

1922

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HOPE COLLEGE BULLETIN

Volume 60

May 1922

Number 1

ALUMNI NEWS LETTER



1922

HOPE COLLEGE
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

June Festivities

With the close of another successful year of work, preparations are well under way for a happy commencement, at which time it is hoped that every graduate of Hope College and all its friends will turn their thoughts Hope-ward. Thinking about the pleasant greetings with class-mates and friends will compel you to wish you could be present on this most happy occasion. Your wishes will remind you that your presence is necessary to make this year's commencement one of the best in the proud history of Hope. With your help this occasion can be made one of the happiest and most promising of all our annual conventions.

The following is a partial program of the June events:

- June 2—Dorian Banquet.
- June 5—Recital of the School of Music.
- June 7—Emersonian Banquet.
- June 9—Knickerbocker Banquet.
- June 10—Delphi Banquet.
- June 13—Recital of the School of Music.
- June 14—Fraternal Banquet.
- June 16—"A" Class Program.
- June 17—Meliphone Program. Sorosis Banquet.
- June 18—Baccalaureate Sermon.
- June 19—Ulfilas Program.
- June 20—Alumni Banquet.
- June 21—Commencement Exercises.

COLLEGE CALENDAR—1922-1923

1922

- September 19—Registration, beginning at 9 A. M.
- September 20—First Semester begins at 9 A. M.
- November 30—Thanksgiving Recess.

1923

- January 25—Prayer Day for Colleges.
- February 2—First Semester ends.
- February 5—Second Semester begins.
- June 20—Commencement.

President's Message

To the Alumni Association:

It was not with the thought of setting a precedent that in two previous years some of the matter presented to the Board of Trustees in the Annual Report has been brought to you in this Bulletin. Many have asked, however, that this be repeated as occasion might offer.

Three items in the Annual Report may be of general interest. First,—a study of Freshman Class ratings was conducted by the Educational Department during the year. The purpose was to find bases for the conduct of the curriculum and for efficient advice to the Student Body in matters of personal development and professional careers. The heavy influx of students into all colleges during the last few years has given prominence to the thought that not every lad and lass is fitted for or can be benefitted by the College or University of today. The problem is to determine whether the College or the lad is to be modified. It is hoped that the studies now under way will lead to the solution. The question has an immense bearing on the future of the Church and the State and the College.

Thus far a few tentative conclusions are before us. (a) Altho secondary schools are being standardized—almost with a vengeance in truth—results in student training vary greatly. (As a corollary it may be suggested that those who worship at the shrine of Standardization may be forced to make Birth Control their unknown god.) (b) Secondary students seem to have the controlling hand in Committees on Courses and Registration, selecting the courses that appeal to them at the time rather than those which have any bearing on their personal future. For illustration, many girl students have a year or two of Spanish as secondary credits! (c) Girl students rank higher relatively than boys,

both during the senior secondary year and the Freshman College year, yet their social activities seem to take as much time as the gainful and athletic activities of the boys. (d). The mortality of the boy students bids fair to be larger than that of the girl students and this will be due to official elimination as well as to personal lack of interest and aim. (e) If the colleges conform to the student-demand rather than to the idea of a well-planned, purposeful career for each individual college within its own sphere and for the whole group, there must be a very radical change in present collegiate administration of courses, equipment and capital.

These conclusions are, as is suggested above, tentative. The second point may be of more intimate interest to you so many of whom are clergymen. The tendencies in secondary education noted above are but part of a national movement,—“the trend of our nationalism,” as it is mistakenly called. The church and religious fields are affected by the movement no less than the academic and commercial fields. For this reason you are compelled to grapple with the problem. It may be stated in this way: Is the Church to determine the future of the College or is the College to determine the future of the Church? If the ministry of the Church conclude for an academic training in which the student makes his choice of courses the whim of passing moods, personal or group, the College may be compelled to accede to the demand. The result will be pulpits which are the broadcasting stations of widely divergent ethical and social schemes,—if it be possible to dignify such performances as “schemes.” The College, on the other hand, may deem it its privilege and duty to take a hand in the making of history, secular and religious. The “universities” of Europe have done so. The “intellectuals” of other lands have done so. In our own early national history American education did much along this line. I am convinced that the English Colonials intended this

should be the case. The Netherlands Colonies of 1847 seem to have had this in their program. Yet in the last five decades a change has become evident. Today it has become certain that the after-war period which so many are calling a new world, must have a controlling and a guiding hand. One must needs conclude that the Christian College may be the controlling and guiding hand. She herself may give forth a most certain pronouncement for personal, commercial and social righteousness; she may add to this a graduate leadership moulded by her choice of curriculum and culture. To all applicants who demand other methods she may suggest schools of their own type. Your own college for a long period has done somewhat of this sort of thing. Now she stands at a crossing of the roads where she views in one direction an ambitious and politic compliance with the sweep and demand of the day and in the other direction a nationalism unmoved from the colonial heritage and determined upon a future no less stable and righteous than Jamestown and New Amsterdam and Plymouth prayed for. She sees in that direction also, looming just beyond the offing, an internationalism as stable and righteous as her own ideals. She does not propose—as some would—a democracy and an Americanism like our own for the whole world. She does propose an efficient leadership the world over founded upon the righteousness which is in Christ Jesus. She proposes a foreign missionry and a domestic ministry that will perfect a Christian culture which appropriates from the past whatever is good and builds into the future such stores of human values as God may allow. HOPE proposes to lead through a *Purposeful, Christian Education*.

The third point of interest is a bit of financial comparison. Building upon the very excellent work of President Gerrit J. Kollen, L L D., Rev. Ame Vennema, D. D., the fourth president of HOPE,

assumed his administrative duties in 1911 and began an intensive development which has continued through the following decade. At that time a debt of over \$42,500.00 burdened the College. The Endowment Fund as given in the annual report to General Synod for that year, was \$256,207.39. Current disbursements in 1911-1912 were slightly more than \$38,500.00. Church contributions were less than \$2,000.00, while the General Synod appropriated through the Board of Education \$3,720.00. The debt has been decreased during the ten years by \$15,000.00. The Endowment Fund is now \$695,000.00. Current disbursements for the fiscal year just closed have exceeded \$71,000.00, while contributions, both special and general, including the appropriation of General Synod and certain other items of a like nature, have been in excess of \$23,000.00. In the face of these facts the deficits for the two years, 1911-1912 and 1921-1922, are practically the same. The student roll during the decade has increased by over 25 per cent and it is in this element as well as in the vastly increased costs of instruction and maintenance that the increased income has been expended. In the year 1911-1912 a senior class of 23 was enrolled, while in June, 1922, 55 will receive the degree of A. B. In the earlier year there were 13 members of the Student Volunteer Band of Foreign Missions, while in the last year there are over 50.

All this is cause for deep gratitude, but HOPE faces opportunities and demands which call for an endowment of \$2,000,000.00 and an increase in equipment over the next ten years which will involve an outlay of large sums. HOPE has a purpose but no goal. HOPE aspires to the power of world service but she asks no largess for herself. HOPE'S faculties and her undergraduates ask of you graduates who are the real *Collegium Sperantium*, fealty, support and prayer.

Commencement

Fellow Alumni:

This bulletin is a reminder to you in particular. You have received letters from time to time reminding you of your relations to your alma mater and to these letters you have responded most helpfully. This brief letter is to remind you of the passing of another year and a looking forward to commencement days, which always means the greetings of old friends. No doubt you have glanced through the annual bulletin and have seen that the work done is much the same as in years past with slight variations. The spirit of Hope has not changed, except that it becomes more intense with the increase of its graduates. We extend to you a most cordial invitation to join us in the commencement festivities. The spirit of Hope welcomes you, the greetings of friends, old and new, urges you, and the college reunions with former classmates invite you to attend.

Let us remind you of the Alumni Convocation on Tuesday, June 20. This should be the day of reunions—make it yours. Last year what we hope will be a precedent was initiated by the Class of 1896. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the graduating of the Class of 1896 and a gift to the college, a steel flagpole costing over \$350.00, was presented. It was dedicated in memory of Harry J. Wiersum, '96, who died in Arabia. The commencement orator was Dr. John N. Vander Vries, '96, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Chicago Division. This year the Class of 1897 will occupy the center of the stage. In successive years each class will hold its twenty-fifth anniversary. Yours is coming! But in the meantime come along anyway. Do not forget your classmates. Do not forget your college. Make the

Alumni Convocation a real home-coming. The Fifty-Year Class will begin its series in 1923. In addition the ten-year classes will have a place upon the program. But arrange for a class dinner at noon just amongst yourselves. Let your local members make the arrangements for you or detail the Secretary of the Association to make your arrangements. Resort hotels are open or a Beach Party can be arranged. Come to college again and be young with the rest of us. You need the old associations and the new faces—you need the college for its inspirations and its pleasures. The HOPE of tomorrow needs the HOPE of yesterday. Come and greet us.

THE COMMITTEE.

