Unique Ceremonies
Closing Exercises
Of Rice Institute

Houston, Texas, June 9.—The sixth annual commencement exercises of Rice Institute were held on the campus Monday morning beginning at 9 o'clock. Eighty-two students received degrees. The address of Dr. Charles W. Elliot, president emeritus of Harvard, on "Education in the United States Since the Civil War," was read, and announcements of awards made by former President Woodrow Wilson, Sir Auckland Geddes, British Ambassador to the United States; Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Graham Baker scholarship of one year at Rice.

The gift to the institution, through Dr. Edgar Odell Lovett, president of Rice Institute, from former President Wilson of a degree presented to him by the University of Athens, is encased in a velvet-lined case and will be on display at the Institute next year. It is contained in a polished olive wood case, supported at the corners by four massive silver owls, and on the top, an embossed Rice Owl carries in its beak the plate on which is engraved the name of Woodrow Wilson, President of the American Revolution.

A gift of $1,000 was made to the Institute by Sir Auckland Geddes when he was here on a speaking tour scheduled by the Godwin Foundation. The fund is to be given as prizes for excellence in writing.

Beginning next year the John Moir Knitt Alexander Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will establish a $5,000 scholarship fund. This fund will be for the use of women only.

The Graham Baker scholarship of one year was awarded to Miss Margaret Blackwell, a junior at the Institute this year.

The Baccalaureate sermon was preached Sunday, June 5th, in the Academic Court by Herbert Lockwood Willet, professor of Semitic languages and literatures at the University of Chicago, and a minister of the Christian church. "A Church for the Modern Age," was the subject of Dr. Willet's sermon, and he very remarkably declared that the church must solve the modern problems of labor and capital, if it is to retain its hold upon humanity; it must interpret its religion along with modern science, and not ignore "factual" questions. Interpretation of the Bible in past ages did not take them into consideration. In short, a "Church for the Modern Age," Dr. Willet declared, "must adapt itself to modern times, and the solutions for humanity. That is the duty of the church, and through that office alone will the church retain its hold upon humanity that it formerly possessed."

The Academic procession preceded the program on both mornings. The faculty in their academic robes, brilliantly colored to represent the universities of the world, who had bestowed their degrees, marched ahead of the graduates. The singing of the famous "Veni, Creator Spiritus," and "Lord of All Being, Throned Afar," always a part of Rice commencements, featured the program of both days.

Dr. Elliot's address was read by Randalov Tsoff, professor of philosophy at Rice, because the famous author and Harvard educator was unable to make the long trip to Houston, due to his extreme age.

Beginning with the dark days of the reconstruction period, following the Civil War, the address dealt with education and the progress that has been made since that time. In the end Dr. Elliot declares that "all men and women who believe that education is the safeguard of democracy may rest content with the progress of education in the United States since the Civil War."

The entire ceremony this morning was centered around the address of Dr. Elliot. Since its arrival the address had been locked in a vault for safekeeping and no one was permitted to handle it until after it was read this morning. Every line of the address was heavily freighted with the brilliance of the eminent educator. In simple words, conveying ideas of mammoth dimensions and of vital import, the manuscript expressed Dr. Elliot's many years' experience with men and women in educational work. He reviewed briefly the effect of the late war on education, mentioning briefly the preparations made by various organizations to carry on education in the United States Army, during campaign days.

"Many non-governmental agencies," the manuscript read, "set to work to contend against the evil of illiteracy. The Young Men's Christian Association became active in the work of teaching recent immigrants from alien races the English language and the elements of civics, winning to their classes, both young men and adults. The chief emphasis was placed on the teaching of the English language, and during the two years and a half which have elapsed since the armistice much success has attended these efforts."

Dr. Elliot cites this as strong evidence that the idea of popular education should by no means be confined to children under 14 or under 19 or to young people under 24, but should be carried forward by all schools, after regular attendance at school or..."
President Emeritus of Harvard to Address 1921 Graduates

Dr. Elliot will speak at Rice commencement

Charles William Elliott, president emeritus of Harvard university, will deliver the commencement address to the graduating class of Rice Institute, and Herbert Lockwood Willett, professor of Semitic languages at Chicago University, will offer the baccalaureate sermon June 5 and 6, it was announced Friday.

Although 87 years old, Dr. Elliot takes an active part in delivering lectures and writing. He is considered one of the world’s greatest authorities on educational matter, having instructed in chemistry, mathematics, educational methods and principles, social problems, philosophy, and political economy. Dr. Elliot has been awarded highest honors in France, Japan, Italy, and Germany. His discussion of the recent peace treaty met with favorable comment from all sides. He has received degrees from the leading universities of this country and was awarded his Ph.D. from Breslau.

Dr. Elliot’s address is scheduled for the second day of the commencement exercises, June 6. Rice undergraduates, faculty, graduation class, and friends of the institution will be present. The exercises will be held in the open air court facing the south side of the sallyport of the administration building.

Dr. Willett will deliver the baccalaureate sermon Sunday, June 5. He is an ordained Christian minister and has gained no little fame in writing on Biblical subjects. He has received degrees from many American universities and has studied in Europe.
Dr. Charles William Eliot will deliver the commencement address to the class of '21. Dr. Eliot is a world figure, one of the very greatest authorities on educational matter. Though 87 years old, he is an active writer and lecturer, keeping abreast and ahead of the current lines of thought. His subjects include chemistry, mathematics, educational methods and principles, social problems, philosophy, and political economy. His discussion of a treaty of peace received favorable comment from all sides. France, Japan, Italy and Prussia have awarded him their highest honors. He has received degrees from all the leading universities of America and his Ph. D. from Breslau.

Dr. Herbert Lockwood Willett, professor of Semitic languages at the University of Chicago, who will preach the baccalaureate sermon, June 5.

Dr. Willett is an ordained Christian (Disciples) minister, and has gained a good deal of fame for his writings on Biblical subjects. He has degrees from many American universities and has studied in Berlin. Though not known as worldwide as Dr. Eliot, his reputation is such as to make him a worthy fellow speaker.

The coming of these two great men to the Rice Institute is an occurrence which will stand out as a red letter day.

Baccalaureate will be Sunday morning, June 5, and commencement the next morning. Both will be held as usual in the academic court of the Institute. The academic procession each day will begin at 9 o'clock, in which the faculty, the honored guests and the class of '21 will participate.

The Thresher
May 13, 1921
Rice Seniors Will Wear Special Togs on Fridays

With every Friday selected as "Senior day" at Rice Institute, the Eds and Co-eds of the graduating class will hereafter dress themselves in the very latest college toggery. The Eds will be dressed in standing collars and carry snappy canes. The Co-eds will wear dignified starched collars to distinguish themselves from the underclassmen.

The selection of Friday as "Senior day" was made at a recent meeting of the senior class. No great changes were made from the precedents set by previous graduating classes. A design was selected by the Co-eds for a lavalliere with the Rice seal inscribed.
The wives of the faculty of Rice Institute were hostesses at a charming musicale-tea Friday afternoon in the commons, honoring the girls of the senior class. Big bowls of pansies and phlox decorated the tables. A delightful program was given and dainty refreshments served. The guests were members of the junior and senior classes.

Other affairs of interest at the Institute to occur shortly will be the freshmen's annual boat ride down the channel on the boat Nicholas on May 3 and the sophomores' spring dance.

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A vacation filled with interest, adventure and remuneration ended Monday when five Rice Institute students returned from a two months' trip to Europe. The boys sailed from Galveston early in June on the steamship Federal of the U. S. shipping board, working their way over and back. Fifteen days were spent in England at Liverpool and London.

Both going and returning severe storms were encountered. In the latter part of June, they met the tropical storm that crossed the gulf to Galveston and coming back they encountered hurricanes in the North Atlantic, which the boys said were worse than the gulf storm. Among the seniors and juniors who made the trip were John W. Shacklett, Robert W. Lee, W. D. Withinton, A. A. Cook and E. O. Arnold.

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The annual sophomore jig was staged at Rice Institute Friday night with success. The affair was put on in the commons, and was the first dance which has been given at the institute since the armistice was signed. Several Rice dances have been held this winter, but all of them have been downtown affairs.

Good music, pleasing decorations, and refreshments combined to make an evening of pleasure. A xylophone artist from Ellington Field was a feature of the program of music.

James L. Autry and N. R. Rockefeller of the social committee of the sophomore class managed the dance.

About 40 couples were present. Chaperons were members of the Rice faculty and their wives.