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TECHNOLOGY CLUBS OFFER FOUR-FOLD CO-OPERATIVE PLAN

The plan for effecting profitable cooperation between American Industry and the higher institutions of learning, as proposed by the Technology Clubs Associated, is based on sound business principles. It is intended to improve on the quality and quantity of one of the fundamental supplies which every industrial firm must have, the supply of trained men, and at the same time reduce the cost of that supply in time and money.

The plan is in four parts as follows:

The writing by the firms individually and jointly, with the help of the Technology Clubs, of the first specific order ever written by industry for trained men. This order is to specify, without obligation and in approximate terms, what training they require these men to have, how many men are needed, and what their opportunities in business are.

The writing by a group of representatives of the college of the first specific statement ever written of the capacity of the schools to fill the order of industry.

The making of a permanent record in book form and in terms common to all concerned of the results obtained in this way.

The making of a plan for profitable cooperation, especially including keeping up to date the educational needs of industry and the school's method of meeting these needs. The outlining and publishing of methods by which future action may be taken for making the best contact possible between the demand for and the supply of trained men. The beginning of standardization of definite ways in which to meet the need of industry for trained men at the least cost in the future.

This plan has been carried out with remarkable success. The findings of a group of trained men, who visited the subscribers to the plan, went thru their plants, talked with their executives and foremen, are being submitted to an educational committee formed for the purpose. The results of these findings will be discussed and resolutions adopted to meet the needs at the Conference to be held in Philadelphia in the latter part of March. Each industry will be represented by a delegate, these delegates forming a General Committee together with the Educational Committee, which will sit in a preliminary meeting, the day before the Conference, to determine a policy to be carried out at the Conference, and a plan for perpetrating the cooperation between industry and the colleges.

NEWSPAPERS APPROVE

The effect of this scheme is making itself apparent in different parts of the country as is shown by the following editorial, printed recently in the "Philadelphia Ledger":

"Almost all the engineering departments of our colleges have some scheme by which during a portion of the college year those who go in for mechanical, electrical, mining, general engineering, chemical or metallurgical studies are given the chance to get a certain amount of shop practice in the great industries to which they will turn for employment after graduation. Moreover, an additional effort has been direct toward getting the students to take up shop work and, in the case of the civil engineers, open-air work on the road or in the service of the railroad corporation during their vacation period. In other words, the colleges have recognized the close relationship that should exist between the practical studies and their application to our industrial life.

"So far so good; but it has just been left for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to approach this cooperation from another point of view, which, if it succeeds, may revolutionize the question of the financial relationship of technical schools and colleges to the industries and enterprises which they benefit directly and indirectly: a benefit not only by turning out trained men, but through the research carried on in the institutions of learning which are of immediate value to the trade and commerce of the country.

"What the Massachusetts Institute proposes is that in return for a definite endowment from industries which draw upon it for its specialists the Institute will do certain services regularly for the contributing industries. As the Institute states the proposition, it is simplicity itself:

"This Institute is a source of supply for the most important element in your organization—trained men. We have furnished the men to whom you turn for new and more efficient methods of production. Your need for men such as we produce is con-

stantly increasing. If this school is to furnish its quota of these men, funds are necessary. Therefore it is from you, who gain most from the efforts to raise the major portion of the money, and in order that your contribution to the fund may be above a suspicion of charity or philanthropy, we will contract to render certain specific services in consideration of an annual retaining fee.

"Of course, it is to be remembered that this idea is the basis of Germany's great pre-war industrial development, since there, through the action of the centralized government, all the technical schools and universities and the industries were brought into such close relationship as to be component parts of a general program by which both were subsidized, as it were, to promote the business interests of the nation and to add to its scientific and technical resources. But only recently Georgetown University, in association with Mr. James A. Farrel, chairman of the National Foreign Trade Council, started in to develop a department called a "School of Foreign Service," with an endowment of \$500,000, which is to train men for service in foreign countries with a view to promoting American trade and commerce. This is quite along the Massachusetts Institute's idea, and has anticipated them by several months.

"In view of what both these institutions propose, it is likely that, whatever practical, other colleges and technical institutions will follow suit. There is no reason why these direct relationships between the industries and commerce benefited and the institutions that benefit them should not be set up and coordinated. Indeed, this is the kind of practical cooperation which means better teaching in the colleges, a higher output of trained men and better results in the industries. And that the industries should pay for it goes without saying."

REMOVE RANGE

Bowling Alleys Supplant the Walker Gallery

Work has already commenced on converting the Walker Memorial rifle range into two bowling alleys. Considerable work has been already accomplished; the fixtures for the range have been removed and some of the partitions have been torn down. The contractors for this alteration are A. E. James & Company of Boston.

The range was used by the Rifle Club until recently, but the necessity for new alleys is so pressing that the range is being removed. However, the Rifle Club will not be permanently deprived of its home, as a new range will be put in somewhere about the Institute. Some of the places where it is proposed to have the new range are the Walker Memorial coat room, the basement of building 2, and the seaplane hangar behind building 8.

COLLEGE NOTES

Brown University—An effort is being made by the department of physical training to teach every man to swim. At present 20 per cent are unable.

University of Nebraska—At the University of Nebraska the time honored term of "book-worm" is being replaced by the term "book-hound."

University of Cincinnati—The University of Cincinnati has been unmoved on the overall fad, the faculty opposing it on the ground that it costs more in the end.

It is planned to take a picture of the university in the shape of a shield. The co-eds in white will form the letters U. C., the men forming the background and the R. O. T. C. in uniform making the border.

University of Mississippi—The state has given the University of Mississippi a total of \$1,000,000 as a reserve fund.

University of Michigan—A "Pay Up Day" will be held this year on which an effort will be made to have students settle all their minor debts, both to university activities and to merchants.

Beloit College—A mathematically inclined man at Beloit has taken the trouble to estimate the number of miles danced each year by the average undergraduate and claims it is 180. This would bring the total for the college to 81,000, one-third the distance around the earth.

191 CONTRACTS SIGNED BY RESEARCH DIVISION

The Division of Cooperation and Research has just announced the signing of the 191st contract under the Technology Plan. This last agree-

ment was signed with the Narrow Fabric Company, makers of shoe-laces, especially the Nufashioned Brand. The factories, where some of the now popular imitation leather laces are also made, are located in Reading, Pennsylvania.

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will be told in full in the

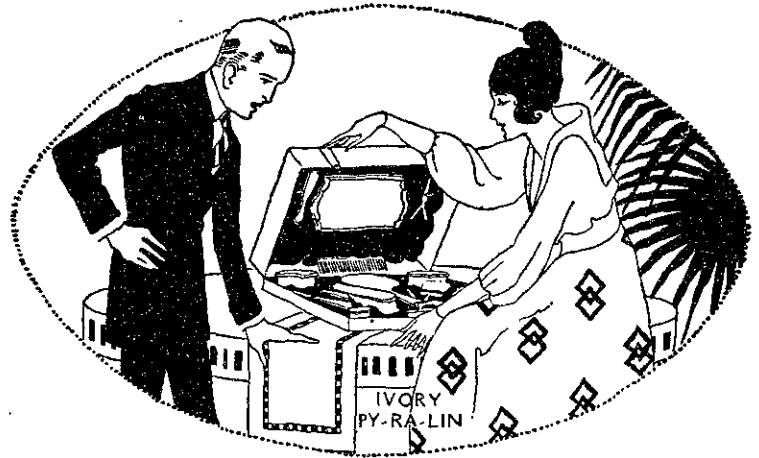
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