HOSE who advocate one board of regents for all our educational institutions maintain that, through such a board, the cost of higher education would be reduced and the educational institutions taken out of politics. They argue that, at the present time, there is much overlapping in educational work and duplication of facilities which could be eliminated through one board of regents. They claim that the cost of maintenance of these institutions is too high, and that it could be reduced through such a board. Let us briefly examine these arguments.

We may admit that there is considerable duplication of work at the different institutions. Any one acquainted with the problems of higher education knows that considerable duplication of work at the different institutions of higher learning is absolutely necessary. If two different institutions give the work for the bachelor of arts degree, they should give practically the same subjects at the two institutions. I do not believe that anyone would seriously contend that only one state educational institution in the state should give work for the bachelor's degree. Such an institution would be so large that it would be unwieldy.

As a matter of fact, at any one of these institutions the same courses are now given simultaneously by many different teachers. For example, at the University of Oklahoma, the first semester of this year, forty-two classes in English I and twenty-one classes in government I were given. In spite of the great number of classes in these two subjects, each class was too large to permit maximum efficiency in teaching. There should be more duplication of the same courses. Therefore, I desire to point out that duplication of work at the different institutions, or at the same institution, is not necessarily wasteful overlapping; it may be a necessary complementary co-operation in higher education.

However, it may be contended, with some justification, that we have too many state institutions giving four-year college courses. Admitting such to be the case, I ask the question: How could one board of regents eliminate or ameliorate such a condition? Permit me to point out to you that the legislature of the state of Oklahoma, by legislative enactment, a few years ago changed each of the normal schools to four-year teacher's colleges, and that the legislature from time to time has created new educational institutions. Could any board of regents revoke such legislative action, or prohibit the enactment of more of it? The number of publicly supported educational institutions is a result of legislation, and can be cured only by legislation.

At the time Judge Williams was governor of the state he attempted to abolish two of our state institutions by vetoing their appropriations, but he did not succeed in abolishing either one of them. Local pressure was too strong for legislative resistance. A few years ago the federal bureau of education made a survey of the educational institutions in Oklahoma and recommended the abolishment of certain of these institutions. Certainly this was an unbiased survey of our educational problems. The soundness of the recommendations has never been seriously questioned, but since they have been made, largely because of local pressure, the legislature has created new institutions instead of abolishing any of those already created. In face of this history, I ask you: What could any political board of regents do to eliminate overlapping in state educational institutions?

It may be argued that certain specialized work like journalism, law, engineering, business administration, and agriculture should be concentrated at certain institutions so that the specialized work would not be duplicated at the different institutions. This is a sound policy, and up to the present time, such work has been concentrated largely at the two larger state institutions, the University of Oklahoma and A. and M. college. Perhaps it would be advisable for the

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Not Only--

to those loyal Alumni who are ever returning to the university to cheer the red and white clad athletes to victory, but to those who have interest enough in their younger generation and in their Alma Mater to encourage the young men and women of their communities to attend the state university — to these we wish to send the reminder that Jack Bowers is still the

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legislature to enact a law, specifying that certain specialized work be done only at certain institutions and shall not be done at any of the other state institutions. This problem could be handled better by legislative action than by a political board of regents.

Another argument made by the advocates of the one board of regents plan is that political interference with our educational institutions would be eliminated through a central board. In this connection, I desire to point out to you that during the Cruce administration we had one board, the "board of education," for all the educational institutions, except A. and M. college, and that during that time there was more political interference and internal political bickering in the university, than during any time in its history. This was an example of a super-political board of regents. The separate board of regents which was created for the university during the Robertson administration is much more highly specialized and much less political than was the board of education.

SUBMIT to you that one board for all institutions would be inefficient, and would give each institution less efficient administration than would be secured under separate boards for the different classes of institutions. The administration by one board would be inefficient for the following reasons: All members of such a board would not, and could not, be specifically interested in the welfare of each institution. There would be a tendency for the members from certain localities to promote the welfare of the institutions located in the communities from which they came, and to discriminate against all the other institutions.

It is possible to get outstanding business men to serve on a board which is to control only one institution. The personnel of the board of regents of the university at different times demonstrates that such is the case.

Before leaving the question, I desire to point out that a certain amount of competition among the institutions of higher learning is beneficial to the development of higher education. The competition puts each on its mettle to put forth its best efforts. The one board plan would smother such competition.

Last, but not least, I desire to point out to you that practically every state in the union has a separate board of regents for its state university. There must be some good reason why a separate board is provided for the state universities in other states. The federal bureau of education in its report on public education in Oklahoma (1922) recommended that our educational institutions be placed under four separate boards of regents as follows:

1. Board of regents for the university.
2. Board of regents for A. and M. college.
3. Board of regents for the state teachers colleges.
4. Board of regents for Oklahoma College for Women.

It was recommended that the university board be given control of all state junior colleges and that the A. and M. board be given control of all state agricultural schools. It would seem to me that the board for the state teachers colleges could also serve for the Oklahoma College for Women, so that we would have only three boards for our state educational institutions. I believe that these boards should be elected by the legislature rather than appointed by the governor.

Fred Cobb, '23 eng., has the position of city engineer of Norman.

ALUMNI--
Your Advice
Will Be Heeded

If there is any time in life when advice is heeded it is when given to the young college man or woman whom you have influenced to attend this university.

To begin with they accept the idea that you know the "ropes", and are willing, consequently, to be guided by your learned words of judgment.

A well-dressed appearance is half the battle of success in university life. What wiser counsel could you offer this young man or woman than to keep VALETIERA PRESSED?