

# TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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## - Staff -

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-- THE CONVENTION --

I write this in response to the Editor's general request for discussions on matters that may interest us in convention.

The possibility of enlarging our endowment is something that has attracted the attention of many of us for some time. From the beginning our Conventions have found it desirable to accept contributions to supplement the income of the Association. Recent years have seen a shrinkage of the dollar until it is now less than half the size it was when our first Convention met in 1911. While our endowment has increased a little on paper, it is obvious that today it is only about half its original size.

Suggestions that we should establish a new preparatory branch have ignored the financial impossibility of such a thing. In fact, any extension of our equipment must be preceded by an enlargement of our resources. If we are granted the further co-operation of the institution at Deep Springs, we need not worry about a preparatory branch, for that is an ideal establishment for our purpose. But, even with the co-operation of Deep Springs, we have other financial problems that are acute.

The salaries we have paid our officers have been only nominal. The salaries of the Chancellor and Dean are about the minimum received today by a worker in the building trades. They have met the situation because of special circumstances that we are not entitled to rely on indefinitely. Were we to bid in the competitive market for services such as we need, the sum required for salaries, together with other overhead expenses, would absorb practically all of our income. The balance would not meet the present provision for payment of traveling expenses to the Convention, not to mention the proposed amendment to meet them in their entirety.

Many times during the past year, newspaper headlines have told of large bequests made by men of wealth to educational institutions. Quite often, the testator has known but little of the institution to which he bequeathed his fortune; he has selected

the beneficiary after consultation with others, and has frequently been guided by the personal influence of friends. Had these public spirited men been made conversant with the merits of Telluride Association, our endowment would be much larger today.

Our officers and graduates are meeting potential philanthropists in the course of their business and social activity. Surely a quiet and dignified presentation of the merits of the Association has nothing objectionable about it. I suggest no organized campaign, but many of us have opportunities to bring the Association and its needs to the attention of public spirited men who are seeking opportunities to promote institutions dedicated to the public welfare. Telluride Association is a unique institution, aiming at the highest attainable ideals, devoted to the progress of the country, and operating on a plan that makes a strong appeal to men of understanding.

#### GUARD OUR DEMOCRATIC RULE

Our constitution calls for equality of responsibility. It provides officers for administrative purposes, but strictly limits legislative authority to the members acting democratically in conventions.

The past has witnessed some abnormal growths of official authority, one instance of which was the Branch Executiveship. This departure from the democratic principle shifted responsibility to a considerable degree from the many to the few. The result was demoralizing. It developed some of the symptoms that we find in a preparatory school under the strict paternalistic rule of a principal. Our system rests on confidence in each individual. If certain members do not merit confidence, the personnel should be modified accordingly. Official supervision is a device that may develop form, but at the expense of the substance. As David Starr Jordan, a recent visitor at Telluride House, said, "the only true discipline is self-discipline." The development of this form of discipline is a main object of our Constitution. It contemplates the growth of the qualities of good citizenship by providing the opportunity for them to function.

If the cardinal doctrine of our organization appears impractical to anyone, let him speak up. No system can succeed in the hands of a man who has no confidence in it. My personal opinion is that the success of the system depends upon the quality of the personnel.

If trusteeship is to be taken seriously, every member must be accorded his full measure of responsibility. Paternalistic officialdom would cultivate the high school boy's attitude of hide-and-seek with the teacher.

Any emphasis upon the democratic character of the Association should always be accompanied by a reminder that it rests on a trust. Some members have ignored the Constitution, and when called to account, have pleaded democracy in their defense. We who have entered the Association have stated that we did so to help realize its purpose. Our responsibility is given us in trust for this purpose, and we must keep the obligation in mind equally with the privilege.

I do not wish to be understood as saying that every member should be expected to take an equal part in the leadership of the Association. That 'some lead and some follow' is a truth which will make itself apparent in our organization as surely as in any other. But such leadership as arises should rest on the merits of the individual, and should not be founded on official prerogative or official prestige. No two human minds being the same, some will be wiser than others, and the wiser mind should receive the attention it merits. This is merely a practical condition of successful democratic government. Bolshevism is a good illustration of the impractical attempt at democracy that repudiates wise leadership and thereby brings itself either to anarchy or despotism. We have at times been tainted with this folly. I recollect that a strong and emphatic stand was once taken by a member whose superior wisdom was generally admitted and conclusively proven by his achievements. A few members rejected his advice on the theory that to accept it would destroy their independence of judgment. This is as foolish as to aim a gun with the eyes shut. All successful men have made a liberal use of other people's ideas.



A member of a democracy must do the same; it is his duty and privilege to select ideas as well as to originate them. I trust that the coming Convention, confronted as it will be by serious problems, will demonstrate its good judgment by seeking the advice of Mr. Munn.

### IDEALS

An article in the last News Letter stated that "we have talked enough about ideals." The author of the article said that he believed he expressed the "trend of sentiment" as he gathered it from the News Letter. I have not so interpreted the discussions which I have read.

This organization was born of ideals, and it aims to realize ideals. The purpose we set before us must be the standard by which we shape our action. We must keep this purpose in the light, or we are without a compass. It will not do to limit our study of the Constitution to its financial provisions; our attention should be given to the preamble as the thing of primary importance. We stand today in vital need of a more comprehensive conception of what the Association means. As long as this is a merit institution we must know what "merit" means, and in coordinating the thought of a number of people on this matter we shall always face a discussion of ideals.

The main reason for meeting in convention is to exchange ideas on matters relating to the educational phase of the Association, and to judge the merits of the past year's performances. The more business end of the Association could be administered by a small executive committee with more efficiency and economy than by our present system; but in order to avoid any abridgment of the complete responsibility of trusteeship, business matters are intrusted to the membership as well as educational matters, but it is obvious that the latter are what the Constitution considers of prime importance. Any other view would mean that we have a very wasteful method for the distribution of pure patronage.

In considering the ideals of the Association there is no call for revivalistic grandiloquence

or vapid sentimentalism. We must shun the false emotionalism that inspires impractical feelings for the time being and then subsides to leave the victim in reaction. But most certainly there should be a sane and conscientious study of the ideals of the Association. The material gifts which we have to bestow are given us in trust. Let no man who enjoys the privilege ignore the obligation.

-- C. H. Whitman.

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#### -- INCREASING ENDOWMENT --

The editorial in the last issue of the News Letter, relative to increasing the endowment, meets with some opposition in my mind.

My feelings are summed up in the first paragraph of that article; namely, that those organizations, which solicit money for their welfare, are fishers. Nothing is more distasteful to me than the tact of an educational institution, of supposed dignity and standing, putting out its nets. It suggests that it hasn't wherewith to stand on its own feet; it admits that, rather than build up reputation and prestige first, it is asking for reward before it is worthy. Perhaps too that institution has failed to consider the public spirited gentleman, who makes endowments. Is it not presuming to try to form his judgments for him? True, we are glad to help the Salvation Army or the Red Cross Society, but they are different. They stand for charity and serve to keep that recognized necessity before the eyes of each citizen. Yet, all people do not admit the completeness of every institution of learning nor the validity of particular theory. Therefore, no one of them may be presented to the public in the same light as the Salvation Army. It must prove itself.

I dare say that the founder of Telluride Association felt that it would only truly expand, commensurate with the degree to which its ideal is ac-

cepted. If such is true, increasing its scope, by going a-begging, would bring but an artificial result. However, one might say: "People are indifferent; they need to be awakened to the need for the furtherance of undertakings such as ours." Surely, if they don't help in our activities as a result of veneration for the preamble, their interest could not be permanent. Veneration of this kind cannot come as a result of pressure; it must grow. No, the expansion of the Association will be advanced by the example shown by the lives of its members.

Indeed, endowments are needed in this country; there is a crying necessity for the more complete development of the promising; but this general policy may be furthered without Telluride Association pointing to herself as the recipient.

Regardless of what Cornell and other universities are doing, I should prefer to see our own organization best a storm without calling upon outsiders or appealing to its Alumni; I should rather have its membership reduced to sixty than to put a premium on its ideals.

-- Harvey Gerry.

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#### -- PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS --

In the notice given by the Committee on Convention Expense and Attendance on December 20, 1919, concerning amendments to be proposed in the 1920 Convention, is this sentence: "It is to be noted that Section 2 of Article V of the Constitution of Telluride Association is to be amended only when said Constitution had been changed by the action of all parties concerned so as to permit such amendment." Section 2 of Article X states that Section 2 of Article X, Section 2 of Article V, and others, "shall not be amended or repealed, but shall remain in full force and effect forever." Furthermore,

Article IX states that "In the event of the violation by the Association of the letter and spirit of this trust, the title to all property belonging to the Association -- shall at once vest in the Smithsonian Institution."

The amendment proposed is evidently designed to take advantage of commercial opportunities and to permit action in emergencies, action which would be impossible to the convention but not for the custodians. While the amendment may not violate the spirit of the trust, it does the letter. Our Constitution is so carefully and tightly drawn, especially in the section mentioned above, that I cannot conceive even by the action of all concerned, that the proposed amendment can possibly be adopted.

-- James S. Holmes.

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-- PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION --

The proposition to reduce the minimum membership from one hundred to sixty deserves careful consideration, since it has some very good points. At the last convention we were very much hampered, in the revision of our membership list by two constitutional requirements; one which demands that the membership of the Association never be allowed to fall below one hundred; and the other which requires that we never take in so many members that we shall not have more than three hundred dollars income for each member. These two regulations place our minimum membership at one hundred and our maximum at about one hundred and ten. The result, the Chancellor has said, was, that it required no small amount of skill to arrange the electing of new members and the dropping of old, without exceeding those narrow limits. A reduction of the membership minimum to sixty or fifty would obviate all such difficulty.

When the constitution was drawn up in 1910 and 1911, it was felt that an income of three hun-

ared dollars per member would be sufficient to maintain the work of the Association. Today when economists place the value of a dollar at fifty cents, the allowance of 1910 is no longer adequate. It would be impossible to maintain the Association, if it was composed entirely of active members, on the basis of three hundred dollars. A reduction of membership will greatly facilitate the workings of the organization in convention; at the same time such a reduction will tend to reconcile the membership with the first financial limitations. The result will be a greater freedom of action for the broader, deeper work that must be done.

Those who have great faith in the purpose and plan of Telluride Association, and who repose much confidence in the members of the organization, find difficulty in crediting the argument against membership reduction, viz: That such a reduction would serve as a precedent for future reductions, until in the end Telluride Association would dwindle into an organization of twenty or thirty members. If we have, in our present membership, fifty men who are capable of actively carrying on the Telluride work, and if we have the means of obtaining applicants of the desired caliber, the failure of the Association in the way suggested above is impossible.

Many of the questions involved in the defraying of the expenses of the members attending conventions are unknown to me. This causes some hesitation in giving an opinion for publication. I have always felt that a convention was the climax of a year's work; and was, therefore, the most important event of the year. The better attendance we have at conventions, the more successful the conventions, and it follows, the whole Telluride work is improved.

If all this is true, it is worth almost any expenditure to get as large an attendance as possible. The finances of the organization are, due to the conditions of the times, at a low ebb. It will add a heavy burden to these to meet the traveling expenses of members. Nevertheless I am strongly in favor of the amendment offered by the committee covering this point. A truer representation of the members not at-



tending conventions, will surely follow the adoption of this plan. Proxies will no longer have a commercial value; and it may be safely kept, that men unable to go to the meetings, will choose those who can best represent their views to hold their proxies.

If the roll of the Association was to remain at its present strength, the adoption of an amendment whereby a majority vote of the total membership, would suffice to elect a candidate, would be very advantageous. Should the size of the Association be reduced, there would be no benefit gained from such an action. With an active body of fifty or sixty men, attending conventions and comprising practically the entire strength of the institution, a three-fourths vote seems to be a fair requirement for the election of a candidate. If the demand that a man must receive the favorable vote of three-quarters of the whole Association, will improve the standard of those entering the Association, let us by all means enforce this demand.

As has often been said, a certificate of graduation from Telluride Association should be a reward for exceptional accomplishment. It should be granted, not to those who have finished a prescribed course of study, but to men who have truly broadened the field of knowledge. However, some award should be made by the Association, to those members who have served it faithfully, and who are resigning from active participation in its affairs. A certificate of honorable discharge, as suggested by the committee would be one means of granting such recognition. This certificate should be a very acceptable reward to those who receive it; it should represent gratitude of the Association to those who have helped carry the burden.

Deep Springs, 26 May, '20.

-- Sherlock Davis.

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#### TO MEMBERS OF TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION:

At the time this last summons to Convention reaches you it is to be hoped that all of you have already notified the Secretary of your intention of being present. A few will necessarily find it impossible to attend, but these should be extremely few, simply because the reasons for putting Telluride Association second to other interests at this time are hard to find and much more difficult of justification. "Being conscientious" is all that is asked, and desired, of men of our organization, but that implies serious thought and at this time willingness to make sacrifice. The great evidence of our life and purpose comes out at convention; it is the one time that we need our strong men with us and the time that we feel that the disinterested or weak ones are our biggest discouragement. This feeling is the direct cause for the proposed reduction of membership to that which shall be virile.

Next to absence at Convention, and sometimes even more serious, is tardiness. Tardiness is often less excusable than absence. Nothing contributes more to set up an indifferent attitude for the whole Convention than the inability to start business proceedings at the first meeting. Be there and be prompt! After the action taken at last Convention, no one will neglect being represented if he is unable to attend.

#### TO THE ALUMNI OF TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION:

It is the intention this year to have all reports read as soon as possible after the calling of the Convention and this will be done on the second day, June 22. Since this will sum up the work of the past year, and in other respects prove most interesting, that second day will be known as Alumni Day -- the time when you Alumni are very especially welcome. We hope that you may come, and then that you may stay; we should like your counsel and interest. Being on the outside and viewing our actions from a distant and impartial vantage point, your criticisms will be eagerly sought. We hope you will come.

-- W. C. Kinney,  
Vice-Pres. Telluride Assn.

-- THE SELECTION OF PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS --

With another Convention of the Association in view, we naturally forecast the subjects which we expect will form the center of discussion and give them a little more intensive thought than usual. A great deal has been said during the past year, largely thru the channels of the News Letter, about the selection and training of new members, and the need of a more active membership. Acknowledgment of our present limited facilities for training new members and the necessity for extensive and efficient Association Branches have been paramount in all of the discussions. The need of adequate branches where a large number of prospective members may be trained, is universally recognized. Most of our membership difficulties in the past few years can be attributed to this need. But the present day fact is that we haven't a place to train a large number of applicants at one time, and it is with this that we must contend until such training centers can be financed and established.

The duty devolves upon us, then, to handle what facilities we have at the highest possible efficiency, and to this end, the greatest care should be exercised in the selection of the few men we are able to train. In other words, we haven't room to experiment with a large number of fellows showing only moderate initial promise for exceptional and rapid development. We should be able to rely on the few we do have for development into the most desirable Association members. And who is better informed as to the qualifications necessary for this than the Association members and members of the Alumni themselves.

Chancellor Noon in his News Letter comment on interviews with applicants during his recent tour of the country, emphasizes the difficulty of forming accurate judgment of these men upon such brief acquaintance, and of predicting their ultimate development into ideal Association members. It is impossible for any one person to acquire the necessary intimacy with all applicants to pass judgment upon

their true character. It therefore should be the conscientious duty of all of us to constantly keep in mind the selection and recommendation of the most excellent material for Association membership, based upon our knowledge of the requirements and our more intimate acquaintance with the individual. If each member or Alumnus would unqualifiedly recommend one candidate every one or two years to the Chancellor and stand behind his recommendation to the extent that he felt personally responsible for this candidate's success, we would have less difficulty, I think, in maintaining a superior and active membership. This would seem a particularly desirable condition at present when it is so highly important that every one of the few men we do send to Deer Springs turns out a first-class Association member.

I believe it is within the power of every person who has spent a number of years in active Association work to pass judgment upon a man as a prospective future Association member, if his acquaintance with that person has been extended enough for him to grasp his ambitions and ideals in life. It is my recommendation that everyone assume this as one of his debts to Telluride Association and be prepared at some time in the near future to propose a candidate to the Chancellor who he is ready to stand behind.

-- W. D. Johnston.

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-- CORRESPONDENCE --

Dear Editor:

Some of us Telluride Association fellows had a round table session down town (Chicago) last evening to discuss the proposed amendments of the Constitution. We went over the list of proposed amendments sent out to each member last December by

S. S. Walcott. It may be of interest to know that they were all favored excepting the amendment of the first sentence of Section 2 of Article V.

Mr. A. M. Johnson showed us pictures of, and told us all about Deep Springs. This made us think that Deep Springs Ranch must be a pretty fine place, and I think it was Dave Wegg who suggested that we voice our appreciation to Mr. Nunn for securing the ranch.

I'm sorry to say that I'm the only member in Chicago who will be at the Convention. But I am sure, after speaking with them that they would like to attend, and would be present if they were "foot loose"

Hoping to see you at Convention,

Chicago, Ill, 22 May, '20.

J. L. Nelson.

Dear Mr. Editor:

It is a matter of statistics that where twenty-five years ago something like 70% of the population of America lived in the country, today only about 30% is classified as rural. Figures are available showing that the production thruout the country of cattle and hogs, as well as grain, is astonishingly on the decrease. Herbert Hoover asserts that very soon, unless an improbable change comes, America will be importing a substantial percentage of its food. Some of the best thinkers in America consider that the agricultural situation is largely responsible for many of our threatening social conditions. The writer of the popular song,

"How you goin' to keep 'em  
Down on the farm  
After they've seen Paree?"

has struck very closely to the source of the nation's



diseases.

There are many parallels between conditions that exist today and those that existed before the fall of the Roman Empire - before the French Revolution. Success is measured by money; pleasure is the chief end of existence; the welfare of the individual is always paramount; the man who works with his hands is looked down upon; the ranks of the producer are constantly becoming thinner, while the armies of the consumer -- the non-producer -- are filling our cities far past the saturation point; everybody is looking for the job that requires the least exertion and pays the biggest wages.

Anyone can continue the characterization as far as he likes.

I am no pessimist, I hope; but I do think that the 1920 Convention could most profitably devote some time to a discussion of such national conditions as those I have mentioned. They are vital, and they are closely related to our own purposes and ideals. There are certain tendencies in present-day life and literature against which we must set ourselves most decisively if we are to be of any material service in averting racial calamity.

Sincerely,

J. Paul Jones.

Berkeley, Calif., 25 May, '20.

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The News Letter is in receipt of a bi-lingual announcement of the birth of Rosario Marion, daughter, to Mr. and Mrs. Alejandro R. Cota, at Fort Plain, New York, on 13 May.

The infant arrived too late to be included in the 14th Census. Our readers are notified of this in order that they may make proper addition to the official figures when published. The News Letter extends to the Cotas its congratulations.

-- CORNELL BRANCH ACTIVITIES --

Since the last issue of the News Letter, several guests of interest have been entertained at Telluride House, and on the evening of May 28, the Branch was host to a large number of students at a dance. The affair was well-attended and very successful, judging from the comment of many of the guests.

The last affair of the year for the Branch will be the reception next Saturday afternoon (June 12) in honor of the retiring President of the University, Jacob Gould Schurman, and Mrs. Schurman. The President returned to Ithaca June 5, having just come from Japan where he was sent some weeks ago, on a diplomatic mission. Several hundred guests have been invited, including members of the faculty, students, prominent citizens of Ithaca, and the Trustees of the University.

Henry W. Nevins, noted British war-correspondent and journalist, spent several days here during the past month, while he was lecturing at the University.

Mr. L. N. Crichton, a brother of "Bob" Crichton, spent a week end here a short time ago. Mr. Crichton will be remembered by the "old guard" who met him in Telluride, Colo. He is now located in Pittsburgh.

Dr. James J. Walsh of Fordham University was another guest of interest. Dr. Walsh is recognized as one of the great scholars of the country, and has published a large number of books. He is now the head of the new School of Sociology of Fordham, and is also much in demand as a lecturer.

Old John J. Fernald will pay the Branch his second visit this year, arriving on the 9th. He will remain our guest until the 17th. Old Man Fernald may be remembered by former Cornell men with varying shades of pleasure.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION EX-  
PENSES AND ATTENDANCE.

This Report of the Committee on Convention Expenses and Attendance was sent out under the signature of the Chairman, S. S. Walcott, on 20 Dec., 1919, but is published in the News Letter for the benefit of those who may have lost their copy.

"To the Members of Telluride Association:

Notice is hereby given that at the next annual convention of Telluride Association, called to convene in Provo, Utah, on the 21st of June, A. D., 1920, proposals will be made to be considered and acted upon by said convention for the amendment of the Constitution of Telluride Association in the following particulars:

1. An amendment of Section 8 of Article III of the Constitution of Telluride Association so as to reduce the minimum membership allowed from one hundred to sixty or some other number.

2. An amendment of Section 1 of Article IV of the By-laws of Telluride Association so as to make provision for the payment of all or some portion of the reasonable traveling expenses of members attending conventions.

Your committee has been requested to present the following proposals which, however, do not come under its direct jurisdiction. It is to be noted that Section 2 of Article V of the Constitution of Telluride Association is to be amended only when said Constitution has been changed by the action of all parties concerned so as to permit such amendment:

3. An amendment of the last clause of Section 2 of Article III of the Constitution of Telluride Association to reduce the vote of the members of the Association necessary to elect a candidate to membership from three-fourths to a majority or some other proportion of the total membership.

4. An amendment of Section 7 of Article III of the Constitution of Telluride Association which pro-

vides for conferring certificates of graduation by adding a provision authorizing the granting of a certificate of honorable discharge to any member leaving the Association if such action shall be deemed advisable by the Association in convention assembled.

5. An amendment of Section 1 of Article V of the Constitution of Telluride Association so as to provide that the custody of the personal property of Telluride Association may be entrusted by it to its custodians; that the Chancellor of Telluride Association shall be one of its custodians thus increasing the number of custodians from seven to eight; and that property of the Association deposited as provided in said Section 1 may be removed in carrying out any purpose authorized by the Association in convention assembled by any two of the president, treasurer, and chancellor, with any other two custodians, acting together personally, or by the treasurer and any one other custodian acting together personally and upon the written request of at least four other custodians.

6. An amendment of the first sentence of Section 2 of Article V of the Constitution of Telluride Association so as to permit a majority of all the members of the Association in convention assembled, by resolution to that effect, to authorize the custodians to sell and convey any of the property of the Association as said custodians may deem advisable but at not less than a minimum price to be fixed by action of such majority; and so as to permit such majority, acting in like manner by appropriate resolution, to give the custodians authority to reinvest all proceeds derived from such sales, as principal, for the benefit of the Association, in such manner and with such authority in the premises as may be determined by action of such majority."

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-- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS --

The underlying purpose of the constitutional conventions of 1910 and 1911, as well as the guiding idea, of the work done in the years preceding these conventions, was not so much to create a new constitution as to put down, in definite form, the best of the practices and traditions which had, to a greater or less degree, governed the actions of Telluride Institute for a considerable period. In a large measure this result was accomplished. Many practices were discarded as being unsuited for a permanent organization, and of necessity the methods of the past were modified, but it is safe to say that the origin of every provision of the constitution can be traced to precedents established during the formative period. In every real sense then, the constitution is the result of years of experience, and the expressions in writing of customs which have stood the test of time, and is not the creative effort of any group of persons or any constitutional convention.

If constitutional amendments are to be adopted at the 1920 convention, it may be helpful to consider whether or not those proposed are only theory, which may or may not prove correct, or are in fact changes which forces outside and beyond the organization have already made effective. If the former is true, it will, in most cases, be the part of wisdom to wait until the need is fully demonstrated, but if the latter, their adoption can be profitably considered. The provision of the constitution which permits amendment shows clearly that those who adopted it recognized that change and growth would require adjustment of the fundamental law, and that when the need became great enough, the way would be open. Some of the amendments proposed by the convention committee in the notice dated December 20, 1919, are, it seems to me, already in effect and need only to be adopted in a formal way. The urgent need for others have been shown by the emergencies of past years. I shall consider them briefly in order.

1. Various circumstances, perhaps mainly the war, have already reduced the membership far be-



low one hundred. As a matter of form, more than one hundred are on the list, but some are absolutely disqualified, and it is the duty of the convention to declare such memberships vacant. Others are not so clearly unfit for membership, so far as the technical qualifications are concerned. They are interested, desirous of continuing membership as long as convenient because of association, but entirely willing to resign whenever the convention desires. The membership should be, as nearly as possible, qualified as the constitution requires and keenly active in interest. It must be so if dry rot is not to kill the organization. Fifty is possibly the maximum number of the present members who can meet the spirit of the constitution, and a minimum requirement of sixty, or at most seventy, will provide for five or six new members and all the old ones about whom there is any doubt. Such a change need not effect the maximum, so the list may be increased whenever we have candidates of the proper caliber.

2. It has long been recognized that the proxy system gives an undesirable money value to a proxy, but this very feature tends to insure a quorum at conventions, and so has its good side. During the years when the members were nearly all active this particular problem was of little importance, and the advantage of a full representation outweighed the disadvantages. If the membership is reduced so that all members are anxious to attend conventions the harm will be minimised. All the plans discussed informally at the 1919 convention carried in their train (as was pointed out at the time) evils as great, or greater than, those they would cure. It would probably be worth while to try first the plan of sifting the membership and then, if necessary, revise the proxy system at a later convention.

3. Nothing is more vital to Telluride Association than the selection of its members, and the agitation to reduce the vote necessary to elect a candidate has arisen mainly because of the difficulty in securing the necessary attendance in person or by proxy. A vote of seventy-five per cent. for election is high, but not as great as is required by many organizations. Its reduction is questionable, and the need for change has hardly

been demonstrated. No candidate has ever yet been excluded because of the provision, and in spite of it, mistakes have been made. Here, again, an active membership would furnish the remedy and completely do away with the need for the reduction of the vote required for election.

4. No provision has ever been made by the Association for conferring a certificate of honorable dismissal. Public sentiment has decided that certificates of graduation should be granted only to members who achieve distinction. Others who have completed their work as members resign or may be dropt, but there is no distinction between those who have honorably completed their scholastic work and who are loyal supporters of the organization, and the members who are dropt because of general or specific unfitness. This classifying of all together has been and is distasteful to a steadily growing group of alumni and will be felt by every one who leaves the organization after years of enthusiastic and faithful membership. A certificate of honorable dismissal, the granting of which would automatically vacate the membership, would solve the difficulty and assist in maintaining interest and loyalty among those who thus leave the Association.

5. This proposed amendment and the last one (#6) in the committee's report, go together: are most important of all, and merit painstaking consideration. They change in some respects the foundation principles on which the system of holding property is based. They have in their favor the fact that they have been actually in effect for several years and have, apparently, several times preserved the property, or prevented serious loss. The question is, shall they be adopted now that the need for them is clear and their value beyond question, or shall the constitutional system, adequate when adopted but wholly inadequate now, be maintained. There are difficulties in the way of change but several lawyers have already pointed out that the changes can be made in the consent of all concerned is secured. On the assumption that this is correct, the proposals deserve the closest study, in the light of the actions regarding property of the conventions of 1914, 1915, 1917, and 1919.

-- F. C. Koon, Chancellor.

## SHALL TELLURIDE MEN WEAR A BADGE?

Mr. Clark has asked my opinion and Mr. Johnson wants something from me for the News Letter. Why shouldn't I meet the two needs at the same time?

Of course it is a trivial matter. Yet I am going to take it seriously. If we keep our principles only for great emergencies, I fear they will rust or be forgotten. Of all the groups at Cornell that have badges I doubt if even one ever raised a question. They just followed a fashion. As they themselves were only imitations, a question would perhaps have been pedantic. But Telluride is something new; and Telluride has principles of its own.

Why do men wear badges anyhow? There are, I take it, two familiar reasons. The first I have heard much mentioned by the boys. It is that those who belong may know each other. There is something in it. Thus the freshmen welcome their cap, for it helps them rally against the sophomores. Thus the freemason treasures his badge, for it is to him a passport to aid among strangers. Between Telluride men who met by chance it would doubtless serve as an introduction. Yet as I have thought and listened I could not count this very serious. Telluride men for long must be too scattered to need a rallying mark; and in them there is no wish to be exclusive or to profit by a freemasonry. Their training, instead, is one for service to the world at large. Their spirit is democracy. Their aim is leadership.

Yet, as I have heard this talked over, it has seemed to savor already of that second motive for badge-wearing which is, I am convinced, the world around more potent. That is, of course, that those who belong may let outsiders know it. Now, in this age of collectivism, I am not going to waste my breath in deprecating loyalties. While I confess still to a liking for the man who can stand alone when conviction demands it, who can suspend judgment and wait when conviction is yet unwarranted, I too welcome the new esteem for sacrifice and devotion. If badge-wearing meant taking sides and showing one's colors,

there would be much to say for it. I do know those whose badge is the bravely worn symbol of an unpopular cause; but oftenest, I fear, a party badge is only a device of clever politicians to commit us to a side before we have heard and weighed all the arguments or is only a token of that gregarious instinct which craves rather companionship and enthusiasm -- brass bands and fireworks and the joys of loving and hating -- than any high end, private or public. Let me not under-rate this impulse as a force to hold society together; but it is surely to be only shared, not cultivated, by those whose goal is personality and character.

But the badges which count for most among us are not those of party or of sect. They are those which mark a distinction achieved or a choice that honors. At least the badges we wear are those of which we are proud. Only some outside force could brand a criminal or mark a Jew with yellow; and even outside force saw long ago its folly. But why not wear the marks of distinction or of choice, and so stir others to admire and emulate? In America, where on the whole there is fairness of award, the question is not strange; but I can never forget the wise words of that old teacher of the history of civilization, old leader in politics as well as thought, to whom when I first studied abroad the letters of President White commended me. He knew what the decorations of sovereigns, the badges of orders, the honors of official academies, had meant to freedom and progress. He knew why free-minded scholars refused them and why the fathers of the American republic forbade them to its citizens. He knew why at the dawning of this age of liberalism it was the plain black coat of Franklin that set the younger fashion. Even now, when titles and ribbons seem so innocuous, our public taste sets narrow bounds to their display.

Yet surely the mere fraternal orders, their badges can do no harm. How these too can be drawn into the service of politics and religion Europe long ago learned; but with us the danger is indeed remote. They are for the most part only forms of insurance or purely social groups. Why for these should one need a badge? For those to be found everywhere -- Odd Fellows, Elks, Freemasons -- the answer is easy. The advantages, commercial, political, social, of such an introduction are familiar, even notorious. To the wanderer from college



to college his pin is a similar passport -- a check for lodging, a ticket to society. But it is more. Worn at home it stamps him as a member of an elite. Some group or other has singled him out from the mass. Is it not in this, this stamp of aristocracy, that lies its charm, its use? For a growing boy, who must in this, as in all things else, live mankind's history over and earn his own experience, what more natural?

But Telluride men are grown up. The glamor of aristocracy does not dazzle them. They are not looking for "pull." What they ask as to a badge is whether it furthers their work in the world. Will it, on the whole, better their companionship, broaden their acquaintance, deepen their influence, make for good? If to some men it may serve them as a credential, are there not more whom it may repel or discourage? For my own part, I could never stay willing to wear even a Phi Beta Kappa pin. It might, I was told, encourage some other Phi Beta Kappa man to speak to me. But I am not sure that it is Phi Beta Kappa men whom I prefer to have speak to me; and I have a feeling that the Phi Beta Kappa man who needs such an introduction is the sort of Phi Beta Kappa man whom I least sigh to meet. At any rate I can get on without the Phi Beta Kappa men who do not speak because I have no pin. Even by them I would rather be taken for an ignoramus than a prig. Were I not a schoolteacher, I should find it easier to wear it. I have noticed that in America few clergymen care to wear clerical dress. Doubtless, like me, they prefer to meet men men to men. After all, they are men as well as clergymen. A school honor is all very well as a landmark; but who wants to belong to the people who have "arrived"? Better the big fraternity of humankind, with the goal still far ahead and handicaps none for nobody.

But badges, as I said, are a trivial matter. What does matter is only why we wear them. Yet, if there be no reason at all why Telluride men should not wear badges, there is still one good reason for hesitation; and that is -- the lack of a reason for action. With all my heart I am for democracy; but the thing I like least about democracy is its zeal to obliterate variety. To the rest of the world our monotony begins already to be smothering. "The



same shoes, the same hats, the same ideas, the same phrases!" Telluride Association is a great new thing in the world. Some of us think it a great true thing, full of inspiration and of promise. That or not, it has enriched and beautified the world with a differing ideal, a differing method. Its greatest danger is of being cheapened into an imitation fraternity. Let Telluride grow according to her own genius. Why follow others? Let her not be too ready to appropriate even their virtues. If she must ape their fads, in Heaven's name let us have a reason of our own!

-- George L. Burr

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-- ILLNESS OF OLIVER R. CLARK --

Oliver R. Clark has been ill with a toxic poisoning for nearly five weeks, at the Cornell University Infirmary and in Buffalo, New York.

Clark's condition on 8 June was improving, but improvement in this illness is very slow. The double vision he had at first has gone, but it is still difficult for him to focus on near objects. He is beginning to sit up for his meals, and if he improves as much in the next week as he has in the past four days, he will probably be able to get up them. His doctors say he must take things very easy for a while, and that a railway journey is out of the question for some time.

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EVERYBODY OUT FOR CONVENTION!