

The TECHNICAL WORLD

[This Department is devoted to technical subjects of interest. Any questions sent to the Editor of the STATE COLLEGIAN or dropped in the box at 323 Main will be answered in subsequent issues by experts in the subject about which information is desired.]

Electrical

The Mallory Steamship Line is having its vessels equipped with the De Forest system of wireless telegraphy.

A bill has been introduced into Congress to provide for the laying of a cable between the Isthmus of Panama and the United States.

It is stated that the amount of water power utilized for electrical purposes is over 2,000,000 H. P. Of this amount United States uses 527,467 H. P.

That wireless telegraphy is successful in rarefied atmosphere, was proven December 17 when a wireless telegram was transmitted from Cornwall to Italy without a mistake.

The Electrical World and Engineer for Dec. 17 contains an interesting article on new forms of the Cooper Hewitt converter. Patents for the same were granted Mr. P. H. Thomas.

An electric clutch has been designed and is on the market. Its principle consists in the clamping of a number of disks by the action of magnetism. The mechanism is very compact and efficient.

Charles A. Parsons, the inventor of a steam turbine, expects to explore the interior of the earth. He says that it will take eighty-five years to accomplish this, and that \$25,000,000 will be required for the consummation of his plans.

Observations of the humming of telegraph and telephone wires have been made by Herr Bock, of Germany. He noticed that the humming of wires running east and west presaged a fall of temperature, often ten hours in advance of the thermometer. In the same way wires extending north and south foretold a rise in temperature.

Letters.

The Editor of the Collegian:

At a regular class meeting, Friday evening, Jan. 6th, the class of 1907 agreed, that the class of 1908 had lost the picture scrap, because they did not try to have their picture taken within the allotted time i. e. between the class football game and the Christmas vacation, and that the class of 1908 could have their picture taken now without fear of being molested by the class of 1907.

W. A. SLATER, Secretary.

[*Editor's Note.*] The claim of the Sophomores that the "scrap" should take place before Christmas is supported by the fact that the "scraps" of the last three years, have all taken place before the holidays began. The new rules which were drawn up for just such exigencies as this, place Exam week as the limit. But these rules have not been adopted. According to the precedent established by the last three years, therefore, the Freshmen have lost by default. However there very likely has been misunderstanding on the part of the class of 1908, caused by these unadopted rules, which allow them until the beginning of Exam week to take their picture. If the Sophs were to allow the Freshmen to have their picture taken now without a contest, both sides would claim the victory and the dispute would be never ending. We recommend that the Sophs allow the Freshmen until the beginning of Exam week to have their picture taken in accordance with the new rules. If they do not pull it off in that time, the claim of the class of 1907 to the victory will be undisputed.

Frenzied Finance.

Editor of the COLLEGIAN:—

Most of us have read lately the articles on Frenzied Finance by Thos. W. Lawson. Some of the students here think that "frenzied finance" is not confined alone to Wall Street but is doing a flourishing business right here at "State."

When ten of the students who room in the Main Building came back from their Christmas vacation they were confronted by a New Year's gift in the shape of bills of \$1 each for the use of one extra mattress during the previous term.

Naturally they all objected to squandering their money in so reckless a manner and went to the President of the College about it.

The President turned out to be just like "The System" when they get some one cornered and said, "The charge will stand." No doubt he meant this as a money making scheme as well as a punishment and and it can be easily seen that he did not think of how much he was asking.

The way the fellows figure it out is this: \$1 from each fellow and two fellows in a room makes \$2 a quarter or \$8 a year. The President says that the mattresses are worth \$5. He makes \$8 a year out of a \$5 investment. Thus we all see how Standard Oil is relegated to the extreme rear.

What are the fellows going to do about it? Nothing—only pay the money and console themselves by saying "We are victims of Frenzied Finance."

A Victim.

Junior Sleigh Ride.

Those of the Junior class who were not afraid of getting "soaked" took advantage of the fact that there was a show in Bellefonte that evening and had their annual sleigh ride on Friday afternoon, Jan. 6th. A good many saw the performance of "Way Down East," at the Opera House. Others didn't get that far, but enjoyed themselves in a variety of ways. Excluding the discomfort attending the rain on the return journey, the usual good time was experienced.