

Penn State Collegian

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March 17, 1915

The problem that ac-
 Expression companies student gov-
 of ernment at Penn State is
 Opinion largely due to the indi-
 vidual student. And it
 is not the indifference of that student
 nor is it the lack of knowledge on
 student matters that causes failure
 on his part to appreciate and
 accept his share of responsibility.
 The average student is afraid to ex-
 press his opinion until someone else
 has blazed the way. As soon as
 the pendulum of public opinion has
 swung in one direction we see men
 standing up on all sides to support
 it. The fetish of conventionality,
 of tradition, and of custom is wor-
 shipped by the vast majority who
 sink their individuality and their
 reasoning powers into the melting
 pot of popularity. It is not the
 purpose of this article to make
 vague generalizations on this very
 evident phase of college life nor to
 deplore the fact that human nature
 will take its course among any
 group of men. But there is such a
 thing as extreme conservatism and
 it seems that there are too many
 men in this college afflicted with
 that very contagious disease.

The crying need at Penn State is
 for men with the courage of their
 convictions, who will dare criticism
 to express their views. We need
 more independent thinkers and
 more independent action. If
 there is unrest among the student
 body it is a good thing. Unrest is
 usually a sign of progress and its
 expression, accompanied by con-
 structive thought and action, can-
 not help but better the conditions
 existing here at present. Are you
 following the crowd or are you do-
 ing your own thinking?

According to a famous
 Benefits newspaper man, who re-
 cently visited Penn State,
 the fundamental principle of jour-
 nalism is truthfulness. The policy
 of this paper this year of construc-
 tive criticism has met with the
 commendation of nearly everyone.
 It is, however, impossible to be
 more than literally truthful and
 maintain that policy.

The spirit which prompts an in-
 dividual or organization to promote
 a benefit for a worthy cause is cer-
 tainly noble. Such spirit, however,
 can easily run riot. To date this
 year the student body and townfolk
 have been called upon four times
 to aid an enterprise for the benefit
 of the hospital. But at no time

this year has the condition of the
 hospital been made known. No
 financial statement at the end of
 the year or budget at the beginning
 of the year has seemingly been
 considered.

In view of these facts it is not
 strange that interest has been lost
 by the student body, especially
 when it is called upon to support
 something which does not interest
 it. Penn State, it should be re-
 membered is essentially a technical
 school where it's faculty has a
 difficult time creating interest in
 the so called arts courses. Know-
 ing this, it is not surprising that a
 production, made for artists and
 dreamers without action and poorly
 rehearsed, should meet with the
 small amount of interest which the
 performance of Friday evening
 received.

SENIOR CLASS MEETING

Luerssen Elected Valedictorian.
 Wall to be Memorial

At the class meeting held last
 Wednesday evening, George Van-
 degriest Luerssen was elected as the
 1915 valedictorian. His vote was
 by a big majority.

The Senior Memorial vote was
 also taken and it was decided to
 build a wall, extending from Allen
 street to McAllister street on the
 lower edge of the campus. Mr.
 Kocher of the architectural depart-
 ment designed the wall.

Prominent Speaker Coming

On Wednesday evening, March
 17, in Old Chapel, at 7:30 p. m.
 Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes will lecture
 on "what the Socialists want and
 why they want it". Mrs. Stokes
 was born in Russia but left the
 country when three years old. At
 the age of 11 years she entered the
 industrial field and was compelled
 to struggle hard to earn a livelihood,
 working in factories until she was
 able to improve her conditions and
 accept newspaper work. Her mari-
 riage in 1903 to Mr. J. G. Phelps
 Stokes and his conversion to social-
 ism was a notable event through-
 out the country.

Since 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Stokes
 have been very actively engaged in
 the propaganda of Socialism, hav-
 ing put nearly all lesser causes
 aside for what they regard as the
 greatest of all causes in the interest
 of humanity. They both look up
 on Socialism as the inevitable next
 step in industrial and social evolu-
 tion, the solution of the problem of
 poverty and as the fullest expres-
 sion of industrial-economic equality
 of opportunity and of social and
 economic justice. Mrs. Stokes is
 an eloquent and convincing speak-
 er, and a poet of considerable
 ability. Her message is distinctly
 well worth hearing.

Departmental Notes

A voluntary class of seniors in
 engineering and mining has been
 organized to discuss the human ele-
 ment in engineering. This class
 meets on Wednesdays at 3:30 p. m.
 in room 202, Engineering Annex,
 and is conducted by Professor
 Walker with the assistance of other
 members of the faculty.

Mr. J. Dietz, manager of the
 educational department of the
 Western Electric company, Haw-
 thorne, Ill., was in State College on
 March 8 and 9 to meet members of
 the senior electrical engineering
 section who are interested in secur-
 ing employment with that com-
 pany.

The Corona (folding) typewriter
 is the most convenient. The long-
 er used, the better liked; and it can
 be carried in its case wherever you
 go. J. H. Waring, 143 Frazier
 street, student agent.

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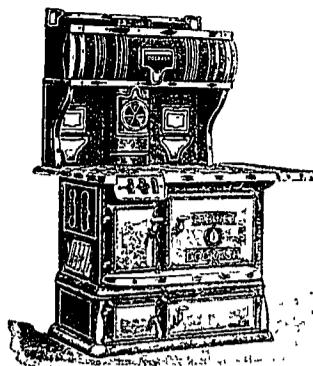
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