

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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ITHACA, N. Y.

MARCH, 1931

John M. Newell

Dear Editor:

The NEWS LETTER has not this year pursued the active aggressiveness in securing contributions that it has during the past year. Therefore, I, being in a dark and obscure corner, have let a natural indolence prevent me from reporting on such progress in the field of knowledge and of individual freedom as has been occurring in Baltimore. However, I shall now relate all matters of interest and send to the Branch for its library such reprints of scientific articles as have been published by members and friends of the Telluride Association residing in this city, to wit: "A Note on the Effects of Kidney Extract on Microorganisms (in vivo) and Tissues (in vitro)", "The Action of Testicle, Kidney, and Spleen Extracts on the Infective Power of Bacteria," and "The Killing of Plant Tissue and the Inactivation of Tobacco Mosaic Virus by Ultra-violet Radiation."

The first two papers are by Michel Pijoan and, though unprepossessing in title, they are part of an exceedingly interesting research which will open up new fields in the study of virus diseases. These diseases include such important ones as the various poxes, yellow fever, measles, rabies, hoof and mouth disease, hog cholera, and the various mosaics in plants. The work appears to be an outstanding advance in medical science.

Pijoan, who is an applicant for the Association and a first year student in the John Hopkins Medical School, is busy rushing hither and yon collecting mice, monkeys, and men for further study of the subject. He is working in connection with the Rockefeller Institute and the Baltimore Health Department. He is doing excellent work. Since he has come to Baltimore, I have been much impressed with him as having the capability and ideals which the Association prizes so highly, as well as having a vein of enthusiasm and ribaldry which should be just as highly esteemed.

As to myself, I am still puttering around working on the problem of the function and necessity of small amounts of zinc in animal nutrition. This requires the preparation of a diet complete in thirty-five odd essentials with the absence of zinc. The feat is practically impossible. It has been worked on before with either no definite results or with obviously unbalanced diets. After a year and a half of eluding the obstacles which have come up at every turn, I have succeeded in preparing a diet which is balanced and very low in zinc. I am now starting feeding experiments

which will ordinarily take about nine months. If nothing unusual turns up I can rest with the hard work behind me. However, I have another problem to keep me busy. I am working on the mineral constituents of fish meals for the Bureau of Fisheries.

Beyond my work in the laboratory and my daily struggle with time and the Baltimore traffic, I have few outside interests. There are some concerts, an occasional show, and some books my wife brings home from the library as diversions. I lead a very peaceful and uneventful life.

With greetings to all, I am,

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. NEWELL

Earl W. Ohlinger

Recently there has been much animated discussion concerning the purpose of Deep Springs. This has naturally led to the consideration of the plan of the institution as an adequate operator in achieving its purpose. One attitude evolving from this discussion strikes deeply at the ultimate success of this institution.

It has been said that the ideal manner of carrying out the purpose of Deep Springs is in the passive acceptance of all the traditions that it advances. That attitude is false, not from the standpoint of traditions, but from that of passive acceptance. Consider what the results would be from such an attitude. First of all one would have a group of students going through the routine, merely making the motions, as it were, toward accomplishing the vital ideals of Mr. Nunn. Obviously such an existence is not the type best suited to sincerity of ideals. It is simply the superficial support of ideals that may bring material benefits. There is one more fundamental reason.

On reading Prof. Royce's "Philosophy of Loyalty," I was profoundly impressed by the whole world scheme that he conjured out of a trite abstraction. I wonder whether the scheme of things here could not be fitted into this seemingly all-embracing philosophy. If it could, it would provide an ideal far transcending any material or passive acceptance of things. I do not propose to attempt to fit any philosophy of loyalty into the traditions of Deep Springs. But instead of having a mere passive acceptance, why not have a loyalty to the traditions that does not end with the term at Deep Springs? There is no danger, then, that the things here will be things of the moment. Loyalty, as an attitude of mind, is a good thing, without considering the nature of the cause to which one is loyal, Prof. Royce says. If we do have something worthwhile to which we may mani-

fest our loyalty, a thing we certainly have at Deep Springs, then in the thoroughgoing demonstration of it we have achieved something that cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

EARL W. OHLINGER

Purpose and Plan Essay

In reading essays and letters concerning the purpose and plan of Telluride Association, I have been struck by the constant iteration of a plaint that it is impossible to define in words this purpose and plan. Such modesty, not to say bashfulness, impresses me as superfluous. If the purpose and plan of Telluride Association are incapable of a fairly accurate and definite statement, then how are we to integrate our efforts to produce superior results? Although I admit that this purpose must be felt in part, I am very certain that to possess the value necessary for work, one must be able to make it assume decided and tangible form.

Most properly, this purpose can be expressed as an inner consciousness of the essential idealism underlying the best progress of a life. In a splendid passage in the ninth book of Plato's Republic, Socrates speaks of the inner kingdom, whose plans are laid away in heaven, and which can truly exist only within the mind of a person. It is the city in which all is ideal, in which rule only the most exalted hopes and aspirations of the individual. It is the turning-in on their author of these ideal aspirations from the necessarily bitter disappointments of an individual struggling to maintain standards in the world. It is that which primarily distinguishes a "good" life from a proper life. It sets off the man who builds such a city, and elevates him to heroic stature in the eyes of his fellow men. To foster the growth of the city is the fundamental and underlying purpose of Telluride Association and Deep Springs.

We must now consider the outward manifestation of the inner city. Evidently this lies in the most effective realization of the splendid and transcendent idealism that makes up the city. It consists in attempting to balance the social structure in opposition to its emphasis on a crass materialism. The true spirit of Science is directed toward improvement of the condition of man; but we see science now directed towards the most diverse ends, from the most harmful to the most beneficial. It is the duty of all right-thinking persons to emphasize the cultural aspects of life, and, above all, to oppose at all times those developments in scientific

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TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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MARCH, 1931

Specialists and Culture

Resolved: that the Telluride man should devote his primary effort during his undergraduate days to getting an education of general culture rather than to mastering some particular branch of knowledge.

AFFIRMATIVE

Gentlemen: We of the affirmative thoroughly believe in the truth of this resolution, and we shall attempt to convince you of it.

I think you will all agree with me that the enormous fascination which Dean Pound had for all of us, and the enormous admiration which we all have for him, would be much less, in spite of the fact that he must be one of the greatest legal geniuses of this generation, if it weren't for his almost phenomenal acquaintance with literature, languages, living and dead, art, music, history, personalities, and even sciences and sports. He simply outstripped any kind of miracle our imaginations could construct, and I believe that the enormous influence which he must have over all those with whom he comes in contact is due principally to this quality. I think you will also agree that a man without general culture, no matter how great a genius he may be, presents a pitiful spectacle. Now our Telluride man will be quite able to master his particular field after he graduates; for, if he is a successful Telluride man, or, as the lawyer would say, a Telluride homo in vacuo, the Telluride Association endeavors to aid him in gaining a complete education, be he graduate or undergraduate; and also his mental faculties will have reached their fullest development then, and have not yet become set, at the age of twenty-one, let us say. So it is really inefficient for him to try to absorb preparation for his most important life-work at an earlier time.

In the second place, a knowledge of many diversified subjects will aid him in his own particular line of endeavor. If he is so foolish as to have chosen physics, so much the more easily and so much the better will he get along in physics, the more he knows of chemistry, engineering, mathematics, English, foreign languages, and even biology and history,

especially the history of physics.

For these reasons, then; because general culture cannot reasonably hinder, but will aid his own particular work, and will be an asset to him in all the activities of daily life, we believe that the Telluride man should spend his undergraduate days in seeking eagerly after a balanced blend of all the kinds of knowledge to which he has access.

NEGATIVE

Gentlemen: We of the negative are unanimously and uncompromisingly of the belief that the Telluride man should not spend his time getting general culture as long as that in any way interferes with a far more important, almost imperative, and far more difficult task which confronts him. We grant that a man who is well acquainted with many subjects, or, as we say, is generally cultured, is a pleasing thing to contemplate, and that such a man will enjoy and live his life most fully, but we don't believe that all important.

Quite consonant with all Telluride standards, I believe, is the statement that every Telluride man should master the particular field, for which he is best suited, sufficiently well to be able substantially to advance that field, and with it advance the world. But we believe that in order to do this, he must saturate himself, during all of his most absorbent years, in that field, because of the present enormous scope and huge rate of growth of all fields of human endeavor. In physics, in mathematics, in chemistry, and, I imagine, in French literature and history, thousands of men are at work in all parts of the world, busily making significant contributions to those fields. If men who are already far along in those fields find that it requires twenty-four hours a day of their most intense, active effort to keep up with the subject, how can a beginner expect to catch up with it, and then not be out of breath, unless he goes after it with far more energy and determination than the college student of today goes after anything? In this connection may I point out what appears to me to be one of the most dangerous of modern tendencies — that of over-specialization. In physics, it is quite possible to get along now—to get a degree, to do research, and to teach, without ever knowing more than a very small portion of the whole field, and rare is the man who has a thorough, comprehensive view of all its vitally connected phases. What, then, is to be done? Make your major study your home (not just your hotel), and live in it, until you know it, and are in every sense the lord of the estate.

The foregoing is a speech I gave at one of the regular public-speaking meetings at the House recently. After I finished, Sam Levering rose and

asked, "What, then, does Mr. Richtmyer think?" Perhaps I may discuss that now. First, however, I should like to point out that most of what I said suffers from a fault which I find very objectionable, though very prevalent, in much of the discussion I hear, especially when that discussion is of the nature of philosophizing about human life. It tries to generalize too much. It is my opinion that by making such broad, general statements we decrease, rather than increase, the worth and significance of what we have to say.

One might think that the suggestion of some sort of compromise or happy medium would be in order. But of these I am wary. The remedy for trying to do too much is not cutting down on the thoroughness but on the amount. But again this is generalizing too much; each student must decide his own case for himself, and I wager that about as many will come to the conclusion reached by the gentlemen of the affirmative as will come to the opposite conclusion, and some, doubtless, will decide on a compromise. In making the decision, each must remember that though the value which general culture can have for him will vary with the individual's plans for a career, it will usually be much greater than anything on which he can definitely place his finger, now, at least. Also, he must not neglect to estimate whether the time and effort he plans to put on his major work is sufficient that he may be thoroughly successful in it. Unfortunately, most men are really not able to judge these matters until their undergraduate days are about over.

I should like to hear the opinions of others on the matter of over-specialization. Suppose we have a hypothetical case. Mr. A has chosen a field of precisely the type I have postulated physics to be, in the negative side of the "debate"; suppose that field is so vast that it is almost impossible for any one mind even to get acquainted with it all; and suppose that the various phases of that field are vitally connected with one another. I suppose that in such a case (if one exists) it is better for Mr. A to master all of that field that he can, and forget about "general culture", rather than to master only one small portion of that field and be generally cultured besides; in other words, that by substituting general culture within the field for general culture in the wider sense, he has made a wise substitution.

As for my own case, I have not, as yet, been able to come to a decision of the question which satisfies and convinces me. Those who know me outside my field make in unison the charge that I am neglecting general culture, and those who know me in my field claim that I am neglecting the field, and I expect that they are both right.

R. D. RICHTMYER

Cornell Branch Notes

BMOH.

Julius Brauner is writing for the Cornell Law Quarterly; as soon as two articles are printed, he becomes an associate editor. He is also serving on the Quarterly Banquet Committee, writing invitations to the eminent jurists of the country for a banquet, to be held in the middle of April. Association members who have formerly served on the Quarterly Board may expect an official communication from Host Brauner soon. Another recent legal pursuit of his has been the direction of publicity for the Barrister's Ball.

Broadjumper Robley Williams continued his active participation in Track Meets by placing 5th in the Intercollegiate, 2nd in the Triangular Meet with Dartmouth and Harvard, and 1st in the Meet held here with Yale. His best jump was made in the Triangular Meet; twenty-two feet, six inches.

Bill Layton is on a committee formed for the purpose of assembling male members of the Sophomore Class, and providing them with cigarettes and speakers, so that the tradition of the Soph Smoker shall not perish from the earth.

After thirteen sleepless weeks of newsgathering, Paul Reinhardt has been elected to the Sun Board, so Julius' retirement in April will still leave three Branch Members on the Board.

Public Speaking

On Thursday, March 12th, a public speaking program was given on "The Position of Labor in Modern Industry." Each speaker treated a different phase of the problem, and plentiful impromptu discussion was had from the floor. Since unifying the program in this manner seemed to increase the interest of the audience, it will be tried again April 9th, when six men will speak on "World Peace".

Guests

Dr. Roscoe Pound, Dean of the Harvard Law School, was a guest of the Branch from February 16th until March 1st, when he was here to deliver the Messenger series of twelve lectures, entitled, "The Evolution of Legal Rights". Although he was very busy with work he had brought with him, and had many social engagements, Branch members had numerous opportunities of enjoying conversation with him. His willingness to devote a large part of his limited time to talking with the fellows was appreciated. Too often important guests are spirited away by their faculty friends, and we have very little contact

with them. Three or four interesting evenings, during one of which he gave an able disquisition upon music (as strains of Brahms and Beethoven appropriately accompanied the conversation), were passed in the company of this scholar whose field of culture is as broad as his knowledge of present-day men and affairs.

Mr. Kirby Page, editor of "The World Tomorrow", and author of many publications on the problems of war, race, and industry, dined at the Branch on February 21st. He was conducting a conference here on "Crucial Tests of International Peace". Mike Yarrow and Don Read were members of the committee in charge of the conference.

Dr. James Peter Warbasse, president of the Cooperative League of the United States, dined at the Branch, and spent the night of February 25th here, when he came to lecture before the Liberal Club on "Social Implications of Consumers' Cooperatives."

Jim Mansfield, having done obstetrical service last year which was required of the other men of his class last month, was able to spend a few days at the Branch, during the last week of February. On his way back to Cambridge, a snowy road, deep ruts, and an opposing car provided him with a head-on collision; he and his opponent were unhurt but the cars had to undergo a good bit of plastic surgery.

Mr. H. M. Brattsford, British journalist and lecturer, spoke on "What An English Liberal Saw in Palestine," on the evening of March 6. He had lunch at the Branch, and met Professor Catlin, of the Political Science Department, at dinner here that evening.

Captain C. W. R. Knight, noted naturalist from England, who last year visited the Branch accompanied by a live eagle, stayed here the night of March 16th, sans eagle. His friend, A. A. Allen, Professor of Ornithology, was a dinner guest at the Branch that evening, before Capt. Knight's illustrated lecture on "Sea Hawks", which was enthusiastically received by a large audience.

Fred Spooner's father and uncle paid the Branch an over-night visit February 26th, on their way to New York.

On Wednesday, March 18th, Prof. Burges Johnson, Director of Public Relations of Syracuse University, stayed at the Branch overnight. In addition to Prof. Johnson, who was accompanied by his wife, there were at dinner: Prof. Sidgwick; Harold Black, secretary of the Cornellian Council; and an old friend of Professor Burr's, Dr. J. L. Elliott '92, representative of the American Association for Labor Legislation. After dinner, Prof. Johnson lectured on "Newspapers and the Public Service", and Dr. Elliott spoke on "Unemployment Insurance."

Purpose and Plan Essay

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or industrial life that tend to degrade one class of individuals and to exalt the position of another class beyond the bounds of reason. In my opinion it is likewise the duty of these persons to prevent the use of force under any circumstances and to encourage the progress of international understanding while discouraging chauvinistic nationalism. To develop a group of persons devoted to the furthering of these ideas is the purpose of Telluride Association and Deep Springs.

What mental equipment is necessary, and in what ways do Telluride Association and Deep Springs aid us? We must have open minds, freed from antiquated prejudices and hereditary illusions. This openly receptive mind must be stocked with knowledge, but above all it must be trained neither to reject nor to accept on sight. Judgments must be the result of mature consideration. Only so will the world be persuaded to listen. But this must not be confused with the mind that straddles all issues. A definite stand must be taken on every problem, for problems have an uncomfortable habit of settling themselves if not successfully guided. When once decided, act, talk, be positive. The organizations of Deep Springs and Telluride Association are fashioned to evolve these qualities in the suitably equipped member.

In the company of carefully selected young men, and in surroundings that tend to stress the importance of being earnest rather than of being conventional, the individual encouraged to work out his own salvation with whatever means he finds at hand. The association with a group too small to form cliques, but large enough to provide ample room for the expansion of individuality, is the most important feature of the program. Isolation at Deep Springs makes necessary the ability to be friendly and to work in cooperation with one's fellows, and to appreciate their strong as well as their weak points. It enforces consideration, and nourishes that tender and helpless plant, the beginnings of a social sense. The democratic element is very important also.

In conclusion, I should like to qualify this perhaps too ideal picture with a few words of warning. Deep Springs and Telluride Association are suffering from the evil of low standards in selection of members. I have a strong feeling that we are merely offering a pleasant and inexpensive education to a few of the present members. Perhaps not consciously, but none the less truly, these members are slipping back into the atmosphere from which they were temporarily raised—self-satisfied mediocrity. Talk will bring us but a part of the way toward the accomplishment of the ideas that have been outlined. We appear to be best at talking.

GEORGE B. SABINE

Deep Springs Notes

The fall term of school made a very successful beginning. Scholastically, an improvement over the fall before was quite evident. In fact, in every way the year promised to be a fruitful one. The student body was at least average in make up, and the faculty displayed a much more active interest in affairs. The two new men, aside from their teaching duties, have made much better contacts with the fellows than their predecessors.

The following are the members of the Deep Springs Student Body:

Third Year

Jack Burchard
Hugh Davy
Erik Reed
Dick Roberts
Bob Sheridan

Second year

Carl Allen
Dave Durand
Tom Fairchild
Ellot Marr
Earl Ohlinger
Ted Rust
Sherman Watkins

First year

Walter Balderston
Charles Dimmler
Jim Haughey
Armand Kelly
Don Matson
Roy Ryden

On returning from the Christmas' vacation, all members of the Deep Springs community were sorry to learn that Jack Aoki, first year student from Berkeley, California, for family reasons, felt obliged to remain home and submit his resignation to the Student Body.

The following are the members of the faculty at Deep Springs this year:

Dean W. D. Kumler of Antioch College--Chemistry and Philosophy.

Mrs. Alice M. Kumler of Antioch College--English.

Mr. G. D. Camp of University of California--Math and Physics.

Mr. Eric Moeller of University of California--French and German

Mr. W. L. Cook of Pomona College and Cornell University who, in addition to his several duties as ranch manager and steward of the Boarding House, teaches history and social science.

The following is a list of the officers of the Deep Springs Student Body:

President.....Jack Burchard
Labor Commissioner....Bob Sheridan
S. B. Representative...Tom Fairchild
Advisory CommitteeEllot Marr
Dick Roberts, Bob Sheridan
Secretary.....Ted Rust
Treasurer.....Carl Allen

Librarian.....Donald Matson
Assistant Treasurer...Charles Dimmler
Tool Custodian...Sherman Watkins
Fire Chief.....Tom Fairchild
Sergeant-at-Arms...Walter Balderston

The only great political question which agitated the student body last fall was that of "Policies and Precedents." This book, containing precedents for student body action and compiled by bodies since the beginning, was last year removed from the limelight as a set of guiding principles. About the middle of the fall, a movement was started to bring the book again into force on the grounds that its absence was deleterious to the morale of the body. This motion was defeated and the body continues without written guidance.

Former members of the Ranch Improvement Committee will be shocked to learn that that venerable institution is no longer a part of the organization of the Student Body. The last year and a half has witnessed the creation of three important committees: the Library Committee, composed of two students and two faculty members, which purchases new books and maintains the card index; the Auditing Committee, which audits personal books and statements and offers instruction in the principles involved; and the Public Speaking Committee, which arranges the weekly public speaking programs. As a result of the growing number of committee jobs, there was a movement within the body to make our committee system more efficient by merging certain of them. The duties of the defunct committee mentioned above are now in the capable hands of the Labor Committee.

Reports from Hollywood indicate that Mr. Suhr is convalescing from a successful operation for appendicitis.

Close examination of the floor of Deep Springs Valley shows a new landmark--namely, a windmill. Near the center of the valley about half way to the lake, well-digging operations were started about the first of December. At a depth of about forty feet, water was struck. This spot now forms a new watering place for cattle and makes available for feeding purposes many more acres of prosperous sagebrush.

JOHN BURCHARD
TOM FAIRCHILD

Public Speaking

Shortly after the fall term of 1929, the public speaking programs experienced a radical change. Feeling that three minutes was not sufficient time in which to express and develop a good idea, we changed to the policy of giving six-minute talks, half of the student body speaking one week, and the other half the next. Later in the

year the Public Speaking Committee was created. It appointed a chairman each week to preside over the meeting, and inaugurated the policy of impromptu talks. Altogether, a great deal more interest was taken in public speaking, and marked improvement was shown.

This year the policy of student body control has been carried on, but even more diversified programs have been given. The impromptu talks have been slightly modified. Instead of knowing only three minutes before-hand what our topics are to be, we are given the subjects at dinner. With a half-hour of preparation and the addition of the Britannica to our shelves, there is no one found in the unfortunate predicament sometimes occasioned by the last year's method.

One of the most interesting features of our programs has been the presentation of three one-act plays. Works of Shaw, O'Neill, and Lord Dunsany were given, and the whole ranch turned out to see the local talent.

Two other interesting programs took place: one in which readings, rather than original material, were given, and the other a musical evening we had in the living room. Trumpet, violin, French horn, flute, and piano constituted our orchestra.

One more innovation is the presentation of special topics by the faculty. Mr. Camp has already talked on "Bio-Chemistry and Dietetics," from material gathered at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and Mr. Moeller is soon to lecture on "Ancient Methods of Measuring Time," a subject in which he is interested for his Ph. D.

Incidentally we have had quite a few evenings of regular public speaking, and even one session of the old three-minute talks. The change of program has been not only enjoyable for the audience, but quite beneficial to the students, and has placed public-speaking on a far different level from the "necessary evil" which it was once called.

TED RUST

Notes and Clippings

This item was taken from "The New York Times", issue of February 27:

"Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hill Collins, Jr. of Bryn Mawr, Pa., have announced to friends here the engagement of their daughter, Miss Katherine Hill Collins, to Henry Gillespie Hayes 3d, son of Dr. and Mrs. Henry L. Hayes of San Francisco, formerly of Washington.

"Miss Collins was graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1929. She is a member of the Junior League, and of the Society of Colonial Dames. Mr. Hayes was graduated from Yale in 1927 and later attended the Cornell Law School. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta Psi, and the Telluride Association."