Oklahoma lectures

The university has realized a worthy ambition in the inauguration of the series of lecture programs established this spring. It is planned to continue lectures for students and the general public next year. It has long been an ideal—the organization of lecture courses which will promote more intimate understanding between members of the faculty having national reputations, and their students, fellow faculty men and the general public of Oklahoma.

This spring, the Washington Bicentennial celebration marked the opening program of the series. Following this Dr. E. E. Dale, '11 arts-sc., head of the department of history, lectured on "The Spirit of the West," March 22, in the university auditorium.

Prof. Oscar Brousse Jacobson, '31 art, director of the school of art, nationally known painter and critic, lectured on "The Character of Art," April 12, in the university auditorium.

The last lecture of the spring will be given by Dr. Forrest E. Clements, head of the department of anthropology, scheduled to speak in the university auditorium May 10 on "Patterning of Biological and Cultural Factors in Social Institutions."

These lectures are open to the public and are designed to fill a place in university and public activities.

These above members and many other members of the faculty have national reputations in certain fields of study. Faculty members are called upon from time to time to do special work for the United States government or learned societies. These men are frequently better known off the campus than on it. This is not the case at all times, but it is not uncommon. It has been proposed that the university invite intellectuals here who can speak on a subject in such a manner that the layman can understand his theme. The university administration has attempted to meet these demands by engaging its own faculty members upon an enterprise which should interest hundreds of students, faculty members, and the public generally.

Judging by the attendance at the lectures already given, it is apparent that lectures of a highly intellectual character, yet delivered so any student can appreciate them, will be eagerly supported by large groups. Many universities put on programs of such character and make successes of them. Such lectures are opportunities for the general public to hear men who are specialists and who should be known to those other than the students in their special departments.

Doctor Dale's lecture was in interpretation of the rise and development of the "spirit" of the West, as a product of the frontier, and as it is seen in our economic and social life and institutions of today. Doctor Dale interprets this phase of history as seen by that school of historians headed by Prof. Frederick Jackson Turner, who was the first historian to see the significance of the West in American history. Doctor Dale's wide experiences and travels enable him to treat such a subject far better than can the average historian. His reputation in the field is established.

Professor Jacobson is distinguished as an artist, critic, and lecturer. He has exhibited in many of the foremost galleries of the country and has lectured at many major art institutes.

Doctor Clements is eminently fitted to bring to the student of human affairs certain information much needed today.

For the Washington Bicentennial, two nationally known historians were obtained as guest speakers: Dr. Andrew C. McLaughlin, professor of history, at the University of Chicago, and Dr. Robert G. Caldwell, professor of American history, and dean of the graduate school of Rice Institute, Houston, Texas. Henry J. Haskell, editor of the Kansas City Star and Lieut. Col. Leslie J. McNair, assistant commandant of the field artillery school at Fort Sill, were also speakers.

The university lecture committee is composed of Dr. Morris L. Wardell, '19, chairman, Dr. Edgar Meacham, '14 arts-sc., Dr. Lloyd Swearingen, '20 sc., M. S. '21, and Prof. Fayette Copeland, '19 arts-sc.
The spirit of the west

BY EDWARD EVERETT DALE, ’11

SINCE the dawn of history
the word "West" has been associated with
romance and achievement and high ad-
vantage. Whether it was the Greeks
reaching out to Sicily or the shores of Italy to
found a Syracuse or the colonies of Greater
Greece; the Phoenicians steering their
light galleys over the placid waters of the
Mediterranean to establish Carthage or
plant settlements in Spain; Columbus in
search of a world; Drake sailing strange
seas in order to plunder along the Span-
ish main; the Puritans seeking religious
freedom on the rugged coasts of New
England; or the more modern immigrant
seeking in search of economic opportunities
denied him in his old home, it has been to-
ward the West that the people of Europe
have sought the fulfillment of their
dreams.

In our own country this has been
equally true. Whether it was Hooker and
his little band moved by "the natural
strong bent of their minds" to settle the
valley of the Connecticut; Spotswood's
Knights of the Golden Horseshoe seek-
ing the crest of the mountains; Daniel
Boone passing through Cumberland Gap
to Kentucky; the Argonauts journeying
across the Plains to California; or the
Boomers of ’89 settling upon homesteads
in Oklahoma, the restless American has
always seen his own particular golden
treasure reflected in the yellow glow of
the setting sun.

Moreover those who have once eaten
of the lotus of the frontier West are never
quite content with the social conditions
that can be found in the more stable East. The
West gets into his blood and he feels to-
ward it much as did Kipling's Tommy
toward the region "somewhere east of
Suez."

"And I'm thinkin' 'ere in London
What the ten year soldier tells
If you've 'eard the East a-calling'
Why you can't 'eed nothin' else."

So does the true westerner feel about his
own land. He may leave it for a time but
always he hears it calling in tones that
will not be long denied.

"Back to God's country" is a favorite
phrase of the westerner away from home,
and the expression "gone West" used by
our soldiers over seas takes on a new sig-
nificance when we remember that to most
of these men the West was "God's coun-
try."

The first West in American history was
the frontier settlements of Jamestown and
Massachusetts Bay. They were established
by a few hardy and adventurous souls
who sailed across three thousand miles
of salt water to plant in the wilderness
these far flung western outposts of the
British Empire. Here began the process
of building in America a western spirit.

The late Frederick Jackson Turner has
pointed out in his essay "The Significance
of the Frontier in American History" that
these first settlers landed upon our shores
civilized Europeans and found themselves
in the midst of a savage environment.
They had come out to conquer and pos-
sess the wilderness and this wilderness
proved at first too strong for the indivi-
dual. It stripped off his civilized garb and
clad them in deer-skin shirt and leg-
ggings like the primitive inhabitants of
the forest. It took from his hands the
tools of civilized life and replaced them
with the tomahawk and scalping knife.
He learned to wield these weapons; to
shout the battle cry. He lived in a long
house like the Cherokee or a bark lodge
like the Iroquois. He depended largely
upon the chase for a livelihood. He plant-
ed a small patch of corn and cultivated it
with the rudest of implements—a crooked
stick or a clam-shell hoe. So in time this
man who had been a civilized European
became scarcely distinguishable from the
aboriginal inhabitants of the region he
had come to occupy. Yet he still possessed
the instincts of a civilized man and these
instincts prompted him to set to work to
conquer his environment. He cut down
the forest trees and so widened the clear-
ing. He built himself a better log house.
He planted more corn. He began to spin
and weave. He gathered his friends about
him, established towns and villages and
took up commercial and industrial pur-
suits. So at last he emerged from his semi-
 savage state until he stood forth a civilized
man once more. Yet in the process of
going down into primitive life and to emerge
once more into civilization. Their children
in turn journeyed still farther west to repeat
this process until settlement and civiliza-
tion had extended to every part of our
country. This constant change, this "peren-
ial rebirth," as Turner calls it, has been
the most significant thing in our Nation's
history. It has given to the world a new
type—the American as distinguished from
the European and has given to our people
as a whole those qualities which we design-
ate as essentially American.

To quote once more from Doctor
Turner:

Into this vast shaggy continent of ours poured
the first feeble tide of European settlement. Eu-
ropean men, institutions, and ideas were lodged
in the American wilderness, and this great
American West took them to her bosom, taught
them the way of life. From the mind of the
common man, trained them in adaptation to
the conditions of the New World, to the cre-
atation of new institutions to meet new needs;
and ever as society on her eastern border grew to
resemble the Old World in its social forms and
its industry, ever, as it began to lose faith in the
ideals of democracy, she opened new provinces,
and dowered new democracies in her most dis-
 tant domains with her material treasures and with
the ennobling influence that the fierce love of
freedom, the strength that came from hewing
out a home, making a school and a church, and
creating a higher future for his family, furnished
the pioneer.

She gave to the world such types as the farmer
Thomas Jefferson, with his Declaration of
Independence, his statue for religious toleration,
and his purchase of Louisiana. She gave to
Andrew Jackson, that fierce Tennessean spirit who
broke down the traditions of conservative rule,
swept away the privacies and privileges of official-
dom, and like a Gothic leader, opened the tem-
ple of the nation to the populace. She gave us
Abraham Lincoln, whose gaunt frontier form
and gaunt, massive hand told of the con-
lict with the forest, whose grasp of the ax-
handle of the pioneer was no firmer than his