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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS BULLETIN

The purpose of this Bulletin is to bring to the newspapers of Wisconsin and their readers—the people of the state—pertinent news and information concerning their State University. The University Press Bureau will gladly furnish any special news or feature stories to editors. Address letters to R. H. Foss, editor, Press Bureau, University of Wisconsin.

To Editor:—The news in this bulletin is prepared especially for the press, and is released for publication on the date below. Please address exchange copies to Editor, 711 Langdon Street.

January 3, 1934

Short Courses in Social Subjects Begin at Superior

Wisconsin Conference of Social Work Divides State Into Ten Short Course Districts

Family problems, administration of relief, various phases of child welfare, and use of the new leisure are among the subjects to be presented under the auspices of the University Extension division in a series of short courses to be conducted by the Wisconsin Conference of Social Work. This project is being carried on in conjunction with the federal government's emergency program.

The first of the series will be held at Superior Jan. 2 and 3, and the second at Chippewa Falls Jan. 4 and 5.

To carry on this work in evenly divided sections of the state and to insure logical and convenient locations for prospective students, the state has been divided into ten districts.

Speakers at the meetings are assigned by the University Extension division and the Conference of Social Work. They will represent not only the Extension division but the community where the short course is being held.

The districts are arranged by counties as follows: Superior district: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, and Price.

Second district: Polk, Barron, Rusk, Taylor, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Clark.

Third district: Vilas, Oneida, Lincoln, Langlade, Forest, Florence. The short course will be held at Antigo.

Fourth district: Marathon, Wood, Portage, Waupaca. The short course will be held at Stevens Point.

Fifth district: Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, Outagamie, Brown, Keweenaw, Door. The short course will be held at Green Bay.

Sixth district: Manitowoc, Calumet, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, and Washington.

The short course in this district will be held at Sheboygan.

Seventh district: Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, and Richland. The short course will be held at La Crosse.

Eighth district: Crawford, Grant, Iowa, La Fayette, Monroe, and Green Lake. The short course will be held in Mineral Point.

Tenth district: Dane, Rock, Jefferson, Walworth, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, and Milwaukee. The short course will be held at Waukesha.

The conference short courses will move almost constantly from city to city and the entire program will be concluded by Feb. 10.

National Meeting of Journalism Teachers Hears Two U. W. Men

The University of Wisconsin's school of journalism and department of agricultural journalism were represented at the annual convention of the American Association of Teachers of Journalism, held in Chicago during the last few days of December, by five members of the faculty.

Those who attended the meetings of the convention were Dr. Willard G. Bleyer, director of the Wisconsin school of journalism, and Professors Ralph O. Nafziger and Raymond B. Nixon, and Bruce R. McCoy, lecturer, all members of the school of journalism faculty. The department of agricultural journalism was represented at the meeting by Prof. W. A. Sumner.

Dr. Bleyer, who is chairman of the National Council on Education for Journalism, read two papers, one on "Freedom of the Press and the New Deal", and the other on "The Relation of Courses in Journalism to Other Studies in the Curriculum".

Mr. McCoy, who is business manager of the Wisconsin Press Association, organization of weekly newspapers throughout the state, read a paper on "Courses in the Business Management of Newspapers". Prof. Ralph D. Casey, now head of the University of Minnesota journalism school, and a graduate of the Wisconsin school of journalism, spoke at the convention on "Political Change and the Position of the Press".

Faculty Makes Language Exams Optional at U. W.

The University of Wisconsin letters and science faculty recently voted to make foreign language attainment examinations at the State University optional.

Following the adoption of an amendment offered by Prof. William H. Kiekhofer, which in effect made no change in the original recommendation of the division of language and literature, the faculty approved the following resolution:

"That students who are candidates for the bachelor of arts degree, general course, may meet the requirement in foreign language either by passing the proficiency or intermediate examinations, as now prescribed for those graduating in 1934 and later, or by taking the required number of language credits, as in the past;

"Likewise, that students who are candidates for the bachelor of philosophy degree, general course, may meet the foreign language option either by passing the intermediate examinations, as now prescribed for those graduating in 1934 and later, or by taking the required number of language credits, as in the past."

Before the adoption of the Fish committee report three years ago, the foreign language requirement was 32 credits in two or more languages.

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U. W. Study of 13 Largest American Cities Reveals Milwaukee in Favorable Light

The cost of government in Milwaukee has not been excessive in recent years in comparison with other large cities. The Wisconsin metropolis has stood close to the average in almost every test of relative cost. In addition, this city has met its expenses without incurring the excessively heavy bonded indebtedness which has become so characteristic of present municipal finance.

Such is the conclusion of a study of public expenditures by the governments of 13 cities of the United States which have a population of 500,000 or more.

This study, which is part of a thorough examination into public expenditures, tax burdens, and bonded debts in Wisconsin and neighboring states, has just been published in bulletin form by the University of Wisconsin's bureau of business and economic research.

The survey was made by Dr. George L. Leffler, sometime instructor in economics at the State University, with the aid and cooperation of Harold M. Groves, professor of economics and former member of the state legislature and state tax commission.

Per Capita Tax of \$64.76

The 13 American cities, each of which were studied for their comparative tax burdens, governmental costs and debts, had a population in 1930 of 21,000,000 people within their corporate limits. They included New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Los Angeles, Cleveland, St. Louis, Baltimore, Boston, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Milwaukee, and Buffalo.

Comparisons were made between these cities as to tax collections, revenue receipts, governmental cost payments of general departments, all governmental cost payments, and bonded debts.

In 1930 the average tax collections per capita in these 13 first class cities was \$64.76, the study reveals. For the entire group the highest tax burden was found in Boston, where the per capita burden was \$90.45.

The lowest burden was in Baltimore where the average was \$42.47. In this group of cities Milwaukee ranked sixth in relative tax burdens with \$62.78, which was below the average of all first class cities.

The per capita tax collections of each of the other cities in 1930 were as follows: New York, \$77.71; Los Angeles, \$73.05; Buffalo, \$71.93; Pittsburgh, \$70.92; Cleveland, \$60.35; Detroit, \$57.07; San Francisco, \$54.32; Chicago, \$52.41; Philadelphia, \$49.42; and St. Louis, \$43.83.

Government Cost High

During the same year the average of these cities was spending \$98.93

per capita for operation, maintenance, interest, and outlays, the study shows. The greatest disbursement was in San Francisco, where government costs were \$145.25. The lowest disbursement was that of St. Louis, where the cost of government was only \$67.33 per capita. Milwaukee had an average per capita cost of government operation of \$90.13, which ranked it ninth in relative per capita disbursements, or nearly \$9 below that of the average first class American city.

The per capita government costs of the other cities were Detroit, \$127.46; Los Angeles, \$127.12; Boston, \$109.33; Pittsburgh, \$107.40; Buffalo, \$99.97; New York, \$97.93; Chicago, \$92.33; Cleveland, \$87.15; Philadelphia, \$83.63; and Baltimore, \$71.27.

Cities Have Big Debts

Turning to debts, the study reveals that each of these 13 first class cities has without exception a heavy bonded debt. The largest net bonded debt is of course in the city of New York, where the governmental indebtedness exceeds \$1,615,755,000. The smallest net debt is that of St. Louis, where the total is only \$64,429,000. Milwaukee is second lowest in the list with a total net bonded debt of \$67,795,000 in 1930.

Interest payments on the bonded debts, which eat up a goodly share of the annual tax income in most of these first class cities each year, is lowest in Milwaukee and St. Louis, the survey reveals. In 1930 per capita interest payments ranged from \$15.40 in New York city to \$3.30 in St. Louis, the average per capita payment being \$11.06.

Milwaukee was second lowest in the entire list with a per capita debt interest cost of only \$5.25, or less than half that of the average first class city. The per capita payments for interest on bonded debts in each of the other cities were Philadelphia, \$12.30; Cleveland, \$10.39; Detroit, \$9.78; Boston, \$9.77; Pittsburgh, \$9.39; Los Angeles, \$9.38; Baltimore, \$9.29; Buffalo, \$9.21; Chicago, \$7.64; and San Francisco, \$7.01.

Milwaukeeans Get Most

That the people of Milwaukee have been getting more goods and services for each dollar of taxes collected is indicated by the fact that interest payments are smaller per capita in that city than in any large city in the United States with the exception of St. Louis, the study shows. Cities with "pay-as-you-go" policies, such as St. Louis and Milwaukee, will find increasing benefit in the years to come from having followed the wisdom of such a policy, Prof. Leffler predicts in the report of his survey.

sanitary engineer department, who has made plans for the course, announced.

Whether or not the plant accomplishes the desired results depends to a large extent upon the operator in charge, he said, explaining that if the operator is willing to work and understands the basic principles underlying sewage treatment, satisfactory results can be obtained.

Three faculty members, five state sanitary officials, and four sewage plant operators and chemists will give the 14 lectures and conduct the laboratory demonstrations during the course, which is sponsored jointly by the University department of hydraulic and sanitary engineering, the bureau of sanitary engineering of the state board of health, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

The talent and resources of all churches and student religious centers surrounding the campus of the University of Wisconsin are being combined into one organization known as the Church Federation, which has as its aim the production of finer religious dramas for students at the State University.

It is the purpose of this course to inform the operator of the basic principles used in sewage treatment as well as to describe the various methods that have been used in overcoming any operating difficulties he may have encountered," Prof. F. M. Dawson, of the University hydraulic and

The operators will attend the second annual sewage plant short course, which continues through six days, from Jan. 8 to 13, inclusive. Both morning and afternoon classes will be held.

It is the purpose of this course to inform the operator of the basic principles used in sewage treatment as well as to describe the various methods that have been used in overcoming any operating difficulties he may have encountered," Prof. F. M. Dawson, of the University hydraulic and

Staff members of almost every department in the State University attended one or more meetings of national organizations. Many of the faculty members presented papers of educational and scientific significance at the meetings, while others presided over sectional meetings or lead round-table discussions.

Six of Wisconsin's most widely known historians took an active part in the meeting of the American Historical association at Urbana, Ill.

They included Dr. Louise P. Kellogg, of the state historical society,

who presided at a joint session of the Mississippi Valley Historical association. Dean George C. Sellery was chairman of the meeting's session devoted to medieval history, while Prof. Chester P. Higby was chairman at the conference on modern Europe.

At the ancient history session of the conference Prof. A. A. Vasiliev read a paper on "The Code of Justinian", while Prof. John D. Hicks dis-

cussed the development of civilization in the middle west at the general session, and Prof. Paul Knaplund read a paper at the session devoted to English history.

Many members of the University's department of speech attended the joint meeting of the Association of Teachers of Speech and the American Society for the Study of Disorders of Speech in New York. They included Professors Andrew T. Weaver, Robert

8 U. W. Students Study School Library Methods

Eight students, all from Wisconsin homes and all seniors, are registered for the course in library methods for high schools in the University of Wisconsin Library school.

The course, which is offered in cooperation with the University school of education, is open to seniors and graduate students who are qualifying for positions as high school librarians in connection with their teaching.

Students now enrolled in the course are: Mary E. Benson, Mineral Point; Dorothy V. Gates, Wittenberg; Eleanor L. Jones and Dorothy M. Woodward, both of Madison; Mae C. Lueck, Beaver Dam; Margaret C. Naset, Sparta; Virginia L. Schlump, Avoca; and Nancy H. Vaniman, Whitehall.

U. W. Man Probes Sky Mystery with Tiny Electric Cell

New Device, Invented at U. W., Upsets Theories About Universe

A tiny potassium photo-electric cell, developed during the past few years at the University of Wisconsin, has upset several more or less widespread theories concerning distances in the universe held by many astronomers for some years past, it has been revealed.

Prof. Joel Stebbins, director of the Washburn observatory at the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Albert E. Whitford, Wisconsin associate, developed the photo-electric cell at the State University. Last summer they took it to California, where they used it on the 100-inch telescope at the Mt. Wilson observatory. As a result of these researches, Dr. Stebbins has been credited with a notable step in astronomy.

With the aid of the photo-electric cell, Dr. Stebbins studied the absorption and space reddening in the milky way, as shown by the globular clusters of stars. Completing the first phase of the studies on this subject a year ago, Prof. Stebbins reported that "some objects like globular clusters of stars in the milky way have hitherto been estimated to be as much as four times as far away from earth as they really are".

With the photo-electric cell attached to the large telescope, the brightness and colors of various faint objects were determined by Prof. Stebbins, and the results revealed that there must be an absorbing region in space.

The stars and clusters near the central line of the milky way appeared reddened, he reported, explaining that this reddening is due presumably to an extended cloud of small particles, gas or dust, which obstructs and scatters the light from stars in and beyond this region but does not blot them out completely.

One of the most important results of Dr. Stebbins' research last summer revealed that the Andromeda nebula, nearest universe to that of which the earth is a part, is evidently about the same size as the earth's own Milky Way galaxy or universe. It has been estimated that there are some 30,000,000 of these island universes.

Photographic measurements had formerly indicated that this Andromeda island, which is located about 850,000 light years or some 5,100,000,000,000 miles away, appears to be but one-sixth the size of the earth's universe.

Dr. Stebbins' research thus reveals that the photo-electric cell and telescope is far more sensitive than merely the camera and telescope for exploring the distant mysteries of the skies. He will return to the California observatory next summer to continue his research work on these astronomical problems.

The American Sociological association also met in Philadelphia, with three members of the University sociology and anthropology departments attending. They are Professors Edward A. Ross, John L. Gillin, and Samuel Stouffer.

Four members of the departments of geography and geology presented papers at the meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Evanston, Ill. They are Professors Glenn T. Trewartha, Ray H. Whitbeck, Russell Whitaker, and Vernon C. Finch.

Prof. Cecil Burleigh, of the school of music, read a paper at the meeting of the Music Teachers' National association at Lincoln, Neb., while Prof. Homer Atkins, of the chemistry department, attended the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society at Ithaca, N. Y.

Several members of the foreign language division attended meetings of the Modern Language association in St. Louis, Mo. They included Miss A. B. Ernst, professor of German in the Extension division; Professors A. R. Hohlfeld, B. Q. Morgan, W. F. Twaddell, Friedrich Bruns and J. P. von Grueninger of the German department; Prof. Joaquin Ortega of the Spanish department; Prof. Einar Haugen of the Scandinavian department; Prof. Casimir D. Zdanowicz of the French department; and Prof. H. H. Clarke of the English department.

The State University was well represented at the meeting of the American Economics association at Philadelphia. Seven members of the economics department attended the meeting. They included Professors William H. Kiekhofer, Martin G. Glaeser,

Barley Growers to Hold Meetings Early in January

Federal, State Workers Will Explain Demand of Quality Market

A series of district meetings at which barley growers, grain buyers, and shippers will give consideration to the problems of marketing quality barley will be held in important barley growing sections throughout Wisconsin early in January.

Because of the undesirability of certain kinds, grades and varieties of barley for a quality market, the whole problem of growing, warehousing, and shipping will be considered at these meetings.

Plant disease specialists and agronomists of the United States Department of Agriculture and the state college of agriculture will explain the good and bad qualities of barley varieties for special market purposes as well as methods of controlling the diseases of barley which render it unfit for a quality market trade.

Meetings as scheduled will be held at New Richmond, January 15; Fond du Lac, January 16; Beaver Dam, January 17; Whitewater, January 18; and Dodgeville, January 19.

Quality Alfalfa Seed Grown in Wisconsin Laboratory Tests Show

High quality alfalfa seed is now being produced in many Wisconsin counties; it was revealed in tests of samples now being received at the State Seed Laboratory, at the College of Agriculture, Madison.

No longer must Wisconsin farmers depend entirely upon out-of-state sources for their alfalfa seed supplies. The quality