

Penn State Collegian

Published weekly during the year by students of the Pennsylvania State College in the interest of the Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends of the college

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News Editor For This Issue M. W. Dalrymple

Wednesday, February 14, 1917

"ABSENT VOTING."

The bill that was recently introduced in the state House of Representatives at Harrisburg, providing for "absent voting," is deserving of the support of all Penn State men, whether or not they have reached the voting age. The advantages of such a measure are readily apparent.

Hundreds of college men in Pennsylvania are every year denied the right of citizenship in the matter of directing the destinies of the Commonwealth because they find it impossible to go home to their voting districts to cast their ballots. Many are denied the privilege of casting their "first ballot" upon becoming of age. A saving of time, trouble and expense could be secured for the student, not to mention the fact that all qualified voters would be assured of their vote at every election.

In future work to be carried out by the students in the matter of securing a bigger appropriation for Penn State, it might be well to urge at the same time the passage of this "absent voting" measure which carries with it so many advantages for those students who are of age. It is usually the case that at some time in his college course the student becomes of age, and unless conditions are favorable he loses his first possible vote and the sentimental interest that goes with it. But if this bill is made a law, all these bad features will be done away with.

VERY WELL DONE.

The manner in which the entire Penn State student body "came across" in boosting the campaign for a larger legislative appropriation is worthy of the highest commendation. Indications from the final reports show that a very large majority of the students have "done their share" in helping to build a greater future for Penn State. The outcome of the campaign, to say the least, was far above the highest expectations of those energetic students who willingly sacrificed their time and gave their influence for the ultimate success of the movement.

The nature of the campaign called for a united movement which depended entirely upon the individual efforts of each student. It was a test of loyalty to Penn State. Her students have done nobly, and the results go to show that when Penn State calls, the necessary support can be given with a will. To A. R. Chambers '17, the organizer and promoter of the student work in behalf of the college, much credit is due. Numerous other students who have cooperated in the campaign have done their work well and they also are deserving of no little credit.

There is still work to be done by practically all of the students, largely through their county clubs, and much can be added to the success thus far by individual efforts aimed at outside friends of the college. The alumni have not been idle, and will do much in the coming weeks that will aid in the cause. Let us not be content with the success thus far, but continue the work in every way possible.

ONE NEW MAN EACH DAY

In thinking of the things which go to make up life at Penn State we are often led to wonder just how many of his class-mates the average student knows and of these the number with whom he is personally acquainted. We venture to say the list of his acquaintanceship would not exceed half the membership of his class. As to the members of other classes we also venture the assertion that the average student has in all an even more limited number of acquaintances among them than among the members of his own class.

In this connection it can be said with all truth that nothing tends more to strengthen and intensify college spirit than a personal knowledge of one's fellow students. A noted educator has said that nine tenths the value of a so-called higher education is to be found in the broadening influence of the associations and friendships which are formed during the four years a man spends in college. Judged by this standard we feel that the majority of Penn State students are getting far less than value received for the time which they are spending here.

The president of a former Penn State class made it a point while in college to meet one new man every day and by the time of his graduation knew every member of his own class and a great many men in other classes as well. Here is a point that we might well keep in mind. If each of us would follow the rule, "learn to meet at least one new man every day," we would be taking a long step toward developing among ourselves that unity which must make for a better and greater Penn State.

STATE DEBATING HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL

Debating at Penn State has made wonderful progress according to statistics recently compiled by members of the Debating Council since its inauguration in 1898. The forefathers of the present debaters of the College were handicapped by the lack of such present indispensables as a coach, funds, or an organized debating society. They worked and struggled each successive year and succeeded in staging one debate each year from 1898 to 1906. Any information concerning these debates however has been lost and it is only from 1906 on, that a definite record could be compiled. In this last period Penn State has won 23 and lost 12, which is quite an enviable record in debating circles.

of the seven years, namely, in 1905-06, 1907-08, and 1909-10. In 1910 the rules were changed and the championship decided every three years. Under these rules Penn State won the championship for the years 1913-15. While the interest in debating has long been manifested in this college, that interest has been tremendously augmented in the last few years, or since the advent in 1914 of Professor John T. Marshman, formerly of Ohio Wesleyan, and the resulting organization of the public speaking department. Besides the abilities of Prof. Marshman as a coach, debating has been recently encouraged by the awarding of gold medals and debating certificates to those actually participating in "varsity debates," and the financial support or debating by the classes of the college. Closely allied with, and running parallel with debating since the very beginning, the Junior Oratorical Contest have gradually gained a state-wide reputation. Since its origin in 1871, these contents have held annually during Commencement Week. By giving a first prize of \$50 and a second prize of \$25 for the last 27 years the college has paid out a total sum of \$2,025 to the members of the various Junior Classes.

ON THE CORNER

Everything seems to be going up these days but the mercury

WE HAVE been brain dusting for five consecutive minutes trying to dope out a little ditty on the threadbare subject of "spring." But we never were cut out for a poet anyway, and in giving up the ship we have decided to fall back on the usual mass of contributions that roll in about this time of year. Make 'em short and snappy.

OUR IDEA was to land one on the poor sloop who hails you every morning with—"Is it cold enough for you?"

SIGNS OF SPRING The base ball boys going to it in the gym. Butterfly nets and bug-trappers. Increased activities in the basement of Mac Hall. That tired feeling.

BETWEEN dodging the ins and outs and mulling a good job, the Dear Old Seniors are having a great time of it.

OUR BRAVE soldier boys were right on the job when it came to doing the right thing at the right time.

DON'T BLAME US FOR THIS The Greatest Need of Penn State—"More telephones for Mac Hall"—Contributed.

We don't belong.

SPEAKING of joke books, we find that the B. C. R. published the same one today that it did in 1898.

THE WORST ONE YET A PROI' in the engineering school thought for a week that a class of Junior Agronomists taking spark plug piffle under him were honest-to-goodness Short Horns.

HURRY SOMETHING we have been anxious to reach for the last half hour, and it's about time—

THIS LAST line.

Looking Backward

(Week of February 14th) FIVE YEARS AGO

President Sparks was granted a leave of absence until Commencement, and with Mrs. Sparks and Miss Ethel Sparks, left for a tour through Egypt, Asia and Europe. Dr. Sparks was to return for Commencement but Mrs. Sparks and Miss Sparks planned to remain abroad over the summer. During the President's absence there was no acting president, but all matters were left in the hands of the faculty, Student Board and Council.

The Spalding Football Trophy arrived at Penn State to remain permanently by reason of the victory at Pittsburgh on Thanksgiving Day. Penn State won it by taking three out of the last four contests.

TEN YEARS AGO. An invitation was extended to State to enter the Intercollegiate Civil League and the acceptance of the offer was urged by the student body.

The "Collegian" received and published many letters, pro and con, on the question of adopting the Honor System at this college. The sentiment seemed much in favor of the adoption.

The Penn State basketball team defeated the team from the New York University Law School in an extra-period game by the score of 19 to 17. "Dutch" Herman was the individual star, caging four baskets.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. In a basketball game between State and Pittston, the Blue and White passers overwhelmed their opponents by a 53 to 13 score. Sharp, Dunn and Devino did the bulk of the work for State.

Professor Patten and his family left on leave of absence until the following September, in order to permit the professor to pursue a course of work in the libraries of London, Paris and Germany.

The new college catalogue which had just appeared, showed a total enrollment of 504.

News From Other Colleges

The student government at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana has been far from satisfactory according to opinions expressed by members of the faculty. It has been intimated by the college authorities that unless a decided improvement is shown in the near future there will soon be a gradual return to the old paternalistic system of a few years back. A new course in camp cookery has been established at the Iowa State College. The course is designed especially for the men of the college, and according to report a good sized class has already been assured. A fee of four dollars must be paid by those taking the course.

LOST—Friday afternoon, Waterman self-filling fountain pen, near Liberal Arts Bldg. Reward if returned to Bortz Truck House.

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