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Kansas Conference, Augustana Synod, 1918

Page 13, Alfred Bergin [Minister, Bethany Church, Lindsborg]

The distress of the world, which we during the previous war years have watched from a distance, has now hit our country too. We entered the war April 6 last year. The war will not bring anything but worries and suffering, and the longer it goes on the worse it will be. The goal of our country's participation in the war is big and honorable. We are not fighting for our own interests but that what is right and righteousness will be acknowledged as law and justice for all nations in their relationships between each other and that democratic systems will be guaranteed for all people. The young men of age to be drafted in the country have in large numbers been called to serve and have been trained for the task.

Within all our congregations people are supporting and working for the Red Cross, our soldiers or other patriotic purposes. Many of the young men in our congregations have already been drafted for the war and the number is increasing all the time as new calls to serve are announced. There has been a problem to give them the Christian and spiritual care needed but a good and satisfying solution has now been founded thanks to the work by National Lutheran Commission.

Page 14, Alfred Bergin

May the Lord make sure that this terrible fight, which is draining the vitality of the people, soon will end in a righteous and lasting peace.

Page 20, Alfred Bergin

Bethany College, like all other colleges in the country, has not been able to escape the serious effects of the war and the expensive times, both when it comes to number of students and expenses for all things.

Page 36, Alfred Bergin

There have been fewer students than previous year, but that's the case at all colleges, also the state institutions. It has, however, been larger than what we had feared.

Page 37, Alfred Bergin

Quite a number of our alumni and of our current students have been called to serve and have been drafted for the army, and even more are expected to be called at any time. Some are already on the other side of the ocean, but so far we have not received any mournful tidings.

In all ways the students as well as the professors have true patriotic minds. Fundraising for different purposes has taken place and everyone has worked hard to show support for those who are called to serve.

Page 39, Ernst Pihlblad [President, Bethany College, Lindsborg]

We live in challenging times, both the churches and the schools. We not only have considerable fewer students, but there is a prevailing uneasiness, which is a natural consequence of a world war, in which our country hold a prominent position, that have an effect on both students and professors. The young men who last year were students at colleges were among the first to be called to serve with weapons and many of them are already on duty. Many female students, which we were expecting, have failed to appear due to the fact that their brothers are on active war duty and the parents have felt compelled to keep the girls at home to share with the families' work load.

Page 40, Ernst Pihlblad

Basically all our school work is handled on war-footing. My intent is not to complain, because all institutions are in the same situation. I am just stating a fact. If the war will go on for a long time it will be very challenging and demand more labour to keep the educational institutions going.

Page 83, S. Larson, Kansas City, Swedish hospital

Doctors Clendening, Hanna, Blakesley, Kuhn and Coleman have been called for duty in the medical corps of the army. Doctors Clendening, Hanna, Blakesley and Coleman have been appointed to the rank of captains and Dr. Kuhn is the main doctor at Camp Bliss with the rank of major.