

THE TECH

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Monday, January 6, 1908.

GOOD BUSINESS POLICY.

The financial policy adopted by this year's Tech Show is to be commended. From the large profits of last year's show a percentage has been retained for a sinking fund to start the operations of the 1908 show.

In previous years all or nearly all of the profits from the show have been turned over to the athletic association. When the management started its operations at the beginning of each year, a large sum was borrowed at big interest, on the personal note of the general or business manager, backed by some Institute authority.

That this money is needed at the first of the year is undoubtedly true as the professional coach, the theatres, and costumers have to be given a retainer, together with all the other minor expenses of postage, minor printing and personal expenditures.

Last year's show made \$1700. Of this \$1100 has been turned over to the athletic association, about \$500 has been retained for sinking fund while from one to two hundred dollars is yet to be collected.

The profits compare very favorably with previous shows, there being only one, the Chemical Maid, that made more money for the athletic association.

That the show is a big enterprise, and that the income for use on athletics is steadily increasing is best shown by a review of the profits from the various shows, in the following list: Minstrel Show, \$375; The Medicine Man, not over \$500; The Grand Duke, \$500; Applied Mechanics, not over \$900; Scientific King, \$925; Simon Pure Brass, \$935.63; Chemical Maid, \$1535; The Freshman, \$900; William Willie and Bill, handed over to the athletic association to date \$1100. As soon as the receipts from the 1908 show commence there will be \$500 more to be given from the 1907 show.

This year's show indeed has taken a good step in being sure of its working capital in a time of poor credit and high interest rates. The holding back of this sum of money will no doubt cause a little hardship for the athletic authorities this year, but will be better for all concerned in the years to come.

The selection by the show management of an advisory board to audit accounts and pass on all appointments is another good move. The responsibility of the taking in of upwards of \$6000 with the spending of about \$4500 with the attendant book-keeping and accounts is almost too much for an undergraduate management which changes every year without some advisory board to keep a continuous policy from year to year.

A detailed financial report of last year's show appears in another column.

Now that the show has been put on a solid basis, not depending on credit for a long period of operation, there remains only one activity, the Technique, that has to wait for its money and pile up bills against it. This is an enterprise that cannot very well borrow money as its profits are always problematical and often minus. It

would seem proper, in order to give future Techniques a financial standing, that a sinking fund or the custom of selling subscriptions early in the school year be started. It is hardly probable that any kind of a sinking fund can be raised, so that the only method of securing money for running expenses is the opening of the subscription list at the beginning of the school year.

OUTLINE FINANCIAL.

(Continued from page 1.)

The lyric competition has not yet been formally decided but some of the best lyrics have been selected and given out to the music writers. A meeting of the latter was called Friday and a dozen turned out. They are:—H. S. Wonsen 1907, W. G. Harrington 1910, J. A. Holbrook 1910, L. Healy 1909, A. E. Thornley 1909, P. Kellogg 1911, H. A. Hale, Jr. 1910, W. J. Orchard 1910, C. W. Hubbard 1907, K. R. Harrison, J. C. Fuller 1911 and O. B. Denison 1911.

A large proportion of these wish to write dance music, and choruses. Comparatively few wished to write topical songs, although two or three expressed their willingness to write anything. H. S. Wonsen, who wrote "Dear O. M. I. T." for the show last year has written a Tech Song this year, too. H. A. Hale also wrote last year. Not much is known about the ability of the other men in this line.

The poster competition is also progressing well. Ten or twelve posters have been handed in and they show a good deal of merit. As yet the competition has not been decided.

The Advertising Department of the Tech Show needs some men who will and can write newspaper stories about the Show. Of the eight men who came out for the three positions open, advertising manager and two assistants, four have dropped out for slight reasons. At present there are four men trying for three places. There is a chance for more. None of the four are freshmen. Furthermore only two of the men out for the business end are freshmen. The freshmen class of a year ago had four of its members on the Show management. As there are six places open this may happen again if 1911 will only show the spirit.

Wanted, for the Show, men who will and can write. Apply to F. A. Dowey, general manager, box 63, Cage.

A CONTEMPORARY OPINION.

The following statement appears in the columns of The Maryland Collegian. The Tech, of Boston Tech, is an exceptionally fine paper. It is one of our best exchanges.

INSTITUTE LECTURER EXHIBITS.

At the recent exhibition of the Forest, Fish and Game Society of New York City a remarkable collection of original photographs of wild birds and animals loaned by Mr. William Lyman Underwood, Lecturer on Biology in the Institute, attracted great attention and received much favorable comment.

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