

DEAN RICHARDS WRITES  
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have accomplished some things and have great plans for the future, with reasonable prospects of seeing them fulfilled. Probably the most noteworthy experiment we have undertaken is in connection with the methods of teaching shop work. To a large extent we have abandoned the methods which prevail in most of the American technical schools and are making the shops laboratories for the teaching of industrial management. So far the experiment has shown such promise of success that I feel very much encouraged and believe that the shop work will become of much greater importance to the engineering student than it has ever been in the past. It may interest you to know that a large part of the success of this experiment is due to Mr. Bruce W. Benedict, Nebraska '01, who, during the past year, has been added to our staff as director of the shop laboratories.

Through the engineering experiment station a considerable amount of research work is rendered possible. Since my connection with the department a number of noteworthy contributions to the science of engineering have been made by members of the department staff, and a number of interesting experiments are under way. The experiment station affords an opportunity for work to the regular members of the teaching staff, although the greater part of the work done is carried on by research assistants and fellows in the department.

The college of engineering here is one of the largest in the country. We have about twelve hundred students enrolled this year, of whom approximately one-fourth are in the department of mechanical engineering. Although the large number of students makes the work of the department inspiring, yet it is a regret to me that it renders difficult the close personal association between instructor and student which I found so delightful at Nebraska.

Through the action of the legislature two years ago a one mill levy was provided for the support of the University. The budget presented to the legislature asks that this levy be appropriated to the use of the University for the next biennium. The estimated income from which is in round numbers four and one-half million dollars. While this is a tremendous sum of money, the University has been growing so rapidly that it is hardly adequate to take care of the real and fancied needs of the institution. The income from this source will undoubtedly increase materially, for I am told that the methods of assessing property in the state are somewhat crude, and if the laws are changed the total assessed valuation will undoubtedly be largely increased, and with it, of course, will come a large increase of revenue to the University.

There are many things I would be glad to write you, but after all this letter is intended primarily to extend to you all my greetings and best wishes. I hope my friends will visit me when they are in this section of the country, for I shall always be glad to welcome anyone from Nebraska.

With best regards to you all, I am  
Very cordially yours,  
C. R. RICHARDS,  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Now is the time to buy a pin fob or ring. 340 N. 11th St.

### Engineering Society, for Many Years a Power in the Student Activities of the College

In the beginning of the school year 1900 of the engineering students of the University of Nebraska, considering that "in unity there is strength" conceived the idea of organizing an Engineering Society including as its members, the students of the three engineering departments. These are the words found on the first page in the Record book of the Engineering Society. The society was organized at a mass meeting on Nov. 27, 1900. Bruce Benedict, the great football "star" was the first president.

The society became at once very active in University affairs. Each meeting was well attended, the programs being given by student members, as well as visiting engineers. In October, 1901, the society, under the leadership of Prof. Morse, went in a body to the Minnesota football game and visited the power plants of Minneapolis.

The Engineering Annual was started during the school year, 1901-02. Dan Gutchen was the first editor. In 1904 the name of the publication was changed to the "Blue Print."

In 1910 during the administration of Ira Dye, a Vaudeville show was given in Memorial Hall. This proved to be a big success and will long be remembered by the engineers who saw it.

The Blue Print was made a semi-annual in 1911. H. B. Pearce was editor, and F. J. Witt business manager at this time.

The present officers of the society are: E. T. Granlich, president; F. C. Holtz, vice-president; J. C. Schultz, recording secretary; S. A. Swanson, treasurer; and A. Ralph Rich, corresponding secretary.

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