


THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

RELATING TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



APRIL
1 9 2 4

PUBLISHED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Your Record

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In this season of try-outs, seniors will do well to respond to the call for candidates which progressive business organizations are making.

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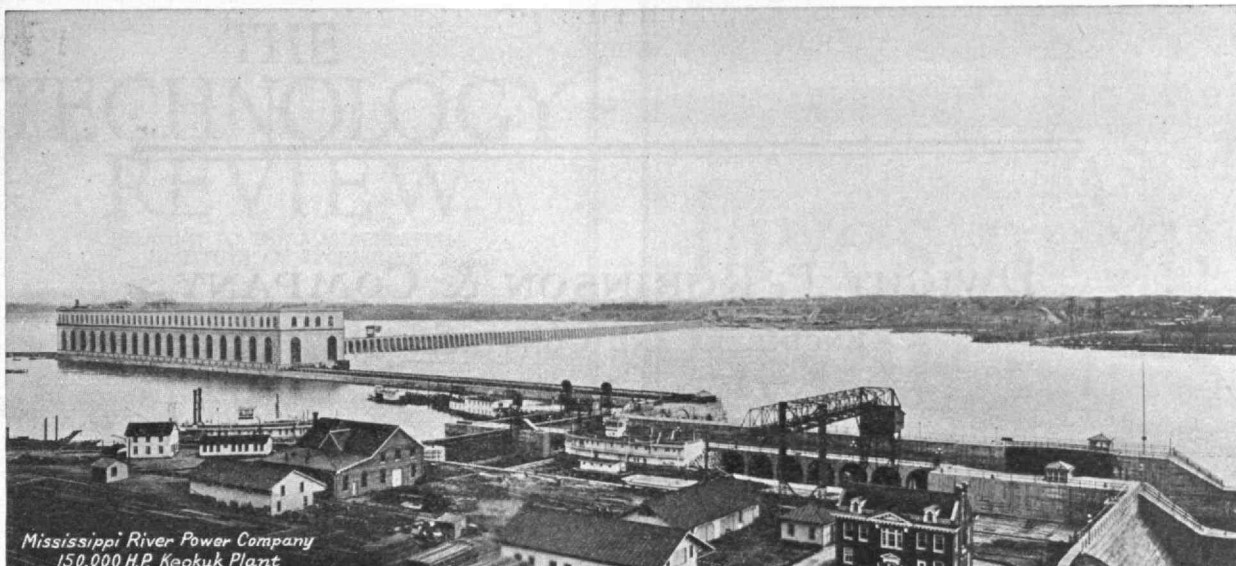
Do not ignore the invitation to these interviews. Do not be one of those—and they are many—who next Fall will write to the larger companies, "At the time your representative visited my college I did not think that I was interested in the work of your company and so did not meet him".

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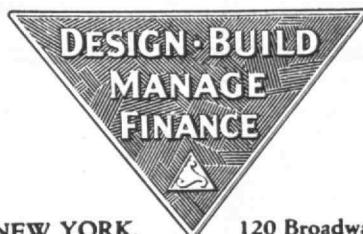
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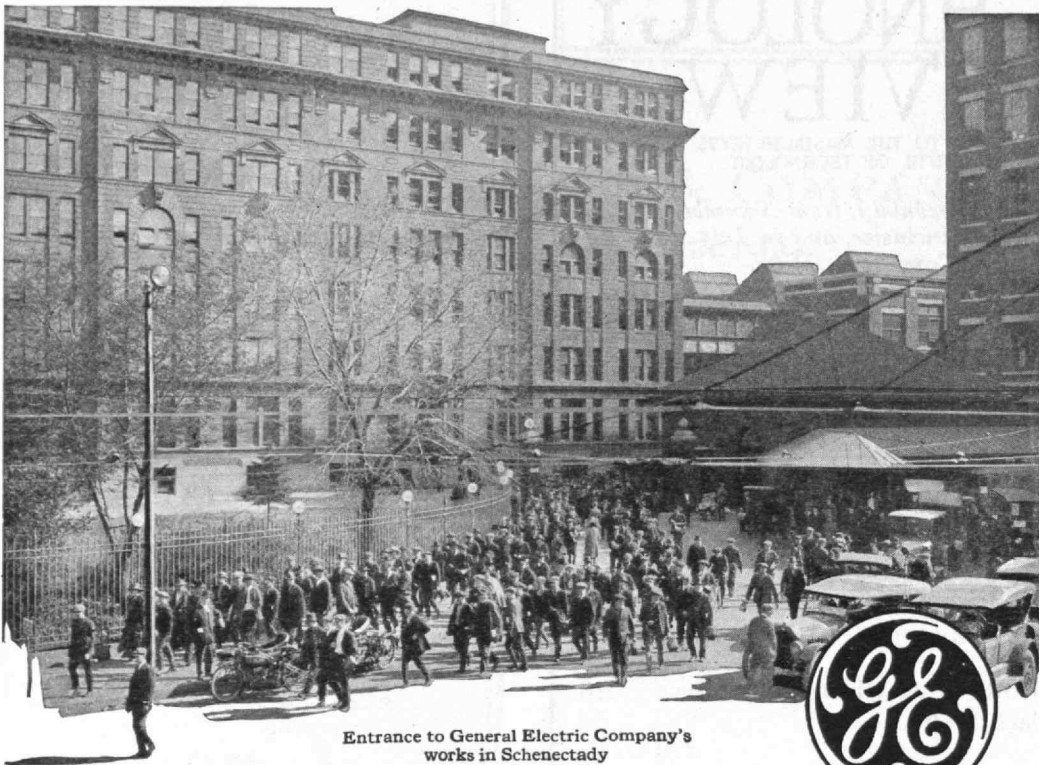
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Time was when war called the ambitious and offered life's great rewards. But the captains and the kings passed. The enduring conquests of our times are being made in industry.

Through the wide doors of General Electric plants and offices an army of 100,000 men and women moves every day. Each of them, looking back over the road, can say:

“Things worth while are being done in my lifetime, and *I* am with the doers.”

GENERAL ELECTRIC

THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

RELATING TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Vol. XXVI

APRIL, 1924

No. 6

The Past Month

PROVISION for retiring allowances and death benefits for members of the Institute's Staff seems now to be close to actuality. A Faculty Committee consisting of Professors H. W. Tyler, '84, C. W. Doten, and D. C. Jackson, which has studied the problem for the past three years, reported recently proposing a plan which according to President Stratton is now receiving the serious consideration of the Institute's Executive Committee. The Faculty approved it last May by an overwhelming majority. The study was occasioned by the fact that the Carnegie Pension System includes as beneficiaries only those who were active members of the staff on or before November 17, 1915. Briefly, the Committee's proposal calls for a contribution by an instructor or professor of 5% of his yearly salary. To this sum, the Institute adds an equal amount. The total thus realized will make up a pension and an insurance fund which the Institute will use to provide for insurance covering death or disability while in service and to provide also for a retiring annuity at the ages of 65 or 70, which will equal \$2400 to \$3000 depending upon the age and rank of the individual. The plan at present likewise contemplates that those who leave the Institute prior to the retirement age shall be repaid their own contributions plus the accumulated interest.

IT seems probable that the year 1925 will witness another Five-year All-Technology Reunion. A committee some time ago appointed by George L. Gilmore, '90, President of the Alumni Association, and consisting of Wallace C. Brackett, '95, Chairman, Thomas B. Booth, '95, and L. S. Goodman, '08, reported at the last meeting of the Alumni Council that the results of a questionnaire it had sent out showed a sentiment overwhelmingly in favor of the Reunion. Further, said the average alumnus as this committee determined him, the Reunion should be held in June about graduation time. It should last two or three days, either at the beginning or ending of a week, should be essentially social and informal, should avoid stiff, formal functions, professional or technical meetings and elaborate or spectacular features. There should be class dinners and one large group dinner, the features of which, said the committee, "should be good food, good music and entertainment and the minimum of speech making, if any." One day should be allotted for a general outing. Class stunts should not be relied upon for entertainment, if held at all.



WALTER T. SPALDING, '10

To whom goes much credit for the highly successful radio dinner held in New York on March 7. See p. 317ff.

The committee recommended a reunion laid out in accord with these ideas at the last meeting of the Council. The Council accepted the recommendation and authorized the Chair to appoint a committee to take charge. All that remains now is to hold the Reunion.

PLANs for group endowment life insurance similar to that undertaken last year for the first time by the Class of 1923 have been completed by this year's seniors. A referendum vote to the class showed a practically unanimous approval of another organized drive for funds, as a result of which the Institute should receive in 1949 a sum approximating \$125,000. The plan as finally adopted calls for an initial payment of about \$10 from each member of the senior class, of which about \$9 will be applied to the policy and of which about \$1 will go to establish a contingent fund to take care of policies which otherwise might lapse. Yearly payments of about \$9 will then be continued for twenty-five years, thus making available in round numbers the sum of \$125,000 to be paid to the Institute upon the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the class.

If future classes continue to lend their support to this financial idea, the Institute will be assured of a yearly income equivalent to that which might be derived from a capital fund of two and one-half million dollars, calculated at 5%.

THEODORE H. DILLON, since 1920 Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Institute, and since 1922 Director of the Summer Session, has resigned his Institute professorship to become Professor of Public Utility Management in the Harvard Business School, beginning next September. Professor Dillon is a graduate of West Point and the Army Engineering School. During 1908-09 he was Assistant to the Director of Public Works in Cuba. He was later Director of a number of river and harbor improvements, Superintendent of the Gatun Locks and Director of the Panama Railroad. During 1918-19 he was Colonel commanding the 37th Engineers and Assistant Chief Engineer of the First Army. He was later awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and placed on duty with the American Peace Commission. No announcement has been made of the appointment of his successor at the Institute.

PROFESSOR THOMAS A. JAGGAR, Jr., former head of the Department of Geology at the Institute, and for some time now director of the volcano observatories in Hawaii, delivered two lectures at the Institute on February 26 and 27 of extreme interest to geologist and layman alike.

Professor Jaggar spoke first specifically of the earthquake which all but destroyed Tokyo and Yokohama last September. In the second lecture he dealt more generally with the science of volcanology. "Americans, particularly those in the East," said Professor Jaggar, "are very likely to wake up some day and find that unexpected earthquakes are not confined to the far corners of the earth." The danger in Atlantic Coast towns, he said, was not that a tremendous shock will destroy every building, but that a small shock in a congested city might disrupt its entire organization. Fire could then do just as much damage as it did in Tokyo. Professor Jaggar dwelt at some length in imagining the uproar which a very small earthquake, not at all impossible, would cause in a city like New York.

His lecture on the Tokyo earthquake he illustrated with motion pictures taken within one-half an hour after the last shocks had occurred. In

his later lecture, Professor Jaggar mentioned the possibility of forecasting location and time of earthquakes with such accuracy that a small quake could be made a calm affair. To a certain extent, prediction has been possible in the past. Professor Jaggar has known of many important disturbances within the last fifteen years in time to be on the spot when they occurred. He was sent as an official observer to Tokyo last September.

"LOWER and better flying" is to be the slogan of the Army Air Service for the next year, according to Major General Mason T. Patrick, Chief of the Air Service, who addressed over five hundred students of

THE TECHNOLOGY CLUBS ASSOCIATED MEET IN DETROIT

See also page 331.

On May 19, 20 and 21 a meeting of The Technology Clubs Associated will be held at Detroit, Mich. The Review calls the attention of its readers to the following program put forth by the Committee in charge for the three full days which are planned:

Monday, May 19

Morning—Registration with headquarters at Tuller Hotel.

Afternoon—General Sight-seeing trips around the city.

Evening—Smoker.

Tuesday, May 20

Trips to Industrial plants and points of engineering interest.

Evening—Business. Discussions of subjects of interest to Technology.

Wednesday, May 21

Boat excursion on Detroit River.

Evening—Banquet. At this dinner, Dr. Stratton and other prominent Technology men will speak.

The program is still subject to minor change, but is settled in its essentials as indicated above.

Notices of this meeting have been mailed to all Alumni with the annual ballots. The Executive Committee, of which W. R. Kales, '92, is Chairman, has made its arrangements on a large scale. It has arranged among other things for reduced railroad fares, providing that a total of at least two hundred and fifty Alumni and guests attend the meeting from out-of-town, and obtain the necessary certificates. Further specifications of interest will appear in the May issue of The Review.

the Institute on February 28. The present necessities of aeronautics, according to General Patrick, are the developing, standardization and perfection of planes. Although he mentioned the possibility that the airplane of the future might travel at a rate of over three hundred miles an hour, General Patrick pointed out that certain assets, such as lifting power and slow landing speed must be sacrificed, and that it will be to balance the various desirable qualities of the Army aircraft that the Army fliers of the future will devote their time. The meeting which General Patrick addressed was under the auspices of the Aeronautical Engineering Society.

A PPLICATIONS from Technology men for membership in the New University Club have jumped from 175 to 303 during the past month, according to a statement recently made by Donald D. McKay of the Executive Committee. This figure places Technology as second on the list of twelve leading universities with quotas to fill. Harvard is first with 422, Dartmouth is third with 264, Amherst fourth with 111, Tufts fifth with 103, and Boston University sixth with only one less than that. Yale, Brown, Bowdoin, Boston College, Williams and Cornell complete the list in the order named. Alumni from ninety-five other colleges and universities have applied in addition to these.

DR. MURRAY P. HORWOOD, '16, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology and Public Health at the Institute, went on leave of absence for three months at the beginning of the third term to assist the Research Division of the American Child Health Association in its health survey, now undertaken, of eighty-six cities

in the United States. He was assigned to cities in New England and began his work in mid-March. The Association expects by its survey to obtain authentic information on the condition of child health in the United States.

Dr. Horwood has made numerous public health surveys for private organizations in Taunton and Quincy, Mass., Glen Ridge, N. J., seven cities in Oklahoma and several in Indiana. He directed the tuberculosis survey made in Philadelphia two years ago. He is the author of the volume, "Public Health Surveys," and has written several articles on the subject of public health.

COLLEGE editors and business managers from all over the United States will foregather at Walker Memorial on April 10, 11 and 12 to attend the 1924 Grand Convention of Pi Delta Epsilon, national journalistic fraternity. Delegates are expected from all but a few of the thirty-odd chapters, some coming from as far as the Pacific Coast. Most of the meetings will be held in the Walker Memorial Building, the M. I. T. Chapter acting as the host.

Thomas Arkle Clark, Dean of Men at the University of Illinois, is Grand President and will attend. Two Technology men are members of the Grand Council of the fraternity: J. C. Patty, '22, Grand Treasurer and H. E. Lobdell, '17, Grand Vice-President. In conjunction with the meetings the Committee in Charge of Arrangements is preparing an exhibit of college newspapers, annuals, comics, and other periodicals to be opened to the public in the Trophy Room of Walker Memorial.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN BY-LAWS

In accordance with Article VIII of the By-Laws, thirty days' notice is hereby given of proposed action by the Alumni Council at its April meeting on the following changes in the By-Laws:

PRESENT **ARTICLE VI** **Dues**

Section 1. [Revised 1913.] The annual dues for regular members shall be \$3 and those for Sustaining Members shall be \$10 or more, including subscription to The Technology Review, and honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues.

ARTICLE VIII **Amendments**

The By-Laws may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the full membership of the Council, provided thirty days' notice of such amendment has been given through publication in The Review.

PROPOSED **ARTICLE VI** **Dues**

Section 1. [Revised 1924.] The annual dues for regular members shall be \$3 *until the class has been graduated five years, after which the dues for regular members shall be \$5*, and those for Sustaining Members shall be \$10 or more, including subscription to The Technology Review, and honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues.

ARTICLE VIII **Amendments**

The By-Laws may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the full membership of the Council, provided thirty days' notice of such amendment has been given through publication in The Review, *or by mail to the full membership of the Council.*

George L. Gilmore, *President.*

ALEX RICE McKIM, '85, Inspector of Docks and Dams for the New York Public Service Commission, Professor H. K. Barrows, '95, of the Institute and Charles T. Main, '76, Consulting Engineer of Boston, were the three members of a committee appointed by the Vermont Public Service Commission to investigate and report on the sufficiency of the great earth dam which has just been completed at Whittingham on the Deerfield River. The dam will hold back five billion cubic feet of water and is said to be the largest structure of its kind in the world. The investigation was ordered apparently because of a desire to assure the public of Springfield, Mass., and other places along the Connecticut River, into which the Deerfield empties, that the new structure has ample ability to withstand the pressure back of it. The dam was built by the New England Power Company to furnish electrical energy to various New England points.

ONE more Aldred lecture is now in the past. On February 29, Dr. F. G. Cottrell, Director of the Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture, spoke on the fixation of nitrogen. The lecture was a slight departure from the preceding ones, in that it was delivered by a scientist rather than an engineer, and dealt almost exclusively with the peculiarities of several industrial chemical reactions. Dr. Cottrell emphasized the extent to which industry is dependent upon laboratory investigation for success.

THE one real blizzard of the winter came in the past month too late to faze the speeding engineers of the Class of '93 dormitory. Snow and cold weather, if any remains for the future, hold no terrors for them now. Only a few beautifying processes remain before the exterior of the building is complete. Inside, the plumbers are at work setting the fixtures, and the plasterers have reached the fifth floor. In the next issue of The Review, it will probably be possible to report final completion of the building which will be available for occupancy as soon thereafter as the Institute authorities see fit.

ABOLITION of Tech Night, hinted at in the preceding issue of The Review, is now a fact. The recommendation of the joint committee of Faculty, Alumni and Undergraduates, appointed to suggest a correction for its evils, was recently adopted by the Institute Committee and automatically becomes law among the Undergraduates. The only way these committees could think of improving Tech Night was by doing away with it altogether. It is gone. An institution unique but hurtful disappears and is superseded by no more rowdy an affair than a tea dance. Field Day remains, by and large, unaltered.

DR. PHILIP FRANKLIN, Benjamin Peirce Instructor in Mathematics at Harvard, has been chosen to fill the place left vacant at Technology by the death of Dr. Joseph Lipka in January. Dr. Franklin will come to the Institute next fall. He is a graduate of the College of the City of New York, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Later, he was Instructor of Mathematics at Princeton University and obtained there his degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He came to Harvard in 1922.

Editorial Comment

When the next directory of the Alumni Association appears, discovery will be made (if the proof reader has done her grim work correctly) of a yawning gap where once was listed the Committee on

The Technology Review. Deceased met death through a complication of diseases, the more important ones having been pernicious anemia, mitral insufficiency and a general Tired Feeling. Interment was private.

By discharging the Review Committee "with thanks" the Executive Committee would seem to have gone on record with the assertion of belief that The Review is now of age. It is henceforth responsible to no subsidiary group, but directly to the Executive Committee itself, in company with such unquestionable adults as the Executive Secretary.

The abolition of the old Committee was more a gesture of freedom than a muscular breaking of any fetters. The Committee on The Review never, since we came to know it, bothered a living soul. During the present editorship it held two meetings, at neither of which could it command a quorum. Solitude and freedom from interruption seemed to be its cravings. When The Review editors now and again sought counsel from it, it stirred itself, and said with the slight querulousness of a philosopher telling his child what made the sky so blue, that the editors might do as they pleased, if they would only go outdoors and play and not annoy father again during the evening. It was this attitude that made the Committee unique and made responsibility to it so comfortable. If its personnel had been different, if it had sought to specify in assertive communiques how news should be treated, how pages should be arranged, how half-tones should be anchored and how many points editorials should be leaded, the editing of The Review would have been a much less happy task.

Doubtless the Executive Committee in officially consigning the Review Committee to the limbo in which it had unofficially dwelt with such content was doing no more than acting upon the sound principle that the effective work of any institution is inversely proportional to the number of committees contained within it. There can be little question on the wisdom of such an action. The Alumni Association suffers the com-