

THE GUILFORDIAN

Published weekly by the Zetavian, Henry Clay, Philomathean, and Websterian Literary Societies.

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Address all communications to THE GUILFORDIAN, Guilford College N. C.

Subscription price ..... \$1.50 per year

Entered at the post office in Guilford College, N. C., as second class mail matter.

Member of North Carolina College Press Association.

EDITORIAL

MILITARY TRAINING

In the R. O. T. C. issue of the Davidsonian the cry goes out against peace advocates. They are placed in the same class with loud-mouthed agitators and narrow-minded mollycoddles.

Startling are the revelations made by Winthrop D. Lane, which exposed the dogged determination of the War Department in Washington, D. C., to fasten militarism upon America.

It would, indeed, be a tragedy if the spirit of militarism should assert itself in the United States, at the same time that France and Germany are outlawing war between each other.

"The training is not the result of chance or of the action of local school or public officials. It is encouraged, supervised and regulated by the War Department, and it does not plan to stop with what it has already done.

It is well known that the leading educators of America are opposed to militarism. Its spirit and large standing armies are contrary to the very genius of the American republic.

propriated by the Federal government for the promotion of peace as for the promotion of military training, it would use it for the Davidsonian to argue that those of us who believe that there will be another war realize that the way to delay its appearance is to prepare for it.

"The R. O. T. C.," says the Davidsonian, has for its purpose the training of young men for service to their country. No, for military service alone, but the fulfillment of the highest duties of citizenship, to build a man physically, morally; to instill habits of obedience and ideals of loyalty and faithfulness, is the theme of this organization's service.

Many of the best educators of the country are agreed that military training does not produce the best physical benefits, and that strict military discipline tends to destroy initiative and individuality.

In these days of enlightenment we have at last come to realize that it is not necessary to carry a gun on one's shoulder to participate in the best exercise. So the fact remains that the fostering of the war spirit in supposed preparation for the next war is the one and only reason for other continuation of compulsory military training.

We naturally have suspicions of that person or nation which goes armed to the teeth. We had suspicions of Germany in 1917. Most people in this country conceived German militarism to be the enemy that we are fighting.

RADICALISM

Some of the College radicals have conceived another way of "cleaning up the college." The administering of shower baths by means of paperbags has become extremely popular.

PACIFISM vs. R. O. T. C.

Why have military training in our American colleges?

This question has been agitated during the past few years since the world war and today it stands forth as a problem that concerns the future educational system of our country.

The United States government, so far, has not paid much attention to these pacifists who deny the fact that the glorious young manhood of our land are being prepared as cannon fodder.

The complaint against R. O. T. C. courses in colleges and schools has been made more by loud-mouthed agitators and narrow-minded mollycoddles rather than by the student who are actually concerned with it.

If one would look at the records of the State and War Departments he would undoubtedly find many of those who are at present agitating pacifism on the list of those who so violently denounced the action taken by Congress in declaring and carrying on war with the Imperial German and Austrian governments.

The late war taught the terrible price which a country pays for unpreparedness. We spent billions in armoring and equipping expeditionary forces to combat a foe who had never reached our shores.

The R. O. T. C. has for its purpose the training of young men for service to their country, not for military service alone, but the fulfillment of the highest duties of citizenship.

Those of us who believe that there will be another war realize that the best way to delay its appearance is to prepare for it.

R. O. T. C. stresses the all-round development of a boy. Any boy that takes four years of this military training with a summer or two at a camp, will enter upon the duties of manhood with firmer convictions, more knowledge of human nature, and a better understanding of his obligations to his fellowmen and to his country.

The local unit of the R. O. T. C. has a most successful history behind it. Its officers have always been of the highest type of American manhood. Under its influence, the college has progressed greatly.

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