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In Charge of This Issue

P. R. Goldings.....Charles Rich

Wednesday, January 31, 1923

UNFORTUNATE

It is truly unfortunate, if at the Senior Class meeting on Monday, the sponsors of the idea of wearing caps and gowns at graduation appeared to be overzealous and thereby antagonized other members of the class. The cap and gown question is important, meriting careful consideration and untrammelled discussion.

In favor of wearing caps and gowns is the argument that by lending uniformity to the dress of the graduating students, graduation will gain an impressiveness commensurate with its importance. The opponents of the plan hold that Technology's alumni are judged, not by their dress on graduation day, but by their achievements in later life; that caps and gowns have never been worn in the past; and that there is no reason why Technology should follow in the footsteps of other colleges. Granting the first two premises, there appears to be no reason why a long neglected fault in the graduation exercises should not be remedied to meet changed conditions. effected by changes in the Institute curriculum, in our physical surroundings, and in the light in which the engineer is regarded by the world at large. The claim that, by adopting a custom in vogue in other colleges, we are making an uncalled for confession of weakness appears almost puerile and cowardly. It is hard to believe that anything of proven value should be barred from Technology merely because it did not originate here. Graduation is admittedly a formal event, and as such it should be dignified by formal dress.

The wearing of caps and gowns is purely a class affair. If in the eyes of the Seniors the idea is of sufficient merit, by all means let it be favorably acted upon, but if the Class of 1923 merely desires for itself the glory of having established the cap and gown custom at Technology, the proposition hardly deserves consideration.

COURSE X TO THE FRONT

THE manifestation of a desire for an Honor System in examinations will do much to raise to an even higher level the estimation in which the seniors of Course X are held. The feeling of the need for a better spirit of professional ethics and the realization that "cribbing" and proctored examinations are not conducive to this are in company with the best spirit of the times. It shows that despite the relative youth of the profession of Chemical Engineering, its adherents are alive to its needs, and are active in attempting to fill them.

But there should be no illusions as to the seriousness of the Course X attempt, or the difficulties to be overcome in getting an Honor System that will work. Stimulation in the beginning to get a proper spirit and a proper plan, careful watching of the plan to detect its shortcomings and remedy them, a readiness to watch a trial fairly and without prejudice, and the maintenance of the initial spirit are all essential to continued success of the Honor System. Some systems have failed in the past, not because they were wrong in principle, but because the vitality of the thing failed and the matter became a dead issue.

The whole Institute and surely engineers everywhere will be looking with keen interest and sympathy at the Course X seniors and praising them for the height of their ideals and

the courage shown in trying to realize them. Like Course IV which has a successful Honor System, Course X is jealously guarding the integrity of its profession and placing the maintenance of it in the hands of the students, where it naturally belongs. The two courses have become the leaders and set before the other courses a spirit worthy of emulation; who will be the quickest to catch the fineness of the spirit and follow suit?

The World's Affairs

Jan. 30. The next step which will be taken by the French in the Ruhr district will be the establishment of a customs ring about the entire valley. Customs officers have already been stationed at Dusseldorf and Essen, and will proceed also to the frontier at points where the railroad enters Germany. The telephone strike in the Ruhr is very effective. The rail strike will probably force a shut-down of the mines by causing a shortage of coal cars, although the present output of the mines is two-thirds of normal.

Jan. 30. Two agreements resulting from the Lausanne Conference were signed today by Turkey and Greece. One provides for return by both nations of prisoners of war and hostages. The other concerns compulsory exchange of population.

Jan. 30. The question of the Mosul oil fields was brought before the council of the League of Nations today by Lord Balfour. The League can take no definite action, however, until Turkey accepts its jurisdiction in the case.

Jan. 29. In a speech before the Senate today, Senator MacKellar of Tennessee denounced the alleged slighting statements of Chancellor Baldwin of the British exchequer in his references to Congress. The Senator said that President Harding should demand that the British Government retract the statements and make an apology.

Jan. 30. Evidences of sweeping reform instituted by Premier Mussolini are contained in a report received from Rome. Investment of foreign capital is invited by the removal of a 25 per cent tax on foreign loans. Institution of civil service and changes in the scheme of railway organization are also mentioned.

Jan. 30. Senator Borah has introduced a new resolution on the matter of authorizing President Harding to call an economic conference. To prevent the bill from being pigeon-holed by the foreign relations committee, Senator Borah introduced it as a separate resolution, over which the committee will have no jurisdiction.

Jan. 29. In a speech before the House of Representatives today, President Harding predicted that for the first time since 1916, the national budget would balance at the end of the fiscal year, in June. The estimated deficit of \$698,000,000, he said, has been reduced to \$92,000,000 up to the present.

Jan. 31. Dr. Emile Coue, famous French teacher of auto-suggestion, arrived in Boston yesterday morning. His stay in the city will be less than twenty-four hours. He lectured twice yesterday at the Tremont Temple and will deliver his final address this morning.

Frances White, the diminutive comedienne, acted before an appreciative audience at the Majestic Theatre Monday night, and was repeatedly encored. A little comedy, of the slapstick variety, much dancing, and more singing completes the program "The Midnight Rounders." It is a musical comedy with the accent on the "musical."

NOTICES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

OFFICIAL

The thirteenth meeting of Course 5.94, Recent Developments in Science, will be held Friday at 4 o'clock in room 10-250, Professor F. J. Moore, of the Department of Chemistry will speak on "Some Work on the Chemistry of Enzymes."

The second lecture of the series offered by Professor Lipka on the use of the slide rule, will be given in room 10-250 tomorrow afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. Students should bring a polyphase rule.

UNDERGRADUATE

The night editor in charge of the next issue of THE TECH is L. E. Fogg '24, telephone University 7077. All matters concerning the issue should be referred to him.

Applications for tickets to the Musical Clubs' Symphony Hall concert on February 9, may now be obtained at the information office, room 10-100, or at the Clubs' office, room 3-310, Walker. These applications should be filed immediately to insure proper distribution of tickets.

Honor System As Used By Rogers

The charge of crass materialism as applied to Technology students meets with emphatic denial when the Architectural Department and its Honor System is used as any sort of a gage. The enthusiasm about moral questions that has led to the success of that Honor System is indeed a sign of interest in things that are not of material value and raise the hope that the enthusiasm permeates the student body as a whole.

Of course, when anything at Rogers is spoken of, the cry is raised that "conditions are different," and what is applicable there is wholly out of the question in some other place. That is argumentative and in a measure just, for the physical isolation of Rogers from the rest of the Institute leads the architectural students to feel a closer interest in one another and a different feeling for the school which is naturally symbolized to them by the Rogers Building.

Prof. Emerson Believes in System

But as the Honor System at Rogers is not founded on physical position, but on the honor of the students, individually and collectively, the issue may be brought out as to whether honor is a matter of latitude, or of inherent or developed senses of responsibility. The latter is the belief of Professor Emerson, head of the Architectural Department, and enthusiastic proponent of the Honor System. He believes, that while natural differences do exist between Rogers and the rest of the Institute, honor is present in the most of us; and honor systems result merely from the spontaneous desire of men as a body to be placed on the dignity of gentlemen and to be free from the surveillance of proctors. He emphasizes the need of an organized and sincere desire by the students themselves before any systems can be instituted.

At Rogers, the Honor System had a spontaneous beginning, when in the Spring of 1921, the Rogers Student Council petitioned their faculty for such a system to apply to all examinations. The petition was granted and the system began working in the fall of that year.

With no material changes during the four terms that it has been in exist-

ence the Honor System has continued and successfully. Its technical details were purposely made simple to help in their enforcement. Each student at an examination signs a paper stating that he has neither given nor received help during it. Proctors exist only in the inborn conscience of the man and in his desire to prove worthy in the eyes of himself and his fellow students. Should infraction of the regulations occur each student witnessing it is asked to report it, not to the faculty, but to the popularly elected student council. The offender is summoned before the council, tried, and the verdict with a recommendation for a penalty is made to the heads of the department. The matter is attended by as little publicity as possible, both for the unfortunate man and unfortunate department.

Student Council Decides Cases

Professor Emerson finds the spirit of his students to be excellent, they desire to maintain the good name of their class, their department and their school and live up to the responsibility that is accorded them. The necessity of keeping the men aroused to their responsibility is rarely needed, but what need there is comes from the fact that men forget there is an honor system due to the scarcity of cases of infraction. There have been only violations of the rule and the recommendation of the Student Council in both cases was approved by Prof. Emerson and the Dean.

In discussing the possibilities of an Honor System for the Institute as a whole or for each department, Prof. Emerson believes that if a genuine desire for one came from a large majority of the students it stood a good chance of adoption. The lack of an organized consensus of opinion on matters of that sort, coming from a lack of dormitories and other unifying ties, will hinder any progress towards an honor system here. But the fact remains that while suffering from the absence of organized expression that Rogers has, the question that was raised in the beginning may be again raised: is there any reason why the honor of the individual student in Cambridge is not equal to the one in Boston?

them for \$2.75 a week. The rate per hour was not given.

You can wear a dirty collar and a soiled shirt. This made a big hit. Why wear any shirt at all?

The Class of 1923 should have its numerals go down in school history as having made this laudable step. Don't we love us.

Of 20 Engineering Schools questioned, only 3 "minor colleges" did not wear caps and gowns.

Sometimes in the future we might be called upon to be present at a meeting where caps and gowns are the proper dress. How embarrassed we shall be if we are the only ones there in civilized dress.

In former years the diplomas have been thrown out to the seniors in snatch-grab fashion. Therefore we should wear caps and gowns.

After our four orators had been applauded, President Shaw asked if anyone had any views against the wearing of caps and gowns.

Mr. Flournoy got up and gave a few reasons why he did not want caps and gowns. He said that he was one who had carried a brown bag to school for four years, and he felt that the spirit of the occasion demanded a ceremony appropriate to the spirit of the school,—without caps and gowns. Our illustrious President dismissed him by saying that since Flournoy had already graduated from another college, he should let us have our fling. Later on, President Shaw showed very poor taste by saying that "we" do not want brown-baggers around here anyway. By "we" he probably meant himself. Several others offered objections to caps and gowns, and they exhausted the patience of the President so that he forgot himself, and had to be reminded that he was supposed to be a non-participant. He was reminded forcibly, and the same man that did

(Continued on Page 4)

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of THE TECH:

Having just finished reading J. S. Ward, Jr.'s happy article on "What is Happening?" in yesterday's issue of THE TECH, I wish to make the following comments.

Let me say first of all that I think it is for the Senior Class to decide what they shall wear at their Graduation exercises, whether it be overalls or dress suits, so long as the Cambridge police are satisfied.

It does occur to me, however, that in most colleges, including women's colleges, cap and gown are worn for the greater part of the Senior year, at a great saving, presumably, in other clothing. To wear a cap and gown, therefore, for but one day, or perhaps only a portion of one day, would hardly indicate engineering efficiency.

Moreover the Graduation Exercises are staged by the Faculty, and, in all probability, by and with the consent of Walter Humphreys and the Corporation. I can conceive that the Senior class might and should make any changes it pleases in its Class Day functions, but to change "Graduation" into "Commencement" would seem to me to be a problem much easier to start than to finish.

Far be it from me to antagonize the Pacifist, but I respectfully submit that a uniform as is worn by the graduates of West Point or Annapolis would be a better and more dignified attire for Tech men than the cap and gown of the classical college.

"An Old Grad."

To the Editor of THE TECH:

At a recent class meeting some excellent reasons were given for wearing caps and gowns. First, President Shaw and the Class Officers want them. Since a majority of the class was absent from this meeting, the Class wants them. "Four orators" and other speakers, who also want them, convinced the rest of us by such arguments as these:

Tech is the best place on earth, and the degree of B. S. should be presented to a dignified and solemn bunch in a dignified and solemn manner. Engineers are no longer plumbers, or mere mechanics.

The Faculty "may" decide to wear gowns, some of them perhaps for the first time, since there is to be an Inauguration on Graduation day. If the Faculty does wear them, of course the students must also. Sound logic. If the Faculty doesn't decide to wear them it follows that the graduates should, anyway.

Gowns are cheap. The Coop makes a Special Offer for \$9.00. Remember that \$9.00 is returnable next year. If you are not particular, you can rent

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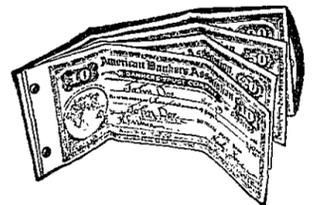
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