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The Polytechnic Journal



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The Polytechnic Journal

VOL. FIVE

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CAL., OCTOBER, 1909

NUMBER 1

Conservation of Natural Resources

Commencement Address by LaRue C. Watson

The first important step in the present conservation movement, which is rapidly assuming an international character, was the conference of Governors who met at the call of President Roosevelt at the White House, a year ago last month. The meeting at Del Monte, on May 8 of this year, under the auspices of the California Promotion Committee, was the first State meeting since the conference of Governors, thus giving California the distinction of being the first State to make a definite move in this matter.

California, with all her large and varied store of natural wealth, may well learn the lesson of conservation, for her vast forests are being recklessly destroyed, her fertile farm lands are afflicted with floods in winter and parching drought in summer, her navigable streams are being filled up by ruthless mining practices, and her manufacturing industries are shockingly wasteful. If properly developed California's harbors may some day see the greatest commerce of the world.

One who has not studied somewhat carefully the subject cannot realize the vast amount of waste of our natural resources which is going on at present. The census recently taken by the National Conservation Commission is full of startling facts and shows that not only is the United States a wasteful nation, but that she is far behind her European sisters in caring for the gifts of nature which are the foundation of America's prosperity. From our earliest youth we have heard Fourth of July orators and others tell us of the inexhaustible riches of our natural resources until we have actually come to think that there is no limit to the stores of nature.

The Timber Waste

But this is far from the truth. As an illustration, the census shows that at

the present increasing rate of consumption our timber supply will be completely exhausted in about 20 years, and yet so wasteful are we that only 320 feet of lumber are used for each 1,000 feet that stood in the forest. This waste is in addition to forest fires, which, for the past 40 years, have destroyed an annual average of 50 lives and \$50,000,000 worth of property. The chairman of the forestry section of the National Conservation Commission says that "we can practically stop forest fires at a total yearly cost of one-fifth the value of the standing timber burned each year."

Referring to the conditions in our own State, ex-Gov. Pardee, who is also a member of the National Conservation Commission, outlines the forest and stream problems of northern California as being quite different from those of southern California. The forestry problem in the southern portion "consists in the planting of new, rather than in the protection and conservation of existing forests. Its water problem, dependent upon that of reforestation, consists in creating new natural forest-litter reservoirs for the retention of the melting snows and the rains, which, under present conditions, run off the bare mountains in floods to the ocean. In northern California the stream and forest problems consist entirely, or practically so, in protection, preservation and conservation."

Our forests may be restored and perpetuated, but our mineral resources, once gone, are gone forever, and the special census shows the waste of our mineral riches to be nearly as great as that of our forests.

The Waste of Soil

Our soil is another great resource which must be conserved. If it is not, the whole United States will some day become like the abandoned farm dis-

tricts of New England. In all the staple crops, the United States is far behind all the leading European countries in average production per acre. But, thanks to modern education and scientific investigation, it is clearly demonstrated that with proper treatment our soils will produce increasingly large crops and at the same time increase in fertility.

Another important question in California is that of conserving our water resources. John R. Fox, a special director of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, says that "each inch of rainfall wasted means so many millions of dollars lost in agricultural wealth; the flow of every cubic foot of water to the sea unused means the loss of millions of dollars' worth of heat, of light, of mechanical force; the unused channel of every mile of water course means an extravagance that in the aggregate costs the people of this nation many millions of dollars each year."

Waste of Water Power.

W. J. McGee, of the United States Inland Waterways Commission, is authority for the statement that of the available water power enough is wasted "to drive every wheel and spindle, propel every train and boat, and light every city, town and village in the country." In spite of this fact we ignore our sources of water power and continue to waste our forests, our coal beds, and our petroleum and gas supplies.

It is fortunate that forestry methods which will produce the best financial returns from timber lands are most effective in maintaining the water supply. With proper care and use of all of California's available water supply millions of acres of now desert land will support a dense and prosperous population.

River and Harbors.

Water transportation is a boon to any country and saves vast sums of money to the inhabitants in the difference of freight rates. In 1849 the Sacramento, American, Feather, Yuba and San Joaquin Rivers were the main channels of trade for that portion of the State. However, hydraulic mining operations

on tributary streams sent vast amounts of debris into the navigable rivers, practically filling their beds. Today California's inland waterways amount to very little, and in many cases nothing, for transportation purposes. The effective and permanent remedy for this condition, according to plans already drafted, would return to the State many times its cost.

The improvement of our harbors would also return big dividends. The government has spent only about \$20,000,000 on Pacific Coast harbors, but the increased trade has amply justified the outlay.

Through the press and public platforms of the country we have all become more or less familiar with the fact that the present generation will begin to feel the stress due to the depletion of our stores of natural wealth and that the generation immediately following will suffer very severely if we do not take radical steps to prevent it. We may well inquire who shall take these steps. There are individual men in our land who might be financially able to carry on the work, but they do not wish to wait a long term of years for returns, however large the dividends. Besides, the benefits in their very nature cannot accrue to any individual, but will be shared by all, including future generations.

Government Must Act.

Manifestly the government must shoulder the responsibility for this great enterprise, which must be executed on a comprehensive scale and according to definite, far-reaching plans. When a plan is once entered upon financial provision must be made for its completion, instead of doing the work by piece-meal as is the present wasteful policy. Vast sums of money will be required for this work, but the profits will be enormous and the government can afford to wait a long time for returns.

We need to conserve the natural beauty with which our county is so richly blest, but this will never be done on any great scale by private enterprise. The one answer is, that the people as a whole, represented by the State and National governments, must accom-

plish it.

But our agents can do very little without our support. Let us each, as individual units in organized society, throw all of our power and influence into this

movement. We know that it is not only for distant posterity, but that it is of vital import even to the present generation.

A GHOST THAT WASN'T

Speaking of ghosts reminds me of a very real ghost which I had the fortune (either good or bad as you may choose) to meet when I was in —shire England.

At the time of the following incident I was fourteen and my brother Alfred was two years my senior. My father was vicar of the little community in which we lived and I suppose we had our share of the superstitions which were so common to rural villages at that time. At any rate our boyish hearts were often filled with terror as some timid person recounted wierd tales of haunted houses and strange midnight apparitions from the village cemetery which was located not far from our home and just on the outskirts of the village.

On the particular night in question, my uncle who lived a little distance outside the village, had invited us boys to spend the evening with him. We had passed the time cracking nuts, popping corn and during the latter part of the evening telling ghost stories. The time had passed very quickly and before we realized it, it was half past eleven. As it happened we had to pass directly by the cemetery to reach home. In broad daylight or even early dusk this was not so bad but to our already over-worked imaginations and at half past eleven at night we saw nothing pleasing in the prospect before us.

Well, we started out bravely enough making a great pretense of courage. We walked rapidly, each secretly thinking every moment of the ghostly rendezvous before us. As we came nearer the dread spot, we slowed down and walked almost on tiptoe scarcely daring to breathe.

Our eyes were strained to catch the slightest speck of white and sure enough when we were just at the corner of the

cemetery Alfred whispered "What's that."

I looked and saw only a short distance away, under some sighing pine trees, a spot of white about as big as a tin pan. To me it covered yards of space. What was more it moved.

Alfred as usual took the lead and bade me walk behind him, but I was stubborn if I was scared and kept my position by his side, repeating constantly in an effort to keep up my nerve "Humph I'm not scared, I don't see what you are scared about."

To this Alfred would whisper, through chattering teeth, "Yes you are, Yes you are too."

After what seemed hours of suspense, but what really was only a short minute, we were exactly opposite that terrible white object and only about twenty feet away, when suddenly we were startled by a blood curdling cry. A yell of horror and we were off. Down the road we flew like the wind and not until we were almost at father's gate did we slow down.

As we stood panting for a moment at the gate my curiosity began to get the better of my fright, and I exclaimed, "Alfred, I'm going back to see what that thing is."

Alfred remonstrated but my mind was made up and there was nothing for him to do but to go back with me. So back we went to find out the secret of our midnight apparition.

Cautiously, breathlessly we approached the place until we were only ten feet away. The spot of white moved, it took a step toward us. The moment was intense. Our breathing sounded like the running of water. Then again on the still night echoed that loud cry which this time resolved itself into the bleating of a lost lamb.

—LOIS CURL '12

Social Happening

The first social event of the year was a reception to the new students given by the Y. M. C. A. It was held Wednesday, October 15. The guests were tagged before and behind. This aroused a great deal of curiosity and proved an easy means of introduction. After a short programme Mr. Henderson told of the benefits of the Y. M. C. A. membership. Some school trophies were on exhibition and a short speech from Mr. Edwards on their history concluded the evening's entertainment.

The Stag Rodeo was an enjoyable affair for the "boys." The girls knew little of it except what they heard from the roof of the Dormitory porch. Pillows were seen flying through the air while a boxing match and a game of leap frog were in progress. Judging from the noise a delightful time was enjoyed. Refreshments consisting of ice-cream and watermelon were served on the lawn. A number of the girls appeared to share the good things and

their arriving quite took the boys breath away.

Friday, October 1st, a reception was given to the new students of the Polytechnic School by various churches of the town. It was a rainy night but the welcome at Corona Hall was enough to make anyone forget the weather. Delightful musical selections were given, refreshments were served in abundance, and all had a very pleasant evening.

The Dormitory boys gave everyone a good time at the new Dormitory Friday, October 8. There was dancing in the living room and down the long halls. Upstairs, games were played, and the shouts coming from the players seemed to show that they were having a good time. The living room was prettily decorated with greens and pennants. Delightful refreshments were served. In every way the boys proved themselves most admirable hosts.

NEWS NOTES

E. W. Curtis who has been taking a special course in the Michigan Agricultural College stopped off on his way to Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition to see the football game between his old school and the University of Southern California.

"Toby" McCabe is attending Berkeley High.

Mr. Ellery, State Engineer, was here getting the work started on the new Power House and Dining Hall.

Mr. Mark Keppel, Superintendent of

Schools of Los Angeles County and chief speaker at the Teachers Institute of this county, gave a lecture in Assembly Hall Friday, a. m., October 8.

The Polytechnic exhibit at the Agricultural Fair held at Arroyo Grande was said to be the star feature and it proved very interesting to all those who attended.

The school sent down a laboratory equipment used in making milk and butter tests, samples of iron work, electrical apparatus, specimens of free hand

and technical drawing and twenty varieties of grain that were grown on the school farm.

The exhibit of samples of cookery which included bread, pastries, confectionary and preserves prepared by the Polytechnic girls, was admired by all.

The six horses, the pride of the school, were also entered and were in a class by themselves and consequently carried off the awards.

Ernest Yates, Ray Evans, Alonzo Carranza and Fred Markloff looked after the exhibits.

Through some error the judges failed to award the premiums at the time the Fair closed so no complete list of premiums can be given.

The management of the fair gave due credit to the Polytechnic course in poultry husbandry, as shown by their selection of two students, Yates and Markloff, as judges of the poultry.

Mr. Shackelford, president of the board of trustees visited the school Tuesday October 12.

The Y. M. C. A. is fully organized with a membership of fifty. Mr. Henderson was up at the beginning of the year and got them started. They are holding regular meetings.

Laura Righetti is visiting friends in San Jose.

Probably the first grandchild of the Polytechnic is the new baby girl, daughter of George Lisk of Pasadena, a former well known student of our institution.

A clipping from the Sacramento Union which may be of interest to the reader of the Journal:

"Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Truscott, of this city, announce the engagement of their daughter Dora Elizabeth, to E. Earl Campbell of Orange, California.

The wedding is to be celebrated during the early winter months."

John Adams stopped off on his way to the Imperial Valley.

Hertha Schulze is back from Germany and expects to enter school soon and graduate with the class of '10.

Mr. Rubel, instructor in Dairy and Animal Husbandry is attending the Fresno fair where he is acting as one of the judges.

Mr. Coleman made a quick trip to the University Farm on business.

Miss Chase, accompanied by Miss Secrest, refereed a basket ball game between Santa Maria and Arroyo Grande High School's at Arroyo Grande Saturday, October 16.

Mrs. Waters and daughter, Miss Margaret, are expected home soon.

Mrs. Smith and children are visiting Mrs. Davis, a sister of Mrs. Smith, at Palo Alto.

Mrs. Francis Johnston of San Francisco is the new house mother of the large dormitory and is making a pleasant and cheery nurse for her family of boys.

Lee McDowell is preparing to spend Christmas here, as his old friend Dairy Inspector Mr. Starr, is back again.

This year we number among our freshmen Paul Condit, from Ohio, Ray Williams, from Montana, Frank Rielly, from Colorado and K. Tumenitu, from Japan.

The large septic tank has been completed and the sewerage system connected up. The work was under the supervision of Mr. Rainwater, an assistant engineer, from the State Engineering Department.

Mr. Talmadge, an assistant engineer, from the State Engineering Department is superintending the work on the new dining hall.

The Creamery has been fitted out with an ice plant, two large churns, a ripener and butter mould.

A planer and three lathes are being installed in the machine shop.

The carpenter shop has a jointer which is being set up.

A large trip hammer is being put up in the forge shop.

The fuel oil used at the power house is from the refinery at Edna.



Work while you play,
 Play while you work
 That is the way your lessons to shirk.
 All that you do, don't do with your
 might
 For if you do you might get it right.
 Dora Berg '10.

Bess H.—Alma let me be your honey.
 A. M.—I can't let everybody be my
 honey
 B. H.—No, all (Awl) cant be your
 honey.

A History Shark.

Prof. B.—What happened to the Ply-
 mouth colony?

L. C.—It fell to pieces!

Basket Ball Capt. (To Freshie F., in
 football uniform)—Do you want to play?

Freshie F.—Yes.

B. B. Capt.—Did you ever play?

Freshie F.—No I never played foot-
 ball much.

B. B. Capt.—This isn't football.

Freshie F.—Oh! ain't it?

Popular Campus Melodies.

R. P.—"I'll be waiting by the rail-
 road track, Bessie dear."

E. A.—"Cherry."

A. M.—"I would rather be a lobster
 than a wise guy."

A. D.—"Gee! but I feel blue."

Who's Anthem?

Woodman fell that tree,
 Spare not a single bough,
 I carved a girl's name there once,
 But I love another now.—Ex.

Silently one by one, out of the senior
 rank
 Drop those history sharks, with none
 but themselves to thank.

Little buckets of water, little hunks of
 sand,
 Make the innocent freshie cuss the
 laughing band.

W. K. Looking at his report:
 "And would that my tongue could utter,
 The thoughts that arise in me."

Information Wanted.

How to beat it from a girls house
 when she sets the dog on you. Address
 all communications to Ernest Yates.

Prof. McD.—You don't want to blow in the milk Leffler.

Leffler.—Why does that sour it?

Briggs—My! but preachers' sons are awful tough.

Prof. B.—Was your father a preacher, Briggs?

Miss H.—What are you trying to do Margaret?

Miss C.—I am trying to throw up the window.

Mr. Smith speaking after Prof. B. had finished an address to the assembly—
"Boys please open the back windows and let in some fresh air."

A New Temperance Drink.

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An Opinion.

C. S. (After Rich had treated her to free punch.)—"Gee! but Rich is a swell little fellow. He treated me to punch!"

L. S.—What are Polo ponies for?

Prof. R.—Polo.

Mr. B. in Phys. Geo.—Miss M. why don't we know how the primitive surface of the earth appeared.

Miss B.—Because we didn't see it.

Mr. B.—Don't laugh she's only a freshman.

Williams in Phys. Geog.—Shall I say "is" or "are"?

Mr. Berringer (after hesitating)—In whose English class are you.

Williams—"Yours."

A. M.—Gee isn't Briggs a swell dancer?

R. M.—Sure, I could waltz through life with him."

Midgets Appetizer.

Turn failure into victory,

Don't let your courage fade,

And if you get a lemon,

Why make a lemonade.—Ex.

Social Kinks.

Junior—Have a dish of ice cream, Prof. B?

Prof. B.—I have just eaten two already. Do you think they would let me eat three?

Wallace (in Freehand drawing)—How is this circle?

Mr. Pearson—You shouldn't make it so square.

Ten little freshmen all in a line

One was ducked, then there were nine.

Nine little freshmen bewailing their fate

One ate a dormitory sinker, then there were eight.

Eight little freshmen out until eleven
One got tanked, then there were seven.

Seven little freshmen all in a mix
One broke his neck, then there were six.

Six little freshmen very much alive
One ate too many grapes, then there were five.

Five little freshmen making an uproar
One was canned, then there were four.

Four little freshman in an orange tree
Farmer got a gun, then there were three.

Three little freshmen wondering what to do.

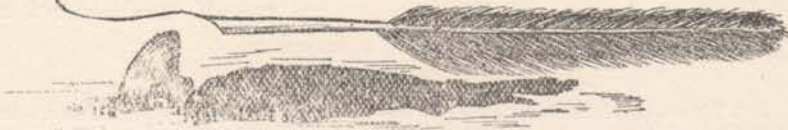
One went across the track, then there were two.

Two little freshmen driving on the run
Driver smashed the rig, then there was one.

One little freshman having too much fun.

He flunked an ex, then there was none.

Editorials



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Over Heard Last Year.

The following remarks were heard emanating from a group reading current issue of the Poly Journal.

"Gee! what a rotten Journal."

"Look at that cut! If I couldn't draw better than that I'd croak"

"It's getting worse every time."

"A two year old kid could do better than that."

"Its a disgrace to the school."

The above is a fair sample of the Polytechnic spirit which showed itself every month when the Journal was distributed. Yet those who were the severest in their condemnation of the paper never stopped to consider that they themselves had done nothing towards making it better. It is not the editors place, or the place of those under him to write the stories and furnish the news and joshes. It is the students paper and if the interest is taken in it that should be there is no reason why it should not become one of the leading school papers of the State.

The success of the Journal depends on the interest taken in it by the students and the amount of work they do for it.

If you can't boost don't knock.



The exchanges were few this month and we hope all who receive copies from us will exchange as soon as possible, as we are anxious to receive a large number this year.

We have received the following:—

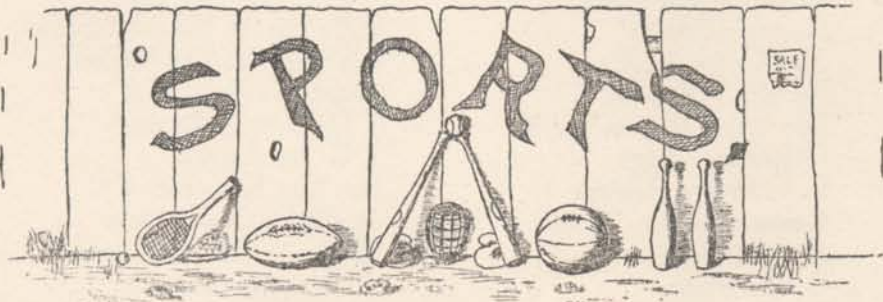
The Herald—Holyoke High School
Massachusetts.

The Loyal Sons Clarion—Sacramento,
California.

The Review—Sacramento High School,
Sacramento, California.

The Manzanita—Watsonville High
School Watsonville, California.

Green and Gold—Tuolumne County
High School, Sonora, California.



The girls Basket-Ball team, captained by Dora Bergh and managed by Selina Wyss, played two practice games with the High School, October 11 and 13.

The first League game was played October 23 on the home court. Our girls were out played by Arroyo girls who played a fast game all the way through.

October 23 opened the boys Basket Ball for this season. Although Poly's team was beaten by two points it could be seen that their team work was excellent. Coach Hazeltine has been working hard to get the team to work

together and this could be noticed all through the game. Capt. Taylor has had two teams out every night for three weeks doing hard practising.

Foot Ball season opened with a snappy game with The University of Southern California. Although the score was decidedly against the home team, it was very evident that our boys know the game, but was out classed both in weight and age.

Capt Briggs has a second team that promises to develop excellent material for future games.

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We earnestly request the students of this institution to distribute their patronage among them.

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