

THE FINAL debates of the University of Nebraska were held this evening of January 18 and 19, preparatory to the three inter-collegiate debates, Kansas-Nebraska, Missouri-Nebraska and Colorado-Nebraska, to be held this year. As a result of these preliminary debates, conducted by the four university debating clubs, twenty persons were selected for these final contests, as follows: Leola Anstine, W. F. Meier, Thomas A. Maxwell, W. L. Finson and Charles P. Craft, by the Union club; W. H. O'Connell, E. D. Hodge, C. J. Berkey, H. J. Theobald and R. A. Harrison, by the Delian club; Lee Berry, B. R. Gordon, G. A. Johnson, George Lee and L. C. Lightner, by the Palladians; and by the Maxwell club, Louis Paulson, V. B. Hogan, M. J. Cronin, F. A. Sutter and A. L. Deal. These debaters were divided into two sections, ten in each section.

The first section debated the question: "Resolved, That the United States should build, own, operate and fortify the Nicaragua canal." The affirmative position was presented by Deal, Hodge, Paulson, Craft and Lee; the negative was defended by Gordon, Berry, Maxwell, Lightner and O'Connell.

The second section debated the question: "Resolved, That the United States should pursue a colonial policy." The affirmative was presented by Sutter, Johnson, Cronin, Harrison and Miss Anstine; the negative was represented by Meier, Hogan, Theobald, Finson and Berkey.

The speakers were allowed fifteen minutes each to discuss the question. The contests were spirited, and fair-sized audiences were well entertained by the efforts of the young orators. The judges were all university professors: Dean Sherman of the English department, Dr. Hill of the department of philosophy, and Prof. Taylor of the department of economics. The decision of the judges ranked the debaters as follows: 1, C. P. Craft; 2, M. J. Cronin; 3, Leola Anstine and C. J. Berkey; tied; 4, W. F. Meier; 5, W. L. Finson; 6, Louis Paulson; 7, H. J. Theobald; 8, G. A. Johnson; The three alternates are: A. L. Deal, George Lee and V. B. Hogan.

Nebraska will meet the Kansas university debaters at Lawrence, Kan., March 8, and Colorado college at Colorado Springs, Colo., about May 4. The University of Missouri will meet the Nebraska debaters in Lincoln about May 4. Three speakers constitute a team for each contest. The alternates will fill vacancies in the teams should any occur.

The question for discussion in all three of the joint debates is: "Resolved, That the United States should construct, own, operate and fortify the Nicaragua canal."

Debates have been carried on to a greater or less extent by different clubs in the university for about twelve years, but not until the fall of 1894 did these clubs unite for the purpose of holding joint debates with other universities and colleges. Then the University Debating association was organized and each year since has witnessed lively joint debates with neighboring states. With each year the interest grows, as evidenced by the increasing number of contestants in the first preliminaries.

The first three years after the organization of the University Debating association, debates were held only with Kansas, the result in 1895 being a draw, in 1896, a victory for Nebraska, and in 1897, victory for Kansas. Since that time three joint debates have been held annually, as this year. In 1898, Missouri and Kansas each won a victory from Nebraska, but Nebraska defeated Colorado. In 1899, Missouri and Colorado won, but Nebraska defeated Kansas. In 1900, Nebraska lost one to Missouri, but won two brilliant victories from Kansas and Colorado.

It is probable that Nebraska will also debate with Leland Stanford university this year, but final arrangements for this event have not been completed.

Miss Leola Anstine resides at Omaha. She received her preparatory training at the Omaha High school and the State Normal at Peru. She won a place on the debates last year and aided materially in defeating Kansas last May. She is a forcible speaker, earnest and convincing. Her

delivery is excellent and her argument carefully constructed.

G. A. Johnson hails from Oakland, Neb. His preparatory work was done at the Lincoln Normal, where he attended two years. He has been in the university three years. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Palladian Debating club. His work in this line has all been done at the university. He is now taking junior law. Mr. Johnson is known among the debaters as a logical thinker. His force as a debater rests on his power to rebut argument. He is a convincing speaker.

H. J. Theobald comes from Wayne, Neb. He graduated from the university with the class of 1900. He is now a junior in the law department. Mr. Theobald has been an active member of the Delian Boys' Debating club of the university. He has represented the club in intercollegiate contests. He is a careful and logical thinker.

W. L. Finson resides at Neantic, Ill. He attended the Northern Illinois Normal at Dixon, from which institution he graduated in 1894. He entered the university as a junior law student in 1899. Mr. Finson has also carried work in the economic department in connection with law. He is known as a good student, careful, conservative and accurate in judgment. He leans more toward clear analytical reasoning than to oratory and impresses his hearers as a man of sound judgment. He is a member of the Union Boys' Debating club of the university.

C. P. Craft, who was given first place on the finals, is a resident of Aurora, Neb. He graduated from the High school at that place and entered the university in 1895. Craft won a place on the debates two years ago and is given credit for having practically won the Kansas debate in 1899. As to Mr. Craft's ability as a debater, it is only necessary to state that since Baker, Kindler and Hawky have graduated Craft is generally conceded by friends and foes as the ablest debater among the undergraduates. He is a clear, forcible and logical thinker, has a commanding presence and inspires confidence in his hearers.

M. J. Cronin comes from Worcester, Mass. He has been in several important debates in the east. For several years he was president of the Devens Debating society, one of the most famous debating clubs in Massachusetts. Some of the most important debates were held with the Assembly, the Euclid and the Sumner clubs, the recognized debating societies of central Massachusetts. For three years, while Mr. Cronin was a member of the Devens team,

his society won the state championship. He also won a reputation as a temperance speaker, winning several medals in competition. He graduated from the Worcester High school in 1896 and attended Boston university. Mr. Cronin is now president of the junior law class of the university.

George A. Lee gives his address as Humboldt, Neb. He graduated from the schools of that place and entered the university last year. He belongs to the Palladian club. Mr. Lee is a fluent speaker and has a fine voice. He is generally reckoned as one of the coming debaters of the university.

Victor B. Hogan entered the law school last year and completes his work in that department next June. His residence is Admah, Washington county. After attending the district school Mr. Hogan entered the Blair High school, and later attended the Fremont Normal, receiving the B. A. degree in 1898. He is a member of the Maxwell club, having served as its president. He also took work in public speaking under Prof. Miller.

A. L. Deal comes from York college, York, Neb. He entered the university in 1896, graduating in 1898. Mr. Deal was principal of the Mason City High school in the school year 1898-9. He entered the law department of the university in 1899 and will graduate with the class of 1901. He won a place on the debates last year and is given credit for winning the Kansas-Nebraska contest, the decision being unanimous in our favor. Mr. Deal is clear and logical and possesses an earnest, convincing delivery.

W. F. Meier registers from Crete, Neb. He is a junior in the university. He belongs to the Union club. Mr. Meier has a good delivery. He made very careful preparation for the contest this year and constructed a very convincing debate. He is a forcible speaker and is especially strong in affirmative argument.

Clarence J. Berkey comes from a farm near Davenport, Neb. After graduating from the Davenport High school he attended

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the State Normal a year, where he showed great interest in debating work. He entered the university in the fall of 1899 and since then has continued the work of debating with greater zeal. He is a member of the sophomore year of the general literary course.

Louis Paulson resides at Minden, Neb. He graduated from the Minden High school in 1898 and entered the university in the fall of that year. In 1899 he entered the law department and graduates this year. He represented the Minden school in two oratorical contests. Mr. Paulson is a careful, logical reasoner. He is especially strong in affirmative argument. He makes careful preparation and skillfully anticipates the arguments of his opponents.

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Extraordinary Skill of Brazilian Envoy

IN SENHOR J. F. DE ASSIS BRASIL, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States, the republic of Brazil boasts not only one of the most astute diplomats at Washington, but also an amateur marksman of unparalleled skill. Few indeed at the national capital know of his remarkable feats with the rifle and the revolver, relates the New York Herald, for the Brazilian minister is very loath to discuss aught but the affairs of his office, and then only when the circumstances make it proper for him to raise the veil of statesmanlike reserve. Yet the intimates who are bidden to his hospitable home on Connecticut avenue, have witnessed feats that would tax the credulity of anyone not there to observe Senhor Brasil's dexterity and accuracy.

One afternoon recently, when his secretaries had assisted the minister to dispatch the business affairs of the embassy and left their chief free to enjoy an hour's solace in his library, Senhor Brasil talked in an entertaining strain on sportsmanship and shooting. He went over to an open gun-case and, selecting first one piece and then another to illustrate the point under dis-

ussion, he began a series of performances wonderful to behold.

"It has always seemed peculiar to me," he remarked, "that most men stand facing their antagonist full front. Bob Acres had the right idea in presenting the least possible surface to the opponent. Moreover, when one stands firmly with the feet a little apart, the toes pointed out and the head turned well to the left, his poise is steadier. Again, if the palm of the left hand is spread and the gun well balanced on the outstretched hand there is much less tension than in the usual mode of holding the piece.

"Most men pull the trigger with the index finger of the disengaged hand. If you will try the second finger you will find it gives better control and enables one to further steady the aim with the thumb and index finger."

Then the speaker threw open a window and said: "Which blade of grass shall I cut?" As someone looked incredulous, the minister smiled in return and added: "Perhaps you cannot distinguish one from another, try this." and he tossed a shot smaller than a French pea on a bit of sidewalk in the yard. As the shot rolled along in the sunshine until it nestled in some in-

equality in the pavement, he resumed, "Now, I'll fire when you say."

"Fire!" Plink! snapped the little rifle and the tiny shot popped off to one side. Senhor Brasil smiled. "In the summer it is more amusing to clip the wings off a fly, but this is good practice, firing down at such an angle as this."

The shot was fired from a second-story window at an angle of about 45 degrees and the object was about twenty-five feet distant.

"This is merely a little toy gun, with which I amuse the children sometimes. It is not so very accurate," deprecatingly, "but perhaps I can show you another thing that conveys better my meaning. There is something, an intangible rapport, that the true marksman must have. Then he cannot fail. Here, I will wave this rifle about 20 (describing with the barrel circles about a foot in diameter), and when you give the command I will shoot."

"Go—snap!" went the command and the explosion simultaneously it seemed. The missile sped straight to the mark, a small matchsafe across the room.

"You see, one must shoot at the precise

psychologic instant or the bullet will go astray."

It seemed as if the shooter had not aimed at all and someone said so.

"Oh, well, that is not always necessary," retorted the minister, laughing. "I'll hold the rifle in one hand, waist high, and see if I cannot put another bullet through the aperture made by that other one." Presto, he had reloaded, cocked and fired the rifle in a trice and the second pellet had followed the first.

"The archer does not aim, he knows the power of his bow and the trajectory of his arrow. He and his instrument are en rapport and the shaft pierces the bullseye. So it should be today with modern weapons."

Then he whirled the rifle under his leg and put another bullet through the tiny matchbox. Leaning over and looking through his legs, with his head almost on the floor, Senhor Brasil fired once more and unerringly.

"Bah, that is all theatrical," he said, "let us not discuss it. But would you sit down over there and let me place the other side of the matchbox on top of your head. There! The head a little more to

the left. Now I will put a bullet through the head of the little man pictured on the box."

Walking off a few paces the minister drew a bead and fired.

"Oh, but you moved, ever so little," he murmured. "Yes, involuntarily, of course, but still I fancy we did not miss the mark altogether."

Stooping down he picked the box off the floor and pointed smilingly to the hole through the neck of the man. "Shall we try again? Perhaps the next one will go straighter."

"N—no," ejaculated the William Tell subject. "The er—neck was straight enough. Very good shot, indeed."

"Perhaps you would be kind enough to hold this card and let me see if I cannot split it," turning to another gentleman in the party. "I will fire at your command, m'sieur."

Ping! Again the aim was true, and the thin card was sliced as if by a knife blade. He never uses a shotgun in hunting, believing bullets are more humane. "A bullet kills instantaneously," he said, "while shot scatter and maim."