

## FROSH LAW STUDENTS ORGANIZE OPEN FORUM

Will Hold Meetings One Wednesday Evening Each Month—Open to Student Body

The freshman law students have organized an Open Forum for the benefit of all the men students in the University. The purpose of the Forum will be the discussion of student problems and development of student opinion. The meetings will be held one Wednesday evening, each month, in Room 107 of the Law building.

Two speakers will be prepared in advance for each meeting, one to attack and the other to defend the topic to be discussed at the next meeting. Each of these men will have the floor for five minutes to present his arguments. After these introductory speeches have been made, the meeting will be thrown open to all who are present and each person, by addressing the chair, will be given three minutes to express his ideas on the subject. The meetings will last about forty-five minutes and at the end of that time a vote will be taken from those present and their decision will be made public. This will afford the students excellent training in public speaking and will form a nucleus for the development of student opinion.

Five men are responsible for the activities of this new organization. Three are students and two are faculty members. The students are: Frank Watson, Welch Pogue, and Giles Hinkle. The faculty members are Dean Seavoy of the Law School and Professor Fogg of the Department of Journalism.

## PROF. UPSON TALKS TO FROSH ENGINEERS

Discusses Chemical Engineering at Weekly Gathering of First Year Engineering Men

"Germany controlled, before the war, all the organic chemical industries of the world that are dependent on coal tar," said Prof. F. W. Upson, chairman of the department of chemistry, in speaking to freshman engineers on certain phases of chemical engineering, Monday at 5 o'clock in M. E. 206.

"The United States sold all of her coal tar that was ever utilized to Germany and bought it back at greatly increased cost in the form of finished products. Ninety percent of America's coal tar was used as fuel or thrown out before the war. And coal tar production is linked inseparably with the metallurgical industries, since in the manufacture of the coke used in them, coal tar is a natural by-product. Dyes, photographic chemicals, drugs and virtually all the modern explosives are obtained from coal tar.

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"Prior to 1914 American chemical industries were confined, with a few exceptions, to the inorganic class. Among the more important were: metallurgical industries; manufacture of alkalies; production of chlorine; production of sulphur; manufacture of heavy acids; production of fertilizer, largely from imported substances; and production of radium. In fact the United States was the chief producer of radium in the world.

"Growth in American chemical industries as a result of the war was confined largely to the organic class, all the more important of which link themselves up with coal tar.

"The German idea seemed to be to gain control of large industries by ownership of small, apparently insignificant, key-industries. She manufactured 90 per cent of the world's dyes and 95 per cent of America's, and on this smaller industry the enormous textile industry was hopelessly dependent—an industry that produces in one year in the United States a value of \$3,000,000,000, and in the whole world at least five times that amount. The foreign property custodian discovered that nearly all of the plants manufacturing magnetos for motor vehicles in this country were German owned and controlled. So, Germany was able to balk the allied air program and to keep a close check on the production of motor vehicles in this country.

"Through her control of the dye industries, Germany was also able to control to a large extent the manufacture of explosives. Modern high-power explosives can be produced in dye factories, using the same raw materials, the same machinery, and the same workmen. Thus Germany had a potential munitions industry.

"Germany was able to use her control of these key-industries as a weapon. When the United States was cut off from her supply of dyes by the allied blockade of German ports, she suggested to congress that if it would intercede with Great Britain to lift the blockade she would supply this country with dyes. And upon the dye industry, not only the textile industry was dependent, but also a host of lesser industries were panic stricken.

"Government authorities immediately began to develop an American dye industry. Along with this development a nitrogen fixation plant was built at Muscle Shoals and a drug industry was developed with the result

that even better products were made in American than were previously obtained solely from Germany. In 1900 Germany had an excellent excuse for bringing on a war, but it is said that military officials requested that it be held up until the nitrogen fixation process was perfected. This process, which obtains the materials for nitric acid, an essential in the manufacture of both explosives and fertilizers, from the air, was perfected in Germany in 1912," Dr. Upson stated.

"It is probable that in twenty-five years the major part of the gasoline supply will come from oil shale. This shale contains far more petroleum than the entire world supply, but the present cost of manufacture is prohibitive. Aside from the use of petroleum products as fuels, the petroleum industries furnish a big field for chemical engineers. Five years ago it was unknown that many of the higher alcohols could be obtained from petroleum. These alcohols are used in the manufacture of varnishes, paints, and in the cellulose industries," he continued.

"Chemists are of three classes. The research chemists, of whom large numbers are employed by such companies as the General Electric Company, the Dupont Company, and the Eastman Kodak Company; control chemists, primarily analysts, who check the materials at various stages in processes of manufacture; and chemical engineers who are interested in large scale production.

"The chemical engineer has been defined recently as a physical chemist with an engineer's point of view. The course offered here only fits the graduate to become an apprentice. His final success depends on the same qualities that would make him a success in any field. Employers complain that the chief failing of new chemical engineering graduates is their inability to apply the fundamental principles of chemistry, physics and mathematics to the problems in hand. So, the chief purpose of the University is to ground the student in the fundamentals with which to secure an education, for, after, all life is only a process of education," Dr. Upson concluded.

## INDUSTRIAL COURT TO BE SUBJECT OF DEBATE

(Continued from Page 1)

Paxton, Western.

Scottsbluff, Northwestern. Tekamah, Eastern. Verango, Western. Wobach, West-Central.

Abstracts of a large number of authoritative articles on the Kansas industrial court will be furnished the League schools this year at cost through the Debating and Public Discussion Bureau of the University Extension Division. These abstracts are being made under the supervision of Professor Fogg by members of Nebraska intercollegiate debate teams.

District contests to determine what schools are entitled to the district championships and to participate in the three-day state-debate tournament at the University next May will begin in February. North Platte won the 1922 state championship; Cathedral High School, Lincoln, in 1921; Beatrice in 1920.

The district directors for 1922-1923 who have immediate charge of League details in their several territories are as follows:

Central District—Supt. J. A. Doremus, Aurora. East-Central District—Principal C. W. Taylor, Teachers College High School, Lincoln.

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Northeastern District—Supt. Conrad Jacobson, Wayne.

Northwestern District—Supt. W. R. Pate, Alliance.

Southern District—Principal Julius Gilbert, Beatrice.

Southwestern District—Supt. J. C. Mitchell, Holdrege.


Western District—Supt. W. J. Braham, North Platte.

West-Central District—Supt. B. A. Kennedy, Greeley.

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