

TELLURIDE NEWS - LETTER

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AMENDMENT NUMBER.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

"Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION.

Is the News-Letter the official publication of Telluride Association? It may be said that it is official inasmuch as it has been recognized by the Association, its editor having been elected and money appropriated to it by the 1915 convention. But is the News-Letter official in the sense that it may be used for the publication of notices which the Secretary of the Association is under certain conditions required to send to each member?

At the last convention there were proposed amendments to both the constitution and the by-laws, and it is required by the constitution that notice of the proposed amendments shall be mailed to each member at least six months before any action is taken on such proposals. The question then is does publication in News-Letter constitute a mailing of a notice to each member? The News-Letter is mailed to each member, or in some cases to groups of members in sufficient quantities and under conditions such that each member has an opportunity to read its contents. Now if a notice from the Secretary were officially published in the News-Letter,

would it come to the attention of every member, or would it be overlooked when printed along with the many other articles appearing in the paper.

It has been suggested that the official notices might be printed upon a separate sheet, independent of the News-Letter pages, and simply enclosed in the envelopes in which the News-Letter is mailed, thus saving the Association the additional cost of postage and stationery, not to mention the labor of the Secretary which would be, for the most part, a duplication of work done by the circulation department of the News-Letter. To this suggestion, however, the objection that the official notice might be lost sight of, and not be given the serious consideration which it merits, may also be made. From these considerations it is evident that, under the present conditions, publication in the News-Letter could not be interpreted as a 'mailing of a notice to each member' as provided for in the constitution.

If then, the Secretary or any other officer of the Association may not now take advantage of the facilities offered by the News-Letter in making official announcements, should the convention by an act declare the News-Letter the official organ of the Association, and that publication therein constitutes notification as required by the constitution?

In the beginning, the News-Letter was a voluntary institution in that it was largely the product of an individual, its first editor, James Barnes Tucker; the funds provided for its support came from individual subscription or an appropriation by a Branch; it was published in no regular form; and there was no regular time for its appearance. Now, however, the editor is elected and the funds are appropriated for it by the convention; it has a well organized staff of editors; it is published in standard printed covers, and is now being issued regularly on the twentieth of every month during the school year. In addition to these, there are still more important considerations why the News-Letter is entitled to recognition as the organ for official

publication of Association notices. The subjects dealt with in News-Letter articles are of vital interest to all Association members. Its contributions are for the most part opinions and discussions of problems that face the organization during the current year. It is the one medium of general communication among all Association members. That the interest taken by the membership in the News-Letter is indeed keen is evidenced by the demand for copies which increases each month, and the promptness with which members and non non-members receiving the paper give notice of change of address. In this last respect the ability of the News-Letter to serve the officers required to make announcements is paramount. The addresses of members are accurately corrected each month by the News-Letter, while the addresses of members in the files of the Chancellor or Secretary are usually continued without change from one convention to the next. Considering the numbers of moves that certain Association men are in the habit of making during a given year, the matter of a corrected list of addresses is important.

The News-Letter has proved its worth as a medium of general information for the Association. The substance of the various articles it has published have been the result of serious thought, and in many cases was just as important and as powerful in their influence as an official announcement of some sort which is after all merely a matter of form. Therefore, when at the next convention the News-Letter comes up for consideration, the Association should go just one step farther than ever before and declare the News-Letter the "official organ."

-- Secretary H. R. Lamb.

THE PROXY SYSTEM.

At this time when the Secretary of the Association is about to issue an official notice of an amendment referring to a change in our proxy system as proposed at last convention, we feel that it is fitting to call attention to the report submitted by the committee which was designated to make that investigation.

They recommended that Section I of Article IV of the By-Laws be amended by striking out those parts of the following section which are enclosed in brackets:-

"At each annual convention the members shall make an appropriation to defray the traveling expenses of members attending convention. Such appropriation shall not exceed one-third of the amount sufficient to defray the traveling expenses of all members in the event that all the members attended the convention. (Each member in attendance not representing any other member shall receive one-third of his traveling expenses. All members representing other members shall receive the proportion which said absent members would be entitled to receive if present, provided; that, in representing one absent member he shall receive not more than two-thirds of his traveling expenses and in representing two absent members not more than the total of all his traveling expenses.) In addition to the traveling expenses each member attending convention shall receive two dollars a day for each day of his attendance thereon."

This report as found in the minutes of the 1915 convention epitomizes the discussion at the time relative to the abuse of the present proxy system for personal gain, and of the inequitable distribution of appropriation for convention expenses based on such a scheme. Further, in the Report of the Committee on Conventions, is found a paragraph

devoted to the stimulation of interest on convention attendance, wherein is set forth the desirability of reasonable traveling allowances to attending members.

While it may be trite to repeat the substance of these reports and to recall the import of their suggestions, yet too much emphasis can hardly be given to a subject upon which depends the success or failure of future conventions.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to take from the holder of a proxy the financial gain which accrues to him under the present system. This will mean that proxies will be given to men who represent the constituents convictions, or men whom he thinks are best able to decide on questions of Association import. It will secure a more equitable distribution of expense money, without cutting down on the average allowance.

In making any changes in our system it must be remembered that practically every member who attends convention is directly connected with the activities which the Association is carrying on, either in a practical or purely educational way, and that in consequence of that relation has ordinarily no other source of income than that arising as a remuneration for his commercial work or that granted him as a scholarship for the pursuit of theoretical training. It is not often that either source gives rise to a surplus that will permit attendance on convention, and the passage of any measures to curtail reasonable expense allowances will obviously be accompanied with either the member's submission to the hardship entailed, or, and what is more likely, a relinquishment of his most important duty as a trustee.

It may be shocking to the conceit of many of us who have represented the interests of those members less fortunate than ourselves in being able to attend conventions, when the criticism is made that, not only has the surrendering of proxies oftentimes been subversive of the best interests of active trusteeship, but they have been surrendered thoughtlessly and bartered for openly like the commonest articles of commercial value; that rarely has the full weight of

the obligation attached been felt in that degree which conscientious membership presupposes.

If it be possible to re-invigorate our present system; to awaken our minds to a more full realization of the duties and obligations of our trusteeship, there may be no need to legislate a change of method. In the interval before the coming convention there will be ample time to take advantage of News-Letter medium for the circulation of ideas which will give impetus to both an 'awakening' and to a discussion of the proposed amendment.

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CONTROL OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF TELLURIDE CHANGES HANDS.

From the November 8th issue of the Daily Journal, of Telluride, Colo., we reprint the following:

"By a transaction which was completed here Saturday afternoon last, Bulkeley Wells, president and general manager of the Smuggler-Union Mining Co., and president of the Western Colorado Power Co., and his associates bought out the stock of L. L. Nunn in the First National Bank of Telluride. Immediately after this transaction was completed, Mr. Nunn resigned as president and director of the institution and in his place Mr. Wells was elected. W. L. Biersach, who is associated with Mr. Nunn in his interests, also resigned as a director of the bank, and D. A. Herron, manager of the Tomboy Gold Mines Co., Ltd., was elected in his place. This deal carries with it the control of the bank.

The Journal was this morning reliably informed by interested parties to the transaction that Mr. Nunn is now completely out of the banking institution and that with the exception of the changes noted above no other changes in the personnel of the bank's officers nor in the policy of the institution are contemplated by the new owners. In

this transaction Mr. Wells and his associates have secured about seventy percent. of the bank's stock and may possibly secure a trifle more than that before everything is cleaned up.

"The First National Bank is one of the old established institutions in Telluride, being a pioneer in its field. It was incorporated in 1890, Mr. Nunn being one of the original incorporators and the vice-president for the first few years. After about four or five years he became the president of the institution and while it was struggling along at that time made it what it is today, one of the best and most sound banking institutions in the state of Colorado. He has had control of the bank and has been its president for the past twenty years, and the people of Telluride will regret to see him leave here, as this is but another indication that Mr. Nunn is rapidly disposing of all of his interests in this section.

"Mr. Wells carried on the negotiations for himself and associates while Mr. H. R. Waldo, Mr. Nunn's attorney, attended to Mr. Nunn's interests in the deal."

We are informed by Mr. Biersach that at the same time the stock in the bank owned by Telluride Association was sold also, at the price authorized for it to be sold by the 1915 Convention. Further, we learn from Mr. Biersach that in line with the authorization made by the 1915 Convention funds of the Association have been invested in eight per cent. notes of the Utah Lake Irrigation Company to the extent of sixty thousand dollars. Possibly more of these notes will be taken later on.

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RESPONSIBILITY.

Do you have a feeling of responsibility? If you do, you are a man; if you do not, you are a boy. Manhood depends on point of view, and may or may not depend on age. If your point of view is that of taking

an active part in the world's work and of holding yourself responsible for results, you are a man. If your point of view is that of doing what you like to do, of indulging yourself, you are still a boy. A man looks into the future, works towards a distant end, has a purpose, is patient. A boy is impatient, wants his enjoyment now, is irresponsible.

The prevailing life of a university is artificial and irresponsible. Its best friends say it is a preparation for life, which means that it is not real life itself. A university is a highly specialized institution for economically and efficiently discovering, developing and disseminating theory. This is only one side of life; the other side is practice. Either of these two sides considered alone is artificial and unbalanced.

This is not an argument against the existence of universities, for, up to date, they are by far the most successful organs for manufacturing theory that society has. This argument is intended simply to explain the fact that university life is one-sided and artificial; to show the great sacrifice that society makes in order to get the theory necessary for progress; to hint at the reason for the thousand childish ways college society has for entertaining itself; to suggest the why for inter-collegiate athletics, and competitions, and freshman rules, and musical club trips, and fraternities, and 'college spirit.' In order to understand student activities and passivities, is it not necessary to take account of the fact that a university is a highly specialized social organ for producing theory and that this sort of work appeals to only one-half of man, which leaves eight hours a day to be whiled away in abnormal, artificial, ascetic masquerades?

Real life with its red blood comes about from the interaction of theory and practice, of privilege and duty, of freedom and responsibility. No one can have either freedom or responsibility without the other, and neither is something to be imposed upon or given to one; but both are to be won by individual

inward struggle. Freedom and responsibility cannot be separated, for they are parts of an indivisible whole. Do you shirk responsibility? Then you are not free. Would you be free? Then you must accept responsibility.

-- Dean E. A. Thornhill.

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THE DOCTRINE OF RULES.

As might be expected in any organization whose keynote of activity is sounded in every phase which the word progress affects, rules come to have a meaning and significance concerning conduct which is far removed from the ideas of restraint and guidance with which their formulation was linked. They come to be looked upon with a chafing intolerance which is to be considered not as the feeling of hatred for methods of compulsion of any sort whatever, but as the intolerance bred in the course of progress, which comes to preclude the necessity of the continued existence of rules whose purpose has not kept step with the rise of the moral plane.

If the truth of every proposition of right conduct were immediately recognized, there is reason to believe that all rules having as their object the limitation and guidance of individuals, might be set aside to give way to a free, enlightened self-realization in harmony with the moral tenor of a wise social order.

When the conduct of individuals is in accord and acting in parallel with the exemplary purpose set forth in the constitution of Telluride Association, there will exist no grounds for the continuance of rules, the *raison d'être* having disappeared. But rules have their causal impetus in the demands of a practical society, whose component members, while acceding as majorities to the truth innate in the principles of right conduct and therefore needing no con-

crete exposition of them, yet feels the necessity of their definite articulation for the individuals who follow with lagging footsteps, or who cannot come to ally themselves with the moral standard of their group except by coercion.

Truth needs no other recognition than that afforded by intelligent reason. It is in the presence of a clouded ideal of social virtue that the effulgent rays cast by rules are needed to dissipate the enveloping vapors, and to serve as beacons in the path toward the summum bonum of our preamble.

But let our minds realize, that parallels, even those of harmonious conduct, converge upon a point far beyond our finite conceptions, and that we are, by the nature of things, dealing with situations which draw no threads from the warp of the infinite, or have other ends than moral prospects viewed with an eye as yet unopened by any divine inspiration.

When, therefore, we come to consider the vast body of rules with which Telluride Association and its branches have surrounded themselves, it must follow that they were prompted by an enlightened majority to curb the license of a few stragglers, or else inaugurated by the whole at a time when moral standard was at an abysmal depth below the ideal demanded in the course of progress.

It is not only self-satisfying to believe that the truth lies in the first reason, but the opinion of the group will no doubt substantiate it as the fundamental reason for the adoption of the many rules which fill the growing pages of our history.

In consequence there seems to be real reason underlying the intolerant attitude shown toward our methods of legislating in this regard, and a change in the form of a more tolerant recognition of the age and growth of members with the adoption of a principle consistent with the doctrine as outlined above will do much toward alleviating the friction inherent in our present system.

-- C. C. Grandy.

VISCOSITY OF OILS.

A recent letter from Mr. Alan E. Flowers, Professor of Electrical Engineering at Ohio State University, states the following regarding the work on viscosity and lubrication in which the Association has been interested.

"At the annual convention of the American Society for Testing Materials, a paper was read under the title of "A Cylinder Friction and Lubrication Testing Apparatus". Reprints of this paper will shortly be available for the Association record files. Abstracts of this paper were published in several engineering and technical papers and in addition it was re-published in full in "Power", New York, August 10th, 1915, and in the "Mechanical Engineer", Manchester, England, August 23rd, 1915.

"The work done along these lines of viscosity and lubrication has also led to appointments on Committee D 2 on "Standard Tests for Lubricants" of the American Society for Testing Materials, and on the Research Committee's sub-committee on lubrication of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers."

The work on the subject of Cylinder Friction and Lubrication Testing Apparatus was begun at the University of Missouri in 1909, and a small apparatus embodying the principle was constructed and tried out. With the information obtained from the small apparatus, a much larger apparatus was designed and has been assembled at Ohio State University, where it is now set up and available for tests to determine the characteristics of cylinder friction and for the comparison of different cylinder lubricants under the various conditions of steam temperature, steam pressure, piston-ring pressure, speed and oil feed that obtain in service.

Assistance in this work has been rendered, Prof. Flowers acknowledges in his monograph, by the University of Missouri, and Cornell University, and in a

financial way by Ohio State University and Telluride Association. The paper written by Prof. Flowers, and referred to in his letter above, gives a detailed description of the lubrication testing apparatus and its operation, together with the results of many tests which have been thus far conducted. The progress of the work is therein briefly summarized as follows.

An apparatus has been constructed which will readily measure the friction coefficient between piston or piston rings and cylinder wall surfaces.

The conditions of operation of the rubbing surfaces reproduce closely the conditions of service.

Tests may be carried out at various piston-ring pressures, steam pressures, and steam superheat temperatures covering the ranges found in practice.

The lubricating value of different lubricants can be determined by this apparatus.

Certain proposed modifications in the apparatus will make it possible to impose conditions more severe than those met with in practice.

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It is with real pleasure that the News-Letter takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Gordon F. Ferris on his election to the Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Scholarship Fraternity. If our information is correct, he is the first Telluride Association member to achieve this distinction. Three Telluride men have been elected to the highest engineering society, Tau Beta Pi, but up to this time no Telluride scholar has achieved distinction in the Arts and Sciences. Earlier in the year, we had the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Alejandro R. Cota on his election to Tau Beta Pi Fraternity. We are hopeful that some of the Cornell Branch men may show equal merit in scholastic endeavor.

INDIVIDUAL NEWS ITEMS.

'Bill' Alexander writes us from San Francisco, as follows:

"Frank Noon and I have pretty well covered that portion of California which appealed to us as having possibilities of serving our purpose, and have inspected numerous properties of more or less merit.

"We are looking forward, with a great deal of pleasure, to having Mr. Nunn here for Thanksgiving dinner. As Mr. E. P. Bacon and family are also in the city, we hope to have quite a merry little party.

"I have not seen much of the fellows at Stanford, as my work has taken me in other directions. Merrill Wrench came up the last time Mr. Nunn was here and proudly displayed an extra foot or so of trowser length. We scarcely recognized the young gentleman.

"It is needless to say that I have visited the Fair at odd times and have thoroughly enjoyed it."

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G. V. Anderson is now with the Taylor-Wilson Manufacturing Company, in Pittsburg. He is in the department of draughting and design of heavy mill machinery, and is highly satisfied with the position and its premises.

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N. B. Dinkle is now attending Tulane University Night School, at New Orleans. We learn that he is struggling through Taussig's 'Principles of Economics, and infer therefrom that 'Nick' is ambitious.

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Harry E. Horning, who spent several years at Olmsted under the Institute, is now in Bandon, Ore., with the city engineer. He is married and has a girl.

'Davy' Nelson, writing from McAlester, Oklahoma, says:-

"I have just returned from Oklahoma, the state of coal, cotton, holdups, and the creature designated as the mosquito. As you are perhaps aware, it is only a few years since Oklahoma was very famous for her outlaws. While I was in McAlester, one of the moving picture establishments showed the "Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaw," but within the following three days after the showing of these pictures, two or three gentlemen relieved three of the banks of their specie. Nobody was injured.

"Within the next few days, I shall leave for an extended tour of Montreal, Quebec, and other points in the Dominion of Canada. From an indirect source, I am informed that the temperature adjacent to the Hudson Bay is forty degrees below zero. When I reach that territory, perhaps the receipt of the News-Letter will materially assist me in discovering another pole."

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It is reported from reliable sources that our esteemed Chancellor, his wife, and George Halliday were seen touring San Diego in a motor car very recently. They seemed to be enjoying themselves, the observer being unable to attract their attention.

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COMMENTS.

In reference to an article entitled "Organization of Branches" published in the October number of the News-Letter, we have received the following:-

"As to Dean Thornhill's question whether the Association should say that its members residing at Stanford and Purdue ought to form a branch, my answer is a flat "no." A branch composed of but three or four members, too widely separated to have many

close common interests, too few to enforce any rules of conduct, and hence with practically no cause for being, is too liable to be a mere travesty upon the name of Branch for the Association to say that such an organization must be formed. If the members in question desire a branch it becomes a different matter.

-- R. F. Ferris.

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In an article on "Constitutional Interpretation" published in the October number, we asked whether the present method of Constitutional Interpretation was the best that could be devised. All the answers we have received have answered the question in the negative. If interpretation by the officers is not the best method, will some Abbe Sieyes offer a better plan? We hope this question will be in the minds of the readers of the following contributions on that question.

"I have read with astonishment the statement of the President of Telluride Association, quoted in the October News-Letter, regarding the status of Association members residing in the vicinity of a Branch but not under the auspices of the Association. To me, the explanation of his action which the President presents entirely fails to justify his ruling. I cannot but regard the ruling as in direct contravention of the plain statements of the Constitution and as a regrettable replacement of the Constitution by the personal whims of the President of which we have already had entirely too many examples. The awful consequences which he conjures up are as nothing compared with what will actually transpire if the officious meddling and usurpation of power by the President are not curbed. There is indeed reason to fear "subversion of the purposes of the Association", but it is hardly to be expected from the source which he professes to fear."

-- G. F. Ferris.

"There is a growing tendency in the Association to centralize its power. The branches are given charters by the President; and this same officer appoints a branch executive, who is actually, if not in theory,

the President's representative at that branch. In other words, the central government is represented at the branches, rather than the branches represented at the central government.

"We have allowed our officers to assume the power of interpretation. Thus our officers assume not only an executive authority which is granted them by the Constitution, but also a judicial authority which is not granted them anywhere.

"By silence and inaction we have placed our stamp of approval on this usurpation of our most precious privilege. For "I care not who makes the laws if I may interpret them."

"And now to be specific. Why in the name of all that's Telluride should the President be allowed to edit the voting list of the Cornell Branch?"

"We are given to understand that there might be members "in no way fitted to administer the expenditure of large sums, nor to conduct important affairs," and yet these hypothetical unworthy members, we are given to understand by the Constitution, are worthy to vote in the Convention and do their part in administering the affairs of the Association as a whole. In other words, there might be members worthy to vote in the Convention, yet unworthy to take part in the branch government.

"There are at Cornell at the present time, three members on whom the Association has spent large sums of money in the past. This year the Association either was not able, or did not see fit to grant preferment to these men. Instead of sitting down and bemoaning their fate and waiting until the Association was ready to help them again, these men found a way to continue their work on their own resources.

"They entered Cornell, and as I understand it, desired to continue their affiliation with the Cornell Branch; to continue to be under the guidance and influence of that organization and take part in its government. But the branch, the ambassador of the Association at Cornell, through its interpreter, does

not recognize them. They are outsiders. They have no part in the branch, and the branch has no part in them. The influence, the obligations of the branch are bounded by the four walls of Telluride House.

"It is time that the members of the Association assumed the right of interpreting the laws that they made. It is time that they realized that the officers are their servants, appointed to carry out their will, and not dictators, vested with the power of interpreting the Mass Made laws to accord with individual judgment.

"It is true that most of the President's interpretations have been wise, but the wisdom of the interpretations does not make them lawful. Perhaps the Association should vest this great power in the President, but if we do this, we must realize that we are exchanging our democracy for the chance that we may be governed more wisely. In the mean time, the members should jealously guard their privileges and not allow any officer or member to usurp a power which is not his."

— Douglas A. Buckler,

"Referring to the anonymous comment printed in the last News-Letter: I want to say that I never heard such bosh in my life as the statement made by this particular Mr. Anonymous. The Ithaca house is one of the agencies through which the Telluride Association carries on its work and it is the duty of the Association in Convention assembled to determine upon and provide for the utilization of this agency in what seems to it the most advantageous way for the furtherance of the objects and purposes of Telluride Association. Having so decided it is the duty of every member of the Association to respect and abide by that decision and the idea that a member may disregard the decision of the Association and go and live at the house and enjoy the benefit of the expenditures made by the Association in operating the house regardless of its expressed wishes is certainly an astonishing one and I cannot help thinking that the mental attitude of any member who would even permit such an action, much less defend it, is

entirely wrong and that he is looking at the matter from a selfish standpoint rather than thinking of the direct interests of the Association."

-- H. R. Waldo.

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Last month we made an announcement concerning anonymous articles. In regards to this we have received from two of the Alumni the following constructive criticisms,

"I think the idea of a column for comments similar to the open forum carried on by many newspapers is a good one, but I don't think that an anonymous article should be published in it under any circumstances and would urge very strongly that this practice be discontinued in the News-Letter."

-- H. R. Waldo.

"I am not unaware of the well defined Western rule 'Welcome to sit in this game, is he who owns a stack of chips,' but I move suspension of that rule, for just a moment.

"In the latest issue of the Telluride News-Letter I find, under 'Comments,' an invitation to the Association members to discuss any or all articles which may appear in a previous issue, and am startled at the 'privilege' given to 'anonymous' contributors. During the several decades past 'Anon.' has been mailing threatening letters to prominent officials of this country; to our most respected citizens; to mothers, wives and sweethearts, not only for the purpose of receiving ransoms, but to inspire fear in their hearts of the ever-present 'unknown' who may strike at them from out 'unknown' places, with that instrument of torture or death which is a true synonym of 'anonymous'---the dagger!

"Is it in accord with the 'purpose and plan of Telluride Association' to teach its members to evade detection by sinking themselves in the mire, when they shall have taken sides with the opposition on any issue? If he will speak, let him show his face!

-- O. P. M. Biersach.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

B. F. Armstrong, c/o Utah Power & Light Co., Eureka, Utah. Ben left Boise about Oct. 15th and after a two weeks' vacation, went to Eureka. Here he is handling the 'New Business' end of the Utah Power & Light Company's business.

O. P. M. Biersach, 605 Kearns Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.

D. A. Buckler, c/o Johnson Auto Sales Co., Twin Falls, Idaho. 'Buck' returned to Salt Lake from Naylor-Clark Auto Co. the first week in November, expecting to get a rest, but the last of November found him in Twin Falls. He is in charge of the sales of Hudsons in Idaho for the Betterill Company.

W. L. Cane, R. F. D. No. 1, Springville, Utah.

C. E. Chaffin, Alta, Utah. It looks like Charlie's mine is getting serious.

L. F. Daly, Eureka, Utah.

H. E. Ray, 710 Walker Bank Bldg., Salt Lake City.

L. A. Sweeney, 303 Jackson St., Pueblo, Colo.; Sweeney, when we heard from him Dec. 1st, had been ill with the la grippe. He was home, and was beginning to think of work, so our first feeling of alarm has subsided.

D. S. Tucker, Provo, Utah.

J. G. Miller, c/o W. L. Biersach, Provo, Utah. Is taking an extended trip through eastern Washington.

ERRATUM.

B. C. Backrack, Westminster Bldg., Chicago, instead of "B. O. Biersach" as stated in last issue.

GROUPS AND BRANCHES.

BEAVER BRANCH:

The Beaver Branch takes this opportunity to wish every one a most happy Christmas.

Since last month's contribution was sent in, a new staff has been put in charge of the News-Letter correspondence. The Editor-in-Chief is L. R. Fournier, and his assistants are Lathrop, Jandl, Moehan and Fruit. In the past it has been the custom to send in merely the news, but the present staff hopes to be able in the near future to furnish articles on matters of a more general nature.

On Friday, November 26th, Mr. Diehl left to make a service observation trip to the various mines and smelters we are serving. His trip extended over a period of five or six days.

A departure from the old idea of having twenty-four, eight, and six hour men has been made. Every man is a six hour man. Eight are on outside work, and eight on shift.

While making wooden wedges, McEale unfortunately severed connections with most of the little finger on his left hand.

It is rumored that Mr. Noon and Mr. Woodhouse expect to pay us a visit soon.

Since the arrival of the Bliss Branch, there have been evidences of an added activity. This may be due to increased numbers rather than to added energy, but it is hoped that a greater efficiency will result, and that this year may be made a banner one in the history of the Beaver Branch. There are now sixteen fellows here, besides Prof. Jandl and Prof. Jones. At first there was some question as to how to keep so many busy. However, the pipe

line eventually solved the problem. Mr. Lowe, the regular patrolman, was discharged, and the care of the water system was taken over by the fellows, working under the direction of Mr. Diehl.

The first bad case of trouble occurred on the afternoon of December 5th. While we were peacefully enjoying the Sabbath quiet, it was reported that there was a leak in the upper pipe line. About 6:00 P. M., Fournier and Lathrop started to make an investigation, and discovered a two-inch stream shooting from an old air valve hole just below the road at the cable crossing. Nothing could be done that night, but the next afternoon a party consisting of Mr. Diehl, Dunn, McCarty, Lathrop and Osgerby, set out with the proper tools and soon had the leak stopped. It was not a cold day, so no one suffered from his wetting. Oh, yes, they got wet! No trouble with the pipe line freezing is anticipated this year, since the load is so heavy that it keeps a fairly swift current of water in the pipe.

The weather has not been exceptionally cold this fall, and the snow-fall thus far has been comparatively light at camp. Higher up in the hills, however, it is two and three feet deep. Several light falls have occurred here, but they have melted off in a few days.

The question of branch government has been asserting itself here since the beginning of school. With the arrival of the men from Bliss, the matter received new impetus and has taken a very interesting turn. The practicability of the form of government provided for in the By-Laws of the Association was questioned because of the small number of Association members both at Beaver and Bliss. With the combination of the two Branches, this objection was modified to some extent, but still it was of sufficient importance to excite considerable comment.

Sentiment here does not favor that form of government, and as Mr. Nunn favors a system such as was used at Olmsted, the Branch has been attempting to perpetuate the Student Body Organization under a constitution and by-laws similar to those used there. Outside opinions have been rather slow in reaching us. It is hoped that there will be some discussion of the point in the News-Letter.

INSTRUCTOR'S SCHOLASTIC REPORT:

From the viewpoint of the instructors, school work during the past month has not progressed as favorably as had been anticipated. It was thought that ideal conditions and the advantages of combination would so stimulate each man in his studies as to bring about unusually good results. It was hoped that all would experience progress somewhat evenly, so that well-balanced, rather than disproportionate, classes would be the rule. However, expectations and realities proved to be at variance. What had begun as an impressive month, a month in keeping with the gala year idea, was impressive chiefly in its mediocrity. This condemnation is not leveled at the entire branch, but, on the whole, the poor work of the drones was poor enough to more than offset the excellent work of the workers, leaving, as regards the general situation, much to be desired. The most ominous development was the astonishing gap created between worker and idler within the short period of one month. This condition became so pronounced in the elementary German class as to necessitate the formation of a 'flunky' class. It is to be hoped that this procedure will completely remedy the situation. From the beginning, it has readily been apparent that unsatisfactory work has locally been synonymous with idleness; deficient mentality has played no part. Full of import in itself is the fact that those who have done poor work in one class have uniformly done poor work in all their classes. This opportunity is taken to announce to the leisurely inclined aristocrats that these lines are a solemn warning, for idleness cannot and will not be tolerated.

CORNELL BRANCH:

From December 9th to December 14th, Prof. Henry Morse Stephens, of the University of California, was a guest of the Branch. Mr. Stephens is the head of the Department of History at California; President of the National Historical Society, and an author of some note. On two evenings about midnight he read Kipling to a number of the fellows with a vividness engendered by years of sympathetic study of him who is probably the greatest of contemporary English authors.

On the evening of December 4th, we were agreeably surprised by a visit from Ted Munroe. Ted's father is a consulting chemist, Ted, himself, an insulting chemist, as he puts it. His chest increased one diameter when he told us that he had another member in his family, a girl just one month old. Ted was returning from a business trip to Toronto, Canada, at which place he visited H. C. Don Carlos, who is an operating engineer with the Hydro-Electric Company of Ontario. From him we learned that Tom Hinkley has been transferred from Vienna to the American Legation at Madrid. Many of the old men will remember Hinkley and Don Carlos.

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IT CAME TO PASS.

It came to pass that in the third year of the reign of Wilson over the people of the United States, there dwelt in the city of Ithaca, which is in the land of New York, a mighty host of men who had gathered themselves together from all parts of the earth; yea even some from the land of the Mormons, which is in Utah. And they did all dwell together in a house of Telluride. And they were surrounded with all manner of luxury; yea they did lie on cots wrought exquisitely in brass, and were provided with all manner of foods and comforts. Yet there was contention among them; yea, those who did dwell on the East in the house of Telluride did take up arms and contend with those on the West. And there was sore strife among them.

Now it came to pass that the West-siders waxed exceedingly bold and they did send a message to the East-siders, saying: "Mark, ye, oh, thou weaklings of the East side, that we, the unconquered of the West side, do, hereby challenge thee to a game of foot-ball to be played on Thanksgiving Day which is on Thursday!" Now when those of the East read this, there was much fear in their hearts and they were loath to accept the challenge. But behold, Maggie, one of their number,

being eloquent and quick of speech and speedy of tongue, spake to his bretheren, saying: "Oh, ye of little faith. Why shouldst thou flee from the face of thine enemies? Are ye not as strong as they? Rise up, oh, my bretheren and give battle to these, thine enemies." And thus did he speak unto them and they were moved and hearkened unto his words and forthwith began to prepare for the great battle.

And it came to pass that each side did choose itself a captain and each captain did train his men in all manner of shrewdness and cunning, and did give them signs whereby they might deceive their enemies. And after the space of many days, each side waxed exceeding strong in the art of football.

Now, behold, the day for the great battle came and each man did gird on his heaviest armor. Yea, they did wind much cloth about their knees and loins, and about their heads they did bind much padding. And now, when the hour came, each mighty host stood in splendid array at each end of the great field of battle. And the signal was given to fight, and they did rush upon each other with exceeding speed, and did contend mightily with one another. Now there was much mud upon the land, and they did wallow in it even as a pig in the mire. And there was tackling, and slipping, and sliding, and punting, and falling, and all manner of movements. And it came to pass that they did contend for forty minutes in this manner. Now when it was over and they had scraped the mud from their eyes and digged it out of their ears they did see and realize the score which was twelve for the East-siders and nothing for the others.

Now when those of the East saw this, there was much rejoicing in their hearts, and they did yell much and make merry. And there arose among the West-siders a mighty cry and there was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and tearing of hair, and they did beat their breasts in anger, and they returned to their home in sadness and there did girt sack-cloth about their loins and did pour ashes upon their heads and did repent of their sins, for they saw that they were no more favored in the sight of the Lord.

STANFORD GROUP:

The four Association members attending Stanford have finally decided to form a branch and will apply for a charter. The benefits that will accrue to any one of us are at best doubtful, but the formation of a branch will provide a slight foundation on which those who follow us may build. We will be somewhat in the position of a Central American Revolutionary Army, in which there are no men below the rank of captain.

L. J. Farrer will accompany the Stanford University Glee Club on a vacation trip to Hawaii.

G. F. Ferris was recently elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the scholarship honor fraternity, being one of five from the spring graduating class.

The Chancellor passed through and spent a day with us recently and Mr. Nunn was also in the vicinity a short time past.

Examination week is upon us. -- G. F. Ferris.

PURDUE GROUP:

'Jack' Townsend writes us as follows:-

"During my freshman year here at Purdue, the excitement of really being in college, the wholesome awe of the sacred precincts wherein the upper classmen roved, unrestrained by the more or less rigid conventions to which we poor yearlings must adhere, caused me to forget for a time why I was here and by whose aid I could be here. I was away from the physical influence of Association members and only a few times during the whole year did I re-establish a connection with them.

"Now, that state of affairs has been changed by the advent of the News-Letter, and we, who are unfortunate enough to be without a branch organization wherein matters pertaining to the Association may be discussed, may read with delight the events at other places, of the efforts and successes of our fellow

members who would otherwise be over-looked and perhaps forgotten.

"It is indeed a good thing and one needs only to be removed for a time from contact with other members to realize the value of such a link as you staff members are striving to forge.

"I can appreciate in a measure what a task you have each month in trying to collect information for the coming issue, especially if all the other men at 'outside' places are as liberal with their contributions as we fellows at Purdue. You have my sympathy. But stay with the ship, for I believe the result of the work you are doing will be a greater unification of those who are fortunate enough to be known as members of Telluride Association.

"There isn't a great deal to be told of the members at Purdue, because the fellows have so much to do in keeping up with the class work that practically all the outside activities are eliminated from our routine.

"We all find time for a little outside reading, however, and I sneak in an evening with the Glee Club, every once in a while. Along the reading line it may be of interest to some to know that there is a reading club, known as the "Book a Month Club". Its members are men and women who read at least one book a month from the lists recommended by President Stone and other prominent faculty members. This plan seems to appeal to a great many students and it has been said that the results obtained from such a procedure, as is recommended, are highly gratifying.

"Then, too, they have but recently passed a resolution that no student shall graduate from this institution without one credit per year in physical training. Most of the upper classmen who are not on 'varsity teams take their weekly exercise in more or less extensive doses of cross country hiking.