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The Acropolitan

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY THE MONTANA STATE SCHOOL OF MINES

Volume 2

BUTTE, MONTANA, JANUARY 31, 1925

Number 3

NEW COURSES AT SCHOOL OF MINES

If Legislature Passes Measure Under Consideration It Will Be Means of Permitting Students of Butte and Anaconda to Take First-Year Here

(By Prof. W. T. Scott)

Added courses with a greatly increased attendance next year at the School of Mines may result if a measure recently introduced in the state legislature is passed at the present session. Thus far the proposal has been the most interesting and commented-upon measure suggested to the Solons and is receiving much editorial comment around the state.

The bill as presented to the House and passed there January 16, provides for a recommendation to the State Board of Education that enough work be added to the present freshman courses at the School of Mines to take care for one year of students who wish to graduate in any standard course offered in the University of Montana at its other institutions, the State University at Missoula, the State College at Bozeman, and the State Normal College at Dillon. At present the School of Mines is limited to offering work that directly pertains to the courses leading to the mining and metallurgy degrees.

The friends of this proposition have very strong arguments to bring forward. They point out that the School of Mines, with its new buildings and equipment, is in a position to take care of between 250 and 300 students. Although mining and metallurgy are picking up after the recent business depression, yet there is no promise that these industries will attract many more men to Montana mines than are now in attendance. On the other hand, there

HALEY GIVES COURSE

Mr. M. F. Haley, assistant in mill work, is conducting a noon-hour class in practical engineering every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. About 30 students are availing themselves of the opportunity to study the practical points concerning various mechanical appliances. Boilers, pumps, air compressors, and electric motors have thus far been discussed, emphasis being laid on the actual handling of the different machines in practice. The students report interesting sessions.

are many high school graduates each year in Butte and nearby cities who would like to get a college education but who cannot see their way clear to raise the funds for the four years of study away from home. Usually it is a case of parents who cannot afford to finance them and of educational institutions already swamped by the number of young people who would work their way through college if work was to be obtained. The surest relief for this situation in Butte is to employ the buildings and equipment of the School of Mines to meet the needs of these young folks and of their parents.

Estimates rather below the possibilities than otherwise have been made to show that the average cost of a year at college, beyond that of the senior year in high school at home, is around \$600.00 to \$700.00. In recent years the expenses of a young man or young woman away at college or university have mounted decidedly in comparison with what they were a few years ago, and so this estimate does not seem unreasonable. The number of students who would avail themselves of the opportunity to get the freshman year at home in Butte is large enough to mean an aggregate saving of at least \$50,000

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PROFESSOR KOENIG ADDRESSES ROTARY

Professor Koenig spoke on "Chemistry" before the Rotary Club, which held its weekly meeting on Thursday, January 22, at the Silver Bow Club. Professor Koenig discussed the interesting developments in industrial chemistry during the past year.

The application of theoretical principles of chemistry, formerly used only in laboratories, to industrial problems has been the feature of the development in industrial chemistry during the past year, Professor Koenig said. An over production of sulphur by a Texas company has resulted in an experimentation with the mixing of melted sulphur with concrete and the discovery that the concrete will absorb 17 per cent. of its bulk in sulphur and when so treated its tensile strength is increased from five to ten times.

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The sulphur treatment makes sandstone, side walks and tiles more re-

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WILSON MAKES TRIP TO SEATTLE

Prof. Curtis L. Wilson of the chemistry and metallurgy department went to Seattle and Bremerton January 20, where he spent several days making metallographic tests for the Wilson Chemical Co. The problem was to investigate the cupro-vanadium, ferrotitanium, and ferro-vanadium used by the United States government at the navy yard foundry for making high-grade castings, requiring an extra tough metal. The Wilson company is investigating these metals, believing that they may solve some of their problems in the construction of rolls and crushers.

When the work at Bremerton was finished Professor Wilson spent a day at Seattle visiting the University of Washington. He reports that the building which housed the school of mines was burned last December with nearly a total loss of equipment. The result is that the fifty students in mining and metallurgy are somewhat scattered about the campus, pursuing their work.

Professor Wilson was the guest of Prof. C. R. Corey, Montana Mines '05, and now professor of metallurgy at the University of Washington.

BASKETBALL

Mines 15, Dillon Normal 9.

On the night of January 9 the Mines basketball team won from the Dillon teachers by a score of 15-9 after two extra five-minute sessions. The repeated tie scores indicate the rapid action that characterized the game. A large and enthusiastic crowd witnessed the game, which was played in the new college gymnasium.

Mines 14, Dillon 10.

The Ore Diggers won the second game from the Normal team Saturday, January 10. The game was slower than the first, but just as interesting. Sigler starred for the Mines. Fouls were frequent on both sides, resulting in retarded action.

Mines 12, Livingston 18.

The Mines lost a game to the Livingston Railroad Club on the night of January 15 by a score of 18-12. The Miners were en route to Bozeman for a game with the Bobcats the following day.

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THE FIELD GEOLOGIST

(By F. R. Ingalsbe.)

Some of us enter a profession because, perchance, it has been "thrust upon" us by friends and relatives, like greatness upon a king; some because environment and circumstances seem to leave little choice; and a few because they have a natural liking and aptitude for the work. All start out with high enthusiasm and plenty of ambition to build a career, but with a good deal of visionary and imaginary. Which of the three groups is likely to show the greatest degree of success? It almost goes without saying that he who has a natural aptitude for the work and a love for it is most likely to succeed.

The geologist belongs to one of the newer professions not yet completely weaned from its forbear, the mining engineer. He assumes a part of the duties formerly undertaken by the mining engineer just as have the mechanical and electrical engineers about the larger mines. It is another instance of specialization in knowledge and practice, and the geologist has won his right to the place and title because he has proved his worth. Like all new professions, it has had to contend with much prejudice arising out of ignorance, but fortunately it has come from the nonprofessional class with an excuse for not knowing.

The work of the geologist is largely the application of engineering principles to the solution of geologic problems and if I were to attempt a definition of the problems, I would classify them in two categories: those involving geologic history and those involving earth-structure. In any case the answer demands a field investigation and very careful correlation of the facts obtained. Of course, all information available from a reliable source should be taken advantage of, that is,

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FIRST SEMESTER ENDS

The first semester of the School Year 1924-1925 ended Friday, January 30, and the second semester begins Monday, February 4. The last week has been a busy one, both for the students and faculty, due to various final examinations, most of which are quite comprehensive. It is hoped that the anxious faces seen about the halls will be transformed into smiling, happy ones again when the second semester begins.

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TOO MANY ENGINEERS

In a recent number of "Mining and Metallurgy", official journal of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, Col. Percy L. Barbour, its editor, calls attention to the fact that "the engineering profession is very much overcrowded, and that this condition can only be relieved by engineering schools turning out fewer and more highly educated engineers in the future."

It is Mr. Barbour's opinion that such schools should be more ethical in their solicitation of engineering students, and should be the first to deny, instead of foster, misleading statements concerning the demand for and the prospects of young men entering the profession. He deplors the fact that too few of our engineering schools are working to this end, and that they are either blind to the facts or misled by their desire for large enrollments.

Our own observation and the experiences of numerous School of Mines graduates seem to corroborate Mr. Barbour's statements. They offer little encouragement to young men contemplating an engineering career, so long as engineering schools fail to raise the standard of admission and provide a training that will give a better foundation for success.

Our own school with its unequalled opportunities, we hope, will take a prominent lead in the future in producing a higher type of engineer, one who will be competent to occupy more responsible and better-paid positions than he did in the past.

THE FIRST-YEAR COURSE

Conditions seem favorable for the institution of a regular first-year college course at the School of Mines. Such a course would be distinctly advantageous to prospective students of Butte and Anaconda, who could take the first-year work here under considerable less expense than if they were

away from home. The buildings and equipment are already in existence, and it would be folly not to take advantage of them.

Institution of the new courses will undoubtedly result in a larger student body, and the school will become more co-educational. The result will be a stimulation of student activities, an increase in the school spirit, which things, though they are not directly related to the more serious studies, are yet fondly remembered by those who recall their college days.

SENIOR NOTES

Swanson, Lukashenko, McGreal, Marick, and Salomonson have become student members of the Montana Society of Engineers.

When the metallurgists are working with molten metals and high-temperature electric furnaces, it should not be very difficult to convince them of the advantages of the straight and narrow path.

A class in geology has just finished studying deposits produced by mechanical concentration, and will next take up the study of deposits produced by chemical concentration.

The seniors are having a little trouble in assuming the sagacious air which the proverbial senior is supposed to be provided. Many of them frequently laugh out loud.

The principles involved in classifying will be taken up next by the class in ore dressing.

The class in metallurgy will devote the second semester to the study of metallurgy of iron and steel.

JUNIOR NOTES

Our Mr. Nesbitt has been somewhat tired this month.—Ed.

SOPHOMORE NOTES

The time is drawing near to see just what the Professors think of our work for the past semester. Maybe some of us who have harbored the idea that we would get through our subjects would just as soon keep on dreaming and not be presented with hard facts. Who started this business of giving semester grades and turned pleasant dreams into nightmares?

There have been many remarks to the effect that the sophs had a cinch—only one three-hour quiz all examination week. Perhaps it's so, but then we don't need a three-hour quiz to show what we don't know; we are good at doing that in the nearly daily one-hour quizzes we take.

Speaking of rabbits, why is it some people like cake so well? Just ask Dave Moore; perhaps he'll tell you.

It is reported we have an ice skater

in the school that dared to race such men as Graham. He came close to winning, too; finished fourth in a four-man race. All of this leads us to believe that Wendel would do anything.

"Am I my brother's keeper?"—Paul Eno.

What we would like to know is, what kind of a valve are they going to use to keep the water from running from the swimming pool—when we get one—through the tunnel into the main building? Will the class in practical engineering help to solve the problem?

FRESHMEN NOTES

We regret to announce that Charlie Waite of Hobson, Mont., has discontinued his work with us for the present term. We hope to see him here again.

C. Foote went home for Christmas, but is now safely back. His "interest" is in Salt Lake City.

W. Metz visited his people at Grass Range, Mont. He claims to have had a good time, and so far no one has argued with him on that point.

J. Murray returned from his vacation at Lewistown—unmarried. 'Nuff sed.

W. Tweet spent his holidays in Minnesota. Tweet things he can now study the rest of the year without seeing "her". Too much sed.

They prepared the fatted calf for S. Thurston at his home at Polson, Mont., where he spent the holidays.

C. Calvert "took five" amid the snow peaks at Lima, Mont. Calvert says that school is fine, including the vacations.

"Izzy" Winninghoff examined the winter crop at his place in Philipsburg. How izzit Izzy?

NEW COURSES AT SCHOOL OF MINES

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a year to their parents. The money saving and the added educational advantages can be given to the people of this locality at a very nominal increase in the total running expenses of the School of Mines because nothing more is needed than at the most three new faculty members. According to President Craven's investigations the new courses to be offered would be in history, English, and literature, modern languages and possibly some of the sciences not now listed. The increased expense would be limited to the salaries of instructors in these subjects.

President Craven was called to Helena on January 20 for conferences with various officials there with reference to this bill and other matters. It is probable that by the time this issue of the Acropolis is in print some definite

action will have been taken. Should the legislature make the recommendation there is little doubt that the State Board of Education will authorize the new courses.

The students of Butte, Butte Central, and Anaconda high schools are taking particular interest in securing for themselves the opportunity to get more education. Following the favorable action of the House on January 16, the 225 seniors of Butte High, through Superintendent Douglass, sent a vote of thanks to the legislators. Nearly 300 from all classes at Butte High have expressed their intention of coming to the School of Mines for the year of work after they graduate from their preparatory courses. No poll has been taken at Butte Central or at Anaconda, but undoubtedly many there look with favor on the proposition.

The school extends sincere sympathies to Mr. Tom Tait in the loss of his brother, who was killed accidentally while engaged in a boxing contest.

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CO-ED NOTES

At the new gymnasium of the School of Mines on February 11 the Co-Ed Club will give an informal dance! The bids are being sent during this week and the next. A six-piece orchestra will provide the music. The hall will be decorated and all arrangements are being completed.

One of the first to be given in the gym and every student at the School of Mines should contribute his support. Bids will be distributed before the dance. Nearly all of us climb the hill every day, so why not try it again on the evening of February 11th?

There was a meeting of the Co-Ed Club at the home of Catherine Leary, with Andree McDonald joint hostess. Plans for the dance to be held on February 11 were made. After a business meeting delicious refreshments were served.

A meeting of the Co-Ed Club was to be held at the home of Mrs. Ruth Blackburn, but due to illness, she was unable to hold it.

This meeting was held at the home of the chairman, Miss Dorothy Cohen, on January 21. The business meeting was lively because of the work for the dance to be held at the new gym on February 11. After the business meeting the hostess served delicious refreshments.

The next meeting is to be held by Miss Dolores Chidester and Miss Catherine Arthur. This is to be February 5.

THE FIELD GEOLOGIST

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libraries should be freely used as a first aid.

The work of the geologist may take him into the farthest corners of the earth or it may confine him to a small territory, or even underground. His duties are correspondingly varied, but his responsibility is always the same.

Let us examine for a moment the qualities essential for a moderate de-

gree of success. It is certain that nothing but a love of the work will keep a man everlastingly at his job through daily routine in a laboratory or mine, and through the perils and hardships of pioneering work in tropical jungles and the cold of polar regions. To fulfill his mission he must bring back data of the most accurate kind and this calls for the highest degree of intellectual integrity, not the kind which is willing to compromise with what appears to be the opportune thing to do. His responsibility in this direction is very great, indeed, but his ability to reach a logical conclusion from the data gathered is just as great. His recommendations may mean the making or breaking of individuals or companies who have placed confidence in him.

The educational requirements are of no mean sort. If the geologist must unravel the intricate network of earth-structure and history he must have a broad fundamental knowledge of Nature's laws as expressed in physics, chemistry, and biology, as well as a thorough training in their application to geology itself. This usually requires four or five years of collegiate training of the intensive sort, yet of the kind which gives time for serious thinking. One of the greatest criticisms of our engineering schools is found in the fact that most of them use the "cramming" method of training, leaving the simple matter of getting an education to the student himself. Likewise, the lack of any co-ordinated effort on the part of our faculties to find out whether the student is adapted to the profession he proposes to enter, is another serious defect. A student who does not show a strong tendency to assimilate cut and dried facts and become more or less of a "walking encyclopedia", is automatically eliminated on the assumption that the ability to perform such a feat is the outward evidence of essential qualities for success in engineering. Certainly so far as the work of the geologist is concerned, it is far from the truth.

Those young men who are now pre-

paring themselves for geological work will, in a few years, find themselves following one of two main lines of the profession. Those in whom the adventurous spirit and pioneering instinct are strong are almost sure to find employment in foreign fields leading parties into little known wildernesses and bringing back information of a somewhat generalized nature, preparing the way for detailed work later. Although general in nature, his work must be accurate nevertheless. The other class, those with stay-at-home tendencies, will find places on staffs of local concerns where their duties will be more or less localized and specialized. Both types must be equally good geologists.

BASKETBALL

(Continued from Page One)

Mines 23, Bozeman 39.

On January 16 the Bobcats took a game from the Mines in the first half of which the Miners showed up well. Fast work by Cottam and Hartwig of the Bobcat team brought their score

to the lead at the end of the first half. A rally in the second half netted the Miners an additional 7 points, but the Bobcats had the advantage.

PROFESSOR KOENIG

(Continued from Page One)

sistant to moisture and the weather, the speaker said. Fibrous materials when so treated become immune to the action of acids and alkalies and their resiliency is greatly increased.

A new method of reclaiming crank-case oil through mixing it with water glass, which agglomerates the impure materials in the oil, and then centrifuging and distilling with steam, was also explained by Professor Koenig. In this way 70 per cent. of the oil is recovered, he stated.

The development of an auto knock compound composed of tetraethyl lead was also described. The lead mixture renders the gasoline capable of greater compression without increasing inflammability, and thus results in a saving of 25 per cent. of the amount of fuel used.

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THE COLLEGE PLAN

The expansion of the Montana State School of Mines physical plant in recent years, together with curricular extension, has been accompanied by local requests for facilities to make available the first and second years of regular college work for residents of Butte. For years there has been agitation for the establishment of a course at the School of Mines that will ultimately lead to the degree of bachelor of arts.

These arguments are now being presented by the county's legislative representatives. A measure has been introduced in the assembly. Chancellor Brannon is known to be desirous of making the School of Mines the highest technical and research institution to be found anywhere and has for some time, it is understood, been attempting to perfect plans with the president of the School of Mines and leading technical, professional, and business men to that end. Every one who lives in this state hopes that he will be successful.

The Montana State School of Mines is one of the leading technical mining schools in the country. Several years ago a request was made in a number of publications to name the leading mining schools of the country. In the list of schools printed in answer to the request the Montana school was among the first three on each list. Visitors from all parts of the world speak in the highest terms of the mill equipment. Its course in metallurgy is second to none.

Why could not the School of Mines with an additional teacher of English and history and one of languages not only give the first, and possibly the second, year general college course, which our many friends are now requesting, but also give a course in industrial management, the need of which so many of our graduates have emphasized in recent years?

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

John Norton, '17, formerly safety engineer at the Mountain View mine, has been promoted to the rock drill equipment department.

Joseph Judge, '24, who has been shift boss at the Mountain Con mine, was appointed safety engineer at the Anaconda mine.

Frank D. Canno, '17, formerly safety engineer at the Anaconda mine, has been promoted to assistant foreman at the Belmont mine.

Alex McDonald, '22, who has been in the model shop, was appointed to the rock drill equipment department.

PANNINGS

Arnold Borel, '23, has returned from Leavenworth, Washington, and is now sampling at the Stewart mine, Butte.

Ingles Gay, '23, is with the Chickagoff Development Co., Chickagoff, Alaska.

C. W. Vaupell, '20, has been promoted from Anganguero, Mexico, and now has charge of the southwestern district of Mexico for the A. S. & R. Co., with headquarters at Mexico City.

William J. Hill, '16, who was in the hands of the rebels at last reports, has succeeded Vaupell at Anganguero, Mexico, as chief engineer for the A. S. & R. Co.

Cards have been received from Ray C. Stanaway, '22, who has recently taken up his residence in New York, announcing the birth of Betty Carol Stanaway on January third.

Arthur de Celles, '24, is at Jerome, Arizona, and has forwarded for the mineralogical museum of the Montana State School of Mines, Butte, Montana, some excellent specimens of the rare mineral Voltaite.

ALUMNI, NOTICE!

We are sure that you appreciate the "Acropolitan" as a means of keeping in touch with affairs at the School of Mines. It is published for your benefit as much as for the students.

It will be a big help to us in publishing the paper if we get all the subscriptions paid early, hence we ask that you send to H. H. Nightingale, Business Manager, \$1.25 for the year 1924-25 as soon as convenient.

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