

THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

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SPRING • 1947

AAAS Resolution Urges National Science Foundation

The Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting in Boston December 27-31, passed a resolution to seek government aid in establishing a national foundation for scientific research. Prepared by a committee that included Kirtley F. Mather, chairman, Harlow Shapley, Joseph Boyce, George A. Baitsell and Stuart Mudd, the resolution read in part:

"For many years the Government has wisely supported research in the agricultural colleges and the benefits have been great. The time has come when such supports should be extended to other fields of science and to advanced scientific education. There is not now in the governmental structure any civilian agency, receiving its funds from the Congress, adapted to providing the necessary supplementation of funds or the necessary additional support of basic research in medicine, national defense research or basic sciences, or adapted to administering a program for the support of advanced scientific education."

In an effort to obtain action by the present Congress, the resolution appropriated funds to initiate an Inter-society Committee for a National Science Foundation, and directed that invitations to participate be sent to other national educational and scientific societies.

President James B. Conant had strongly recommended establishment of a national foundation in an address at the opening session. Urging science writers to make clear to the public the need for such an organization, he asserted that in addition to reasons of military security, Federal support of scientific research is important because the development of modern industry and of modern medicine are closely related to that of modern science. He also declared he had "no fear there will be any deleterious effects to the universities even if they receive very large sums of money for the support of scientific research by this route from the Federal government."

Senate Discusses Membership-at-Large Report; Votes Study of Plan by ΦBK Groups

At its annual meeting on December 6-7 in Princeton, the Senate voted to submit to all chapters and associations for study, a plan to establish membership at large in Phi Beta Kappa. The plan will be submitted with a request for discussion, comments and suggestions, so that action may be taken, if it is thought desirable, by the 1949 Council.

The vote followed discussion of a Senate committee report on membership at large. Presented by Senator Frank Aydelotte, committee chairman, the report recommended allowing "certain institutions which do not now have chapters . . . to nominate a certain small percentage of their graduates each year who would undergo comprehensive examinations, and who would, on the basis of these examinations and other evidence, be awarded membership at large in Phi Beta Kappa." The report emphasized that while committee members unanimously recommended membership at large in principle, the plan should first be tried out experimentally in a limited number of institutions. The plan could then be gradually extended if it proved to be successful.

Reporting for the committee, Senator Aydelotte also stated that the practical steps necessary for the administration of satisfactory examinations had been discussed in great detail, and that as a result of these discussions committee members were convinced the plan is feasible. The report incorporated an outline of what it termed one feasible way to inaugurate the plan. Included among the suggested steps were:

(1) The selection of a limited number of institutions on the approved list of

the A. A. U., selection to be made in collaboration with the Committee on Qualifications; (2) Candidates for examination to be chosen by the faculty of the institution, with the number of candidates from each institution limited between two and five; (3) A reasonable examination

fee to be paid by each candidate; (4) Oral and written comprehensive examinations designed to test ability as well as attainment; and (5) The advice and help of testing agencies in preparing examinations, although Phi Beta Kappa should reserve to itself final authority in determining their character.



FRANK AYDELOTTE

Bachrach

After raising questions concerned partly with the difficulty and expense of administration, and partly with the desirability of establishing membership at large in the Society, the Senate voted that it was "impressed with the advantages of the plan." The Senate motion also directed that copies of a detailed plan be sent to chapters and associations for their consideration.

LAST September Senator Aydelotte outlined the membership at large proposal briefly to Council members in Williamsburg [see the Winter KEY REPORTER]. No report was submitted by the committee at that time. Since then the committee has discussed the matter further and presented its recommendations in this report to the Senate.

In addition to Chairman Aydelotte, members of the Committee on Membership at Large include Oliver C. Carmichael, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of

(continued on page 2)



SENATE (con't. from page 1)

Teaching; Guy Stanton Ford, executive secretary of the American Historical Association; Theodore H. Jack, president of Randolph-Macon Woman's College; Dorothy Kenyon, lawyer and former Municipal Court judge, New York City; Raymond Walters, president of the University of Cincinnati; and Goodrich C. White, president of Emory University.

ANOTHER highlight of the Senate meeting was the appointment of members to the Committee on Qualifications, and a brief discussion of the committee's plans. New members are Philip G. Davidson, dean of the Senior College and Graduate School, Vanderbilt University; Fred Hard, president of Scripps College; John E. Pomfret, president of the College of William and Mary; and Carl F. Wittke, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Oberlin. Other members are Raymond Walters and Theodore H. Jack. The latter will continue as chairman until the committee gets under way.

Discussing the plans of the committee, Chairman Jack stated that it would meet early in 1947 to determine methods of procedure. He also observed that an increase might reasonably be expected in the number of institutions recommended in 1949 for Phi Beta Kappa charters, because committee activities were held in abeyance during the war. As a result, the recommendations to be acted upon by the next Council will in reality cover three triennia.

The Committee on Qualifications has made no recommendations to the Senate since 1940. When committee activities were suspended in 1942, over 40 institutions had been selected for study. During the last four years approximately 125 additional institutions have expressed interest in the resumption of the committee's program. More than 50 institutions are expected to be reviewed in the current triennium.

Readers May Contribute

The enclosed envelope is sent with THE KEY REPORTER annually. It is for the convenience of readers in contributing to THE KEY REPORTER and in subscribing to *The American Scholar*, and is not to be considered a renewal reminder for either.

ΦBK Associates Meet,
Elect Lincoln Cromwell Head

The Phi Beta Kappa Associates held their seventh annual dinner meeting on Tuesday, November 26, at the Cosmopolitan Club, 122 East 66th Street, New York City. Guest speaker of the evening was Christian Gauss, president of the United Chapters. Dean Gauss's address,



Blackstone
LINCOLN CROMWELL

"The Humane Tradition: Building for One World," stressed the importance of Graeco-Roman thought and the Hebraic-Christian tradition as twin sources of "our humanist and democratic heritage." From these sources, he declared, we derive our conception of man as a transcendent being, as well as our conception of the brotherhood and equality of all men under the law.

LINCOLN Cromwell, chairman of the board of William Iselin & Co., New York, was elected president of the Associates at a meeting of the Board of Directors immediately preceding the dinner. Vice-Presidents named for the coming year were Edwin H. Burgess, vice-president and general counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co.; Thomas C. Desmond, New York state senator; and Guy E. Snavely, executive director of the Association of American Colleges. Charles A. Tonsor, principal of the Grover Cleveland High School, New York, was elected secretary, and Alfred C. Howell, vice-president of the Guaranty Trust Co., treasurer.

New board members elected by the Associates were Frank Aydelotte, director of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton; and Leland R. Robinson, New York, economist, educator and business consultant.

H. J. Muller Wins Nobel Prize

In recognition of his studies on the influence of X-rays on genes and chromosomes, H. J. Muller has been awarded the Nobel Prize. Dr. Muller, who flew to Stockholm to receive the prize from King Gustav on December 10, is professor of Zoology at Indiana University and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Associates.

Know of an Opening?

Rates for items in the "Know of an Opening?" column are ten cents per word for a single insertion, seven cents per word for two or more consecutive insertions. Replies should be addressed to Member No. —, care of THE KEY REPORTER. They will be forwarded promptly to the advertiser.

515. (Mr., Ky.) Biologist, Ph.D. Harvard 1933. 15 years college teaching experience, biology, embryology, histology, anatomy; numerous publications, research. Desires professorship.

516. (Mr., Va.) A.B., Ph.D. Johns Hopkins, 1936. Ten years college teaching and research in political science. Technical consultant to state and local governments. Number of publications. Desires professorship.

518. (Mr., N.Y.) receiving LL.B. Columbia Law School Feb. 1947 desires legal position. B.A. Univ. of Calif. 1940 with highest honors. 4 years military service. Ex-Officer Military Intelligence Service, War Department General Staff. Age 28.

521. (Mr., N.Y.) History; 2 years teaching, 1 year social work. Lecturer and writer Army Information-Education Division. Vocational and Educational Guidance Counselor. Desires editorial, teaching, or personnel work.

522. (Miss, Wis.) B.A. Milwaukee-Downer College; M.A. classics, University of Chicago 1943. Ph.D. candidate, all course work completed; Latin departmental fellow, Ryerson fellow in archeology, University of Chicago. Experience: teaching public high school, girls' preparatory; art librarian, research assistant. Desires position college or junior college in East. Classical Art and Archeology, Classics, Ancient History, Humanities.

524. (Mrs., D.C.) A.B. Wellesley, '24; M.A. (English Literature) Radcliffe '27; graduate study French, Spanish, including summer at University of Mexico. Wants teaching position college or junior college preferably near Washington but will go elsewhere in East.

525. (Mr., Pa.) B.S. cum laude, Zoology Department honors, Franklin and Marshall 1946; Freshman, U. of P. Medical; two semesters zoology teaching; desires teaching, laboratory position, summer 1947.

526. (Mr., Cal.) U.C., 1930. Experience includes 3 years staff capacity to management planning (labor relations, management planning, procedures analysis). Present salary (Federal agency) \$7,500. Desires same type work private industry.

527. (Mr., Ind.) Instructor large university desires college position with opportunity to organize first two years English on better than customary inefficient plan.

528. (Mr., Illinois) Northwestern, 1941. Honors in economics (labor field); commerce courses including 4 accounting courses. 4 years Navy Communications officer. Completing year as systems engineer with utility. Desires position in less regulated industry anywhere.

529. (Miss, Nebr.) A.B. Nebr., 1928, ΦBK; M.A. Wisconsin, 1932. Major, English literature. Public school teacher, Lincoln, Nebraska. Permanent position desired in college or public high school.

530. (Miss, Mass.) ΦBK Smith, 1940; honors. LL.B. Boston University, *magna cum laude*, 1943. Editor in chief Law Review. Former law clerk to Mass. Supreme Court judges. Desires connection with busy law firm preferably engaged in general practice, Boston.

531. (Mr., R.I.) A.B. Brown (English honors); A.M. this June. Two years teaching experience, Taft and Brown. Unmarried. Desires position in teaching (full or part-time) or publ. Member National Roster Program.

ON THE EDUCATIONAL NEWS FRONT . . .

UNESCO Maps Program

Meeting in Paris November 19-December 10, the first general conference of UNESCO officially installed Dr. Julian Huxley as Director-General and mapped out a broad educational program for international understanding.

Educational activities to be carried out under the program include immediate as well as long range projects. Among the former will be regional seminars for younger teachers, publication of an educational yearbook, and a study of education for international understanding in primary and secondary schools of member states. Two long range projects will be definition of a "minimum fundamental education," and establishment of a clearing house for the exchange of educational films and radio broadcasts.

Other aspects of the general program provide for cooperation with international groups like the World Health Organization and the International Labor Office, and for the improvement of teaching and teaching materials for international understanding.

Special AAC Committee Will Study Federal Aid

The Association of American Colleges will appoint a special committee to study the question of Federal aid in higher education. This action was approved at the Association's annual meeting held in Boston January 12-15.

Prior to the meeting, the Association distributed a questionnaire that indicated a majority of the member institutions favored Federal aid, according to a *New York Times* dispatch, that also quoted Dr. Guy E. Snavely, executive director of the Association, as "dead opposed."

The special committee's recommendations in the matter of Federal aid will be submitted in the form of a report.

NEA Report Favors Minimum Teachers Salary

Federal aid for communities unable to maintain adequate schools, and an annual minimum salary of \$2400 for all teachers were among the recommendations made in a National Education Association report published early in January. The Association's *Annual Report of the Profession to the Public* recom-

mended these measures in order to relieve today's critical conditions.

"Federal participation in the financial support of schools," the report stated, "is basic to an educational program that can meet the needs of all our children." It also asserted that economic security for teachers will halt "one of the greatest vocational migrations in our Nation's history." Other forms of professional security recommended in the report were a satisfactory tenure law, sufficient retirement and sick-leave benefits, and sound assignment and transfer practices.

Concluding with a demand for "a national policy governing our outlay for education," the report warned that "a minimum defensible educational program" will probably require at least five per cent of the nation's postwar annual income.

Anti-Discrimination Bill

The Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress has drafted a bill against discriminatory practices in education. The bill was drafted purposely to serve as a model

for the convenience of state legislatures.

CLSA's Fair Educational Practices Bill would forbid educational institutions to discriminate on grounds of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry in admitting students and employing faculty members. To enforce its provisions, a state commission against discrimination would also be set up within the Department of Education. The bill would not apply to denominational or sectarian institutions.

In its preamble the bill states that since racial or religious discrimination is not compatible with true education, equal educational opportunities for all must be recognized as a civil right.

Education Mission to Germany Asks End of Caste System

Eradication of the caste system from German education and establishment of international exchange fellowships on a large scale were two of the recommendations in the official report of the U. S. Education Mission to Germany.

Education in Germany has never been organized on a democratic basis, the report charged. The vast majority of students were trained under a primary and vocational school system that did

(continued on page 7)



Courtesy of Collier's

"Well, they's only two of 'em, Curley, and anyways, we can't all be Phi Beta Kappas"

Phi Beta Kappa and the State of the Union

by WILLIAM T. HASTINGS

Two snatches of verse, one from Kipling and one from Thomas Gray, have recently been haunting me in fantastic sequence: "The captains and the kings depart . . . and leave the world to darkness and to" — you and me. And there joined them in my mind Arnold's famous cliché about the "darkling plain swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight, where ignorant armies clash by night."

When the great captains of the Allied armies were stemming the wave of the future, and then beating down its obscene force; when the kings of speech, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt, were phrasing unforgettably the will of free men to be free and the desire of mankind to be brothers — our purposes seemed clear, and joint action seemed easy and inevitable.

The postwar world has a different, a less comfortable aspect. Suspicion, fear and even hate stare at us from the headlines; the red-baiters and the twisters of the British lion's tail are at it openly or by indirection. On the domestic scene we have racial discrimination, religious intolerance, riots and intimidation. The ineffable Bilbo raves about Dagoes and Kikes. The Dies Committee splashes red paint on the friends of Spanish Republicans, on the PAC, on liberal journalists and teachers. The FEPC is pigeonholed; the efforts to prevent inflation by price control are sabotaged; full employment is paid lip service, plotted against, or openly laughed at by those who are waiting for mass unemployment to force wages down.

Though not fully organized and still partly carried on by individuals and small groups, the pattern behind all this is unpleasantly like the one our late enemies followed: to keep power which is threatened by reform; to gain power in order to make money; and, as a means to power, cynically to set class against class, creed against creed, race against race.

How deep is the cleavage among Americans? How fundamental the confusion? It is difficult to say, because it is so difficult to distinguish between the superficial and the basic. But admitting the superficial and transitory element in the current unrest, there is still ground for concern. To thoughtful persons the main danger seems to lie in the tendency to discredit the basic assumptions of our form of government.

We all know the imperfect workings of democracy. But we need to perfect our democratic machinery, not abandon it. We need to renew our belief in the honesty and the dignity of man. We need to take the long view rather than the short

view, to ask not what will put most money in my pocket today, but what will be best in the long run for the community, the nation and the world. We have no need to fear though we be called dreamer, starry-eyed idealist, impractical theorist. We need to be Christians, and practicing Christians, too. We need to remember the second great commandment, to love thy neighbor as thyself.

What has all this to do with Phi Beta Kappa?

Most of us will agree that Phi Beta Kappa as a corporate body should not advocate or promote particular social, economic or other causes. It should never become a pressure group. Rather, Phi Beta Kappa should be a state of mind, a climate of the soul: the composite photograph of ninety-odd thousand men and women possessed of liberal culture. In one chapter of our Society an attempt has been made to enumerate the elements of liberal culture, as one of the criteria for the selection of new members. Among them are: intellectual honesty and tolerance, range of intellectual interests, and understanding — not merely knowledge. If "honesty" means readiness to hear all the evidence and accept its conclusions even against one's cherished opinions, if "tolerance" be taken in an active and not in a Laodicean sense; and if "understanding" be interpreted as at least the beginning of wisdom, we have here qualities which — added to the quick intelligence we may take for granted — should assure the possessor not merely a successful but a useful life.

These are the faculties for which there is a desperate need in seeking the solution of the conundrums of today. The daily papers and the public forums are crowded with debate on questions for which no easy answer is to be found. Yet they are all important. We must answer them. Moreover, the answer must in each case be correct — not an answer which administers a flattering unction to a social sore, but one which will heal the body of society and stand the test of time.

To the score of questions which any day's reading will bring to mind, we may find ourselves making an immediate and spontaneous answer. The answer may be correct, and it is important that it should be. But we must remember that from the point of view of "man thinking" why we hold a belief is well-nigh as important as the belief itself. It is important because in the long run we cannot depend on intuition; we have to depend on reason and judgment. We have to exercise those Phi Beta Kappa qualities I have mentioned. We have to be willing, indeed resolutely determined, to view all the facts, and prepared to accept the facts at all costs.

It is true, of course, that even the best of us have our prejudices, our slants, our hunches, our personal equations, our conditioning. Roughly speaking, we are conservatives or liberals (disregarding the small fringe of reactionaries and radicals), with quite a lot of shadings, of course, toward right or left, and with complexities produced by being conservative in one area of conviction and liberal in another. Most people have something of this complexity, when they have lived long enough to have sweetened the abstract rationalism of youth with feeling born of experience, or their passion (if that kind of youth) with the practical sense born of experience. Yet the man or woman of liberal culture will recognize his emotions and be their master, not their slave, refusing to grow excited over base appeals to prejudice. The man or woman of disciplined intelligence, broad view and understanding heart, the ideal Phi Beta Kappa, should gain from his emotional coloration an enrichment of personality and a drive which without impairing his judgment will make him a more effective servant of mankind.

WILLIAM T. HASTINGS, a Phi Beta Kappa senator from 1937-46, is chairman of the Department of English and secretary of the faculty at Brown University. Mr. Hastings' article, which appeared originally in the Winter 1946-47 *American Scholar*, is reproduced here in condensed form by courtesy of Mr. Hastings and the *Scholar*.

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THEY SAY . . .

Phi Beta Kappa Activities: A Proposal

To the Editor:

I feel sure that the members of Phi Beta Kappa have read Dr. Marjorie Nicolson's valedictory letter as President in the Autumn REPORTER with interest. I was especially impressed by her statement that our Society's most serious problem is "What, if anything, is Phi Beta Kappa doing?" Her query as to whether it has any function also seems to me important.

Ours is an organization with a membership of nearly 100,000 men and women from every section of the country, all of whom made outstanding scholastic records while in college, and a great many of whom have had distinguished careers afterwards. However narrow the margin of my election to Phi Beta Kappa (and it was very close), I am glad to belong to it, and favor continued support of the high traditions of scholarship it has fostered in America since the Revolution — a more vital need than ever before in the present troubled age when trained thinkers and leaders are of the very utmost importance to the world.

It seems to me, however, that we cannot afford to stop with scholarship as our sole function, or to limit our triennial meetings to problems related to that field and to trying to make our Society's ponderous constitution work. I suggest that, in view of the nature of our membership and of the present state of the nation and of the world, it is Phi Beta Kappa's urgent obligation to assume enlarged responsibilities and to use the individual and collective abilities of its members to help solve some of the pressing social, political, economic and racial questions of our time — not from any partisan viewpoint, of which we already have an abundance, but working towards certain specific goals, both immediate and long term, upon which intelligent people of both parties could agree.

Let me cite, in this connection, an important American organization that operates on national, state and community levels — the League of Women Voters. We men and women of Phi Beta Kappa might profitably study the League's consistent, intelligent and very successful methods of operation with a view to adapting them to the particular needs and capabilities of our Society. I have in mind a state branch of that League with whose work I am especially familiar (on the distaff side), which by planning, study, public enlightenment and direct action is working for better public schools, state aid in education, interracial and inter-group understanding, court reforms, children's welfare legislation, fair employment practices, improved government through the selection of better qualified candidates for office, home rule in the towns throughout the state in question, etc. The four page program for 1946-1948 issued by the National League of Women Voters for the guidance of its branches could well serve as an excellent guide to constructive action for any alert citizen eager to discharge his or her responsibilities in a bewildering period filled with urgent, unsolved problems.

I do not know that Phi Beta Kappa could evolve a better program than the League, or carry it out as well, but can we with a clear conscience sit back and attempt less? Can we

limit our purpose to recognizing and encouraging "scholarship, friendship and cultural interests," important as scholarship is, while the world is rocking for want of academic, racial, political, national and international freedoms? A few years ago, we undertook a radical departure from our time honored practice and founded a distinguished quarterly which has been highly successful, contrary to the predictions of many, and is receiving more and more recognition and support. Can we not now bring the full weight of the collective abilities of our members to bear, in order to make the Society's influence powerful in a still larger sphere?

I would propose specifically that our entire national membership be polled on the following questions:

1. Are you satisfied with the purely scholastic activities of Phi Beta Kappa?

2. In view of the present critical need for leadership, would you favor an enlargement of Phi Beta Kappa's scope of action to embrace a constructive and forward-looking program to help solve some of our political, economic and social problems, both national and international?

3. If your answer to the above is in the affirmative, what other activities do you think our new concerns should include?

4. If you wish to see the scope of Phi Beta Kappa's activities enlarged, do you favor the immediate election of chapter and association delegates to a constitutional convention to simplify, modernize and broaden Phi Beta Kappa's charter, so that effective action may be taken to accomplish the objectives envisaged in its proposed new functions?

STUART E. GRUMMON
REDDING, CONNECTICUT

Editor's Note: Expressions of opinion on the questions raised by Mr. Grummon will be welcome.

Phi Beta Kappa and Segregated Education

To the Editor:

I was not aware — as your correspondent implies — that I am an advocate of "white supremacy" or of any other sort of supremacy. To be sure, in my letter of last summer [Vol. XI, No. 3] I did express the belief that racial differences in mental ability exist, and I said further that to me, at least, the evidence is strong that such differences are basically genetic. I can see nothing "shallow" or "Hitlerian" in this view; rather, to mix metaphors, I suspect that the pseudo-science is on the other foot.

A few exhibits are in order. Mr. Britton Harris writes: "The differences between races of men on which anthropological classifications can be made constitute probably less than one per cent of all inherited human characteristics." With some difficulty I think I comprehend what the author is trying to say. It would be nice to have the evidence for this glittering generality, especially the one per cent. Further on, Mr. Harris says: "No sound physiological reason has ever been adduced for believing that any race or group should enjoy intellectual superiority. Sound environmental reasons do exist. The assumption of equality is not simply an 'hypothesis' or a political ideal, but a biological fact." Well, perhaps no group should enjoy intellectual superiority, but for a variety of reasons some of them undoubtedly do. As for the familiar plug for environment and the biological "howler," I wonder if Mr.

Harris ever stopped to consider what shaped the cultural, social and even physical environment in the first place. Did the chicken really come before the egg?

What view a scholar should take regarding race differences, or upon what "ground" he should stand (to use your correspondent's phrase), most depend, I submit, upon his convictions. The honest believer in biological race differences is no more fascist than the honest believer in no race differences is necessarily communist. Certainly little is gained by screaming on either side.

HENRY E. GARRETT
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

To the Editor:

In your Winter issue, G. P. Bullis, of Ferriday, Louisiana, makes a statement which should not be allowed to go unchallenged. He says that "every person, every group, every educational institution has a right to admit to its private organization anyone it pleases, and to legislate or claim otherwise is without any foundation of intelligence."

I concede that "every person" has the right asserted by Mr. Bullis, but I deny categorically that "every group and every educational institution" has that privilege. Social discrimination is one thing. Discrimination by a political party or by a public or quasi-public organization is quite another. The ΦΒΚ Society would clearly belie its purpose and its "raison d'être" if it were to deny admission to negroes possessed of the same qualifications as those required of white candidates. The Society is not a social coterie — it is a group of people banded together because they possess certain intellectual qualifications, not because of ancestry or race or religious creed. If ΦΒΚ may be condoned for what is tantamount to racial intolerance, why may it not go further and exclude Jews or Catholics, or those of German or Russian birth?

It is tragically true that University Clubs in some American cities exclude from membership Jews and Negroes. If these clubs are in fact social organizations, let them make that frank admission. They should not be permitted, however, to create the impression that the name is what it implies — and that every college or university graduate is eligible to membership, whereas in truth only those who can measure up to certain racial and religious standards are entitled to that dubious honor.

ALFRED A. BENESCH
CLEVELAND, OHIO

To the Editor:

In your Winter issue I have noted discussion of the question of closing chapters in Southern and some Northern schools because of their so-called race prejudice.

It surprises me that any scholar would seriously consider such action. Should it be attempted, Phi Beta Kappa would cease to be a badge of scholarship. It would become the symbol of a group without brains enough to know when to mind its own business.

Before Prohibition some thirty-odd States had voluntarily gone dry. In a senseless effort to force the issue, Prohibition put most of them back into the wet column, and it has been relegated to the shades, unwept, unhonored and unsung.

Phi Beta Kappa should profit by that example.

O. B. BESTOR
BALTIMORE, Md.

Minnesota Logger

THE TREES WENT FORTH, By Walter O'Meara. *New York: Crown.* \$2.75.

Reviewed by R. L. Duffus

Matt Bradley, whose other name might be Walter O'Meara, went into a Minnesota logging camp, as a clerk, in 1906. Maybe Mr. O'Meara has introduced some trimmings, including a charming love story not otherwise important, in order to hold the reader's interest. But as far as one can judge, he hasn't fictionalized the main facts and essential atmosphere of a logging camp in that region at that date. His own logging-camp experience seems to have been ten years later than Matt's, but it is authentic.

This is refreshing, for logging camps, a generation or more back, appear to induce a sort of Paul Bunyan mood in most writers. Too often loggers have not been allowed to be natural — they have to be supernatural. Mr. O'Meara's loggers had to be physically tough, but they were human. Pat Dempsey, the boss, got work out of them by pitting one crew against another and his own camp against other camps. He didn't knock his men through the wall of a log cabin. There were some queer ones — a wonderful liar, a minor villain. There was, near by, a lonely woman going out of her head with the silence and whiteness of the winter woods.

What counts, however, is the picture of logging and loggers under normal conditions — the bunk-house life; the long tables at which men ate in silence; the cold which sometimes kept even the hardiest indoors; the technique of cutting and hauling. In some ways the logger was a special case. He did work which was always hard and often extremely skilled. For weeks and months he was away from women. When he cut loose he made a remarkable amount of noise. In many respects he resembled the old deep-water sailor. But essentially he was, and had to be, a fine type of American workingman.

Those of us who have worked at unskilled or semi-skilled labor may be able to recognize what can only be called the "feel" of such labor — or to recognize the lack of it in books which purport to describe it. Mr. O'Meara has picked an environment with which this

reviewer is not familiar by experience. Yet these men are related, on a somewhat higher plane, to men the reviewer did know who did pick-and-shovel work long ago in California. They are real. This is American history as legitimate as the narrative of a political campaign. This is how men lived and worked. This is the kind of men they were.

This reviewer found reading Mr. O'Meara no chore, but rather a delight. Without tremendous adventures the interest followed from page to page. Reading O'Meara was the next best thing to being in the woods — and not so cold, and by no means such hard work. Logging is said to be different now, with better and cleaner beds, more amusements, more frequent chances to get out. Bunk-houses don't smell the way they did. Loggers are organized and can demand better conditions than they used to have. The machinery of logging has been improved. Logging may even be safer than it was. In Minnesota the great days are over. In the far Northwest they continue. But despite progress one reads Mr. O'Meara with a slight nostalgia; there were men in those days, and they got the trees out. If they got out too many, too recklessly and too fast, it wasn't their fault. We can blame other men, leading easier lives, for that.

Recommended Reading

THE FAIR FIELD. By John Moore. *New York: Simon & Schuster.* \$2.75.

A novel about life in an English market town between 1910 and 1940.

EXPERIMENT IN REBELLION. By Clifford Dowdey. *New York: Doubleday.* \$3.75.

The Richmond scene during the rise and fall of the Confederacy.

GREAT ADVENTURES AND EXPLORATIONS. Ed. by Vilhjalmur Stefansson. *New York: Dial.* \$5.

Discoveries ancient and modern.

THE WAYWARD BUS. By John Steinbeck. *New York: Viking.* \$2.75.

A new novel by the author of *Tortilla Flat* and *Of Mice and Men*.

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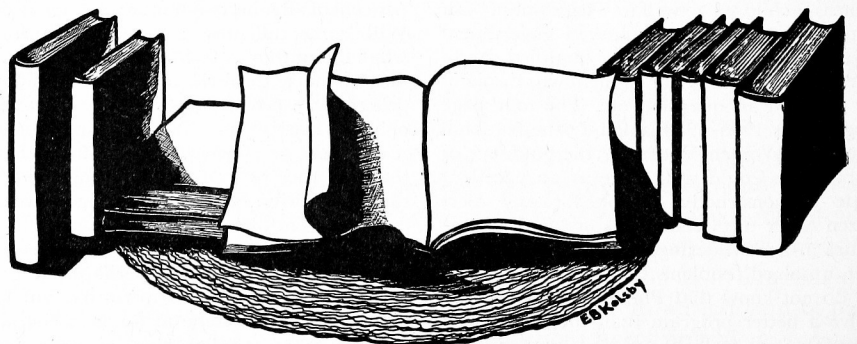
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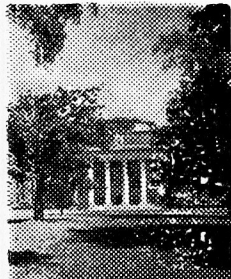
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