

willingly watched their men leave for France in 1917. Men originated the sentences by which we were beguiled into accepting the fact. Part of the business of the war machine is the invention of words to hide the ugliness of the whole filthy mess. And the real pathos of war is not the suffering and death it brings, but the manner in which we resign ourselves to such suffering and death for the sake of heroic phrases. Like shiny cellophane disguising prurient goods, noble language wraps up our greed.

"Figures speak louder than words. Re-

gard these which were recently compiled in Washington:

"Grand total of regular appropriation for national defense—983 millions.

"To maintain State Department—19 millions.

"No number of words can bridge the gap between our intelligence and stupidity at this point. And if our heads are on straight no sentimental gush will make us believe that American mothers ever did or ever will give their sons to fight in European wars. If they did, what have they got for it?"

teacher inspires young people, leads out the best that is in them, incites them to develop their capacities and powers.

Economical management in every department of state government would release more money for the employment of great teachers and it would provide better equipment and more of it in schools where that need exists.

Whenever the business men of this state decide that education is a sound investment—not all of them realize its value—our schools will receive better support and more of it.

The prospect of realizing this ideal is better today than ever, for many business men in Oklahoma City are intensely interested in this problem and 33 per cent of the state's total of students in institutions of higher learning are enrolled in schools within 18 miles of the city.

Moreover, Oklahoma City has a Chamber of Commerce, one division of which works all the year 'round on promoting culture—the committee on education, organized to foster art, music, drama, literature, higher education and religion. And if reports be true, ours is the only Chamber of Commerce in the United States having as one of its projects the development of the community's artistic, intellectual and spiritual life.

Somewhere along the way from kindergarten to college commencement this nation's youth should be taught how to spell.

Judging by results, spelling must be a sadly neglected branch of popular education. And punctuation seems to be a lost art.

Grade schools, high schools and colleges—commercial institutions included—should turn out good spellers if in order to accomplish that weekly contests or spelling bees must be held.

Incidentally, business colleges would serve their students and the latter's prospective employers more satisfactorily if they would give a course in office conduct and manners. There are many times when it is almost more important to know what to say and do in an office than to take dictation and transcribe it with accuracy and speed.

Turning from what we ought to do in education to what we have done, the progress made within the past 50 years is astounding.

Less than half a century ago it was the exceptional youth who attended college. Few girls' faces were seen on the college campuses of this country. A girl who took her college course seriously was regarded as a blue-stocking. Her prospect for marrying was anything but good.

It was some distinction in those days to complete a four years' course in high school. As for technical education, except in law and medicine, that was rare, indeed.

We are making substantial progress. It is characteristic of us as Americans, however, to want to make greater speed.

## Right of the Fit to Education

By EDITH JOHNSON

IN THE "DAILY OKLAHOMAN"

**D**O you know, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, that it costs you and other citizens of this state \$50 more a year to maintain an inmate in the Oklahoma state penitentiary than it does to provide one year's college training for a young man or woman in the University of Oklahoma?

And this is but a sample of what is going on. Our tax bill for keeping up the unfit, that is the criminal, the mentally incompetent and the insane, is bigger than our bill for higher education, to say nothing of the staggering cost of maintaining courts and trying offenders. As Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the state university, told the education committee of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce on Monday, we shall not build a better civilization until we provide every possible opportunity for the mentally competent. Only 50 per cent of graduates from high school in Oklahoma enter institutions of higher learning. The remaining 50 per cent go no farther, either because they have no desire to go to college or because they cannot buy and pay for a college education. Many a student is in college because Dad has plenty of money and for no better reason, while many a youth who has a far greater capacity for making good use of higher education is deprived of the opportunity by his economic condition—there is not room for unlimited numbers to work their way through college and young people are

often forced to earn their own support and that of others by the time they reach college age, if not before.

Considering her age Oklahoma has done fairly well in providing higher education and technical education for her youth. Even so, our state rates twenty-fifth in the nation, in money invested in learning. Despite the richness of our resources, it will take time to raise our standards both in quantity and quality to compare with the educational facilities offered in Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, Ohio and California.

Not in years have our state schools operated on such small budgets as now. Take, for instance, the University of Oklahoma. With an enrollment varying from 8,000 to 9,000, or 1,000 more than in 1926-27, this, one of the ten largest universities in the United States, is worrying along on \$300,000 less a year than it had in 1926-27.

The most expert, commercially, of college presidents cannot furnish the quality of instruction on a reduced budget that he can on a liberal budget.

What our state university and other state schools should be in a position to offer is higher quality, more instructors, whose ability to teach compares favorably with the best in the land. A great teacher is a tremendous asset to any school—we have more than one in Oklahoma. A great