

THE TECH

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Saturday, November 30, 1907.

The plans of THE TECH to publish a regular issue yesterday were frustrated by the refusal of the engravers' and printers' unions to work on Thanksgiving Day. Heretofore, the Friday issue of THE TECH has been omitted.

MAIN REQUISITE IS EFFICIENCY.

"Not considered a fit man to represent the Institute" is becoming a worn-out reason for opposing the election of a candidate to an athletic managership. "He is fit to represent Technology" has come to be the only reason advanced to uphold the candidacy of certain men. The candidate's real ability and knowledge of the sport he is to conduct seems not to be considered.

These arguments, for and against, have been advanced again and again. A striking case was brought up in the election of the assistant track manager in the spring of 1906. Very quietly these arguments were advanced in the election of the track manager this year. But more flagrant cases were brought up in the election of the fencing manager and of the assistant cross country manager in the meeting of the Athletic Association last Monday.

The assistant track manager in 1906 proved an extremely efficient man when he became manager. He was probably superior to the defeated candidate in executive ability and was freer to do justice to the work. Yet the latter worked as assistant manager throughout the track season, did an immense amount of work, was said by the manager over him to be efficient, but designated as "not fit to represent Technology": in fact, it was said that he was a "mucker."

Although the selection to the track managership of a man absolutely without training or knowledge in track work turned out well, it was a dangerous experiment, one that has proved disastrous in previous track seasons.

"Too much energy" also seems to be an argument against some candidates for a managership, for this was advanced against the candidate for track manager this fall. The men competing against him for the position were most lethargic. This one man had shown his ability, efficiency, and energy; why there was any question about his election seems indeed strange.

When the opposition to him was analyzed, it was found that he was too energetic, too efficient, not popular, not "fit to represent Technology," not a Junior. This last argument was advanced because an efficient man should not hold the position two years. "There should be rotation in office."

Last year the fencing managership went begging, was offered about here and there by the Fencing Team on a silver platter. Evidently the joys attendant to the trip to New York has heightened the value of the office, for there has been a great scramble this fall, and much acrimonious talk.

At the opening of the season a year ago, several men acceptable to the Fencing Team were offered the fencing managership, one or two turned the offer down, another accepted but had to give it up, and at last a man was found who took it after much urging and with great unwillingness. Although he cared little for the place and had never had any real interest in the sport, he did his very best.

During the season last year, a Sophomore tried for the assistant managership. He was allowed to do some work,

how much it is hard to say, because of varying statements. At one time the manager states that the candidate did conscientious work, but later says that he did not put up posters well. Last year's captain tells the candidate at very near the close of the season that he (the candidate) will undoubtedly be elected manager. This is now denied. It is known that the first statements are true.

In order to defeat this very undesirable candidate, the Fencing Team goes to great measures. Early in the fall a popular man, one who is thought to be "fit to represent the Institute," one who would grace the intercollegiate meeting in New York, is urged by the Fencing Team to come out. There is no thought of competition. However, nothing will be said as to this man's ability, for he left school.

Then the position is thrown open to competition. A scramble comes. Mention is made of the candidate who worked in the previous season. Then comes a communication that, if this impossible fellow is elected, the Fencing Team will resign, that the man is not "fit to represent Technology."

After a competition which consisted of handing in names to the secretary of the Athletic Association, the election came. The strongest candidate was a man who had previously nothing whatever to do with fencing. This candidate was and is a crack sprinter, who says since he won his T, he has not had time to run, except on the relay team. He has, however, had time to play football, work on Technique, and now to take up the fencing managership.

In the case of the cross country managership, the man considered "fit to represent Technology" had never been interested in cross country work until this fall, but had played football. The other candidate had been connected with cross country running since his first year at the Institute, is chase captain, is a hustler, is efficient. Yet the first candidate was recommended.

This spirit of opposing efficient, capable men is a reflection of the spirit found in municipal politics. It is the popular man that seems to be best choice, regardless of ability. This spirit is not confined to any one quarter, nor to any one class at the Institute. It could be seen in the election of the assistant track manager last year, in which the less efficient man would have won, had not the better man, the man who had done the best work in competition, had plenty of friends, there by request, at the meeting. And all this in spite of an overwhelmingly favorable detailed recommendation. The new Athletic Association was formed to prevent a recurrence of this, but it seems to have intensified the fault.

It will be well for all Tech men to realize throughout their course at the Institute that in the business and engineering world, efficiency and character count the most and come first. One is almost useless without the other, but the first must always be there. Last of all is considered the man's personal manner, whether he wears a soft or starched shirt, whether he looks best in overalls or evening dress.

At the Institute character is recognized to a certain extent, but not efficiency. Too much stress is laid, when selecting managers, on the superficial. It should matter little whether a manager can be a good fellow at a yearly meeting of some intercollegiate association, but it should matter a good deal whether that manager is capable and earnest in the work for the team at the Institute. The opposite seems true.

Many have lost sight of the fact that if a man is efficient he will in great part have character and will be respected anywhere.

Technology cannot expect to have college sports in the managerial positions. This type does not take kindly to the Institute curriculum. There are plenty of true sports at the Institute, but sad to say, they do not long for managerial honors. There are plenty of cheap sports who are always striving hard to have their name connected with some office or other. The imitation is being passed for the real.

For the good of Technology teams, for the good of Institute athletics, efficient men must be elected to athletic managerships. Men who know the duties of a manager's office, know the sport they are to conduct, know the members of the team intimately, who are earnestly interested in their teams must be elected managers. Efficiency, capability, ability, and earnestness must be the requisites, not alone that "he is fit to represent Technology."

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