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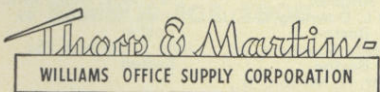
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maintaining the existing facilities for such large numbers and to lighten the load on the already too overburdened University Treasury. To achieve this goal, the Committee is actively working now to build up the number of Friends as well as the volume of subscriptions.

Among the many thousands of former Harvard students who have used the River, it would seem not too unreasonable to expect that one thousand of them would wish to assist in keeping a valuable sport like rowing on as broad and constructive a basis as possible.

Those willing to help should draw checks to the Treasurer of Harvard University and send them to F. L. Higginson, Treasurer, 50 Federal St., Boston.

—BLADE

The Ober Law

To the Editor of the BULLETIN:

In 1949 the BULLETIN printed an exchange of letters between Frank S. Ober, a Baltimore lawyer, and Grenville Clark, who answered on behalf of the University. Mr. Ober urged Harvard to purge its Faculty of Communists and, though I do not recall his exact phrase, something like "Communist-thinkers." When his proposal was rejected, Mr. Ober declined to contribute to the Harvard Law School Fund.

Mr. Clark made what has turned out to be a prophetic statement in one of his responding letters. He said:

[Mr. Ober's] plan implies an extensive system of detection. . . Nothing of this character will happen under Dr. Conant. There will be no harassment of professors for engaging in open and legal meetings. There will be no apparatus of inquiry and "closer watch."

While Mr. Ober did not succeed in convincing Harvard, he did persuade the Maryland Legislature to pass a measure—known as the Ober Law—setting up a state office to investigate subversive activities. That Mr. Clark's fears for such a program were unfortunately well founded was shown in a recent incident involving the Ober Law.

On Sunday evening, May 10, the United World Federalists held a meeting in Baltimore. An Ober Law enforcement agent stationed himself outside the theater where the meeting was scheduled and jotted down license numbers of persons driving up to attend. Then he went inside and, with the help of plainclothes policemen, wrote down the names of speakers and any others he could find. The speakers included two Protestant ministers, a rabbi, and a prominent Catholic layman from Boston.

When the incident was called to the attention of the Maryland Governor, Theodore R. McKeldin, he said he was "distressed and shocked" and "strongly disapproves." The Assistant Attorney General in charge of Ober Law enforcement said the inquiry was made without his knowledge, but added that he could not see any reason for disciplinary action against the agent. Governor McKeldin ordered the agents to refrain from investigating legitimate meetings in future.

Despite Governor McKeldin's admirable reaction the damage clearly could never be undone. A Maryland citizen considering joining the World Federalists will doubtless do a little more thinking now, and unless he is

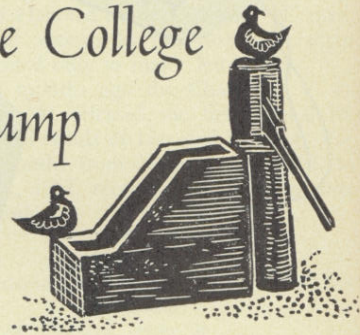
rather more courageous than most, he may well conclude that it would be safer and wiser to stay out. And the members of the audience who had their names and numbers taken down are not out of it, either. The Assistant Attorney General said his agent's notes would be filed just in case something turned up against the persons involved later.

Incidentally, in the four years the Ober Law has been on the books, the enforcement staff has not arrested a single person on suspicion of engaging in subversive activities. It did report to the Legislature this year that it has an extensive file of suspects, however.

J. ANTHONY LEWIS '48

Washington, D. C.

The College Pump



Your wooden arm you hold outstretched
To shake with passers-by.

SOMEWHERE in the middle of the reunion year the chairman of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary Class must begin to wonder just what the stir is all about and whether the struggle is worth the price. If such were the case in 1953, Donald J. Hurley, General Chairman of the Harvard Class of 1928 Twenty-Fifth Reunion, did not even appear to show signs of wear during Commencement Week. Perhaps the reason was that earlier in the year he had discovered in the University Archives the memorandum which Thomas Bulfinch, A.B. 1814, had submitted to President James Walker just a hundred years ago on the subject of 25th reunions. Here is a philosophy for all reunion chairmen who contemplate celebrating the passage of a quarter-century.

The Twenty-fifth Commencement after leaving college is a very interesting one. It completes the quarter-century, it finds many of the class fathers of grown-up sons, some four or five of whom are pupils in the graduating class. The fathers are yet full of life and hope, the latter in its full intensity for their sons. The Class also at this era, has its numbers very nearly undiminished; its members are among the distinguished men of the community, and they have more money to spend than when younger and more heart to spend it than when older. I propose that this Indian Summer of life should be taken

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