

Dr Homer L. Dodge, dean of the graduate school and professor of physics, who has been elected president of the newly formed American Association of Teachers of Physics at Cleveland in the Christmas holidays. The new organization is devoted to the betterment of both graduate and undergraduate teaching of physics in colleges and universities

## National leader of physics teachers

**A** dean of one of the faculties of the University of Oklahoma apparently acquired his administrative post at too early an age. He constantly is getting his deanship mixed up with the business of teaching. Indeed, he is so excellent a teacher of physics and so interested in the encouragement of good teaching that the physics teachers of the United States forgot that he was an administrator and drafted him for the presidency of their national organization. It so happens that this particular office involves great responsibilities but he accepted it, even though he has been a dean for some four years and therefore really should have known better.

When Dr Homer L. Dodge was made dean of the University of Oklahoma graduate school, his colleagues rejoiced with him in the dignity of his office but at the same time deplored the loss from their ranks of one so actively engaged in genuine university teaching and research. Any able young college professor who is elevated to an administrative position must after all regard the change with some misgivings. No longer really a professor, he often must exchange the delights of teaching, research, and serious study in his own field for the rigour of administrative and clerical duties—duties that savor very much of ordinary pursuits, except for the smallness of the salary involved.

There once lived in New Orleans a man who acquired distinction by admitting that he was just a private in the Confederate army. In our university a similar opportunity for distinction awaits the few who are still in a position to admit that their title is just plain college professor. The appointment of a professor of physics to the deanship of the graduate school would not then have been a matter of very great moment if the appointee had been anyone except Doctor Dodge or someone like him. Doctor Dodge went into his new office while still imbued with the spirit of research and the artistry of teaching. The faculty of the graduate school thus gained a leader who not only has administrative ability of high order but who is also a true university man with a genuine conception of what a university really is and why it exists.

As a professor of physics, Doctor Dodge has been a pioneer in several important movements in the field of college physics. Realizing that the demands for the services of physicists in the industries is greatly increasing, he has instituted a curriculum leading to a degree in engineering physics. With the emphasis placed on the industrial and practical aspects of the science, this course of study provides the student wishing to enter the industries with a type of train-



WILSON STUDIO

ing that is available in but few universities. The course is also close to an ideal one for the student who desires to become a teacher of physics in a secondary school.

There has also been a great need in American universities for elementary courses in physics designed to arouse the intelligent interest of students not intending to specialize in science. Among the first to recognize this need was Doctor Dodge who began by introducing a course which he called Physics of Everyday Life. This course, and the influence which it has had on the other elementary physics courses, has produced the results which were anticipated, and even more; not only has there been a marked increase in the interest of undergraduates taking physics, but the relative number of students enrolled in advanced courses in physics in this university now exceeds that of any similar institution in the country.

It is well known that most of the specialists in the various fields of natural science have too little interest in the problems of teaching. On the other hand, those interested primarily in science teaching are frequently not found among the producers of first rank in the fields of pure science. Consequently it has been found to be a difficult matter to organize in this country a society of

(TURN TO PAGE 168, PLEASE)

closed a mortgage and was neither the plaintiff nor defendant in any action before a court. It weathered financial storms that brought closure to three other banks in the community and was the only bank to remain open.

Mr Memminger was active in the life of Atoka. He was the president of the Atoka Building and Loan association, the president of the Atoka Lions club, the only business men's organization in the county, county chairman of the Democratic Central committee, service officer and county commander of the American Legion. He was named a colonel on the governor's staff.

Three weeks after war was declared, Mr Memminger resigned as cashier of the bank and enlisted in the army. He attended the officers training camp at Fort Roots, Little Rock, Arkansas, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the quartermaster corps on August 15, 1917. He was on duty at Camp Pike, Little Rock, until December, 1917, when he was transferred to the army finance school at Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, Florida. He sailed for France in April, 1918. He received promotion to become a first lieutenant and was stationed at La Rochelle, France most of the time. He was in service a total of twenty-six and a half months, fourteen months being overseas service.

In March, 1919, he was one of a detachment of 2,000 from the army assigned to English universities. He attended the University of Edinburgh until June, 1919. During his first month in England, he travelled over the country, and was presented to King George V in Buckingham palace. Other interesting experiences of this pleasureable period were a tea with Princess Alice at Windsor castle and tea with Marie Corelli at Stratford-on-Avon.

Mr Memminger was discharged at Camp Dix, New Jersey, July 26, 1919. He at present holds the rank of major in the officers reserve.

It was natural that Mr Memminger should enter politics. His father had a long and honorable part in the making of Oklahoma. He himself had been a page in the first senate of the state. In the university he had helped organize the Oklahoma League of Young Democrats, and was state treasurer for the organization in 1917. In 1926, he was a member of the platform committee of the state democratic convention. In the primary campaign last summer, he was nominated and elected senator for Atoka, Bryan and Coal counties. His primary majority was 2,500, his final majority was almost eight thousand.

Mr Memminger makes his home at Atoka with his mother and sister.

## GEORGE H. JENNINGS

George H. Jennings, '16 law, is a newcomer to the state senate, but he has long been a leader in Creek county, where he practices law. He is the senator for the eleventh district, embracing Creek and Payne counties.

In the university, he was the president of the second year law class, in 1915 and won the Callagan law scholarship prize that year. He was president of the Sooner bar, and was elected to membership in Phi Delta Phi, honorary legal fraternity. He is a member of Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity.

Mr Jennings holds one of the highest averages of any graduate of the law school.

In addition to the practice of law in Sapulpa from 1917 to 1918 he served as justice of the peace. During the war he served as a Four Minute Man and as a member of the Creek county exemption board. He was secretary of the Creek county election board for four years.



## NATIONAL LEADER OF PHYSICS TEACHERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 160)

high standing, having for its chief aim the promotion of better teaching in physics.

Several organizations of physics teachers have existed among secondary school and junior college teachers but never with the full approval and co-operation of the research physicists and of the great organizations devoted to the promotion of research in physics. What evidently was lacking was the able leadership of a man who knew and appreciated the viewpoint of both the teacher and the research physicist. It has turned out that the man who is equipped to fulfill this need is here at the University of Oklahoma.

A few weeks ago a group of men met in Chicago to talk over the possibilities of forming a society for the teaching of physics. These men knew of the work of Doctor Dodge and it was an acknowledged fact among them that if they could get him actively interested in the formation of the proposed society, the venture would be a success. Dean Dodge was therefore asked to preside as chairman of an organization meeting to take place in Cleveland, Ohio, during the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He accepted and the meeting resulted in the formation of the American Association of Teachers of Physics.

This society, of which Dean Dodge has been made the first president, fills an unique place, not only because it is the only national organization of teachers of physics but because it is devoted primarily to the betterment of both graduate and undergraduate teaching in colleges and universities. There is something refreshing in the assumption involved here, namely that teaching can be improved in all ranks, including that of the graduate school.

There is little doubt but that the organization will have the co-operation that it deserves from physicists in general and from the American Physical Society, the research organization. Doctor Dodge has seen to that by having the officers and executive committee include such men as Dr K. T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr F. K. Richtmyer, dean of the graduate school of Cornell university, Dr Ralph S. Minor, professor of physics in the University of California, and Dr Paul E. Klopsteg, president of the Central Scientific Company.

There are between fifteen and twenty thousand teachers, research workers and industrial physicists in the United States and Canada who are eligible for membership in the American Association of Teachers of Physics. This infant which our Oklahoma teacher-dean is guiding bids fair to become an exceedingly important factor in science education in America.



## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 166)

espouses one side or another in a political battle. You can't keep him out of a political campaign.

During the early part of the war, Mr Weaver was secretary of the Latimer county council of defense and county food administrator. Later, he enlisted in the tank corps, and is probably the only soldier in the American army enlisted through the selective draft who had previous to that time served in a constitutional convention.

Mr Weaver has varied interests in life. A major program with him has been promotion of good roads for southeastern Oklahoma. He blocked out and promoted the state game reserve in Latimer county. He led in the establishment of the most extensive and the most attractive boy scout camp in Oklahoma, eight miles north of Wilburton.

His election as speaker of the house was made by unanimous vote and was popular in the state generally. He is the first Sooner to be speaker of the house.