

# THE TECH

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## ELECT TECHNOLOGY GRAD PRESIDENT

American Institute Electrical Engineers Elect Ferguson 1888

### LEADER IN PROFESSION

Has Played Important Parts in Enormous Developments of Electricity

Louis Aloysius Ferguson, 1888, has just been elected President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Mr. Ferguson is one of the leading electrical engineers of the present day, and has exerted a broad influence upon the development of the art, particularly in regard to the commercial development of electric lighting. His thesis at the Institute involved many original and novel experiments to determine the relation between candle-power, voltage, and energy consumed in incandescent lighting, when exact knowledge on this subject was very meager, attracted considerable attention and received much favorable comment.

In 1888 Mr. Ferguson entered the underground distribution department of the Chicago Edison Co. In 1890 he was appointed electrical engineer for the company, taking charge of all electrical engineering and operating work. Three years later his duties were enlarged to include the supervision of all soliciting and contracting. In this later department he was notably successful. In 1897 he became general superintendent, and the year following he was also made general superintendent of the Commonwealth Electric Co. He was elected second vice-president of both these companies in 1902. Upon the consolidation of these companies under the name of the Commonwealth Edison Co., in 1907, he was made second vice-president of the new corporation, which is now one of the largest and most rapidly growing electric lighting and power companies in the world.

To Mr. Ferguson belongs the credit of being one of the first central station engineers in this country to recommend the system of generating three-phase alternating current with high-tension transmission lines to sub-stations containing rotary transformers for converting from alternate current to direct current for general distribution. It is largely by reason of the general adoption of this system that the great electric power developments in the large cities of this country have been made possible. He also designed and installed one of the earliest and most comprehensive conduit and cable systems, complete with safety devices, fittings, and accessories, as well as their adaptation to the still earlier Edison three-wire tube system, together with essential improvements in the latter.

Mr. Ferguson has the distinction of being the only man who has ever been honored by the presidency of the three great electrical associations in America. He is now President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In 1901 he was elected President of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, and in 1902 he was re-elected. In 1902, also, he was elected President of the National Electric Light Association, Rogers.

### GLEE CLUB NEEDS MEN

This term the Institute Glee Club has planned to take several trips out of town and due to the fact that several who have been in the club have resigned there is a fine opening for a few men who have good voices. This is a fine chance, and anyone who wishes to try for the club is requested to report to the leader Clinton Kyle, 1909, at the rehearsals next week, which will come on Monday and Thursday at 4.15 in the Union.

## TECH LOSES HARD GAME TO TUFTS

Team Fails to Show Form of Early Season in Return Game

### SECOND TEAM LOSES

Defeat Due to Poor Covering and Inaccurate Shooting From Floor and Fouls

Tech seemed to have lost its old-time cunning Saturday night when Tufts put it onto the Institute team to the tune of 16-13. At the end of the first half Tech led 10-9. Tufts played hard to win, having lost to Tech at Medford early in the season. They followed the ball hard. Both teams covered poorly at times and several baskets resulted. Tech shooting was inaccurate, and Tufts was only a little better in this respect. The game was rough and time was taken out several times for Tufts men. Practically, the game was lost to Tech through inability to shoot fouls. Wentworth and Lord excelled for Tech; Dickinson and Kimball for Tufts.

The summary:—

TUFTS.	M. I. T.
Dickinson, rf.	lg, Wentworth
Kimball, lf.	rg, Bennis
Ritschy, lf.	rg, Taite
Secoy, c.	c, Parker
Fisher, c.	
Gordon, c.	
Wallace, rg.	lf, Lord
Hatch, lg.	rf, Hargraves
Score—Tufts 16, M. I. T. 13.	
Goals from floor—Kimball 3, Wallace, Hatch, Parker 4, Lord 2.	
Goals from fouls—Dickinson 6, Wentworth.	

Referee—Velte. Timer—Whittemore. Time—20-minute halves. Tech second team lost to Tufts second in a fast, snappy game. Tufts had weight and height in their favor.

Cherry and Schatz excelled for Tech and Ritschy and Fisher did good work for Tufts.

The summary:—

TUFTS 2d.	M. I. T. 2d.
Ritschy, rf.	lg, Stone
Morse, lf.	rg, Schatz
Fisher, c.	c, Metcalf
Gordon, rg.	lf, Kenrick
Merrill, lg.	rf, Cherry
Score—Tufts 2d 19, M. I. T. 2d 9.	
Goals from floor—Gordon 2, Ritschy 2, Fisher 2, Morse 2, Merrill, Schatz 2, Metcalf, Stone, Cherry.	
Goals from fouls—Schatz 2, Ritschy.	
Referee—Whittemore. Timer—Smith.	
Time—20-minute halves.	

### FRESHMEN PRACTICE

Last Saturday afternoon the first practice run of the freshman cross-country team was held under the supervision of R. Ellis 1909. The run was about three and a half miles through the streets and was run at a slow pace. Eight freshmen reported as well as six upper class men who took advantage of the chance of running with a crowd for exercise.

Those on the run were as follows: C. L. Tuller 1912, V. V. Ballard 1912, E. E. Ferry 1912, R. M. Ferry 1912, G. S. Sawyer 1912, R. D. Van Alstine 1912, G. W. Richard 1912, and D. J. McGrath 1912.

### LECTURES ON PHYSICS

Professor Cross will give a course of lectures on the Discharge of Electricity Monday afternoon, at 4.10, beginning Feb. 15. They are open to second, third and fourth year students without registration or examination. Prof. Cross will take up ionization, discharge of charged bodies through the air under ordinary potentials, characteristic of gaseous conduction, effect of moderate rarefaction on the conductivity of gases. At the first lecture the subject will be phenomena of transmission of electricity in low and high vacuum, cathode rays, and radioactivity.

## FAGIN CRITICISES RAILROAD POLICY

Says That With The Present System There Is No Efficiency

### HOLDS DISCUSSION

Several Questions Asked by Tech Professors After Talk—Large Audience

James O'Fagan, "the signal man," spoke last Friday evening in the Union to a large and attentive audience on the subject of "Railroad Accidents and Efficiency." Mr. Fagan's talk was full of personal experience that both added to the interest of the talk and helped to carry home the many points that he was endeavoring to bring out. Self taught, without education, an employee himself, and, therefore, thoroughly conversant with the employee's point of view, yet broadminded and thoughtful enough to appreciate the other side of the matter, Mr. Fagan is a man unusually well fitted to speak upon this subject, as his audience realized after he had talked a few moments.

In substance he said, "The public is but now awakening to the true state of affairs in railroad management, and is now demanding a better understanding between the different branches of the service. Of the many methods suggested to attain this end the one that has been giving good results in Germany and the one that has been best received by business men in this country is the extension of Trade Schools. There are not at the present time enough of well trained men to operate the shops but many roads, notably the Grand Trunk, have devised excellent apprentice systems.

"A trainman's duties are many and trying, and a thorough training is necessary. The same thing is also true of the men higher up. About 95 percent of the high railroad officials have worked up from the lower positions, but every year more men are being drawn from the technical and trade schools."

"Due to the present system of promotion by seniority of service among railroad men as the 'bumping system,' there is no competition in the operating departments, and, therefore, great inefficiency. Public opinion is also in a great way a promoter of this inefficiency, because the public likes statistics and figures, and when an accident occurs instead of demanding the analysing of the causes and the findings of remedies for these, the public demand pages of statistics, and the result is that nothing is accomplished.

"Many, in fact most of the accidents that occur on the railroads today are due to the improper training of the men holding the subordinate positions, such as crossing-tenders.

"Accidents on the American railroads are characteristic of the American spirit of taking chances. Accidents on the European railroads are of an entirely different sort, and are very seldom due to taking chances."

In closing, Mr. Fagan expressed the hope that in the future railroads might take a lesson from each accident and allow no poor victim to die in vain. He predicted a great future for American railroads and railroad men, but said that they must pass through many troubles to reach it.

In an informal discussion that followed someone in the audience took the stand that efficiency on the railroads was not lower today than ever before. Mr. Fagan, however, gave statistics which proved that accidents today were much more frequent than heretofore, proving that the efficiency of the men had not increased. He also said that with the many signals and safety devices that there should not be an accident at all.

## TECHNOLOGY WINS TUFTS RELAY RACE

Dalrymple and Grant Place in Lawrence Light Guard Meet

### LOSE NEW YORK RELAY

Harvard and Columbia Lead—Tech Third—Gram Wins Second in 60-Yard Dash

With the entire audience on its feet and in a breathless silence Howland 1909 lined up with his Tufts opponent for the two-mile race. At the crack of the pistol Howland sprang into the lead but was immediately passed, and his opponent opened up a lead of thirty yards. Howland, however, cut this down to fifteen yards on the last lap. Benson, the freshman star, started right out after his man and caught him on the fifth lap, passed him, and on the last lap left his opponent behind, and gave C. L. Campbell 1909 a lead of five yards. Campbell's relay was the closest of the four, the two men fighting on every corner. Eldred 1911 running last for Technology started off even with his opponent. His opponent, however, started off with a terrific sprint, leaving Eldred far behind. Eldred ran a heady race, however, and did not try to catch his man until the third lap, when he started after his opponent catching him on the fifth lap. Eldred passed him on the sixth, and just walked away from him, winning the race for Technology by ninety yards in the excellent time of 8m. 57 3-5s.

J. S. Grant, the crack freshman sprinter won his heat and semi-final heats in the thirty-five yards dash in 4 3-5s. He placed second in the finals in the same time.

P. W. Dalrymple 1912 showed great form in the high jump, winning the event with an actual jump of 5 ft. 8 in. He had a handicap of 12 in. Stuart 1910 although jumping 5 ft. 10 in could not place, as he only had 1 1-2 in. handicap.

J. N. Stephenson 1909 finished fifth in the mile after a fast race with numerous entries. Cummings 1910 also ran for Tech and just failed to qualify in the 440 yard dash.

### LOSE NEW YORK RELAY

At New York Saturday night Tech's one-mile relay team could find only third place in the intercollegiate race at the Columbia University games. Harvard took first place, Columbia second. The track was ten laps to the mile, without corners, and the lack of corners proved the undoing of the Tech four, which has run almost wholly on tracks with the raised corners. The time: 3 m. 32 4-5 s.

Gram was entered in the 60-yard handicap. With a start of nine feet he easily won his heat—the ninth. In the final Gram took second, losing only by inches to J. P. Hartigan of Brown, whose handicap was eleven feet. E. F. Bloodgood, Twenty-third Street Y. M. C. A., with a handicap of 16 feet was third. Time—6 1-5 s.

## CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEB. 16.

4.00 P.M.—Meeting of the Board of Editors of The Tech.  
4.15 P.M.—Glee Club rehearsal in Union.  
4.15 P.M.—Show Chorus in Union.

TUESDAY, FEB. 17.

4.15 P.M.—Show Principals meet in Union.  
8.00 P.M.—Basketball Game with Holy Cross at Worcester.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18.

4.15 P.M.—Show Chorus in Union.  
6.00 P.M.—C. E. Society Dinner in Union.