OUR TWO CENTS’ WORTH

And So It Goes

Some conversations we have had with the college office:

April 2; “We understand there is to be a new five-year program starting at Ohio State. Do you have any information on it that we may have?”

Answer: “There is to be a five-year program here, but we haven’t any definite information about it yet. Come in again soon.”

April 16: “How about the five-year program. Any definite data about it yet?”

Answer: “No, not yet. The committees are still working on details.”

May 1: “Pardon me, but has anything been decided yet definitely about the five-year program?”

Answer: “Oh, my no. Perhaps there will be something in time for your June issue.”

May 15: “Uh . . . I hate to disturb you, but, is there anything def—”

Answer: “Oh, dear, no! It probably won’t be decided until next Fall!”

(To be continued in the November Issue)

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South of the Border

“Go South, young man! Go South!”

This seems to have become the slogan of a good many people who have been to and returned from Latin America. These people cite the great need for engineers in the relatively undeveloped regions of Central and South America. There seems to be almost unlimited possibilities for trained engineers south of the Rio Grande. Someone has said that the South American nations are now in a period of economic development comparable to the United States in the later 1800’s.

Of course, the chief hindrance to the development of big industries in South America is her lack of sufficient fuel and iron ore. Dr. Harvey Walker of the political science department here on the campus recently returned from Brazil, where, he says, the great majority of the industry is small business establishments. Dr. Walker is very enthusiastic about Brazil, and strongly urges anyone who has the notion of going outside the United States to practice engineering to consider Brazil and South America very carefully. (Incidentally, he says that one reason Brazil is so nice is that everyone feels on an even level with his neighbor. There is no race prejudice or race feeling of any kind and they can’t understand why we should have race riots up here.)

Anyone contemplating such service should be cautioned about one peculiarity of the South Americans, though. Funny thing about them—they like to be treated fairly! The main reason that the British and Germans and Italians were able to make a greater inroad in South America than we were is that they became part of the community and the country in which their industry was located. They made their industry become part of the economic life of that country. Too many Americans failed to adapt their products to Latin American needs, and far too many of them had as their “Golden Rule” the assumption that anything good enough for the United States is good enough for the rest of the world. Thus Americans must be willing to understand and to form a part of the Latin American landscape. They must show the people of the community in which they finally locate that their corporations are a part of the “economic landscape” and not a hungry vulture of exploitation.

So, if you have a little bit of that stuff called, “the pioneer spirit,”—go south, young man, go South!

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The End of The Year

This is the last issue of the year 1945. This has indeed been a momentous school year. As this is being written, the great German Wehrmacht has come to as ignominious an end as could possibly be imagined. With a fear that only a guilty conscience could create, the “master race” has surrendered cringingly to the Western Allies in order to escape righteous Russian wrath. It will certainly be interesting to watch for the whimpering which will be sure to come.

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Nearer, and nearer, we are drawing closer to Tokyo, which one day shall lie in ruins as great or worse (if possible) than the wreck that was Berlin.

It is a wonderful feeling to end this school year with such a victorious note.

Of course, the real "battle" lies ahead of us in the making and the keeping of Peace, but anything we could say about this would only add another drop in a vast ocean of words already written about Peace. The "brain-child" of the San Francisco Conference, whatever it may be, will certainly have to keep an eternal vigilance as it has never been kept before.

Well, the College of Engineering looks forward to a great increase in enrollment for next year. No doubt some of the students (Freshmen) will stay even when they do find out "next Fall" that they have entered a five-year curriculum! Seriously, though, the five-year plan is good, essential, and something more and more colleges are realizing. We can hardly find an article in the college magazines about college education which does not state in no uncertain terms that the curriculum should be lengthened to five years. We wish our faculty and the various committees would chop up just a little of the red tape and get together and reach some decision. Now that's all we're going to say about the plan!!

"So long and good luck, class of '45! Have a good summer, everybody . . . see you "next Fall."

—E.C.G.