

# St. John's Collegian

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## Percles and The Temple of Progress

Mr. Youtz, who is an old Amherst man himself, was concerned with what would seem to be the St. John's "extra-curricular subject," cartels and monopolies.

When the speaker left college, in order, he said, to find out something of the world in which he was living, he went from continent to continent observing. Of the many things which he undoubtedly noticed in this Odyssey, he chose to concern himself on Sunday night with what would seem to be his primary observation.

Modern Civilization, by which Mr. Youtz means the world since the industrial revolution, is different from any other in that its people are distant from the material sources of our culture. The modern man is unable to understand all the operations which supply him with food, clothing, transportation, etc. Modern production, and all that lies behind it, is called a technology; and it is in this technology that the speaker believes lie all cultural problems and their solutions.

The problem may be briefly stated. As the common man cannot be directly concerned with all those technological activities that furnish him necessities, those activities become the concern of specialists; and the mass of production in turns comes into the control of a few directors, where before, it was widely diffused. Such a technology can become unruly. When this occurs a control is needed.

This is a situation without precedent for the speaker. The classical forms can have no relevance. Thought must be brought up to date. We must understand our world somehow, in the light of a new science. When power and wealth are concentrated in a small number of men; and these men, co-operating with one another, maintain control over the entire production of a given object, a monopoly has been formed. When this control is ex-

tended over two or more nationalities it is called a cartel.

Such a situation means a loss of technological freedom. Mr. Youtz believes that the best remedy against cartelism is a technological, rather than a social, legal, or economic method. The cartel is destroyed by attacking it at its weakest point. It is forced to compete against a greatly superior product in an open market. It was pointed out that it is the function of cartels to escape competition, and to prevent the patenting of what devices will hurt the sale of its products. The speaker was able to show, however, that provided such a project was carried out skillfully enough, the cartel was being beaten by this method.

In discussion it was felt that Mr. Youtz's solution might perhaps tend to self-perpetuation. Once one cartel was broken there was no assurance that another would not take its place. Although it was agreed that more and better technology was a useful weapon in the fight against the monopolistic enterprise, it was posited that the only final solution would be a plan, economic, legalistic, political, or otherwise, which would make any such undesirable and dangerous conjunction of power impossible.

Merchantilism was for Mr. Youtz a new phenomenon! I would like to suggest that, though the setting and circumstances are new, the problem of power monopolies usurping the governmental function is as old as Greece itself. Perhaps a light as to what methods would bring a resolution to this problem, can be found in considering the experience of those past incidences which have been so far neglected by men who thought their problems unique.

W. W. R.

## S. C.

There will be a general meeting of the Social Cooperative Monday, December 4, at 7:00, in the Great Hall. All members are asked to attend.

## College Meetings et al

A long time ago, in fact, all of two weeks, a usual Thursday evening meeting occurred amid the blaze and glitter of a sparsely populated Great Hall. Parenthetical note: In order that the COLLEGIAN may not run an undue risk, it is hereby stated prefactorily that either the Dean began this meeting with a brief announcement, or, Mr. Novak began, etc.,—end of parenthetical note.

The platform was decorated with an old but not disreputable blackboard in the centre, and some people of this community on either side. And despite Mr. Novak's impressive presence at front and centre (by the lecturer) the whole effect was rather uninviting. But things are not always what they seem (though they usually are): there were white chalk sketches (primitives, of course,) on the blackboard. Before striving further with this commendable, journalistic effort, it must be noted that these sketches were not exactly inspired. But just in case Tutor Landau perpetrated them on us all, apologies are immediately extended—we don't want to offend anyone, no, not even the tutors.

Mr. Novak proceeded to outline the pros and cons of the present student representative system, and to present the question of whether a change should be affected, and if so, Why? The Dean, it seems, felt that if the undergraduates wanted his particular responsibilities in student affairs, he would be delighted to delegate them on the grounds that they would be more reasonably ordered by the people for whom they were intended.



Mr. Benedict then presented the, by now familiar plan, of a super committee elected from the existing committees or from the dormitories to take over the Dean's part in the Student Administration tangle. Luther-ville and Basil, it seems, would both be pleased by this arrangement. It was proposed that a vote on this question be postponed until a later time.

Al Schutz, Chase-Stone's gift to the nether politics, next brought out his dormitory's version of a PAC. It was a tremendous success, at least from an entertainment angle. After insulting Randall and East Pinkney, and announcing Chase-Stone's insularity concerning fleshly matters, Mr. Schutz did present a constructive pattern somewhat after the mode of a certain late Paca-Carroll group. (East Pinkney, whose political morals were viciously slandered all during the meeting, has since made a noble effort to organize; "East Pinkney doesn't like people who push other people around.")

Before the Dean wandered through last night's community confab, Assistant Dean Smith took the helm momentarily and made a neat two-base hit with a direct announcement that registration for the winter term would be accomplished on Wednesday, the 3rd of January, from 9 a. m. 'til noon and from 2 in the afternoon 'til 5, that no new Freshmen would be admitted, and that any students and resident tutors who really must stay here during the Christmas vacation, will be housed in Paca-Carroll house (it was understood by well-informed persons of a not too neutral source that this latter housing offer may be comprehended as a threat).

The Dean took over at this juncture and decried PM's sneezes at our datedness, and told us all that these usual Sunday evening meetings in the Library are usual again. These things used to be held back in '43 (everything seems to be reverting these days). They were held in the big room upstairs in the Library—the one with the rugs on the floor. They still are being held there—that is the meetings as well as the rugs. They used to be about Revolution: War & Peace

in general, and Cartels in particular. Now Cartels seem to have gotten the best of the thing—they are the generalities and men from Washington who know plenty about 'em but can't say much are the particulars. But all of this is not to be confusing since it may well have something to do with the significance of silence or something. The Dean then effected a pre-introductory picture of this Sunday evening's speaker, Col. Wm. Taylor, by saying he is "one of these Cartel boys—sort of an Umpire in one of them—knows European pattern—knows a lot but can't tell—(is) remarkably charming but puzzling person."

Then like the President's press conference, the Dean cleared everything with us, such as the possibility of an open winter so don't walk on the grass or he'll write another poem on the matter; that a letter from himself would be sent to each of the parents of the new Freshmen about the fact of no grades being sent them. He elucidated this latter statement, in his warm, friendly and fatherly tone, by dragging in the Orestia and you take it from here . . . . .

## Film

With a lecherous sigh and a reprov- ing frown the Social Cooperative will unveil tomorrow evening at 8:30 D. W. Griffith's film *Intolerance*. This ancient masterpiece is silent, accom- panied by a piano; and boasts the big- gest set and perhaps the largest cast in film history, along with Lillian Gish.

The picture holds four plots: the Crucifixion of Christ, the Persecution of the Huguenots, the Siege of Baby- lon by Cyrus the Great, and finally, Boy and Girl in Big Modern City.

## Announcement

On Sunday evening, December 3, Colonel William Taylor will speak on *Peace* in the King William Room, Woodward Hall. Colonel Taylor has spoken before at St. John's during the summer term on *War*. He is at pres- ent an advisor to the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

## Backcampus

Now that a bitter wind is sweep- ing the athletic field, forlorn with goalposts for the soccer never played; and Mr. Buchanan's Week, Wint'ry, Grass is with us in earnest, the time has arrived for the summing up. A wind swept through the past season, East Pinkney's football team, beating its opponents by narrow margins, but remaining undefeated. Otherwise, the season was marked by mediocre play on the part of all teams, as a usual thing; and occasional bursts of inspira- tion by individual players. Chase- Stone was marked by the originality of some running plays and a consist- ent passing attack; West Pinkney, by a terrifying array of power that never seemed to materialize; Paca, by gen- eral ineptitude in what could have been a good ball team; Randall by brutal line play and bad luck; and finally East Pinkney by a lot of in- teresting plays that never worked.

In regard to events that are to come: in indignation and defiance at the se- lection of the so-called *all-star* team those slighted members of the college banding together with commendable spirit have formed the all-dud team (super duds, Benedict and Van Sant) and foolheartedly challenged the stars to a game on December the ninth. The talent arraigned on either side seems considerable; and not wishing to fore- cast the results of this or the Army- Navy game, we will pass on.

The Athletic Banquet will be held on Wednesday, December 6, in which, as is customary, the laurels of the past season will be awarded and com- memorated.

To this nothing else athletic re- mains save the Senior Ball in which every one, as in volley ball, can be expected to participate.

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