

Penn State Collegian

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

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AN OLD QUESTION

The student body will await with interest any developments in the Point System, that may reasonably be expected when Student Council begins work on this important issue. For many years, it has been discussed to no avail, for it has been treated to neglect after the first sensational announcement had lost its brilliance. Even last year work was started on collecting data from other institutions where it worked and it is understood that the committee labored long and faithfully. Then came the end of the college term and the information was lost.

At an early meeting of the Council this year, a committee was appointed to begin again the task of accumulating all the "dope" possible. The committee has submitted a gratifying report, showing that authentic information has been gathered from numerous colleges and university papers, responsible men from various student governments have written descriptions of the different systems as they are in vogue elsewhere, opinions have been gathered from all sections of the country. The work has been well done and, so far, so good.

It is not expected that the President of Student Council will appoint a committee immediately to draft a system that would be well adapted to Penn State and which will include all commendable features of other systems without absorbing their undesirable characteristics. Such an act would be folly in view of the fact that there are far more important issues to claim the attention of Council at the present time. Let that body do one thing at a time well and then attack the other problems of lesser importance. But in the course of time and before the end of the term, some dependable workers will probably be asked to make a Point System for Penn State. If it is considered to be good after a careful and thorough examination, then let it receive the support it deserves.

THE INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

There is no little doubt in the minds of those acquainted with conferences that no little amount of benefit is derived from an attendance at a meeting called for the purpose of earnest discussion. A study is made of problems from all possible angles and the viewpoints of different personalities gives the participant or listener a broadened vision of the matter. The final outcome in a great many instances is a solution. This general procedure is not the exception but rather it is the rule.

Therefore, it is of little wonder that college officials are anxious to have Penn State represented at the Intercollegiate Conference which is being held at the University of Pennsylvania the latter part of the month. The initial program called for sessions to consider separately each of the four great questions; student government, publications, dramatics and music and debating, and athletics. After the representatives to these different sections have discussed the many problems connected with each, a session will convene with all delegates attending.

An idea of the thoroughness with which the conference has been planned is seen in the fact that questionnaires were sent out beforehand to all institutions sending delegations. These questionnaires suggested what might be contained in a report to the sections of the assembly. Thus the convention officers learned in advance what the more important problems are in each college or university.

Indeed, the Student Council for next year will be fortunate in gaining the fruits of such a conference. The delegates will come back with a wealth of information and a new outlook gained through contact with those who face similar problems.

FOREST FIRES

A general request has gone out to all lovers of the out-of-doors to take especial care during the spring months to preserve the forest land, which easily falls prey to the ravages of that dread enemy, Fire, during this season of the year. As the Nittany Valley is blessed with beautiful timber land, this call should find a responsive will in the student.

The natural beauty to be found in the vicinity of Penn State compares favorably with any other part of the country and is such to merit zealous protection. Fields of arbutus, the like of which is difficult to find elsewhere, are within hiking distance of the campus; high mountains covered with state forests and providing the home for wild animals are a never ending source of delight; small streams and torrents flow through quiet, cool glades or down rocky slopes to the valley below—all this makes a huge playground, full of the marvels of a bounteous nature.

Carelessness can transform this picture into that of a barren waste, covered with charred stumps and smoldering logs. If each one would but give a thought to the consequences, he would be extremely careful to obey in every detail the instructions that have been prepared by the Department of Forestry. Greatest of all sins is to throw a lighted match, or cigarette or cigar into the woods with no thought as to where it may fall. Next greatest is to enjoy the experience of a forest-cooked lunch beneath a large spreading tree and then to leave the place with no thought of the fate in store, for that same tree when the fire is slowly kindled into a raging forest fire.

A CHANGE OF STAFF

The annual elections of the Penn State Collegian Board have been held with the result that a group of men have been selected with whom the outgoing staff is going to intrust the solemn and exacting duty of raising the already high standards of the paper.

We are pleased to announce the new staff as follows: Editor-in-Chief, E. E. Helm '24, Assistant Editor, E. M. Jameson '24; Managing Editors R. B. Colvin '24 and C. B. Tilton '24; Business Manager, H. R. McCulloch '24; Advertising Manager, W. W. Stahl '24; Circulation Manager, L. M. Aronson '24, Junior Associate Editors, F. P. George '25, J. H. Lum '25; H. S. Morris '25, and W. L. Pratt '25; Assistant Business Managers, J. M. Eisler '25, J. H. McCulloch '25, and R. C. Body '25.

The freshmen on the staff will continue in competition until the end of the college term, when an election will be held to choose sophomore reporters and sophomore business managers.

STUDES OF OLDEN TIMES HAD MODERN METHODS

Money, Clothes, Books and Good Cheer as Important in Middle Ages as at Present

Many interesting facts concerning college life during the Middle Ages were brought out by Dean Haskins of Harvard in a recent lecture.

Money, clothing, books, companionship, and good cheer played as important a part in the life of the medieval college student as they do in the life of the average student today. Much of their personal life is revealed by student handbooks which have been preserved, some of which contain much amusing, though not very instructive information. The following are a few specimens of advice contained in them: "Wash your hands in the morning. If time, your face. Don't pick your teeth with a knife. Don't stare at your neighbor at the table. Scrape bones with a knife, don't know them, when done with bones, put them in a bowl or throw them on the floor."

Preachers of the time found it most provoking and discouraging that men would study law (the classes of which met in the afternoon), for the sole purpose of sleeping in the morning. Most interesting of all, however, are the personal letters of student to father or father to student. Requests for money predominated the letters addressed to fathers. In fact, rhetoricians made a respectable income by writing for students letters guaranteed to arouse compassion. One student added to the end of his letter "With out Ceres and Bacchus Apollo grows cold," while another wrote that the messenger from home bringing money had been robbed. Another astonishing fact is that the good and virtuous students of the day followed the unusual custom of fining professors whenever they cut a lecture.

Thoughts of Others

YOUR IDEAS

(The Purdue Exponent)

No words revolve on conjecture; no discoveries follow guesswork; no achievements are the product of mind that wanders aimlessly. The subject is another. The modern world demands ideas—those—unexplainable thoughts which take definite shape only after a period of thinking, an active exercise of the mind. Campus organizations are crowded with men who are ready to follow, who can carry out brilliantly the program of a society, who can assume the position of an executive and steer an organization in the same wide, straight channel that it has followed ever since it was founded, and the University will go on and on and its organizations will get on and on, and the same year after year, even though these conditions are good. What we want is better conditions. Perfection is far beyond the vision of the most agile mind—we have no conception of what perfection really is—yet we instinctively move in directions which we believe are for the general improvement, and which we believe lead toward that invisible Utopia—perfection. It is for progress that we must place men in office—it is for progress that we must form budgets, that we must outline plans, that we must draw up new constitutions. Why should societies continue in the same groove year after year? Break loose. Let your instincts carry you toward that invisible perfection—as long as they are right—go ahead. No one ever succeeded who didn't try, and no achievement ever shook the world into recognition unless it started with an idea. Speak it! Demand it! Let custom and convention rule forever just because they are custom and convention. Ideas!

EXTENSION WORK ENLARGED

TO INCLUDE NORMAL SCHOOLS

Co-operating with eight normal schools of Pennsylvania, Penn State has greatly increased the number of its extension students throughout the state, and the enrollment this year bids fair to most double that of last year.

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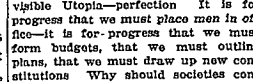
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LAND GRANT FUND GOES TO BOND SUBSCRIPTION

Penn State's \$500,000, resulting from the federal grant of lands for foundation and maintenance of an agricultural college more than a half century ago, is to be invested in bonds instead of being put out among depositaries of state funds which it is calculated will save the state from \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually.

Auditor General Lewis outlined the purpose of the Beaver Bill introduced in the House, in a statement which indicates the state has had the money paid at two per cent interest and was paying the college six, the other four per cent being made up of general funds.

The grant was to promote agricultural education, and the donation was found to have been made in lands and land scrip in 1862, the interest to be paid to the college and the state to hold the principal. It is calculated that the grant to the state has obtained an average of two per cent from the deposits and has paid the Nittany institution nearly \$1,000,000 to make up the difference.

Under the new plan the college will get five per cent from the earnings of its endowment which is the percentage that the state must pay under the federal act, the state only being called upon to meet what difference may arise between the income from the investments and that rate. This plan has met with the approval of officials, and will prove beneficial to both state and college.

PENN STATE DEVELOPS THREE NEW TOMATOES

This year the tomatoes that have been perfected at Penn State will be given a real commercial testing. For several years the Division of Plant Breeding of the Department of Horticulture has been working on three varieties of tomatoes with marked success. The "Machum" and "Nittany" breeds are the result of crosses between the "Penn State Earlmann" selection, a perfected variety. These plants have done well in the experimental plots here at the college, and this year they are being tried by market gardeners and others all over the state and in other states. It will depend on the results obtained by these gardeners whether the work can be considered a success.

A few weeks ago Professor C. E. Meyers learned in a letter from the Czechoslovak Legation that these three varieties had been tried in the Experimental Station at the Czechoslovak Ministry of Agriculture. They found that the "Penn State Earlmann" did not thrive under their conditions, but that the other two did well.

CHEMISTS RETURN FROM ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

Dr. D. E. Halsey and Professor H. B. Pierce have just returned from New Haven, Connecticut, where they attended the fifty-third annual meeting of the American Chemical Society held last week. This meeting is the get-together of all of the leading chemists of the world. It is then that they present the strides their country is making and tell of their own most recent researches. Representatives from all of the different branches of chemical activities were present, and told of their own work. Dr. Halsey and Professor Pierce presented papers on their own work here at Penn State. During the convention the new Chemistry Building at Yale was dedicated. This building, which cost two million dollars, is the most modern chemistry laboratory in the world, and also the largest building on the Yale campus.

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Penn State Prexy's

DR. EDWIN EARLE SPARKS

Following the death of Dr. Atherton in 1906, Penn State was fortunate to find in Dr. Edwin Earle Sparks a man fully capable of carrying out the great work that his predecessor had begun. For twelve years Dr. Sparks labored incessantly to develop the college and under his administration Penn State reached its highest development as a college. The outstanding features of his regime were a growth in the student body from 398 to 1316 students, the development of comprehensive building plans for each school, the moulding of the student body into a democratic government and new impetus to the policy of carrying the college to the people of the State.

Dr. Sparks was born in 1860 in Licking County, Ohio. His parents were both of English descent. His early years were spent on his parents' farm but at the age of ten, he moved to London, a town in the midst of a thriving agricultural community. In that town he completed his grammar school training and began his high school course. Family circumstances compelled him to leave high school, however, and he obtained work as a journalistic apprentice. At the age of 19 he entered Ohio Wesleyan University, but the following year changed to the Ohio State University. His college career was occupied by his studies and his efforts to support himself as a reporter for the local newspaper. His scholarship at Ohio State was of a high order and his newspaper work kept him in close touch with the practical affairs of the state and nation.

Following his graduation Dr. Sparks went to Portsmouth, Ohio, and a year later was elected principal of the high school. In 1890 he married Miss Catherine Cotton and that year was called to the principalship of the Preparatory Department of this college. While at Penn State Dr. Sparks became more and more interested in history and in 1893 he accepted a position in the Extension Division of the Chicago University. The period from 1895 to 1903 was marked by the rapid rise of Dr. Sparks. He took an important part in the organization of Chicago University and during that time he wrote numerous books on historical subjects.

In 1907, following the death of Dr. Atherton, Dr. Sparks was called to Penn State and in June 1908 was inaugurated as president of the college. For twelve years he served as president but during the war the strain of his position seriously affected his health. In 1920 he suffered a nervous breakdown and in June was compelled to resign the presidency.

Dr. Sparks still resides on the Penn State campus and his figure is a familiar one to the students of the college. His strong personality, his regard for fair play and above all his love for Penn State will always stamp him as one of the most popular and best loved of Penn State's Prexy's.

SIRLOIN CLUB TO HOLD MOCK SALE TOMORROW

Tomorrow afternoon at one-thirty the Sirloin Club will hold its sixth annual Stock Show and Mock Sale in the Sirloin Club will hold its sixth annual Stock Show and Mock Sale in the Stock Pavilion. Animals of all four classes of livestock will be fitted and shown by A. H. students, and then auctioned. Although anyone may fit an animal, only members of the Sirloin Club will be permitted to bid. A grand champion prize will be awarded to the man having the best fitted animal of any class, and another to the man who shows the best judgment in his bidding. First and second prizes will be awarded for the fitting in each class, and also first and second prizes for the bidding in each class.

The show is in charge of a general committee consisting of R. L. Burrus '23 chairman, W. S. Miller '23 in charge of horses, S. B. Buckley '23 in charge of sheep, and B. F. Coleman '23 in charge of beef cattle.

BOTANY DEPT. STARTS SPECIMEN EXPEDITION

The Botany Department has started its annual collection and inspection expeditions. By these expeditions the department expects to find specimens of all of the plants that are to be found in the state. They also add to their collection, which now contains more than thirty thousand specimens, any new plant that they find. At present it is only possible for them to take members of the staff and the advance students, but in the near future it is planned to invite all who are interested.

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