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WHAT THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS EXPECT OF INDUSTRY¹

By Professor DUGALD C. JACKSON

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE topic which the distinguished president of Lehigh University has invited me to discuss on this occasion is "What the Technical Schools Expect of Industry."

Permit me to suggest that before we discuss a "What" we should reflect on and disclose whether there may or may not be a reasonable "Why." That is, we should consider whether there are reasonable grounds on which the men who control the scientific and pedagogical processes and progress in the engineering schools can establish a just claim on the intellectual and financial interests of industry. Permit me to diverge briefly and dispose of this question, in the interest of then being able to more clearly unfold my principal theme.

¹ Address delivered on the occasion of the dedication of the James Ward Packard Laboratory of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Lehigh University, October 16, 1930.

The application of the words "industry" and "industries" in this address is to the engineering industries, and these words thus used are inclusive of substantially all collectivities engaged in manufacturing, transportation, generation and distribution of power, production of artificial light, communication of intelligence over distances. These compose the broad foundation which, next to sentiment, ethics and religion, supports our twentieth century civilization. Even agriculture, a basic and pervasive activity, now secures part of its character from these engineering industries through the inventions that have given birth to automobiles, tractors, hard-surfaced roads, manufactured fertilizers; in addition to the older railroad, electric light and power, and telephone industries. We thus are discussing a topic which touches the welfare of every ultimate citizen. The wise administration, the continued unfolding of new aspects, the

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