

THE TECH

VOL. XXX. NO. 128

BOSTON, MASS., SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1911

PRICE TWO CENTS

"ROMANCE AND REALITIES OF ENGINEERS"

Subject of Address by Mr. Frank J. Sprague at Dinner of Joint Societies

Mr. Sprague a Prominent Consulting Engineer of New York.

"The Romance and Realities of Engineering" is the subject chosen by Mr. Frank J. Sprague, the New York consulting engineer, for the grand joint societies' dinner in the Union Wednesday evening April 12. Below is a biographical sketch of Mr. Sprague.

Frank Julian Sprague, Electrical Engineer, was born at Milford, Conn., July 25th, 1857. He received high school education at North Adams, Mass., and in 1874, he won competitive appointment to U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, graduating in 1878 and taking high rank in engineering, physics, mathematics and architecture.

He was ordered to U. S. S. Richmond, bound for Chinese Station, and was special correspondent of Boston Herald during this cruise and General Grant's visit to China and Japan. He returned home in 1880, and carried on electrical experiments at the Stevens Institute Shops and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He was ordered to duty on the training ship Minnesota, where he made the first attempts in the Service to introduce the incandescent electric light, later continuing experiments at the Torpedo Station at Newport.

Returning to his ship, he passed examination for Ensign, got a year's leave, and resigned to become assistant to Mr. Edison. He remained with him for a year, during which time he made important improvements in matters connected with electric light distribution, but becoming interested in the electric transmission of power, he resigned a year afterwards, and with E. H. Johnson organized the Sprague Electric Railway & Motor Company, and began development of electric motors. In 1884 he exhibited a number of these at Philadelphia Electrical Exhibition. His constant speed motors, the first of the kind were endorsed by the parent Edison Electric Light Company for use by its licensed companies, and for the next four years there was an extraordinary advance in the application of stationary motors to industrial operations.

In May, 1887, he took contracts for the equipment of the Union Passenger Railway of St. Joseph, Mo., and the Union Passenger Railway of Richmond, Va., the latter comprising 80 motors for forty cars, complete overhead system and a central station. This contract was finally carried out under extraordinary difficulties in spite of every prediction of failure. It was the first commercial electric road on a large scale, and laid the foundation of the modern electric trolley development. On this road was tried practically every device, except the carbon brush, which characterizes the modern system, and within six years five-sixths of the existing horse car lines were converted into electrically operated systems.

About 1890, the Sprague Company was absorbed by the Edison General Electric Company, Sprague remaining for a time as Consulting Engineer. He then took up the development of electric elevators with Mr. Chas. R. Pratt, organized the Sprague Electric Elevator Company, and developed the high speed screw elevator, the automatic house elevator, and the two motor drum elevator, 49 of the latter of which were installed on the Central London Electric Railway.

Meanwhile, in 1892, in company with Drs. Louis Duncan and Cary Hutchinson, he designed one of the earliest large electric locomotives.

Although out of the railway business for a considerable period, Sprague for a

Continued on page 2

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN STARTED WITH A RUSH

Worcester and Malden Full of Reminders that "Frenzied French" Is Coming

FULL HOUSES EXPECTED

The Poster has been Scattered Broadcast to Herald the Coming Attraction.

Worcester is becoming excited, Malden is awakening from its long winter's nap, and Boston has been eager with expectancy for the last week. Why? Tech Show 1911 will give "Frenzied French" in each of these places within the next two weeks.

Worcester is an experiment but it is one that is expected to pan out. Its billboards are decorated with magnificent yellow and black announcements of the greatest of all theatricals which flare a notice to all of the citizens that Tech Show will be there on the evening of April 15. Not satisfied with this publicity, there are additional advertisements in all of the store windows along Main Street. These are the posters, also yellow and black with a little red in addition.

Malden is plastered in a similar manner and from now on all interest will center in the Auditorium where the Show will be presented on the evening of April 26. This theater announces that it is having difficulty keeping their present houses full, for everybody is waiting and saving for the time when "those college boys will be in town".

But the popularity of the Show is greatest right here in Boston. All this week the office has been crowded with applicants for tickets for one of the two performances to be held at the Stubert during Junior Week. Manager Lenacerts and his assistants have had their coats off and have gone hungry every noon this week attending to the men who have dropped in, money in hand. But his time for this work is very nearly over. Remember, today is the last opportunity to obtain the seats that have been reserved for you. They will be ready at one o'clock in Room B, the Union. *This is the last chance.*

PUBLIC INVITED TO EXERCISES OF CONGRESS

Hoped that a Large Number Will Avail Themselves of Opportunity

In order that any misapprehensions at present existing in regard to the attendance at the exercises of the Technology Congress may be removed, Pres. MacLaurin wishes definite announcements to be made that the public is invited to attend the exercises held at the Institute on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

ORCHESTRA MUST HAVE MORE MATERIAL

It is up to the men of the 'Stute' to show the Alumni a good time next Monday evening. All the activities will take some part in the celebration. The orchestra has been assigned a big task and is in

SENIOR CLASS DAY COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK

T. B. Parker Elected Chairman at First Meeting; Other Officers Elected

SUB-COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Regular Meetings to be Held Twice a Week Hereafter.

Plans are being rapidly formulated for Technology's Class Day and a committee of 25 of the most popular men of the senior class are busily engaged in arranging for it. At the first meeting of the committee, Theodore B. Parker '11 of Allston who has been chosen by the class for first marshal was elected chairman of the committee, Orville B. Denison of South Framingham, second marshal of the class was elected vice-chairman, and William C. Salisbury of Chicago, Illinois third marshal of the class was elected secretary, the treasurer of the committee as elected was Harold H. Davis of Dorchester.

The various events of junior week will consist of the annual class dinner, class dance, baccalaureate sermon, concert by the glee club, class day exercises, class spread, and graduation exercises. To each of these functions will be a delegate of the committee as appointed by the chairman of the entire committee.

At yesterday's meeting of the committee chairman Parker announced the sub-committee as follows:

Committee on class day: Orville B. Denison of South Framingham chairman, Lloyd P. Cooley of Brookline, Richard H. Gould of Newton Upper Falls, Edwin C. Vose of Newtonville, Peter D. White of New York City.

Committee on Spread: Henry C. Davis Jr. Fort Washington, chairman; Joseph C. Fuller of West Newton, Charles P. Kerr of Cantonville, Md., Hubert S. Smith of Bay City Michigan.

Committee on class dinner: William C. Salisbury of Chicago, chairman; Charles H. S. Merrill of Manchester, Gordon B. Wilson of Buffalo, N. Y., Howard C. Williams of Springfield.

Committee on class dance: Stuart B. Copeland, of Milwaukee, chairman; Kenneth Greenleaf, Savannah, Ill., John L. McAllen of Portland Oregon, Irving W. Wilson of Bloomington, Ill.

Committee on class gifts to the Institute: Richard H. Ranger of Indianapolis, Ind., chairman, Cedric S. Anderson of West Roxbury, Harold M. Davis of Dorchester, and Marcus A. Grossman of Youngston, Ohio.

Committee on Glee club concert: Lawrence G. Odell, of Roxbury, chairman; Henry F. Dolliver of Newport, R. I.

Committee on baccalaureate sermon: William W. Warner of Titusville, Pa.

Regular meetings of the entire committee are now being held twice each week, with meetings of the sub-committee held at the convenience of the individual committee. As yet no definite date has been announced for any events except that of graduation and class day. Class day will be held on June 5th, in the afternoon while the graduation exercises will take place on the following afternoon both affairs to be conducted in Huntington Hall.

line to receive any and all who can play a musical instrument to help out on that night. This appeal is not because the orchestra is weak musically but because the hall is large and the orchestra must make a noise that will be heard throughout the country by our Alumni. Therefore if any impulse of loyalty and Tech spirit may be exhibited musically, there are two rehearsals at Symphony Hall where such an impulse will be eagerly welcomed.

Symphony Hall, today and Monday at two thirty.

FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE

MEET THIS AFTERNOON

Every Event Promises to be Closely Contested with Plenty of Spectacular Finishes

BOTH TEAMS STRONG

This Meet Expected to Uncover New Material in the Two Lower Classes

This afternoon at 2.30 the Freshmen and Sophomores will meet in what promises to be one of the most closely contested inter-class meets ever held at Tech Field. Owing to the large number of men out for each event, every point will be closely contested for, and the outcome will surely be in doubt to the last minute. Every man in both classes stands a chance to win a point, and every point will count a lot toward the final winner.

Fast times are expected in the track events owing to the splendid condition of the track, and several records may go by the board. A feature event of the afternoon will be the cross-country race between the fast '13 and '14 teams, and the finish will surely be spectacular.

This meet will help to get a line early on what men will represent the institute in the coming dual meets and the big Intercollegiate, so that every man who wants to show what he can do must take this opportunity to put himself in the line for future conquests. Coach Kanaly announces that after the meet the regular track work will be carried on.

The officials for the meet are: Referee—W. C. Salisbury. Starter—H. S. Benson. Clerk of Course—J. M. White. Judges at Finish: D. F. Benbow, R. H. Gould, G. B. Wilkes. Field Judges—H. Greenleaf, P. W. Dalrymple.

Measurers—H. G. Watkins, A. Eicher. Timers—Coach Kanaly, P. D. White.

The entries in the various events from both classes are:—100 yard dash; 1913; Trull, Strahan, Thompson (Capt.) 1914 Hadley, Wilson, Bowler.

220 yard dash—1913, Trull, Thompson (Capt.), Haynes. 1914 Guething, Bowler Wilson.

440 yard dash—1913, Thompson (Capt) Callahan, Haynes. 1914 Guething, G. W. White, Brett, Wyman.

880 yard run—1913 Sampson, Byland, Mattson. 1914 Fox, Thomas, Stubbs Crankshaw.

Mile run—1913 Germain. 1914 Lee, Turner, Nute.

120 yard hurdles—1913 Strahan, Eichorn. 1914 Fox Bryant.

220 yard hurdles—1913 Strahan, Trull, Munch, Thompson (Capt.). 1914 Fox Chase.

Shot put—1913 Wright, McLeod, Freeman, Sweet, Eichorn. 1914 Orven, Duffield, Benjamin, Brown, Herout.

Hammer—1913 McLeod, Freeman, Eichorn, Sweet. 1914 Orven, Duffield, Benjamin, Brown, Herout.

Discus—1913 Wright, McLeod, Freeman Eichorn, Sweet. 1914 Orven, Duffield, Benjamin, Brown, Herout, Guething, Fox.

High jump—1913 Lallaon, Cairns, Callahan, Rings. 1914 Hall Eberhardt, Chase.

Broad jump—1913 Callahan, McLeod, Trull, Wright. 1914 Bowler, Storke, Hadley.

Pole vault—1913 Ranhm. 1914 Hurlburt, Herout.

CALENDAR

Send all notices for calendar to E. W. Taft 1913 Institute Committee at the Cage.

Saturday, April 8.
2.00—Orchestra Rehearsal—Symphony
3.30—1913 1914 Cross Country—Field
8.00—Cosmopolitan Club Mtg.—Union
2.30—Orchestra Rehearsal—Symphony Hall.
4.15—1914 Base ball Practice—Field.

OUT MONDAY---SEMI-CENTENNIAL EDITION

THE TECH

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In charge of this Issue... C. A. Cary, '12.

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SATURDAY APRIL 8, 1911

The editor understands that there has been some friction between certain representatives of the Musical Clubs and the Orchestra. Let us hope that the two factions concerned will forget at least for the time their variances and unite to make the music at the smoker next Monday an unqualified success. If they should not co-operate smoothly they should remember that it will injure their own reputation and possibly that of the Institute itself. Let us hope that the friction is but momentary and that the concert before the alumni will be the best ever.

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of *The Tech*:—
For several days the communication column of *The Tech* has had letters from a 1914 man who signs himself "T. I. M." In his first letter he asked whether the posting of names of classmen who are seven months behind in the payment of their dues is not coercion, and wanted to know on what authority such posting of names was to be done. On Wednesday the undersigned, as chairman of the 1914 Executive Committee, wrote a reply, stating the condition of the class treasury, telling of the effort which is now being made to collect the dues, and showing as best he could why the officers of the class had a right, if it became necessary, to post the names of delinquents. In yesterday's *Tech* "T. I. M." again appeared in a communication which gave our answer the air of a personal squabble, and accused us of "expostulating on the abstract about class spirit."

Aside from the fact that "T. I. M." is doing serious harm with such letters by making it harder to collect dues from certain men of his type, we protest against having what we wrote in good faith as a class officer look like one side of a cat-and-dog fight.

Class-dues are made necessary by almost all the customs and traditions around Tech. A man's being here imposes the obligation on him—not a legal one to be sure, but certainly a moral obligation. The money must come from somewhere, and if some shirk they are not fair to those who do pay. The very fact that it is made an affair of honor seems to make it so hard to collect the money from some in the class. The excuse that a man cannot afford to pay is not exactly weak; it is untrue. Whoever can afford to go to Tech at all can afford a dollar and a half a year for such a purpose. There are many events during the year from

which a man is excused if he cannot easily spare the money. But they hold no claim against him as class debts do. Incidentally, it has been observed that a number of those pleading "no-money" are frequently seen at the theatre. Perhaps they go on passes.

As to the right of the class officers to post the names of delinquents, the writer tried to explain in his last letter that it was their duty to collect the class-dues, and he tried to show also that if certain classmen persistently dodged this debt, that those who had paid at least had a right to know who the shirkers were. If "T. I. M." bought a hat and let his bill run for seven months, something in the way of "co-ercion" might be brought to bear on him. (And this is not ridiculing the word "co-ercion.")

The undersigned has written this second explanation only because he wishes to make clear that in answering the first "T. I. M." letter he did so as a class officer and not as a personal matter. Up to date, "T. I. M.", whose real name is known, has not paid his dues. It is hoped that he will settle the obligation soon.

Freshmen are asked to co-operate with the officers, who are giving their valuable time, in getting our class treasury into decent shape. If the money is not handy at the first interview it materially helps matters if a date is fixed on which the money will be paid or sent in. Let us have a clean slate at the end of the year.

T. K. Krueger, Ch'n 1914 Ex. Com.

Continued from page 1
number of years had been, and was still an opponent of elevated railroad extensions in New York, and the advocate of an underground rapid transit road, with both express and local tracks, to be equipped and operated electrically, and as early as 1891 he had publicly offered to demonstrate the possibilities on a large scale at his own expense.

Shortly afterwards, Sprague was selected as a member of the Electric Traction Commission of the New York Central Railroad, and for four years was active in the inauguration of the electric system on that road, collaborating with its Chairman, Vice-President W. J. Wilgus, in the development of the protected under-contact third rail. Sprague has not only always been a strong believer in, and an active pioneer and promoter of electric railway development, but has especially advocated high potentials for a number of years, his recommendations for direct current work being at least double that of the standards in early normal use for suburban and protected third rail work, and much higher for overhead supply for trunk lines.

Is Past-President and member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the N. Y. Electrical Society, member of the American Society of Civil Engineers the English Institutions of Civil and Electrical Engineers, and the U. S. Naval Institute, and an associate member of the Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers. Is Consulting Engineer of the Sprague Electric, General Electric and the Otis Elevator Companies, and was recently selected by the Southern Pacific Company to prepare, in collaboration with its officers, a report on the possibility and practicability of electrifying the Sierra Nevada Mountain section of the Sacramento Division of that Company, to increase its capacity, a problem generally admitted as one of the most difficult in the railroad world, and if electrification be decided upon he is to continue as consulting engineer to aid in carrying out the work.

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SECTION HANDS WIN IN A WALK-OVER
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VICTORS BREATHE DEFIANCE
 Look to Sanitary Engineers for Their Next Victims Despite the Latters Claims of Skill.

The "Section Hands" showed yesterday that they had the goods by decisively walloping the "Dam-builders" in a game full of wonderful plays and some baseball. The fastest part of the game was the quickness with which it was over, accounted for in some measure by the short time that the "Dam-builders" remained at bat. At the start of the fray the "Section Hands" took the lead, and they were never headed, although their opponents tried every trick and play known in organized baseball. In the "lucky seventh" after the "Section Hands" had piled up twelve runs to a lone one for the "Dam-builders", the tail-enders made a gallant rally and scored a brace of runs before their spurt was called off by Jones. This flurry ended the excitement, and the game terminated soon after.

At the conclusion the score was estimated at fifteen to three by the two expert accountants in attendance upon the festivities, although the D. B.'s vociferated that at least a half dozen more of their warriors had crossed the plate.

Individually the game unearthed some class, Capt. Barker of the "Section Hands" easily carrying off the lion's share of the honors. One of the statisticians at the game stated that he retired an even dozen of the opposition by the strike-out route, during the five innings in which he tossed the pellet, and on the offensive connected with the ball for a couple of clean bingles. Ofenstein gave a good account of himself behind the bat, and Hugelmar, Willis, De Biers, and Burnham made up an infield through which very few hits sifted.

Robinson pitched a good game for the losers, but was not accorded the support he deserved. It was noticed as a general thing that the D. B.'s had not the class that their performances on the southern trip would suggest. Warner and Manley played well together about the second sack, Merrill was death on short bounds, and Harrington covered acres of ground—added his throws also. Specter did well behind the bat considering that he had his mitt on the wrong hand. In short the D.B.'s were slow on bases, full of errors in the field, and devoid of hits at the bat, but outside of that, were good ball players!

Too much praise can not be given the umpire for his clean-cut handling of the game. Moreover, the fact that he got away without being mobbed is proof of his cleverness. The victorious "Section Hands" are willing to meet all comers, but have a preference for the scalp of the Sanitary Engineers. The latter have put in claims to the effect that nothing can withstand their onslaught; still, the "Section Hands" have an idea that their cleanly brethren will have to work in their sleep if they are going to hold up that banner.

SEATS FOR SPRING CONCERT ON SALE MONDAY

The reserved seats for the Spring Concert and Dance will go on sale in the Union at one o'clock Monday, and it is the advice of the management that those desiring tickets come early and get up in the fussing section. Over two hundred seats are already applied for and everything looks bright for the finest affair ever given by the Musical Clubs. Applications will be filed according to the order in which the full amount is paid. Advance dance orders can be obtained at the Cage.

The Clubs are now working hard on the new selections, and good music as well as a good time is guaranteed to everyone. There will be no repetition of the music given at the Winter Concert except the "The Stein Song" in which everyone is asked and expected to join. The concert will be from nine until ten, and dancing from ten until one.

The committee is providing dainty refreshments to be served during the intermission, and nothing is neglected that will help to make the affair a great success.

Come to the Union any day next week for your tickets; the advance sale will end on Saturday and those missing out will have to procure their seats at Copley Hall at the night of the concert.

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LANGUAGE

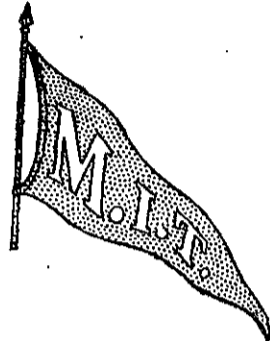
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NOTICE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A convocation of students will be held in Huntington Hall at 1 P. M. on Monday April 10th.

President Maclaurin will speak on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the granting of the Institute's charter. Full attendance expected.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A Congress of Technology in celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the granting of the Institute's charter will be held in the buildings of the Institute and will be opened on Monday, April 10th, at 2.30 and continued on Tuesday from 11 to 1 and from 2.30 to 4.30. The public is invited.

Post: In Library Wednesday a note book containing Organic Chemistry notes Finder will kindly leave at Cage for F. W. Barker Jr.

SECOND YEAR ENGLISH LITERATURE

Courses III, VI, VIII, X, XII, XIV. Professor Bates' Section will have no meeting, 9-10, on Wednesday, April 12.

DRAWING DEPARTMENT,

Week of April 10th.

Descriptive Geometry.
Isometric—2 drawings (4 hours).
Mechanical Drawing.
Hand-rail Stud (time left after the isometric.)

NOTICE

Base Ball

Catcher wanted for *The Tech* Base Ball team for game with *Technique* on April 19. Good salary and a mask provided. See Harold in the lower office. Bring references.

THE BIG DAY APRIL 10

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