

The Class of 1915

The year of 1911 proved to be an eventful one in the history of the world, for it brought to the Armour Institute of Technology the Class of 1915. Upon the eleventh day of September of that year, a meek and lowly aggregation of young gentlemen gathered within the portals of A. I. T. and turned to the chapter in their Book of Life entitled "College Career."

Immediately upon their entrance into the Institute, their presence began to be felt and they earned the reputation of being a class for deeds. Their first meeting two weeks later was characteristic of their spirit, for they broke away from the conventional method of having an upper classman to preside over the assemblage, and began to do things for themselves. Two members of the class, "Red" Strain and "Duke" Cooban, asserted their initiative by delivering several forceful campaign speeches. "Red" received the temporary chairmanship, and in the election which followed, the officers elected were Harry H. Strain, President; Earl B. Markham, Vice-President; Elliott M. Sullivan, Secretary, and Joseph F. Chamberlin, Treasurer. The first Social Committee, was appointed by the President at the next meeting, with E. B. Markham as chairman.

Under the able guidance of these men, the good ship 1915 sailed through a most successful year. It asserted its ability along social lines by giving one of the prettiest and best attended dances of the year at the Colonial Club the following spring. Towards the end of the second semester, the First Annual Class Banquet was held at the Great Northern Hotel, and everybody put himself on record as having had the time of his life.

In athletics also did 1915 assert her superiority during her freshman year. To the "Tech" basketball team, she contributed Joe Chamberlin and A. B. Griffith; to baseball such stars as Tommy Sullivan, Joe Chamberlin and F. G. Cooban, and to track Hirshfield, Wood, Nebel and Dodge. The three wrestlers acknowledged as the peers of the school, E. B. Markham, Jack McKeage and Sam Thal, all paid homage to the flag of 1915.

The school year of 1912-13 opened upon the ninth day of September, and again the Class of 1915 returned, as sophomores, although sadly depleted in numbers. The deficiency in quantity, however, was more than compensated by the quality of those who returned. In less than two weeks, a class meeting was called, which proved to be as memorable, if not more so, than the first one of the freshman year. President Strain called the meeting to order, and nominations were opened for his successor. Harry Strain and Jack McKeage were the two nominees. Upon the first ballot, the vote was tied, but a late arrival turned the tide of battle in favor of McKeage, and he was elected on the second ballot. The other officers elected were A. B. Griffith, Vice-President; Walter S. Pfeiffer, Secretary, and Herman C. Nebel, Treasurer. The social affairs of the class were placed in the hands of a committee of five, consisting of H. P. Sherwood, chairman; G. R. Bartling, H. E. Anning, E. M. Kratz, and L. S. Downey. The athletic managers elected were J. F. Chamberlin, basketball; T. Sullivan, baseball; and G. J. Trinkaus, track.