

Vorlesung am 3. November 1922

Anwesend: Theo Stempfel, H. Steichmann, R. Hartig

Richard Lister, Kurt von - Oscar Koster - Ernst Rask
Dr. C. D. Spahr.

Der Herr Stempfel führt den Vortrag, der von 2. bis
3. Uhr nachmittags gehalten wird. Der Vortrag wird
mit Beifall, regem Interesse.

Der Philadelphia Turnverein der unteren die Gründung einer
Turnabteilung, der von 30 Turnern beiliegen und von Leiter
Karl Heinenmann ist.

Der Herr Turnlehrer Chris Neubauer, der die Gründung der
Turnabteilung in der Turnabteilung ist die untere Turnabteilung
der American Physical Education Association in Springfield Mass.
mit Beifall, regem Interesse, wurde Turnlehrer Louis Appel in Hologra
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Günther L. Stempfel
Richard Lister

2. Oktober

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Bestimmung fallen, wird die deutsche Turnerschaft wohl nichts einzuwenden haben.

Am 19. Oktober erschien in der Presse des Landes eine Depesche aus Washington des Inhalts, dass der Kriegssekretär Weeks für den 16. November eine Konferenz hervorragender Erzieher und anderer interessierter Personen einberufen habe, um darüber zu beraten, wie unserer männliche Jugend eine bessere körperliche und geistige Erziehung zuteil werden könne als bisher. Es wurde besonders betont, dass bei der Aushebung für den Kriegsdienst die Hälfte der jungen Männer körperlich untauglich sei, dass diesem Uebelstand

INDIANAPOLIS TURNER

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Vice-President—Oscar H. Koster.
Secretary—J. Oscar Ulrich.
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PHYSICAL EDUCATION VS. MILITARY TRAINING.

The newspapers recently carried a story from Washington containing the information that the Secretary of War has called a meeting of prominent educators and others interested in education, to find ways and means for a more thorough and general mental and physical training of our young manhood. It was pointed out that the results of the draft during the world war were discouraging because they showed a very large percentage of young men unfit for military service.

For many years the American Gymnastic Union has called attention to this weakness of the American nation and has time and again urged the necessity of physical education for the masses so that boys and girls, men and women would receive the physical, mental and moral training making for good citizenship. The above newspaper report, therefore, encouraged the secretary of the National Executive Committee of the A. G. U. to write the War Department asking whether it would be agreeable for our organization to send a representative to this conference. A reply signed by Brig.-Gen. Lassiter, Assistant Chief of Staff, contained the information that a representative of the Gymnastic Union would be welcome at the meeting. A copy of the agenda, or program of the conference, was attached, and it showed that the purpose of the conference is not to find ways and means for better physical education of the American men, but to assist the War Department in extending military training. The agenda states that the subject before the conference is "Preparation of the youth of the country for citizenship and National Defense." It further contains the following:

"A two-fold aspect is thus given to the subject before the conference for the reason that preparation of the youth of the country for citizenship and national defense go hand in hand and can not be separated one from the other. What serves to build up the character of our boys, to give them vigorous bodies, and to instill in them due ideas as to the responsibilities and obligation of citizenship, also serves to give them the initial prepa-

ration to become efficient defenders of our country. It is, hence, proposed that the conference consider: (a) Measures for developing in our young manhood the vigorous and disciplined mind and body, the co-operative spirit and the sense of the obligations and duties owed our country and its institutions needed to make good citizens and effective defenders of the country. (b) Development for boys and young men of a system of voluntary military training calculated to produce the officers and men required for our citizen forces." The agenda shows that since the establishment of the Citizens' Military Training Camps, 32,000 men have been trained at a cost of about \$74 per man; 15 per cent. of the men trained have been recommended to become non-commissioned officers, and 2 per cent. have been recommended for examinations to become reserve officers. The Reserve Officers' Training Corps have during the last four years (including the present fiscal year) cost \$13,000,000 and have produced approximately 7,000 reserve officers (the number including an estimate of 3,500 for the present fiscal year). In addition these corps have received supplies and equipment from the army. It may well be stated that the training of each reserve officer cost \$2,000. The question before the conference, the agenda states, is: "What are other missions of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (besides the production of reserve officers)? What can be done to strengthen the organization and its administration? To coordinate the work with academic work?" etc.

The program of the conference is so totally different from that to be expected after reading the telegram from Washington which appeared in the newspapers, that the National Executive Committee of the Gymnastic Union decided not to send a representative to the meeting and instead to publish a letter which the chairman of the committee, Mr. Theo. Stempfel, has addressed to Gen. Lassiter. It explains the viewpoint of our members regarding physical education vs. military training, and we can not refrain from publishing it entirely. The letter follows:

November 6, 1922.

Brigadier-General Wm. Lassiter,
Assistant Chief of Staff,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Sir: My attention was called to your courteous letter of October 27 to our Secretary, Mr. H. Steichmann, with reference to the proposed conference on "Training of the Youth of the Country" to be held at Washington, D. C., on the 16th-18th of this month.

From newspaper reports which occasioned Mr. Steichmann's inquiry at the War Department, we learned that the conference is being called for the purpose of finding means of "co-operation of all agencies engaged in improvement of the nation's young manhood whose physical and mental shortcomings were disclosed by appli-

cation of the war-time draft law." It is a matter of serious concern that in comparison with other countries the percentage of our young men physically unfit for military duties was surprisingly high. This seems to indicate that our whole educational system is in urgent need of revision, especially with reference to the physical training of our youth.

The American Gymnastic Union of whose Executive Committee I am chairman, has for over seventy years advocated by word and deed, systematic physical education of young men and women, to prepare them for the daily struggle in life during times of peace by means of class work in setting-up exercises, apparatus work, by games, athletics and such activities as swimming and "hiking," all of which though primarily intended to be helpful toward cheerful and peaceful living, are incidentally prerequisites for military training. Should the time ever come—which God forbid—when our country again needs its man power to defend it, it will take but little military drilling to develop efficient soldiers of those who from childhood on have received systematic physical education.

Military training is of necessity one-sided. It is limited to the able-bodied and must disregard the weak who need physical exercises more than the normally developed. It is solely intended for young men, excluding young women entirely. It impedes the development of individuality, because it demands strict obedience and discipline. Its ultimate aim is the creation of automatons as part of the fighting machine. It arouses the spirit of militarism for the suppression of which our youth so gallantly fought across the ocean. It fosters class distinction between the private, the non-commissioned officer and the lieutenant.

As a member of the School Board of the city of Indianapolis I had occasion to observe the results of military training in the high schools of this city. A sham aristocracy became discernible after a short time. The officers created, by merit or by pull, from the ranks of the high school boys, attempted the organization of an Officers' Casino. The non-commissioned officers tried to follow the example and the privates were naturally to be excluded from both clubs.

One of the regular officers in command told the boys that he was intent on making good soldiers of them "so they could lick the world." This may be a laudable ambition for a soldier, but from an educational point of view such a spirit is deplorable.

In the agenda for the conference which you were kind enough to attach to your letter, stress is laid upon the development of soldiers and reserve officers by means of military training of the youth. I have no criticism to offer respecting your program. It is quite natural that the War Department should take that view but it seems to me that the problem of "Training of the Youth of the

(Continued on page 3)

s fragte daraufhin beim kanischen Turnerbunde, ist, gestattet sein würde, r Konferenz zu senden. -Chef des Generalstabs, des Turnerbundes will- chlagene Programm der ss es sich ausschliesslich rziehung handelt, nicht atische Körpererziehung. i einem längeren Schrei- unkt des Turnerbundes rt von einer Beschickung e. Die gesamte Korre- m englischen Teil dieser

Country" belongs in the resort of the Department of Education. This department should initiate a plan for rational physical training of our youth by giving this branch of education more attention in the school curriculum than heretofore.

I am writing this letter not in a spirit of antagonism. From the standpoint of the War Department the calling of the conference as outlined in agenda is fully justified. I feel, however, that an explanation of our failure to attend the conference is due you from an organization that has long been working along lines of endeavor that contribute toward the most essential element of preparedness. Without the slow but sure and rational training of our youth, the expenditure of millions of dollars for armament would be of little avail. And it adds to the satisfaction given by endeavors along these lines to feel that they are one phase of preparedness in which there is no possibility of waste. Though the results of such training count heavily in war, they count even more in the production of cheerful, efficient and peaceful living.

Very respectfully,
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(Continued on page 3)

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*Indianapolis Branch of the
American Gymnastic Union*



*Published in the Interest of
Rational Physical Education*

Vol. IV, No. 2

NOVEMBER, 1922

Indianapolis, Ind.

PICNICKING IN BROWN.

Did you ever hear of such an eventful picnic before? Why, it was just one excitement after the other. Of course, you know what it's all about? We refer to that grand and wonderful automobile trip to Brown County one fine Sunday morning toward the end of October.

The trouble started before the party ever got started. There were about fifty people, members and mere ladies and even students, and General Sputh had only six machines at his disposal. Never before has the telephone in the Athenaeum been used so much at so early an hour, and after an half hour's ringing Doc succeeded in arousing Jack Goodman, Art Klotz and Lazure Goodman from their Sunday morning slumbers. In the meantime, Vera Schulmeyer had packed and re-packed the beans and the chili and the cake so as to squeeze all as close as possible to the gasoline tank in Pete Bender's flivver. Well, instead of 6:30, the procession consisting of nine autos finally got under way at 7:30.

Everything went fine as far as Franklin. The leaders had to wait about ten minutes for the rest of the gang to re-assemble, and then the procession could continue. A near-catastrophe was barely avoided when Klotz managed to stop his car just about six inches from Dr. Maxwell, who happened to be down in Franklin early that Sunday morning and was bending over inspecting the under side of his car all unaware that he came within a few inches of being kicked into the air by Art's bucking Monroe.

The next re-assembling place was Columbus, and then the party entered Brown County. The road was in fine condition, scarcely to be called dusty in the early forenoon when the traffic was still light. The hills were enveloped in the typical Brown County haze, and the trees gloried in all hues from green to blood-red. Shortly after leaving Columbus, our leader, Harold Schulmeyer, was the first to lament over a puncture. A little further down towards Nashville, a serious accident was avoided by good luck and the presence of mind of the driver, Jack Goodman. Another car stopping on the road, started just as Jack was trying to pass him, and in order to avoid hitting the other machine Jack had to turn left and went into the ditch. He tore down three



**Tuesday
November 14, 1922
8:00 P. M.**

A national movement for the extension of Physical Education through the system evolved by the Turners—now going on.

The local movement is to be started on the above date.

It should have the support of every man, woman and child connected with the Turners.

There is no cause of more value than ours for the community and the nation.

Help us to help others to benefit themselves.

Lend your support by attending the above meeting. No subscriptions or donations will be asked. Men, women, youths and misses invited. The children of the day classes need not attend the meeting; they will receive their instructions during class hours.

Remember, this is one of the most important meetings of the Indianapolis Turners.

**Attend Tuesday Evening,
November 14th**

fence posts and wrapped all of the barb wire he could gather, around his front tires, but he managed to keep the car in a fairly upright condition so that all his passengers could make their exit scared and pale but none the worse for the experience. There were enough Fords in the party to enable Jack to borrow the necessary tires and he arrived at the picnic place not much later than the other parties.

This place was on Richard Lieber's site not far from Nashville. As soon as the cars were parked in a straight row, the committee got busy with the preparations for the meal which was served in the open, among the beautiful trees. When the mess call came, none too soon for the hungry mob of fifty Turner boys and girls, they were surprised; pork and beans, chili, wonderful coffee, cakes of all kinds (Miss Irmer, where's the recipe for that coffee cake?), pickles and olives, cheese, sausage, celery and even chicken. Don't think that the various foods were served in the above order; but I am sorry to say that some of the picnickers ate them in that order.

After the dinner, a hike of about six miles was taken over the hills of beautiful Brown County which on this Sunday appeared in more splendid dress than I have ever seen it before although I have made trips down there almost every fall for the last twelve years. The members of our auto party were fortunate to see it in all its splendor.

The homeward journey was uneventful excepting that everybody in open cars swallowed more than his or her share of dust that evening. It seems that we will have to build additional roads soon as there are not enough any more for all the automobiles used nowadays. Nevertheless, every member of the party said good night that evening with the thought of wanting to make another trip to Brown County soon.

VISIT THE
PARCEL POST BOOTH
AT THE BAZAAR
DECEMBER 5.

Vor einigen Wochen erhielt der Bundesvorort von der Deutschen Turnerschaft eine offizielle Einladung zum 13. deutschen Turnfest, das vom 14. bis 18. Juli 1923 in München stattfinden wird, und forderte daraufhin die Bundesvereine auf, mitzuteilen, ob sie geneigt seien, an einer gemeinschaftlichen Fahrt zum Turnfest teilzunehmen. Nun lag dem Vorort eine weitere Mitteilung der Deutschen Turnerschaft vor, wonach der Festausschuss in München einstimmig beschlossen hat "Einladungen an das Ausland sollen nur ergehen, soweit es sich nicht um ehemalige Kriegsgegner handelt. Nur die Deutschamerikaner, die Angehörige deutscher Turnvereine sind, sollen eingeladen werden." Weiter heisst es in der Mitteilung "In einer Sitzung mit den Vorsitzenden der Festausschüsse wurde die Liste der zum deutschen Turnfest Einzuladenden endgültig festgesetzt. Die Münchner baten darum, und unser Vorstand gibt ihnen recht, dass alle Deutschen und, soweit wir zu ihnen früher Beziehungen gehabt haben, Turner der während des Weltkrieges neutralen Völker eingeladen werden sollten, aber keine Angehörigen der Völker, die uns mit den Waffen in der Hand gegenübergestanden haben. . . Alle Deutschen, die Ihrem Bunde angehören, werden uns im höchsten Masse willkommen sein; wir dürfen aber, so lange der Krieg mit anderen Mitteln aber nicht weniger grausam gegen uns fortgesetzt wird, unseren Turnern nicht zumuten, etwa Ihrem Bunde angehörige Englisch-Amerikaner als Festgäste zu begrüssen. Besonders in München könnte es, wenn nicht durch unsere Turner so doch durch Zuschauer zu unliebsamen Auftritten kommen, denen unbedingt vorgebeugt werden muss."

Der Bundesvorort bedauert, dass die Verhältnisse die deutschen Turner zu obigem Beschluss gezwungen haben. Von einer offiziellen Beteiligung des Amerikanischen Turnerbundes am deutschen Turnfest in München kann selbstverständlich nicht länger die Rede sein, denn fast ausnahmslos haben die jungen Turner, die am Wettturnen sowie an den Vorführungen des Turnerbundes teilnehmen würden, im Kriegsdienst gestanden und gegen Deutschland gekämpft. Auch scheint man in Deutschland die Stellung des Amerikanischen Turnerbundes immer noch nicht richtig zu verstehen. Allein die Tatsache, dass niemand Mitglied unseres Bundes werden kann, der nicht amerikanischer Bürger ist oder wenigstens ein Gesuch um das Bürgerrecht eingereicht hat, stempelt den Turnerbund als amerikanische Institution. Zwischen deutschamerikanischen und englischamerikanischen Mitgliedern einen Unterschied zu machen, verbietet sich für den Turnerbund ganz von selbst.

Dass trotzdem zahlreiche Mitglieder unseres Bundes dem Münchener Turnfest als Gäste beiwohnen werden, ist wohl sicher und auch gegen die Beteiligung Einzelner, die nicht unter obige

Bestimmung fallen, wird die deutsche Turnerschaft wohl nichts einzuwenden haben.

Am 19. Oktober erschien in der Presse des Landes eine Depesche aus Washington des Inhalts, dass der Kriegssekretär Weeks für den 16. November eine Konferenz hervorragender Erzieher und anderer interessierter Personen einberufen habe, um darüber zu beraten, wie unserer männliche Jugend eine bessere körperliche und geistige Erziehung zuteil werden könne als bisher. Es wurde besonders betont, dass bei der Aushebung für den Kriegsdienst die Hälfte der jungen Männer körperlich untauglich für das Militär befunden wurde und dass diesem Uebelstand gesteuert werden müsse.

Der Schriftwart des Bundesvororts fragte daraufhin beim Kriegsdepartement an, ob dem Amerikanischen Turnerbunde, der an diesen Fragen lebhaft interessiert ist, gestattet sein würde, einen oder mehrere Vertreter zu dieser Konferenz zu senden. Eine vom General Lassiter, Assistens-Chef des Generalstabs, unterzeichnete Antwort hiess Vertreter des Turnerbundes willkommen. Dem Brief lag das vorgeschlagene Programm der Konferenz bei, aus dem hervorging, dass es sich ausschliesslich um die Förderung der militärischen Erziehung handelt, nicht aber um eine vernünftige und systematische Körpererziehung. Bundessprecher Stempfel teilte daher in einem längeren Schreiben an General Lassiter den Standpunkt des Turnerbundes mit und erklärte, warum der Bundesvorort von einer Beschickung der Konferenz Abstand nehmen müsse. Die gesamte Korrespondenz über diese Angelegenheit ist im englischen Teil dieser Nummer veröffentlicht.