

The Battalion

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 TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE
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Do We Realize?

Are we war conscious? The answer is definitely "No." The American people still drive along the highway at 70 miles per hour in their cars, still eat everything they want or can afford, still waste many things which are essential to a total war effort. War still seems to them to be a far off and a strange unreality.

To those men within the continental United States who are in military service or training, such as the students at A. & M., there is a blithe confidence that although they will probably have to do some fighting, there are many others who will do more fighting and, "after all, the war is practically over, as soon as we get a crack at the Japs and can fight the cowardly Nazis."

This is the wrong conception entirely. Our enemies may be cowardly in personal combat, but what difference does this make when they are backed up with huge quantities of the tools of war—tanks, planes, guns, bombs and other death dealing devices?

Many will look at you pityingly when you make the statement that as yet we have undergone no real hardships. They will counter with "well, our sugar is rationed, isn't it? We can't buy any more tires, or freezone for our cars, can we? What more do you want?"

Why should we complain just because of these minor things, and consider that after having taken simple calisthenics for a few minutes each morning we are fit and well prepared? The peoples of Germany did without things, took rigorous physical exercises, worked 12 hours a day at low wages just so they could have their "guns before butter," and plenty of them. Americans were so confident of the great industrial resources of their country that these things seemed absolutely unnecessary. They wanted guns and their butter too. It was their policy to make everything that could possibly be needed for civilian use such as radios with which to hear Glenn Miller, washing machines to save work, and fancy convertibles covered with nickel and chromium with which to make an impression on the girl friend, and give what was left over to the production of armaments. Congressmen blandly told their constituents that there was nothing to worry about, and that if they were re-elected, the people could have all of these things and still be safe from foreign attack.

No bombs have yet crashed down upon our peaceful existence. No invading hordes have stripped our land. No secret police of an enemy power check up on every move we make. No labor battalions have yet been formed of our defeated soldiers. No 63-ton tanks have as yet rumbled through what was once our home and crushed into a tangled mass of flesh and blood our little sister or brother who was sleeping in his bed. We are still free, and WE WILL REMAN FREE!

But to be free, sacrifices must be made. We must do without coca-colas, save the tin foil from our cigarette packages, drastically cut down our candy consumption, must build air raid shelters in our coastal cities and many other things. One of the main reasons for the recent sugar rationing order was to bring home to the American people the fact that we are at war, and at war with the most powerful and ruthless combination of powers the world has ever seen. We must prepare for total defense, and later for total war against the enemy.

We must all fight, not for the "American Way of Life", which our generation will never see again as we have known it, but instead we must fight for "America" and for "Life". And these two things are certainly worth fighting for. If you don't believe this statement, ask the Dutch, the Poles, the Norwegians, the Danes, the Rumanians, the Hungarians, the Chinese, the Russians, the English, and the French.

Let us not fall into the decadent, self-reliant, egotistical and pitifully weak state of France during the years from the last war until that fateful day in June, 1940, when what was left of France was forced to sign an armistice. Let us remember Wake Island, remember the Philippines, remember WE ARE AMERICANS AND WE INTEND TO REMAIN THAT WAY. The only way we can do this is by an all-out effort, not merely by words, but by actions. Let not our heroes have died in vain.

Something to Read

By Dr. T. F. Mayo

(Scene: a section of English 210)

Prof: - - - and read Russell's The Value of Scepticism for next time. I hope it will make sceptics of you—in fact that is one thing that the whole course ought to do for you.

Soph. Smith (or something): Mr. X, if you don't mind a personal remark, this is just the sort of course that ought to be discontinued in times like this.

Prof (starled): Why so?

Smith: Well, in war time, everybody ought to think alike. That's the only way to get anything done. All these courses that make you question things and doubt—they take your mind off what we have to do. They upset you.

Prof: But don't you think that the right to question things and to doubt what we are told is one of the chief stakes of the war? Aren't we, a democracy, fighting to prevent the world's being run by a system which makes everybody think and talk alike?

Smith: Yes sir, but first we've got to beat 'em, and that is what this Colege is for right now. We've gone "full out" for the War here at A. & M., and we ought to get rid of all courses that upset us and make us question and criticize. That's the only way we can make ourselves efficient enough to win.

Class: Gr r r r! Bow! Wow! Buzz! Buss!

Prof: (uncertain from the above whether he has his audience with him or agin him) Well, Mr. Smith, it doesn't seem exactly reasonable to go to war in order to preserve freedom of speech and thought, and then to conduct the war in such a way as to destroy the very things for which we are fighting—and so on and on.

Upshot of the Discussion (as far as it was possible to grasp the consensus of the class): The Prof was right in pointing out the danger of throwing away, in the heat of the conflict, the very principles and social habits to defend which we entered the conflict. Smith was right, however, in maintaining that, in order to win the fight for freedom, we are bound to submit temporarily to certain galling restrictions and controls. The class was right, I think, in deciding that freedom of thought and speech should, even in war time, be held in high respect, and that such restrictions as we must, for efficiency's sake, impose upon them, should be imposed cautiously and regretfully, with the full realization that they are abnormalities and necessary evils.

The World Turns On

By A. F. Chalk

We in this country are still not fully aware of the extent of the sacrifices which will have to be made if we are to prosecute the war effectively. It seems that even the major reverses already suffered have not been sufficient to awaken us to the reality of the military and economic situation. England assumed an attitude much like ours before she was so rudely awakened. It is to be hoped that defeats such as those sustained by England will not have to happen to the U. S. before it enters the war in a real "all out" manner.

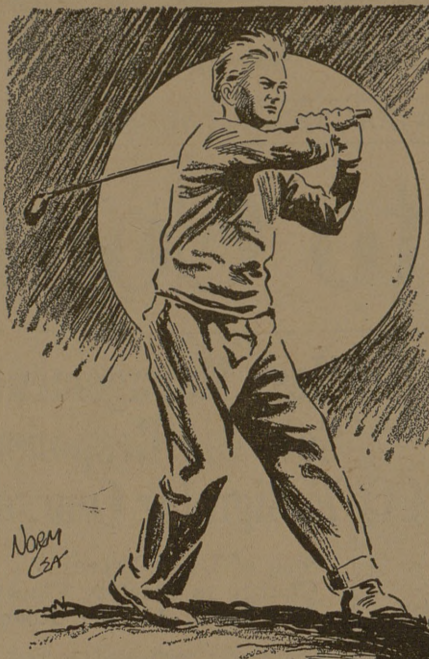
During the next 12 months the economic lives of the people will be further altered, and this coming increase in economic sacrifices will play its part in causing the public to evidence greater interest in the vigorous prosecution of the war effort. This writer posesses no clairvoyant powers, but there is a reasonable degree of unanimity to be found in most of the forecasts made by financial commentators. A few of these forecasts of the future may serve to indicate the "way the wind is blowing."

It is generally agreed that this year will witness a widely increased use of rationing of consumer goods. The recent order with respect to the use of sugar was occasioned by a run on the supply by those who got panicky. The sugar supply situation was not critical, but the hoarders forced the adoption of a rationing system to insure an even distribution. The same situation will probably develop in the case of other consumer goods, and rationing will be the inevitable result. In general, however, it is thought that the supplies of foodstuffs and clothing will be relatively large during the next few years.

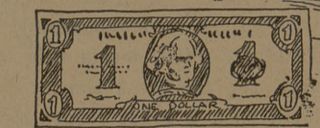
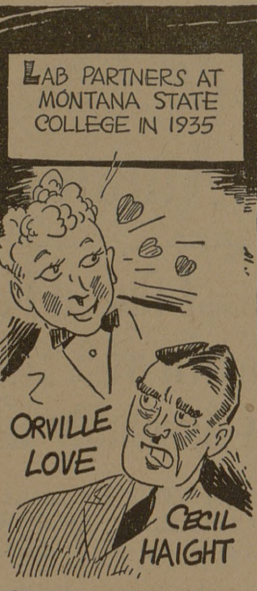
With respect to taxation, the situation can be explained very simply. The new tax measure, as foreseen by political writers, will probably raise the present income tax rate precipitately. Excise taxes will no doubt be raised to new levels, and the adoption of a federal sales tax is by no means an impossibility. If one adds to this new tax program a compulsory savings program, he can begin to appreciate how drastically consumer purchasing power is to be curtailed.

From the point of view of this writer, the year 1943 will likely be the crucial year as regards our national economic policy. By 1943 our price-control legislation will get a real test under fire, and it remains to be seen whether the present law can be made to effectively curb a strong tendency for the price level to rise. In the field of production, we can by that time be better able to compare results with expectations of previous years. On the whole, we should find out by that time whether our economy has been efficiently regimented for the requirements of a modern war.

Kollegiate Kaleidoscope



PHILLIPS FINLAY
 HARVARD, AVERAGED
 290 YARDS ON 14
 TEE SHOTS IN A
 ROUND AT PINEHURST,
 N.C. IN 1927!
 THANKS TO ALL SPORTS
 RECORD BOOK.



HARVARD'S ENDOWMENT WOULD FURNISH EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THE UNITED STATES WITH A ONE-DOLLAR BILL!

BACKWASH

By Charlie Babcock

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

Perplexing Problems

A freshman walked into our room the other day and confronted us with this question: "Under the new three semester plan, what is going to be done about year numbers for new classes, that will be coming in every eight months?"

Well, now, that requires some thought and discussion. However, we are not going to take time out at this point to advocate or propose a policy in any direction. The purpose of this little dissertation will be to recognize the facts and arguments—both pro and con—of all possible situations.

In the beginning, it must be noted that it is imperative that every class have a year as a symbol or name. A family of 66 would be in complete disorganization if each individual didn't have some name or mark of identification, and the same is true of the A. & M. clan of 66 classes.

At the present time, there are four dominant classes at A. & M., '42, '43, '44 and '45. In June, '42' will leave. Then, the next February will find '43' gone. After that, each succeeding class will NOT graduate in what would ordinarily be its designated year—for example, the '44 class will graduate in September of 1943!

By now, it is probably quite evident to the ordinary observer that after a time there will be two classes entering and leaving school every 12 months.

Some solution will, in time, have to be worked out. It will never be satisfactory under the same year mark. Perhaps, the graduation month should be included.

Or maybe Hitler and the Mikado could help matters.

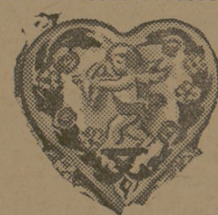
From Our Hearts

This is just a bit of old paper splotted with black printers' ink, but we hope in some way the space taken here will convey the heartfelt sympathy of The Battalion staff and other friends of Joe Skiles to him at this time of his bereavement.

For That Good "Neat" Appearance

during the SPRING DANCE SEASON

Get Your Haircuts At The
AGGIELAND BEAUTY & BARBER SHOP
 Across from Post Office North Gate



DO YOU HAVE HER A VALENTINE YET?

Nothing could be more appropriate than a Picture of yourself

THE AGGIELAND STUDIO

Joe Sosolik, Prop. North Gate

COVERING campus distractions

WITH TOM VANNOY

It's a super-duper western picture the like of which has never been seen. It's "THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON" at Guion Hall today and tomorrow. The center of attraction of the story is General George Armstrong Custer, who made his famous last stand on the Little Big Horn way back many long years ago, played in the picture by Errol Flynn. The charming Olivia de Havilland is cast as his wife to whom Custer spent hours and hours writing page after page of letters telling her of his love for her.

Flynn, who played the major roles in "Dodge City" and "Virginia City," goes right on proving that he is more than capable of portraying the part of the never-to-be-forgotten Custer on the screen.

Olivia de Havilland was born in Tokio, Japan, but that should not be held against her. She has come up steadily in the film ranks since her first role in "Midsummer Night's Dream" a number of years ago. She has been starred in such pictures as "Captain Blood," "The Charge of the Light Brigade," "Santa Fe Trail," and "The Strawberry Blonde."

The story opens on Custer's days as a cadet at West Point. Since he had a very fiery temper, Custer was always getting into trouble at school. He fought in the Civil War for the North and later was placed in command of the Seventh Cavalry to keep peace between the whites and the Indians in the Middle West.

Of course, some of the darker spots on Custer's record have been

cleaned up for the picture, but the facts are essentially true. It is one of the most elaborate western pictures ever made and one of the best, too. The climax of the whole show is the battle at Little Big Horn on that day in 1876 when the gallant Seventh went down to the last man in the historic battle against the Sioux Indians. It has been transcribed on celluloid once more and it is still thrilling as ever. "They Died With Their Boots On" is a motion picture of the highest caliber and will prove very entertaining.



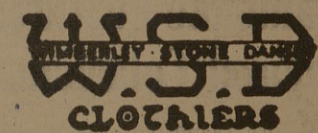
RAIN OR SHINE

Get You An
ALLIGATOR
RAINCOAT

And You Won't Get Wet!
 Slip into an Alligator for "style in the rain" plus longer lasting smartness in all your clothes.

See our stock of
 Alligator Raincoats
 and Galecoats

\$5.75 to \$28.50



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with
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CARY GRANT — JACK OAKIE
FREDERIC MARCH
 Cartoon — Musical — Short

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"LIVES OF A BENGAL LANCER"
GARY COOPER
FRANCHOT TONE
 Also
MERRIE MELODY
PORKY PIG
 News Reel of
"Normandie" Fire in New York Harbor

Movie

GUION HALL

Thursday and Friday, Feb. 12 and 13
 4:30 and 7:45

COME AND GET US... WE'LL NEVER SURRENDER!



ERROL FLYNN
 and **OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND**
 In Gen. Custer's own amazing story
"THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON"
 A Story of Undying Faith

With ARTHUR KENNEDY CHARLEY GRAPEWINE GENE LOCKHART Directed by **RAOUL WALSH**
 Original Screen Play by Wally Pfister and Anson MacKenzie Music by Max Steiner A Warner Bros. First National Picture

News -o- Cartoon -o- Comedy