

# THE INSTITUTE MONTHLY



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# The Institute Monthly

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No. 4

## EDITORIALS

**T**HE last session of the West Virginia Legislature has become a fact of History. Among the grist of bills that went thru the legislative hopper, and received the stamp of approval from his excellency, Governor Cornwell, were many of general interests, and some of special interest and prospective benefit to the activities of the state.

Chief among these measures that affected educational interest, was the amended School Code.

The state hopes to derive much benefit from the advance steps of this bill to modernize and develop the scheme of public education.

We are not in a position yet to enumerate the specific benefits of the amended code as compared to the old code, but hope to give a brief summary of the changes as soon as the advance copies of the new acts are off the press.

The feature of the code that concerned the colored people most were those that broadened the

scope of Negro education generally and benefited the colored State Schools especially.

In the statutory creation of a Colored Supervisor and two colored men to form a board for the consideration of measures for the colored schools, a step was taken to assist Negro education, far in advance of any similar measure that has been offered by any other state.

Since this is, in a great degree an innovation, the results for betterment are problematical; yet we are very hopeful and feel that there will be no step back-ward.

### NEWS FROM "OVER THERE"

*On Active Service With the  
American Expeditionary Forces,  
A. P. O. 766.*

January 7, 1919.

Dear Sis:

Yours of October 21 received yesterday, the 6 of January. The mail was unuasly late in reaching

me, due to the fact that I have moved about so much, and also have changed regiments since I wrote you.

Your letter was very newsy and I enjoyed it very much. To give you a bit of my experience here, I shall go back to the start. Sailed from Newport News, Va., April 24, 1918, on U. S. Ship Hancock, 35 officers 1200 men. On the morning of May 4, we struck the Azores Island, a Portugese possession about 1,000 miles off the west coast of France to the north in the tropics. Here we stayed for six days. I went ashore and mingled with the people, who are all Portugese. I was to take dinner at the home of one family, but left that afternoon and didn't have the chance, which I regretted. Saw many strange things too numerous to mention here, but I shall tell you more of this trip when we meet.

On the P. M. of May 7th we set out for Brest, France, and that was the beginning of our voyage thru the war zone. We passed thru the submarine zone on May 14th entering the harbor at Brest, I stayed two days in Brest, after which, under confidential orders, I went to Blois for classification, and in about 12 days I struck the front at a little place called Les Islettes in the Argonne. Reported for duty and was attached to the 372nd Infantry. This regiment at that time was brigaded with the

French. We had French equipment and were really a part of the French Army. This lasted for six months with me. We left the Argonne front and went to Verdun, where we fought all summer. In September we started south for rest, but did not go far until we were turned back to take part in the great drive of September 25th. We met the enemy on the Champagne front and went over the top at 11:00 P. M. That was the first real Hell I think I ever saw. For ten days we waged the attack, advanced 12 kilometers, or about 8 miles, before being relieved by another division. After the fight we came to the rear, entrained, and came to the Vouges, I saw at once we were in the mountains. With the aid of my field glasses I could see away off to the south the Alps which were quite high and indistinct, but was told by one of the civilians that yonder peak was one of the famous Alps. Well, we marched up to the line in Lorraine and took our stand, but there was no real hard fighting here. On November 4 I was transferred to the 92nd Division. I arrived there on November 8 and found them on my old stamping ground on the right of Verdun. Here they were planning another drive. I had reached there just in time to go through Hell again. We started on the morning of November 10. I was attached to the 328 Field Artillery, (white). The

fight lasted one and a half days when the news came to cease firing and then the great war that had aroused the world had come to an end. One could hardly believe it was really time to stop. Not to hear the roar of cannon, not to be the victim of a gas attack or air raid was decidedly unnatural. But it was true that there was to be no more fighting after 11.00 P. M. It was in this attack that your brother Capt. R. K. Stephens 365th infantry, was gassed and carried in out of no-man's-land in a critical condition. After thirty days in the hospital he was returned to duty and again took command of his company, but it was too late. He never again went back to the line, as Fritz had had enough. Sometime later I saw this gentleman at Pont a Mousson at quarters. We had a long chat talking about our experiences, also had dinner together, and then we seperated and I have not seen him since. Jess, I have to give it to Bob. He is a good soldier, and everybody knows it who knows him.

We are now in camp near Le Mans. My house is only a tent and a cot, but what more does a soldier need. The rest if the division will be here soon and then I shall see Bob again.

He has completely recovered from being gassed and is alright. No need for worry.

I don't know when we shall get

home, but I hope soon.

Give my regards to Miss Waters and all your friends there. Received the picture of the kids, think they are fine. I have shown them to some of the Lutes here and all complimented them. Answer soon.

Regards,  
Joe.

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*Embarkation Center Le Mans,  
France.*

*H. Q. Det. 317th Engineers,  
A. P. O. 766 Mobile,  
American Expeditionary Force.*

January 22, 1919.

Dear President Prillerman:

I know you will be somewhat surprised to hear from me, but I intended to write a worthy letter when I wrote at all, and this is the first chance.

I saw a copy of the Institute Monthly this morning, and it reminded me of my care free days at W. V. C. I.

I wrote Mr. Ellis a letter in October, and addressed it to Institute as I was unaware of the fact that he had severed connections with the institution. I received a reply from him January 3, 1919, in which he explained the whole thing, and gave me some welcomed information besides. When I wrote Mr. Ellis we had just started the big drive in the Argonne Forest

and our regiment was following the advances, repairing roads and building bridges which the retreating Huns had purposely destroyed to impede the progress of the ever advancing, and seemingly invincible Yankees.

It was during this drive that our regiment built a railway across No Man's Land thus connecting the French and German lines, which enabled us to move ammunition and supplies to the front by rail, and at the same time relieving the highways which the frequent rains and heavy traffic had rendered almost impassable. I was chain man in the surveying party which located the line and company D. followed us grading the road bed, and Company B. brought up the rear laying the rails as they came. It seemed only a few days until trains were rushing over the devastated country which looked as though it had felt the effects of an earthquake, a cyclone and the combined forces of human destruction. There were craters many feet deep. Great trees torn to shreds, or standing like ghosts, bare of limb or bark. Trenches and dugouts were blown up and in some places wood, wire and steel were bent and twisted into an indescribable mass, by the different means of destruction used in this modern warfare.

Since the Armistice was signed we have made but three moves. Each one a little nearer to the coast

until now we are at the American Forwarding Camp which is about three miles from the city of Le Mans, which is larger than Charleston and has many beautiful buildings. Though not as large they are more artistic in design. There is also a Cathedral there which, according to reports, started in the ninth century. It is much larger than an ordinary large church, and its interior is decorated with the most stupendous examples of sculpture I have ever seen. Its painting though old, can not be beaten. To go through this building and see the many quaint things and the way the people act is worth a great deal to any one.

Since we arrived at camp the 15 New York, the 8th Illinois, and what was formerly the Ninth Battalion have been here and now I suppose they are on the water or in the States. The 367th and 368th Infantries are here now.

It was with deep regret that I learned of the supreme sacrifice made by Lieut. Fairfax. He was in our area only a few days before the incident.

Concerning the boys from Institute; Corp. Cunningham was dropped from our rolls and is sick in a base hospital. William Vaughn was promoted to Corp. F. H. Marshall is assisting the company clerk. With the others, things are the same. I suppose you wonder how I know, well, I am one of the

Personel Clerks and we get all the doings of the companies.

I have a complete history of our travels and work since we left Camp Sherman, but neither time nor space will permit me to tell any more just now.

Please give my kindest regards to Mrs. Prillerman, members of the faculty and student body.

With best wishes I am,

Sincerely yours,

Wilbert A. Peters.

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#### PRESIDENT PRILLERMAN VISITS TORONTO

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President Byrd Prillerman, attended the annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Sunday School Association in Toronto, Canada, February 11-13. There were about one hundred delegates in attendance. President W. O. Thompson, of the Ohio State University, is the President of the Association, and Mr. Marion Laurence, of Chicago, is the General Secretary. Mr. Fred A. Wells, of Chicago, is Chairman of the Executive Committee. The meetings were held in the parlors of the King Edward Hotel. On Tuesday evening, February 11, the members of the Executive Committee of the International Sunday School Association and the World's Sunday School Association were given a banquet by the Toronto Sunday School Association

in the Young Men's Christian Association. At this meeting the principal address was delivered by President Thompson. At the banquet, Mr. Kinneirs, of Pittsburgh, paid a glowing tribute to the Negro soldiers, which evoked an enthusiastic applause. Some of the subjects considered by the Executive Committee were religious education, a campaign for \$20,000,000, relations between the International Sunday School Council and the International Sunday School Association, and work among Negroes. The Committee decided to adopt a more definite plan for its work on the last named subject.

Enroute to Toronto President Prillerman stopped at Cleveland over Sabbath, where he was the guest of Dr U. S. Tarter. He attended divine services in the Cory M. E. Church, where he heard a most eloquent sermon by Dr. O'Connel. Mr. Prillerman said he found the Sabbath School in this church in a most excellent working order. There were fifty young men in the Men's Bible class. At Buffalo Mr. Prillerman was the guest of Rev J. E. Nash D. D., who is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist Ministers' Association of Buffalo. The Association is composed of 25 or 30 Ministers, only two being of the Negro race. Mr. Prillerman visited the conference Monday afternoon and was invited to speak.

In Toronto, he was guest at the

Prince George Hotel. He visited Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Jenkins, sisters of Mr. M. T. Whittico, the well known editor of the McDowell Times. Upon the invitation of Rev. M. B. Puryear, Mr. Prillerman addressed a number of Negro citizens in Toronto at the University Avenue Baptist Church on Wednesday evening, February 12.

At the meeting of the International Convention at Buffalo, New York, last June, the constitution was so modified as to admit three colored men to membership on the Executive Committee.

They are R. R. Moton, Principal of the Tuskegee Institute; Charles Banks, of Mound Biyou, Missis-

sippi, and Byrd Prillerman, President of the West Virginia College Institute.

Mr. Prillerman was the only Negro representative at the meeting of the Committee in Toronto. Upon the request of Mr. Marion Laurence, he was invited to speak at the final session.

The Committee will hold its next meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, February, 1920. The next session of the International Convention will be held in Kansas City, Kansas, in 1922.

The next session of the World's Sunday School Convention will be held in Tokio, Japan, in October, 1920.

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### *The Reserve Officers' Training Corps*

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Daily we are being asked some question about the Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit which has been established at this Institution. Our patrons are asking, What is the R. O. T. C? Will it interfere with the students' usual activities? Is the student who joins the R. O. T. C. in the army? What are the benefits to be derived from the R. O. T. C? So persistent have these questions been that we deem it necessary to make a statement about the purpose of the Government in establishing the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

To those who have had their

doubts and fears, let us say that the R. O. T. C. units which are being established in the various high schools, colleges, and universities of our country are a part of the Government's scheme for universal military training. There is no intention to interfere with the career which our students have mapped out for themselves in civil life. On the other hand, the far-sighted among us look upon this scheme for military training as an effort on the part of the Federal Government to help our boys to get a part of their education without expense. Without enlisting in the army and without

neglecting the usual literary, scientific or trade studies which they have been accustomed to pursue, young men may now receive physical training and instruction in military science and tactics at the expense of the United States Government. When one has satisfactorily finished the prescribed course of training, he will receive a commission in the Officers' Reserve Corps. To train men to receive these commissions is one of the primary purposes of the R. O. T. C.

At Institute, we expect to have a first class Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The War Department has detailed a commissioned officer as Professor of Military Science and Tactics already. Captain John H. Purnell, Infantry U. S. A., comes to the work full of energy and enthusiasm. He is a school man by training and choice. He was graduated from Howard University, Washington, D. C., and from Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and has spent a number of years teaching before entering the army. He loves to deal with young men.

This school is happily located. Being in a hilly region, it affords excellent opportunity for military tactics. Thus it will not be long before the air will be rife with the shouts and yells of men at games, or the noise of rifle shots at the target range and in sham battles. Each man will receive, among other things, a rifle and a bayonet

and two hundred rounds of ammunition. The Government is already speaking about "competitive shoots" between the students of different groups and schools. How would you like to be decorated as the best shot in your school or, perhaps, in your district? We are going to rely upon you to support this new department as you have the other departments of our school. This is an excellent opportunity for our young men to respond in such a way as to insure the Government that they appreciate what is being done. Institute must triumph in this as in other undertakings.

There are, however, other obvious reasons for establishing these units. It has been recognized for a long time that athletics does not meet the need for physical training in our schools. Athletics merely takes the boy who is already developed and gives him an opportunity to play on the football, baseball and basket ball teams, or to win his letters on the track, while the best that about seventy-five per cent of his associates gets is an opportunity to stand on the side lines and root. Rooting shows fine school spirit, but it does not develop young men who are physically fit.

The United States Government was thoroughly convinced that it must do something to develop good, strong, healthy boys when it discovered that only seventy per

cent of the men inducted into the army by means of the Selective Draft act were fit for general military service. With the memory of that fact still fresh, the Government is setting about to offer not only a program of military training, but thru its efforts clean sport for all male students will be encouraged and fostered. This means less disease, longer life and a generation of strong and sturdy men. Every boy over fourteen years of age who will enter school now or next fall will be furnished his clothes, military equipment and physical training at the expense of the Government. Through military drill and physical training he will acquire control of body and mind such as will make him an asset to the community rather than a burden.

Thru the use of rifle and pistol, he will acquire that quickness of eye and sureness of aim which will make him ready to safe-guard those sacred rights of mankind for which Americans have fought and bled and died in this last great struggle against the Hun.

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### SUMMER SCHOOL

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Owing to war conditions, there have been no sessions of the Summer School at the West Virginia Collegiate Institute for the last two years, but the State Board of Regents and the State Board of Con-

trol have approved the plans of President Prillerman to hold a Summer School here from June 16, to July 25th, 1919. This will give teachers an excellent opportunity to do advanced work. The new code recently adopted by the Legislature requires teachers to have High School credit. This can be secured through the Summer School session. If there are High School graduates who have subjects they would like to make up, they may do so in the Summer School. Persons interested should write to President Byrd Prillerman for circular and other information.

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### ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

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The faculty student body, and citizens of the village assembled in the College Chapel the afternoon of February 9, to do homage to the memory of what was but yesterday, character of the century—Theodore Roosevelt.

The audience felt a deeper sense of the solemnities of the occasion, since they realized that voice, that had undauntedly and unselfishly preached an open door, a fair field and no favor for every man, regardless of his race, color, or previous condition of servitude, was at last settled in the narrow limits of the grave.

A special program had been prepared, and, in the absence of the president, was presided over

by S. H. Guss.

The papers were well prepared, and listened to with interest. It is hoped that the recurrence of his death will be made a day of national observance, and as the years come and go, white and black, and every nationality that seeks these shores for a home, will learn to appreciate and venerate the greatest American of them all.

### ORGANIZATIONS

The members of the Y. M. C. A. under the supervision of secretary Scott, gave a special sacred program in the chapel, Sunday evening of February 9.

The paternal care with which the secretary fostered the work among the late S. A. T. C. young men, and the assiduous attention he is giving to the work among the R. O. T. C. members is evidenced in the increased interest in the meetings of the association, and wholesome influence that is spreading over the social gatherings of the boys.

The library room has been given over to the Y. M. C. A. as a social center laboratory, and the secretary has installed Y reading matter, a victrola with late secular and sacred records, athletic apparatus and a few games.

The Sunday evening meeting was well attended, and the program was listened to with interest.

Following is the program:

Song.....	Association
Invocation.....	Prof. Spriggs
Violin Solo.....	Prof. Don Jones
	Mrs. Mitchell Accompanist
Address.....	
	"The Young Man Absalom"
	Prof. C. E. Jones
Vocal Solo.....	Mr. Dennis Smith
Paper.....	Prohibition
	Mr. Daniel Scott
Violin Solo.....	Prof. Don Jones
	Mrs. Mitchell Accompanist
Song.....	Association

### JUNIOR PRELIMINARY DECLAMATORY CONTEST

The Junior Secondary Class observed its annual Preliminary declamatory contest in the college chapel Friday night February 21.

The assignment of selections and arrangement of program was under the supervision of Mrs. Jessie Glover of the department of English. On account of the illness of Madame Glover, Mr. S. H. Guss acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The selections showed a wide range among the oratorical masters; but all were high class as to quality.

The audience appreciated generously the vocal solos of Miss Rice, and Mr. Torrence. The former

sang "Sunshine and Butterflies" and the latter Mr. Burleigh's "Little Mother of Mine."

Captain J. H. Purnell, Miss Estella Lee, and Mr. W. D. Johnson acted as judges and returned the winners as follows: Irma Fairfax, and Josephine Wright tied for first place; Earl Tuck, second; Irene Bowe third; Benjamin Goode, fourth, and Andrew Torrence fifth.

These six young people will represent the Junior Class in the annual oratorical contest that is observed during commencement week.

Mr. R. P. Scott, Y. M. C. A. secretary, kindly served as secretary of the judges for the occasion.

### ATHLETICS

The school is now passing thru the thrill of intra mural basket ball. The different quintets are composed of the representative athletes from each class.

The class rivalry that is thus manifested, has succeeded in developing some very creditable material.

At this point in the schedule the Junior five seems to have it on the other teams by a good margin and seldom are they pushed to driving hard in the stretches. Their closest competitors are the representatives of the Seniors Class, and the dope seems to indicate that the real contest will be

between the teams of these classes.

The College five has more fighting spirit than the college team of last year, and it is regrettable that a lack of time for practice, and the paucity of available basket ball material among the collegians prevent their prospects from being as bright as the other classes of the school.

The success of the Junior team seems to arrive from magnificent team work of a number of good players. The work of Goode, Paris, and Dickerson stands out foremost in this respect, altho every man on the team is a terror to their opponents.

For brilliancy and aggressiveness in play perhaps Drewery of the second years out-ranks all other individual players.

His endeavor at times to play the game as a solo artist to the exclusion of his four colleagues robs the team of that team work whose consistency means so much for victory.

Dallas Brown, the premier basket tosser of the 1918 Junior five, still shows his old form in the Senior team of this year. He is ably assisted by his team mates.

The showing made by the little fellows of the Special and First year classes, considering their size, and experience in the game, is remarkable.

There seems to be some promising material in these classes for the future athletic teams of the

school.

The mildness of the weather bids fair to hurry the beginning of spring practice of baseball. For the first time in many years, a nine must be constructed from new material. The presence of old stars like Hughes, Crawford, Dixie Hill, Hodge, Cheese, Hardy, and others will be greatly desired. Of the old guard, only Bartlett, and Hubbard are left, and around these as a nucleus the future team for this year must be built.

The athletic manager has not completed his schedule of games for the season, but probably some of our old rivals will be met.

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#### LOCALS AND PERSONALS

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The sad intelligence was received here the 14 inst, that Clarene Hill a special commerial student here last scholastic year had died at Camp Upton and was to be interred at Alderson the 16th inst.

All who knew Clarence sincerely regret his passing and sympathise with his bereft relatives.

The male sextette attended by Captian J. H. Purnell of the R. O. T. C. unit were on the program of the Reverend Pat Withrow's Union Mission Rally in Charleston Sunday, February 9. The program was given in the New Mission building the greatest of its kind in the State.

The music of the sextette, and

the address of Captain Purnell were features of the Program.

Lieutenant Daniel L. Ferguson Class of 1909, has received his discharge from the service and is at his home near here. Lieutenant Ferguson it is recalled, was a teacher in the collegiate department.

Mr. Gideon Smith late croporal in the U. S. service, has resumed his place on the faculty staff of the school since his return from over seas, and discharge from the service.

President Prillerman has been suffering from hoarseness since his return from the meeting of the executive committee of the N. S. S. A. in Toronto Canada. The president is one of the three colored members of this committee.

Mr. C. E. Mitchell left for Washington, D. C. Sunday, Febuary 23. Business of importance called the business manager to the Capital City.

The president read a telegram in Chapel Tuesday morning of February 25, stating that Captain G. E. Ferguson had arrived in New York City from France, and that the president's son, Sergeant Major Prillerman was left at Brest awaiting embarkation.

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#### Summer Session

At the West Virginia Collegiate  
Institute

June 16-July 25, 1919