

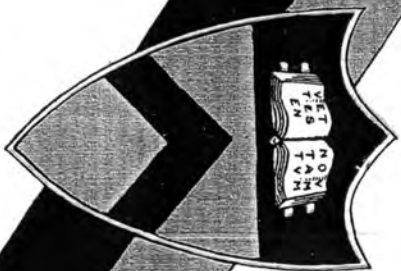
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The
Princeton Brick-a-Brac
Volume XLIV



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Nineteen Nineteen



COLONEL JOHN A. PEARSON

Colonel Pearson

COLONEL JOHN ALONZO PEARSON came to Princeton in April, 1918, to succeed Major Sargent as Professor of Military Science and Tactics. At that time he held the rank of Major. His previous training and work were of such a character as to fit him thoroughly for his new duties. He entered West Point in 1897, graduated four years later, and was assigned to the 11th Cavalry. He remained with this regiment during most of his career, serving in the Philippines, and later along the Mexican Border under General Pershing. It was while in Mexico that he suffered a severe injury to his back, and it was this injury that kept him from active service overseas. While riding one evening he struck a rope stretched across his path, was thrown backwards over his horse and dragged for some distance with one foot in the stirrup. Colonel Pearson is well known in the Army as an expert rifleman, and competed for several years as a member of the Cavalry Rifle Team.

As Commandant of the R. O. T. C. Colonel (then Major) Pearson was most successful. He had been recommended for this position both to the War Department and to President Hibben by Major Sargent upon the latter's departure for the War College. In June he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. During the months of July and August Colonel Pearson was commanding Officer of the summer camp held in Princeton to supplement the work of the R. O. T. C. In the fall he was appointed Commandant of the Students' Army Training Corps established at the University. His promotion to the rank of Colonel came just before the signing of the armistice. The Princeton Battalion of the S. A. T. C. was reputed to be one of the best in the country, and its success may be attributed to the efforts and ability of Colonel Pearson.

Students' Army Training Corps

IN accordance with special regulations issued by the War Department's Committee on Education and Special Training, Princeton University established a unit of the Students' Army Training Corps. For admission four year things were required—that the candidate be of draft age, and that he be a graduate of a standard four year school, or have equivalent preparation. A member of the unit was a member of the United States Army, and was therefore obliged to meet the physical qualifications for induction.

The plan of the War Department in forming the S. A. T. C. was to make use of the colleges and universities of the country, by creating in their centers of general and military education, from which material might be drawn for the making of officers. With this idea the unit at Princeton was formed under the command of Colonel John A. Pearson, who had been detailed to the University the previous spring as Professor of Military Science and Tactics. Beginning with a provisional battalion, formed under Captain Heintzelman, in February of 1917, the summer camp held that year and the year following an efficient military organization had already been built up. Of the many who applied for admission 650 were accepted, and on October first 500 were formally inducted into the service of the United States. These men were divided into three companies. "A" Company with barracks in Holder Hall, "B" Company assigned to Campbell and Hamilton Halls and four entries of Holder, and "C" Company quartered in Blair. The non-inducted men—men under eighteen years of age—were formed into a fourth company with Witherspoon Hall as its barracks. To complete the organization eleven army officers were assigned to assist Colonel Pearson in the instruction.

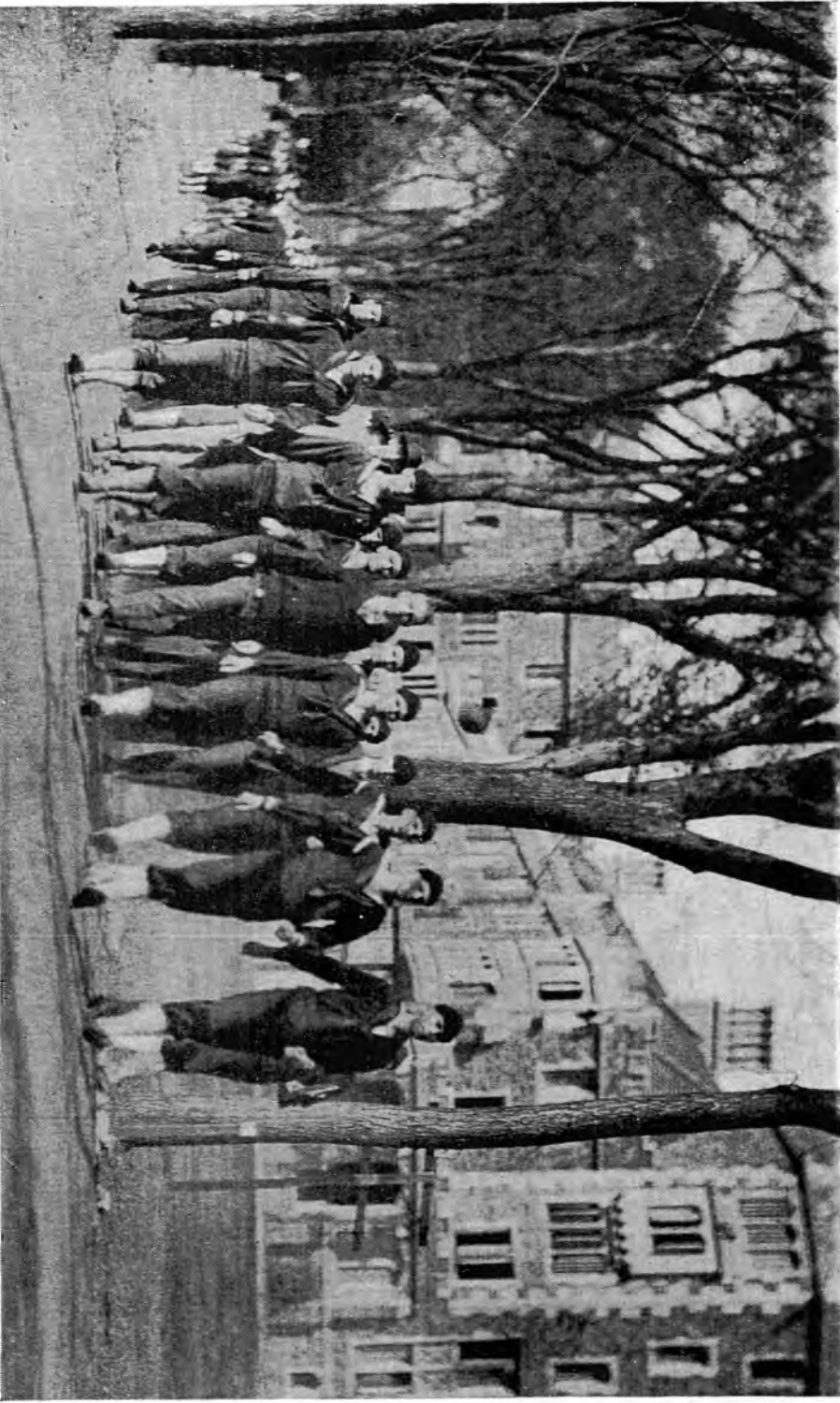
The plan of the S. A. T. C. was to give each candidate for a commission a background of academic training upon which to base his military knowledge. In accordance with this plan each student was required to carry a schedule of at least 15 hours a week—his course varied with the individual preference for a certain branch of service. Courses in Military Science and War Issues were required of all members of the unit. In addition to these, courses were offered in Gunnery, Hygiene and Sanitation, Military Law, Topography, Military French and German. Those who showed special ability along the lines of Engineering, Chemistry or Medicine were permitted to drop some of the drill hours and pursue these subjects in a more intensive manner. The required courses of instruction included training for the Infantry, Artillery, Air Service, Ordnance, Quartermaster and Signal Corps.

The mornings were devoted to academic work, the afternoons to military instruction. Training in the latter included infantry drill, trench digging, bombing, bayonet work and calisthenics. At the outset great emphasis was placed on close order drill for squads, and the beneficial results of this could easily be seen later on when platoon, company and battalion drill were started. Instruction in extended order began as soon as the battalion had mastered close order work. Many temporary sniffs were made in the non-commissioned officers, and in this way the men learned to issue commands as well as to execute them. Work was resumed on the trench system, which had been practically completed during the summer camp, and an elaborate bayonet course was constructed on the field opposite.

Throughout the fall men were picked to be sent to the Central Officers' Schools throughout the country. On October 10th fifty left for infantry camps, six for machine gun and five for heavy artillery. On the second of November an additional eight men left for the heavy artillery school at Fortress Monroe. The end of hostilities abroad prevented the sending of some fifty additional men to the various officers' schools. The success of the Princeton S. A. T. C. Unit may well be verified, by one concrete instance—of the fifty men sent to the infantry school at Camp Lee, but one candidate failed to receive his commission.

Shortly after the signing of the armistice, the War Department decided to discontinue the Students Army Training Corps throughout the universities and colleges, and on December 10th the Princeton Unit was demobilized.

The Princeton *Mit. a. Marit*



THE PRINCETON NAVAL UNIT IN ACTION

The Princeton Naval Training Unit

IN accordance with plans made by the Navy Department, a Naval Unit was established at Princeton under the command of Rear Admiral C. F. Goodrich, U. S. N., retired. Although the original intention of the Navy Department had been to limit membership to 250, the applications for admission so far exceeded this number that the limit was raised until, at the time of its disbandment, the Unit numbered over 300. Membership necessitated enlistment in the Naval Reserve Force, and the candidate was, therefore, obliged to pass the required physical qualifications. In addition to this he had to be a graduate of a standard four-year secondary school, or have had equivalent preparation. Those entering from civilian life were not actually inducted into the service until some time in October, but with the aid of returned Naval Reservists the work of organization and elementary drill was begun immediately. Those already enrolled in the reserve force retained their ratings; new members were rated as apprentice seamen.

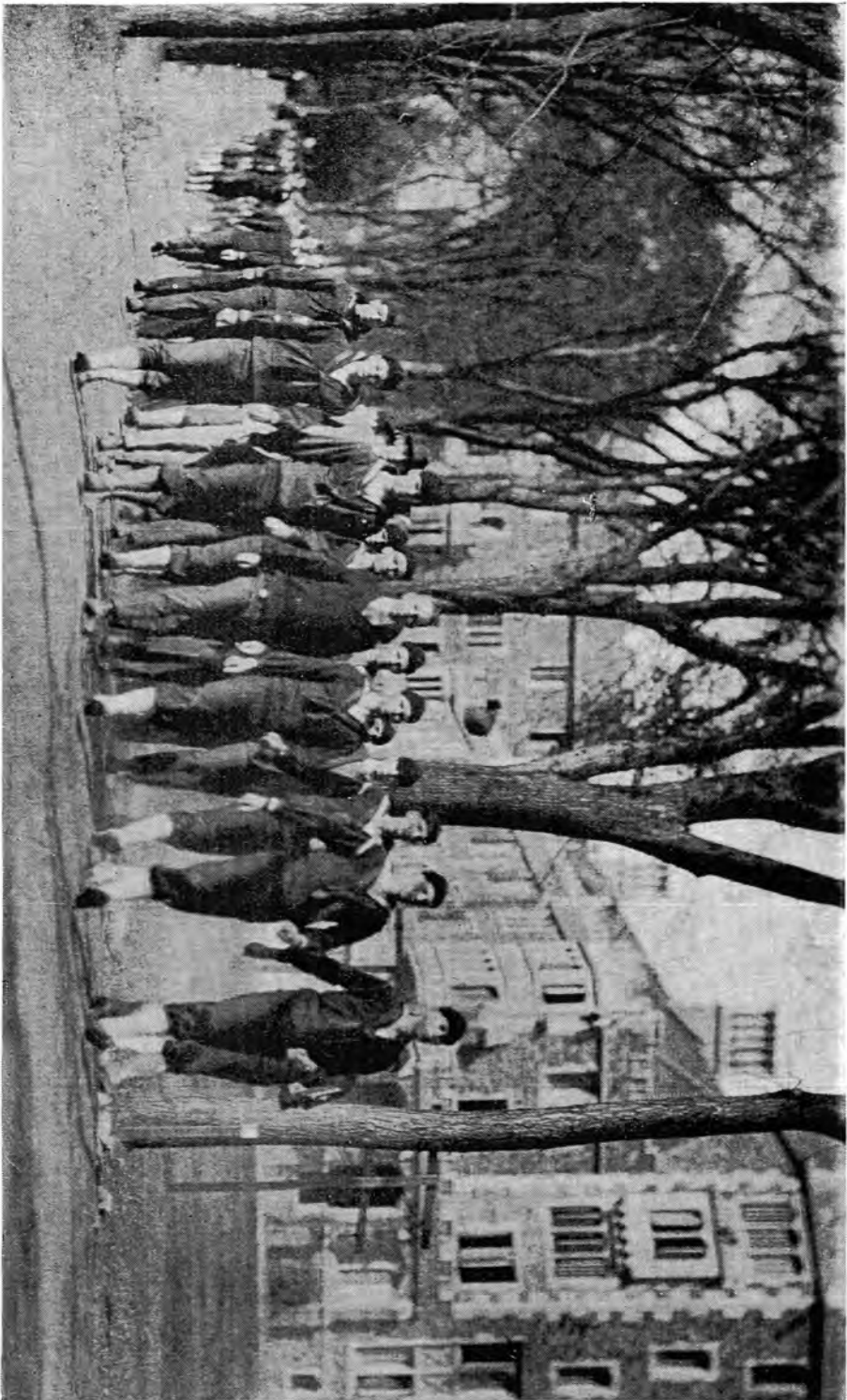
The Unit was divided into four companies, under the command of cadet officers. A band was added later. At first the officers were chosen according to the ratings and recommendations received from their ships or former stations, then a system of rotation was employed, whereby each member of the Senior Class was given an opportunity to command. The Senior Class was composed of all men over 20 years of age. The members of the Unit were required to live under general military control and discipline, and were given courses in Naval instruction. For the first month infantry drill occupied the greater part of the time, but later the afternoon periods were devoted to the tying of knots, various forms of signalling, and cutter drill on Lake Carnegie. In the evenings, with the exception of Saturday, a study period was held from 7.30 to 9.30. A guard was mounted every night until 10.30 for the twofold purpose of giving instruction in guard duty, and to maintain order and discipline.

The Academic work comprised not less than ten hours a week. Courses in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and French were given. Every student, provided he had had an adequate course in Trigonometry, was compelled to choose one of the four courses mentioned above. Freedom of choice over a wide range of subjects gave the other courses necessary to complete the curriculum. The Senior Class, it was planned, would be graduated in December, and the members would be sent either to Officers' Material Schools or to a receiving ship, though there was a possibility of immediate commissions for some. They were given thorough courses in Navigation and Seamanship by Professor Dugan and Dr. Mayer, one in Gunnery, conducted by Professor Eisenhart, while Chief Gunner's Mate Buckley, through whose efforts a three-inch drill gun, a one pounder, several machine guns and various types of ammunition were obtained, instructed in Ordnance. Occasional trips to Atlantic City for the purpose of making observations gave the members of the Senior Class practice in becoming familiar with practical navigation.

In December, due to the signing of the armistice, all the members of the Unit were put on inactive duty, and it was disbanded. Its success was due almost entirely to its commander, Admiral Goodrich, whose untiring interest and exceptional justice inspired everyone under him with loyalty and devotion. He was assisted by a very efficient staff. The staff was composed of the following:—

Ensign Carl S. Lamb, Executive Officer (during December); Chief Yeoman Mitchell, Executive Officer (previous to December); Chief Gunner's Mate Buckley, Chief Yeoman Whelan and Chief Boatswain's Mate Maginly.

The Princeton *Bria-a-Bria*



THE PRINCETON NAVAL UNIT IN ACTION



Retrospect, 1918

January

January 1, 1918, began a month which, like the year itself, was characterized for the most part by a confused uncertainty among the comparatively few undergraduates left in the University. The enrollment even at the opening of the college year had not been of the usual size, numerous departures throughout the fall had decreased it still further, and after the opening of the new year men commenced to leave quite regularly to enter various branches of the service.

In spite of this unsettled condition it was decided to conduct most of the winter sports in as nearly normal a fashion as possible. The hockey and gym teams, however, were abandoned. During the month the basketball team won its first league contests with Yale and Dartmouth, but dropped games to Pennsylvania and Cornell. The wrestling team was obliged to bow to Pennsylvania, also. The swimming team experienced considerable success in its meets, but the water polo team was not up to the standard set by its nine successive predecessors, all of which won the league championship.

A spirited debate took place through the editorial columns of the Princetonian as to whether or not Proms should be given up as unessentials during the war period. The argument culminated in a vote by the undergraduates, victory going to the pro-promenade party, and the date for the annual Junior dance was set as March 15th. The month ended with the auspicious beginning of the mid-year exam. period.

February

The examinations continued until the eleventh of the month, and were welcome followed by a four day vacation. During this brief recess the faculty did extensive work with the blue pencil, the "polers", rested, and the rest of the college worried. Previous rumors to the effect that no one would be dropped on account of the small size of the undergraduate body proved to be entirely false.

The basketball team played in a very much improved style, taking games from Columbia, Cornell and Dartmouth. Princeton sent only four representatives to the annual Johns Hopkins indoor handicap track meet, but these men captured a sufficient number of points to win first place.

Alumni Day was celebrated as usual on Washington's birthday. A rather small number of graduates were able to be present, but the enthusiasm exhibited by those men who did return to Princeton was sufficient to make up for the enforced scarcity. R. D. McKee, '19, was awarded the prize in the annual oratorical contest, while J. C. Taylor, '18, won the Class of 1876 memorial prize in the interclass debate.

The publications, reaching the end of their fiscal year with the close of the month, elected their new boards, some of them being placed for the first time in history in the hands of members of the Junior and Sophomore classes.

March

March was a very busy month for athletics. The basketball team defeated Columbia, Pennsylvania and Yale, thus finishing the season a close second to the championship Penn five. The Freshmen were also victorious over their Yale opponents in basketball. Columbia was defeated on the mats. The swimming and water polo teams defeated Penn, but lost

twice during the month to the league-leading Yale aggregations. In the individual swimming championships H. D. Johnson, '20, finished ahead in the fifty yard swim, while N. B. Dane, '20, took first in the fancy dive. Princeton captured the highest number of points in the Meadowbrook indoor handicap track meet, C. R. Erdman, '19, equalling the world's record for the forty-five yard high hurdles.

In spite of the considerable undergraduate opposition it had aroused, the successful Junior Prom was attended by some seven hundred people. A proposed anti-club meeting failed to materialize, and as a result the elections took place without hostile agitation. The peculiar situation attendant upon the war was dealt with by means of the clubs' sending service bids to men absent.

The Committee on Princeton Undergraduates in Service, a body organized for the purpose of keeping men in service in touch with the University, issued its first bulletin. The month ended as the college closed for an abbreviated Easter vacation, the short interval being made use of by the Musical Clubs for a trip to White Sulphur Springs and Hot Springs, Virginia.

April

The approach of Spring and the accompanying increase in college activities made April a particularly busy month. Much of the usual enthusiasm was lacking, however, for the departure of a group of students bound for draft camps, as well as the frequent withdrawals for voluntary enlistment, emphasized the nearness of the war.

The combined musical clubs of Yale, Harvard and Princeton gave a benefit concert in New York, following it with a very successful dance. The undergraduates joined with the citizens of Princeton in an enormous Liberty Loan parade, the effect of which was to aid materially in sending the town far over the top. Major J. A. Pearson, U. S. A., destined to attain the rank of Colonel before the end of his stay in Princeton, arrived to take charge of the rather helplessly disorganized R. O. T. C. Even the hard-worked Aviation School felt the approach of Spring and entertained in the gym, with a military hop, inviting the members of the Naval Reserve and R. O. T. C.

Near the middle of the month an untimely snowstorm postponed the opening of an already abbreviated baseball season. The first game was played about a week later, when the Pelham Naval Station nine was defeated, 4 to 3. The Princeton Players, representing the only dramatic association able to exist in spite of the Hohenzollerns, were enthusiastically received in their rendering of "Stranger than Fiction," a clever farce from the pen of Professor Donald Clive Stuart. The Philadelphiaian Society brought to a satisfactory conclusion a very hectic election period by choosing W. B. Bryan, '20, and Erdman Harris, '20, as its officers for the coming year.

As the month drew to a close Harvard enjoyed a big day at Princeton's expense. The Tiger baseball team, failing utterly to get the much-desired breaks, suffered an 8 to 7 defeat in Cambridge at the hands of an inferior aggregation. Meanwhile on Lake Carnegie the Crimson crew crossed the finish line a full length ahead of their Princeton opponents.

May

The first week-end of the month was a gala one in spite of the fact that Princeton realized only a small amount of success in the various athletic events which took place. Thanks to Talcott's superb pitching Yale won a close game on University Field by a 4 to 3 score. Princeton's one great chance for victory was lost when an evident squeeze play failed to work. Carnegie Lake was the scene of an easy win for Penn in the Child's Cup race, the Princeton boat finishing a close third behind Columbia. In the Stadium the track team had little trouble in defeating its Columbia opponents. These



several contests were witnessed by a large assemblage of fair visitors in town to attend the house parties given by a number of upperclass clubs. The Orphic Order and Musical Clubs, with all members in uniform, gave Princeton its first "military concert." Encouraged by the success of this affair the Red Cross shortly afterwards introduced a novelty in the form of community singing.

The baseball team dropped a 3 to 2 game to the Newport Naval Reserves, and again met defeat at the hands of the championship Yale team, the score this time being 2 to 0. The Freshmen, however, aided by Margetts' splendid work in the box, shut out the 1921 men from New Haven to the tune of 3 to 0. Mercersburg nosed out Hill School by half a point in the annual Interscholastic Track Meet, and on the same day the Freshmen lost to Yale by a one-point margin. The Canadian Games were won by 1921, with 1920 an extremely close second.

The depleted senior class, fast dwindling in size, held a dinner, which was followed by a necessarily diminutive parade and the customary singing. Colonel Applin, of the British Army, after reviewing the R. O. T. C., expressed his opinion to the effect that Princeton's battalion was the best of its kind in the country. Mrs. Magie's annual dance for the Freshmen, given this year at a time which did not necessitate the first year men being dependent upon the upper classes for their dancing partners, assumed the proportions of a regular prom.

Then followed the most satisfactory day of the year for Princeton in the athletic world. The baseball team overwhelmed Harvard by a 16 to 0 score, eleven of the runs being tallied in the opening inning. Kirkland's pitching aided materially in administering the Crimson its most humiliating defeat in years. The Freshman nine went to Cambridge and was victorious, 6 to 2. The track team captured first place in the triangular meet with Yale and Harvard, while the crew's spectacular finish put them over the line one third of a length ahead of Cornell.

June

Elaborate plans were announced for the summer session, which had the double purpose of giving those undergraduates who should decide to take advantage of it the privilege not only of preparing themselves for the service, but also of making rapid and appreciable progress toward their academic degrees. The entire project was endorsed by Major General Scott. Incidentally, the much-maligned R. O. T. C. came to the end of its existence with an impressive review by Monsieur Justin Godart, of the French War Mission. As Commencement approached the number of undergraduate enlistments in the various branches of the service increased materially, and even during the final examination period a large number of men departed, some not without method in their madness.

Commencement, the 171st Princeton has held, was in itself a splendid example of patriotism. Of the 394 members of the Senior class only 73 completed the college course, and of these only a scant half hundred were in town for the graduation exercises. Most of those who did wait for their diplomas departed immediately for war work of one kind or another. Many men in service were presented with the official University war certificates, which were designed to take the place of diplomas under some circumstances. Some alumni were back for their respective reunions, but they did not display the amount of hilarity customary on such an occasion. A small but damp High Hat P-Trade and a very successful Sophomore Reception were the chief campus attractions during the period. And so one of the most unusual years in Princeton's history came to a close in a very inauspicious manner.

September

College opened late in the month in the midst of much chaos and confusion. None of the congregated assemblage of student-soldiers, comparatively few of whom were old Princeton men, had a more definite idea as to what was going to happen than

could be established through attention to the innumerable rumors then prevalent. It was generally agreed that the place was to be under government supervision, but eleventh hour changes in the orders from Washington had complicated matters considerably, and even the authorities were characterized by extreme uncertainty. When affairs had been settled to an extent sufficient to allow the statisticians to apply themselves, it was found that Colonel J. A. Pearson had some seven hundred members of the S. A. T. C. under his command, while the Naval Unit, directed by Rear Admiral C. F. Goodrich, had bettered expectations by enrolling three hundred and twenty-five. In addition, Seventy-nine Hall was occupied by about sixty non-military students who soon became widely-known as the "Diplomatic Corps." The town was given a further war-like atmosphere by the presence of the School of Military Aeronautics and the Naval Paymasters School, the latter quartered in the Grad College.

Princeton customs and traditions were obliged to be relegated to a place far in the rear, for under the new conditions no discrimination was made between Senior and Freshman. An impromptu football game, participated in by about five hundred people, resulted in a rather feeble attempt at a Sophomore-Freshman rush and was brought to a sudden end by threats of expulsion from the military and naval authorities. Great commotion was caused by the appearance on the campus of a handful of non-military, '22, men wearing the necessarily obsolescent Freshmen caps.

October

The month was fittingly ushered in by the ceremonious induction into the service of the members of the S. A. T. C. Because of the prevalence of influenza the heads of the units adopted precautionary measures in the form of strict quarantine regulations. One Freshman, whose assigned duty it was to guard the forbidden soda fountain at Renwick's, became famous by reporting "William J. Coan" and "Howard McClenahan" for failure to comply with the regulations.

The representatives of the publications who were still in college entertained hopes of some activity during the year, but finally, resigning themselves to the inevitable, they announced that the periodicals would not appear again until "after the war," a phrase then as vague as it was popular. The Undergraduate Schools Committee was obliged to transfer its affairs to the supervision of the University Secretary. The Musical Clubs, however, began to organize on a war basis.

The Sophomores, taking the lead in an attempt to preserve class unity in spite of the unsettled state of affairs, held a meeting and elected the following officers for the year: Asa S. Bushnell, President; Benjamin B. McAlpin, Jr., Vice-President; W. Browne Baker, Secretary-Treasurer. Realizing the need of organization to maintain as much as possible of Princeton's tradition, the other classes also held elections with the following results: 1919—Paul W. Orth, Secretary-Treasurer; 1920—John M. Harlan, President; Louis M. Stevens, Vice-President; Willis G. Wilmot, Secretary-Treasurer; 1922—Everett N. Case, President; T. Kenneth Drummond, Vice-President; P. Grandin Strong, Secretary-Treasurer.

The British Educational Mission paid a visit to Princeton near the middle of the month, and was received by a review participated in by more than two thousand uninformed men, the largest number which has marched over the ground since Revolutionary days. Football was revived amid much enthusiasm on the part of the student body when, on the 19th of the month, the Naval Paymasters team was defeated by a 26 to 0. The team representing the college was made up of some very promising material, but was handicapped to a slight extent by lack of practice.

November

November opened in a fitting manner by a 7-0 football victory in the stadium at the expense of an all star team representing the local Aviation School. The influenza quarantine was lifted; the S. A. T. C., or at least a greater part of its members, learned that A. W. O. L. is an act not extremely difficult of performance; and the Naval Unit had its experiences with the



transplanted honor system. Princeton—military students, aviators, paymasters and citizens alike—received the false peace news with a hilarious celebration which was surpassed in enthusiasm only by the outburst provoked by the subsequent verified report. The widely proclaimed Princeton-Camp Upton football game on the 16th was preceded on Friday night by an old time mass meeting in Alexander Hall and on Saturday by a parade up Fifth Avenue of the S. A. T. C. and Naval Unit, led by Admiral Goodrich. The game, which took place at the Polo Grounds and resulted in a 28-7 victory for the Orange and the Black, brought to a close a very creditable, if abbreviated, football season. It is needless to say that the S. A. T. C.'s one week end of freedom did not slip by unnoticed by Princeton's army. The first noteworthy social event of the year took place before the turkeys were up Thanksgiving morning, when a large crowd assembled in the Gym. for Princeton's only Army-Navy Promenade. The event came at a time which made it possible for men in the service on short holiday leave to get back to college for the festivities, and served to put the student sailors and soldiers in proper condition for the coming examinations and demobilization.

December

The three weeks which preceded the Christmas vacation were made up of a conglomerate jumble of examinations, rumors, plans, delays, release papers and the general red tape characteristic of the mustering out of any considerable number of men. Finally the S. A. T. C. was completely demobilized and the members of the Naval Unit placed on inactive duty. The various college periodicals announced their intention of resuming publication immediately after the holidays; and nearly all of those connected with campus activities, talked of plans for work in a pre-war fashion. The end of the Naval Unit automatically put the Princeton Naval Unit Dramatic Association out of existence, and their proposed musical comedy, "Pipe Down" was abandoned, at least under the attendant auspices. To the entire satisfaction of all concerned, the authorities chose January 6th as the date for the reopening of the Princeton of normal times.

