

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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A MESSAGE

FROM PRESIDENT SHUSTER

The Historical Commission, sent by the War Department to Germany during the past summer, had a very interesting assignment. It was to collect information from Nazis and other Germans of high rank and station now held in custody, and it was to take a look at the available accumulations of documents. Of the results, which are now being correlated with information received by other agencies, I will say only that they justify us in saying that for the first time historians will have a chance to look into every nook and cranny of the social and political structure of a defeated power. Our own Commission is especially proud of the work done by its economists. Some of their reports have already been praised warmly by several Allied governments. Personally I enjoyed most a trip to Rome. But on the whole there is little in Europe to-day that is not harrowing and depressing. We can only say God *has* blessed America, and be thankful for it.

I have been urged by the Department of State to serve as an Adviser on the United States Delegation to consider the creation of an Educational and Cultural Organization of the United Nations. This is to meet in London during some weeks of November. I can only echo some words of the Assistant Secretary of State and hope that when Thanksgiving Day comes round we can gratefully record the fact that the peoples of the world have resolved not to let ignorance of one another be an obstacle to peace.

GEORGE N. SHUSTER.

VICTORY BONDS

The Victory Bond Drive started on October 29th and will end on December 31st. We hope that every member of our Alumnae Association will help us "go over the top", as we have done in all the previous Drives.

Victory Bonds are needed to bring millions of our men home from overseas, to provide their mustering-out pay, to care for the disabled during the hospitalization and rehabilitation period, to maintain a substantial Army and Navy until order is restored throughout the world, and to pay for postwar education of those who had to leave learning for war.

Hunter College and the Alumnae Association have set a goal of \$325,000 to provide for fifty beds in a veterans' hospital. Our government needs 150,000 beds in the next few years. Wouldn't it be fine if we all worked together and sold enough Bonds to provide 200 beds? For some it may take a long time, months and sometimes years, to get on their feet again.

Your Chairman seeks the coöperation of every member of our Alumnae in this drive.

All requests for Series E, F. or G Bonds will be promptly attended to. Try to buy, and to induce others to buy, the Roosevelt Bond, a Series E \$200 bond, issue price \$150. This bond is a tribute to the memory of our late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and in memory of all the heroes who did not live to see the Victory for which they fought so valiantly.

MRS. SAMUEL BITTERMAN, Chairman,
Schuyler 4-3685 275 Central Park West.

VOTE NO

New York State will vote this fall on an amendment to its constitution which, if adopted, will have the effect of limiting the public service to veterans for years to come. The debt owed to the veterans of New York State cannot be overestimated. The question is: In the process of paying that debt, will the proposed Downey-Sherman amendment destroy the public service?

The answer seems clear. If approved, it will have the following effects:

(a) All veterans who have passed an examination for an entry position or for a promotion in the state or city service will have their names placed at the top of eligible lists, disabled ahead of non-disabled.

(b) The physical disability of the veteran will be determined by the U. S. Veterans Administration and not by the authorities of New York State. Thus in advance New York State is pledging itself to forgo the right to right to determine who is eligible for priority on its civil service lists.

(c) Positions which require high technical and professional accomplishments are not exempt from the provisions of the proposed amendment. This is contrary to the procedure established in the Federal Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, which gives recognition to the principle that if the public service is to be saved, certain key positions at least must be recruited on a competitive basis.

(d) The New York State constitution already gives the disabled veteran all the benefits that would result under the proposed Downey-Sherman amendment. However, since these persons, who most merit preferential treatment, are already protected, there is no need to adopt this amendment in its present form. The disabled veteran is already assured, under the constitution of New York State, of all the benefits that would result under the proposed Downey-Sherman amendment.

For the above reasons, citizens of New York State should vote "No" to the Downey-Sherman amendment (No. 6 of the proposals to be presented to the voters of New York State on November 6, 1945).

HUNTER'S OWN OPERA

Hunter College has already produced a prima donna at the Metropolitan Opera. Now it has produced an opera which those who have been privileged to hear excerpts from the book or the music are hoping will also some day reach the Metropolitan.

The opera, which is called *King Harald*, "*The life that is free*", is the joint work of two well-known members of the Hunter College staff: Mr. Anders Emile of the Music Department, who composed the music; and Professor Pearl C. Wilson of the Classics Department, who wrote the libretto. When Mr. Emile, who is himself of Norwegian origin, suggested to Professor Wilson that she use as the theme for an opera a saga of those early lovers of freedom the old Norsemen, her imagination was kindled; and she wrote a tale of Harald King of the Vikings, who had fought for many years to conquer the enemies of freedom and establish a free way of life in Norway. Harald's foster-son Thorwald, saved from starvation when his own father was slain and his country ruined, turned against his generous foster-father in his greed for power that was to rob all of freedom; but at last Thorwald is dethroned and freedom restored. The tale is an exciting one, told by Miss Wilson with thrilling spirit and exquisite poetry, for which Mr. Anders has composed suitable and noble music.

As a preliminary to the rendering of the full opera, a Concert Version of Act I, together with excerpts from Mozart's "*The Abduction from the Seraglio*", will be presented jointly by Hunter College and the Young People's Opera of the New York College of Music, in the Hunter College Playhouse on Monday evening, January 7, 1946, at 8:15. The conductor will be Siegfried Landau of the New York College of Music; and the vocal ensemble, chorus, and orchestra will be under his direction.

Tickets may be purchased at the Hunter College Concert Bureau, Room 313, and at the New York College of Music. Checks may be made out to Anders Emile and sent to Room 313, Hunter College. The cost of tickets, including tax, is \$2.40, \$1.80, \$1.20, and \$.60.

E. A. H.