

THE TECH

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SENIOR ELECTIONS AND MARSHALS.

The points to be commended in regard to the 1908 Class Day Committee are that with the exception of a few instances service to the class and the Institute has been recognized in the election, the courses are represented in nearly the proper percentages and best of all for the reputation of the Institute the scholarship is high. Every member but one is a candidate for a degree. This exception is not due to scholarship but to desire for a greater breadth of training. Only three members are specials, and all, with the exception cited, are so through technicalities. In no case have men been recognized who have fallen back through premeditated neglect of studies.

There has, however, entered into the election of this committee a new and peculiar policy, that of course representation. Before the recent elections the courses smaller numerically speak, banded together in a protest for this policy. While the ends sought were perhaps good, and the advocates for it moved by unselfish motives, the means employed, that of course caucuses and the selection of an arbitrary ticket, were for class politics very questionable. If each course had met in caucus, every member being present, and certain men nominated from those courses as the men desired by their fellows, all done in an open manner, there would be no question, and the ends sought would have undoubtedly been gained.

That the caucus system and the ticket has to a certain extent been successful seems true. Under ordinary circumstances the election of many of the men the ticket seems probable, in fact it would seem the publicity given the ticket, much against the wishes of those forwarding it, has helped a number of the men on it.

There are two or three men now on the committee who would not under ordinary conditions have been elected. It is not for anyone to question the worth of these men and hardly right for anyone to say that they should not be on the committee for they are good students, representative of what Technology stands for, and above all are satisfactory to the men in their own allied courses. The placing of these men will undoubtedly be a good thing for the class in drawing together the various courses and sections and in making the Class Day exercises interesting to many men who have hitherto taken little or no active interest in class affairs.

It is the presence of these men, who have not served the Institute, or class, on the committee that makes all fair minded individuals, interested in the welfare of the undergraduate institutions question severely the methods employed in the recent elections. It has been the tradition, and rightly that men

who have done service in class or school affairs should be elected to this honorary body. This tradition may be wrong in principle, but the acceptance of it by the class after class has seemed to prove its worth. While it is true in this case that recognition has been given to those who have been leaders and consistent workers in class and varsity teams, to those who have shouldered the responsibility in the management of enterprises like Technique and the Junior Prom, and last, to be highly commended, to those who have taken a leading part in the religious and professional societies, there are men whose service has not been recognized by election to the committee, and men who have given no service have been elected.

The senior class and other classes that will one day become seniors should be reminded of their duty toward traditions of right and wrong in class elections and school enterprises. For the health of school election systems the combinations and collective bargaining should be strongly discountenanced. These methods smack too strongly of the ward politics which has been and is the disgrace of our American cities, the swapping of blocks of votes for emoluments and offices. If the ends to be secured are good, and only these means can be employed to secure the ends, then the voters are branded as ignorant and lacking in judgment.

As to the duty of the seniors and other classes to the school enterprises, if "ward politics" is to be employed in the election to this honorary committee, two things will happen: the honor which the membership of the committee confers will be discredited and all effort in class and Institute enterprises will be discouraged. It is easy enough to see that there will be no honor in being a member of a committee, the membership of which is secured by wire pulling and electioneering. On the other score, it is true that the truly unselfish individual is willing to work long and hard without recognition, all of us are not built of this uncommon clay. If the senior class does not give recognition and honor to those who have done service, undergraduate enterprises will lose prestige. If those men do not enter into the many kinds of athletics offered by class and Institute, the membership of nearly all standing for faithfulness and consistent work than peculiar physical endowment, those men who refuse to go out for the show, the musical clubs, or The Tech, positions in each of which stand for faithful and spirited service, who have not taken an interest in religious or professional societies enough to be leaders, if those men are to be given last great honor that a class can confer, the standing of these Institute enterprises will be hurt.

In view of the peculiar methods employed in the recent election a serious question arises as to whether the men securing the largest number of votes should be marshals. In this case it hardly seems possible that the greatest number of votes stands for a desire on the part of the class to make the recipient of these votes marshals.

In the first place the anxiety on the part of some courses to place certain

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