

# THE NEBRASKAN.

A Weekly Newspaper Issued Every Monday Noon by the University Publishing Association.

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The Nebraskan will be sent to any address upon receipt of the subscription price, which is one dollar a year.

Contributions are solicited from all. News items such as locals, personals, reports of meetings, etc., are especially desired. The Nebraskan will be glad to print any contribution relative to a general university subject, but the name must accompany all such.

Address all communication to the Nebraskan, University of Nebraska.

The senior class book has appeared and is now a part of history. It is a "thing of beauty," too, though perhaps not a "joy forever," at least to some of those who for some reason had incurred the displeasure of the editors or more especially susceptible of a good joke. That the book is peculiar is shown by the fact that the whole edition was exhausted during the first two days' sale. It is altogether a neat and creditable publication, the popularity of which will amply repay the book committee for the much hard work spent upon it.

In spite of the fact that the weather department had such peculiar and various varieties of weather, with which to help the members of Phi Kappa Psi in the entertainment of the convention delegates last week, it is to be hoped that these delegates will be able to take away with them a good impression of the University and of Nebraska hospitality. Such meetings of college men are a benefit not only to those who take part, because they get broader ideas of other men and other colleges, but are also of great benefit to the school, which is visited by so many representative college students. Nebraska is always ready to deliver the keys which represent the "freedom of the town" to such gatherings.

The appropriations made by the legislature during the session just closed, for the maintenance of the university for the next two years, though not quite what the regents asked and desired are yet very liberal and the university has reason to appreciate the generous spirit shown by the governor and a large majority of the legislators. Especially worthy of commendation and remembrance were the efforts of the university alumni members in her behalf. They were always alert and were untiring in their zeal. But the University had many more staunch friends in both houses who believed in the University and were not willing to see her crippled by a policy of false economy. It is especially encouraging to see that there is now no one who is opposed to the institution as such, the only question causing difference of opinion being in regard to the amount of money necessary to keep Nebraska in her present leading position.

The following taken from an editorial in the S. U. L. Quill seems to indicate that Iowa is likely to return to her old place in the western inter-collegiate foot ball association, from which she withdrew two years ago. The editor's dates are somewhat mixed, inasmuch as Nebraska won the western pennant in '97, as well as '98. However, the sentiment is good and it is to be hoped that Iowa will act upon the advice given and return to her place in the western league, which is rapidly making a place for itself in the foot ball world.

"Dissatisfied with the treatment received at the hands of one of the members of the association, Iowa after winning the championship in '97, refused to remain in the league longer. At the meeting last year she was asked to reconsider her action, but refused to do so. We have been grievously mistreated by Missouri, our relations with Kansas had not always been pleasant, and we believed that games with the three universities could be replaced with eastern games. Nothing less than an attempt to make the change would satisfy us. But the result has not been what was so fondly hoped. Instead of playing Missouri and Kansas, we play Simpson and Upper Iowa. After the Chicago game, which occurs early in October, our

team falls into a state of indifference until the end of the season brings the Grinnell and Nebraska games. In that middle period interest collapses, team work and snappy plays are unheard of, and too often we play a close or even losing game with a minor limitation when we might have played successfully in a more important game.

"Prejudice ought not to keep us from alliance with the league that will furnish good games. If the old wrong has been or can be righted, the present proposal ought certainly to be considered in the light of our best interests."

The report of the inspector of accredited schools, as well as the statistics in the report of the registrar, makes it clear that the preparatory work for the university may be well done throughout the state without the further continuance of the fragmentary preparatory work carried at the university. When the free attendance high school law was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court, the regents, in order to keep the pathway for free education open, permitted the reliefs of preparatory work at the university to continue. They have now resolved, provided the free attendance high school law is re-enacted, to cut off all of this work excepting the beginning work in Greek, German, and French, and the highest work in preparatory Latin, the Virgil. These studies will be carried as sub-freshman studies for those who may enter without "conditions" on account of their coming from schools not yet strong enough to maintain these subjects. The inspector's report demonstrates that in the inspectorship we have one of the most efficient means for preserving the unity of the school system and of making the university to serve. The old system of inspection by different professors at considerable expense cannot compare, as the experiment shows, in the results attained by uniform and regular inspection through one judicious person.

## MODJESKA.

AT THE OLIVER THEATER APRIL 13.

The engagement of Helena Modjeska, who is no doubt the greatest living exponent of the legitimate drama, has of course aroused a lively enthusiasm in the minds of those who love the stage for the best and not for the most trivial that it has to offer. Judging by the reports of her engagements elsewhere this season and the local interested anticipation, there are not likely to be any vacant seats on her appearance next Thursday, April 13, at the Oliver theater. Theatrical managers, with reason no doubt, constantly bemoan the fact that Shakespeare spells bankruptcy, and possibly Madame Modjeska, who is among the very few to whom genius may be truly ascribed, is the one great exception which proves the rule. The unique position which Modjeska occupies with regard to the stage in America suggests graphically enough a reflection upon the conditions which surround her. The constant plaint of the critically inclined that the modern stage has been given over to the trivial and frivolous, and that the playgoer himself is to blame because he will patronize nothing else, is not necessarily true.

Without venturing it as a positive fact, it may be that the playgoer is as much interested in the way the play is interpreted, especially as regards its pivotal character, as in the play itself. The dearth of really good actors is never so conclusively demonstrated as on the production of a forceful and literary drama. This is no more evidenced in the provincial town than it is in New York. It is the scarcity of intelligent actors in the rank and file of the American stage that has undoubtedly been the greatest factor in spreading the star system. Whatever fault the system may present it enables the author to be sure of at least one of his creations being realized, by giving all his best thoughts to the hero or heroine.

On the other hand it might be said that things are no better now than in Shakespeare's own day. In writing each and every one of his plays, the same conditions possibly confronted him, else they would not be "star" plays as the majority of them are, but that is another story, as Mr. Rippling would say. The declining tendency of the tragic stage, however, is not due entirely to the poor quality of the rank and file. It is more from the constant weeding out of the greater actors by death or retirement, who, as far as tragedy is concerned, have left no worthy successor with the exception of the great Polish actress, Helena Modjeska. In his absence we must hope that Modjeska's spark of genius may soon ignite in some unknown, and be grateful that this great actress may visit us once in a few seasons to remind us that tragic art is by no means obsolete. For her appearance here the management announces "Macbeth," Madame Modjeska appearing as Lady Macbeth for the first time on the local stage. Prices 25 to \$1.50. Seats on sale Tuesday, 9 a. m.

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