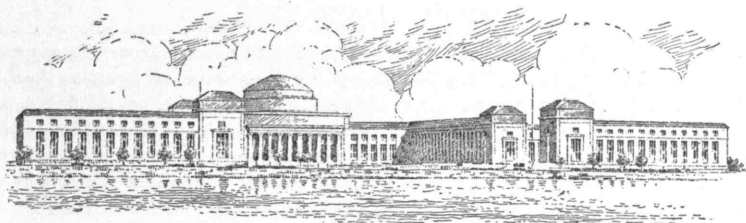


THE ALUMNI DINNER, MARCH 1, 1919, AT THE WALKER MEMORIAL



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THE ALUMNI DINNER

To you alumni of Technology who, scattered over the world, could not get home to the annual dinner on Saturday, March 1, the big love feast in the home which you all gave to the undergraduates who have but now taken possession of it—greeting!

There were a great many good things said that Saturday evening in the Walker Memorial, things which you, as Tech men, ought to know and will want to know. Nearly seven hundred of us—the largest “get together” since the Symphony Hall dinner—heard them and were enthusiastic, and now it is your turn.

The REVIEW thought it worth while enough to get a verbatim report of what was said, and we therefore commend the following pages to your real attention. Read President Henry Morss’s report of stewardship and learn what the Association has done to help win the war; read Governor Coolidge’s tribute to the Institute; read Walter Gordon Merritt’s stirring appeal for right and justice and arbitration in our labor questions—an address the most sensational of the evening and received with marked enthusiasm.

And above all, read and ponder Dr. Maclaurin’s statement of the case for the greater Institute, learn our difficulties and problems and get yourself in the frame of mind to do something about it when your time comes to do your bit.

It was a great evening!

WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE

Those of us who had seen the Walker Memorial only as a conglomerate piece of building, or even as a formal, shipshape barracks for the naval aviators, hardly recognized it on Saturday, March 1, for all afternoon the place was filled with old boys, come back to meet classmates at the reunions scheduled in the offices of the activities, or to enjoy themselves, as if they were undergraduates again with the facilities the old Union never had. The last naval aviator had gone a month before, and since that time the Memorial had been scrubbed and polished and painted and curtained and decked out with comfortable furniture, the activities had moved into their comfortable little offices on the top floor, and the whole Institute had attended a grand jubilee smoker as a symbol of taking possession, a real housewarming, at which the head of the student Institute Committee had been given the charter of the alumni's gift as a perpetual privilege to the boys who expect to be alumni some day. (There's a good story about that party somewhere else in this issue.)

In the comfortable lounging rooms on the second floor, with their clubby easy chairs and tables, the older classes had their meetings, and the younger crowded into the activity offices. But the real center of activity seemed to be in the basement, where the old grads mixed with the boys of today in the new, large, brightly lighted pool room, in the long bowling alleys and, especially, in the stem-winding, self-refillable shooting galleries where many a man just out of the olive drab showed that he hadn't forgotten what he had learned on the ranges and on the other side. Meanwhile, beginning at five, a brisk band shook the echoes in the big, barny gymnasium on the top floor, where all those who couldn't squeeze into the offices and were tired of waiting for a chance at the sports stood around and met all comers—socially, of course—and tried to talk above the strains of a reverberating jazz. Although, naturally, the bulk of the attendance came from the neighborhood and Massachusetts and New England, there were delegations from New York and even from Washington and points south.

At seven dinner started. There were nearly seven hundred seated at the individual class tables, a long array of alumni and officers whose names are dear to Institute men at the head table, under the bust of General Walker, the band again to keep singing going, Institute banners and all the class banners in their orderly color combinations hung around from the balcony where late the tired aviator babbled formulae in his sleep, and a battalion of student waiters served quickly and well the simple but excellent dinner.

One thing the notables lost out on! In front of the bust of General Walker descended a sheet and on that sheet were displayed cartoon movies about the little boy and his dog and the ostrich, and the tramp and his dog and the bucking broncho—and the notables craned their necks and got astigmatism trying to see what the seven hundred were roaring at. But they got their innings when Dennison led the songs—which he did in a very athletic manner—and to see Professor Kennelly, who still retains traces of an English environment happily almost sloughed off, puzzling out the lyric of "Yip-I-addy-I-ay" and then singing it as if he were little Tommy Tucker on a well-known occasion, was in itself worth the price of admission. Governor Coolidge didn't sing. We think he would make a better governor if he would. But maybe he attends too many dinners to risk getting the habit.

There was one interlude to the speeches which to all present was perhaps the most significant of the evening. Along the sides of the hall sat the members of the classes of 1918 and 1919, who had received their degrees, but had not yet been officially welcomed into the body of alumni, as the alumni, since the war started, had not

had any occasion wherein they might be welcomed. So after the Governor had spoken, the members of each class filed up through the center of the hall, to the accompaniment of cheers and applause from the older brothers who stood to honor them, and were welcomed without speech or ceremony by President Morss into the great body which the diners represented, and were given their banners, which at once were hauled up to the balcony, next to those of '16 and '17, thus completing the membership till 1920, when the next class will be received.

And they, as well as the speakers of the evening, were cheered prettily by the alumnae—the co-eds of the past, who, as Mr. Morss said, were just as good Tech men as the rest and got cheered for it—who sat with Mrs. MacLaurin at two brilliant tables down in front.

So much for the *mise en scene*! The coffee is gulped, the cigars lighted, the chairs pushed back, the waiters fold their serving tables like the Arabs and silently steal away—President Morss, beaming, rises to act as toastmaster and to give account of his stewardship. Gentlemen, President Henry A. Morss of the Alumni Association!

PRESIDENT MORSS: A year ago when we held the dinner here we dedicated this building. Tonight, we are here for what might be called a "housewarming." As you all know, we could not have our housewarming before because the building has been in the service of the government.

This meeting marks the first dinner since the new order of things as to the year of the Association. My predecessor, Mr. Hart, had the unique experience of serving a single term of a year and a half. Now, the year has been changed from the calendar year, so that my term of office, and the succeeding presidents', will end on the last of May. It seems to me that this is a little awkward. First, if we are to have graduation and alumni celebrations, I would naturally go out of office on the last of May, and the celebrations would be in charge of the incoming president the first week in June. It would be awkward for me to arrange a celebration for him to run, and it would be more awkward for him to have me arrange it for him. I think we shall have to interpret the by-law as it was interpreted before—that the outgoing president holds office until after the commencement celebrations.

The Alumni Association appears to be in a flourishing condition. If anybody doubts the interest of the Alumni Association in the Institute, I wish that doubter were here tonight. So far as I know, we never had so large a meeting as this as an Alumni function before. There are something like six hundred and seventy people here tonight. The membership of the Alumni is still growing. We get those who graduate in the natural order of events under the by-laws, and during the last year we have elected a great many associate members. We have two more Local Alumni Associations than a year ago, one at New Haven and one in West Virginia.

The finances of the Association are in very good shape. Two or three years ago the secretary and treasurer changed from the keeper of a deficit to the keeper of a fund, and I am glad to say that he still has a fund in his charge.

The committees of the Association have been doing their work to a greater or lesser degree during the past year, but of course they have been somewhat handicapped by the absence of men; also some of the committees have not been able to do anything owing to the war conditions, and their work was put aside for a while. The alumni fund, to which you have all subscribed, and with which this building has been partly paid for, amounts now to about \$598,000 paid in, and the income has amounted to about \$23,000 more.

Last winter and spring the work of the Alumni Council was not the same as it

had been previously, owing to the war conditions. These war conditions affected the Institute and they affected the membership of the Alumni Association and, of course, the Council. The service schools here were a large factor. They used this building, they used some parts of the other buildings, and they upset things a good deal. For something over a year we have had no field manager. Litchfield, '85, resigned on account of work he was going to do in Washington and we have not yet succeeded in getting a new manager. The executive committee chose Eaton, '85, but he says that he cannot accept. He has suggested for a field manager an excellent man, if we can get him, George Crocker Gibbs, now in charge of the Technology Bureau at the American University Union in Paris. (Great applause.)

The Council had one or two questions put before it on which it acted. The Technology Clubs Associated were planning a meeting in Philadelphia about a year ago. Owing to war conditions, the fact that everybody was busy, and the fact that the railroads were overcrowded, etc., they wrote to the Council for an opinion on the desirability of holding that meeting, and the Council voted that it was not advisable to hold it. The proposition as to whether a Tech Show should be held last year was referred to the Council, and the Council voted in favor of holding the Tech Show. It felt that such activities as the Tech Show were good things for the undergraduates and it was too bad a thing to let it go by. We also had the very good excuse that what the Tech Show cleared in money was paid over to the Tech Bureau, a war measure.

A good many of the committees of the Council have been disorganized by men being away. This became so serious a matter that the Council voted in the spring that if any committee did not have a quorum those who were left should join with the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association, and that the combination would do the work.

There was no formal alumni celebration last June. There was a graduation, and the members of the Alumni Association in this vicinity were sent a notice that the naval students would give a dress parade out on the parade grounds on the afternoon of graduation, and they were invited to attend. This year when the Council first met it, of course, was confronted with the problem of the S. A. T. C., which the government had instituted here at Technology. About the only problem which the Council could handle to advantage in connection with the S. A. T. C. was the recreation room which was provided when the barracks were built. We thought, at first, that this recreation room should be in charge of a Tech man and should be run by the Alumni Association, but as we studied the matter we found that there were serious difficulties, and we finally decided to turn the charge of the recreation room over to the Young Men's Christian Association, making it very clear to them that we would also welcome at all times any work, any activity, or anything which the Knights of Columbus, the Hebrew Association or anybody else wanted to do for our men. This went through very nicely.

At one meeting of the Council, the first meeting this year, we had Lansingh's report on the Technology Bureau in Paris. It was an excellent report, but quite long, and since it has been published in the TECHNOLOGY REVIEW, where you all have had a chance to read it, I am not going to dwell upon that.

On the screen tonight you have been shown various statistics. That was to save me the trouble of giving them to you, and it gives you a better chance to study them than if I recited them. But there was one thing shown which I wish to emphasize. The records show that there have been 2725 Technology men in actual service. In the Expeditionary Forces there have been 991. What seems to me very remarkable and a great compliment to Technology, is the fact that out of the 2725, 1834

held commissions; that is, 69 per cent. I think that is a wonderful showing and one of which we may all be proud. The Council voted at its last meeting that a committee should be appointed to work with a committee of the Faculty to publish a book which should be a record of all Technology service in the war—the service of the institution and the service of the various men. This would include not only those officially in the service, but we hope it may include some description, at least, of the men who are doing war work for the government. Of course, this number was very large and the work some of them were doing was very important. Also, it was voted to have a committee appointed to work with a similar committee of the Corporation for a memorial to those men who died in the war.

The activities of the Council have perhaps been a little different this year from other years. In former years we have had to act to a degree as advisors in the running of the Institute. During the past year, we have only discussed one matter of that sort. Dr. Maclaurin came to the Council Meeting and brought up the subject of what he called, "Reconstruction at the Institute." He told us that the reconstruction meant particularly reconstruction of the courses. He asked of the Council their opinion as to the need and desirability of broadening the course; that is, of giving perhaps classical, or at any rate, courses outside of the strictly engineering courses. I think it was almost the unanimous opinion of the men present at that meeting that the Institute men were a little inclined to be narrow and that the studies should be changed so as, if possible, to have a good, broadening effect.

Our relations with the undergraduates have been somewhat interesting. Undergraduate activities last year were a good deal handicapped by war conditions, and beginning in October were almost eliminated. The S. A. T. C. kept them so busy that they had very little chance to carry on their ordinary activities. If there were none, of course the Council of the Alumni Association could not help them; but almost before we knew it the S. A. T. C. came to an end. In December news came to me that the students were considering the re-establishment of their various activities and what could the Alumni Association do about it? We had a meeting of such members of the various advisory councils as were around here with several of the students, and we were very interested to find that the students were planning to start their activities promptly on the first of January. At that meeting the matter of the student tax came up. As the student tax had not been noted in the catalogue, Dr. Maclaurin was doubtful about the propriety of having the student tax paid. At that meeting a plan was arranged by which all of the students were obliged to vote as to whether they wished the student tax or not when they registered in January, and there was almost an overwhelming vote in favor of the tax.

After the S. A. T. C. was abandoned and before the student activities got going there were signs of trouble. You probably read in the newspapers, perhaps, about the near-riot which occurred out here in the great court one Saturday. Some of us were a good deal alarmed at that demonstration; and I am glad to say that I had a chance to make a few remarks about it at a big smoker in this hall on the last of January. The students had a smoker here at which there were over sixteen hundred men. There was considerable confusion owing to the large number, but I told them that the alumni did not think such actions were according to tradition. I also told them that I believed this was simply an overflow of spirits due to a lack of proper activities. On that evening the Dean, much to the pleasure of the students, announced that the Alumni Council had voted that there should be a field day in the spring to take the place of the field day usually held in the fall. This, I believe, will be held. At that smoker the students wanted me to present this building to them, and I told them that, representing the Alumni Association with such authority as it had

and believing that the students were able to govern themselves properly, I granted to them the occupancy and use of this building subject to such rules and regulations as the authorities of the Institute might deem advisable. I handed the chairman of the Institute Committee, the students' representative, a scroll showing this grant, and this will be posted in the building so that every one may see it. The Dean has suggested that some formality of presenting the building to the students should be carried out each year, as it would make the students appreciate the fact that the Alumni were interested in them. It will be necessary to do this each year on account of changes in the Institute body.

Probably the most important work of the Alumni Association has been the war work through its Committee on National Defense. The committee has raised some \$49,000, of which \$17,000 was subscribed by the members of the corporation. They have so far spent about \$41,000. \$18,000 was paid to the Woman's Auxiliary and \$11,500 has been sent to the Tech Bureau in Paris. It will apparently be necessary to continue the Tech Bureau in Paris for at least the balance of this year, and the cost to maintain it is about \$1000 per month. The Tech Bureau, as you know, is a part of the American University Union, and it has been of great service to the men "over there." Lansing's report tells a good many details of that, and I think you have all been interested in what they are doing over there.

A very important part of the work of the Committee on National Service has been carried on by the Woman's Auxiliary, with headquarters in the Rogers Building. As you all know, when doing something for college men abroad was first mentioned, Mrs. Cunningham came forward and urged that Tech take up work for its men, and she subscribed most liberally in order that the work might be started promptly. Mrs. Cunningham has been assisted by Mrs. Bigelow, Mrs. Sedgwick, Mrs. Lord, Miss Walker, and many other women. I would like to say that these women are fully as good "Tech men" as we men are. (Applause.) Mrs. Sedgwick has had charge of the Workroom, which has sent all sorts of necessary articles to the men in Europe. The Auxiliary has kept records of the men in service, has had a system of communication with the men in service and with their families here. It has superintended the collection and distribution of books. Members of the Woman's Auxiliary have done hostess work in the service schools here at the Institute. They have also done hospital visiting. I wish I could express the appreciation which this Association should have for this wonderful work done by these women. I have an idea that most of us never will appreciate it unless perhaps we get an account from some man who has been over on the other side and who really appreciates what they have done.

Owing to war conditions, two rather curious things have happened. The Class of '18 graduated last June and has never been formally welcomed into the Alumni Association. Owing to the intensive training caused by war conditions, the Class of '19, due to graduate next June, was graduated last October, and they too, have not been officially welcomed into the Association. I did write a letter of welcome to both of these classes, but tonight we wish to welcome them formally—to have them understand what the Alumni Association may mean to them and what their connection with it may mean to the Institute. I have here the banners for the Classes of '18 and '19, and if the members of those classes will pass here in front of the table I will present the banners to the two presidents.

At this point the alumni of '18 and '19 marched up and were given their banners.

PRESIDENT MORSS: The Corporation of the Institute is known as a self-perpetuating body; that is, it elects its own members; but this is not wholly true, for it does not elect all of its members. Last November the people of Massachusetts took it upon themselves to elect the gentleman who sits on my right to membership in the Corporation, and a few other duties. We all know the Corporation is a powerful body, but with all of its power the Alumni Association gets ahead of it in one way. I mean that the Alumni Association, for many years past, has succeeded in persuading the Governor to come to at least one of its dinners during his administration, while, so far as I know, no Chief Executive has as yet attended a meeting of the Corporation. In spite of past history, I dare to hope that our present Governor will attend at least one meeting of the Corporation. I believe if he would, and particularly if he could attend the meeting where our president presents his annual report, he would hear something of great interest to him.

Our first speaker this evening is the most recently elected member of our Corporation. He is a college man among college men, coming from our much esteemed sister college, Amherst. We are honored by the presence of His Excellency, Calvin Coolidge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GOVERNOR COOLIDGE: Mr. Toastmaster, Mr. President, Guests, and Alumni of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Although I may not address you as fellow alumni, I suppose I am privileged to address the trustees as fellow trustees.

In accordance with what the toastmaster has told you of his long established custom, I have come here to bring you greetings of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. That would be what you would expect, I know, of your commonwealth, because it has long been officially and through its government a supporter of the higher institutions of learning. When our first university was established, less than twenty years after the landing of the Pilgrims, the general court made a generous appropriation for its support. There is a tradition that the money was never paid over; but at least they showed their approbation of the project, and any one who has had any of the responsibilities of government upon him for the past two years would be glad to come here to express the great debt of gratitude that is due to this Institution, not only for the splendid support that its alumni—and I might almost say the undergraduates—have given to the government, but to the splendid work you have done here in training young men for war service. It is a pleasure, therefore, for me to come here and express to you the thanks of the government in that direction. But that, perhaps, is only incidental. The work of carrying on the war was something that came to all of us and we knew that this Institution would do its full share in supporting the government. But we owe it a debt of gratitude, not only for the work it has done in war, but even a greater debt for the obligations it has put upon us through its service to the public and to the commonwealth in times of peace. That is especially so in relation to the commonwealth of Massachusetts, and I might say of all New England in general.

This is not a part of the nation that is pre-eminently blessed with natural resources. Other places surpass us greatly in that respect, in their production of minerals or in the fertility of their soil. If we are to have any prosperity here it will be due in part to the favors we receive from transportation, both by land and by water, and in part from our ability as manufacturers, as a people who are engaged in the great industries of the nation; and it is because of the skill and enterprise of the people of Massachusetts that we are able to maintain ourselves in competition with the rest of the nation and in competition with the nations abroad. For that purpose, we are dependent upon the education, the skill, the intelligence and re-

sourcefulness of our people; and it is for the purpose of so maintaining ourselves that the government has felt warranted in supporting, as it has done, such institutions as your Institute of Technology. It is not so old as some of your sister institutions, but in the great work it has been doing it has played a part most honorable and successful in the upbuilding of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. So, as the Chief Executive of this commonwealth, I am glad to come here and express to you our thanks and our appreciation of the work that you are doing, and if Massachusetts is able to maintain itself, it will be because of the example and because of the help that we are to secure from just such institutions and just such activities as are represented here.

You have, no doubt, noticed, as I have, the reports that come from day to day of unrest in some parts of this commonwealth of ours. I do not believe that they are the cause of anything like discouragement on our part. I do not believe they are going to amount to very much. They are not representative of the attitude of the people of this commonwealth, and they are not representative of what the great mass and body of our population wants, whatever may be the case in some other part of the world. If, at any time, any of you doubt my opinion in that respect, I wish that you would come up to Beacon Hill and look about you and see spread out before you the great number of schoolhouses; see the innumerable church spires; see the towers of the higher institutions of learning; and then look out across the Charles River where you will see rising majestically the buildings of your own institution, standing as witnesses and bearing testimony to the ability of Massachusetts to maintain itself, and to its desire to carry forward the cause of civilization.

PRESIDENT MORSS: It seems to me superfluous to introduce the next speaker to this company. His name is Richard; if his name were John, I might simply say, "Speak for yourself, John," as he has so often and so kindly done in the past; but you know him as well as I do; you appreciate his ability and judgment as well as I do; you have confidence in him as I have; you respect him as I do; you love him as I do. Why say more? Dr. MacLaurin.

Dr. MacLaurin was greeted with prolonged cheering, which evidently affected him.

DR. MACLAURIN: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: Need I say that it is always a pleasure to me to meet a representative group of Technology men and to get from them the inspiration that comes from seeing their hopeful outlook, and listening, as I have done tonight, to their generous expressions of appreciation.

Now, you expect your president, on occasions such as this, to say something of the achievements in the year that has gone since we last met; but I feel myself debarred from entering upon that subject tonight because the year that has passed has been altogether too memorable in the life of Technology as in the life of the nation to lend itself to the kind of treatment that must be given within the limits of an after-dinner speech.

The year that has passed has been pre-eminently, of course, the year of the Great War and the Great Peace. I rejoice with you that in that great war and the prosecution of that great war and the bringing of the great peace out of that, Technology alumni have played a worthy part. I rejoice, too, that the activities of the alumni have had their fitting reflection in what has gone on quietly within the walls of the Institute itself. I think your president did well to direct your attention, as he did, to those impressive figures—the three thousand alumni who were actually found in active service. Think of it! Three thousand men!—a number which meant

practically all available within the normal limits of age that were prescribed, all that were available when you set aside that large number who were debarred from active service, or who served in the capacity of experts in the indispensable industries. I think your president did well to speak with pride of the fact that out of that three thousand alumni nearly seventy per cent were officers. You should bear those numbers in your minds and hearts with pride, for they represent a splendid achievement. You should be proud of them and proud of your fellows, not only for the number of their services but for their quality. Of course, you will keep in your hearts always the special meed of praise and respect for that noble band of Technology alumni who paid the last full measure of their devotion to the great cause. Inevitably in time you will raise a memorial to the mighty dead. Although this is not the time to think of it, it is, I think, the time to begin to think of the form that it shall take, but not the time to think of raising it. Your president has told you that a committee of the alumni had been set up to co-operate with a similar committee of the Corporation to think of that project, and I hope that any of you with good ideas will pass them along to that committee. The memorial need not be costly, but it certainly must not be paltry, and it must not consist of anything that would easily go out of date. It must be as imperishable as the fame of the men it commemorates.

As I am barred from looking into the past, I naturally look to the future. I want to tell you something of the problems of the future as they present themselves to my mind. I think one thing is abundantly clear—that the war has greatly enhanced the prestige of Technology. Technology alumni are men trained to do things, and in the critical times such as those through which we have passed and are still to pass the men trained to do things are the men most in demand. As a result of the war you will find, I think, that those types of education will be checked which lack fixity and clarity of purpose; and those institutions which seem to grope toward vague ends will cease to be attractive as before and they will constantly be pushed by the institutions, of which Technology is a type, that know very clearly or see very clearly what they are trying to do, and do it. I hope you realize the significance of the figures to which your president referred and which were thrown on the screen. There are nearly two thousand students at the Institute today, although the war is hardly over and although there are scarcely any seniors, owing to the conditions which already have been described. The Freshman class now consists of nearly nine hundred students, while a little over five hundred was a maximum before the war. If this goes on, we shall have to face the problem not of two thousand, but of three or four thousand students within a few years. Concerning the difficulties of that problem I may presume upon your patience.

Just what are those difficulties and what is the real problem? I think you gentlemen recognize clearly enough that any institution like ours, or indeed any educational institution, must require primarily three things: suitable buildings, an appropriate organization to guide and teach, and enough money. The buildings you know, or should know. They have recently been dedicated in your presence to the great ends for which they were designed. They were designed with the idea of providing easily for two thousand students and for twenty-five hundred in a pinch. All indications show that we shall have at least twenty-five hundred next year, so we will have to begin pinching right away. Within a year from now we will begin facing absolutely the limiting of our numbers or the extending of our plant. Organization, the second thing, is the all-important one. I need not remind you that it is infinitely more important to Technology than any other school to have the right kind of organization, imbued with the right spirit and bearing the right traditions. The organization of Tech-