

THE TECH

VOL. XXVII. No. 34

BOSTON, MASS., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1907

PRICE THREE CENTS

SUPPORT OF THE TECH URGED BY COMMITTEE.

INSTITUTE COMMITTEE ISSUES CALL.

Poster Regulations Made. Need of New Cheer Discussed.

At a special meeting of the Institute Committee yesterday noon, a great deal of important business was transacted.

The position of The Tech was discussed at some length. Attention was called to the booming that the Tech Show gets, and the large number of men that turn out for it, also that Tech-nique, track athletics, in fact every student activity except The Tech is boomed.

It was the sense of the meeting that The Tech in previous years had been run in a slipshod manner and had never occupied the place that a college paper should. It was felt that The Tech this year had taken a decided brace, with a board of efficient men.

It was brought out that five or six men have the whole responsibility for the publishing of the paper and do practically all of the work to keep the paper going. It was felt by the committee that there should be a larger number taking part in the publishing of the paper.

The committee felt that more men should take part in this activity which is so vital to all others. That Technology is the only scientific school in the country that publishes a newspaper, and that its paper ranks among the best of college papers was shown to be true.

A call was issued by the committee for candidates for the news staff of The Tech from the lower classes.

The placing of the student posters in the various Institute buildings was brought up for discussion. President Rapelye proposed a scheme which was thoroughly talked over and seemed satisfactory.

It was proposed that one bulletin board be placed in each building in a prominent place. This board shall have room for eight posters of uniform size and a definite position will be allotted to the organizations as the space is needed. The Tech and the Tech Show will continue to have special boards in Rogers.

Under the new scheme the important organizations which will have constant need for posters will be allotted a permanent place. Any of the minor societies, clubs or committees which have no allotted space and desiring to make announcements, may do so by petition to a committee appointed from the Institute Committee. These organizations are allowed to use the space for a definite length of time.

The committee voted to install these bulletin boards and a sub-committee will be appointed to take charge of the matter. The Institute Committee is to furnish rubber stamps with which to print the posters. The sub-committee will confer with the Faculty in regard to the carrying out of this action.

That the Institute needed several new cheers was also brought up. A suggestion was made to offer prizes of

CATHOLIC CLUB HEARS OF PASTEUR.

The Faith of the Great Scientist.

Le Marquis Bouthillier Chavigny, an eminent Frenchman now visiting in America, spoke last evening before the Catholic Club on Louis Pasteur.

Among other things he said: "I thought that in a country like yours where facts always take precedence of words, it was my duty as a Catholic Frenchman, to answer these critics (who said that Catholicism worked against progress) by evoking before your eyes the greatest scientist that the world has ever known and asking him to tell you by his words and by his deeds, what his ideas were concerning science and religion.

He who had pushed so far the spirit of investigation . . . had absolute faith in God and in Eternity. Full of respect for the form of religion which had been that of his forefathers he came to it in his daily life simply and naturally for spiritual help."

PURE SCIENCE COURSES OF GREAT VALUE.

PERSEVERANCE REQUISITE TO SUCCESS.

President Noyes Talks to Freshmen on Choice of Course.

President Noyes spoke to the Freshman class yesterday on the choice of a course. He said in part:

"At the beginning of next term you will be asked to decide in a general way what kind of Course you are to pursue. At that time you must be prepared to answer whether it shall be one of the engineering courses—or architecture—or chemistry—or physics—or biology. Between the different engineering courses you need not decide at present. That decision is to be reached at the beginning of the 2nd year.

It is desirable that the decision you have to make now be the final one—but if you should find at the end of this year that you have made a mistake, you can change by doing a certain amount



ACTING PRESIDENT A. A. NOYES.

of work in the summer, and you must not hesitate to do so. It is of great importance that your final decision be right, for it determines your life work. Consider it carefully.

The engineer is primarily the man who directs the construction of works or machines or the carrying on of industrial operations—he is the executor of scientific undertakings. The chemist or biologist or geologist who devotes himself to industrial work is the man who primarily devises and improves methods and processes—he is the scientific expert and originator.

In any technological profession the combination of these two faculties is of course highly desirable—the engineer to reach the highest success must be able to originate, and the applied scientist must be able to execute, but the primary distinction between their activities are those I have stated. For, example, the chemist devises an improvement in the process of making rubber, or paper, or leather; the chemical engineer builds the machinery, arranges for the power, and secures the materials required for its practical execution.

Consider then whether your interest and aptitude lie rather on the side to practical execution or on that of the study, investigation, and origination of new processes.

Another thing—and on this, I would lay much emphasis—do not be influenced by the idea that one or another course leads to better or more remunerative positions. For graduates of every course there are more good positions waiting than can be filled. Whether you succeed or not will depend simply on whether you are fitted to fill those positions satisfactorily—so here again you must prepare yourself for that profession for which you are most adapted.

(Continued on page 2.)

LACK OF MONEY CAUSES CRISIS.

PROFESSOR DEWEY TALKS OF FINANCIAL PANIC.

Weak Banking System Could Not Handle Conditions.

Professor Davis R. Dewey, speaking to the Instructors' Club Monday evening, gave a clear insight into the vital question of the present financial situation.

Prof. Dewey first spoke of the great prosperity of the country a year ago and even a few months ago, a condition which made the panic seem more inexplicable. He spoke of the numerous theories which have been advanced to explain it, and mentioned in particular two: one, that the cause was purely psychological, an unreasoning fear on the part of the people which led them to withdraw their money from the banks, and another, that the disturbance was in a large measure due to things said by Roosevelt.

Both these theories and similar ones are, in the speaker's opinion erroneous. The disturbance was not due to any recent cause but was the natural result of forces which have been at work for years. First, the increase in price of commodities, of 44 per cent in the last eleven years, or 4 per cent each year. There are numerous theories in regard to the cause of this rise, but it is Prof. Dewey's opinion that it is due to the increase in production of gold, the world's supply of which has increased from 4100 to 7500 million dollars in ten years.

Whatever the cause of high prices, their effect was to stimulate industry, which necessitated the borrowing of capital. Last year the industries of the United States planned to spend \$2,500,000,000 and the people do not have at their disposal over \$800,000,000 in one year. The result was that money had to be borrowed from other countries, and while this was possible to some extent, it was not possible to obtain as much as might have been obtained under normal conditions, for the same kind of activity was going on all over Europe, and the home enterprises needed the money. Moreover, a good deal of wealth has been destroyed in recent wars and earthquakes. This great demand for capital caused a rise in the rate of interest, and made it necessary to put the old securities on a new basis.

In order to meet the demand for loans, the banks have endeavored to attract deposits from country banks and have encroached upon their reserves. Trust companies with insufficient supervision have sprung up and money has been put into enterprises which are not immediately productive. The people, finding how the banks have encroached upon their reserves, lost their trust in them and attempted to take their money out, with the natural result. The same thing has been going on in all European countries, except that their better banking methods have prevented any crisis.

After the address, Prof. Dewey had an informal discussion with the members, answering questions which were put to him. The attendance of over fifty was the largest this year.

NEW BROTHERHOOD AT TECH.

Probationary Chapter of Brotherhood of St. Andrew Formed.

A probationary chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was organized on last Sunday evening in the Parish House of Trinity Church. Three months will be required to test the efficiency of such an organization at the Institute.

H. E. Weeks 1908 was unanimously elected probationary director. R. H. Ranger 1911 was elected secretary.

All efforts of the probationary chapter will be centered in bringing men to a corporate communion at 9 o'clock the third Sunday of every month. There will be a business meeting in a few days and several informal meetings before the next corporate communion on the 19th of January.

NEW FIELDS FOR THE TECHNOLOGIST.

ECONOMIC EXPERT POINTS OUT VITAL PROBLEMS IN INDUSTRIAL LIFE.

By Education the Encroachments of Unionism Must be Checked.

By J. K. TURNER.

The normally constituted man does not accept things as he finds them merely because they are so, but prefers to use his God-given intellect to investigate them for himself and form his own conclusions of the causes that produced the effects confronting him. This is especially true of the young man who follows the study of technology in which study proper, as in its precursors, nothing can be taken for granted, but every step must be attained by carefully worked out and proven process of logic and mathematic, fashioned to withstand the closest scrutiny!

As a nation we are now passing through an extremely critical period. This is a fact which is only too apparent on every hand. Many reasons have been advanced as to the supposed cause of the effect from which we are suffering today. They cover a wide range, and, in the majority of cases, are ably presented and convincingly put.

What is perhaps the most scholarly exposition, logically set forth and clothed in language simple and effective, hitting the nail squarely on the head, is the book of James Roscoe Day, D. D., L. L. D., Chancellor of Syracuse University, "The Raid on Prosperity." I mention this book merely because in my extensive researches into our economic conditions, undertaken to ascertain the true causes of our present national indisposition and to discover a lasting cure, I have found nothing that so straightforwardly points out the evil and suggests the remedy.

One of the chief causes that contribute to a weakening of our stability is the growing influx of our farming population into our cities. They are attracted thither by the high wages paid labor that is frequently out of all proportion to the actual work performed. This state of affairs is brought about by labor unions who, although numbering scarcely two million out of a total of thirty million workers, are nevertheless arrogating to themselves the right to dictate and force terms.

America's land, soil, coal and oil regions, rivers and plains, are to-day as rich in yield as ever; but because of the rapidly decreasing population of our rural sections, which correspondingly increases the crowded conditions in our cities, they can not be exploited to full advantage.

Two things are vitally essential: First: The unreasonable encroachments of unionism must be checked. This can be done by education alone, and right here is a magnificent opportunity afforded the technologist in his shop work, where he mingles with the men, to point out to them by word and deed the error of their attitude which eventually injures them more than any one else. Because of the technologist's higher education, it is his duty to assume leadership among men who are misdirected by false teachers, but who lack sufficient initiative and a leader to return to the paths of American common sense.

Second. Ways and Means must be found and exploited to repopulate our rural sections as fast as possible. One of the greatest means toward that end are our rapidly increasing interurban systems, and instead of opposing them, or demanding unreasonable concessions, our city councils, legislatures, and other bodies legislative should do everything in their power to further the spreading of traction systems that will bind city and country closer together. Then there are many things that the farmer does not possess, but that are common property in the city where they make life more pleasant. It is the technologist's further duty to assist to the best of his ability in devising and constructing labor saving machinery and appliances that will rob life on the farm

(Continued on page 3.)