

THE TECH

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PRICE THREE CENTS

CIVIC CLUB LETTER.

Written by Mr. T. C. Spelling for Intercollegiate League of Civic Clubs.

The second of the series of letters written by prominent men for the Intercollegiate League of Civic Clubs is an article by Mr. Thomas Carl Spelling. Mr. Spelling is the author of many works on social and economic subjects but is perhaps most widely known as the General Counsel to the American Federation of Labor of which Samuel Gompers is President.

This article was written exclusively for the club of the Intercollegiate Civic League and is copyrighted.

True Nature and Misuse of Franchise Privileges.

The law books have never given the meaning of a franchise so clearly that every intelligent layman could understand it. It is the granting for a limited time or perpetually of a particle of sovereignty. To illustrate, it is the duty of government to make laws. Now the fixing of a freight rate is the making of a law. If however the legislature creates a board of railroad commissioners and confers upon it the authority to make rates, the exercise of that power by the board is the exercise of a delegated function of sovereignty. Again, it is the duty of government to protect the persons of citizens from assault and their property from theft and pillage. It does this ordinarily through a police force and other peace officers. But it allows any private citizen to arrest any one caught in the act of committing a felony. Here is another instance of the delegation of sovereignty. So when a child is born, or a corporation has been created, and the right to dig up the streets of a city or to lay pipes and wires therein, or to erect poles thereon and string wires on them, or to lay permanent tracks in, under, or over them is granted him or it, this is also the delegation of sovereign power. It is a farming out to one that which is a prerogative of all, collectively. No individual nor any number, can lawfully do any of these things without a surrender or abdication on the part of sovereignty, that is to say, a dispensation in his favor in derogation of common right. When such a surrender and dispensation is made in favor of a private corporation, it obtains what is called a franchise.

But the franchise, or permit, to do these things would not alone be of any value. Another function of government usually accompanies this franchise, namely, the right to profitably use the structure or improvement made under the franchise, after it is granted. This is equally a sovereign prerogative, because of its essentially monopolistic character. After one street railway company has laid its rails on, under or over a street, there is usually no room for another person or company desiring to engage in that business, no matter how easily he might obtain the government franchise. So, where one company has already laid its gas mains or electrical conduits in the streets, and its wires or pipes in all or most of the houses of a given territory,

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"RADIO-ACTIVITY."

First of Professor Cross's Series of Lectures Held on Monday.

Professor Cross gave the first of a series of lectures on "Radio Activity and the Conduction of Electricity through Gases" Monday afternoon. This course is given as an extension of the second year Physics lectures and is intended to cover in a way the enlargement of this subject in recent years.

It is through the phenomena of the conduction of electricity through gases that the scientific world is coming to learn more about the true nature of electricity. In answer to the question, "Is dry gas a perfect insulator?" experiments have shown that there is always some loss of charge. In a discharge through a gas the potential must be increased proportionally to the length of the spark up to two centimeters, but beyond that point there is a deviation from this rule. At a certain critical spark length the least potential is required to produce the spark, this length varying inversely as the pressure of the gas. Consequently sparks are more easily produced in vacuo. The luminosity of the discharge is due to the presence of volatilized metal and also to the ionization of the gas. Experiments were then performed to show these results and also to prove that the ions are electrified. The lecture closed with illustrations of the difference of discharge at the negative electrode from that at the positive. These lectures will be continued on Monday afternoons at four o'clock.

TECH SHOW BEGINS TODAY.

James Francis, the coach of Tech Show, arrived in town yesterday, and was heartily greeted by a large number of old Show men. He will begin work today when the candidates for positions in the cast gather at the Union and hear the play outlined. It is important that every man who wishes to take part in the Show should be on hand today. The play will be outlined, the work of the characters described, and the candidates will apply for the positions which they wish to make.

1908 CLASS MEETING.

1908 is to start a new custom. On the first Saturday in March the class will hold a dinner at the Union with the class of '08, its ten year predecessor. The dinner came about as a suggestion from the '08 men, and at their class meeting held Monday in Huntington Hall the Juniors voted to hold the dinner. John Tobin, treasurer, showed in his report that most of the class dues had been paid and that the class finances were in good shape.

RELAY EXHIBITION.

Next Thursday afternoon the Relay Team will give an exhibition race at the Gym as a part of their training for the race with Holy Cross. There will also be held a mile run, which is to be a strictly novice event, to get some new men for the distance events.

TO MEET TUFTS TWICE.

Basketball and Fencing Teams Down for Matches with the Medford Collegians.

Tufts and Tech will get together twice this week. This evening the Basketball Team will meet Tufts at the Gym, and Thursday evening the fencers will go over to Medford for their second meet of the season.

Two games are to be played tonight at the Gym, the respective first teams and second teams meeting one another. The prospects for a double victory are bright in spite of the fact that Tufts will be well represented. Manager Whitmore believes that Tech will finish with the large end of the score. That the five is in good shape is shown by the fact that the fast Brown team was strained to the utmost to win from Tech last Saturday. Brown is scheduled to play at the Gym Saturday evening, but efforts are being made to cancel the game because of the B. A. A. Indoor Meet.

The Fencing Team ought to win a victory. Tufts is not exceptionally strong this year while Tech, as was shown by the meet last Saturday, has a strong team. Bounetheau, '08, and Loring, '08, with either Lange, '09, or Turner, '08, as the third man, will represent Tech.

DINNER OF BOSTON CLUB OF 1905.

The Boston Club of 1905 held an informal dinner yesterday evening at the Technology Club, sixteen men being present. Charles R. Boggs presided. Afterwards a meeting was called and arrangements were made for the class dinner which will take place at the Hotel Bellevue on the evening of March first. G. M. Bartlett was elected president to succeed Andrew Fisher, Jr., who has left the city.

The club has now thirty members. Its object is to bring together all members of the Class of 1905 who live in or around Boston. Dinners are held the second Tuesday of every month at the Technology Club.

TALK ON STEAM TURBINES.

At the meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Society last night at the Union, Charles Garrison, a former agent of the DeLaval Turbine Company, spoke on "Steam Turbines," giving an account of the various species of turbines and the different principles involved.

At the business meeting, a report was given by the committee in charge of the banquet held last term at the Copley Square Hotel. J. W. G. Handforth presided, G. G. Labbe, president of the society being absent.

EXHIBITION OF SAFETY DEVICES.

The first international exposition of safety devices closed Monday at New York. The exhibits have been requested for an exhibition of industry, hygiene and sanitation to be held in April in Boston.

CALENDAR.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

- 1.15 P.M. Meeting of the Institute Committee in the Trophy Room
- 4.00 P.M. Candidates for Tech Show meet at the Union.
- 8.00 P.M. Basketball, Tech vs. Tufts and Tech 2nd vs. Tufts 2nd at the Gym.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

- 1.30 P.M. Weekly Y. M. C. A Meeting in Parish Hall.
- 4.00 P.M. Banjo Club Rehearsal in 33 Rogers.
- 4.00 P.M. Meeting of the Architectural Society in 42 Pierce.
- 5.00 P.M. Exhibition Run of the Relay Team, and One Mile Novice Race, at the Gym
- 8.00 P.M. Fencing, Tech vs. Tufts, at Medford.
- 8.00 P.M. Society of Arts Meeting in 22 Walker.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

- 4.00 P.M. Mandolin Club Rehearsal in 31 Rogers.
- 4.15 P.M. Glee Club Rehearsal at the Union.
- 4.15 P.M. Mining Engineering Society in 2 Rogers.

NOTICES.

Institute Committee.— Meeting today at 1.15 P.M. in Trophy room.

Mandolin Club.— There will be a special rehearsal of the Mandolin Club in 31 Rogers, Thursday at 4 P.M.

Frat. Men.— All fraternity men from colleges other than Tech will oblige *Technique* '08, by leaving their names, college, and fraternity at the Cage for McGuigan '08.

Jamestown Exposition.— All Tech students interested in securing summer work at the Jamestown Exposition may obtain particulars of C. S. Dean, VI, '07.

Musical Clubs.— The picture of the Musical Clubs will be taken at Purdy's studio Saturday, Feb. 16, at 1.30 P.M. All members be on hand with instruments. Dress suits with standing collars and white ties will be worn.

Secretaries.— The Secretaries of all Institute Societies, professional, school, or otherwise, are requested to furnish a complete list of their members for insertion in *Technique* 1908. These lists may be left at the Cage for McGuigan '08.

For Technique.— Managers or Captains of all athletic teams will kindly leave at once a picture and a list of their respective teams at the Cage for the Athletic Editor of *Technique*. Schedules and scores of games played would be greatly appreciated.

Society of Arts.— The 632d meeting of the Society of Arts will be held in 22 Walker Thursday, at 8 P.M. Mr. F. L. Du Bosque, Marine Engineer with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, will address the Society on "The Marine Interests of a Railroad." The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides.

READING NOTICE.

Lost.— A liberal reward awaits the return to the Cage of watch lost in Eng. 2, Feb. 8.