The alumni act

Governor Murray on April 17 removed Frank Buttram, '10 arts-sc., M. A. '12, from the board of regents of the university by executive order. Mr Buttram's term as regent was to expire in 1934. At the same time, Mr Murray announced the resignation of Mrs Addie Lee Lowther of Guthrie, whose term would have expired in 1935. At Mr Buttram's request, he named W. J. Milburn of Sayre, Oklahoma, and in Mr Buttram's stead he named Henry Derwin of Guthrie. Mrs Lowther resigned because of the serious illness of her daughter, she having continued her service on the board of regents at considerable personal sacrifice.

Mr Milburn is the organizer of the Western Oklahoma chamber of commerce, of which organization he is secretary. He has long been interested in education, having at one time been a school teacher. A native of Texas, he has lived in Oklahoma for thirty years. He is the founder of the town of Milburn (in 1902). He was for three terms president of the Oklahoma Good Roads federation and president of the West Texas Child Aid and Welfare association during a five years' residence in Austin, Texas. Mr Milburn also served as a member of the third Oklahoma legislature. He is a graduate of the Dickson Normal college of Dickson, Tennessee.

Mr Derwin is also a pioneer Oklahoman. He came to Guthrie when that town was first established and has lived in the city since. For thirty years he was joint owner and manager of the Guthrie Daily Leader.

Mr Milburn, in accepting his appointment, made this statement:

This honor has come to me wholly unsolicited. I appreciate it very much and shall try to discharge my duties in a way that neither Governor Murray nor the people of the state shall ever have occasion to regret my appointment, constantly keeping in mind that a regent is the representative of the people and that the university, which belong to them, should be run in their interest.

I also appreciate the recognition given Western Oklahoma in the appointment and others he has made since his inauguration.

I know Governor Murray is honest and that he sincerely desires to see the university run on an efficient, economical plan. We have been personal friends for twenty-five years and when he asked me to accept this responsibility, I felt that it was due him and the people of Western Oklahoma to give the matter earnest consideration. After considering it for a week, I agreed to accept.

I have a high regard for Dr W. B. Bizzell, president of the university both as an educator and as an executive. While I was residing at Austin, Texas, he was president of the Texas A & M college and I learned of his splendid work in that institution while there.

I hope to work in harmony with the other regents. Doctor Bizzell, the faculty and the student body to the end that the university may render the maximum service at the minimum cost to the people of the state.

On Saturday, April 18, President Luther White of the University of Oklahoma Association issued a call for members of the executive board of the Association to meet at Norman to discuss the removal of Mr Buttram. Mr White declared, according to the Associated Press report, that the university was facing a crisis.

Later, Mr White broadened the call to include all alumni who could attend, but the notice of this change did not come in sufficient time to enable a wide spread attendance.

John Rogers, '14 law of Tulsa, formerly a regent, praised the work of Mr Buttram as president of the board of regents, stating that "he was deeply interested in the affairs of the university. It was always evident that he accepted his responsibility as a regent fully and completely."

"If the bill regulating the governor's powers is constitutional, the governor has no right to dismiss a regent by executive order," Mr Rogers stated.

Despite general confusion on the part of alumni, most of whom understood that the meeting was to be of the executive board only, there was a good turnout of alumni from various cities, meeting with the board.

Members of the executive board in attendance were: President White, Vice President Florence McClure of Oklahoma City; Treasurer Fred Thompson of Norman; Glenn C. Clark of Ponca City; Paul Darrough of Oklahoma City; Raymond A. Tolbert of Oklahoma City; O. A. "Dutch" Brewer of Hugo; Mike Monroney of Oklahoma City; H. Merle Woods of El Reno, and Mrs Alta L. Carder of Cordell.

President White read the resignation from the board of Dr Guy Y. Williams, '06 arts-sc., M. A. '10, and Dr Edgar Meacham, '14 arts-sc., members at large as of April 1. Both of these faculty members have a long period of loyal service to the Association and were principally instrumental in the establishment of the Life Membership fund. Their resignations were regretfully accepted by the board and in their stead were elected W. Dixon Grissom, '26 arts-sc., '28 law, of Seminole, and Neil R. Johnson, '15 arts-sc., '17 law, of Norman.

President White stated the object of the meeting, which was to consider what should be done in regard to the removal of a regent in a manner not provided by the statutes governing such removal.

"Since issuing the call for this meeting, I have had an enthusiastic response from alumni all over the state," he declared. "At this meeting we should determine our attitude. We should proceed in an orderly way, since we are an orderly organization, I think that the best manner of procedure, in order to lay the matter before you concretely, will be to appoint a committee to suggest a line of conduct."

On the authorization by the board of the appointment of such a committee, President White named Mr Clark, chairman, Mrs Carder and Mr Brewer, members. The committee returned to draw its recommendation and in the meantime, President White took up the matter of life memberships.

Continuance of The Sooner Magazine as a monthly magazine is dependent entirely on securing five hundred life members, since the life membership fund will act as an endowment fund. Plans were discussed for a statewide drive to reach this number before July.

The committee returned and Chairman Clark read the following resolutions:

Whereas the Honorable William H. Murray, governor of the state of Oklahoma has issued an executive order for the removal of a member of the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma, now therefore,

Be it resolved by the executive board of the University of Oklahoma Association, in special meeting assembled this 19th day of April, 1931, that we issue the following statement of policy:

The University of Oklahoma Association, composed of former students and graduates of the University of Oklahoma, has always stood for the principle and policy that members of the board of regents should be removed only in the same manner and upon the same grounds that other public officials, not subject to impeachment, are removed.

The legislature in 1927, provided (Chapter 68, Session Laws, 1927, ) that: "Members of said board of regents shall be subject to removal from office only as provided in Chapter 7, Article 4, of the Compiled Oklahoma Statutes, 1921." The 1927 act repealed a former law providing that members should hold office for seven years "unless sooner removed by the governor."

Chapter 7, Article 4, above mentioned, provides for removal by proceeding in court "for any of the following causes" including neglect of duty, corruption, maladministration, and various other grounds.

The University of Oklahoma association adheres to and reaffirms its policy that the welfare of the university requires that members of the board of regents be removed only in the manner and for the causes for which other public officials, not subject to impeachment, may be removed in Chapter 7, Article 4, C. O. S. 1921; that is, by a proceeding and hearing in court.

Be it further resolved that the officers of this board are directed to respectfully request a conference for the members of this board with Governor Murray, at his convenience, concerning this matter.

Passed this 19th day of April, 1931, by the executive board of the University of Oklahoma Association.

Mr Clark moved the adoption of the report. The motion was seconded.

Mr Brewer, a member of the eleventh legislature which passed the regent's law (Turn to page 342 Please)
The kernel of James' pragmatism is an ethical idealism whereby he aligns himself with the persistent tradition of American philosophy.  

**«BLACK JACK DAVEY»**  
(continued from page 334)  
citement of the makers of Oklahoma—"man's country."  
The cast follows:  
May Keene  
Mirabelle Dawes  
Bess Keene  
Jim Dawes  
Rose Warrior  
J. A. Keene  
Davey Dawes  
Cale Boyd  
Ned Warrior  
Honey Wade  
Harriet Stewart  
Myrtle Ann Wilson  
Carol Constant  
Jim Robinson  
Glady's Johnston  
Harold Pettit  
Howard Fielden  
John Weever  
Fred Wheeler  
Ben Marks  

Professor Ray Holcombe, director of the Playhouse, was assisted in the directing of the play by the author himself. The stage setting was a remarkable piece, a pioneer cabin and the yard of the pioneer home. Part of the action in the second act takes place with all of the characters in the house, not visible to the audience.  

All of the action takes place on the same set. During the second act, which is divided into two scenes, there are remarkable trick effects. During gunfire, there is the ripping of shingles, the crashing of glass, all done in realistic manner. The play moves with lightning speed from the end of the first act until the storm clears near the end of the third act.  

Although the play presented some difficulties for an amateur cast, it had an able production. The play revolves about Mirabelle Dawes, an invalid who is confined to her wheel chair, but who has the fighting spirit of the old Dawes family. In the background is the Dalton gang, endeavoring to dispose of Ned Warrior, an Indian, and the Keenes and the Dawes, who came from Arkansas. Miss Wilson gave a powerful interpretation of the role of Mrs. Dawes, ending in the climax, where Mrs. Dawes shows the fighting courage of the pioneer woman.  

After all, as Davey says: "It's a man's country, Maw—it's Pap's an' my country—and I love it."

That's Oklahoma—"man's country." And that's the Oklahoma Mr. Dickinson portrays in the swiftly moving, dramatic episode of a group of pioneer families.  

Two years ago the school of dramatic art instituted the prize winning Oklahoma play contest which Walter Frichard Eaton characterized in the *New York Herald Tribune* as indicating that "the new theater is on its way." John Woodworth, '29 arts-sc., of Shawnee, won the prize the first year, with his three act *A Certain Young Widow.*  

Mr. Dickinson's play is the first presented by the Playhouse dealing with regional drama. The play was wholly Oklahoman, the author, the players, the theater and the subject, being Oklahoman.  

**THE ALUMNI ACT**  
(continued from page 324)  
in its present form, spoke for the adoption.  
"We are at a crisis in the history of the university," he declared. "We should face with sober judgment and with every courtesy extended to those in authority with whom we deal.  
"It has been the goal of alumni of this university for years to take the school out of so-called 'practical politics.' We always felt that the progress of our school depends on the absence of political interference with it.  
"We have a great university here. It is endangered by the threat to the stability of the faculty. In Oklahoma City yesterday I had occasion to visit the offices of an attorney. His daughter has attended a private school in the east for the past two years. The attorney has endeavored to interest his daughter in coming to the University of Oklahoma. He had persuaded her to come down here and then came the announcement that a regent had been removed. Now, his daughter will not come here. There is danger of a general attitude like that, if the people of Oklahoma feel that good faculty people are endangered and that inferior faculty members will be substituted for them.  
"I am not interested in personalities, rather the principle at stake in this matter. I was a member of the legislature that enacted this law. We did so to take the university out of 'practical politics.' We intended for the board of regents to be subject to removal in the manner of other state officers not subject to impeachment. We believed in going further than that. Not only did we believe that the board of regents should be protected from interference by any governor but also, from interference by any legislature. And it was because of that that we have worked these years for a constitutional amendment, removing the temptation from the legislature to tamper with the university.  
We could not support this resolution. In it we state a policy and affirm a principle. In passing this resolution we need not criticize his excellency the governor nor laud Mr. Buttram. We are not interested in individuals or their fate. We are interested in the principle of keeping the university out of politics, however."  
Mr. Tolbert explained the provisions of the law. He said: "The act referred to
in the resolution provides the manner in which regents may be removed. It is the same manner in which you would remove a county judge, a county attorney, or a board of county commissioners."

R. W. "Bep" Hutto, '10 arts-sc., president of the Security National bank, and former member of the executive board of the Association, explained the attitude of Norman citizens. "The people of Norman are concerned for the future of the university and are interested in keeping its standards high. We are not interested in personalities nor in the fate of individual members of the faculty or of the board of regents. But we are concerned in the stability of the school."

The resolution was passed, Mr Grissom voting negatively.

Mr White, in reply to Mr Hutto, explained the attitude of non-Norman residents. "I am vitally interested in this university, both as a native Oklahoman and as a graduate of the school. I love this school next to the members of my own family. And my interest is in the welfare of the school, not in the individuals of the board and faculty. When the welfare of any board member or any faculty member, however, threatens the welfare of the university, I am concerned."

The committee writing the resolution was instructed to arrange for an appointment with the governor.

The Murray club of Norman passed a resolution condemning the alumni action. This resolution in full text follows:

Whereas, the governor of the state has seen fit to remove certain members of the board of regents of the university, and

Whereas Luther White, president of the alumni, seems to be unduly active in the situation, thereby more and more bringing the university into politics, and

Whereas the activities of organized fraternities and the alumni have served to block certain legislation which would have benefited all the people, and

Whereas one president of the university is sufficient,

We therefore in the language of a certain senator of Oklahoma, directing committee, demand such organization keep hands off affairs which concern the whole state.

Following the conclusion of three interviews with the alumni executive board, Mr Murray issued the following statement:

The executive order for the removal of Frank Buttram is a case of the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma has been rescinded. Mr Buttram's resignation as member of the board has been accepted.

Raymond A. Tolbert, former president of the alumni association, formerly of Hobart, and now of Oklahoma City, has been appointed as member of the board and is accepted. I believe that his services as member will meet with the entire confidence and approval of all concerned.

Mr Tolbert issued the following statement:

I am pleased to accept the appointment as member of the board of regents. I shall endeavor at all times faithfully and conscientiously to serve the best interests of the university and the state of Oklahoma.

Mr Tolbert, who replaced Mr Derwin, has a distinguished service record in being half of the University of Oklahoma. The Tolbert generation in the university were themselves noted football stars. Mr Tolbert was a charter member of Sigma Delta Chi, the editor of the University of Oklahoma Magazine, member of Phi Delta Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a member of the law school's championship football team. He was secretary of the student committee of six who secured the appropriations from the state legislature for the law school building.

The present University of Oklahoma Association owns its inception to the new regent. As president of the Sooner club of Oklahoma City he called the now celebrated meeting of alumni in Oklahoma City to protest against Governor Walton's attempt to remove President Stratton D. Brooks. As a result of that meeting disruption of the university was prevented, although President Brooks in the meantime had resigned. At that meeting Mr Tolbert suggested the reorganization of the alumni association into the present form, that is, to offer membership to all former students of the university, whether graduates or not. The plan as used by this association includes any student who attended the university.

Mr Tolbert, with Paul A. Walker, '13 law, now chairman of the state corporation commission, formed a committee of law school graduates that offered its services free and successfully represented the board of regents of the university in the supreme court in the Peeby versus Childer's case, the result of which was the restoration of $420,000 to the university salary appropriations which Governor Walton had eliminated.

Mr Tolbert is a member of the athletic council of the stadium union board and of the board of governors of the Oklahoma Union. He drew the articles of incorporation for the Oklahoma Union and the stadium union corporation and handled all the legal proceedings connected with floating the $400,000 bond issue without compensation.

He has many state services to his credit, including the establishment of several Carnegie libraries in western Oklahoma. For his services to the university he was awarded the Sigma Delta Chi scroll of honor in 1928. (See The Sooner Magazine Volume II, No. 1, page 16 and 17 for biographical sketch of Mr Tolbert.)

The board of regents, as it is now constituted, follows:

TERM EXPIRES

John H. Carlock of Ardmore 1932
William J. Milburn of Sayre 1933
Raymond A. Tolbert, '12 arts-sc., 13 law, of Oklahoma City 1934
Joseph C. Looney, '21 law of We- 1935
woka
Claud C. Hatchett of Durant 1936
George Bowman of Kingfisher 1937
Malcolm E. Rosser, jr., ex '21, of Muskogee 1938

Mr Bowman is president, Mr Carlock vice president, and Emil R. Kraetli, ex '18, secretary. 

COMMENCEMENT

(continued from page 325)

WILLIAM ARTHUR FUCE, physician, Grand- field, Oklahoma.
ANDREW MARTIN KINGKADE, treasurer, Oklahoma Mortage Co., Hotel Kingkade, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
R. W. "Bep" Hutto, Plainview, Texas.
GLASS CLLEMENT BURTON, manager Burton Drug store, 124 West Sixth street, Stroud, Oklahoma.
MRS ALTA LOOMIS CARVER, Superintendent of city schools, Cordell, Oklahoma.
JAY THOMAS COWAY, County clerk and clerk district court, 617 South Fourth street, Raton, New Mexico.
JAMES JOHN DARLING, physician and surgeon, 868 Main avenue, Durango, Colorado.
LESTER CLARENCE DILLER, retail druggist, Moore, Oklahoma.
LUDE EMMA ELDER, teacher of mathematics, 514 Cordova, Dallas, Texas.
HERBERT A. EYREY, mining engineer and geologist, 1032 Ogden drive, Los Angeles, California.
MRS MAYMIE GOODMAN HANNAH, 1308 West Main street, Durant, Oklahoma.
EARL KELLMAN KLINE, Professor of Modern languages, University of Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tenn.
THOMAS BUCHANAN MATTHEWS, 321 Kennedy building, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
WILLIAM HANCOCK LOW, deceased.
JOHN ARTHUR MERRICK, farmer, Norman, Oklahoma.
IRA WILSON MONTGOMERY, production engineer and contractor, 57 North Yorktown, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
WILLIAM THOMAS SHEPHERD, president of Columbia school, 1024 Eighth street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
JAMES RALPH RAINES, pharmacist, Hinton, Oklahoma.
LEWIS PATRICK SPELMAN, address unknown.
EARL EMORY WASHBURN, deceased.
JAMES IRA MOORETT, deceased, 104 East Broadway, Cushing, Oklahoma.
MRS ADELAIDE LOOMIS PARKER, 24 Brooks, Bronxville, New York.
ECK FRANK SCHRAMM, professor of geology, University of Nebraska, Box 1258, Station A, Lincoln, Nebraska.
RICHARD ARTHUR SHERMAN, druggist, Lexington, Oklahoma.
JAMES EARL WATSON, druggist, Kingfisher, Oklahoma.
MRS ELLA THOMAS WILLIAMS, 468 Elm, Norman, Oklahoma.
GUY YANDELL WILLIAMS, professor of chemistry, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.