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IN CHARGE OF THIS ISSUE

H. W. Dexter.....R. E. Rubins

Monday, November 28, 1921

THE CASE OF MAJOR PECK

In the recent action of the Senate in refusing to confirm the promotion of Major Peck we see established a most dangerous precedent of political interference with army promotions. Advancement in the army has long been established by law to avoid any dependence upon political influence to insure reasonable independence of action and thought to army officers. The confirmation of promotions by the Senate has for many years been a routine matter—a mere legal form. A case now arises in which an officer through the public utterance of his opinion has given offense to the political party in power; he is denied by that party as a result of this disfavor, the promotion which is rightfully his. Apparently Major Peck's utterances were not sufficiently reprehensible to bring him before a court-martial but they were sufficiently vigorous and pointed to arouse great anger on the part of several influential persons. Major Peck's criticism of certain national guard commanders in France were probably indiscreet and from a standpoint of discipline, unfortunate. The small wrong which he may have done is quite obliterated by the immense evil his enemies have done in stopping his promotion by their political machinations.

When Major Peck's promotion first came up, the Senate refused to confirm him and all officers below him, thus blocking the promotions of several hundred officers. This was an obvious injustice to the several hundred officers junior to Peck whose names went up for promotion at the same time as his. When the same list came up the second time, the Senate took Peck's name off the list and refused to confirm him especially, then they confirmed all the rest.

The effect of this action on the army and the navy is far reaching and ruinous. Except in the highest grades, politics has played little part in either service and this has been a very felicitous condition indeed. The discipline of the army has been uninfluenced and uniform in its justice. With Congressmen empowered by this precedent to block the promotion of any army officer we will find platoon, company, and battalion discipline sadly interfered with by politics. A Congressman will write letters to effect the removal of a constituent from kitchen police. Political influence will unlock the guardhouse for those fortunate enough to possess it. The discipline of higher commands and the relations between officers will resemble the actions of a political convention and the army will have its efficiency crippled. To the man interested in national defense and jealous of his country's safety the case of Major Peck is most alarming.

OBJECTIONS TO THE JUNIOR FORMAL

The committee in charge of the Junior Formal report that only 75 men out of the Class of 1923 have purchased tickets or made reservations to go to this affair. This shows that something must be wrong with the class or the

dance. The membership of the class is around 750, and only one-tenth of the men have signified their intention of going to a dance given for the purpose of gathering the fellows together in some form of social meeting.

The something which is wrong may be that many of the men feel that they do not care to go to a formal dance. This has not been the case in the past years of the class's existence for the custom of having at least one formal dance a year was instituted in their freshman year. Both the dance last year and the year before were well attended, there being about 150 at each of these affairs. This shows that a goodly number of the men in this class do approve of this method of gathering. Indeed, after the Sophomore dance of last year, numbers of the men made the remark that this dance was the best one that they had ever attended.

Another objection that might be raised is that men in the Class of '23 feel that the dance is too near the examination period to have such an affair. All this was taken into consideration when the dance was planned. The decision arrived at by the committee was that the dance could be held on December 9 and yet give the men attending a chance to prepare for the exams. However, it has been suggested that the men gather for this affair and make it the last of the term, thus relieving their minds of all social distractions.

Provision has been made whereby the men desirous of going to the dance might obtain reservations for their tables in advance of the purchase of their tickets thus giving the men who are holding off purchasing tickets on account of lack of funds on hand a chance to make preparations to go to the dance.

The class president has laid the reason for having the dance before the class and in so doing left an urge for the men to attend. The urge is that if a man has '23 spirit he will support the dance by attending it, for its aim is to gather the men of the class, socially.

There is a threat by the committee that admittance will be granted to the members of the other classes of the Institute if the members of 1923 do not respond in a large enough number to finance the dance. This would indeed be a reflection on the members of the class for their lack of spirit in supporting class affairs.

T. E. N. TELLS HOW TECH PUT EINSTEIN ON MAP IN 1908

That Technology out-Einstein-ed Germany in having a professor who thirteen years ago was writing on the "Theory of Relativity" and whose lectures on this subject were the first in America is told in the December issue of the Tech Engineering News, out this Thursday. A short life of Professor E. B. Wilson, head of the Department of Physics, by Professor C. L. Norton, brings out this interesting fact and outlines in some detail the work of Professor Wilson in pure and applied science.

How unusual problems in mine transportation were met and solved at very low levels is explained in "Storage Battery Locomotives in Metal Mines" by the general superintendent and chief electrician of the Butte and Superior Mining Company.

Get Power from Volcanoes

A special article by an Italian scientist, published for the first time in America, narrates how the Italian Government is actually getting power from volcanic steam. The author goes into his subject with some detail, managing, however, to keep the romantic side of the article uppermost.

All about paper, from rags to sheepskins, is told in the comprehensive article on "Manufacture of Writing Paper," by H. H. Hansen '12, chief of the Technical Department of the Eastern Manufacturing Company, Bangor, Maine. That letter from Her or that check from Dad will mean more to you after reading how the rag pickers' well-known stock in trade passes from pulp to paper in sixteen stages.

Can You Define Civil Engineering

What is the classic definition of civil engineering? The article on "Civil Engineering and Civilization," by an engineer, will not only tell you but will furnish a novel and interesting viewpoint of progress from the standpoint of civil engineering.

In addition to these special articles are the regular digest of the engineering press, articles recommended for publications.

The editorials give the view point of engineers on the Disarmament Conference at Washington and raise a question as to the fundamental, broad-gauge significance of the system of grades by examination.

COMMUNICATIONS

To the Editor of THE TECH:

It may be remembered that I asked for the opinions of others concerning pipe smoking. Although I received no direct answer through THE TECH I did in friendly discussions with others. My assumption that the objection concerned only untidy floors was wrong, for the stale tobacco smell was also objected to. Now the pipe excels in the amount of odor it can produce and therefore is clearly under the ban. We have been recognized as loyal Technology students when we were requested not to smoke and no more need be said concerning smoking pipes.

I wish to clear up any misunderstanding about myself due to Wednesday's communication. First of all I believe in standing up for my rights. Secondly I believe that when you are in doubt ask someone who knows. My first communication was in the main a question and I felt I would get a full explanation.

Now as to our right to smoke it is well to remember that the day we entered Technology we put ourselves under an obligation. That obligation was to obey the rules and regulations. We gave up some rights because it was to our own benefit and one cannot have both his penny and his cake. I was not as one might infer from Wednesday's reply "hollering for any rights" where no right existed. I stated I was perfectly willing to give up my right to smoke because of the obligation I had incurred.

I believe that Mr. Johnson unintentionally misinterpreted the reasons and spirit of my request.

H. Sherman Baker '25.

AT THE THEATRES

WILBUR: "The Nightcap," 8:15. Crime stuff and comedy. Case reviewed Wednesday.

ST. JAMES: "Smilin' Through." A fantastic story of love, a family feud and the other world. Whole story Wednesday.

SEI.WYN: Thurston, a magician. Secrets revealed Wednesday.

PLYMOUTH: "The Bad Man." Holbrook Blinn as a chivalrous cowboy.

HOLLIS: "Blood and Sand." Otis Skinner in bullfights, etc.

TREMONT: "The Love Letter." John Charles Thomas in a typical musical comedy.

COLONIAL: "Two Little Girls in Blue." Fairbanks twins, good songs, dances and book.

COPLEY: "The Veysey Inheritance." First time in America. Review Wednesday.

ARLINGTON: "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "I Pagliacci." Both operas all week.

KEITH'S: Anatol Friedland with a "Pig Revue" heads bill.

MAJESTIC: Nora Bayes with good supporters.

SYMPHONY HALL: Nov. 28, at 8:15. John Powell, foremost American pianist. Nov. 30, at 8:15. Chaliapin, Russia's greatest singer.

SHUBERT: "Theodora." A Goldwyn "Colossal."

FENWAY: "Disraeli." George Arliss and his great stage success. "Playhouse." Buster Keaton.

NOTICES

FOR UNDERGRADUATES

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Recent Developments in Science
The fifth lecture of the course will be given on Friday, November 25th, at 4:00 o'clock in room 10-250 by Professor H. W. Shimer of the Department of Geology, who will speak upon, "The Evolution of the Earth."
Walter Humphreys,
Registrar.

November 21, 1921.

The Chinese Club will hold a business meeting in Room 10-267, Friday, December 2.

INTERCOLLEGIATE NEWS

N. Y. U. STUDENTS WILL ORGANIZE OWN BANK

Students of New York University are undertaking the organization of a students' bank which will be run entirely by themselves. A complete tentative organization has already taken place and a student board of directors appointed. Resolutions will be presented to the University Council at its next meeting and it is expected that the bank will begin business soon.

The plans, which have been approved by the State Superintendent of Banking, provide that it shall be run on a non-profit-making basis, any profits being turned back to the members. Deposits made with the bank will receive interest at five per cent and loans will be made to students where approved by the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Student Board of Directors. Students will be granted the privilege of checking accounts subject to the same regulations.

Simmons Opposed to Smoking

In a recent census taken at Simmons College on the subject of "to smoke or not to smoke" for women, ninety students were opposed to smoking while 63 were not.

Figures were also compiled on what the students consider a minimum desirable income of a newly wed couple. The average reached by the majority of the girls was \$2,000 a year. Calculations turned in by the students of the Junior and Senior classes ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a year.

Hiking for Her Degree

Some of us know how "Ike" Issacson '23, tramps every summer from the Far West to Technology, and there may be some other boys doing it at other schools, but it is the first time we hear of a girl hitting the long trail in search for education. Miss Theresa Thromp, of Ferndale, Wash., is on the way east to study for a doc-

(Continued on Page 4)

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