

The Tech

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1917

PROM DIFFICULTIES

SOME dissatisfaction with the conduct of the sign-up campaign seems to have arisen out of the disappointment which many Juniors have met in trying to subscribe too late for the Prom. Many of the Juniors whose applications were received after the limiting number was reached are disposed to blame the Prom Committee on the score that their applications were forestalled by those of freshmen, who should not have been given preference.

As a matter of fact, blame for the present tight situation is to be laid to the unprecedented rush for places, and not to any negligence or mistake on the part of the Committee. Previous Committees whose rules excluded freshmen from the Prom have, as in the case of the Class of 1915, found themselves unable to pay expenses; and as the Prom Committee is in itself responsible for deficits caused by its own action, the present Committee could not have been expected to repeat such a measure. A canvassing campaign had been planned for the Prom sign-ups, but due to the unexpected demand for reservations the list was made up before the campaign was even scheduled to begin. The Committee, upon its own initiative, made arrangements to extend the accommodations, making room for fifty more than in former years. The extra fifty places were swallowed up like the others.

Seemingly the best way out of the difficulty, in view of the increased interest in Junior Week activities, would be a separate affair for the 1920 men, whose present reservations for the Prom might be transferred to waiting Juniors. A plan like this was carried out by the 1917 Class in the freshman year, and was successful in preventing dissatisfaction and crowding, as well as productive of representative gatherings. It is not too late for the freshmen to withdraw and plan an affair of their own.

SWING INTO LINE

PACIFISTS will not be denied their inning. The Socialists declare that military preparedness is unnecessary; men of the like of Bryan and La Follette are doing their best to hamper the President in his noble attempts to uphold the dignity of the Nation; in the student world the Collegiate Anti-Militarism League, and societies similar to the Harvard Union for American Neutrality are adding a weakly howl to the barely recognized maelstrom the peace-at-any-price adherents are trying to create. It is certainly elevating and sublime to imagine a world-wide peace. War is at its best to be considered a constructive agent only in the light that the victors may enjoy the benefits to be derived in after years from rejuvenation of race and expansion of territory. The gentlemen who attach themselves to the principles of the pacifists are to be congratulated for entertaining these inspiring thoughts, but aside from this they are wilfully disregarding conditions as they exist. When the blow descends, as we have every reason to believe that it will, the backsliders of this class will realize that "none are so blind as those who will not see."

The leadership of Woodrow Wilson has inspired the majority of citizens to believe in the methods he proposes. In such a crisis as he faces at the beginning of his second term he should have the unbiased support of ALL who would be known as Americans. Let the pacifists and their brothers take to heart the words of President Wilson that—

.... "it is imperative that we should stand together. We are being forced into a new unity amidst the fires that now blaze throughout the world. In their ardent heat we shall, in God's providence, let us hope, be purged of faction and division, purified of the errant humors of party and of private interest and shall stand forth in the days to come with a new dignity of national pride and spirit. Let each man see to it that the dedication is in his own heart, the high purpose of the nation in his own mind, ruler of his own will and desire."

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of The Tech.

Dear Sir:—

I have read the various communications in your publication during the past two or three weeks regarding "T" insignia. I was rather amused at the first article, but subsequently when it really developed into a serious discussion in your issues of Feb. 19 and 21, "got up and took notice," and it did not take such an awful lot of perspicuity, knowing him as I do, to guess who the "amusing little cuss" (as the late Artemus Ward would say), who threw a javelin and found it to be a boomerang, as evidenced by his more recent communications. I wrote to N. E. verTell, and he replied, "It is the purpose of the same to arouse interest in athletics." He telephoned me that as a result five or six men had come and your editor tells me today that twelve men have come out within the last two or three weeks (possibly who may not have done so otherwise).

Now a few words as to the origination of the "T" and the original rules regarding same which are in a general way as follows:

In 1898 the Advisory Council on Athletics was established, and immediately or soon after, there arose the question of granting an insignia to men proficient in certain sports which were carried on at that time.

The first discussion was primarily on the question of whether different kinds or styles of "T's" should be granted for different sports.

The Advisory Council on Athletics at that time discussed the question for one whole winter (and I think it was not possibly finally settled until two winters) as to just what we should have for a "T."

Primarily, it seemed that the matter of granting different styles of "T's" should be relegated to the rear, although at that time the majority of the colleges in the country gave, for instance, an old English "T" for Track, a Roman "T" for Football, an Arabic "T" for Tennis, etc. In connection with the granting of a degree by the Institute, it seemed to the Advisory Council on Athletics, that as we granted only one "S.B.," that if any man was proficient in any athletic sport he should be granted equal athletic insignia. The question, therefore, of having different styles of letters for one sport compared with another, etc., was considered adversely.

Further, the question of granting different sizes of "T's" was similarly thrown down, and also the question of whether a cardinal "T" on a gray ground, or a gray "T" on a red ground should represent some particular sport, was also considered as not compatible with Massachusetts Institute of Technology ideas as to preeminence in any line. Any man who was considered good enough to get a "T" should have a "T" of one certain, distinct characteristic, and nothing else.

Now, in order to win a "T," what should be the primary consideration? There is but one answer to my mind to this question and that is INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE. What is the further answer to this question? Individual excellence is shown more particularly by competition on the track than in any other sport.

In 1911, the Advisory Council on Athletics published a book termed "Athletic Rules and Regulations," which have been more or less modified since that time in small details, but not in principle. I will not attempt to rehearse the details of these rules except to state that they prescribe a cardinal "T" of definite design,—to winners of points at the annual meet of the N. E. I. C. A. A. or I. C. A. A. A. A., to scoring members of a winning cross country team at the annual run of both of the above associations, and to any man making twelfth place, or better, at the I. C. A. A. A. A., or eighth place, or better, at the N. E. I. C. A. A. run. Further, to the participants, semi-finals in singles, or finals in the doubles, of the N. E. Intercollegiate Lawn Tennis Association, of the I. C. A. A. A. A. Lawn Tennis Association. Also, to members of a winning relay team at the B. A. A. annual indoor games, making better than three minutes ten seconds for 1.560 yards.

Further, that the Advisory Council might at its discretion award a "T" to a man making first or second in a triangular meet, or first in a dual meet,

(Continued on page 3)

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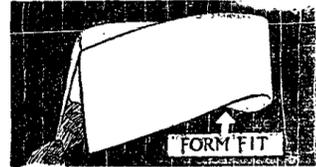
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