

The Daily Nebraskan.

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Editorial Remarks

The Use of Charts.

Criticism has been made of the employment of charts, by Nebraska during the recent debate with Kansas. While this criticism is more in the form of mere expressions of opinion, yet it may be expedient to point out the general utility of these charts and the uses that they have been put to upon various occasions and at various places as an aid to presenting argument. The statement has been made that charts would be out of place in a law court, yet we understand that any legitimate form of evidence may therein be introduced. For example instances are cited where an intricate machine has been taken into court and used in demonstrating and making clear certain points. Why then could not a chart serve a similar purpose? A chart such as was used Friday night may contain facts and figures and perhaps drawings to make certain points stand out clear, that otherwise could not be readily grasped or even perceived if these were to be presented by verbal explanation, no matter how emphatic or how much in earnest the speaker might be. They are not intended to deceive, but to elucidate, as the facts and figures stand out boldly, challenging criticism or refutation, and squarely stating argument. Why, then, is not such evidence valuable?

So much for the law court as a specific instance of comparison. But it must be remembered that a debate and a trial in a law court are not a part of the same system, although the one may be used in connection with the other. Concretely, there is no analogy of conditions in a public debate and in a law court, and the rules that might apply in the one might not obtain in the other. Hence we have reason to believe that charts would not be necessarily be barred out of use as evidence in a court of law, and that even if such were the case it does not follow that they should be barred out of debate, because there are no inclusive rules of relationship or conditions governing the two.

A chart may be used as an aid to explain argument in public speaking, under which head debate as a general thing properly comes. Instances are common in which charts have been used in both houses of congress, in the same manner in which they have been used by our debaters. For example the late Senator Hanna used charts in his speech on "Ship Subsidies." This is but one instance among several that have been mentioned to us, but this will suffice to bring out the truth of the contention.

And now concerning the utility of these charts. By employing them a debater is able to make his facts and

figures stand out much more conclusively, and thus gives the audience and his opponents a clear understanding of his argument in a concentrated form, so that it can be readily grasped, without a tiresome and laborious mental effort, and a punishment of the mental facilities in an attempt to follow. This use of charts is fair to the opposition, because they are thus given the argument in a nutshell, and if they have the means they are better able to smash the argument thus presented by pointing out a fallacy which would in consequence stand out in a glaring and accusing manner. Charts are in fact used in various forms of public debate, and we do not believe an any objection to them is able to stand, when completely analyzed.

The Senior Book is now ready for sale. In our opinion the book makes a very creditable showing and is properly representative of the class and the University in general. The work of getting out such a book is no light task, and the editors are often obliged to depend materially upon others. But in spite of all this, the book is out in good time this year, and we predict for it a ready sale.

Nebraska exhibits are showing up well at the world's fair, and as a part of the totality it is evident that our University exhibits are entitled to their share of the general credit. Our institution is much better represented than at any previous exposition. It is well that we have this opportunity to show something typical and characteristic of the educational system in this state from the highest down to the lowest part. And whoever of us may find opportunity to visit the fair must not neglect to keep track of our own exhibits and compare them with those of other institutions.

A New Emblem Needed

The following communication has been received at the executive office from the Chicago Portrait company, and as it contains a full explanation of what is desired, we print it in full. Any student having artistic talent may find an opportunity here:

"The Chicago Portrait company wants a monogram of the company, emblematic of unity, progress and integrity, which we will adopt and use as a trade mark. The company does a million and a half dollars worth of business a year, and employs agents in all parts of the United States, Canada and portions of Mexico.

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