Civil Engineering Society Smoke Talk.

The first regular smoke talk of the Civil Engineering Society was held Monday evening at the Technology Club House. According to President Pritchett’s wishes, it was a perfectly informal affair, and refreshments were served. A very large number of students were present, who thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and listened to some very entertaining and instructive words from Mr. Breed and Mr. Flannery on the “Relations of the Contractor and Engineer.” The subject was a very interesting one, as it affords opportunity for the telling of personal anecdotes, and was a very important one on account of its direct bearing on the work of a young engineer.

Mr. Flannery, at present contractor on the Weston Aqueduct, opened the smoke talk with a discussion of the “Relation between the Contractor and Engineer,” from the standpoint of the contractor. Mr. Flannery is a Virginian, and has had a varied experience of eighteen years in all parts of the world. In these years, he stated that, with a few exceptions, his relation with engineers had always been amicable and of the best. He cited two or three of these exceptions. The gist of his remarks was that the contractor is second in power, entirely at the mercy of the engineer. If the engineer is honest in the performance of his duties he must treat the contractor fairly and squarely. This is all the contractor can expect, and, by so doing, the engineer in no way conflicts with his duties toward his employer. Later in the evening Mr. Flannery gave, as he put it, some points from the standpoint of the hobo, better known in British Honduras as ballast.

Mr. Breed, of the Department of Civil Engineering, discussed the topic from the engineer’s point of view. Mr. Breed began with a discussion of the legal relation between the contractor and engineer, stating that the engineer’s word as to whether or not work had been properly done was considered final, unless the contractor could prove a collusion between the engineer and employer. Passing on to the professional relations, he showed how important it was for the young engineer to obtain the good will and confidence of his superiors, in order to have their support in any disputed question, and how it was impossible to obtain this confidence without personal fitness for the work. With regard to the personal relations of engineer and contractor, Mr. Breed considered that they should be of a very limited nature, on the principle that it was pretty hard to condemn a man’s work when you had dined with him the night before. Finally, Mr. Breed stated the necessity for absolute honesty on the part of the engineer, with regard to all attempts at bribing.

Mining Engineering Society.

Friday afternoon, November 15th, President Pritchett gave a very interesting talk before the members of the Mining Engineering Society on “The Relations of the Young Graduate to Professional and Business Men.”

At a business meeting held immediately after Pres. Pritchett’s address, a well-executed design for the Society Shingle, drawn by B. E. McKechnie, was officially accepted. A dinner committee was then appointed to arrange for a society dinner at no distant date. Before the meeting closed some twenty new members were elected from the two lower classes.

At Tech.

FIRST GRIND — “I see Jones is not back this year.”

SECOND GRIND — “No. The Faculty pardoned him out two years before his term was up.” — Lampoon.