

THE ALMA RECORD

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H. S. BARCOCK - Editor - ELINOR G. BARCOCK - Associate Editor

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

COMMENCEMENT TIME

Commencement time is here again. Other classes of young people are finishing their courses in school or college and will be going out soon for further accomplishment.

Just why this event should be referred to as "Commencement" is not quite plain, since the most ordinary definition of the word is "the start or beginning of anything," yet we are accustomed to look upon this event as the completion of a certain course of school activities.

Probably the best explanation of the unusual use of the word is the fact that school and college are looked upon as the preparatory period for the active duties of life, hence one is really at the beginning of the big things of life at the end of the preparatory period. This use of the word reminds one of the bachelor who had his own way much of the time and lived after a more or less care-free fashion. One day he met his old friend, Tom Jones, and joyously announced, "Well, Tom, old boy, I have joined you married fellows and have me a nice little wife of my own."

Tom heartily congratulated him and said, "Take it from me, Jack, you are at the end of all your real troubles."

A few months later they met again, and Jack was looking somewhat blue and terribly serious. Tom, with a broad grin on his face, born of many experiences in life, facing the grim realities devoid of sentimentality, said, "Hello, Jack, has the sun gone out of the shining business, or has your wife eloped with the chauffeur?"

Jack grimly replied, "Well, I thought you said I was at the end of all my troubles when I got married."

"Well," said Tom, "you are, but it is the front end, old boy."

What commencement means to young people this year and every other year will depend very largely upon how thoroughly the work of the preparation period has been done, and whether they consider this the front or rear end of their accomplishments. If to them this is the front end of the procession, the beginning of things, the real starting point of life's activities, there is very little limit to the possibilities for them. What they do in life will depend upon their courage, their endurance, their patience, their persistence, their faith in their own powers. Opportunity is standing upon the threshold holding the door open for them. If on the other hand they look upon this as the completion of their efforts, it will also be the rear end of their accomplishments, and they will have found at once, without further trouble or effort, their camping ground, and there will not be much more of importance to write about their doing except their obituary.

And in the language of Oliver Goldsmith in the "Deserted Village," that will greatly resemble "The short and simple annals of the poor."

Longfellow's saying, "Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not its goal," has been quoted so often that it is hackneyed, and goes into one ear and out of the other with many people, but only those who recognize the great truth of it and go at the accomplishment of something worth while, with earnestness and enthusiasm, ever meet with a degree of success worth mentioning.

The demand for people who are thoroughly prepared and willing to work is unlimited, but there is tragedy ahead for the unprepared, and an overstocked market for the lazy.

This article is not intended for a spring poem setting forth the beauties of commencement time, but we do want to say to the graduates, "The future holds great things in store for you providing you are prepared, have the gumption to go out after them, and the grit to stick to it until you succeed."

NORMAL TRADING

We hear a lot of talk about the return to normal, increased trade, unemployment, etc., and so many foolish things have been said and written about conditions, that most of us are scared at our shadow for fear that we will pay too much for something, or will buy on a falling market. This is an unhealthy mental attitude which has come as a result of the war and can be cured by ourselves alone and no one else. It is largely a matter of confidence and faith in our fellow citizens, the great majority of whom are thoroughly honest and struggling with problems similar to our own, possibly carrying a bigger burden than we dream of and keeping up their courage with a smile.

In the troublous times of the Civil War, Secretary of the Treasury Seward said, "The best way to the resumption of specie payment is to resume," and resume they did in spite of fear, and pessimism. It would be worth our while if we could paraphrase that statement and make it read, "The best way to the resumption of normal trade is to resume."

Normal conditions are not going to return by sitting down, keeping what little cash we have in our pockets, waiting for the other fellow to buy our goods and hoping for a return to normal. Normal conditions are largely a matter of confidence and fair play. There is no question but what the farmer, the merchant, the manufacturer, and the laborer are all having their peculiar troubles, but those troubles will end much sooner if we assume an attitude of faith in our fellow man and buy of his goods as liberally as we can without questioning his integrity or viewing him as a profiteer, when as a matter of fact he is probably having a big struggle to meet operating expenses, owing to increase in cost of goods, rent, light, heat, wages, freight, express, and everything else with which he deals.

The people of Alma are much better off than those in many communities and we are to be congratulated that our retail merchants have made every effort, consistent with good business judgment, to take their losses and reduce prices. In most things a dollar will buy almost twice as much as it did a year ago.

There is every indication that business conditions have started to improve in the business centers. Trade and economic journals all note a decided improvement. The thing for us to do is join hands in a big pull—buy what we need. Give the other fellow a chance to live and normal trading will soon be established.

Facts and Figures in Financial World

Pointing out the fact that in a period of depression it is time to buy securities B. C. Forbes, noted financial writer and editor of Forbes Magazine, urges small investors to follow in the steps of the "long-headed" and "long-pursed" individuals who are accumulating securities now.

Analyzing the industrial situation Mr. Forbes asks: "Did you notice reports that the U. S. Rubber Co., the largest rubber company in the world, has begun to lay in stocks of crude rubber at the less-than-cost-of-productions prices now ruling?"

The Western Electric Co. is understood to have placed heavy orders for copper. The Western Union was recently reported to have contracted for 10,000,000 pounds of the same metal. The Pacific Gas & Electric Co. of San Francisco has just taken a similar amount, and has contracted for a vastly larger amount at the very low prices now quoted.

Very powerful interests in the old industry have raised many millions capital and have invested it in the purchase of immense quantities of crude oil to be stored until prices, now almost the lowest ever quoted, recover—as everyone in the industry is confident crude oil prices will. Certain capitalists identified with other manufacturing industries have likewise had contracts placed for large amounts of low priced raw materials for future requirements.

If the facts could be ascertained, it would doubtless be found that wealthy men have made heavy investments in securities during the period when bearishness has been running riot, for fortunes are made in investments by courageously buying at such a time as this, when very high income returns can be obtained by holding on until the security market has advanced very substantially.

No matter how pessimistic any man of affairs may be at this moment, he is willing to admit that a decisive recovery in security quotations is bound to come sooner or later.

In other words, the longest-headed and the longest-pursed interests have absolute confidence that the whole situation will undergo transformation by and by. Consequently, they are acting on the axiom: "The time to buy is when everyone wants to sell."

My own opinion still is that, if those who run things will only handle the situation with business statesmanship, there is no adequate reason why betterment should not make its appearance very shortly, leading to pronounced improvement after the proverbial "summer dullness" has passed.

There is justification for expecting lower federal reserve discount rates; lower rates by banks for desirable commercial borrowers; the establishment of important machinery for financing both agricultural and industrial exports; better railroad earnings; readjustment of railway and certain other wages without precipitating grave disturbances; fairly prompt reductions in prices for steel and other products which are still regarded as abnormally high; increased consumption all along the line as prices become more attractive to the public; a decrease in the number of commercial failures; improved conditions and buying power throughout our vast grain growing territory, as a result of higher prices for grain and lower labor and other production costs; some further clearing away of European clouds; and the inauguration, before very long, of an upward movement in attractive securities.

Remember, it is often darkest before the dawn.

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Training Camp for Civilians

"Hundreds of office men from all parts of the state, who are out of work, or whose nerves have been severely taxed by the reverses of business, today prepared to make application to enter the Training Camp for Civilians, July 21st, to August 20th, at Camp Grant, Illinois.

A month in the open, playing and working at the duties of a Soldier, has been seen by these nerve shaken inside workers, as the required panacea for "making men of them again." They believe, and their physicians have not been slow in so advising them, that the vacation at this Camp will again "put them on their feet."

It is going to be an inexpensive way to "sip from the waters of the fountain of youth," according to Phelps Newberry, State Chairman of the Military Training Camps Association, in charge of applications, because the Government will pay all expenses. This will include transportation, food, quarters, uniforms, medical and dental attention, and laundry service.

The applicants—and Michigan's quota for the Sixth Corps Area is about 20,000, from which the successful ones will be picked—are required to be between the ages of sixteen and thirty-five years, of good intelligence, character and physical condition. The Camp is intended primarily for men who have had no military experience, so those who were prevented from seeing service in the late War, because of home ties, or otherwise, now have an opportunity to enjoy the charm of a Soldier's life.

All applications for the Camp should be made out with the aid of the District chairman, Mr. James E. Mitchell, 518 State street, Alma,

Michigan, who is in charge of the local district, or with V. P. Cash, county chairman, at the Alma post-office. They will be provided with a supply of application blanks, and physical requirements. When these blanks have been made out and signed by the applicant, they will be forwarded daily to the State Headquarters, 1221 Ford Building, Detroit, Michigan, and later sent to Army Headquarters at Fort Sheridan, Ill. The Detroit office will gladly furnish any information desired concerning the camps, Chairman Newberry said today.

Expec-To-Rate as a Gentleman Should

A large sign has been placed in the rooms of the Michigan Tuberculosis association which contains the following legend: "No man can spit on the floor and expec-to-rate as a gentleman."

The pun first made its appearance in Michigan at the annual conference of the Michigan Tuberculosis association a few weeks ago. It was brought from Ireland by John I. Gibson, secretary of the chamber of commerce of Battle Creek. Mr. Gibson last year made a trip to the Emerald Isle, and while there he had his eyes open for matters of interest that could be of service to the people of Michigan. Having been informally associated with Michigan health work for many years while he was secretary of the Western Michigan Development Bureau, the legend about spitting on the floor attracted his attention and he jotted it down in his notebook for use here.

The Michigan Tuberculosis association will make use of it in its propaganda against the spitting habit, not only on the floor but in all public places. Laws against spitting have been on the statute books of most Michigan cities for many years, but it is a notorious fact that they are never enforced. Police officers are frequently the worst offenders in the matter of spitting on walks and streets.

The only way to make anti-spitting effective, the Michigan Tuberculosis association believes, is to create a popular sentiment against it. If the general public can be impressed with the idea that it is against the canons of the conduct of a gentleman to spit in a public place, it is likely that the practice can be reduced to a minimum. And in this work the "expec-to-rate" legend will be widely used in Michigan.

Camp Roosevelt A Boy Builder

Camp Roosevelt, established primarily for Chicago boys (but now available to boys twelve years or more old from all localities, is entering its third season, and affords an unusual combination of attractions for the summer vacation and recreation season of the American boy. The tent city, on the shores of Lake Michigan, near Muskegon, Michigan, under the management of officers of the United States Army, assisted by instructors from the Chicago Board of Education, the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, the Y. M. C. A. and Knights of Columbus, accommodates upwards of a thousand boys.

The summer high school, which is a part of the Chicago high school system, and whose credits are recognized throughout the country, occupies the morning period of a large number of students. The military course, including the general courses of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, attracts many others. The Scoutcraft training, for boys under fourteen, qualifies for the various Scout tests.

Red Cross officials teach first aid, life saving, and health. The daily routine for all boys includes out-of-door athletics of every appropriate kind, baseball, basketball, track athletics, boxing, hiking, bivouac camping, and especially swimming. Every boy learns to swim. There are four camp periods of two weeks each. The first beginning July 3, and boys may enter for one or all. The cost is small, \$15.00 for each two weeks at camp. The time to enroll is NOW. The headquarters are at 650 South Clark Street, Chicago.

This camp is for your boy to enjoy these privileges. He will be well cared for, and have the time of his life.

Bundle Day for Near East Relief

Again the call comes to us for help for the Near East Relief. Old clothing will wear out, and the committee tells us that conditions in Armenia are again deplorable. Let all friends of this work in Alma again ransack their clothes presses and attics and see if there are not still old coats, pants, shoes, heavy stockings, sweaters, suits, mittens, blankets, or any garments, or articles which will furnish protection and warmth, which can be spared for these suffering neighbors.

Men, women, and children are in desperate need. Old sheets and muslin for bandages are also needed. Garments and articles for this bundle may be left at the Methodist church up to and including Wednesday, June 22. Anyone having such articles who cannot send them to the church may notify Mrs. John Daugherty, 814 River, Telephone 121. High heeled shoes or Georgette wear cannot be used.

Your grocer sells Butternut Bread and you as one of his customers want the best.—00-8w.

THE CHURCHES

St. Mary's Catholic Church Rev. John A. Mulvey, Pastor. Holy masses as follows: First and third Sundays of each month, at 8:30 and 10:30 a. m. Second and fourth Sundays at 10:30 a. m.

St. Johns Evangelist Lutheran The next service in Alma will be held at 2:00 p. m. June 19. Sunday school at 9:00 a. m. Prof. Hoelike in charge of services.

Presbyterian Church Corner of W. Superior St. and Prospect Ave. Rev. W. L. Gelston, minister. 10 a. m.—Sunday school. 11 a. m.—Morning worship. Children's Day exercises, baptism of infants and a sermon to children by the pastor. Mother's and fathers are asked to come with their children.

6:30 p. m.—Christian Endeavor. Plans for the summer will be discussed. 7:30 p. m.—Baccalaureate address to the senior class of the high school. Rev. E. P. Shouffer, of the Baptist church will be the speaker. This will be a union service. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

First Baptist Church Opposite Masonic Home on State street. E. E. Shouffer, pastor, residence 123 W. Downie St. 10:00 a. m.—Divine worship. Sermon by the pastor. 11:15 a. m.—Sunday school. R. C. Ditto, superintendent. 5:30 p. m.—Junior B. Y. P. U. 6:30 p. m.—Young People's service. Prayer meeting Thursday night at 7:30. Everybody welcome.

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