



THE CRUISER'S GUNS.

Efforts to Station Them Here—Can There Be a Yale Memorial?

Efforts are being renewed at Washington to secure the consent of the Government to locate at New Haven the guns Eli and Handsome Dan, which were on the bow of the Cruiser Yale, as a gift from the University's students and graduates. The request is made on the understanding that the Government does not desire to make use of them on war ships at present, and that they would be merely stationed here and subject, at any time, to the call of the Navy Department.

It having been suggested that a request from President Dwight to the officials at Washington would bring about this result, the President very readily followed the suggestion, and sent such a request in his own name. The request, as the WEEKLY understands it, went not only to the Secretary of the Navy, but to the Secretary of War. This request was declined on the ground that neither of these officials had power to grant it.

Hearing of this result, Mr. John Addison Porter, Yale '78, Secretary of the President, has again taken up the matter by interesting the Honorable C. A. Boutelle, Chairman of the House Naval Committee, in the subject. Mr. Boutelle has offered to do all that he can, and is hopeful that a provision will be inserted in the naval appropriation bill, granting to the Navy the authority to locate these guns at New Haven.

As the readers of the WEEKLY remember, the Cruiser Fund Committee, at its last meeting, voted to leave the disposition of the surplus fund to a sub-committee, with power to act. Before directing this sub-committee to use the final surplus for some form of memorial, the general committee had authorized the expenditure of such a sum as was necessary to cover the cost of getting the guns to New Haven, if the Government should desire to locate them here.

In accordance with a suggestion from Mr. Porter, a statement of the history of the guns, and the wish of Yale in regard to them, has been sent to him by one of the members of the sub-committee in order that Mr. Boutelle may make use of any facts contained therein.

This statement, after reciting the history of the guns, closes as follows:

"Since the war was finished, the earnest desire has been expressed by graduates, undergraduates and officers of Yale, that these two guns, Eli and Handsome Dan, if not desired by the Government for present use on ships of war, should be located at New Haven, on or near the Yale Campus, pending any further active use of them by the Navy Department. Dr. Timothy Dwight, President of the University, has evinced a strong interest in the project, and has made, by letter, application to the officials at Washington for the location of the guns at Yale. A letter has just been received by Mr. Henderson of the Cruiser Fund Committee from President Dwight, reporting this application on his part and the refusal of it, on the ground that there was no authority to grant it.

"Neither President Dwight nor any other Yale man desires the location of the guns at Yale, if the Government desires to make active use of them elsewhere. If, however, they are for the present only to be held in reserve for possible future use, all are strong in the belief that to place them at New Haven would be to impress upon the successive generations of Yale students the spirit of Yale loyalty, which prompted the quick response of men and arms, on

the part of the University and her sons, to the call of the country."

The Committee now awaits the action of the Naval Committee and of Congress, in the matter.

THE QUESTION OF MEMORIALS.

Until this action is decided on, it is impossible to make any disposition of the final surplus, as it is impossible to say what that surplus will be. The hope is still to be able to devote it to some kind of a memorial. The Class of Ninety-Seven has already voted to erect an independent memorial to the late Theodore W. Miller, and expect to spend a thousand dollars for a memorial gateway between Durfee and the Chapel. This considerably alters the situation in regard to a memorial to all Yale men who fell in the Spanish war, and makes the erection of one monument or gateway of considerable value, which should memorialize, by proper inscription, each of the Yale heroes of the late war, a difficult, if not an impossible thing.

If the plan adopted by the members of the Class of Ninety-Seven, who have taken action in the matter, is carried out, it would seem to mean that, so far as there are any memorials to the different Yale men who fell, or died from wounds in the late war, they will be individual in character.

The French Club.

The French Club, which was started last year by members of the upper classes, to promote interest in, and knowledge of, French literature and language, reopened January 31. The Club this year is open to all four classes, and while it appeals to the advanced student in French there is also an excellent opportunity for the beginner to familiarize himself with the language, through the lectures. These lectures are given every two weeks on current subjects of interest in France or on literary subjects, and are delivered by the best men that it is possible to get. Professor Sumichrast of Harvard and Professor Cohn of Columbia were among the lecturers last year. M. d'Andiffot, who spoke on the "Dreyfus Case," will, on the thirteenth of this month, give the first of this year's lectures speaking on the recent developments in this famous case.

The Club's room in the Berkeley Hall basement is comfortably fitted up, and is supplied with the current issues of the best French periodicals, both comic and literary. It also contains, as the nucleus of the library which it hopes in time to obtain, some fifty volumes of short stories and essays by all the best French authors.

The great disadvantage under which the Club labors is limited funds. The dues are only three dollars a year, so that no one may be deterred from joining by monetary considerations. This, of course, gives but a small income, while much is needed for the purchase and binding of books and for the getting of lecturers. One donation of fifty dollars has already been made, and more are hoped for.

The Washington Dinner

A notable banquet of the Yale alumni of the city of Washington was held on Saturday night. Distinguished representatives spoke for the three branches of the government service. In spite of careful preparations for a complete report for this issue of the paper, the copy failed to reach the WEEKLY in time for use this week. The report will appear in the next issue.

Looking for Debating Plan.

The first step towards the strengthening of the Yale Union was taken at a meeting of that body Friday night, Feb. 3, at which a Committee was appointed to produce a plan to increase the Union's effectiveness in all directions. The names of that Committee are: J. K. Clark, '99; E. B. Boise, '99; A. B. Hall, '99; H. A. Dow, 1900, and A. D. Leavitt, 1900. Up to the present time no plan has been hit upon which can be said to solve all the difficulties of the problem, and the Committee would like to hear from any graduate or undergraduate who is interested in the matter and who believes he has a feasible plan for the strengthening and centralizing of the Union.

The resolutions upon which the debate of the evening were based were:

"Whereas, The Yale Union has not received the support which as the central debating organization of the University it deserves; and

Whereas, This support seems now to be diverted to the various class organizations; be it

Resolved, That the Union, with the consent of these organizations, institute a series of inter-club debates to centralize and focus the debating interests of the University, and further be it

Resolved, That the membership of the Union, to attain this end, should be limited; and furthermore be it

Resolved, That the Union shall endeavor to find more convenient and accessible quarters; and furthermore be it

Resolved, That the meetings of the Union should be held bi-weekly instead of weekly, as at present."

No decision was given upon the debate which ensued, but at the close of the meeting, all the above resolutions were voted down as being inadequate.

Many carefully prepared speeches were heard from the house, but no satisfactory plans were suggested.

Intercollegiate Relay Race.

Arrangements have been made by the Athletic Association of the University of Pennsylvania for an intercollegiate relay race meeting, to be held on Saturday, April 29th. Yale will probably be represented by a team, though it has not yet been decided upon.

There will be three races, open to all the colleges and universities of the United States and Canada, to determine the college championship of America. Teams will be composed of four men. A banner will be awarded the winning team, and to each member a gold watch, and to each member of the team that finishes second a silver cup. The race will be governed by the rules of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association, except that the usual entrance fee will not be charged. In order that the colleges may be arranged in groups that are about equal in strength, the first group will be composed of Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Pennsylvania, if a team from Yale competes.

University Whist.

The University Whist tournament which was commenced before Christmas has been finished. The matches played resulted as follows: In the semifinal round J. S. Cameron, '99 and O. S. Bryant, '99, defeated S. M. Wood, 1900, and A. VanderVeer, 1900; S. A. Gilmore, '99, and W. C. Lee, '99, defeated W. P. Haines, 1902 and M. Moore, 1902. In the final round Gilmore and Lee defeated Cameron and Bryant.

PHI BETA KAPPA CHANGES.

Amendments Suggested of a Radical and Important Character.

Constitutional amendments were submitted at a recent meeting of Phi Beta Kappa, which suggest a very radical change in the Society. The amendments include the three following sections:

"The Society shall elect as members all men who have attained a philosophical oration stand in the work of Freshman and Sophomore years; and in addition, a number from among the first fifty men in the Class sufficient to bring the membership up to thirty."

"All those not already members who, at the end of Senior year, shall have received a philosophical oration stand on the work of Junior and Senior years, shall then be elected members of the Society."

"The Society, by a three-fourths vote, may elect as honorary members such persons of distinguished scholarship, not undergraduates, as it may deem worthy."

Since the new life which has been shown by the Society recently, particularly since the occupation of its new quarters in White Hall, there has been considerable agitation of the plan to allow some opportunity of choice outside the records of the marking book, for membership in Phi Beta Kappa. All of the plans have, of course, restricted candidates to men of excellent stand in the Class.

The most radical change proposed was the plan to make all membership elective, within the limits of a certain number of the high stand men in the Class. That is, thirty members were to be chosen from the first fifty or sixty men in the Class. These thirty might or might not include those of the highest stand. The plan contemplated in the amendments printed above is a compromise between this and the present system. It assures the opportunity for the honor and benefits of Phi Beta Kappa to those who attain the philosophical stand. Anyone with that record may be a member. But instead of leaving this as the only means of becoming a member, it gives an opportunity for election, outside of the list of philosophicals, but within the first fifty scholars of the Class. The object is twofold. One is to recognize the scholarship of men of evidenced intellectual power, who have given so much of their time to College work of one kind or another, like editorial work, or, it is to be presumed, athletic work, as to allow their stand to fall off a few hundredths. The other is to make sure that the Society shall always be of sufficient size to make it a practically successful organization in its literary and social character.

The question is the most important one that Phi Beta Kappa has had to consider, and a great deal of interest is being taken in it, not only by members of the Society, but by others, who think they see in some such move as this an opportunity to make Phi Beta Kappa a stronger force in the life of the University, and to make membership therein, whether attained purely on record of scholarship or by selection from the best scholars of the Class, of not only more honor but of more real value.

The first lecture of the Sheffield Scientific School course will be given on Tuesday evening, Feb. 14. The complete list of lecturers and their subjects appear in Saturday's Bulletin.