

Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

The Haskell Regime. The Intimate Life of Charles Nathaniel Haskell. By Oscar Presley Fowler, '31M.A. Oklahoma City. The Boles Printing Co., Inc. 1933.

The Haskell period in Oklahoma history is one of the most interesting and informative in our short but stormy existence as a state. Mr. Fowler, who began his work on Haskell, the first governor of Oklahoma, as a thesis for his master of arts degree in the University of Oklahoma, has greatly increased the usefulness of this first valuable survey on the advice of Edward Everett Dale, '11as, head of the history department, by making it as well a history of Oklahoma from 1905 to 1911.

The result is an unusually interesting and valuable contribution to Oklahoma history. Mr. Fowler consulted many leaders active during the period and in addition had the good fortune of the close cooperation of Former Governor Haskell himself, who not only aided in making material available but read the manuscript as well.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Haskell grew up in that state, became a school teacher and later a lawyer. A versatile man, he early showed a business acumen which later made him a national figure. Mr. Fowler relates that when a small boy, Charles was given the choice of a quarter or a hen and chickens as payment for cleaning a neighbor's yard, the boy chose the hen. His boyhood was filled with hardship, for his father died of pneumonia when Charles was only three years old.

Haskell early demonstrated qualities of leadership and a determination to learn which stood him in good stead throughout his life. Once, when teaching school, two pupils handed him an algebra. He was in a quandary, since he knew no algebra, yet dared not reveal his ignorance. Cleverly he suggested that the class master algebraic rules; and, the hurdle momentarily leaped, Haskell hastened to the home of a friend where he proceeded to learn algebra!

Although his practice of law was successful, Mr. Haskell interested himself in railroads and gained control of the Ohio Southern Railroad, which he developed, extending it to Detroit and Ironton. Henry Ford later acquired the railroad Haskell developed and it is now known as the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton. It was railway business which brought Haskell to Oklahoma, and to Muskogee. He was so charmed with that city that he made it his permanent home.

Mr. Fowler shows how active Haskell

was in the development of Oklahoma and in establishing the new government. It is interesting, in view of the seemingly ever-present school land embroglio, that Haskell, seeing that there were more than \$278,000 in apparently worthless notes outstanding, forced the collection of \$189,749 on these.

Mr. Fowler has a pleasing style and his book is filled with fact and incident in forming the state government and in its progress under the administration of its first governor. The book is well illustrated.

Nettleton on Social Security

Tully A. Nettleton, '23journ, assistant editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, and now with the Washington bureau of that newspaper, contributes a series of stimulating articles in a series of twelve published by the *Monitor* on the general title of "The Search for Social Security." Other contributors on European phases of the subject were Sisley Huddleston and E. C. Cotes. Mr. Nettleton's articles appeared in the issues of April 16, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 29 and May 2.

"Is it not possible that physical and social invention can go ahead together?" asks Mr. Nettleton in one of his challenging articles. "In fact, is it not imperative for business as well as individuals, that they shall go hand in hand, each helping humanity to adjust itself to the changes wrought by the other?"

Mr. Nettleton's articles in the order of appearance, dealt with the progress of social security, the social security program, state cooperation on security, old age pensions, attitude of industry toward security, need to end cyclical unemployment as prevention, real security is a simple thing.

Cunningham Finishes Book

The Green Corn Rebellion, the story of the uprising in Oklahoma in 1917, is the subject of a book by William Cunningham, '25as, a member of the Commonwealth college faculty, Mena, Arkansas.

Cunningham, now on leave of absence while he completes final work on the book, is in Chicago. He plans to work on several other pieces of fiction before returning to Commonwealth to resume his teaching. He is on the economics staff.

Cunningham is 34 years old, having been born in Okeene, Oklahoma. He taught journalism and writing courses for a time at Commonwealth.

The Green Corn Rebellion occurred in central Oklahoma before the entrance of the United States into the World war. Several hundred Oklahoma farmers band-



William Cunningham, '25as, is completing his first novel that uses as a setting the Oklahoma Green Corn Rebellion. Cunningham is in Chicago working on a final draft of his book.

ed together to march on Washington and abolish the present economic system. In his story of the uprising, Cunningham relates that the reforms sought by this group of farmers today are being recognized by many persons in the United States.

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