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THE ENGINEER AS AN EXECUTIVE

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Tau Beta Pi, though still comparatively young on the campus, has rapidly gained in reputation and student recognition. The first attempt to install a chapter at Ohio State University was made in 1905. This attempt was not successful, but the idea persisted, and in 1920, the Gamma Chapter was installed here. The parent organization is national in scope, and now numbers more than forty chapters at the leading technical schools of the country. It was founded at Lehigh University in 1885. Election of members is made twice each year. The Fall elections are made from the highest fourth of the Senior class, and those in the Spring from the highest eighth of the Junior class. While based primarily on scholastic achievements, the selection of members takes into account the various qualities held to be requisite to a good engineer.

The first idea of its founder was to provide an honorary organization for technical men similar to Phi Beta Kappa, but Tau Beta Pi has grown to differ from Phi Beta Kappa in that it is an active fraternity, participating in any activity which concerns the welfare of the engineering students and their college.

Among the well known Alumni on the campus are Professors Magruder and Marquis of the M. E. Dept., and Ott of the Dept. of Mechanics.

In the undertaking of any enterprise the promoter secures the services of a competent engineer to investigate its possibilities. On the strength of the engineer's report the enterprise is undertaken and financed. After successful completion of the project, the engineer is paid for his services and dismissed, but the financier still holds the proposition and reaps the profits of the engineer's constructive thinking for years to come.

However, after three or four years' operation, should the profits begin to decline, the engineer's services are again secured to solve the trouble which invariably he does. He again is dismissed with his fee while the profits go to the financier.

If, then, the engineer is always necessary to solve the big problems, his place is in the executive's chair, because the details of operation of any engineering project require constant watching to avoid wastefulness, and indirectly to conserve the resources of the country.

The engineer's endeavor, in the past, has always been to do his best to please his "employer," and the acute competition among engineers has helped greatly in this respect. Therefore the engineer must become alive to the fact that he is the real executive and hence should be governed accordingly, and prepare to take his real place in the industrial field. Why, then, should not the engineer learn to secure the services of competent financiers to finance his proposition, in the same manner as the financiers secure his services to engineer their projects?

Since the successful executive in the business field is the forerunner of the country's administrators, the engineer is, therefore, in line to go right to the top in the handling of the country's activities.