

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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SCOPE OF THE PRESIDENCY.

- C. N. Whitman -

An article entitled 'Presidential Aggression' appeared in the last issue of the News Letter. Whatever may have been the esteem entertained by its author for Mr. Nightingale, the article was a rather severe arraignment of his conduct in office, as well as somewhat of a reflection upon the present incumbent. However, it is not my intention to undertake an exoneration of Mr. Nightingale, for this is rendered unnecessary by the high esteem in which members regard his contribution to Association affairs, as his repeated return to office shows; and certainly the maintenance of a public man in office cannot be interpreted as anything other than an approval of the manner in which he has met and solved public questions. Now will I discuss the incident alleged by the previous article as a symptom of my own tendency towards a despotic influence, except to say that it is incorrect, something that may possibly be explained by Mr. Pugsley's absence from the occasion he undertook to describe. Instead of considering such particulars, it is my desire to promote a better understanding of the scope of the presidential office and the proper functions of its incumbents. As the office cannot be separated from its organization, our conceptions of each are intimately related and interdependent.

As originally conceived, Telluride Association was meant to be an association of able and upright men conscientiously bent on their professed purpose. It was never intended that its members should be of such a type as to find burdensome and disagreeable the pursuit of such an honorable and ennobling ideal as that embodied in the preamble of our Constitution. It was expected that members would be selected with a view to their fitness for the task proposed, intellectually and morally, and that, in general, the wheels of our progressive machinery would run smoothly onward. It was expected that the law-abiding and intelligent energy of the individuals in the As-

sociation would be all that was necessary to the application of the constitution and such standards as should be adopted pursuant thereto. In this respect, the Association resembles other institutions. They have all been founded upon the expectation that they would succeed. But the founders of most institutions, taking cognizance of the weaknesses in human nature, realizing that men are subject to error, individually and collectively, have been at pains to provide some means or prevention following. The founders of Telluride Association were no exception to this rule of caution. They included in our constitution a provision for the diversion of our funds, in case the trust to which those funds were dedicated should be violated in letter and spirit. But, as a preliminary measure of precaution, the drafters of our constitution included in it a provision which will be found in practically all organizations, and one which experience has been tried and proved necessary: I refer to the simple, well-known, and obviously essential provision that the executive department shall see to it that the laws are executed. In the constitution of the United States this provision reads, 'The executive power shall be vested in a president', and it is required that the president, upon entering office, shall take the following oath:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The provision corresponding in Telluride Constitution reads:

"To carry out the acts of the Association there shall be elected a president, vice-president, secretary, etc."

Do not infer from my reference to the constitution of the United States that it is intended to draw a complete parallel the presidency of the Association and of the United States, nor between the two insti-

tutions. There are significant differences. But I wish to point out this feature, common to the constitutions of both bodies, respecting the execution of the laws. And in view of the fact that the provision in the Association constitution has been alluded to as 'scant authority', it might not be amiss to remark that the significance of an empowering clause has rarely been measured by its brevity. The words used by the constitution of the United States in conferring the executive authority upon the president are not many in number, but their magnitude in meaning is a matter of common knowledge.

Lest someone instinctively apprehensive of aggression misconstrue me, it may be well to emphasize that nothing said here is in any way intended to indicate that a president of the Association has any arbitrary or despotic power. To the contrary, the president is a servant obeying orders and not making them. No one has ever asserted that he was a preceptor with the authority to originate as well as the duty to enforce law. He is instructed merely to see that what the Association has done in convention is not undone out of convention. He is a servant of the Association 'to carry out its acts'. In this respect, his activity will, in a sense - but a narrow sense only - be negative, and if anyone regards the annulment of an illegal act to be undesirable because of its feature of negation he should address himself to the Association in favor of a reconstruction of the constitution rather than condemn a conscientious incumbent of the executive office for his reliability and official fidelity. I wish it to be understood that I do not regard the presidential office as empowering its incumbent to supervise or direct the members of the Association. As I have said, he is not a preceptor. He is simply obligated to prevent a violation of an act of the Association, in so far as he is able. Thus, if the Association operated thruout the year as originally intended, in an attitude of conscientious conformity to our law and standards, it is plain that the annulments, etc., discussed by Mr. Pugsley would never have occurred.

Permit me to consider some of the complained of acts of Mr. Nightingale in the light of what I have said and by way of illustrating the same.

The first annulment that occurred is one that I would hardly regard as of sufficient importance to mention, and I doubt whether Mr. Nightingale ever thought of it in a very serious manner. At any rate, I find no mention of it in his reports to the convention. The annulment of which I speak is that one which negated an act of the Branch intended to alter the rooming arrangement. In adapting this incident to his purpose, Mr. Pugsley slighted certain elements of relevancy so that it was presented in his article, to use his own words, 'with its good features omitted'. The time of year at which the said motion passed the Branch was exceedingly unpropitious, being but a few days before the final examinations. A change of rooms at that time appeared, to the president, likely to jeopardize the chances for Mr. Houtz to pass his examinations, such a change requiring some time and energy. It likewise threatened the credibility with which Mr. Nightingale hoped to survive his own tests in the law school, as he was then in the midst of reviewing. In annulling the motion, he therefore did so on the ground that it was detrimental to the scholastic interests of the Branch insofar as they were represented by himself and Mr. Houtz; and in so doing, he regarded himself as carrying into effect the act of the convention which prescribes high scholarship for members. Now I shall not deny that the reasoning here may have been carried somewhat far; and, as I have said, Mr. Nightingale himself never laid any stress on this exercise of authority. Therefore, it is almost superfluous to say that no one regards this as a precedent for similar action. I do not. But what I wish to illustrate in this action is this, that the president claimed his authority 'to carry out the acts of the Association'. Whether right or wrong in his application of the principle, he nevertheless attributed his act to the executive principle incorporated in our constitution. If the annulment was unreasonable, the next following convention was a proper forum in which to denounce it, and those members interested in preserving the democracy of the Association should have chosen that opportunity.

The second exercise of executive authority complained of was termed a 'dictatorship' established at the Cornell Branch, consisting of a committee of five appointed by the president. This instance is cited as an aggression, but again no mention is made of the surrounding circumstances which are so necessary to an understanding of the matter. This was the first year that the system of branch charters came into operation. It was well known that the issuance of a suitable charter, as provided by the convention, was the proper procedure, and that the signature thereto of the president was necessary to its validity. But, just what this charter was and just what the duties of the president were was by no means a clear matter, for the printed minutes had not arrived and the president was erroneously given to understand that all of the Branch Government Committee's report had been adopted, whereas only a part thereof had been adopted. It was on October 1st that the president was informed that the Branch Government Report had been adopted in toto, and it was not until December 1st, two months later, that he was told that only the proposed amendments to the by-laws had been made law. And the president's report says; "The original minutes are very confused as to what was adopted." In other words, during the so-called dictatorship all that the president possessed as a guide of what the convention had done was his memory and a copy of the Branch Government Report, the partial adoption of which was unknown to him. With these very relevant circumstances in mind we can understand the reasons which prompted the president to act as he did. He was conscientiously endeavoring to 'carry out the acts of the Association', as he understood them from his best available information. So here again we find that the constitution was at least regarded as the guide and not the victim; and that the conduct of the president was that of a servant striving to fulfill his task to the best of his ability and understanding. Understand that I am not saying whether I approve of the committee of five in the light of subsequent information, or even in the light of the then present information. I am not considering the wisdom of the measure, but simply the principle by which it was held justifiable. I have related the surrounding circumstances merely to show that the president at least professed to the carrying out the acts

of the Association. Nothing done by him justifies the allegation that he claimed any arbitrary or despotic power. No word in his reports to the convention stains the charge that he regards himself as a preceptor. His purpose, so far as declared, was to enforce law and not to make it.

The third incident complained of as an aggression relates to the qualifications for membership in the Cornell Branch. The president interpreted the Association by-laws in such a manner as to limit the membership of the Cornell Branch to such members of Telluride Association as were residing at Ithaca 'under the Association auspices'. As the president explained in his message he considered the evidence of what the convention had done in this respect somewhat ambiguous, and pronounced his interpretation in conviction that it represented the real opinion and desire of the Association. That Mr. Nightingale was correct in his belief may be inferred from the adoption by the convention of a report respecting the conduct of officers, in which report we find the following words;

"The President: This officer has been diligent and has acted with rare good judgment and wisdom thruout the year."

Speaking mildly, it would seem that the convention did not entertain the opinion now expressed by Mr. Pugsley to the effect that the president had 'settled into a career of constitutional subversion'. And it is proper to note that the approbation above mentioned occurred after ALL of the alleged unconstitutional acts complained of had taken place. It is possible that some one may say that the convention did actually consider the said acts unconstitutional notwithstanding its explicit statement to the contrary. But to so say would be a severe condemnation of the intelligence and honor of the convention, in that it makes it a party to the alleged subversion. Obviously then, in this interpretation, the president judged, and judged correctly, that he was carrying 'out the acts of the Association'.

Permit me now to illustrate the 'executive

principle' by one other instance of its application which the article in the preceding issue omitted to mention. I regard this annulment as being particularly apt as an illustration, and do not understand how an impartial consideration of the subject can be complete without it. The Cornell Branch resolved to pay half the training table expenses of certain of its members engaged in crew work from funds appropriated by the Association for the operation and maintenance of Telluride House. In annulling this motion, the president did so 'on the ground of diversion of funds from a use for which they had been specifically appropriated by the convention'. In a previous veto of a similar motion the president stated 'that the Branch had no more right to make this diversion than to pay the board bill of scholars who spend their holidays in New York City'. This annulment is a clear and concise example of an attempt to safeguard the constitution and not subvert it, in that it confines the expenditures of funds to those channels ordered by the convention.

So far, I have considered the constitution and acts related thereto as they appear by themselves. The article on Presidential Aggression, in averring that 'no great responsibility' was intended to be placed upon the president, cited certain facts as a basis upon which to impute to the drafters of the constitution a similar intent. The youthful age of our first president is mentioned as indicative of this, and the statement is made that 'practically speaking, this young president was selected by those who drafted the constitution'. This statement is rather remarkable in more senses than one, and it is extraordinary that one who was present at the constitutional convention should infer from the interest shown by the framers of the constitution in the election of the first president that they regarded his office as one of 'no great responsibility'. However, without dealing further with this phase of the matter, it will suffice to say that if we are to infer the intention of the drafters of the constitution from their acts, then we must reach a conclusion somewhat opposed, mildly speaking, to that reached by Mr. Pugsley. Next to Mr. Nunn, the man who took the most prominent part in the drafting was Mr. Nightingale himself.

In summing up the scope of the presidency, you will understand from what I have said that I regard its function as a safeguarding of the constitution and enactments pursuant thereto. I do not claim, nor do I find anyone else claiming, that the office confers upon its incumbent any arbitrary or despotic authority. When the acts of the association are being faithfully executed by all of its members there is no room for presidential action. There is then no room for any officer or representative to take a position of ascendancy other than that legitimately acquired through his own personality. The annulments of the past have been brought into existence not thru usurpation by the president, but through delinquency on the part of other members.

In condemning unconstitutional conduct, aggression, and dictation, I am sure that Mr. Pugsley will find himself heartily supported by Mr. Nightingale, myself, and all other members. We join with Mr. Pugsley in wishing that all branches and members will begin a 'new tradition of constitutionalism by standing squarely on their own feet'. In other words, we fervently hope that the obligations of membership will be lived up to by members, individually and collectively. We hope that when the convention has consumed much time, energy, and money in the course of the establishment of standards wherewith to guide us on our journey, that they will not always be waved aside as 'trivial'. We hope that when the members cast their votes at conventions it will be in a public spirited and not a self-seeking manner. We hope that self-respect and honor will hold sway by virtue of their own appeal to manhood, that coercion will not be necessary to enforce a solemn and just obligation, and that the peace of honest living will settle over our deliberations. We hope that every member will consider himself charged with an active execution of our purpose, and the many will not be content to leave the ship to the care of the few. Indeed, it is discouraging to see how our ideals, our enthusiasm, our movement as a unit has been so dependent upon a small minority. The destiny of the Association rests upon the inspiration and enthusiasm of men who appreciate its purpose and are ready to practice its theory. It is to be regretted that Mr. Pugsley has not used his talent to expose the weakness of the many rather than condemn the strength of the few.

THE CHANCELLOR AND COMMERCIAL ALLIANCES.

- E. D. Pugsley -

Three subjects which have occupied my mind for some time are so inter-related that their treatment can scarcely be separated. Let me put them in the form of propositions.

1. The Chancellor should devote a large part of his attention to forming commercial alliances for the Association.

2. The Beaver River Power Company should be used in large part by the Association as a training school for our applicants and members.

3. Agriculture, as a form of commercial activity, is a doubtful venture for our boys in their first years of training.

In a recent conversation at Ithaca in the presence of several of the members, the Chancellor declared that the Association was entitled, by reason of the compensation which he received from that source, to from one-third to one-half his time. We all appreciate that in our Chancellor we have at least a five thousand man, but how many thought that he regards his position as Chancellor as a part-time job. We expect our Chancellor, coming as he should from the membership, to make some sacrifices, and we expect him to have one job, and that, the job of being Chancellor of Telluride Association. We have made him President of The Beaver River Power Company for our interests, not for his. If he regards his position there as divorced in any way from his position as Chancellor, he is, in my humble opinion, in error. I hasten to vote in passing that I am not forgetting that The Beaver River Power Company has other stockholders besides Telluride Association to whom consideration is due.

This year we have no Branch at Beaver. I have

asked several members the question, "Why haven't we a Branch at Beaver this year." The general reply has been a vacant stare. Let me answer the question as the facts have been presented to me by officials of the company.

Telluride Association in its own name owns over three-eighths of the stock. About one-half of the stock is owned by members of the Association, members of the Alumni organization, and their wives, and families. The Treasurer has sent me the list of these different totals.

Last summer after the adjourning of the Convention, the directors of The Beaver River Power Company decided not to have a Branch of Telluride Association at Beaver this year. The decision was based on two main grounds, if I correctly remember what the Chancellor told me. Last year the instructors at the Beaver Branch were not paid by the Association for, being members, it would have been contrary to our Constitution for them to have received a salary. Furthermore they were not paid by the Company, but by an interested third party. This year this source of compensation was withdrawn, and the Association had not provided for it at Convention, having worked on the faith that the Branch at Beaver would be again provided for as in the past. The Treasurer of the Company advised that a Branch at Beaver would be justified commercially, in that it would assist the Company in securing the distribution system of Beaver City. However, the proposition was dismissed by the directors, some of whom probably thought they were representing our interests, on the ground that the Chancellor and the Dean would not have time to devote the proper attention to the work at Beaver, as they would probably be engaged in putting the new agricultural branch into shape. I believe the capacity of both men was understated. If not, the next Convention should accept their resignations.

At this time the cessation of our Branch work at Beaver seems to be a step toward disintegration. The work at Claremont, which was substituted under an arrangement kindly meant, has been to date very unsatisfactory. Next Convention should instruct our representatives in The Beaver River Power Company to do all in their power to reestablish the work at Beaver. Proper

appropriations should be made to pay instructors. In the past the question as to the necessity of subsidizing some commercial branches has not received the proper proportion of attention.

The reestablishment of the work at Beaver next year is advisable, as I see it, for two reasons. In the first place, the work interests young fellows of the age of our members and applicants at the elementary branches. Agriculture has probably been the cause of more "why boys (and perhaps girls) leave home" than any other one thing, except marriage. It is difficult to interest boys in that work, and without interest the esprit de corps is likely to be very low. Perhaps my viewpoint on this question is warped. I can but express the results of my slight experience. I do not think agriculture work will ever be a successful basis for the training of the type of man we covet.

We need commercial alliances of a type that will interest our junior members. The work with the power companies has been very successful, and the Chancellor should seek to extend that or suggest substitutes. I commend the three propositions with which I began to his attention, and to the attention of all the members.

New York City, April 15th, 1917.

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INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AS THE RESULT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT -
A DISSERTATION ON THE PREAMBLE.
- C. N. Whitman -

My observation leads me to suspect that the widest chasm between the Association as it exists in theory and as it exists in practice may be explained by a disregard of that portion of our trust declared in the latter half of the preamble. After declaring our purpose to be the promotion of the highest well being, the preamble prescribes two ways in which we are to pursue that purpose. First, we are to broaden the field of knowledge. This course is fairly comprehensible to us. But when we are asked to adopt as the rule of our conduct those truths from which flows individual freedom as the result of self-government in harmony with the Creator, it seems that our perception grows dim. The idea that individual freedom and self-government in obedience to law are one and the same thing appears somewhat as a paradox. Yet this is the purport of the preamble. It states that those laws which are in harmony with the Creator are truths and that freedom will be attained by their adoption of our own individual volition. It prescribes self-government by the voluntary adoption of rules of conduct ordained by a superior power. Self-government is of course used as synonymous with self-restraint, and it is the superficial verbal contradiction between restraint and freedom which has caused this part of the preamble to pass unnoticed as something insoluble. To not a few, the idea of securing individual freedom by living above the law which could otherwise be enforced against us is a phantom freedom. However, I have found no one who, upon reflection, could discover any other kind of freedom. In endeavoring to reconcile restraint with freedom, I do so because I have seen but little self-restraint in the Association, in that its laws have been respected or disrespected too largely according to temperament.

All our life is lived under law. Law is universal, whether it be the law of nature, of government or of

subordinate institutions. For instance, consider the domain of natural law. It is a law of nature that water shall run down hill and not up hill; that a tree shall spread its roots beneath the soil and not above; that night shall succeed day; that the planets shall revolve in orbits; that a cause shall have an effect. Nowhere in nature do we find anything operating free from law. The more we investigate anything the more laws we find in it. The fact is, we know it only through the laws of its being. The exposition of the nature of anything is nothing more than the exposition of its laws. So, if a man wishes to concern himself with nature he does so by first obeying its laws. If he wishes to utilize the natural forces of light and electricity he proceeds first to learn the laws by which they operate and then conforms to them. He does not, in the name of freedom, undertake to control the forces of nature by an autocratic command. It would hardly be profitable for our legislature to enact statutes purporting to reverse the law of gravity or the movement of the tide. We realize that natural law is irresistible and inflexible, and we proceed to conform to its mandates, pleasantly or unpleasantly, but nevertheless conform. Our so-called adaptation of nature to man's needs is thus nothing but an adoption of its laws in our undertakings. It is as true to say that the fruit of modern science is as much an adaptation of man to nature as of nature to man.

But nature is not the sole source of our law. Man makes it. We have the constitution of the United States, of New York State, and of private institutions. We have federal statutes, state statutes, municipal ordinances. And beyond these written laws we have an infinite number of unwritten laws governing our daily social conduct. In whatever sphere we move, our every act brings some law into operation. Whether it be the payment of a sum of money for an article of merchandise in conformity to the law of compensation, or a journey from one place to another along a designated route called a public highway in conformity to the mandate not to trespass, or an obeisance in the drawing room in conformity to the law of courtesy -- whatever the act may be, it brings some law, written or unwritten, into effect. I do not mean to say that this operation of law is all conscious. To the contrary, most of it is unconscious,

and that is the significant thing with us. When the law and one's natural act are in accord, there is no question of restraint, no problem of individual freedom. Nor do I mean to say that there is no such thing as disregard of the law, but the law nevertheless comes into sway in the form of a penalty. For instance, the laws of health may be disregarded, as may also the laws of prosperity, in which case however we have neither health nor prosperity. But the question of penalties is not the one I am now interested in. For the present, it is sufficient to sharpen our realization of the universality of law.

Notwithstanding this universality of law, the words freedom and liberty remain shibboleths of all times. We still regard the United States as a land of liberty notwithstanding the many massive volumes necessary to contain its many statutes. The problem of our preamble will be solved if we can reconcile this sway of law with the freedom of the individual living under the law. I submit to you that there is and can be of necessity only one form of freedom, and that is a living above the law, or, as the preamble states it, an adoption as the rule of conduct of those truths from which flows individual freedom as a result of self-government in harmony with the Creator. To live above the law, to adopt it as the rule of conduct, means voluntary conformity as distinguished from involuntary conformity. And it is this voluntary feature of conformity which opens the door to individual freedom.

I said above that much of our conformity to law was unconscious. It is also temperamental. Governmental law being begotten of man naturally reflects public opinion, and most people are by their disposition in accord with the law. Our natural conduct is in accord with the law in most of its domain. Hence, its mandatory character is not interpreted as an abridgment of our individual freedom. For instance, we have obeyed the law forbidding murder, and I dare say that we should have refrained from such a deed even tho no prohibition existed. Much of our lawful conduct is of this predispositional character, and that is why the idea of individual liberty remains. Where a law is obeyed voluntarily it is not considered a restraint.

But of course our temperaments do not bring us into accord with all of the law. Being an expression of the opinion of the majority of voters, it follows that the law is unrepresentative of the minority. Most of us have been in the minority at some time or other on some law and it follows that for most of us there is a portion of the law that is disagreeable. It is just here that temperament ceases to provide for freedom and that self-government and self-restraint must step in if the freedom of the individual is to be complete. He must by his own initiative and voluntary adoption of the law of his organization achieve his individual freedom. His organization may be the nation, the state, or Telluride Association. Our subscription of the Constitution and our acceptance of membership pledged us to this self-government, individually and collectively.

Do not understand me to advocate the adoption of any law regardless of its source and the manner of its promulgation. To the contrary, I believe that all governments receive their just powers from the consent of the governed. But it is unnecessary to consider this phase of the problem because no member of this organization alleges that his membership came into existence in any manner other than by his consent. The authority of the Constitution and of the laws passed in accord therewith are the laws of a government whose powers are derived from the governed.

Nor is it to be inferred that I deny the right of reformation to the law of Telluride Association, whether the law in question be the acts of the conventions or the Constitution itself. But I simply direct your attention to the fact that this law provides its own method of reformation. There is no justification for the suspension of this legitimate means of reformation, in favor of anarchy or arbitrary individuality repudiating its trusteeship.

In conclusion, permit me to epitomize what I have said, law is universal. Involuntary compliance means a loss of freedom whereas voluntary compliance means its attainment. Freedom and living above the law are one and the same thing. An important feature of membership in our organization is the attainment

of this freedom. Our constitutional obligation pre-
scribes the voluntary adoption of natural law, of the
laws of a government deriving its powers from the
governed, and of such other rules of conduct as pro-
mote the highest well being and are thereby in harmony
with the Creator.

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THE QUESTION BOX.

Dear Mr. Editor:

May I report? On November 1st, I quit my
job in the Nevada Schools to become a member of the
firm of Coleman & Tucker. We are situated in the old
offices occupied by Judge Whitecotton and Grant Bagley
in Provo, and my duties include janitorial services
and other matters of importance becoming the junior
member of a firm. I am hoping to share my janitorial
duties with Hickey Whitecotton, whom we expect to come
into the offices during the summer.

We have been exceptionally busy. I say this for
two reasons: because you expect a young lawyer to say
it, and because it is true. There also seems to be
two reasons for our being busy: we have a fair amount
of work, and I am so slow in getting accustomed to
procedural matters that I am not handling my share of
it. However, you may tell the boys who are taking law
that they are going in the right direction. After four
months practice I am certainly far the law as far as I
know it; and I am certainly finding out how much law
I do not know.

Having made my confession, may I now ask of your
official and representative self a question: What, in
your opinion, will be the effect on the Association of
the establishment of the Central Branch in the east in-
stead of in the west? When I voted money for the es-
tablishment of the Central Branch, I rather took it for
granted that such Branch would be in the west. On
after-thought, I conclude that I was not justified in

taking this for granted, but if the question of the establishment of one Central Branch in the east had come up, I should have given the matter further consideration. Inasmuch as one Association member has generously made the Virginia Branch possible, we certainly cannot object from the standpoint of the Association; but before any large expenditure of Association funds is made I would like to see the matter given more thought than I have given it. It would certainly be a proper question for consideration at the next Convention.

In checking over our membership, I find that of the one hundred and two members, forty-four come from the State of Utah, and eighteen from the city of Provo. This shows that more than forty per cent. of our members come from one of the smallest states in the union, and that more than fifteen per cent. of our members come from a town of ten thousand population. The causes of this condition are apparent. Up until recently the main working Branches of the Association have been located in Utah and the immediate vicinity and have centered in the City of Provo. It would therefore seem that the location of our Branches has a very strong influence in the determination of our membership.

With the establishment of the Central Branch in Virginia and the withdrawal of the men from the Beaver Branch, I do not suppose there are more than a dozen members doing Association work west of the Mississippi. If this condition continues and the forces at work in the past still exist, at the end of ten years the Association will be made up almost entirely of western men. It is not the idea of the writer that eastern men will harm the Association, but he feels that a combination of eastern and western men will help it.

There is another phase of the matter: not only will the location of all our main Branches in the east have a direct influence upon the Association by determining the make-up of its membership, but the influence of the west upon those members of the Association who spend time there is of value. The influence of the east on the members of the west has

been equally valuable, but the combination of the two certainly has merit.

While the Association had its beginning in the most western part of the west, and while I had always looked upon the Association as western in spirit, whatever that means, I feel certain that the founders were above any petty ideas of sectionalism and I am hoping that such ideas do not actuate me in my present position. But after all is said and done, if the Association has any further money to spend upon Central Branches, would it not be well, before greatly extending our holdings in Virginia, to consider the creation of another Central Branch in California or somewhere in the West?

Most respectfully yours,

J. B. Tucker.

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THE ASSOCIATION AND THE WAR.

- C. N. Whitman -

As long as democracy and autocracy the world over continue engaged in a conflict involving the destiny of nations, among them the United States, it is not to be supposed that the course of the Association will flow on undisturbed. Now that our own country has entered the lists of those states fighting for popular government, we shall soon feel the pressure of the vast undertaking in a manner and to an extent quite unknown to us in the past. And this pressure will increase with every day added to the life of the war. So in considering plans of wisdom for the Association, it behooves us to form a judgment as to the probable duration of the war.

Permit me to quote from our late ambassador to Germany:

"There is a danger now of another delusion, and that is that the war is soon to be over. Don't believe that. It is going to be a long war The Germans are not going to be beaten by an internal revolution. They are not going to be beaten because they need food We should get out of our minds at once the notion that the war will soon come to an end. To act on such a premise would be great folly."

And as a New York newspaper says;

"No man in this country is better qualified to judge the staying powers of Germany, or has better information about the actual conditions within the empire than James W. Gerard, former ambassador to Germany."

In agreement with Mr. Gerard we find most of our men of national prominence. Nor does the notion of a short war find any encouragement in the action of our government at Washington. The war measures being adopted show that neither Congress or the President indulge an expectation of a short war.

With prospects of a long war, it is becoming to members of the Association to reflect upon what may be in store for it. Four members of Cornell Branch have departed to join some of the war industries, and not a few others are contemplating enlistment in the training camps for Reserve Officers. I presume the tendencies towards patriotic service are strong thruout the Association, and that many of its members will soon be part of our war machine. It is obvious that the presence of a quorum at our proposed spring convention is in doubt, if not improbable. It is therefore needful for members to look ahead to the possibility of no official Association program next year.

However, in case we are fortunate enough to see a quorum convene at the appointed place and time, we shall be faced with some grave questions concerning the wisest plan for us to adopt. As I have said, in my judgment it will be neither feasible nor possible

to provide for a continuance of our academic work in its past form. If Cornell University continues its scholastic activity next fall, it will be with decimated numbers. If the Association should provide for educational work at colleges, that will also be done with decimated numbers.

The purpose of the Government of the United States and of the Association are one and the same, the promotion of the highest well-being. It is in the pursuit of this purpose that the United States are now in the war, and this purpose will be subserved by members of the Association who make a wise choice of some form of patriotic service.

If a quorum should convene this spring, it may be wise for the convention to launch into some united undertaking in the name of the Association. An ambulance corps for field service abroad has been suggested. Such a proposal will, like all other proposals, meet both approval and disapproval. It is here mentioned simply as a suggestion along the line of some common action. It is not unnatural that some members should be interested in contributing their share of energy to the desired victory as a unit. However, at this early stage of affairs, I forbear from proposing anything as its advocate.

In conclusion, there is one thing that no member of the Association should do at any time. He should not dismiss the Association from his mind and heart as tho its survival were no concern of his. If the interests of the institution are worth considering in time of peace, they are worth considering in time of war. When a man enlists, does he forget his dependants? To the contrary, his action intensifies his concern on their behalf. The Association is a dependant upon its members, so let us bear this in mind. Whatever we do, wherever we go, individually or collectively, we remain representatives of the Association, and that representation should not be suffered to deteriorate.

EDITORIALY.

- Our Baptism of Fire -

These are parlous times. The mind and heart of every patriotic American are being stirred as they have not been for a generation. We are undergoing an awakening, a rebirth, of our national consciousness, and, perhaps, in no long time, our rejuvenation will be consecrated in a baptism of fire, from which we shall emerge a nation of peoples refined and ennobled in the crucible of war.

In the present scheme of things no responsibilities superior to our allegiance are admitted. We are either Americans subject to the demands of the state, or we are aliens: there are no half-way positions. We are to be either active or passive in our support of the principles the nation aims to defend, and, in such a situation, we members of Telluride Association may undergo a baptism of fire that will test the strength of our organization to the utmost, for it may mean the temporary disintegration of our forces. And so we face a problem.

As an organization, we cannot but realize that other things beside our adherence to the principles in our constitution have bound us together. Association has meant a great deal to us. The fraternal nature and sympathetic character of the ties which have been formed during our relationships with one another must be reckoned big among the things that have guaranteed and prolonged our existence. Without them, we would have been but a mechanical contrivance in the interests of democracy; with them, we have developed a 'group consciousness' devoted to the progress of right living and right thinking, a consciousness of ourselves and our interests that may be aptly, for our purposes, designated the "Telluride way" of "Telluride men". One phase of which we are proud, almost to the point of egotism sometimes, is "I am a member of Telluride Association".

And it is something to be proud of.

But the great thing which will give us a lasting reason for pride in our organization has yet to be accomplished. I refer to the stability of our aims and purposes when we have become one "of", not "in" the group proper. It is as inevitable that our members will become separated from the central body as that ripe fruit will fall to the ground. Our national emergency has merely aggravated what is naturally so, in the flux and flow of the elements of life. So that, recognizing this fact, and having gloried in the strength that the old close unions has engendered, we must prepare to maintain our strength even in disunion. If we have builded our structure well, the scaffolding may be removed without danger of its falling, and our house will brave the elements, and weather whatever disrupting influences energe from the womb of time and chance. But, with our house standing, what of the "men outside"? It is this question which suggests my remarks.

As I write, here in New York City, there are ten Telluride men. All are interested deeply in what is going on "inside". Our conversations are all "Telluride". The old associations have been woven into the fabric of everyone and the threads cannot be cut with the first slash of the knife of separation. But conversational communication is woefully inadequate to sustain all the old interests. We must realize more fully, individually, what a hit-or-miss agent rumor is. Reliability is a characteristic which it has not.

But the News Letter is a hub toward which all mails converge. Help it to perform its function, contribute your ideas to its pages, and by every token, you will be forging links that will bind every member, inside and outside, more closely to each other and to the ideals which we are pledged to support.

If you will just take one thought from this editorial page, let it be this: At least one hundred and fifty persons would like to hear how YOU are ~~happy~~ ~~happy~~ (bad writing) vindicating YOUR existence in this world.

- Duty -

A month from today, two months from today - sometime - the members of Telluride Association will be entrenched on the shattered plains of Europe; patrolling the sea in search for the assassins of the deep; laboring in the factories to produce munitions; tilling the soil to feed the starving nations. Every man will have his task to do, and in the performance of that task, his body, mind, and soul will be taxed to their utmost. Every man will be a unit, a force, to assist in maintaining the ideals and principles which find their embodiment in our American republic. The struggle is one for ideals, for principles, for liberty.

In our Associational affairs we have a war to wage which is no less important to the Association than is the present world conflict to the nation. We have ideals which are over-clouded and indistinct; we have principles which are disregarded and ignored; our liberty is trespassed upon by our officers. But we are handicapped in our fight. We are not able to locate our enemy upon a distant hill, make a few arithmetical calculations, and then proceed to reduce his hill to a yawning crater. We are our own enemies. It is not a foe on the outside which tramples upon our ideals and torpedoes our liberty. The enemy is in our organization. The mist which obscures our ideals is of our own making; we disregard principles of our own choosing. Our grasp upon the scepter of power is weak - almost nerveless - and officers are certainly not to be condemned for asserting more than ordinary power in handling affairs, and they will continue to do so until the members claim their rights. It is absolutely necessary for us to change our attitude toward our organization. We must have more faith in it; we must strive harder toward the end to which our broad general principles lead. No institution or organization has ever been kept alive and in a thriving condition irrespective of what its members thought of it; regardless of their attitude toward it.

Simultaneously with our war for the ideals, principles, and liberty of our nation, let our men fight for the ideals, principles, and liberty of Telluride Association to give it new life and to stand it on a higher plane. The casualty list in each of these wars will be heavy, but the nation and the Association will be purified and strengthened by the sacrifice.

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NEWS NOTES.

H. R. Owen is employed as 'night clerk' in the Wells House, Brooklyn, N. Y. Force of circumstances.

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Cy Ross is employed in a munitions plant "somewhere in New Jersey".

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Clayton Grandy and F. D. Pugsley are employed as 'inspectors' at the International Arms & Fuse Co. Their address is 115 Berkeley Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

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D. J. Nelson has returned to his New York office after completing a recent engagement for his firm in Kansas city. Mr. Nelson entertained the Editor and the former Cornell Branch Executive at a Sunday dinner on the 15th. It was appreciated by his guests.

Dave Lamb, an applicant, has enlisted in the Naval Reserve at Philadelphia, and is now at home on a furlough.

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L. R. Edwards has departed for the big city, where he is working for the Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co. Address 102 Remsen St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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S. S. Walcott dropped in for a two day visit with the Cornell Branch the first of the month.

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R. G. Evans, who has been attending Northwestern, has passed examinations, and reported at training camp on May 8th. His new address is unknown.

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L. H. Lathrop has been extended membership in Eta Kappa Nu, the honorary electrical engineering society.

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W. H. Maguire has been elected to membership in the Order of the Coif, honorary law society.

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H. N. Diederichs has application in for position in the Engineering Corps of the United States Army.

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'Bill' Whitney of Yale spent four days of his spring vacation as guest of Cornell Branch.

E. L. Houtz has enlisted in the naval coast defense reserve, and has been assigned to the armed yacht 'Sorsair'. Later notice reports Houtz ill - pneumonia. No knowledge as to his condition.

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P. L. Clark has joined the Cornell Ambulance Corps. He sailed for France on May 12th. We have not his new address.

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Dr. E. A. Loew is at present the guest of Telluride Association at the Cornell Branch.

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Several members of Cornell Branch have left for Reserve Officers' Training Camps. E. C. Bonnett left May 11th for Presidio Barracks, San Francisco. The following men are at Madison Barracks, New York: L. A. Lathrop, Company 8; O. L. Larson, Company 7; H. P. Monroe, Company 7; W. H. Maguire, Company 15. Other men have not yet heard from their applications.

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Hon. Alejandro Alvarez, Chilean publicist and diplomatic counselor, was the guest of Telluride Association at its Cornell Branch from March 26th to 30th, while delivering a series of lectures at the University upon international law problems.

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Mr. L. L. Nunn, Mr. P. N. Nunn, and Bruce Simmons were visitors of Cornell Branch May 3rd.

MacRea Parker spent a few days at the Cornell House while at Cornell in the interests of the Bell Telephone Company, early in the month,

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J. G. Miller has just returned to Ithaca from New York City where he had his right leg 're-cast' for the third time.

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'Jack' Hoyt left Cornell on May 1st for Buffalo to enroll in the Curtiss Aviation School. At present he is employed in the engine department. Later he leaves for Hammondsport, N. Y., where he takes up regular aviation work. He expects to enter the U. S. Signal Corps after completing his course of instruction. It will take approximately two months to complete the course.

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B. S. Walcott has taken his physical examination, and is now doing clerical work in the Aviation Section of the War Department at Washington. He expects to be called out as soon as there is a vacancy.

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W. D. Johnston and J. C. Othus left for Philadelphia May 14th, to take up work with the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania.

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G. A. Worn is working in the ship yards. He's making steel ones. Address: 906 Madison St., Wilmington, Del.

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'Senator' Cole's new address: 851 Cass Ave., Detroit.