



Red River Aggie

SERVICE FLAG DEDICATION

February 5, 1918, was the occasion of a patriotic demonstration at the Northwest School of Agriculture. A number of very fine programs have been given during the year including the big alumni and student get-together just before Christmas. The flag dedication exercises, however, were perhaps the most concrete demonstration of the institution's genuine loyalty. Hilda Nyquist, representing the student body, presented the Red Cross service flag, which was accepted by Mrs. A. M. Foker, president of the school's branch of the national organization. Miss Nyquist gave a very interesting account of the history of the Red Cross movement and an enlightening explanation of its great work in the present conflict. Mrs. Foker brought out a burst of enthusiastic applause with the announcement that the local organization has a membership including every person on the campus.

Charles Auburg, speaking for the alumni and former students, presented the army service flag. He gave a very significant explanation of flags and their meaning.

Superintendent Selvig, in behalf of the school, accepted the flag. In an impressive address he pointed out the importance of the occasion and gave full meaning to the service flag by reading the names of the individuals represented by each star.

Tracing the events which led up to the fateful date, April 2, 1917, when President Wilson appeared before congress and said "God helping her, she (our country) can do no other," which clearly indicated war with Germany, Mr. Selvig told of the responsibility which falls on each person in helping our country win the war.

"This is a day of dedication," he said. "Each one of us must dedicate himself to the tasks lying unfinished before us. In no other way can we win. In no other way can we retain our own self-respect and merit the loyalty of the boys who are and who soon will be 'over there.'"

He closed his address with the following eloquent words of dedication:

"In behalf of and with the fondest affection for our boys who have gone into the service of our country from this school, and with pride in the service that our Northwest School boys are rendering their country, and ours,

We pledge our loyalty to them, and to the stars and stripes that float over them. We say to them:

Be brave; be strong of heart; be of good cheer—
The cause is high, noble and just.
Loving thoughts and devoted prayers are yours—
That you do your duty.
Firm in high resolve;
Noble in grandeur of purpose;
Composed in the dignity of unconquerable determination.
Carry on!
Till the last trace of Hunnism shall forever be banished.'

To you, our classmates true—our school boys, whom we know and love,
To you, we dedicate this flag in your honor.
To every several one a star,
Which in its deep hue of blue reflects the loyalty
You feel for your country and for which
You offer your last full measure of devotion.

Your star's deep blue upon a field of white
Clear, untarnished white, emblem of purity—
Of mind, heart and body—your priceless heritage,
Which you will carry to beautiful France,
And not let suffer there.

Your star's deep blue—fringed by a border of red—
Unflinching courage's bright sign.

You will not fail your country, boys,
You boys from the Northwest School,
Fight hard—the star is yours—
And shall it come to pass
That bright gold its form o'ertakes,
We, in higher glory still,
Your name in memory shall hold."

The flags are beautiful emblems made with great skill and care. They hang one on each side of the stage in the auditorium. The service flag has at present forty-eight blue stars.