Let's Go Forward

Governor Kerr has two programs up for consideration before the twentieth session of the Oklahoma State Legislature. One will improve the state educational system and the other will improve Oklahoma stategovernment. He has stated the responsibility, the Oklahoman worked long and hard on the job. He found out that this boy, brought up in the slum district of New York, had received none of the advantages of most American youths.

Early in his childhood he stood helplessly by and saw his father, in a drunken rage, commit suicide by shooting himself through the head. That terrible sight stayed with the boy and had a marked influence on his life.

When he was to be killed by the Army the boy went back to his old haunts in New York. There he fell under the influence of a New York gangster and thug. The gangster kept the boy supplied with money, encouraged him to keep out of the Army.

The Oklahoman, acting as defense counsel for the boy, presented all this information to the court martial jury. The Oklahoman promised, furthermore, that if the boy was not given a sentence he would see to it that he got an overseas assignment at once in the Signal Corps.

Within four months the Oklahoman had a letter from the New Yorker. He had seen plenty of action in the Pacific theater. He answered the letter as per promise.

Months went by again. Another letter and this time it was from the European theater of war. Again the letter was answered.

A month ago the Oklahoman learned that his New York friend had been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action. Later came a letter from the boy.

"I guess you have heard about the Silver Star," the letter said. "I will never cease to be grateful for what you did for me and what you told me. I am holding you to your promise that you will meet me when I get back to the States."

The Oklahoman was with the New York lad at the port of embarkation and personally saw to it that he got on the boat headed for action in the Pacific. He gave the boy a good talking to, promised to answer his letters and agreed to meet him when he landed back in the United States again.

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Not a Pretty Picture

America is spending more to develop its industrial projects than it is spending to develop human assets upon which everything depends. It is asserted by Dr. George L. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma.

Pointing out that the average teacher's salary is $1,440 annually compared with an average of $2,500 for the industrial worker, President Cross said that teachers should have an equivalent amount or more.

"Industrial workers are not overpaid and they earn their salaries," he said, "but education can never make the marked progress that it should as long as salaries of teachers remain so low."

The Cover

The University of Oklahoma Library photographed at night by Richard Meek.

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