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Humanitarian Engineering

For the past century, engineers and scientists have been inventing and developing new machinery and devices to make the path of civilization easier for the "people". Labor saving devices have been flooding the market until now it is considered one of the big causes of unemployment. The Ward baking company removed their automatic machinery and reemployed some of their former employees. This could not be called progress though perhaps it did relieve the local unemployment situation a little.

For a period before the war and prohibition, Eastern industrialists found that there were more accidents in their shops on Mondays than during any other day of the week. They laid the cause to the week end revelry of the employees and proceeded to enforce a local prohibition. The motor car has been developed to a point where it is a symphony in harmony and color; yet today there are more men murdered by the careless use of the automobile than were killed in the great war.

Electric lighting has been developed to the point where it is a science in itself; yet because it is in the hands of some men who know they have a fortune in their hands, prices of equipment are so high and out of proportion that very few can afford to improve their home lighting so that they can alleviate eye strain.

Numerous other examples could be mentioned in the airplane, and other fields. It seems that the next job of the engineer is to develop fool proof machinery and to be more humanitarian in his marketing. No number of improvements or inventions will help the human race unless they are placed at the disposal of the ordinary man.

False Economy

Flood disasters of the last week bring forth and further reinforce the idea that man-made structures, substantial as they may seem, safety factors and all, often are not sufficiently strong, not designed well enough to withstand the terrific onslaughts of nature.

Heads of water twice that for which the dams were designed proved to be too great a load and dams weighing millions of tons were swept away as though they had been mere logs.

That the dams were constructed according to the best engineering knowledge, we have no doubt. That data concerning past floods was taken into consideration, as well as possible future floods, we also have no doubt.

We do doubt though, that the possibility of failures in important structures like these were seriously taken into consideration; and that the possibility of tremendous loss of life and property was given its due consideration.

Structures upon which the lives of thousands hinge and on which millions of dollars of property are dependent should, we think, be designed and constructed not from a view point of dollars and cents but from the view point of substantiality and fitness for more than is deemed necessary by competent engineers.

Steps for more rigorous design and construction methods have already been taken, the state of California leading the way. Tremendous fatalities and large losses of property showed the citizens of California that substantiality must stand over seemingly monetary savings.

Student Opinion

Grades Again!

A recent issue of the "Tech News" published an editorial deplored the growing tendency of overemphasizing the value of grades. These statements as such are probably true. However, there seems to be a few points that have been overlooked. It must be remarked that a large number of companies taking college graduates each year do place a great deal of emphasis on grades.

Scholastic standing on this is a good indication of future performance and they have statistics that back up their reasoning.

A rather exhaustive research along this particular line was conducted by American Telephone and Telegraph a few years ago. They have gathered rather conclusive evidence. The study involved 3,806 employees who had been associated with them for a number of years. These men were all college graduates.

The men were classified according to 4 groups: those graduating in the upper tenth of their classes; those graduating in the upper third (excluding the first group); those in the middle third; and those in the lower third. The average figure for each group indicated certain divisions were forming. The upper tenth showed rapid increases in salary, and each year brought a larger increase. The lowest group did show small increases in salary, however the rate of increase dropped with the passing of time and the ultimate wage was lower. The two middle groups averaged in proportion to the other two.

A similar study made by Purdue revealed that seven years after graduation the average salary of the Tau Beta Pi men was six hundred dollars a year higher than the average for the class as a whole. Instead of using income as a basis, Dr. Hugh A. Smith of the University of Wisconsin prepared a list of ninety-seven men who were considered "the most worthy, successful, or eminent" from a group of 1800 graduates who had been out of school at least fifteen years. He also compiled a list of the ninety-seven men who had the highest grades in college. Eighty-seven names appeared on both lists.

It is true that the number of men who had good grades in college and then failed or did mediocre work afterwards is large, but the percentage is comparatively small. Even if the grading system were perfect, grades would not be an absolute indication of future success, but even the imperfect system now used points in the right direction many more times than not.

Lewis E. Zwissler, C.E., '37.

Correction

Not to be too overbearing on last week's Kaleidoscope contributor, Monte MacConnell, '38, I will limit my criticisms and corrections of his article concerning Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" to those which are, in my opinion, most important.

Mr. MacConnell's authority is, shall I say, a bit "cock-eyed". . . . Everybody who knows the "Elegy" is or should be familiar with the four rejected verses. They have been published repeatedly. All worthy editions of the "Elegy" take pride in perpetuating and discussing these stanzas, giving reasons for their rejection.

Furthermore, the original editions of Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" did contain these extra verses, but were subsequently omitted by Thomas Gray himself.

The edition which I possess was printed in 1883 and is illustrated throughout with engravings that were made especially for this edition, many of which are made from sketches taken at Stoke Pogis, the scene of the poem, by a Mr. Fenn. It is interesting to note that the frontispiece of my edition is an engraving containing and portraying the lines of the first rejected verse that Mr. MacConnell mentioned in his article:

"There scattered oft, the earliest of the year,
Etc., etc."

I also have a newspaper clipping written by a former Dean of Princeton College, in which he discusses the omitted stanzas and many other obvious changes and recast lines that are apparent to anyone studying the MS which shows the poem as it was originally edited.

Tom Yeakle, '39.

Sanctions Against War

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted from the National Student Mirror, monthly publication of the National Student Federation of America.)

I have no personal quarrel with those who would invoke political sanctions to end war. Certainly any gesture against the brutal menace is heartening in this day when the world is apparently heaping toward another bloody harvest. If we were citizens of a world democracy, instead of being subjects of monopolistic states, I should be as ready as others to place my faith in the League machinery. But the engineers of that machinery are not self-sacrificing idealists. They are men maneuvering cleverly to protect or secure advantages for the financial interests of their respective countries.

Britain Is Not Altruistic

Can anyone doubt this after witnessing Great Britain's stellar role in the Geneva circus? Did the leading imperialist nation experience a mystic transformation of heart converting her into an advocate of enduring peace? That Great Britain's interest in Ethiopia is far from platonic may be demonstrated by the peace proposal which she attempted to impose upon Haile Selassie. Under its provisions, Italy would have gotten outright a good portion of Ethiopian territory and a virtual mandate over the remainder. But, meanwhile, Mr. Baldwin would have saved Lake Tana, chief source of the Nile, from Italian appropriation; and temporarily removed the danger to Mediterranean supremacy. Similarly, the gradual penetration of Ethiopia by Italy would safeguard the African possessions of both Great Britain and France.

Is this the best that can be done for a weaker League member in case of gross aggression? Evidently, for the gesture of sanctions has not halted Mussolini's advance one inch. The somewhat corpulent dictator knows with whom he is dealing. He is well aware that his solemn contemporaries at Geneva will sell him goods as long as he can pay for them or until he threatens their own colonial loot.

America Winks Politely

Money talks in matters of trade. Let us not forget that the imperialist powers, represented in the League, are each faced with the problem of selling their goods on the world market. If the present economic stagnation can be temporarily relieved by the sale of munitions and materials, no country is going to relinquish the opportunity. The only alternatives, in the face of increasing unemployment, are war and social revolution. Certainly, revolution is the last possibility that the financial element cares to invite.

The purpose of this essay is not to propagandize for any political creed. As a young man, I am attempting to consider objective facts realistically. If I read the various treaties correctly, each nation is willing to place an embargo on what it does not have to sell; but reserves the right to exempt its own major commodities. None of the oil producing nations has shown any reluctance in providing Il Duce with all the petroleum he needs. America winks politely, exporting both oil and scrap iron, although everyone knows that Mussolini needs cannon much more than he needs iron bridges across the Tiber.

This is trade pursued quite legally by nations who have signed covenants and pacts long enough to paper St. Patrick's Cathedral. One can well imagine the amount of smuggled merchandise that will find its way into Italy. Can anyone visualize the United States Coast Guard turning its guns on a Standard Oil tanker bound for Mussolini's homeland? I must confess, however, that Signor Mussolini has been rather accommodating to potential contrabandistas. He has placed a ban upon the further publication of import and export figures by the Italian press.

League Foundation Is Flimsy

The League itself is built upon too flimsy a foundation to secure peace. Its essential motive, at the beginning, was to maintain the revision of the world established at Versailles. What did the famous mutual guarantee of territorial integrity mean but the continued right of Great Britain to exploit India, of France to slaughter Mohammedan tribesmen, fighting as the Ethiopians for their rights as separate nationalities; and the privileges of national governments to persecute racial minorities delivered within their borders. Every such situation makes the assurance of peace more impossible, and the eventuality of war more certain.

We, who are the potential cannon fodder, cannot afford to support such a fiasco. Before the last war, conscientious citizens held polite meetings and fed the dove of peace with high-minded resolutions. Well-bred ladies quoted Christ and Tolstoy on lecture platforms; but, overnight, metamorphosed into Liberty Bond peddlers and seamstresses of shoddy hose. Henry Ford launched his Peace Ship on the rather turbulent brine, only later to make a private killing through the manufacture of tanks and tractors. Everybody favors peace on paper—even the War Department.

Labor Is An Important Ally

Shall we then resign ourselves to a saturnalia of blood and super-patriotic slogans? Emphatically no! For never were our responsibilities greater nor our time more limited. First, we shall have to disassociate ourselves entirely from those, who regardless of their public pronouncements, would benefit by war. I doubt if the most callow freshman would take very seriously a peace resolution passed by the directors of Bethlehem Steel. But, more important, we need to realize that the question of war is not settled by forum discussions, however exhaustive. We need to contact those who are our natural allies against war.

Labor is our most important ally because it is always the element that bears the brunt of armed conflicts. Let us not forget that the organized power of the British workers prevented war with Russia in 1921. Today, labor has organized power not only to prevent shipments of war materials to belligerents. In addition, it

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Fraternity Notes

DELTA TAU DELTA

We take great pleasure in announcing that the following were given formal initiation recently:

James S. Cullison, M. E., '39
William D. Horton, M. E., '39
George F. Kahle, Ch. E., '39
Richard M. Street, Arch., '39
Ivan Thunder, C. E., '37

The annual senior farewell party is being planned by the social committee with O. Tomei as chairman. The committee is considering either March 27 or April 3. An orchestra has been hired and it will be formal. Many alumni were recent guests of the house as well as Brother Walker of University of California. Our ping-pong team is practicing up for the coming inter-fraternity ping pong tournament. The team will be built around Brothers Davis, Englethaler, and Laise who were members of last year's championship team. The prospects for this year's team are high.

RHO DELTA RHO

We take to congratulate the following men on their formal initiation held Friday night, March 22, at the house:

Julian Grombacher, '39
Edward Morris, '39
David Rest, '33
Edwin Schulman, '33
Leonard Shabain, '39
Max Zar, '38

The highlight of the evening was the welcome address given the newly initiated men by our fraternity sponsor, Professor Nachman.

Following the initiation, a smoker was held in honor of our new Brothers.

TRIANGLE

Armour chapter of Triangle takes great pleasure in announcing the initiation of the following men:

Frank A. Kaman
George A. Quadee
Arthur E. Schmidt
Kurt Weiss

Our interest at present is centered on a dance to be given this Saturday at the house; Ping-Pong also occupies the limelight, since the first round of the Interfraternity tournament is now being played off.

PHI PI PHI

Gamma chapter of Phi Pi Phi takes pleasure in announcing the formal initiation of:

E. Plummer, M.E., '39

Brother Forberg, the captain, manager, and sponsor of the ping pong team, announces that his group of athletes are in the pink of condition for the coming inter-fraternity tilt. The rumors that he has had the team under strict training rules have not as yet been substantiated.

PHI KAPPA SIGMA

Alpha Epsilon Chapter wishes to extend its deepest sympathies to Brother Jens, A.E., '04, in his recent bereavement. Due to injuries received at that time, Brother Jens is still in the hospital. Speedy recovery!

On last Friday evening, a splash party sponsored by the house was held at Medinah. After the swim, the couples adjourned to the chapter house for dancing and refresh-

The Slipstick

Cleave to the slipstick; let the slapstick fly where it may.

Poetry—Or Something

A freshman went to Hades (Ed. note: My how ritzy!)
A lot of things to learn!
But Satan sent him back again,
He was too green to burn.

Definition of Loafing

Didn't go noplance
Didn't do nothing
Didn't see nobody—nohow
And it only took two and a half hours.

—Purdue Exponent.

Zazu: Wanna crack a joke?

E. J.: Yes!

Zazu: Fall on your face!

Prof.: Isn't this book rather technical?

Frosh: It was that way when I got it, sir.

The peak of laziness is attained by people who throw kisses.

Erminduke Hopkins broke his spine,
And passed away at half past nine.
His mother was sorry, and said,
"What a pity!"
I'm already late for my train to the city."

Snappy Gags

Nit: Did you take a bath?

Wit: No, is there one missing?

Modern Speed

Conductor: The city which we are now approaching was Jeffersonville.

Customer: Are you sure this suit won't shrink if it gets wet on me?
Shapiro: Mine frand, effery fire company in de city has squirted water on dot suit.

The man who says that Ignace Paderewski has the lightest touch in the world has evidently never seen a boy of twelve washing his ears.

POOR E. J., we all hope he'll survive the major operation he's going to undergo. He is having his socks chiseled off.

"Let's kiss and make up,"

Said she in a huff.

"I'll kiss you," said he.

"But you're made up enough."

Howie: Did the noise we made worry you folks when I brought you home last night?

Midge: Oh, no! It was the silence.

In spite of jokes clipped from Lit.

Digest;

In spite of "He: She;" jokes, and all the rest;

In spite of those who say that he's a fool:

There's someone who reads the Slipstick in this school, and that's

ZAZU.

ments. The water flew fast and furious and a good time was had by all.

At the Mothers' Club meeting held last Sunday, final plans were completed for the semi-annual bridge party to be held at the chapter house on Saturday night. All are invited.

"CELLOPHANE KEEPS IT FACTORY FRESH"

