



SPECIAL EXTRA Armour Tech News

Vol. XXIV. No. X-5.

Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois, Friday, October 27, 1939

Z-140

ARMOUR TECH, LEWIS COMBINE!

Lewis Started By Bequest of Realty Broker

Lewis Institute is indebted for its original endowment to the fortunes of two brothers, John and Allen C. Lewis. Upon the death of the brothers the large part of their estate went to found the institute. Eighteen years after the will was probated, the institute was incorporated, the will became its charter.

James M. Adsit, Henry F. Lewis and Hugh A. White were named trustees of the estate, which was valued at approximately \$550,000. The will instructed these trustees not to organize the Institute until the fund was increased to \$800,000. However, when the estate was turned over to the trustees on November 21, 1895, it amounted to \$1,600,000.

Terms of Will

By terms of the will the government of the Institute is vested in a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees who are instructed to associate with themselves a certain number of educational advisors, the two bodies of men thus constituting one board of managers. The Board of Managers is distinct from the teaching force, but the Director of the Institute is the official intermediary between the Board and the Faculty, and nominates all officers of administration and instruction. The first Director of the Institute, George Noble Carman, assumed his duties July 9, 1895, and served for forty years, retiring as Director Emeritus in 1935.

The Institute opened in 1896 as an academy and junior college. Shortly after, it offered a four-year engineering course and first granted the degree in 1901. In 1912 it began to grant the degree in home economics. The growth of public high schools contributed to the expansion of the college department of the Institute, and in 1917 the academy department was discontinued. The degree in arts and sciences was first conferred in 1918, and since that time Lewis Institute has been a complete four-year college.

Facilities of Both Schools Will Be Used

As planned by the group organizing the merger between Armour Institute and Lewis Institute the new school will be able to give the best that each has to offer in the various courses. The educational idea will be based on sound scientific principles with the basic subjects of physics, chemistry and mathematics as a foundation.

Lewis Institute offering courses in metallurgical and ceramic engineering will combine with the effective chemical engineering course at Armour to cover the full field of engineering in the direction of control of process work. Biology and several other subjects that are basic to sanitary science, now being taught at Lewis Institute, can be combined with the increased facilities in sanitary engineering now available at Armour to give a course in this field that covers the work in its entirety.

Home economics, now a part of the Lewis curriculum for young women, will be continued in the new school, but will be developed along broader lines. Special emphasis will be placed on a curriculum of the social sciences.

Lewis Institute



View of Main Building of Lewis Institute. Building is located at 1951 W. Madison Street and houses curriculum including pre-professional, engineering, and liberal arts courses.

Professional Work Arts and Sciences Offered at Lewis

Lewis Institute is a college of science, literature and technology. It has provided general and professional education in the arts and sciences, in engineering, in home economics, and in business and economics, and pre-professional training for students preparing for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, law, and social work.

In the first two years of the course of study in engineering, a training is given which is basic for all branches. This preparatory work consists of physics, mathematics, drawing, chemistry, English and other subjects essential to the training of all engineers. In the last two years, the student may specialize in civil, electrical, or mechanical engineering.

Home Economics

The courses in home economics meet the requirements of those persons who wish to study the arts of the house, or to become teachers, dietitians, or institutional managers. Students of business and economics receive a general education in the arts and sciences and more specialized training in accounting, finance, economics, or merchandising and personnel. For students who plan to become teachers, the institute offers sufficient professional work in education to enable them to meet the requirements for certification in Illinois and other states.

Armour Leads Varied Career Through Years

Armour's history dates back to 1886. Upon the death of Joseph F. Armour in 1881, a bequest of \$100,000 was left to be used to establish a Sunday School. With the addition of another \$100,000 by Philip D. Armour, the Armour Mission was built in 1886 and presented to the Plymouth Sunday school.

Through the efforts of one Julia A. Beveridge, a young lady of the Mission, a class in clay modeling was started. This class was an immediate success and as a result classes in wood carving, tile-making, and free-hand and mechanical drawing for the boys; dress-cutting and millinery for the girls were started.

Founded by Packer

Philip D. Armour, a pioneer meat packer, after hearing a lecture by Rev. F. W. Gunsaulus on "What I Would Do If I Had a Million Dollars," and seeing the exceptional success of the Mission classes, supplied three or four millions of dollars to expand his brother's original idea and create a great technological institute in the Middle West.

When Armour Institute of Technology opened in 1892, courses in mechanical and electrical engineering were offered. In 1899, civil engineering was added; in 1901, chemical engineering; in 1903 fire-protection engineering, the only course of its kind; and in 1933 engineering science.

A Great Step

It goes without saying that this amalgamation is the most momentous step which has been taken relative to both Lewis Institute and Armour Tech in recent years. Far reaching effects are inevitable. Many of these effects can be seen immediately, but there are some which only time will reveal. Let us consider some of the more immediate aspects as they pertain directly to the student body of Armour Tech.

What is to become of the Student Union? Bonds were issued to the tune of \$40,000 against this building, amortized over ten years. If the building is left idle before this period, who will pay off the debentures? As another point, what revisions will be necessary in the setup of the student body while the two schools are operating as separate institutions? Who will lead in student affairs? What will the relative position of these leaders be? All questions of this type must be considered carefully.

While there are hundreds of involved legal questions to be settled and many concessions and arbitrations will be required, student problems must not be lost in the shuffle. This change, as change there must be, will be a golden opportunity to get started on the right foot, using past experience as our best guide to new successes.

With a greatly enlarged student body new commissions must be appointed, liaison students must exist to bring all of the students into a closely knit organization and there must not be any variety of discrimination among any class of students. We are in this thing whole heartedly. The decision has been made for us, and we must pull our share of the load.

All of the men who were involved in this agreement have taken action only after deep consideration of all factors involved. They have given their best judgment, and those of us on the outside, who can not possibly know all of the quirks involved, should not question the decision.

One salient fact remains above all others—the two combined institutions now constitute the greatest technical school in the western hemisphere.

Plan Considered For Two Years

Named Illinois Institute of Technology

A momentous decision has been announced by the Boards of Trustees of both Armour Institute and Lewis Institute. The two schools are to consolidate their activities under the new name of Illinois Institute of Technology. The two divisions of the school, however, are going to retain the name of Armour and Lewis as formerly.

Actual consolidation will not take place until September, 1940. The period of time until then will be taken up in the integration of the type of work done by the two schools. For the present, separate plants will be maintained, but plans are being made to build a new well-planned campus preferably in a new location from that of the already rather old locations of both schools.

Combined Endowment

Plans for the amalgamation were being discussed for the past year or two. The combined schools will have an endowment of \$2,000,000. Actual government of the two schools will be carried on by a board consisting of all the trustee members of both schools. The group, numbering fifty-five, will have some of the best known leaders of industry and education in the Middle West.

Announcement of the consolidation was made yesterday by the chairmen of the two boards, James D. Cunningham, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Armour Institute of Technology, and Alex. D. Bailey, chairman of the Board of Lewis Institute. It is hoped that the combination will foster the development of a newer and greater school of technology serving the undergraduates and an increased graduate school. In addition the Research Foundation of Armour Institute will continue its work of serving industry on an enlarged scale, under the influence of the combined efforts of the new school of technology.

110 Alumni Meet to Approve Action by Unanimous Consent

Headed by Mr. Lake of Lewis, and Prof. Schommer of Armour, the alumni groups of both schools met last night in separate sessions and both passed the amalgamation resolution by a unanimous vote.

Some sixty men attended the session at Lewis and fifty officers and ex-officers of the Armour Alumni Association met at the University Club to consider the motions. After a brief session the motions for acceptance were entertained and passed.

This action by the Alumni completes the acceptance by all administrative branches of both schools. In effect, it makes the consolidation retroactive, for graduates as far back as 1899 were present.

Huge Alumni Group

Total numbers of the combined alumni groups are now in the neighborhood of 100,000 men and women. Such a body presents a strong front for concerted action on any future considerations and provides a wide distribution of knowledge concerning both schools. This dissemination of information is most important in securing openings in industry for graduates.