

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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- Staff -

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- SOME LEAD AND SOME FOLLOW -

Some men are born to lead, and some are born to follow. The difference is that which exists between the sound and the echo, the living thing and the mirror's reflection, the genuine and the imitation. And quite often, the echo, the reflection, and the imitation are sadly distorted. The quality of leadership, it seems to me, is an essential test of an Association man.

The Constitution of the Association presupposes that the members of the organization will meet this test. "Equal responsibility" is the foundation upon which the Association government rests. This corner stone of our institution is what permits it to be a democratic trust. In the article dealing with the form of government, specific mentions are made of this feature; but, in addition to this, a reasonably intelligent reading of the Constitution reveals an implicit statement to this effect thruout the document. When the Constitution says that its purpose is confided to men who can and will share the responsibility of carrying it into effect, right then and there it makes leadership an essential qualification of each and every member, for leadership and the power of bearing responsibility are one and the same thing.

The Association is a Public Service institution. It was not intended to develop merely selfish interests. Its character aims at contributing to the community men of ability and character who will be assets to the nation and not liabilities. In a recent communication to the News Letter, Mr. Nunn, speaking of the Association purpose, said, "Its primary aim is not to benefit its members but rather to prepare its members to serve their country and mankind." This means that members of the enterprise must be leaders in their respective fields of endeavor.

The leader is the man who counts. Histories of nations are narratives of leadership. The Hall of Fame is the hall of leaders.

The character of a leader is positive and aggressive. It has initiative, vision, driving power. It is

Rooseveltian. The clinging, halting, hesitating, willy-nilly type of person is poison in the Association plan of government. The jolly-mind makes an air-pocket in our flight. A democracy based on equality of responsibility cannot exist unless its membership is dynamic and affirmative. When, in the course of Association affairs, it appears that some member is not a leader, that he is not sharing his responsibility, we have a case where the elementary principle of the Association loses its vitality, and to that extent the institution fails.

Responsible leadership, guided by honesty, is the indispensable characteristic of a democracy such as ours. Power has a way of accumulating in the hands of those who are able and ready to assume responsibility; and it has a way of slipping from the grasp of those who lack the energy or capacity for responsibility. Rome, first a republic, later a tyranny, is the story of power slipping from the grasp of a people to whom the immediate pleasures of life made a stronger appeal than the duties of citizenship. Political evolution reveals that most tyrannies are the children of democracies. Authority is not a thing that tarries in the hands of weaklings. The success, the everyday life of the Association form of government depends on a membership that is vigorous, able, and public spirited. No written document can guarantee a system such as ours; it can only guide those who are able to comprehend and apply the system.

Judged by the world, the Association's service will be measured by its contribution to the leadership of the nation. It may produce mediocrity, ad infinitum, marking time in obscurity while the world goes by, or it may -- it will -- respond to the call of the nation for leaders.

-- C. N. WHITMAN.

- GERRY ON ACTIVITIES AT CORNELL -

The article by Mr. G. A. Worn in the February issue of the News Letter has given rise to a question in my mind which I should like to discuss and see discussed further. Perhaps the men at Ithaca are in the best position to speak on the recommendation which he makes.

In general I certainly feel that in no wise should a man be conscious of superiority over other men; his only consciousness in this respect should be a certain amount of wholesome respect growing out of strong convictions and purpose. Furthermore, no matter how strongly we feel our purpose and the opinions which back it up, we should never fail to give due consideration to those of others. As Mr. Worn has said, we should broaden our life by contact with others.

However, can we not limit his suggestion and make it more applicable? It seems to me that "the association with fellow students in general, mixing in activities, sports, publications, debate teams, get-togethers, ANYTHING, . . ." is too inclusive. We do, and should, feel pride for and recognize our purpose. We conceive no more worthy purpose than creating in our members the desire to serve and equipping them for it. Perhaps then, we are justified in feeling that our plan at Ithaca is loftier than any other there. Therefore, we can make choices from among the Cornell student body, which we feel will be most advantageous. This can be done without being too exclusive. The help which will come in after life will be from the few but more valuable acquaintances that we have learned how to make, rather than from an ability to mix with anyone. Even if only one-third importance is given this "association with fellow students in general," if such a thing were encouraged it seems to me possible that men at the house might become just "good fellows" and be swallowed up in the crowd.

The strongest thing about the House is that that unity of spirit, felt for four years, is just the thing that will start a man out full of determination to steer away from the \$25.00 job, as a clerk, and not to sell his services to the highest bidder.

Perhaps the students at the house have not made a point of encouraging valuable friendships -- perhaps they have. It would be helpful if we knew their policy in this respect. Can the house be used to look over prospective members?

My point isn't that our students at Cornell should not go to games and be interested in the larger institution, but that it is not necessary for them to emphasize "universal association"

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- DEEP STUFF -

"The purpose of Telluride Association is to promote well-being by broadening the field of knowledge and" can YOU say the rest of it from memory?

The avowed purpose of Telluride Association is to broaden the field of knowledge. Until this past semester when I had the good fortune to take Dean Thilly's course on "An Introduction to Philosophy" as far as I was concerned "knowledge" was a good word. A dictionary definition of the word reads "clear perception of truth and fact; learning; information acquired; skill; acquaintance with any fact or person."

From the philosophical standpoint, however, there is a great deal of discussion as to just what this knowledge is, and how it is acquired. There are ordinarily two camps. As regards what is knowledge, Realism says that it is an exact copy of reality. The idea is an absolute representation of the object. Idealism, on the other side, says that ideas and things, thought and being, are absolutely different and not to be compared.

As regards the question as to the origin of knowledge, Sensationalism, the one school, says that all knowledge springs from perception, that is, from outer or inner perception. The other, Rationalism, says on the other hand that all real or scientific knowledge is derived from reason; it is the result of the immanent evolution of consequences from a priori certain principles which do not arise from

experience. Still deep stuff. It sounds all right, but apparently it doesn't mean anything.

As a concrete proposition the former, or Sensationalistic doctrine (for the present discussion we are interested only in the origin of knowledge, not as to the abstract proposition of what it is) says that the brain is a sponge which can soak up experiences. It is considered as a bucket into which ideas may be poured by the senses. Knowledge can consist only of those things which have been poured into the brain. The brain has not the power to add to the perceptions.

The other, or Rationalistic view says that the brain can take experiences and reason from them to other things. In geometry one does not experience all the different functions of the triangle. These come to him thru his power to reason. By looking at and studying the proposition it becomes clear. Knowledge, then, is not solely the product of the senses, pouring into a bucket-like brain all of their experiences. But certain elements of our knowledge originate within the mind, the seat of which is the brain. We can, then, by sitting in a quiet corner and reflecting, arrive at answers to certain problems.

Psychology teaches us that we can learn to do anything better by merely thinking about it. It is not necessary to experience a thing incessantly to learn it. It teaches that after a little fundamental experience by deliberation and consideration we may greatly improve. One may literally improve his bicycle riding in the winter, and his ice skating during the summer.

It's still deep stuff, and doesn't mean much more now than it did three paragraphs back. Here is what I consider the application of the question. To broaden the field of knowledge, does Telluride Association want to strive to give its members, and members to be, a great mass of experiences in an effort to fill the bucket, or water log the sponge, or does it want to take the Rationalistic view that the mind is an organ capable, one might say at least to a certain extent, of digesting, assimilating a certain amount of experience, adding to it and enriching it by the individual effort and point of view? A determination of exactly which policy the Association wishes to follow, might lead the way very directly toward certain doors of learning, and simplify much that otherwise may prove confusing.

-- P. L. CLARK.

In the January issue of the News Letter was expressed a thought, well worth greater consideration, on the weight which should be given to the conclusions of committees. I refer to Mr. Ashworth's third answer to the question, "What would you do if you had to live your Association life over again?" in which he said, "I should have more confidence in the acts of committees selected by the Association to investigate and recommend certain lines of action." The idea here set forth is, to my mind, an excellent one, especially for an institution like our own which minimizes its confidence in committee work to the point of actual disrespect. And yet we should reach a clearer conception of just what the function of a committee is than contained in the words "more confidence."

A committee is, to me, a means of working out the details of a principle set down by some larger body. Even in a body as small and as thoroughly democratic as Telluride Association, committees are necessary to find out the best methods of executing its plans. The whole Association cannot know all about everything. Some things must be referred to those members who are best acquainted with them. A committee, then, is a group of specialists in its particular subject. Its recommendations should be looked upon as the deliberate opinions of experts, and as such should command the utmost consideration and respect. On the other hand, the general principles involved are the absolute control of the Association. Not only is it a privilege of the Association to guard its principles, but it is also a duty. To neglect this duty is to ruin our purpose by placing too much power in the hands of committees.

To strike the proper medium between over-confidence and under-confidence in committee recommendations is a difficult task, but it is a problem deserving of the greatest care. In public life and business life and professional life we shall be confronted by this same question of what expert advice we will accept and what reject. The decision depends somewhat on the character and ability of the experts. It depends even more on whether or not the broad principles involved are in harmony with our convictions. Proficiency in reaching

the best decision will come thru practice, and that practice can well be had in Telluride Association. In laying down principles, in selecting committees capable of handling the details of these principles, and in judging the efficacy of the committee's work, the Association can gain invaluable experience for later work.

To sum up, I believe that the Association should determine its policies and entrust the working out of only the details of execution to committees. With this limiting statement, I can heartily agree with Mr. Ashworth that we should place more confidence in our committees.

-- Cabot Coville.

* * * *

- PROSPECTORS HIT THE TRAIN -

I thought that an account of a trip in the vicinity of the ranch might be of interest. Last week one of the fellows and myself set out on what might be termed a typical prospector's ramble; and while far from adventurous, still it could serve as a type.

You must understand that the mining fever is now raging in our valley. Few are left who have not suffered its effects. Accordingly this was to be a mining trip and we carried pick and shovel. A typical March wind blew us across the valley, but once on the other side, in our little gully, we were free from it. Queer gullies these, with their granite walls and the narrow strip of sand, threading its way thru the boulders, to mark the one time stream bed. Sometimes the boulders assume strange shapes. There is a giant book, firm in its bookcase, the hillside. Farther along is a huge fellow supported on a tiny pedestal. The rabbits have been able to use him and underneath we find their nests. Then comes an overhanging wall of rock, one hundred feet high. The gully is but three feet wide here, and the much heard of canyon, where one cannot see the sky, approaches reality.

At this time one is saying: surely we are the

first to visit this spot. But these illusions soon suffer rough handling. A large sign on a rock in glaring white letters and three or four broken beer bottles, relics of the good old days, appear suddenly.

After more tamping we are at last come to the diggings of ancient miners. Their tunnels, like those of the old cave dwellers, dot the side hill. It is only when one inspects them, however, that the vast labor necessary to construct them becomes apparent. Then it is that the cruel side of mining's game is thrust uppermost. Think of that labor, all for nothing, all to be passed by.

We tread lightly over these scenes of their labors and eagerly inspect the claim monuments, Alas! they have been reclaimed in 1919, and we are out of luck. And so it is until we arrive at "Silver Lining" number ten and being discouraged by that time, push out in a new direction. Finally, we arrive at a fine ledge, not staked out, where we use our pick and shovel for the first and last time. But we have overlooked a monument lower down and here we find that our friends of the "Silver Lining" have not disdained the "Silver Basin." Thoroughly disillusioned this time, and disregarding all signs of quartz, we push straight for "Al's," the man who cares for the tungsten mine and knows the country. My shoe begins to leak and henceforward I am forced to empty it every hundred paces or walk barefoot. I choose the latter of the two evils.

Six or seven more miles and we arrive at "Al's," but Al is not there. Then for home, diagonally across the valley, and strangely enough we get back in time for supper.

Such is prospecting: in spite of picks and shovels, silver basins and bare feet, it is fun and serves as recreation, if nothing more.

-- W. B. Putnam.

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- SCHOLARSHIP -

The following is the report of the Advisory Committee, under date of 1 March, covering grades for members of the Cornell Branch:

"Cornell Branch of Telluride Assn., Gentlemen:

The Advisory Committee submits the following scholarship report for the first term 1919-20. To arrive at numerical averages, the following values have been taken: "A" 91; "B" 83; "C" 76; "D" 67; "E" 59.

Name	Hours	Average	
		1919-20	1916-17
Beck, D. E.	19	72.6	79.1
Bonnett, E. C.	15	85.6	85.4
Clark, C. R.	12	91.	91.
Makeups	14		
Crichton, R. R.	13	76.09	----
Grassie, H. D.	18	78.	81.8 ('15)
Irvine, R. R.	15	76.6	----
Johnson, E. E.	18	69.83	77.3
Kinney, W. C.	15	84.	80.
Lamb, H. E.	15	77.66	77.3
Lindsay, D. C.	16	70.68	76.6
Mechan, J. E.	17	80.7	----
Scott, I. E.	18	79.5	78.5

- Average by Colleges -

- House Average -

Arts	75.88	1916-17	79.81
Agriculture	84.	1919-20	78.1
Engineering	74.35		
Law	84.33		
Medicine	85.6		

It is evident from the above that scholastic work has fallen below the high standard of former years. Such a condition has been expected, and the fact that the average grade is so high has occasioned surprise in members and non-members. It was thought that the unsettled conditions of reconstruction, the irritability and unrest caused by a sudden change from an active to a sedentary life, would react against scholarly

work. This it has done, but that its effects may be overestimated is indicated by a comparison of the marks of two years, one before and one after the war.

The record of O. R. Clark is the most outstanding. He passed 12 hours senior law work at a straight grade of 91. In addition he passed make-up examinations for 11 hours work, which he had been forced to leave incomplete in the spring of 1916-17, thus passing during the term 26 hours of law.

E. M. Johnson has an average of 69.8 as against 77.5 for the first term 1916. He conditioned a first course in philosophy with a grade of "E". Only 6 hours out of 13 were passed above "D". This may be due to a lack of application to his studies, but the Committee believes that it is caused rather by an unbalanced distribution of time and effort. Johnson is at present a member of two important committees, Editor of the News Letter, and is doing a great deal of outside writing. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, he should be relieved of some of this work.

D. C. Lindsay has been at the Branch since 1915. His grade for the term just passed is 70.5, well under the average of his previous work at Cornell. This may be due to a demoralized condition resulting from the war, but the record is to be remarked especially in that only 5 out of 16 hours are passed above a grade of "D". This may indicate either a lack of concentration or ability. The Committee believes it is lack of concentration and not ability.

R. R. Crichton has, in effect, passed 13 hours of university work for which he received credit with a grade of 76.09. 6 hours of the 19 hours he was carrying were in review of a course for which he already had credit. Mr. Crichton took this course after he found that he was not sufficiently prepared to continue with a more advanced course, and felt convinced that he could not get the requisite knowledge for his future work thru an independent review. It is evident that Crichton was not sufficiently prepared to carry on his work in engineering from the point to which his advanced standing entitled him. Such conditions in the future should be avoided by close co-operation with the Dean of the Association when submitting credit for advanced standing.

The slump in scholastic work cannot be ascribed to any one set of reasons or to any person or group of persons. It seems rather due to a larger, more indefinable condition or attitude; an attitude which characterizes branch meetings and discussions generally with an apathetic willingness to let things go.

No immediate action by the Branch to remedy the condition of scholarship seems advisable. Rather each student should analyze himself and his position, and proceed at once to a direct application of the results of the analysis. This apathetic attitude must be changed, but it cannot be changed from the outside. Criticism alone is of little avail; we must learn to face a situation, study what is lacking in each of us, and then by changing loads and balancing efforts, get all the benefits for which we are here. The Committee reiterates its belief that the marks are not our principal object, but it just as firmly believes that any man who comes here under the direction of Telluride Association should be able to do a grade of work higher than this average indicates. Moreover, he should have time, interest, and effort sufficient to carry on any outside activities in which he feels an interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Advisory Committee.

Wm. D. Whitney, of Yale, reports an average of 92.3 on 15 hours.

C. W. Dunn, of Stanford, reports for the first term an average of "C", without giving number of hours.

The News Letter is in receipt of no other grades than those reported above.

* * * *

Dear Ed:

In the final analysis, the value of an educational institution is measured by the highest type of man it has had a share in preparing. A university may be famous for the number and excellence of its teaching staff, or for its high merit in the world of athletics, but if it has not somewhere on its rolls the name of a man who has become a true leader of humanity thru some influence it has exerted, it will cease to attract that class of man from which his type is drawn. Many children are born with the spark of greatness in them, with the incentive, the potential intellect and breadth of character which must serve as raw materials. Their subsequent training is confined to shaping, developing, and training these latent instincts of greatness. This training must come from an individual or group which consciously or unconsciously supplies to the developing boy the materials requisite for his best growth. If it come from an institution, it may be traced to the influence of one personality in the institution or to the influence of a set of ideals whose existence was the basis for its foundation. The value of the individual or institution to the world is measured in terms of the highest type of man it has prepared.

Telluride Association is a tutor for young men. It has as its aim the shaping of their latent abilities, the strengthening of their aims, the ultimate development of their greatness. We assume that we possess the influence necessary to indicate the way, that development under the influence of our ideals or the influence of our personality will ultimately result in leaders of men, great men -- if the spark was ever there.

Most of us believe that Telluride Association does possess this ability to ignite the idea of greatness, but most of us admit also that the ignition doesn't work so well and rapidly as it might. This is due to the fact that we don't select carefully enough those men we wish to tutor. In the first place, the fact that a man has been made a member of the Association doesn't mean that in a few years he will be sent to a higher school;

the fact that he has been in school one year under our tutelage does not mean that he should be there another. We must exercise our judgment in choosing men for preformment; we must try so far as possible to choose only those who have the incentive, the opportunity to develop under our influence. This is especially the case in light of our financial condition; we haven't the money to make improbable experiments.

A man should be sent to school only when he has demonstrated the presence in himself of something beyond the average. Such a rule of procedure would surely be hard on most of our young hopes, but it is necessary if Telluride Association is to become known from the men it helped develop. Yet when a man has shown himself worthy of further consideration, he should still be allowed to develop according to his own lights, guided always by our influence. No two of our men should be alike. A typical Telluride scholar should not exist. Each scholar should know enough to decide what he wants to do in college, whether it is to make friends, write the daily paper editorials, excel in athletics, or read all the books in the library. Carlyle, Napoleon, Roosevelt, all, probably were able to decide such questions. If we are to develop great men, we can do so by giving them the opportunity and the guiding incentive. Therein we achieve our own reward; we were the counsellor, the friend, and the guiding influence in the development of a great man. If a boy shows the latent possibilities of greatness, we want to give him the chance to develop. If he doesn't have these possibilities, we haven't the time or the energy to carry him. There are too many who are deserving of the place, and the world has a great need of leaders.

-- R. T. Bennett.

Attention to the following changes
of address.

Hoyt, Elton, Indian
Scott, B. G., 1st Lt., 11th Field Artillery, Camp
Grant, Illinois.
Valentine, V. W., Dixie Power Co., St. George, Utah.
Welch, A. H., Dorsey Land & Lumber Co., Texarkana,
Texas.
Whitney, W. D., 188 Bishop St., New Haven, Conn.
Schaub, Stanley; Where is he?

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- PERSONAL -

Dear Editor:

For the present just state in the News Letter
that I have moved my family and self to Provo to
take up a permanent residence. I am taking Brick-
sen's place in the garage, and from my month and a
half experience, I will say that I am going to like
it very much. It is a mighty live business and one
that holds a great deal of experience in it. For
meeting the public in all of its moods, I do not
think that it can be beaten. You meet them when they
are anticipatory, when they are happy, when they are
poeved, when they are damn sore, and when they are
indifferent. You can change the order, but not the
moods,

F. C. Noon arrived here today on his way back
to the coast. He managed to see nearly all of the
fellows in the east while he was there.

It might be interesting to a large number of
fellows to hear that Brickson has moved to Los
Angeles to go into the brokerage business with his
brother-in-law who is already established there.

Sincerely,

Provo, 8 March.

L. R. Edwards.