



COLONEL THOMAS L. LIVERMORE
Member of the Corporation

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THE ALUMNI DINNER

An Impressive and Notable Occasion in the Walker Memorial The President's Prophetic Speech

The 1918 Alumni dinner of Technology was notable for several reasons. First, because it was the first ever held in the new Walker Memorial, which, brave with class banners and cardinal and gray decorations, held a far larger number than the inclement night had led any one to expect. And second, because for the first time since the Supreme Court had announced its decision settling the status of the "McKay millions" the President made a public statement touching upon it. In the course of his remarks on the death of Colonel Livermore, long time member of the Corporation, President Maclaurin made plain his belief that unless there cease to be competition and duplication between our great educational institutions the traditional New England supremacy in education must inevitably pass from us. We must choose, said he, between serving a section and serving a nation or the world, and in our choice will be settled many other problems beside the McKay problem. He finished with a warm welcome to the distinguished guest of the evening, the Chinese Ambassador, Dr. Wellington Koo, who looks like a boy and makes a speech like the American college man he is.

In his introductory remarks President Francis R. Hart, '89, of the Alumni Association, made humorous capital out of the fact that the enterprising Alumni newspaper, *The Tech*, had already distributed to the diners complete copies of his speech with a history of his life, including his activities as an undergraduate.

The dinner was very simple, he explained, as part of the money taken in went to pay for the invitations extended to the Tech-

nology men, graduate and undergraduate, already in the service, who were near enough to Boston to accept for the evening. There was a large delegation present in uniform from both the Army and the Navy. The heads of the resident schools for Army and Navy Aviators were also present, at the head table. Mrs. MacLaurin and the Alumnae occupied tables at the front of the hall. George Glidden, '93, directed, as usual, the music, which was loud and long.

Following the dinner, the moving pictures of the summer military camp at East Machias were exhibited and showed to very good effect the work and play of the young soldier engineers.

Mr. Hart's address had two principal themes, the achievement of the desire of many years in the existence of the Walker Memorial, and second, the war services of the Alumni. "After years of mingled hopes and discouragements our dreams have become a fact greater and nobler than our fancies ever pictured, the Walker Memorial is happily finished and we have foregathered in its great hall. You undoubtedly remember that American Indian who said, when asked why he stood silent in the face of a great joy, 'The White Man has a head, therefore he speaks with his tongue; the Indian has a heart, which cannot speak.' So it is with us today, our hearts do indeed feel joy and pride in the achievements of our loved mother, the Institute:

"We are in the midst of the greatest human upheaval the world has ever known, and it is more in keeping with our traditions to work and not to talk . . . but to you I will briefly report on behalf of the Alumni Council, on the year's work, as it is proper to do at this, the annual dinner."

Mr. Hart noted how his predecessor, Mr. Stone, had appointed an Alumni committee charged with the duty of mobilizing the resources of Technology, for the expected opportunity of national service if the country entered war. The foresight which prompted the naming of this committee was made evident early in the war. The work of setting the house in order for the great task of the war was ably seconded by a committee appointed at the Cleveland convention of the Technology Clubs Associated. This committee under Smythe, '89, established the Washington Bureau, and later came the happy union of the two committees in the M. I. T. Committee on National Service.

The president of the Alumni gave full praise to the Alumni

through whose patriotic and unstinted work progress was possible, Litchfield, '85, Munroe, '82, and Scharff, DeBell and Ferris among the later classes, who have combined to make the Washington Bureau one of the most effective instruments in the Alumni work. "Munroe's enthusiasm and driving force, combined with the money help of an always generous friend of the Institute and the self-sacrifice of Van Rensselaer Lansingh, made the Technology Club of Paris a possibility, and from the modest beginnings of our little club there has developed the American University Union in Paris. . . . In this University Union your National Service Committee is keeping up a Technology bureau, which under the direction of volunteers from this Association will be of the most intimate help to all Tech men."

In continuing the story of Alumni helpfulness, Mr. Hart told how the Association has aided the undergraduate paper, *The Tech*, to become for the war period an alumni as well as an undergraduate newspaper of almost professional merit, and how it should be in the hands of every alumnus. He noted that "Litchfield, called to Government service, was obliged to give up his position as editor of the REVIEW, in which he had done so much to make the magazine one of the very best of its type in the country. For his successor the Council is happy to have secured Prof. R. E. Rogers of the English Department of the Institute. The same reasons caused Mr. Litchfield's resignation as Field Secretary. The position has not yet been permanently filled, but the Council recognizes it as one of its most important duties to keep the outlying Technology groups and associations in closest personal touch with the Institute. This has been possible in a measure this year through the kindness of Professor Pearson, who made in the summer an extended tour, of Mr. Ritchie, who has visited Buffalo and Rochester and of Professor Allen, who is to start in a few days on a long trip touching nearly every association between Albany and Kansas City and south to the Birmingham meeting, the whole including some seventeen Tech clubs.

"One other important undertaking has been most successfully established," continued Mr. Hart, "the War Service Auxiliary of the National Service Committee, M. I. T., a committee of devoted women, with Mrs. Cunningham as chairman, who are maintaining headquarters and workrooms in the Rogers Building and carrying on in a multitude of ways those helpful and sympathetic services

needed, and to be even more needed later, by men at the front and their families and dependents here."

The address made reference to financial matters of the year, noting among other matters how increased support of the War Service will enable it to extend a much-needed work and to prepare it to meet the emergencies that are sure to come.

In conclusion, President Hart turned again to the Walker Memorial. "No more fitting dedication of this building could have taken place," he said, "nor one more appropriate to the great-hearted soldier and educator, to whose memory it is actually inscribed, than the act of turning it over for the war period for a military barracks."

PRESIDENT MACLAURIN'S ADDRESS

The one subject for serious thought and for serious action today is the war. As a nation, mainly through our President, we have made admirable and helpful contributions to what may be called its philosophy, but we are still far from supporting that philosophy by appropriate action and it is incumbent on all individuals and institutions not to sit back and criticize, but to get into the business and help. Since the outset Technology has been "doing its bit" and as time goes on its contributions are steadily increasing in magnitude and significance and I hope of course that this will continue until the end. I will not impose upon your patience by enumerating the various activities of Technology associated with warlike ends. They have been set forth in some detail in various publications of the Alumni Association. Large numbers of men are going forth from the Institute almost daily to the service of their country and of humanity to play their part in this great crisis of the world's history. They go out in all cases that I have observed with admirable spirit and it is this spirit of our young men that is the most cheering fact in the outlook today where there is much that is discouraging. If only they can get into effective action in time, and if only history will not have to write "too late" on America's action as, according to Lloyd George, it must write with regard to some of the activities of our Allies, we need have no misgivings as to the outcome. As I see these young men going forth, I think of the part that they are to play in the great conflict and of the influence of their service on the history of the world. I think, too, of the contributions that they will make in

later life (if they come scathless through the present trial)—of the contributions they will make to the power and usefulness of this great institution—and I wonder if many of them are destined to play as great a part in its development as were some of those who gave themselves with like enthusiasm to the cause of humanity in the great war of '61. It is strange that the two most critical steps in the Institute's history should have been taken on the eve of a great war. Only a little more than a year ago we occupied these new buildings, and by occupying them greatly increased our opportunities for usefulness. Without the facilities that are now available, practically all the services that we are now rendering to the Government would have been impossible. We could not have improved our equipment more opportunely than we did. The other critical step was the actual foundation of the Institute, the first step that cost so much. The charter of Technology was signed by Governor Andrew only a few days before the outbreak of the Civil War and, as I have said, not a few of those who played a conspicuous part in that war were destined to shape the course of Technology in later years. The chief of these was General Walker—that great president of this Institute often spoken of as its second founder,—a man who by his qualities of mind and heart won the affection and regard of all with whom he was associated and whose memory has been built into stone in this noble Walker Memorial, dedicated in his honor by the Alumni of Technology.

Only yesterday I stood before the grave of another hero of the Civil War, who played an important part, though less conspicuous in the history of Technology, Colonel Livermore. He was only a lad of seventeen when the war broke out, but his capacity and character made him a colonel at twenty. This is not the appropriate place to estimate his value to the community or to speak of his contributions to knowledge, of his great and honorable business career or of his unique social charm. His services to the Institute, however, may well be touched on here. He was fighting for liberty when the Institute was founded, so that he was not an alumnus of Technology, but no alumnus could have been more loyal to his Alma Mater nor given himself more unsparingly to the advancement of its interest. For more than a generation he has been a conspicuous member of its Corporation and for a large part of the time a member of its Executive Committee. How much he thought about it and how much interest he displayed in all its larger

problems none can know save those who, like myself, were intimately associated with him in the conduct of its business. Probably to most of the Alumni his name is most conspicuously associated with the controversy that arose over the so-called "merger" with Harvard University that was proposed in 1904. He was strongly opposed to the plan then formulated and fought it, as a gallant soldier, vigorously but without a touch of bitterness, so that he retained the respect and admiration of those who favored the plan as well as those who shared his views.

Happily there was no similar controversy over the arrangement made three years ago for coöperation between Harvard and the Institute. He was most intimately associated with the negotiations that preceded that agreement and it was he that moved its adoption by the Corporation of the Institute.

In the closing days of his life he was very much interested in the problems presented by the recent decision of the Supreme Court practically annulling the agreement of three years ago. When that decision came up for discussion in the Executive Committee of the Corporation, he analyzed it carefully and reached the conclusion that there was nothing in the decision that barred the way to other forms of effective coöperation. More than that, he was earnest in his advocacy of the view that the condition of education in this country, and in particular the grave educational problems that would be presented after the war, demanded the building up of a great school of applied science in this community that would be national in its scope and influence, and he believed that such a school could be developed far more effectively by coöperation between Harvard and Technology than by either acting independently. In the very last conversation that I had with him he dwelt earnestly on this matter, emphasizing his favorite topic, that an engineering school to be really effective must be permeated with a professional spirit. Only a week ago he sent me a draft of a scheme for coöperation between the two institutions that would, in his judgment, overcome the objections indicated by the court to the former agreement and be perhaps equally effective as a working basis for action. With characteristic modesty he said, "I send you this outline for what it is worth, but with no pride or paternity." The former plan, he remarked, had this great merit, that it not only looked as if it would work well, but actually did work well. He took occasion to point out also that Technology

need no longer have any fear of being swallowed. As he put it, "An institution with such a record of achievement, with such a backing from its Alumni and with twenty millions of assets, can't be swallowed, and no one would think seriously of making the attempt." Full of years and honors and while apparently still vigorous, he has gone. His place will be impossible to fill, but the record of his loyalty to Technology will long remain as a stimulus to others on whom the burden of leadership will fall.

As to the Institute itself, the great issue is whether we shall enlarge or contract, whether we shall become more provincial or more national, whether we shall strive to serve a particular section or the whole nation and to some extent the whole world. I do not believe that you will have much doubt as to which direction we should choose, but aspirations are useless things unless they lead to accomplishment, and we cannot render world-wide service either in education or in war merely on the basis of good will and intention. We must devise the means to the desired end. The largest question is undoubtedly that of our future relations with Harvard. Both institutions have a great record of achievement, Harvard incomparably the greater, if we survey the whole field of education, but not greater in the particular field that the Institute has cultivated. Each institution is strong enough to play an independent part and there will doubtless be some who will advocate that course. Before settling the matter, however, we should observe carefully the broad current of education and not forget that there are many forces tending to divert the stream of influence from Boston and New England. This section has lost its supremacy in the realm of commerce and it may lose it in the realm of education, too. Indeed, I believe that it will inevitably lose it if it dissipates its energies and scatters its forces. Its greatest asset is its record of achievement and its tradition of high purpose and exalted aim. Let us continue to aim high. If we do so and are properly supported we can build up in this community one of the very greatest, if not the greatest, centers to be found anywhere in the world of science, pure and applied, for the two must go together,—a center of scientific influence that will profoundly affect the future of this country and indeed of the world.

From every State in the Union students come in numbers to the Institute and every State receives its graduates, and this influence extends far beyond the limits of the country. Every year some

forty foreign countries send students to this Institute and the ratio of foreign students here is more than twice as great as that in any of the old universities in the land. It is no insignificant thing that there are between forty and fifty Chinese students at Technology today and that for several years a similar number have come here to represent the great republic of China on whose development along sound lines the happiness of so large a fraction of the human race depends. We should be proud in taking part in the development of that great republic. And we are proud tonight to welcome its distinguished representative in the person of His Excellency, the Chinese Minister.

In presenting Mr. V. K. Wellington Koo, Chinese Minister to the United States, Mr. Hart referred to his college training and diplomatic service, graduation by Columbia in 1906, honorary degree of LL.D. by Yale and Columbia, two years ago and one year ago respectively, and his service as English secretary to President Yuan Chi Kai. He was sent to Mexico as Chinese representative in 1915, almost immediately was charged with a special mission to England and while in England was made Minister to the United States.

Minister Koo with Oriental polish praised this country and acknowledged the honor of the invitation for the evening. He referred to the strenuous nature of a journey in this country, noting that in thirty hours he had already made two addresses.

Mr. Koo expressed the enormous debt of China to American institutions of learning, saying that to no one of them does it owe more than to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Many young men are educated within the walls of this school and on going back to their native country become apostles of reform and prophets of progress.

"I admire the spirit of Technology," he said, "the nursery of so many young Chinamen who are to mold the destinies of material and spiritual China. We are grateful for what your school has done for our young men. Through the students the American people have learned of China, and the students, themselves, have become inspired with American ideas and ideals."

Mr. Koo spoke of the debt of his country to the act of "that great statesman, John Hay," who, through his generous and unprecedented policy in remitting the Boxer indemnity, gave to Chinese young men the possibility of coming to the United States.

By that action modern China has benefited, and it has been the means of cementing strongly the relations between the two countries.

This spirit of coöperation has been dominant in another matter, namely, the entrance of China into the war. It was on the advice of the United States that China protested against the ruthless methods of warfare. China decided that there was no other way left but to enter the war.

"Democracies are ill prepared for war," continued the speaker, "but the earnestness of purpose of the United States has called forth the admiration of China. We are in the war, too, and taking from the book of American experience, we can speed up our preparations and China can really help win the war."

There is more than ordinary significance to be attached to the coöperation between China and the United States. The warring nations are numerous and include three-fourths of the world's population and the major part of its resources. In this dreadful struggle the spirit of China is towards the world's democracy. With the telegraph and the telephone the world is a smaller world; the idea of world dominion has outlived its day, and any nation asserting supremacy is the common enemy of all. The quality of state must be more than international law. This quality must be a guiding principle and this principle must be so honored as to be placed beyond cavil or doubt.

"History has repeatedly shown," said Minister Koo in his concluding phrases, "that the tide of civilization cannot be turned back. Stronger nations than Germany and Austria, with greater men for their rulers, have tried and failed. Civilization will remain. The longer its flow is checked, the greater the certainty that he who obstructs it will be submerged and swept away. The fundamental question lies between brute force and righteous liberty and there can be but one outcome. Just as the American Revolution resulted in an independent United States; just as the Chinese Revolution overthrew the ancient Chinese dynasties; just as the Russian people have set aside the Czar, so must democracy triumph over autocracy."

The contribution of Alfred L. Aiken, president of the National Shawmut Bank, was the very practical one of setting before the people in popular language the fundamental necessity of economy by citizens of the United States. It was an address that hit the