The Alumni Forum

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Abstract

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NEW REPUBLIC
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HENRY A. WALLACE, EDITOR

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Miss Bernice A. Fox, Editor
SKETCH Magazine
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Dear Bernice Fox:

I wish I had the time to send you the article for the fall issue of SKETCH. The most significant thing that has occurred to me recently has been visiting with five boys from Iowa State College on our farm at South Salem, N. Y. These boys have been attending an "Encampment for Citizenship" held on the northern edge of New York City. We sat down on the porch to talk things over, and I was amazed to find out how much more aware of the world are the Iowa State boys of 1947 than were the boys I used to know 37 years ago. They were asking questions about union labor, industry, foreign nations. They were asking very significant questions as to how Iowa State College might do a better job, especially in the field of agriculture. In my day it would have been almost lese majeste for Iowa State College students to think as broadly as these young men.

I have always had the greatest respect for the high caliber of the scientific work carried on by Iowa State College, but had not felt the outlook inculcated was so very broad. Where they are coming from, I do not know, but surely there are fresh winds blowing over the campus. This does not altogether surprise me because I have talked to young men on many campuses during the past few months and have found that everywhere they are asking questions. Iowa State College is not immune to the current ferment of thinking. On the contrary, I would say, if these five young men are any criterion, that Iowa State College may perhaps furnish somewhat more than her share of thoughtful leadership to the next generation.

Sincerely yours,

Henry A. Wallace