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# Oregon Agricultural College Bulletin



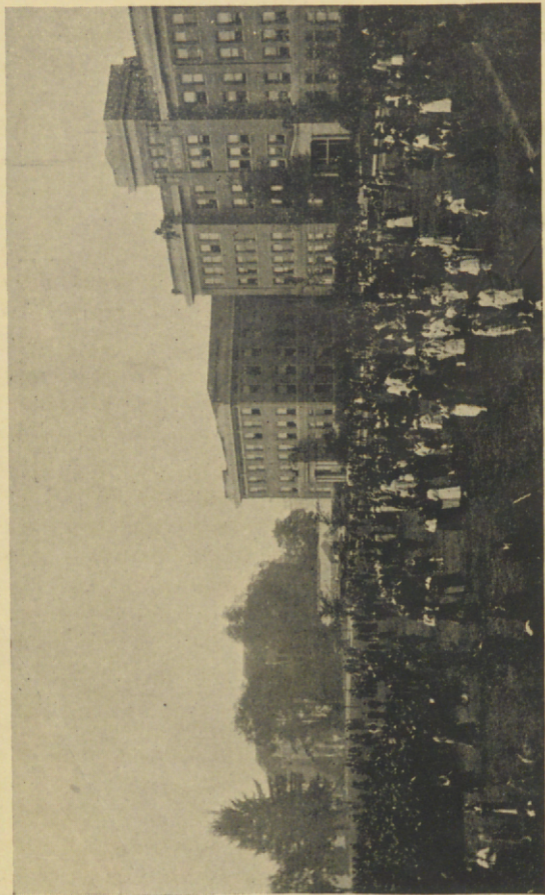
Reading President Wilson's Message

## Inauguration of the Students' Army Training Corps

CORVALLIS, OREGON

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Assembling for Inauguration Exercises of S. A. T. C.

The Students Army Training Corps has had a brilliant career of less than three months. It was organized in October, when America was rallying every resource to make sure the defeat of the Central Powers, and it is to be demobilized between the dates of December first and twentieth, the enemy having surrendered, an armistice having been declared, and peace terms to be determined by conference. By Christmas the Oregon Agricultural College will be back on an independent basis; its courses of study, while enlarged and modified as a result of the experience of the war, will no longer be primarily directed to the needs of war, and its military training, while under the direction of the same officer of the U. S. Army, will no longer be that of the regular army, but of the usual type prevailing in land-grant colleges before the war.

On October first the Students Army Training Corps was formally inaugurated at the Oregon Agricultural College. The new military unit absorbed the Cadet Regiment, the S. A. T. C. Reserve Officers' Training Corps, the Absorbs Quartermaster's Enlisted Reserve All Units. Corps, and the Engineers' Enlisted Reserve Corps, which were already established as training units at the College. It automatically made superfluous these special

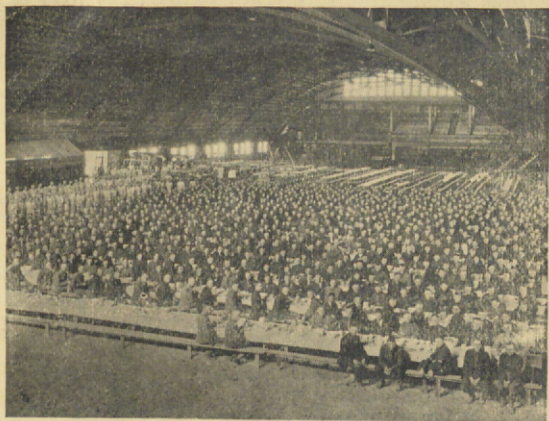
training units by providing in the single organization of the S. A. T. C. the training and opportunity for advancement afforded by all the others. It offered added attractions, moreover, by providing for its members subsistence and quarters as well as a monthly salary of thirty dollars.

Before the day officially set for induction into the S. A. T. C., upwards of 2000 men had made application for the corps. On Saturday and Monday, September 28 and 30, a continuous stream of men applied at Information in the Mines Building for assignment to temporary quarters, or sought registration at the main lobby in Agricultural Hall. This condition continued for nearly a week. In the meantime, to supplement the Halls of Residence on the Campus (Waldo and Cauthorn) that had been taken over as barracks, many separate buildings and scores of rooms had been engaged in town. The Men's Gymnasium was already occupied by a training detachment of enlisted men. The Armory had been hastily and efficiently refitted as an enormous mess hall. Quarters for the S. A. T. C. applicants, however, were still inadequate; accordingly, pending the completion of the first barracks, which was being rushed as rapidly as possible, the Women's



Gymnasium was converted into a temporary barracks.

These emergency arrangements were designed to meet the immediate needs of entering men, the plan being to release, successively, the down-town rooms and buildings, the Women's Gymnasium, and the Men's Gymnasium, as rapidly as the provision of new accommodations and the transfer of men to other training cen-

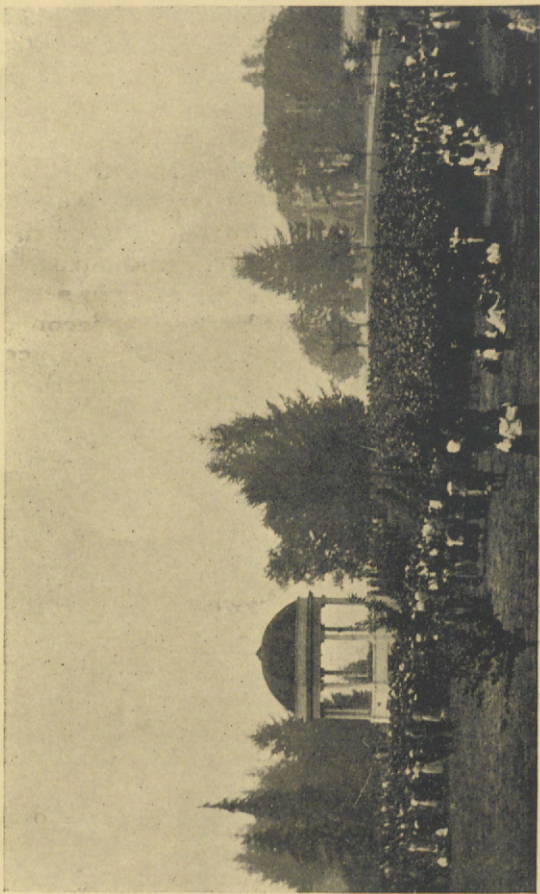


S. A. T. C. Mess in the Armory

ters would permit. This plan, which is still being carried out, had already progressed to the point where practically all S. A. T. C. men were housed on the Campus by November first and the two gymnasiums were vacated by the end of the month, when the new barracks were occupied.

As days went by and Colonel Alfred C. Sharpe, Commanding Officer, with the assistance of twenty-five commissioned officers whom he had assembled as his staff, perfected the military organization, the Campus rapidly took on the appearance and character of a military cantonment. The spirit of the men has been notably industrious, cheerful, and earnest. Their accomplishments have been remarkable. While the delay in securing uniforms and equipment has been an inconvenience, this has been accepted in good grace in view of the realization that the War Department's task of supplying the thousands of S. A. T. C. men, in addition to the millions of men in regular service, is nothing short of colossal.

Gradually the equipment and supplies have been arriving, until by the middle of November the outward evidences of military uniformity were everywhere apparent. The bugle calls, resounding among the College buildings at morning and evening, bring forth, company by company, over 2000 men, in their big woolen overcoats, service hats, leggins, and substantial army suits and shoes. The Campus is daily a scene of the varied and picturesque activities of military drill—setting-up exercises, marching, boxing, manual at arms, and company maneuvers. At



A throng of people witnessed the Inauguration of the S. A. T. C.



four o'clock each day the ceremony of guard mount is punctually and carefully observed on the east quadrangle by the bandstand. At approximately sundown the summons to retreat is sounded; the entire military organization, marching briskly and silently over the lawns, forms by companies facing the flag; the bugles sound retreat, and the men stand at attention as the flag is hauled down for the night. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the men, at command, march quickly and quietly from the scene, usually to their quarters.

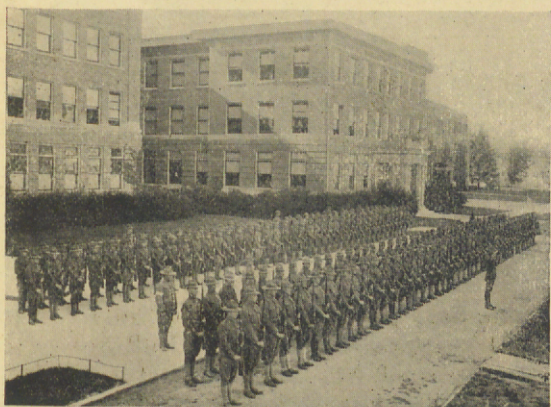
The first of the new barrack halls was occupied December first. The Y. M. C. A. hall is well under way and construction is being rushed.

In the meantime, since Shepard Spirit of Men Is Admirable. Hall is now used as a hostess house, the Men's Gymnasium served as temporary Y. M. C. A. headquarters as well as barracks for class B men. Under the energizing and inspiring leadership of the Y. M. C. A. Secretary and his Assistant, the men have developed a splendid esprit de corps. Their unity of action and spirit of cooperation was abundantly demonstrated in the control of the influenza epidemic, the most successful, it is said, of any of the military organizations of equal size in the country. Their singing is contagious. It breaks forth not only at mass meetings and social entertainments, but at mess time, and as they



march about the Campus. The spirit of the men, in short, is admirable, quite worthy of that of their fellows in arms overseas.

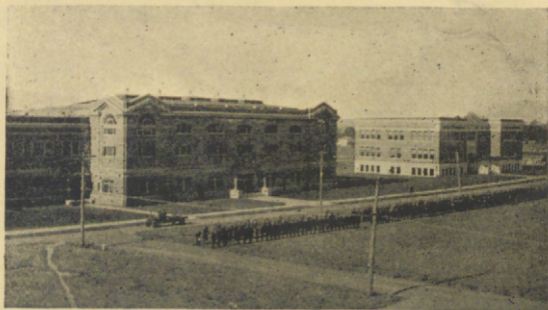
The Inaugural Exercises of the S. A. T. C., which were held on October first in over three hundred colleges of the country, were events of historical significance. The program at O. A. C. was President Wilson's Message. The program at O. A. C. was genuinely impressive. It comprised an invocation by Dr. D. V. Poling, the pledge of allegiance to the



Detachment Men at "Retreat"

flag, led by Captain Percy V. Cooper, the reading of President Wilson's message by Colonel Alfred C. Sharpe, and an address by President W. J. Kerr. The President's message follows:

“The step you have taken is a most significant one. By it you have ceased to be merely individuals, each seeking to perfect himself to win his place in the world, and have become comrades in the common cause of making the world a better place to live in. You have joined yourselves with the entire manhood of the country and pledged, as did your forefathers, ‘Your lives, your fortunes, and your sacred honor’ to the freedom of humanity.



Section “B” men in front of their Barracks

“The enterprise upon which you have embarked is a hazardous and difficult one. This is not a war of words; this is not a scholastic struggle. It is a war of ideals, yet fought with all the devices of science and with the power of machines. To succeed, you must not only be inspired by the ideals for which this country stands, but you must also be masters of the technique with which the battle is fought. You must not only be thrilled with zeal for the

common welfare but you must also be masters of the weapons of today.

“There can be no doubt of the issue. The spirit that is revealed and the manner in which America has responded to the call is indomitable. I have no doubt that you too will use your utmost strength to maintain that spirit and to carry it forward to final victory that will certainly be ours.”



The Cadet Regiment, 1918,

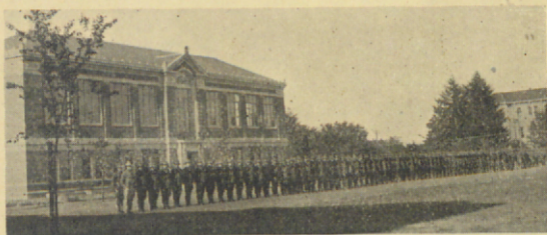
In concluding the inaugural exercises, President Kerr urged the students to be patient and cheerful under initial difficulties, and to strive to be worthy of the great trust the country had imposed upon them. The following excerpts convey something of the spirit of his address:

“This is one of the greatest days in the history of American education. The National Government, in the establishment of the Stu-



dents Army Training Corps, has thus recognized the importance and value of college training in preparing for that leadership required in winning the war. As announced, there are at this hour some 150,000 representatives of American youth assembled on the campuses of the colleges and universities of the country,—young men who are being inducted into the Students Army Training Corps, the Army of the United States.

“Young men, I greet you and assure you of a cordial welcome to the Oregon State Agricul-



Section “B” Men on Parade Ground

tural College. Everything possible will be done for your comfort, to promote your success while you are in this institution. You have come from the homes of the people throughout our own State and in many other states. You will find conditions here very different from your home environment. Army barracks in time of war are not palatial dwelling places, where conditions are conducive to lives of ease and luxury. Conditions, however, will be found most wholesome in the barracks of this

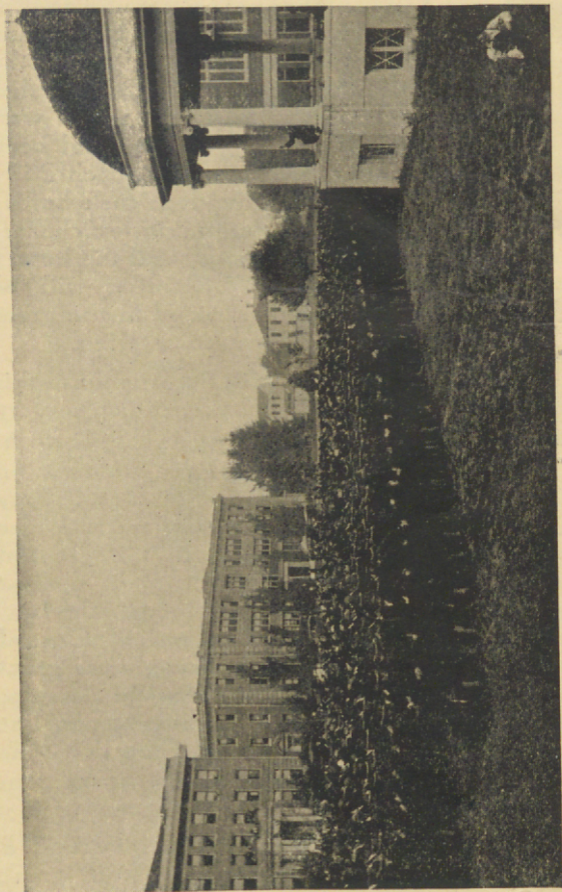


institution. You are not here merely that you may have the advantages of the training afforded by the College in promoting your own success in the future. You are here as worthy representatives of the Republic, in training that you may do your part in the great world war.

“Up to last night some 2400 men had been listed. The number no doubt will reach 2800 to 3000. We have a tremendous task before us, but with the spirit of determination characteristic of American democracy, and the hearty cooperation of all, these difficulties will be surmounted, and we shall succeed in the great undertaking upon which we are entering.

“The United States will be spending this year for your training and sustenance a very large amount of money. Why is the Government willing to spend this large amount on your training? Not that you individually may be more successful in the future, but because the United States is engaged in the greatest war in the history of the world, a war against despotism, against tyranny, against the unconscionable autocratic militarism of Central Europe. And in the gigantic struggle the great need at this time is for trained leadership, leadership not only in the fighting forces, but also in the war industries back of the lines. It is for this leadership that you are being prepared.

“With the true spirit of democracy and a determination of purpose worthy of our great Republic, we must consecrate our lives to hu-



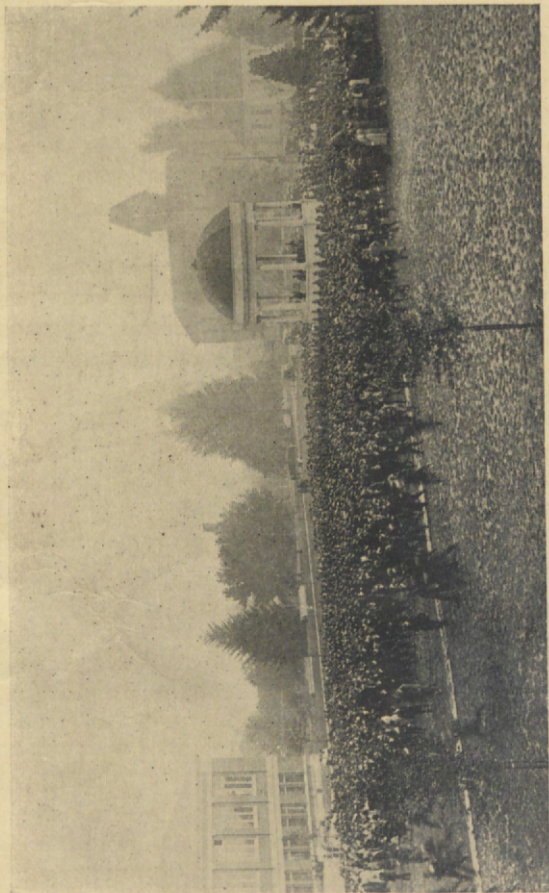
President Kerr addressing the S. A. T. C. Oct. 1.

manity, never ceasing, whatever the sacrifice. until all nations, weak and strong alike, shall have equal protection and the people made secure in their liberties.

“Finally, my friends, the Oregon State Agricultural College consecrates itself and its entire organization,—the staff and plant, buildings, equipment, and grounds, to this great cause of democracy, in the service of our country and of the world.”

Students in the high schools of Oregon will doubtless be interested in these facts concerning the S. A. T. C. They will be interested also to know that the studies of the young people in the College, both men and women, have been carried forward during these stirring months with unabated enthusiasm and success. The military idea has intensified, rather than weakened, the idea of study and the sense of responsibility with which it is pursued. Since larger option in the election of studies will now be allowed, students are looking keenly into their plans for the future to determine what courses to pursue. There is a growing realization, moreover, since the Armistice was signed, that education, especially technical education, which has been so valuable an asset during the war, will be even more valuable in the momentous years of reconstruction that we are facing.





The Inaugural crowd dispersing; students rushing to complete their registration.