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THE TECH, BOSTON, MASS. APRIL 22, 1913

FRATERNITY COUNCIL ON HOUSING PROBLEM

Cost of Building a Serious Question to All Fraternities.

One of the serious problems that the fraternities at the Institute will meet is that of housing when the removal to Cambridge is made. Much trouble is being experienced by the different fraternities in obtaining land. They are denied the privilege of building on the campus as that is now overcrowded. With the proposition before the board of housing in the several dormitories there seems to be much objection. The fraternity men are distressing of running their own kitchens as the manner that they have been doing in their houses. Some of the fraternities have practically agreed that unless this condition is granted that they will not consider the plan of housing in the dormitories. However it is made as if about half of the frats will take quarters in the dormitories.

A committee consisting of one member from each fraternity has been formed to consider this question and on the committee of on student housing. This inter-fraternity council is acting as an executive of the ideas and feelings of the different fraternities but no definite action has been taken by it as yet. A suggestion has been made by it, however, to the housing committee that if they (the fraternities) were to take a sufficiently long lease of a dormitory section that they be allowed to plan the interior of the building occupied by them. No action has been taken on this suggestion.

It is known at least one fraternity has made a contract for building on the campus. Its chapter house is to be on the Lelandise just above Mann residence avenue. This is the only case where any definite action has been taken although some of the fraternities have options on land near the campus and others are known to be looking for situations for their houses.

The cost of building is perhaps the most serious phase of the problem that is met with. Estimates have been made but these run well up into thousands, the building and equipment of one of the dormitories reaching a total of approximately thirty thousand dollars. Various plans for raising the required amount have been discussed at length by a number of those who are most actively interested, but the most practical one is the selling out a general appeal to the alumni members of the fraternity. The active members of the frats are not able, except in rare cases, to provide the necessary amount of money and so cannot be counted on to meet the expense.

This question of fraternity housing is a question that a large number of them are seriously interested in as a very large percentage of Institute men are members of fraternities. Out of 4,171 students at the Institute 463 are fraternity men, thus making a total of over thirty per cent. The freshmen of the fraternities are the ones that will be most affected by the housing problem and they are taking a very active part in the discussions of the questions.

CHESS TOURNAMENT.

In the results of the semi-finals in the Chess Club tournament, which were concluded last before the vacation, a surprise was sprung by D. E. Woodbridge, '16, when he got the better of B. D. Brown, '15, by winning five games out of the eight played. C. W. Norwood, '14, defeated W. B. McVey, '15, winning three games to Merriam's one. The finals of the tournament will be played during the next two weeks, that being the time allowed for the completion of the tournament.