

# THE TECH

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BOSTON, MASS., APRIL 25, 1910.

## COMMUNICATION.

Editor of The Tech,—

Dear Sir:—The editorial which appeared in Thursday's Tech seems to me to be a little hasty in its condemnation of the Honor System. I have made a very careful investigation of its operation in some fifteen colleges, both through students and members of the faculty, and in no case has there been the slightest dissatisfaction. On the other hand, the expression used in more than one case was that "both students and faculty regard the Honor System as their most treasured institution, and would not part with it under any consideration." I cannot bring myself to believe that these statements were other than the most sincere.

The proctor system implies a doubt of the student's honor, which cannot but feel obnoxious to him, and if the introduction of the Honor System at Technology would have any tendency to instill the ideals of honor into them, I for one should feel that it had amply answered its purpose.

Wherever the Honor System is successfully operated there is not the slightest tendency on the part of the students to fail to report anyone detected in cheating. The principals of honor are so thoroughly infused in the men that they will not tolerate anyone in their midst who is detected in any violation of the Honor System. The spirit of Honor is the natural result of the Honor System and not necessarily its forerunner. W. C. WEST.

The editorial on the Honor System which appeared in the Tech was not perhaps as hasty and unpremeditated as is implied in Mr. West's communication. The Tech has, not only this year, but in previous years, investigated this question of the Honor System.

Members of the faculty and students who have seen the system applied have been spoken to and we have on file a considerable correspondence from colleges running under the Honor System.

This whole matter was brought before the faculty in 1902 and it was thought at that time that the Honor System was not the best thing for the Institute. Since then, conditions have in no wise changed; we have not acquired our own campus, our own dormi-

tories, nor the strong sentiment among students which results from these.

Mr. West's communication implies that the Honor System has been informally successful wherever it has been applied. This is far from being true. The system has been abandoned by the University of Vermont; a Williams man says that the conditions at that college have become exceedingly bad since the introduction of the system; and a man from a southern college declares, "I would certainly vote against the introduction of an Honor System at Tech, because at home it worked much injustice and, while it prevented cheating, it was a heavy burden on the students."

Let us consider in what way the Honor System would remedy the faults of proctoring. Would we really be upon our honor, or would be substituting for the vigilance of proctors, the vigilance of all our friends and enemies? And if each man were busy with his own examination would he have the time as well as inclination to watch those around him?

The work of enforcing the Honor System would fall upon some student committee, and the men composing this committee would by no means have a light task. Tech men should consider carefully whether they wish to acquire this further burden in order to gain the questionable advantages of the "Honor" System.

Mr. West is to be commended for his unselfish and earnest effort to do something which he believes will benefit the Institute. But it does not seem that the Honor System is necessary or would be for the good of Technology.

## GENERAL NEWS

TELEGRAPH NEWS OF THE MORNING.

### WEATHER REPORT.

Forecast for Boston and vicinity—Generally cloudy with showers, light easterly winds.

The expeditions planned jointly by the Peary Arctic Club of New York and the National Geographic Society for the discovery of the South Pole, has been abandoned for this year at least. Lack of funds is the reason.

The beginning of the third week of the baseball season, finds both Boston teams standing rather poorly in their respective leagues. The Boston Americans are tied for fourth place with Cleveland, having played eight games and won four, while the Doves are contesting with Brooklyn for sixth place honors, showing two games won out of seven played. Both teams are weak at the bat.

A disastrous fire which started Saturday has wiped out over twenty blocks of the city of Lake Charles, Louisiana, the property loss alone being estimated at over three million dollars. Many houses were dynamited in vain attempts to check the flames and hundreds of people have been left homeless.

Newfoundland is being boomed as an agricultural country, and the government has gone to the extent of offering land free as an inducement to immigrants. Sir Edward Morris, premier of Newfoundland, is in New York on his way to a treaty conference at The Hague, and made the following statement about his province:

"There are millions of acres in Newfoundland capable of producing every crop which can be raised in New York State." We can offer to immigrants some land absolutely free, while in other tracts they may buy land unconditionally at a nominal price. Any man may buy 1000 acres at 30 cents an acre."

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