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Although communications may be published unsigned if so requested, the name of the writer must in every case be submitted to the editor. THE TECH assumes no responsibility, however, for the facts as stated nor for opinions expressed.

In Charge of This Issue

Ansley Newman '22 John M. Keck '23

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1920

COURSE POLITICS CONDEMNED

SOME time ago a group of Seniors in Course X, moved by a desire to arouse their dormant spirit, organized most of the Seniors of their course to vote as a body at the recent Class Day elections. A vote was taken to determine the 25 most popular members of that course and the men were told to vote as nearly as possible according to the list. Their program was accomplished with a success that startled even those in charge.

Positions on the Class Day Committee are honors awarded to members of the class for meritorious services unselfishly rendered to their class and to the Institute. By this election, men who have so served their class and the Institute were deprived of these positions by men who have done little or nothing.

If the majority of Course X men, instead of peering into test tubes from 9 in the morning until 5 in the evening had taken a little more interest in undergraduate activities, perhaps then, some little recognition from their class would be due them.

By its action in declining to accept the results of this election, the Institute Committee has upheld the principle that group politics should not be tolerated at Technology. It is absurd to argue in opposition to this principle, that groups which are in a position to influence elections, are justified in doing so. As was brought out at the meeting last night, a man's course is no more a criterion of his right to class office than the color of his hair. We must recognize that when course fights course, or faction intrigues against faction, the victory comes usually to the clever politician rather than to the deserving man.

We must heartily congratulate the Institute Committee for not ratifying the Class Day elections, and thereby establishing a precedent which will not recognize an election influenced by political combines.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY TECHNOLOGY MAN

A VERY urgent need of Technology is about to be fulfilled. This need is co-ordination between the students and athletics at the Institute. The Technology Athletic Club has been organized and membership is open to every student at Technology.

The purpose of the club is to bring out and organize the loyalty and support that is necessary for successful athletics at any college. It will give moral and financial support to athletics at the Institute. The members of this organization will derive very material benefits from their association with it. Steps will be taken to obtain the free use of the tennis courts, free admission to grand stand seats, and reduced admission price to athletic events. Other privileges of members will be that of attending smokers and other social events given by the club, and above all the knowledge that they are helping Technology to be as great in the athletic world as she is in the technical world.

We believe that every Technology man is loyal. His loyalty has been dormant in the past because he has not had sufficient opportunity to show it. Now is your chance Technologists! You cannot afford to miss it. Join the Technology Athletic Club immediately and let us all show what spirit really is.

COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor of THE TECH: This communication is written in the firm belief that as true Technologists we realize our fundamental responsibility in national affairs, especially at this critical period, and believe it to be important to align ourselves with a forward political movement so current in other colleges and especially engineering institutions, namely, the forwarding of sentiment for promoting the candidacy and election of Herbert Hoover as President of the United States.

It was the writer's privilege recently to hear Mr. Hoover speak before the local section of Mining Engineers in Boston. The keynote of his address was that there is a vital need at the present time for the entrance of the engineer or technically trained man into politics, carrying with him the ability to collect, properly evaluate and apply "quantitative data," thereby replacing the previously all too abundant and inadequate qualitative attitude of dealing with Governmental affairs. We need to consider how similar to many of our engineering problems, particularly in regard to the method of attack and type of mind needed in such attack, are such questions as the regulation of the railroads, present labor unrest, conduct of governmental bureaus, and our many perplexing economic problems. These are all extremely difficult, but are capable of an ultimate solution if attacked in a proper way by the application of "quantitative data."

According to a recent issue of a prominent French paper, the election of Mr. Hoover would represent not the victory of a political party, but the victory of a class up to the present only indirectly called into the conduct of the country's affairs, it being now an era of scientific technicians succeeding a prolonged era of jurists and politicians.

There seems to be a powerful undercurrent of sentiment for Hoover here at the Institute which should be capitalized. It is intended to ascertain the real strength of this feeling and to establish a Hoover club, so that those of us who are interested in bringing about this era of the scientific technicians may give a few minutes of our time, busy though we may be, in order to do our small share in promoting the candidacy of a man who is not only a worthy representative of our own type of education and ideas, but a man whom we believe can do much in solving many of our perplexing national problems.

Those interested in the above movement are requested to communicate with the writer as soon as possible.

(Signed) Leon W. Parsons '13, Research Laboratory of Applied Chemistry, M. I. T.

To the Editor of THE TECH: The recent coup d'etat of Course X in the Class Day election has raised such a hue and cry from the rest of the Institute that a word in its support may be acceptable. While the incident is unfortunate, it is to my mind a step in the right direction. The situation of Technology in a large city and its sudden expansion have combined to produce an atrophy in student government and a lack of unity such as exist in few other institutions of the kind. The fact that 10 per cent. of the class can, by a concentrated vote elect 15 out of 25 of their slate is significant enough. In the elections this year only 30 or 40 per cent. of the organizations voting have cast ballots. Our government is not in any real sense responsible to the student body, because no one takes the faintest interest in what it is doing.

The one thing needed to repair this state of affairs is an infusion of small-town politics. I said the incident is unfortunate; it is unfortunate in that the action was taken by one organization only, and unfortunate in that the offices of the election are honorary rather than executive, being given as a reward for past services. But, however much I regret the occurrence, it comes as the forerunner of a livelier participation by the average student in our political affairs.

From the discussion I have heard, many seem to fear that this episode will lead to retaliation by another course, followed by ugly rivalry to be settled by numbers alone. It may start that way, but soon we will see two courses unite to elect the best men of both; then the dorms and fraternities will enter the fight, and in the mean time Smith, Jones and Robinson will begin to notice who is being elected and how they are behaving themselves in office.

I have seen the system working out in another school, a university twice as large and far more unwieldy than Technology. We had caucuses, canvassing and platforms and sometimes political trickery, but the government of that university is intimately responsible to the student body and

nine out of every ten men vote in every election.

I congratulate Course X on its awakening. Whatever its motives, it has shown us where we were drifting; may we all see it clearly, and support our government with a new strength.

(Signed) F. H. M., Course IX-B.



The Lounger is not wont to take sides in any political question whatsoever, be it the election of a constable for the metropolis of Podunk or of mayor of the village of New York, until he is fully (and this time the adverb means not "completely" but rather "flush with the brim," preferably of Canadian Club) as he was saying, until he is fully aware of the tendencies of the various candidates to that time-honored, all absorbing question—Prohibition.

Consequently, in the present scramble for nominations to the chair of the high and mighty Hokey-Pokey-Top-Top in, well he was going to say Washington but B. L. T.'s suggestion of May-1-Nottingham seems pretty good to him—the Lounger has not evinced much interest.

True enough, he did get a great deal of comfort out of the recent announcement that the Democrats might put forth on a wet plank to conquer the nation, and became a Democrat until he saw the amount of prominence that his old enemy William Jennings Dryin' was getting in his Nih attempt at a presidency.

But anyway, the Lounger was not over-much enthused when his Jap servant, Formosa, announced the other evening that General Wood was on the phone. Just to show his readers how calm he remained, permit him to say that he was reading Voo Doo at the time and even his old friend, the General, could not prevent him from getting his full measure of enjoyment out of the Professor-Liar joke as he read it in its third consecutive appearance.

The General informed him, after the laughter born of what the sharp edges of Voo Doo's shears had clipped from other college rags had subsided, that he was coming to the Institute April 14 and wanted to have the Lounger sit on the platform with him. Both because the Republican platform was not the one advertised as before-mentioned as a possible wet one, and because of his retiring nature, he was compelled to refuse the General's kind invitation. But the Lounger does want to hear General Wood, and Willie Jackson, chief of the Institute's Misinformation service, has received his application for a front row seat for the performance of April 14.

If it were our esteemed lecturer in Sophomore Physics who was on the books as the feature performer on this day, the Lounger would take his seat with countless others near the back of the room where he could safely effect a hasty egress any time he felt himself falling asleep, but the coming of General Wood causes him to select a seat in the van of the auditorium where he can jump up and shake Leonard's hand at the first utterance that gives the Lounger any inkling that this nation of ours will soon be rescued from the pangs of thirst and once more become the oasis of the globe.

The ignorance which some of his fellow-students have shown in the matter of current events has taught the Lounger that they do not pursue the columns of our contemporaries with all the care in the world and therefore he does not hesitate to repeat the Boston Herald's wheeze of several months ago that "General Wood looms up as fine presidential timber."

Contribs to this Kollum might try their hand on the fact that Wood is getting in on the ground floor of the Institute's political structure. He is the first candidate to speak here, the first to recognize the truth in that worn-out statement of our professors that we are the coming men of the generation.

NOTICES

For Undergraduates

Spring Track Meet Entry signups at the track house close today.

No Physical Training at 4 o'clock today per order of Frank Kanaly.

More freshman Baseball Candidates are wanted to report for practice daily on the diamond by temporary captain Jackson.

M. E. Society Nominations open until tomorrow. All nominations must be signed by at least 10 members and passed in at information office.

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