

# The Tech

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## ANOTHER SIGN-UP CAMPAIGN

THE call has been issued and the time has come in national events for a definite stand to be taken by every American in support of the President and the Congress of these United States of America. It is probable that most of us have reached a decision and merely await an opportunity to show that we agree with the President in his decision to protect our rights from further aggression. This is not the time to quibble over petty politics nor yet to criticise, but it is high time we rallied in a united body to the support of the President. We do not desire war and as the President has said, "We desire neither conquest nor advantage. We wish nothing that can be had only at the cost of another people." What we do desire above all things is to exercise the rights given us by International Law which all the great powers have recognized in times of peace to hold during all circumstances until changed by further agreement.

"For the first time in history a civilized power has had to ask of another safe passage for its ships. Would it not be better to take a leaf from the book of Paul Jones's Life, and sail our national vessels where we will,—and woe betide the pirate who undertakes to say them nay," and we are well within our rights when we do so, for International Law provides.—(1) No fictitious blockade but an actual enforced blockade. Cruisers maintaining such a blockade have no right to sink an approaching vessel unless it tries to escape. (2) The limits and the time of a blockade must be set when it comes into being. (3) A blockade must not tie up neutral ports. (4) It must apply equally to commerce of all neutrals.

As an authority on International Law at Columbia University states, "The rules of International Law permit merchantmen to carry what armament they choose provided they make no aggressive use thereof. An armed belligerent merchantman engaged in the carriage of contraband or attempting to pass the lines of a blockading squadron must be treated as a non-combatant vessel until it offers resistance to capture."

We can understand the possibility of there being pacifists and sympathisers of the several warring factions among us, but it is difficult to understand, how, whether pacifist or German, English born or red-blooded American, one can endure insult after insult until the very foundation upon which our national life stands is threatened. It is very possible we have lost sight of the ideals which brought us into being.

At the close of a recent speech by Eugene Debs resolutions were taken up in which it was stated that "the German submarine warfare strikes only at the capitalist class," in that it interrupts the making of huge profits from food and munitions sales to the Allies"; that "the workers do not desire to go to war, having no country to defend." Be this as it may. In case of war what will the heads of corporations reap as their share of the spoils?—possibly as much as Henry Ford who has stated that his factory is ready to make "flivver" submarines and auto trucks w-i-t-h-o-u-t profit. As to the people having "no country to defend," they surely will not if we acquiesce a little longer to the advice of such false prophets.

Do we hire policemen to stand on our street corners to protect the rich or is it the poor we tell them to protect? Are International Laws agreed to for the poor or the rich? If we can rely upon press reports it was American sailors plying their honest trade to make their living, and well within their rights, who were lost a few days ago. Are they to be left unprotected, or is it only women and children whom we want to protect? If you choose the latter we have not fulfilled our duty nor exercised our rights, for you know that an American mother and her daughter were murdered on the high seas in cold blood.

The flame of our national soul is flickering and we must act quickly if we would keep it burning. Hugo Munsterburg died of a broken heart, for he had such a stupendous intellect there was no room for soul in the household of his life.

"In this hour of national humiliation let no American citizen belittle the stake which is being played for. More than prosperity of the material kind, more than the safety of the individual, more than the accumulation of wealth, there hangs in the balance of national decision the character of the national soul. In the rapid shifting of events is being decided whether the American republic is softened by ease and material gain, or whether in our character still remains the spirit which stirred the consciousness of Washington, of Lincoln, of Decatur, John Paul Jones, Grant, Sheridan and the all but endless line of heroes who lived and died in the belief that the flag was more than a colored bit of textile, that the spirit of America was in the readiness of her sons and daughters to stand fast even through suffering for the right to be free."

In order to give the men of Technology an opportunity to enter their protest against the illegal and inhuman practices at present carried on and to assure the President of our hearty support, it has been deemed advisable to post a paper on the official bulletin at the Information Office to which the men may append their signatures. This paper will be forwarded to the proper officials and brought to the attention of the President and Congress.

The sign-up campaign begins this morning at 9 o'clock. Will the men of Technology give evidence of their support of President Wilson?



A few days ago The Lounger was surprised to note, in the "back yard" of the Institute, a large crated object, painted red and bearing yellow labels which evidenced a very Odyssey of railroad voyage. Now (it must be confessed) an object of this sort would not excite in the ordinary mind anything approaching interest or imagination. To a trained analyst of The Lounger's stamp, however, the half-submerged jet-sam of Baffin Bay carried an instant message. First, the object in question was a large tank designed, apparently for the retention of gas. Besides the evident superfluity of any such article at the Institute, its sensational color at once precluded its entrance into our conservative midst. To The Lounger it was at once apparent that this piece of merchandise had reached the Institute through error or intrigue; and following up the slender clue, piecing to-



gether episodes so far removed that mere detective writers would have worked them into separate stories, he uncovered a stupendous and formidable cabal which at present seems to hold the Institute in its grip.

The second clue to the mysterious chain of events came in the protest of a Boston bank. One of their depositors, an Institute student, had heavily overdrawn a large account, and appeal was made to the Institute authorities by the appalled directors, who saw the financial foundation of their bank being rapidly drained away. The undergraduate in question, an industrial luminary feared wherever the name of Hoppe is known, was invited to a court meeting of the bank directors; and upon their earnestly trying to dissuade him from his destructive monetary policy, it developed with his indignant denial that he had no knowledge of the withdrawals, but had in fact lost his check-book—through what sinister means he could not tell—and that this terrible instrument of power was being wielded by enemies of the public!

Broken and dazed by the awful news, the directors set in motion all the machinery of the law to recover the peculators, but without success. They awaited helplessly the next blow. It came shortly. Soon afterward a consignment of books was sent from a far distant address; and here the hand of the malefactor was plain. The books were not written by Institute professors; naturally they were indignantly rejected. Scarcely had the books been loaded upon flat cars for return than a new monstrosity turned up. An automobile company in Albany sent—express collect—a "Red Sentry" to the Institute; none other than the strange object which had started The Lounger's investigations. The bank meanwhile, expects every moment to file an application for receivership. The original account (said to exceed the fifth of a dollar) has long been exhausted, and not until fifty checks have been accounted for may the unhappy institution breathe freely.

From the curious circumstances of the robbery, it has been strongly suspected that it was what is termed an "inside job." Members of the Faculty, especially those whose classes are held overtime, are under strict surveillance, and the signatures upon the missing checks are being compared with marks upon recent reports. It is believed that the Bursar has the affair well in hand, and that unless the robber exercises an exceptional amount of pedagogical strategy, he will speedily be brought to book.

## COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of The Tech.  
The Committee heartily endorses The Tech's suggestion of a freshman Dance to be held on the same evening as the Prom, and will gladly buy back any sign-ups held by freshmen or others who have doubts about attending so that more of the Juniors on the waiting list may be accommodated.  
PROM COMMITTEE.

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