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## ADDRESS TO OLD SETTLERS

Miss Ellen Smith Tells of Early University History.

### INTERESTING AND AMUSING

An Instructive Picture of the University in Its Infancy—Its Trials and Tribulations.

The following is the complete address of Miss Ellen Smith, the registrar, delivered last Tuesday evening before the Old Settlers' association. It is extremely interesting and also valuable as an authentic history of the University in its early days.

My Dear Friends, the Old Settlers of Lancaster County: It is quite unusual for me to appear in public and very difficult to find time to prepare even a short paper on any topic, and had the Old Settlers' association asked me to come before them on any other subject, the invitation would have been very quickly and decidedly refused; but to give you a few of my early recollections of the University was too tempting to seem quite impossible, and so here I am.

In the latter part of the winter of 1877, the health of Prof. Hiram Collier began to fail, his symptoms giving strong indications of pulmonary consumption and the regents gave him a leave of absence to travel in California, and the question arose as to what provision should be made for his work, that the University might suffer the least detriment. Another question had for some time been interesting the board of regents and that was in regard to the employment of a woman in the University, as it was a co-educational institution. Both questions were answered by deciding the latter in the affirmative as she could relieve the work of the professor of a part of their work. Which in turn could do Prof. Collier's for a time?

Then as between the daughter of Dr. Morgan of Oberlin, O., and myself, my firm health and strong constitution turned the balance in my favor and I came as tutor of Latin and Greek the 1st of April, 1877, the first woman who received an appointment by the regents of the University of Nebraska. But in those days to be appointed tutor or professor of any particular branches meant very little, so far as his work was concerned, and mathematics, English and even general history were often assigned to me; for each was expected to do, whatever, all things considered, seemed best for the University, and many years after that a young man who is now a prominent lawyer of Lincoln, was the first to refuse absolutely to teach a class for which the terms of his engagement did not call; his services were not long retained. The chancellor was a teacher of mental, moral and political science and on one occasion a class in physiology was left without a teacher by the absence of a teacher on leave on account of sickness and Chancellor Fairfield taught it the whole term.

The University, if not in its infancy, was certainly in its early childhood; for less than six years had passed since the doors were first thrown open, and previous to this year, only six professors and one tutor had been employed and 132 was the highest number of students enrolled in one year. But this year marked a decided advancement. For the first time the chemistry and physics which had been in the hands of the professor of natural sciences, were placed under a separate instructor, Prof. Hiram Collier, who was an enthusiastic teacher, whose work was limited by his strength alone.

For the first time a professor of modern languages was employed, Prof. Harrington Emerson, who had been educated abroad until he seemed more foreign than native, and had perfect command of French and German, which, with his native Yankee vim and energy made him a superior teacher.

The first United States army officer, Lieut. E. S. Dudley, was detailed to serve in the University this year and the formation of the first company of cadets was not easily accomplished. He was a gentleman and a scholar, but an army officer, so he did not think drill without uniforms amounted to much. Many of the students were unable to purchase these at first and it took some time to get started right.

It was Chancellor Fairfield's first year and Prof. George McMillan's first year in the Greek chair so the personnel of the faculty was greatly changed, the number of professors and tutors raised to ten and the attendance increased 150, making in all 282. After that time the attendance did not fall below 200, was generally 250 but did not reach 284 until 1882. Everything was rather primitive compared to the present. The campus was a dreary place, with a few trees here and there too small to give any shade, unkempt and uneven, but nearly enclosed with a long hedge; but when once within the enclosure, nothing prevented teams being driven up to the front steps of the one building—for there was only one.

In that building the Union society had the same hall which it now occupies. The Palladians were in the present law room and the museum in the present Delian hall. One room was devoted to the library, and one to the arms and equipment of the military department and one to the janitor, for the janitor was then obliged to room in the building; several rooms which are now in constant use were then filled with rubbish, and yet everything in the curriculum was taught. The teaching was all done in the forenoon, of five days of the week, a class in the afternoon being considered an infringement on the rights of the students and the first attempt to hold a class on Saturday came near producing not a very mild rebellion.

There was no ventilation in the chemistry room; there was little apparatus in the physics room; there was no laboratory for botany, zoology or any of the "ologies;" the museum was disarranged and unclassified; the library was opened but a few hours one day in the week, but the professors were energetic and determined, the students eager, faithful and hard workers and much good work was done, as the success of those who did it has since proven. There were no electric lights or signals. The bell which is now used to call to chapel and to celebrate football victories, was the only bell except one in the building. For many years it was the duty of the janitor to tap the bell two or three times for closing recitations, then after two or three minutes two or three more taps for beginning the next. The other, a tea-bell stood on a small desk on the rostrum and this the chancellor used to call the audience to order at chapel. It was given to me when the practice was abandoned and I intend to place it in the museum some day, as a relic of those old times.

The chapel, as everything else, has been greatly changed. The rostrum was in the north end of the chapel and it was seated like many of the old fashioned churches, with narrow, wooden pews, which would hold five or six persons comfortably and heated by two immense stoves. On the floor in front of the rostrum, stood a small melodeon for use in chapel exercises, which was played by some student, mostly by Miss Kate Gillette, the first year of my acquaintance in the University. All the school rooms were heated by stoves and the comfort of the room depended largely upon the skill and care of the teacher in that room. The halls were never warmed until steam heat was introduced, and going from warm recitation rooms into icy cold halls was frequently the cause of serious illness.

In the spring of 1877 an earthquake shock was felt in all the heavy buildings in Lincoln. In the University the vibrations were strong enough to slop over a glass of water standing on a desk in the chemical room and I shall not soon forget the sensations produced by the swaying of the building as I sat in my school room, though I had no idea what was the cause. That spring also it was discovered that the foundations of the building were crumbling and it was decided that the brown worthless stone must be replaced at once by a more durable material, and as there was no money in the treasury, the faculty decided to advance 1-4 per cent. of their salary for the purpose and rely upon the next legislature to replace it; it has never been replaced and I never heard that anyone asked for it. In the spring of 1880, the cadet band was organized and the following year the young men succeeded by great effort in raising money for uniforms and since that time it has been on an as-

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## NOVEL ELECTRICAL EXHIBIT

Electrical Engineers Prepare for Charter Day.

### CHANGE FROM FORMER YEARS

Old Time Exhibit Will be Abandoned and the Latest Electrical Novelties Will be Shown.

Arrangements for the big annual charter day celebration have already been commenced although it is yet a month before that festive day arrives. One of the features of this day has always been the electric exhibit which takes place in the evening in the armory. The electrical engineers held a meeting last Tuesday evening to make preparations for this interesting exhibit. It was decided to make a novel departure from the usual program of the last few years which it is expected will prove a stronger source of attraction than their five-ton magnet. New electrical novelties will be on exhibition in which everybody, whether an electrical student or otherwise, will be deeply interested.

It is the intention of the engineers to secure a first class lecturer to give a lecture of general interest on some of the best electrical achievements of the day. It is the intention to make the lecture one which everybody can understand and appreciate without the aid of an encyclopaedia. It will be illustrated with stereopticon views. In order to defray the expenses of carrying out this program, it has been found necessary to charge a small admission fee. It is hoped that the students will help along the good work by patronizing the lecture as generously as though it were free.

At the conclusion of the lecture a reception will be held in the armory. The armory will be decorated with latest lighting effects and special arrangements will be made to accommodate the crowd. A complete line of electrical cooking utensils will be operated to their full capacity and refreshments cooked by electricity will be served. Such "out of date" affairs as the water pail forge, calcium carbide furnace, electrical hair curlers and "spinning eggs" will be positively forbidden.

It is the intention to have refreshments prepared and served by University girls, and not by the engineers. This fact is mentioned in order to assure those to whose lot it will fall to eat product of the electrical cooking. Two years ago the engineers served pan cakes to illustrate the value of electricity in cooking, but they left out a few rather necessary ingredients in the batter so that the public did not recover for some time from the effects thereof. The girls, however, stand ready to guarantee that there will be no such blunders this year. Visitors will also be given an opportunity to get their handkerchiefs scorched for nothing on the electrical ironer. Other important electrical features will be put on exhibition.

An executive committee consisting of Messrs. C. W. Weeks, H. B. Noyes and M. A. Hyde will have the work in charge.

### COMPANY F HOP.

Company F held a meeting last Monday afternoon and decided to hold a hop, which is to be the first annual Company F hop. This adds one more to the long list of annual hops in the University. Captain Noyes has evidently determined not to wait until the end of the year before beginning to work up some company spirit, but has wisely concluded that now is the time to get the cadets interested in the final success of their company. A committee on arrangements for the hop has already been appointed consisting of Messrs. Brown, Cleland, Clarke, Adams and Atwood. The date has not been definitely settled upon. It was thought at first to have it Friday of examination week but it was finally decided that it would be unwise to have it so close after the Pershing Hop and just before the Junior Prom. Hence it will not be given until some time in March.

The girls' basketball team secured considerable newspaper notoriety in the Chicago papers recently by sending a challenge to play the girls' team at the University of Wisconsin. The latter, however, were unable to accept the challenge.

### CHOOSE PROF. KIMBALL.

The board of directors of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition last Wednesday unanimously chose Prof. Willard Kimball of the Conservatory of Music, to be musical director for the exposition. This means that Prof. Kimball will assume full charge of all the music which it is intended to have at the exposition on a grand scale. The position which Prof. Kimball has been fortunate enough to secure is one which has been bitterly fought for. It has been sought by the best musicians in the country, in Omaha, Chicago, New York and even in Berlin, so that Prof. Kimball and the University have both reason to feel highly honored.

Prof. Kimball has not as yet formulated any definite plans, but it is his intention to give large orchestral concerts daily during the exposition at which the best talent in the country will be secured.

### THE NEW KIOTE

No, the Kiote is not a freak publication. Neither is it to be a budget of so-called western dialect stories with a jargon that savors of some ulterior eastern back-writer's seventh story garret chamber. The Kiote does not intend calmly to look on while "Alkali Ike" shoots the tenderfoot's silk tie full of 48-calibre eyes. When the bare-foot heroine, with her streaming, raven locks (or should it be blonde tresses?) flapping wild in the maddening gale, leads the intrepid little band upon the robber's nest, you will hear the Kiote howl in mortal anguish. The Kiote is a western magazine, to be issued monthly by the English club of the University. The initial number appears next week.

It is a literary publication. Not literary in that sense which causes the general reading public to show it disgust, but in the true meaning and interpretation of the term, as we all have come to know it.

The writers of this University, though as yet little known, possess the rare charm of readability. They have something to say and they know just how to say it. Their work is for love of the art, as shown in the initial numbers of the Kiote, are in every way artistic.

A publication from the students, and of them. The magazine expects to reach them all. True to the traditions and policy of our University, the Kiote comes before you as a permanent fixture. Its constant endeavor will be to encourage writers of merit throughout the whole middle west, and though modest in size, it is yet bold in undertaking, for it seeks to voice the unuttered spirit of the new land which is ours.

### GLEE CLUB PROSPECTS.

The personnel of the glee club for the coming year has been practically decided, although some difficulty has been experienced in deciding on permanent material. It is always hard to tell definitely at first as voices which are alright individually do not harmonize with others. It is expected that the members decided upon will be announced inside of another week.

It is a matter of congratulation that Messrs. Kenagy and Ireland, who at first were not here, are now back and will take their old places in the glee club.

The addition of the banjo club makes twenty-six men in all and adds considerable to the club.

The club is further along this year than at the same time for many previous years, and the second base is especially satisfactory. The home concert this year will be given for the benefit of the associated charities as managed by the Y. W. C. A. and it is hoped that a vigorous campaign will be made for the sale of tickets that it may be both a financial and social success.

Prof. Kimball is now making arrangements for a delightful trip for the boys through Colorado in March and it is hoped to give concerts in ten or twelve cities.

Prof. Kimball is also trying to effect somewhat of a transformation in the music usually sung by glee clubs, while not intending by any means to bar comic songs, and have the club render strictly classical music, he hopes to change the stereotyped pian of the glee clubs in general where they sing year after year the same old songs.

## ATHLETIC BOARD MEETS

It Transacts Some Very Important Business.

### BISCHOF FOOTBALL MANAGER

Matter of Securing Baseball Coach Not Yet Decided—Other Matters Acted Upon.

The athletic board met Saturday at 9:30 with all the members present. The regular routine of business being disposed of, the question of baseball coach came up and was discussed at some length. It was finally decided to defer any definite action until the matter could be investigated. A committee was appointed to gather information and report at next meeting.

The matter of electing a manager of the football team was disposed of next and Mr. Bischof was elected. On motion his election was made unanimous.

Dr. Hastings was appointed to look after the representation of the University in athletic contests at the Trans-Mississippi exposition. He had received a communication asking that the University lend its assistance to this phase of the exposition as well as to any other.

Another committee was appointed to report some regulations in regard to regular training for men working for positions on the different teams. It will be seen that this is important, and it is to be hoped some regulations will be adopted. The board adjourned to meet in regular session January 15.

### TAU DELTA OMICRON.

Charles Wray of York was received into the fellowship of the Tau Delta Omicron fraternity last Friday evening. The fraternity now has a membership of eleven, the boys being pleasantly located at 2444 P street. H. B. Noyes, P. H. Thompson, Fred Kuegle, A. T. Strahorn, Wm. Axling, W. L. Hall, Oliver Chambers, A. A. Miller, T. D. Lunn, R. D. Elliot and Charles Wray are those of its membership.

### UNI VS. OMAHA Y. M. C. A.

What promises to be the most interesting and hardest fought game of basketball this year will be played tomorrow, Saturday evening in the gymnasium between the Omaha Y. M. C. A. team and the University team. The personnel of the University team has yet to be decided. It will be selected from the members of the 5 o'clock class and the football men with a preponderance of the former. The Omaha team is the same one which made such a good showing against the crack Chicago team, and as the University boys know something about the game, themselves, an interesting contest will result.

The athletic board has voted to devote the surplus from the Freshman-Sophomore field day to purchase record boards for the suitable inscribing of events on that day.

### PERSHING RIFLES DRILL.

The announcement that the Pershing Rifles would give an open drill attracted a large sized crowd to the armory Thursday evening. John Sumner carried off the honors in the individual drill, winning the gold medal. At the conclusion of the individual drill Lieut. Pershing took charge of the company and put them through several movements. His presence seemed to put new spirit into the men and they made a very creditable showing.

The company then adjourned into one of the recitation rooms and had the pleasure of listening to a short talk by Lieut. Pershing. Speeches were also made by Lieut. Stotsenburg, Captain Oury and ex-Captain Schwartz and the greatest enthusiasm was aroused in the interest of the company.

Prof. Hodgman states that he is authorized by Dr. Davis to offer an elementary course in calculus next semester. This will recite five hours per week at 8 a. m. Osborn's Calculus a book on the approved methods of limits, and attractive in the presentation of the subject will be used.

This makes calculus available to those students not in the regular engineering course, but—who expect to teach—and desire a general view of the subject.

A sufficient number have asked for the work to assure a class in differential calculus, which will also cover a portion of integral calculus.