For a number of years it has been the custom of the School of Civil Engineering to have a summer school at Meadville for the purpose of teaching surveying and allied subjects. This idea was first brought up by Professor Swain in 1907 when he said:

"The most serious problem confronting civil engineers at the present time relates to the proper conduct of work in the field. There are two methods of carrying on such work: first, by making it a part of the regular work of the school year, and second, by concentrating it in a separate school during the summer. The Institute has thus far adhered to the first method. In the early days, when classes were small and when the Black Bay was not built up, this instruction could not be given near at hand without waste of time, but it soon became necessary to take the classes into the country in order to carry on the work effectively."

With the ever-increasing number of students and with the increasing pressure in the curriculum of other subjects to which more time ought to be devoted than has been possible in the past, the question of the proper method of conducting field work, and the possibility of saving some of the time now devoted to it during the school year becomes a very pressing one.

"In some other schools in this country, the field work is given during the summer, leaving the school year free for work of other kinds. Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, and other institutions follow this plan."

The advantages of carrying on the field work during the school year may be summarized as follows:

1. The arrangement of the curriculum is somewhat simplified for the class room work and the field work can be arranged with close reference to each other and to the other subjects in the course.
2. The summer is left free for students and instructors, a fact which enables them both to devote the time to professional work. Many of the students depend upon earning enough money during the summer to go far toward paying their tuition for the following year.
3. It provides the necessity of securing a site, and the time and expense of carrying on a summer camp.
4. Some of the advantages are as follows:

   (1) By concentrating the field work during the six or eight weeks in the summer year, the student is left free for the many other pressing subjects which demand attention.

   (2) The student is not distracted from his more purely mental work during the regular school year by the necessity of giving a day each week, perhaps in indomitable weather, to work in the field, which may leave him physically tired out and iner- feres with the preparation of lessons for the following day.

   (3) It simplifies the arrangement of the tabular view, and reduces a large amount of time during the school year.

   (4) The concentration of the work in the field should be attended with an increase in efficiency.

It may be added that the desirability of such action will not be obscured by the removal of the Institute to any other location in greater Boston. Indeed owing to the close proximity of our present site to the railroad stations, a removal would be very likely to increase the desirability of the summer school plan.

The relative expenses would not be increased by a very greatly increased as the number of assistants necessary for the school year would be considerably reduced. The increased cost of the Harvard Summer school is amply covered by the small fee of twenty dollars per student.

In his report of 1909 Professor Swain says:

"The Institute should either purchase or lease a large tract of land... and should provide a summer camp, equipped to accommodate one thousand students, and to provide for the needs, and the final arrangements for the Summer School course can be pushed forward with great rapidity.

Gardiner Lake is situated in the eastern part of Maine, ninety miles beyond Bangor and thirty miles this side of Eastport. It is fourteen hours from Boston by train.

The plot of land in question is a strip about a quarter of a mile wide, running along the east shore of the lake for a distance of three miles. The lake itself is six miles long, by about one mile wide, and of very irregular outline and is therefore particularly well adapted to hydrographic and plane table surveying. It is within three miles of side water, and within six miles of Machias Bay, a branch of the ocean at whose mouth a tide gauge could very easily be erected.

There are very great opportunities for stream gauging in the near vicinity, the Machias River forming a distance of six miles, the East Machias, two miles, and the outlet of the lake directly across from the camp.

The nearest railroad station is across the lake from the camp in the town of East Machias and at a distance of about two miles. It is probable that a boat would be used thus making the camp very accessible from the town. The town of Machias is three miles farther west by rail.

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