

# Armour Tech News

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## ARMOUR SPIRIT

The true Armour spirit is an intangible thing, a thing hard definitely to describe, to make understandable on paper. It does not consist of any one trait, any one characteristic, but when evidenced, is immediately recognized. It is brought out better by actions than by words.

In the summer of '28, John Urban, then recently graduated from Armour, lost his life. In the chemical plant where he was working, some escaping gas caused a fire. Unless somebody turned off this gas immediately, there would have been great loss of property and probably life. Without hesitating, Urban dashed in, shut off the gas, suffering burns which soon proved fatal. He gave his life to save others. We call this an evidence of the true Armour spirit.

When the call came for students and alumni to support the school in times of financial difficulty several years ago, one student, whose name we will not mention, felt called upon to help. He was working his way through school by night work, supporting himself entirely, also paying tuition and fees. Yet he gave one hundred dollars, at a sacrifice which nobody realized at the time.

Was this the true Armour spirit? It was, and yet this spirit is something more. The true Armour spirit is a spirit of honesty, of endeavor, and a spirit of self sacrifice, the spirit which causes a man to further the good of the whole no matter what the cost to himself.

## CHALK

"A small stick of soft limestone, chiefly composed of the shells of foraminifers, used to mark on boards," is the way Noah W. describes that necessary object of school life, the chalk. We do not disagree with his definition of the composition of the subject, for our technical knowledge in such lines is quite limited; but Webster overlooked one usage which seems to be most important, the throwing of broken pieces of chalk from the hand of one person to a spot, preferably the ear, upon the body of another.

There seems to be some peculiar fascination about these small cylindrical objects which compel the passerby to lift and propel one across a room, or down four stories to the street where it hits some unsuspecting student. Perhaps it is the smooth feel, the perfect balance or the way it is toasted, that forms the attraction. Nobody thinks of throwing chairs, fountain pens, or slide rules so there must be some strange attraction that will cause a twenty-four year old senior to revert to childhood days. But the Seniors are not even in a class with the Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen in the matter, and the Freshmen are worst of all.

If there is anything that looks worse than a classroom, the floor of which is littered with chalk, it must be one with the floor covered with broken chalk and also erasers. Such a mess is extremely difficult to remove, because the floor must be washed to get the chalk from the grain of the wood.

If those children among us feel that they must throw things why let them go over to the lawn by the side of the Mission building, and try their hand at throwing the big hunk of meteorite reposing there.

## :: "THE SLIPSTICK" ::

Cleave to "The Slipstick"; let  
the Slipstick fly where it may.

### THE SLIPSTICK PROBABLY A MISOGYNIST

First she's in your thoughts a lot,  
She has many charms;  
Soon she's in your motor car;  
Then she's in your arms.  
Then she's in your family;  
Oh, a lackaday!  
Then of course for evermore  
She's always in your way.  
Chester

Our idea of the meanest man in the world is the warden who put a tack on the electric chair.

Do your shoes hurt?  
No, but my feet do.

### PHILOSOPHY

It takes a certain amount of push to accomplish anything—even with a wheelbarrow.  
Yesterday is a cancelled check—tomorrow is a promissory note—today is cash.  
Somebody or Other

### ANOTHER ONE

An absent-minded professor was walking down the street one day with one foot in the gutter and the other on the pavement. A friend, meeting him said: "Good afternoon, professor, and how are you?" "I was very well, I thought, but now for the last ten minutes I've been limping."  
W. L. F.

Prof Wilcox, (at 1:15):  
"Time has magnitude but has no direction."  
Same person, (at 1:20):  
"Gentlemen, the time is now up."  
The Bongineer

To bad for the sexton of the cathedral who called in the plumber to fix the pipe organ.

### MUDDY WATERS & MISSISSIPPI MUD

We heard that they put a hammer next to the drinking fountain one day last week. When you wanted some water all you had to do was to break off some and chew it a short while.

### PLAY BALL

"Who is that man in the blue coat, dear?"  
"He is the umpire, darling."  
"And why does he have that funny wire thing on his face?"  
"To keep him from biting the players."

The Swiss government has just perfected an echo that will answer you in any language.

Visitor: "What has this town in the form of women's clubs?"  
Native: "Sash-weights, rolling pins and hammers."

### THE EVERPRESENT TRIANGLE

Husband, Wife and Can opener.

A farmer was showing a friend over the farm. "How many sheep do you think there are in that flock?" he asked.  
The visitor considered a minute and then replied, "About 500."  
The farmer was astonished. "Absolutely correct," he declared. "How did you know?"  
"Well, I just counted the legs and divided by four," the guest explained.  
W. L. F.

Babe Ruth did not write "Home Sweet Home."

He who hesitates is honked at.

Science Teacher: "Name a liquid that won't freeze."  
Bright Guy: "Hot water."  
Chester

Quick, lower the curtain, one of the living statues has the hiccups.

### IDLE CHATTER

Dumb—"I'd like to have your telephone number."  
Dora—"It's in the book."  
Dumb—"That's fine. What's your name?"  
Dora—"That's in the book too."  
R. S. F.

Yes, he's awfully bright. Thinks a goblet is a small sailor.

"One seat, well forward in the center downstairs, for tonight's performance. Have you got it?"  
"Can you play a fiddle?"

### Of Course It Is

They were coming across the Brooklyn bridge and saw a little tug puffing around one of Uncle Sam's war vessels just outside the navy base.

"There's a man-of-war, my dear," he said, pointing to the big ship.  
"And is the little one a tug-of-war?" she asked, as she gazed dreamily upon the water.

The grade on a student's paper approaches zero as the number of times he goes out a week approaches seven.

"K. K."



## Professor Melville Baker Wells

A Biographical Sketch

By P. EMIL SEIDELMAN

Melville B. Wells, professor of Civil Engineering, was born at Commiskey, Indiana, on January 27, 1870. He received his grade school education at the little country schools located near his home. Later he attended North Vernon High School, where he mastered the final studies which enabled him to pass the entrance examinations at Purdue, in the fall of 1890. He received his B. S. degree in Civil Engineering in 1894.

Prof. Wells remained with his alma mater as an instructor in surveying and at the same time completed the advanced work which earned him his masters degree in 1895.

In the spring of '95 he joined the staff of the LaFayette Bridge

Co. as designing and contracting engineer. The American Bridge Co. also claimed one year of his services in the same field.

Prof. Wells came to the Institute in the fall of 1901, as an instructor in Bridge Engineering. The following year his title became that of Assistant, and in 1903 he became an Associate Professor. He is now Professor of Civil Engineering and is in charge of the department of aeronautical engineering.

In 1910 Prof. Wells gathered together his first class in aeronautical engineering, and has had a class each year since then. This course, which is now taught at all the leading engineering schools in the country, had its origin at A. I. T. under the direction of Prof. Wells.

In 1896 he married Mary F. Hudson and they now have one son and one daughter.

Prof. Wells is a member of the Western Society of Engineering, a trustee of the Morgan Park Military Academy, and also a member of the Indiana Society of Chicago. He is also a charter member of the Purdue chapter of Phi Delta Theta and Tau Beta Pi. While at the Institute he was received as an honorary member to Chi Epsilon.

Prof. Wells is the author of one book entitled, "Steel Bridge Designing," which he published in 1913, and many short articles which were edited from time to time.

Prof. Wells confided that his most thrilling event came in 1912 when he "enjoyed" his first flight in a First Model Wright ship. The pilot, after he had landed, refused to take the air again that day, due to the stormy weather conditions.

To pilot a ship has always been Prof. Wells secret ambition. However, being denied this satisfaction, he is enjoying the tutoring of the future Bridge Designers, at the Institute as well as at summer camp, where he includes a course in the mysteries of the hook and line.

## Inquiring Reporter

Question: What type of assemblies do you like best, speeches or illustrated lectures?

N. C. Narten, '30, F. P. E.—Illustrated lectures are preferable because the students feel that the speaker can give a clearer presentation of the subject.

W. Drigot, '31, E. E.—I'd prefer either one, a speaker or a good illustration.

L. B. Statkus, '31, C. E.—I like the demonstration because that gives you a more definite idea of the object and concrete meaning of the subject. It also shows what new things there are.

F. N. Hromada, '32, C. E.—Illustrated lectures are bound to be better than the other kind. I would rather have them all this way.

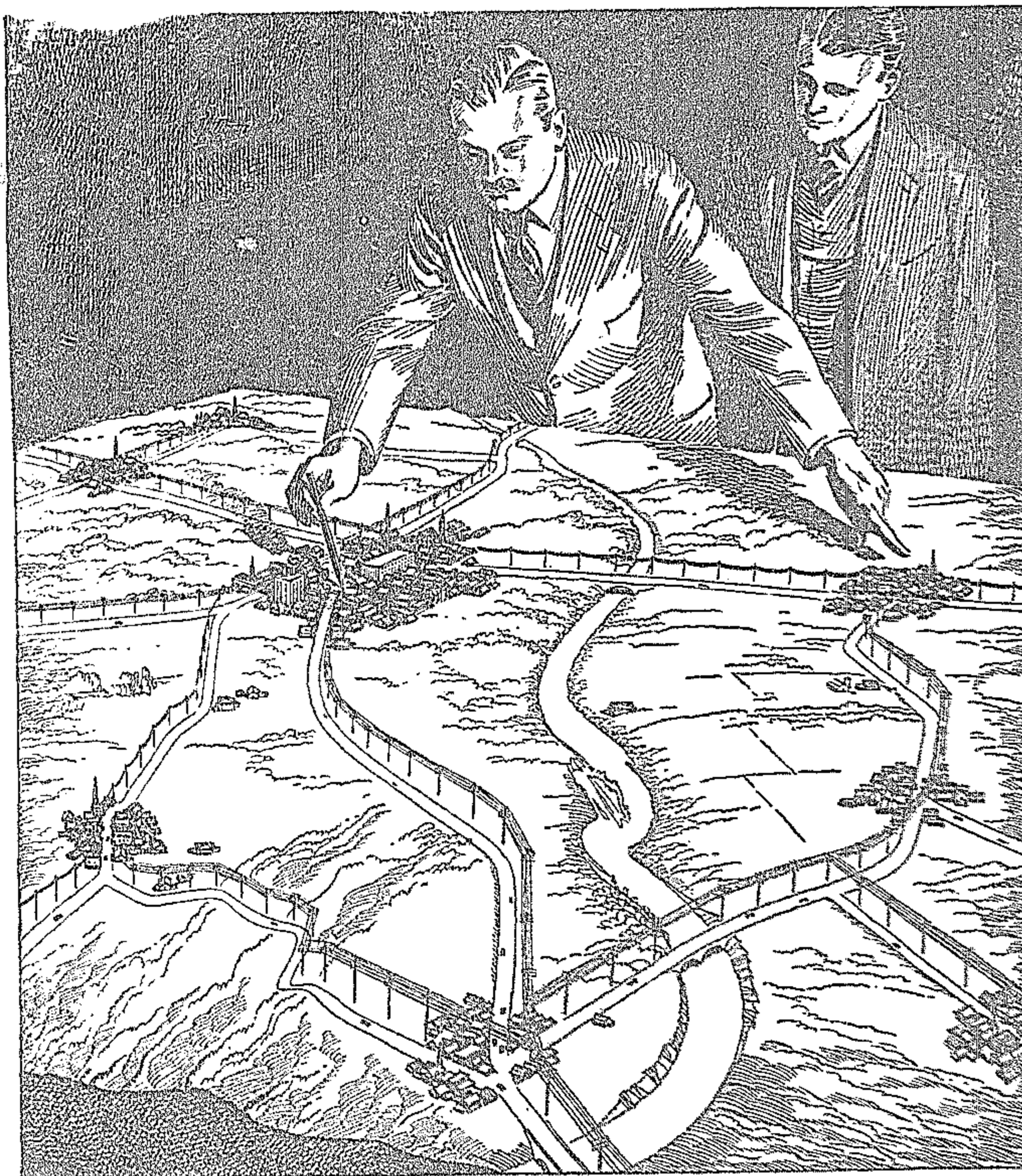
H. Meyer, '33, C. E.—Naturally, the illustrated one. It doesn't take as much concentration because we are all picture minded. Anything we can see is more clear and understandable.

B. Scott, '33, F. P. E.—You can get more out of those with demonstrations because it is pictured before you and is more clear. A lecture is more dry and everybody goes to sleep.

H. A. Rahmel, '32, E. E.—An assembly which has both speaker and demonstration would make things clearer and impressive because the things would stick with you longer.

W. A. Holland, '32, Ch. E.—An assembly with demonstrations is better simply because they show before the audience specific examples of things which they would otherwise have to imagine and in this way the students are able to reap more benefit from the discussions which the speaker embodies in his lecture.

In common things the law of sacrifice takes the form of positive duty.—Froude.



## Key Town selling —a new telephone idea

Commercial development men of the Bell System have originated a new use of the telephone which is proving economical and efficient for modern salesmanship. From important central towns the salesman makes periodic visits to customers and prospects by telephone.

To conceive this idea, to make it practical

by selecting Key Towns on a basis of most advantageous rates to surrounding points, and to sell it as a business practice—all this illustrates how telephone service is as open as any commodity to constructive imagination.

Key Town selling is one of many indications of the steady demand, present and to come, for more and more telephone service.

## BELL SYSTEM

A nation-wide system of inter-connecting telephones



"OUR PIONEERING WORK HAS JUST BEGUN"