".

In "The Coming Victory of Democracy", Thomas Mann, the great German exile, warns us that democracy can win permanently only by disproving the charge "plutoocracy" so often hurled at us by Hitler and Mussolini. (Is this charge entirely unjust?)

Surely you college students at least, you top seven percent of the population, you cream of the nation (!!!) ought to know what you mean when you say (as I hope you do say) "I believe in democracy".

University of Cincinnati has students from every continent but Africa.

All but seven of last year's 151 education graduates of Winona (Minn.) State Teachers college have obtained positions.

Of the 1,644 members of the Northwestern university faculty, almost 200 had military experience in the World war.

## As the World Turns...

BY "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

WITH THE MOUNTING Government expenditure taxes are bound to go higher. Last Friday the U.S. Senate passed, with minor changes, the bill, raising the nation's debt to 65-billion dollars. Rumor has it that at the present rate of spending, the government will be forced to raise our national debt to

100-150 billion dollars. We have ceased to talk about balanced budget. There can be no balanced budget when the expenditure far surpasses the revenue. The demand then for higher taxes is obvious and the current congress is considering ways and means of increasing the national income. Some suggestions have been made regarding this increase: Increase on excess profits; surtaxes, specially on incomes of the wealthy and moderately rich; increase on estates and gift taxes; and on normal income tax. Should England go down, we should not be surprised to see Federal sales tax and even a thoroughly government controlled economy. Total preparedness is the only answer to total war.

Mr. John Gilbert Winant goes to London as our ambassador. His appointment to the Court of St. James has been interpreted as a friendly gesture to British Labor. Mr. Winant, among many other public services, was director of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations. He is well acquainted with Mr. Anthony Eden, the British Secretary of Foreign Affairs and many other British government officials. British Labor leaders have been given many responsible positions in the make up of the present cabinet. Mr. Winant, sympathetic toward labor problems, is well qualified to represent the United States interests at the Court of St. James. Along with Mr. Winant goes Benjamin Cohen as his legal adviser. Many other men, experts in the various phases of Anglo-American relation, will go to London as aids to Mr. Winant. The post of an American Ambassador at London is today the most important mission in our foreign service. The future status of our political, social, and economic institution are so interwoven with those of England that an American Ambassador at the British capital must be a man in whom President Roosevelt has absolute confidence.

Our foreign commerce undergoes many changes. The foreign commerce of the United States during 1940 presents some unpleasant changes. The war is chiefly responsible for these changes. England took 64 percent of our exports, nearly all of them war materials. In normal times England takes about 40 percent of our exports. Steel exports rose 25 percent higher than during the last World War. Electrical equipment and glass too rose. Our exports to Latin America were higher than in 1939 but they were not as high as we would like them to be. Our agricultural exports were 23 percent less than in 1939. Export of cotton has fallen off since August 1, 1940 about 10 percent of normal. The war determines our foreign commerce nowadays. If England continues the war, our foreign commerce would grow. If England goes down, our foreign commerce will go with her.

## BACKWASH

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

Backwashin' Around . . . Bill Butler, Aggie grad in 1939 and since that time steward of Sbisas Mess Hall, goes into the Army via the draft route soon. He'll probably receive a high rating through the specialized work he has done in the past few years.

Don Burk of New York and Nig Miller of Houston arrive on the campus today to picture, verbally and otherwise, the National Defense Week events scheduled this afternoon for Life magazine's readers—that is, if the elements give the college a break. They'll also picture the sophomore ball with particular emphasis on the T.S.C.W.-ites in attendance. News Week will carry a story—and probably pictures—in the publication's edition which hits the news stands tomorrow. The review and mass rally in Kyle stadium have been No. 1 attractions where the nation's press is concerned and may result in a tremendous amount of publicity for A. & M. Life. how-

ever, has been on the campus several times before this—but only once has a story got to press . . . Longhorn Editor Morton Robinson recently took over where Cecil B. deMille stopped. DeMille, you remember, recently judged The Longhorn's Vanity Fair section, and a few days ago Morton was asked to judge a similar section for the annual publication of the Leonard High School at Leonard, Texas. Eight pics were submitted and after two hours of deMilling, Morton picked the high school's "most beautiful girl." . . . Western Union's local branch got the rush of its life this past Valentine Day when cadets sent 1850 messages to the girls back home and mothers throughout the nation. Local confectioners and druggists say that this was their banner year, too, where candy sales were concerned. More than \$2500 went for long-distance-wooling via the candy route this year; in weight, something over a ton and a quarter!

Reverse The status quo of cadets sleeping in class did an about-face last semester in one of the science

### SOPHOMORES

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- Rosedale Peaches, No. 2 1/2 .15
- Yacht Club Peas, No. 2 can .14
- Won-Up Grapefruit Juice, 46-oz. can .15
- O-G Orange & Grapefruit Juice, 8 oz. can, 6 for .25
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## LUKE'S

Phones: 4-1140 and 4-1141 We Deliver

courses. It seems that the class was meeting on a Monday following one of the several corps trips, and most of the students in attendance were either sound asleep or in a state of near-dozing.

One serious-minded cadet, sitting next to a sleeping classmate, gave him a shove and added, "Wake up, wake up; you're in class now." "Let him sleep," the prof snapped. "These men are sleepy and if you insist on remaining awake and bothering them you can leave the class!"

### Praise

Lieut. Col. James A. Watson is telling a story that's worth a lot to the college, the cadet corps, and especially the honor graduates in the military science field who were recently interviewed by a board of regular army officers incident to receiving permanent commissions following graduation. At a luncheon held for them at Col. Watson's home Tuesday noon the officers were unanimous in their praise of the men whom they interviewed and of the entire cadet corps.

"The great courtesy these men showed us and their excellent per-

sonal appearance was more than unusual—it was something I have never seen the like of before today," one of the officers told Col. Watson.

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