

AUGUSTANA OBSERVER

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DEMOCRACY IN COLLEGE LIFE.

As a direct result of the World War the governments of many nations have been changed; the majority of these have become democratic in as radical a fashion as they were once monarchic. Abolition of class distinction, tho not new to our land, has become more general and popular. Institutions of all kinds have fallen into line; business is realizing its power for furthering cooperation between capital and labor, and schools have for some time been enjoying the fruits of greater equality.

This democratic spirit has developed at the various colleges, and at Augustana, in particular, the bond of fraternity has flourished. Today, we have the Students' Union, the source of student activities, encouraging freedom from useless restrictions, but curbing carelessness and looseness. Insofar as the members of this body recognize the equality and justice of democracy will the Union prosper. But if a few wilfully withstand the carrying out of any ordinance, the organization will lose its power. The strength of the body necessarily depends on the attitude of the students. Should a few become arbitrary, they may prevail, for the Union's means of enforcement are yet weak and insufficient. If the first act of disobedience is not promptly punished, others that may follow will meet with less resistance. Consequently, the Students' Union may become but a name, and its Council a figure-head. On the other hand, cooperation and an attempt to reach the correct viewpoint will strengthen our democratic school government, and will render study less liable to be infringed upon by vain and interminable arguments.

The persons composing the Students' Union, in order to make the whole effective, should so conduct themselves in accordance with its principles that there can be no disruption or petty enmities.

ELMER HANKE, 23.

The above article was not written as an editorial, but it contains some thoughts which are, at present, of vital importance to the Augustana student body, and therefore is included here. When the editor read the article he began to wonder whether some of Mr. Hanke's more dire predictions were not already coming true. Those students who leave on Monday mornings before Union meetings commence are doing as much as are those who actually break rules to undermine the organization. Those who sit thru classes with their books open are hurting the cause. Those who appropriate the property of others are hastening the day when the Students' Union will no longer have either right or reason for existence. Re-read this page, and determine whether you are helping or hurting. It is worth while.