

THE TECH

VOL. XXX. NO. 59

BOSTON, MASS., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1910

PRICE TWO CENTS

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Society of Arts Hears Talk By Louis K. Rourke, 1889, Civil Engineer.

KEYNOTE IS EFFICIENCY.

He Urges Concentration of Power and Ability to Handle Workmen.

Last evening the Society of Arts held its first meeting of the year in Huntington Hall, having as its speaker of the evening Mr. Louis K. Rourke, 1889, who talked on "The Scientific Administration of Public Works." Mr. Rourke was engineer on the Culebra division of the Panama Canal, and was asked by Mayor Fitzgerald to come to Boston as city engineer.

Mr. Rourke began his talk by stating that the main point to be worked for in public service is efficiency. He said that a great deal of money is wasted in inefficient workmen, and particularly is this so in places where the power and thus the responsibility is not concentrated in one man. Another reason for inefficiency is the inability of many men who are engineers to properly control workmen under them. Mr. Rourke suggested that here at Tech there is opportunity to institute a course of lectures on the methods of handling workmen. He thought that this might be an elective course for such men as expect to become practical engineers, and suggested that in connection with this course visits might be made to efficient manufacturing plants for the purpose of inspecting the personnel of the working force as well as the methods of manufacturing.

The speaker is decidedly in favor of concentrating power in few men. As an instance of this he stated that money had been wasted in the canal construction by boards and commissions which were, in his estimation, useless. He had, himself, condensed seven divisions into three, putting at the head of each a single engineer, and found that the results were justified, as the output was considerably increased. By this means there was no division of authority and also no such overlapping of duties as had been the case, with the result that the man in charge could not make the excuse that some other man was responsible for work not completed.

Since becoming city engineer Mr. Rourke has carried into effect a number of reforms which make for increased efficiency. When he came to Boston he found that the city engineer was not really in charge of very much, so his first duty was to make it an office worthy of its name, and he decided that it would be well to consolidate the street department with that of the city engineer. The places at the heads of these departments had often been given as the rewards of political service. But men in charge of all construction work should be really competent men who are experts in their respective lines. His latest plan is the consolidation of the water, streets and city engineer's departments.

An ordinance has been passed by the city government which creates the Commissioner of Public Works, and under him three divisions, each in charge of a suitable man. The departments will be Bridge and Ferry, Underground (sewers, etc.) and Overground (streets and paving). This plan will be put in operation in February.

Mr. Rourke says that men should be in charge of these departments (and indeed of any public works) (Continued on page 3)

AUBURNDALE CONCERT A GRAND SUCCESS

Tech Musical Clubs Make Hit at Norumbega Hall in Auburndale.

EIGHT NUMBERS RENDERED.

Mandolin, Glee and Banjo Clubs Participate—Dance Follows Concert.

Before a packed house of most enthusiastic members the Technology Combined Musical Clubs gave their first concert of the year at Norumbega Hall in Auburndale last night. Each member of the club was at his best, and the whole program was rendered in the smoothest manner. The following numbers were given during the evening:

1. The Old Person of Wave, Glee Club.
2. Madam Sherry (Selections) Mandolin Club.
3. Serenade, Banjo Quintette.
4. Reading, Harry Briggs.
5. Beam from Yonder Star, Glee Club.
6. Reading, Harry Briggs.
7. Charme d'Amour, Mandolin Club.
8. Dear Old M. I. T., Glee and Mandolin Club.

After this the hall was cleared for a dance, and this also was most enjoyable.

All the men who have been practicing were taken on this trip, so that a better idea might be obtained as to which men should participate in the winter concert which is to be held on the 16th. The selection, according to the management, will be a most difficult one, owing to the wealth of material at hand.

EXTRA MEETING OF SOCIETY OF ARTS

The Messina Earthquake and Eruptions of Mount Etna to Be Discussed.

That there will be an extra meeting of the Society of Arts, at which time a lecture on "The Messina Earthquake and the Eruptions of Mount Etna, 1908 to 1910," will be given, will be good news to those men who attend these gatherings. This lecture will be given at Huntington Hall on Saturday, December 17, at 8 o'clock P. M., and the lecturer will be Mr. Frank Alvord Perret, Cav. Off. d'Ital. Mr. Perret has been studying and photographing active volcanoes as an associate of the Department of the Institute, and of the Volcanic Research Society of Springfield, Mass., for five years past. He was decorated by the Italian government for his services on Vesuvius in 1906, and was appointed American consular representative to Messina immediately after the disaster. His photographs of volcanoes in action have never been equaled, and this lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides made and colored under Mr. Perret's personal direction.

Of the total registration at the University of Pennsylvania, one-twentieth are from foreign countries.

A large new athletic field with concrete grandstand is being constructed at the University of Toronto.

School girls were created before mirrors and have been before them ever since.—Ex.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY DINNER LAST NIGHT

"Purification of Waters Polluted By Manufacturing Wastes."

W. S. JOHNSON THE SPEAKER.

Duty of Sanitation Expert to See Purification Enforced.

At the last Biological Society meeting of the term, last night, Mr. W. S. Johnson, C. E., of the class of 1889, gave a very interesting and instructive talk on "The Purification of Waters Polluted by Manufacturing Wastes." Mr. Johnson, who has an office in Boston, has been connected with and very much interested in plans for the purification of the rivers and streams that are contaminated by the wastes of various manufacturing and refining processes, and so was able to cite specific instances where purifying schemes have been used and the success attained. This subject is beginning to arouse a great deal of attention not only from the public, but also from the manufacturers.

The uses to which rivers have been put are for transportation, for power for the manufactures, and for the water supply. Towns would offer inducements to manufacturers to locate their plants on the banks of their streams and soon the waste of these mills came to be so large as to cause trouble. Pure water is absolutely essential in certain industries, and when the supply of water of the mills further down the stream become unusable because of the wealth of waste it contained law suits were brought against the offending manufacturers. The case of the Neponset river in Massachusetts shows the interest taken by the public at large in the disposal of these manufacturing wastes. Along this river all kinds of mills, pouring into it millions of gallons of filthy water every day. By the time the river reaches Hyde Park its condition is almost unbearable. The beauty spot that it had once been became an eyesore. The people of Hyde Park and Milton appealed to the Legislature for alleviation from these distressing conditions. The Legislature instructed the State Board of Health to try to improve the condition of the river, and some success has been achieved, but with great expense to the manufacturers. In England there are contractors who extract from these wastes what value there is in them, and the wastes being in such a concentrated form are easily separated from the valuable fats contained. Mr. Johnson pointed out that this field was a virgin one and offers much to the sanitary engineer.

The most common method used in the purification of the polluted streams is the "settling tank" which settles out the solid material. When further purification is necessary, straining is resorted to. The air is also polluted in the vicinity of the polluted waters and, says Mr. Johnson, it is the business of a sanitary engineer to look out for all such contingencies. The sanitation expert should be a missionary in his methods in so far as to show people that their water needs cleansing and then show them how to cleanse it. At the conclusion of his talk the speaker was warmly applauded and was given a vote of thanks.

Then Professor Russell gave an amusing talk on the Institute as it was in his student days, after which the society held a business meeting. An amendment to the Constitution was adopted, and a few new members were elected.

INVENTORS' GUILD IS ORGANIZED

Purpose to Help Poor Inventors and Further the Advance of Science.

THOMAS A. EDISON A MEMBER.

The Delays and Ineffectiveness of the Patent Office to Be Investigated.

Some of the most prominent mechanical engineers, scientific authorities and inventors of this country have formed an organization which they have named the Inventors' Guild. According to its constitution, the purpose is "to further the interest and secure full acknowledgment and protection for the rights of inventors; to advance the application of the useful arts and sciences, and to foster social relations among those who have made notable advances in the application of the useful arts and sciences." The guild is not permitted to endorse any commercial enterprise or to allow its name to be used for any commercial purpose.

Some of the conditions which the guild will try to remedy are the delays and ineffectiveness of the United States patent office, the expense and tardiness of litigation, the injustice of rich corporations to poor inventors in delaying and prolonging suits and increasing legal expenses to a point which makes such suits prohibitive, and the disadvantages to which American inventors are subject to in the patent offices of foreign countries.

One of the officers stated that the guild would accomplish these objects by employing competent agents and legal advisers, by interviewing members of Congress as to the advisability of reforms in patent laws, by seeking reforms in the present machinery of the United States patent office, and above all, by appealing to public opinion. The present patent office is in an old-fashioned stone building, which is not fireproof, and the valuable files may at any time be destroyed, thus throwing inventors in this country into a chaos. The files have never been properly indexed, and the force of clerks is too small to keep the files up to date. The result of these bad facilities is that inventors must wait four or five months for answers to their first application. If an inventor brings a corporation into court for infringement on a patent, the case is carried from court to court until his money gives out and he has to quit. The guild hopes to change these conditions and thus encourage invention.

Many prominent men are interested in the undertaking. Thomas A. Edison, Peter Cooper Hewitt, Professor Northrop of Princeton, and Professor Pierce of Harvard are members of the organization.

CALENDAR.

Wednesday.

- 1.00—Tech Board Meeting with lunch.
- 4.00—1913 Cross-Country Practice—Gym.
- 4.00—1914 Cross-Country Practice—Gym.
- 4.00—Basketball Practice—Gym.
- 4.15—Gym Team Practice—Gym.
- 5.00—1914 Basketball Practice—Gym.
- 8.00—Hockey—M. I. T. vs. Harvard—Arena.
- 8.00—Novice Meet and Exhibition—Gym.
- 8.00—P. M.—Chemical Society Meeting—Union.

TECH VS. HARVARD AT ARENA 8.15 P. M.

THE TECH

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1910.

In his address before the Society of Arts last evening, Mr. Rourke criticised the lack of a course at the Institute which would give a student training in the management of men. Such a training would be of great advantage to most graduates of the Institute. Lack of the ability to handle men efficiently is the force which holds many a man in the rut,—which keeps an otherwise capable and reliable man from advancement to positions of authority.

Mr. Rourke suggests as a remedy for this lack at the Institute the founding of a course of lectures to be given by men of experience in the management of men. This would undoubtedly form a valuable addition to the list of opportunities now open to the Tech man.

It is an undeniable truth, however, that the necessary capability may be gained in no way so thoroughly as through the actual experience of the man himself. One can learn to do few things successfully by the reading of rules. One can develop power only by the active use of one's powers. A muscle cannot be cultivated by the reading of books dealing in physical matters, but by following the directions the muscle may be developed by active exercise.

This, we believe, is the forte of the Institute activities. Undergraduates are now in positions of authority, developing their powers through the management of their fellow students. There is no reason why they are receiving the advantages of this training any more than any other man at the Institute. It is all a question of self-development and the seizing of opportunities.

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor of The Tech:

Dear Sir:—In the interest of truth I should like to call your attention to certain inaccuracies in the communication signed "B. V. D.," which appeared in Saturday's issue. The incident was not noticed "as B. V. D. was passing along the corridor in Rogers Building," because it took

place in my office in Walker Building. The facts are substantially as follows: The Tech newsboy had annoyed the Assistant and myself considerably by his insistent and daily efforts to sell The Tech, one copy of which comes regularly to the office. When asked what profit he would make on a year's subscription, the boy informed us that there was no profit to him on a subscription, but that a penny was earned on each sale. The remark made was this: "I shall certainly not buy more than twenty-five copies from you in the course of the year, and I am willing to pay your profit on those copies now if you will agree not to trouble us again." The boy was much pleased with the quarter, and we considered the incident closed. The words, "It was rotten," were not used as no comment whatever was made concerning The Tech.

I may add that there was no attempt "to make a bit with those about him," as no one heard the conversation except myself, not even "B. V. D."

Very truly yours,
ROBERT S. WILLIAMS,
46 Walker Building.

To the Editor of The Tech:

There seems to be a great deal of comment at present on the sanitary conditions around the Institute. But it would look to an outsider as though discussion on the college spirit, or perhaps the LACK of it, which is shown here, at the Institute athletic events in the Gym or the hockey games at the new Arena. Any Tech man who may have been at the game between Harvard and the Boston Hockey Club must have noticed that the Harvard men were present in large numbers. They were scattered all through the crowd and were watching the game all the time, ready with their yells at the right moment to keep the crowd awake. Wednesday night, at the Arena, Technology goes against Harvard, and there will be a large audience there to see the game. Harvard will, without doubt, predominate, but if the men of Tech will wake up and show some life they can easily make more of a showing than the Harvard men. It looks to an outsider at these games as though we were absolutely dead, entirely lacking in any kind of spirit and life. We have a good hockey team this year, one that will make the Crimson team travel some to get away with the game, and it should be backed by the Institute in order to meet the opponent on an even footing. This is not written by the hockey management in an endeavor to increase the gate receipts, but by one who wants Technology to appear before the public in the best possible light. Now, you real live Tech men, cut the grind tomorrow night, plank down a half dollar and do some good, snappy cheering for the team. We understand that the president of the Senior class, or an assistant appointed by him, was chosen by the Institute Committee to lead the cheering at the Convocations, and that he has tried bravely to lead the fellows at, at least one of the hockey games. He had very poor success and for that reason did not try to repeat, but we believe that he is willing to try again on Wednesday night if the bunch will only get together, that everybody in the Institute is really back of the team. Just take this to yourself and come around; bring another man with you and yell. When someone asks you what you are going to do tomorrow night, don't say that you haven't decided yet, for you have; you are going to go to the Arena to see Tech trim Harvard, and you are going to help Tech men outcheer Harvard, simply drown their yells.

(Signed) DENMI TASSIE.

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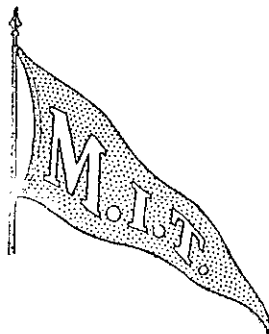
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(Continued from Page 1.)
 who are not only competent, but who also possess backbone enough to be the real head of their departments, who will not be told what to do by everyone who comes along to advise without knowing what he is advising. Efficient service depends also upon the individual workman, but as he varies with the conditions, he must be dealt with according to circumstances.

At the close of his talk Mr. Rourke answered questions put to him by interested persons, especially as to the value of a course at Tech, with the results substantially as above. While the speaker's talk was not heard by a great number, it was received by a cordial audience, and at the close he was thanked by the presiding officer in the name of the society.

of a family noted for courage."—
 "I have," she replied, "but I come danger in kissing," he remarked.
 "I suppose you have read of the

At Cornell the students have an annual hare and hound race, in which two students leave a trail of paper for the others to follow. The idea is to bring out the cross-country men.

TECH SEVEN PLAYS HARVARD TONIGHT

Entire Section to Be Reserved For Technology Contingent.

There will be a certain section of seats reserved at the Arena this evening for Tech men and all men attending the game are asked to sit in this section. A cheer leader will be present, and the rink should resound with the cheers for our team.

This year the Tech squad have been able to begin its practice work much earlier than was possible in previous years, and because of the two strong teams which they have played and the hard-fought practice matches, the entire squad is developing rapidly into a crack team.

The game tonight will be the first collegian match played in Boston this winter, and a large crowd is sure to be present. The Harvard team is a strong one and the match should be a fast and most interesting one.

EVERYBODY at the Arena at 8.15 tonight, and EVERYBODY cheer.

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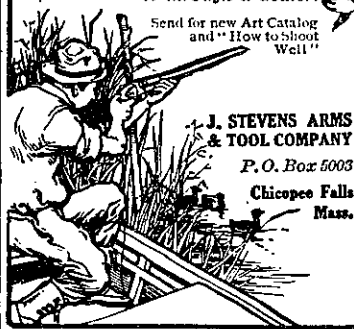
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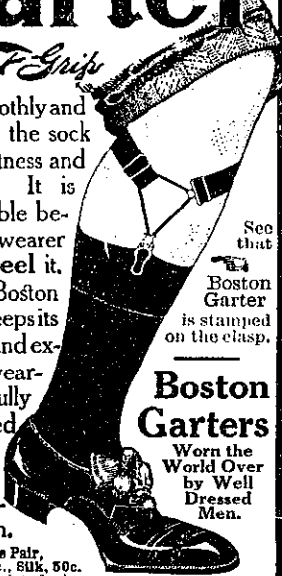
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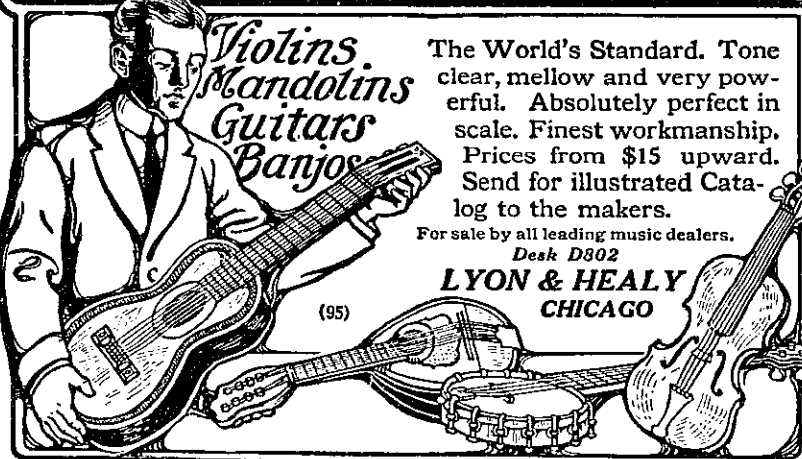


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FACULTY NOTICE.
Problem books in Physics Heat are returned and may be obtained in the basement of Walker Building.

NOTICE.
Tech Board Meeting Wednesday noon at 1 P. M., with lunch. (2t)

1914 NOTICE.
The 1914 officers' picture for Technique will be taken at Notman's studio, Friday, December 16th, at 1.10 P. M. sharp. Officers will please be on hand promptly.
T. K. KRUEGER,
President.
(59-60)

NOTICE.
The 1913 Tug-of-War Picture will be taken at Notman's Studio on Park street, December 13th, at 1 P. M. sharp. Please wear the regular sweaters.
(5t) A. S. MILLIKEN, Mgr.

NOTICE.
Two volumes of Technique for sale, 1894 and 1895; 1895 is dedicated by President Walker and has his picture as a frontispiece. Apply at Room 36, Walker.

NOTICE.
Gentlemen, I call to your attention that I will pay more for your cast-off clothing than any one in my line of business. A trial will convince you. Send postal to Max Keezer, 3 Bow street, or telephone Cambridge, Mass., 302. (1f)

ATTENTION, 1914!
All candidates for the class basketball team report at Gym on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 5 P. M., commencing with December 12th. A good schedule is being prepared, and every man who knows the game at all is urged to come out.
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The following articles of clothing have been left in my office and are still unclaimed:
One black overcoat, left in Lowell Building, November 16th (apparently the property of a Freshman from San Francisco).
One light coat, left at the Cage September 30th.
Two caps, left in Lowell Building November 16th.
One raincoat, left in the Rogers Building.
One pair of spectacles.
I shall be glad to have the owners call at my office and identify their property.
Yours very truly,
MAURICE R. SCHARFF,
President's Assistant.
December 7, 1910.

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