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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1920

A POLICY OF EXPANSION VS. LACK OF FORESIGHT

ENTHUSIASTIC members of the Technology Club of New Hampshire have already raised \$6,000 towards a fund to be used in providing a new athletic field for Technology, under the impression that the present Tech Field will soon be occupied by new dormitories.

The plan, as outlined at the recent meeting of the club, is to purchase the tract of land facing the Charles River Road between the Riverbank Court Hotel and the Gray and Davis plant, across Massachusetts avenue from the educational unit. Here is ample space for a field of gigantic proportions, one which could easily equal the Yale bowl or the stadium on Soldiers' Field. The New Hampshire Alumni propose to erect a suitable stadium in memory of the late President MacLaurin as a further step in the accomplishment of the high ideals he had in regard to the physical and moral development of the young engineer.

Several Institute authorities have unofficially expressed themselves as against the plans of these ardent Alumni. They point out that the present field is adequate and that it will not be sacrificed for dormitories. Furthermore, it is believed that the fund could be put to better use in building another recreation center to contain among other things a meeting hall to accommodate 3,500 students and a swimming pool.

Undoubtedly the meeting hall and swimming pool and needed, but the proposal to acquire more land is of far greater immediate interest. Using the small structures suggested, dormitories to house 3,000 men will cover almost all of the vacant ground allotted for such purposes, Tech field would be crowded in between buildings, and the possibility of another recreation center on the campus could never be realized. Let's follow the logical custom and isolate the athletic field at a distance from the buildings, where baseball teams need not fear glazier's bills and utilize the valuable campus space for educational, social, and living purposes. Should Technology fail to acquire the desirable river front land on both sides of the present site, the Institute will in a few years be completely hemmed in and expansion will be as difficult as it was in Boston.

Here's to the liveliest graduate organization in New England! We extend hearty thanks to them for their interest in undergraduate welfare; may their devotion to their Alma Mater never grow less.

MEAL SERVICE THAT IS UNNECESSARY

MAINTEINING the Walker Memorial dining service throughout the summer months has provoked much unfavorable criticism from loyal Technologists who have patronized the north dining hall, the principal objection being the unusually high prices.

The Walker dining rooms are not operated for profit, and the Institute is keeping them open merely for the benefit of the summer school students and the clerical forces, and not for any financial gain. This is the more surprising in view of the ten thousand dollar deficit reported in the treasurer's statement a year ago when the closing of the many government schools so reduced the number of patrons that it was impossible to meet the salaries of the decreased number of employees. It would be far better to close the north hall and let the men patronize nearby lunch rooms rather than incur a loss this year, or run the risk of losing patrons through unsatisfactory service.

"ALL WORK AND NO PLAY"

CONCENTRATED, intensive summer courses are of little value unless supplemented by a certain amount of recreation. With the Institute's social life at a standstill during the vacation, it is up to the students themselves to plan amusements which will include everybody.

An All-Technology picnic down Boston harbor met with big success in past years; besides, we now have a floating dance hall at our front door which might be chartered some evening for Institute men. In addition to fostering undergraduate spirit of good-fellowship, such affairs would serve as excellent opportunities for welcoming the men transferring from other colleges and the prospective freshmen in our midst.

Cleofan and Course VI-A are the only organizations which are well represented this summer. Which one has the initiative to start the ball rolling? THE TECH offers its facilities for giving publicity to the movement.

MAKING THE POSTAL SERVICE MORE EFFICIENT

NOW that the Cambridge officials of the Boston Postal District have been considerate enough to place a mail box in the Walker Memorial, wouldn't its serviceability to the Post Office Department and to the public be increased if it was located on the sidewalk in front of the building where it could be seen instead of hidden behind the colonnade in a far corner of Walker's steps?

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor of THE TECH:

As the ostensible exponent of the opinions of the student body may I not call your attention to the deplorable state into which the dining service maintained at the Walker has so lately fallen?

Organized primarily to supply reasonably edible food at a nominal price or at cost, and thus, as the catalogue remarks, to aid in reducing the rather abnormal living expenses about the Institute for both Faculty and students, as well as to furnish a convenient and congenial dining place, it had, until the opening of the summer term, fulfilled its functions with a reasonable degree of efficiency. When, however, north hall was opened as a cafeteria simultaneously with the final examinations, there was a peculiar and inexplicable change; an almost indecent rise in price and an equally disconcerting decline in quality, which coupled with the self-service necessary warrants at least an investigation into the policies of the operator or operators.

Scattered about Cambridge and Boston, too far to be readily accessible in the noon-time, are little cafes, often with odd names, sometimes with Bohemian tendencies, but always scrupulously clean, where the food is always palatable, where there are waitresses who are appetizing instead of distinctly disconcerting, where there is cold water, and napkins, and best of all, where prices, including a tip, are within distinctly reasonable limits. It is a perfectly safe bet that these places are not run solely for pleasure, and it is as safe to assume that they yield a decent profit. In one case at least I know that to be the case. Even at the Plaza it is possible to lunch for a single dollar, and for that dollar there are flowers and music, courtesy, and a general air of well-being and beauty that of necessity costs somebody something. On the other hand, there is north hall, sombre and depressing (the person who hung those pictures was a genius in his own way), where one also may eat, but not so well, for that same dollar, providing one takes care and carries his own shiny tin tray. And north hall is not supposed to be run for profit.

Whether this condition is due to inefficient or incompetent management I shall not say, for I do not pretend to know, but this at least is evident, that to make necessary such abnormal prices in an establishment presumably run only for its own maintenance, gross negligence can be the only excuse. Granted that the overhead is tremendous, although there is no good reason why it should be, and that it is a contributing cause in the general melange, there is only this to note in passing—that groups of consistently and conspicuously idle women whose main object in life appears to be the consumption of the maximum of food with the maximum of gossip are hardly consistent with a policy of economy. If it is necessary that these persons be retained, either through motives of charity or otherwise, they might at least be instructed to serve, as an excuse for their presence, and to wipe off that look of haughty and injured virtue which a mere question seems to render permanent with them.

Perhaps I am prejudiced: I probably am, for the food is reasonably clean (in four visits I have only found hairs in my ice cream three times) and the cutlery is often quite nicely polished, but I think that nine-tenths of the Institute at least, would welcome an investigation that might perhaps lead the Walker managers to that famous and evanescent expectancy, a "revision downward."

Malcolm Johnson '22.

T. C. A. COMPLETES NEXT YEAR'S PLANS

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not be inappropriate. The services rendered by the T. C. A.—lauded by the Alumni during their recent reunion here—are many in number. Many Boston people found it convenient to list their spare rooms with the T. C. A. rather than with the Boston papers. Owing to this fact and the efforts of the men in charge, an indexed list of rooms was published early in the fall. Additions and corrections were announced from time to time and rooms as they were taken, were taken off the list. In this way the T. C. A. was able to house 1100 men (over one-third of the Institute's total registration—with "temporary homes."

PRATT SCHOOL READY FOR OCCUPANCY JAN. 1

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tical and inadvisable and the work was postponed until after the signing of the armistice.

The heirs to the Pratt estate contested the will, seizing upon this delay as a suitable reason to declare that the Institute had forfeited its right to the fund, and also demanded all of the residue of the estate over \$750,000. The case was tried in the Supreme Court of the State of Massachusetts, which decided that Technology could not be deprived of the endowment of the Pratt will.

The plans for the school were drawn by W. W. Bosworth '89, who is the designer of the buildings around the main court. Stone and Webster, the agents and engineers of the Institute, were unable to build the school because the will specified that the work should be done in a lump-sum and competition basis and they do not work in such a way. Stone and Webster, whose interests are being taken care of by J. E. Jobling, sub-contracted to the General Building Company, Incorporated, in which concern R. E. Runels '11 is a partner.

The work on the excavations began last winter and 1300 piles were driven early in the spring. The whole building is of Indiana limestone the same as the buildings around the main court, and is similar in design with exception of the entrance. The columns are of reinforced fabricated material and all the concrete work is reinforced with iron. The length of the building is 175 feet and it is 60 feet wide. There are four floors and a basement. The main entrance is on Massachusetts Avenue.

The entrance which is modeled after the one of Walker Memorial, will have bronze doors, surmounted by the model of a ship in limestone, the symbol of Naval Architecture. The name "Pratt School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering" will appear in the frieze. This building, unlike the others, will have an inclosed fire-escape on the north wall to comply with the city and state statutes.

The building when completed will contain 53 rooms. The basement will have a power measurement laboratory, heating and ventilating rooms, machinery room, a large locker room and an instrument room. The museum and library of Naval Architecture and a large entrance hall are the important rooms on the first floor. The museum is in back of the main entrance and the library will be west of the museum. On the third floor will be a storage room, model room, a large aero-drafting room, offices and class rooms.

INSTITUTE CADETS PROMINENT AT CAMP

(Continued from Page 1)

is not all work. In an account of the two dances given to celebrate the opening of camp the reporter declares that the student officers are giving good accounts of themselves at the gentle are of breaking in on the camp officers for the privilege of dancing with the few ladies present.

Saturday trips which promise to add educational features to a program of unusual interest are described at length in the Recoil. The trips include one to the aviation post at Langley Field, to be made in trucks from the camp, to the U. S. Naval Base, to the Portsmouth, Virginia, Navy Yard, and the Newport News shipyard.

On these trips special facilities will be given to the student officers as representatives of Uncle Sam to see the inside working of affairs that are kept secret to the ordinary public. They will be shown through the different plants by experienced guides and all intricate details of mechanism or operation explained.

Students Receive Inoculations

The paper is loud in praise of those in charge of the arrangements for the reception of the cadets as they stepped from their trains. On their arrival at Fort Monroe the students were met by detachments of soldiers sent from the camp to meet them, and taken directly to the post by motor trucks. On arrival, the rookies were signed up and issued uniforms, equipment and bedding, including mosquito netting, pillows and sheets.

Medical examination and typhoid and smallpox inoculation came next. Many of the cadets, because of previous military inoculation, were permitted to escape the typhoid ordeal, but practically all received the smallpox prophylaxis.



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