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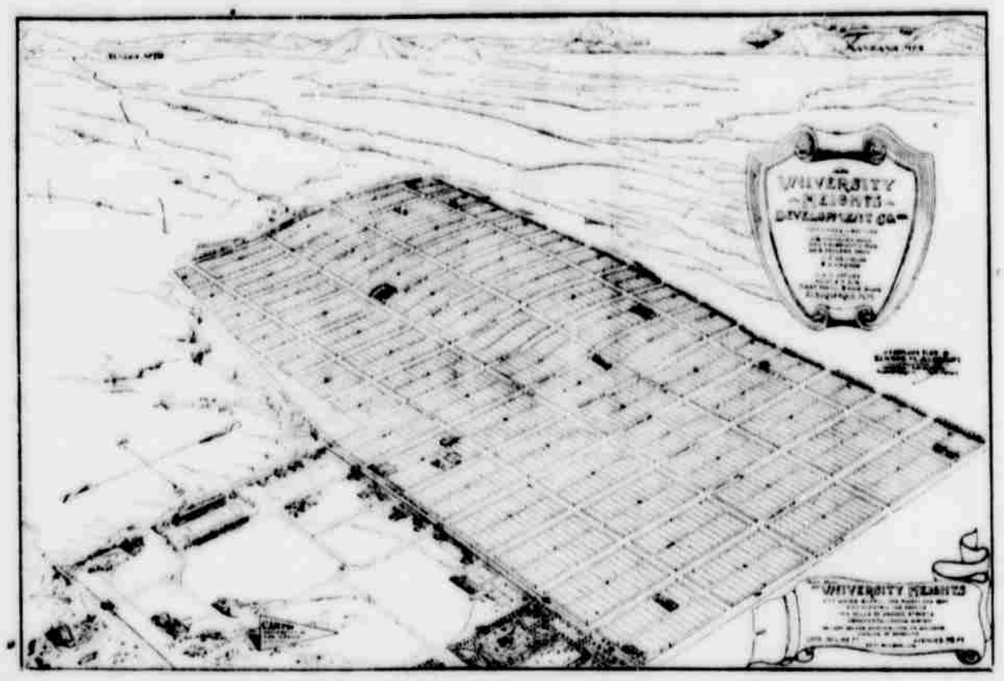

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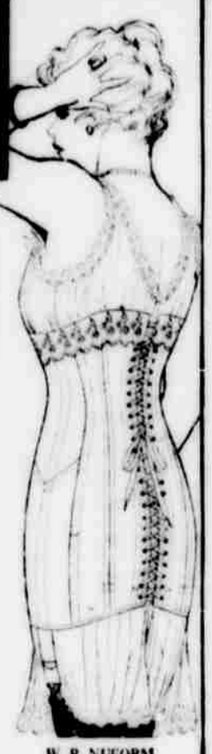

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VARSITY ANNUAL PLAY SCORES A MARKED SUCCESS

"Red" Balcomb Carries Major Role in Convincing Manner; Support Capably Enacted; Joe Scotti is Director

The eleventh annual play of the university, staged last night at the Crystal theater, and to be repeated in Santa Fe Friday evening, was a success of a distinct order. There was an attention to detail that showed careful work on the part of players and executive staff beforehand and, what has any amateur play that has been seen here in years.

The play, "The Man From Mexico," wasn't about a man from Mexico at all, but about one Benjamin Fitzhen, of merry proclivities and a merry spouse, who fazed up a trip to Mexico to prevent the aforesaid spouse from discovering that he had been arrested and sentenced to jail for thirty days (presumably for a breach of the peace). Anyway, Fitz was arrested in a cabaret, under somewhat dubious circumstances.

The character of Fitzhen was the central one of the show. Without Fitz there would have been no show. Kenneth Balcomb enacted this difficult role getting away with a part of the appalling length of 16 "sides" in good style. There were times when, from the back of the curtain line, it appeared the audience was taking the play as seriously—ha, ha! humorously—as though it had been in the hands of professionals.

The support was good. The Mc-Manus brothers, Ray and Joe, had parts which fitted them well and they carried them out in finished style. Alton Bruce, R. Putney, and Russel Ray carried out character parts well. R. G. McKinney and Harold Miller had attracting "juvenile" roles which they looked and acted. Floyd Lee and Carl Broesin appeared in minor parts.

As to the female characterizations, they were better than usual. Aided by effective costuming and more than a little pulchritude the quartet of women's roles were enacted ably by Miss Shirley von Wachenhusen, Miss Myrl Hope, Miss Lena Ferguson and Miss Lillian Williams. Some especially good acting was done by these ladies.

Miss von Wachenhusen had an especially difficult part but sustained it ably, portraying the fun-loving wife of the irrepressible Fitzhen in a charming manner.

If there was any scene in the play which deserved special note, it was that in which Fitz describes the bull-fight he did not witness on his trip to Mexico. This literally was a scream and the action of the show had to be stopped to several minutes to let the audience recover itself at the climax.

Joe Scotti directed the production and Floyd Lee was manager of the business phase. Harold Blickenderfer was assistant manager. The university orchestra, under direction of Prof. E. S. Reder, rendered a number of enjoyable selections before and between the acts.

The whole production, including the orchestra, goes to Santa Fe for a production Friday night.

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The State University And Its Relation to the People

Address of Hon. W. C. Reid at the Commencement Exercises of the New Mexico State University this Morning.

It has been many years since a university was considered an institution solely for the benefit of the students who entered it. It was considered to mean higher education only in classics and mathematics and enough of the sciences to enable the individual to enjoy a broader and more intellectual life. In fact, many people accorded the university the same rating which George Ade, in one of his fables, gave to the finishing school, in which he said: "A finishing school is a place where young ladies are taught how to wither their parents." I read that the early ideal of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, in England, was not so much to give an education qualifying a man to succeed in any particular walk of life as "that general education which would fit him to be a worthy member of the church and the commonwealth." These were institutions maintained for the upper classes. Our great Universities of Harvard and Yale were originally founded upon this idea, though, in the very nature of things, were, at all times, more democratic; but even in these universities, for many years, little else was taught than Latin, Greek and mathematics. By an irresistible evolution, the sciences became a part of the curriculum, and the universities grew into institutions that not only sought to improve the intellect and polish the manners of their students, but to train them in the special walks of life and to make them personally efficient, and in this Germany has led the way, as it has in other forms of efficiency.

"Efficiency" seems to be the word of the hour, and there can, of course, be no doubt that higher education and university training add greatly to the efficiency of the individual.

This relation of the university to the people is an important one; it gives us men who are trained to think and to know how to think; how to initiate and how to act; it gives us broad minded men; men who know, from the training thus received, things that would require more than a lifetime to learn from actual practice and experience. Experience is said to be a good teacher, but a course in experience is a very long and a very expensive one. It has been said that there is no royal road to learning, and that is true; but there is a short cut which we may take to it, and that is by taking competent counsel. The whole of the university course consists in taking competent counsel and the training of the mind to think for itself.

But the modern demand made upon the university is, not only that it train the intellect and character of the individual or that it especially fit him for a profession, but that it go further and help the people of the state who have not had the privilege of attending it as students, and it is of this relation of the university to the people that I wish to speak more fully. But in speaking of it, I do not desire to be understood as undervaluing the study of literature, history and philosophy, or the study of the sciences for the mere sake of knowledge. In the physical sciences the discoveries of most practical importance have sprung from investigation undertaken purely for the sake of knowledge. I have in mind a special instance of this. In Purdue university, in Indiana, I had as a room mate a young man who was taking a special course in botany. I know that he entertained no ambition, at that time, more than to satisfy his desire to have knowledge of that subject; yet one step led to another, until, in a few years, he made discoveries of the greatest importance. He first discovered the cause of potato scab, and later, a practical preventative. One can scarcely estimate the importance of this discovery. He then discovered the cause of wheat rust and a cure for it. He was called by the Russian government, and solved the problem of the cause and cure of a disease that threatened the great industry of thousands of farmers engaged in growing hemp. His writings are now printed in the language of every civilized country of the world, and though his name is not familiar outside of scientific circles, he has probably rendered more real service to humanity than any statesman or monarch of his time. And, by way of side remark, let me say that during his four years' university course, he was janitor of the young men's dormitory, and, after reading a splendid thesis, he came back to the dormitory, removed the silk hat and Prince Albert coat that he had made the most strenuous sacrifice to procure, swept out the dormitory, turned over the keys, and proceeded on the even tenor of his way.

Foremost in carrying out the new idea of a university's relation to the people is the University of Wisconsin. That university has more than seven thousand students enrolled. It serves the people all the way from giving degrees in its college of letters and science to a course of six months in butter making. It has a course in each of the following subjects: commerce, philosophy, journalism, pharmacy, chemistry, pedagogy, engineering, medicine, law, dairying, forestry and accounting. Of the seven milk tests widely used in dairying, six have been originated or improved at the University of Wisconsin. The Babcock fat test, invented twenty-seven years ago, furnishes a simple means of paying for milk on the basis of quality and for detecting frauds. This saved the factory system of butter-making from ruin. To the state of Wisconsin alone it saves annually two million pounds of butter. To the university, more than to any other cause, Wisconsin owes its transformation from a poor agricultural state, with bankrupt farmers who tilled its seemingly barren hills, to the leading dairying state in the Union, whose farmers and dairymen are perhaps more prosperous than any in the United States. It has brought the University to the door of the people.

In addition to the more than seven thousand students in daily attendance at this university, still more than that number of students by correspondence, more than three thousand farmers of the state of Wisconsin take a ten days' course of instruction at the university each year. The people of Wisconsin can call upon their university and it will supply them with anything from a peck of pedigreed oats to a competent man to prepare statutes for legislative action.

The university, without mixing in party politics, has exercised an influence for good legislation in the state that has made Wisconsin, in that respect, an example to be followed by nearly all the other states of the Union. It has established a municipal reference bureau which gives information relating to the municipal problems of the city officials of the state and to other citizens. This bureau collects data on all subjects of municipal government—pavements, sewers, water works, street lighting, dust prevention, garbage collection, sanitation, etc., and makes this information available to those who can utilize it. It collects city ordinances and reports, and is pressed to give advice and information upon the various subjects of municipal regulation. The bureau makes special investigations and reports for specific subject, such as commission government, the city manager plan, municipal fire insurance and uniform accounting.

When the taxpayers of the state of New Mexico desired to secure a man to make a financial survey of the state, of its financial laws, assessment laws and auditing and accounting laws, they procured a man who had been trained in the state university of Wisconsin in this work. In the first six months of his employment he saved to the taxpayers, by discovering and eliminating illegal levies that were well intentioned, the sum of $200,000, a sum sufficient to pay his salary for eight-four years.

Our late educational institutions are doing a great deal of work along the lines of eastern universities, such as the university of Wisconsin. The county agent plan, which is being adopted in nearly all the counties of this state, is in direct line with this work and is bringing the knowledge acquired by the investigation of the university directly to the farmer. But that is the difficult problem that confronts us. All of the universities have acquired more knowledge and facts than they have been able to distribute. The ordinary university bulletin has until recently been seldom read by others than those who are engaged in scientific research. The big problem of today is getting the facts, which have been proven at the universities, to the people.

The problems which we in New Mexico have to solve are different than those of the eastern states, and we therefore cannot pattern after them. In those states the aspect is largely to develop sufficient methods of handling the resources, such as marketing, better production, etc., but with us, we have here a vast domain whose resources have scarcely been discovered and, much less, developed, and we must meet this problem. The time is close at hand when New Mexico must come into its own. Nearly all of the land of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains has been taken up and developed, while in New Mexico, with an area of three times that of a state like Ohio, there is a population of less than one of three or four of the cities of Ohio. The problem of making a better use of the arid lands of New Mexico is one that has been partially solved, but must be fully solved in the very near future. That it will be solved, there can be no doubt. Profitable farming is now being done upon lands that, even ten years ago, were deemed to be little better than mere grazing lands. The silo, the kaffir corn and kindred varieties of grain have already done much to solve this problem. The demand for more cereals will soon be so great that the lands of New Mexico are bound to be utilized in producing them.

This country has, during its entire existence, been noted for its exports of cereals, meats and all other farm products. It is growing so rapidly that we will soon be face to face with the difficult situation of raising enough of such products to supply our own people. In 1890 the population of the United States was 62,000,000. In 1915 it was estimated to be one hundred million. At the same percentage of increase in another twenty-five years it will be 161,000,000. To feed these people, not only must the farms that are already producing greatly increase their output, but new farms must be brought into use.

To illustrate the fact that we are rapidly approaching an era when we will be compelled to either import farm products or increase greatly the amount we raise, I desire to quote a few statistics from the year book of the department of agriculture for the year 1914 which will show how rapidly we are approaching a period when we will export scarcely any farm products. The production of farm products in the United States has increased very rapidly in the past ten years; yet, notwithstanding this, the population has increased to such an extent that we are now at a point where we consume almost all of our farm products in this country, wheat and cotton being, however, exceptions to the rule. In 1904 we exported 205,000 live cattle; in 1914 we exported but 18,000.

In 1904 the United States exported 23,235,000 pounds of cheese, and in 1914 it exported but 2,827,000 pounds.

In 1904 it exported 663,147,000 pounds of beef and its products; in 1914 it exported only 148,187,000 pounds.

In 1904 the United States exported 1,146,235,000 pounds of pork and its products, while in 1914 it exported but 521,013,000 pounds of such products.

In 1904 the United States exported 58,222 bushels of corn and corn meal, in 1914 it exported but 10,725 pounds of this product.

In another ten years, at the rate we are going, we will have scarcely any of the products I have mentioned to export, and probably we will be compelled to import much of such products for our own consumption. We consider that the price of these products is now very high. What will be the price when, instead of exporting them, we are obliged to import them?

Now what does this mean to this country? It means that we must raise more of such products; that we must utilize the great areas of land not now utilized. It means that the vast stretches of country, now semi-arid in character, must be brought into use. This demands that science continue its efforts to solve the difficult problems, and these problems must be solved by the universities and their students.

What is true of the farm products is, I am told, true, to a greater degree, of the mineral products of the United States, and this necessitates diligent search in all our hills and mountains for mineral treasures, and requires the continued development of scientific treatment of ores, so that those that are not now valuable to us will become so; and

There is no royal road to success. But there is a short cut we may take by taking competent counsel. The whole of the University course consists in taking competent counsel and training the mind to think for itself.

When taxpayers of New Mexico desired a man to make a financial survey of the state, its financial laws, assessments and accounting laws, they procured a man trained in the University of Wisconsin. In the first six months of his employment he saved to the taxpayers by discovering and eliminating illegal levies the sum of $200,000, a sum sufficient to pay his salary for eight-four years.

The big problem of today is getting the facts, which have been proven at the universities, to the people.

New Mexico must grow not only in population but in intelligence. We have too long delayed a survey of the latent resources of our state.

Our legislature [illegible] appropriated $1,500 for a resources survey. At the same time I think New Mexico therefore does was paying something like eleven a year for coal inspection.

The University would be at great additional service by furnishing a course in practical government. It is surprising how little one I presume graduates know about the actual machinery of our government. It takes more than incorruptibility and intelligence to make an efficient public official. It requires specific training. Men should not take office for learn how to perform.

The business of our government is the only one I know of where totally unprepared men are called to fill high official places. Any company in the United States adopting such a policy would be bankrupt in thirty days. There is no other way to overcome this inefficiency or a democracy than to special training in governmental matters in the universities. This is one of the state's greatest needs.

In congress and the legislatures college trained men are in the majority. This fact has a special application to our own state. There is said to be a demand upon the part of the native people of this state for a greater representation in the higher offices of the state. The demand should be respected whenever the applicant for an office is qualified to fill it.

Many of the native young men of New Mexico would be qualified if we could induce them to attend the high schools and universities. If this is done I feel sure there will never be such a thing as a race issue in our politics.

The intellectually strong and the broadly educated will always govern. This is a law higher than written constitutions or states. I believe an earnest effort should be made to get more of our native young men and women into the high schools and universities of New Mexico.

The state supports the University for the purpose of educating men and women in order that they may serve the state, solve its problems, develop its resources. Between four and five hundred young men and women leave New Mexico each year to attend higher institutions of learning in other states. If these young people expect to make their future homes in New Mexico this is unjust to them and to their state. Many of them never return. We need educated people in New Mexico. In addition to the loss to the state of more than $300,000 annually, these young people lose the most beneficial and important part of a university career, acquaintances and friendships formed. These in the larger universities are pleasant, but limited. A student does not know intimately even the members of his own class.

We have the advantage of instruction from heads of departments instead of tutors, and acquaintance with each and every student for each of the four years of university life. This advantage is almost equal to that of higher education itself.

There are wonderful opportunities in this state for young men and women who prepare.

The trouble in New Mexico has been that people come here for health or business who do not quite make up their minds to make this state their permanent home.

Become thoroughly New Mexican and learn all that can be learned about the state and its people. Develop that sentiment for the home state that is felt by the Kentuckian or the Virginian.

We should not live here and call another place home. We should give our entire allegiance to this state. We should beautify our cemeteries with a view of some day occupying them. Until that time comes we should be thoroughly alive to the fact that we are most fortunate that fate has cast our lot in a state where life can be made so pleasant, where the highest of things produce highest of mind and soul.

it all further means that New Mexico must take a much greater part in the production of all necessary products than it has taken in the past. It means a greater population and more wealth for the state. To accomplish all this, New Mexico must grow, not only in population, but in intelligence. We have too long delayed a survey of the latent resources of our state.

The Rio Grande valley, from San Domingo to San Marcial contains something in the neighborhood of two hundred thousand acres of land for which drainage is necessary, the soil of which is as fine as that of the valley of the Nile. There is ample water, conveyed, to irrigate every acre of it, but the valley is producing comparatively little. By proper scientific handling it could be made to yield everything produced by the farm that New Mexico will require for the next fifty years. The state needs some man to solve this question, some one who will take the initiative to bring about this result. The question might be taken up by a competent engineer of some state institution. I know of no other way in which it can be more efficiently handled, and at the same time interest young men in one of the actual and great necessities of the state.

Our immense deposits of iron are lying almost untouched. Many facts have been collected relative to these deposits, but, so far as I know, these facts have not been put into such form as might interest capital in developing iron mines. Such things can best be attended to by a bureau established in the University.

What I have said of the drainage of the Rio Grande valley and the development of iron mines is also true of our forests and deposits of other valuable ore. If the people, through the legislature, would establish, at this university, a bureau where information regarding investigations, that are being made by all the state institutions and by competent individuals throughout the state, would be available, New Mexico's development would be much more rapid than at present.

A course in scientific forestry is a matter of much more benefit of importance to New Mexico than it is to the eastern states. There we have millions of acres of land well adapted to the growing of forest trees, that are now considered waste lands. Up to the present time there has been little real interest in forestry. What has been done has been done by the United States government, rather over our objections than with our cooperation, and the government actively has been more in the preservation of the forests than in the extension thereof. I take it that we have no one who has made the subject of the forestation of our waste lands a study. I believe the possibilities of the subject to be enormous, and while it is

(Continued on Page Four.)

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