The Alumni

The relations of the alumni to the Institute have during the past ten years become much closer and more effective; and the present year is to be another especially important one in this respect. There is to be held in Boston next June the Quinquennial Reunion of the Technology Alumni. There is to be issued under the auspices of the Reunion Committee the first complete register of former students, including non-graduates as well as graduates, and these identifying the former more closely with the Institute. The Alumni Association is about to be reorganized through the formation of an Alumni Council of about sixty members so chosen as to be thoroughly representative of the whole body. This Council will form a responsible body whose advice and co-operation may properly be invited by the President and Corporation in connection with many of the problems of development. For fostering and extending the relations with the former students of the Institute so opportunity should be lost for opening their feeling towards it in deeds in large measure its success. Their attitude determines its reputation throughout the country; their influence is directly or indirectly the source of most of its students. Their enthusiasm stimulates its officers and proceeds to greater efforts; and their aid in securing financial support is essential to its development. Our Alumni Council is thus well fitted to serve the Institute and to maintain its interest in its welfare; but the Institute must itself take the lead. Toward this end, among other things, the administrative officers of all the reputed members of the Corporation and Faculty should visit periodically the various alumni associations throughout the country. Dean Burton has just returned from a trip of this kind to the Pacific Coast, where he took part in the organization of a new Technology association, in Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, respective.

The Secondary Schools

The relations of the Institute to the secondary schools deserve constant attention. With those schools the Institute has always kept closely in touch and especially in the solution of its educational effort, as long as it is important that the interests of the Institute are involved in these directions, the Institute stands ready to open its service for the study of the problems the expert advice of its staff and its laboratory facilities; and in the further development of those facilities, through the establishment of research laboratories of applied science and of engineering testing stations and through the installation of the elaborate testing machines and other scientific instruments needed for investigation purposes, the cooperation of the manufacturers of this community should be secured. The Society of Arts, the oldest part of our organization, has for its primary function the general dissemination of scientific knowledge and especially with reference to the recent advances and practical applications of the sciences; but it also furnishes incidentally a means of making the work of the Institute known to the public. I am sure I can be able to tell you the result of the earnest efforts of its Executive Committee, in bringing it into that society and an unusually valuable and attractive program has been arranged for the meetings of the present year.

The State

With the State the Institute naturally stands in intimate relations. It bears its name, is located in its territory, and it received from it its charter and the plot of ground on which its buildings are based. Representatives of the State sit upon its governing board. Forty free scholarships are maintained, available for applicants from the various districts. Finally, for a number of years financial aid has been received from the Commonwealth. Without sacrificing its national scope or its own independence, it should therefore constantly strive to serve the State in every possible way—especially in the development of its natural resources, the improvement of its industrial processes and its transportation facilities, especially in the solution of its educational problems. In all these respects, it should stand to the Commonwealth much in the same relation as do the Progressive State Universities of the Middle West.

As an aid to the officers of the Institute in promoting close affiliations in these and other directions, the Institute has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. I. V. Lincoln, one of our former students who has long owned a deep interest in the Institute, and whose efforts and intelligence have been especially valuable in the co-ordination of the work of the student press reporters, in significant and other matters relating to the promotion of the Institute's work.

It will, of course, be appreciated that, though it is the function of the President to be in touch with all the various organizations and interests that have been mentioned, he must often take the lead in extending the relations between the state and the Institute, and he can perform, even with the assistance of the other administrative officers, only a trifling part of all that needs to be done in these directions. In closing this paper therefore, I would call attention to the watchwords of our future progress, the ideas of cooperation and closer relation of all. I think there can be also shown an implicit confidence in the soundness of our educational system and in its support by the community, its proper growth and development will be assured.

BOSTON, MASS., MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1908

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