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FIVE CENTS.

DEBATES THIS WEEK.

Preliminary Contests Will Occur in the Chapel Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings.

The interstate preliminary debates will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week. More have registered for these contests this year than ever before. Over seventy orators will struggle for positions on the finals and it is hoped that Kansas, Missouri and Colorado will all be defeated this time.

The sentiment for debate in the university has grown, until now these forensic contests are regarded with respect and are even well patronized by members of the faculty. Five years ago very little was being done along this line in the university. In the spring of 1895 the debating association was organized, with Benjamin Mathews as president and James Searson secretary. Professor Adams secured a joint debate with Kansas the next year, and the first successful speakers in these interstate debates were A. J. Weaver, E. B. Sherman, E. McNeil, R. S. Baker, H. E. Newbranch and Quaintance.

Regent Esterbrook and Congressman Mercer each gave a prize of \$10 to the winners in 1897. More than usual interest was taken in debates that year and the preliminary contests were close. A joint debate was secured with Missouri that winter, and the following spring arrangements were made for a debate at Colorado Springs. The successful contestants at that time were J. D. Davison, Guy W. Greene, R. S. Baker, Otto W. Meier, J. A. Maguire, C. M. Barr, E. F. Piper and David Killen.

During the winter of 1897-8 a series of interesting contests was held. The number of speakers that registered for the preliminaries reached more than fifty and the fight for positions was very sharp. The outcome was the selection of the following sixteen to contest for places in the final: J. D. Denison, R. S. Baker, G. E. Kindler, E. B. Perry, C. W. Taylor, C. E. Matson, A. S. Deal, G. E. Hager, J. A. Maguire, O. W. Meier, F. G. Hawxby, H. E. Sackett, W. L. McNaughton, E. F. Warner, J. H. Kemp and Miss Bertha B. Stull. Nebraska was represented in Colorado by Baker, Stull and Sackett; in Missouri by Kindler, Hawxby and Taylor, and Perry, Warner and Matson debated against Kansas.

Last year there was a great deal of wrangling and jangling in the association. The scraps that took place will long be remembered by the members. There was a healthy, yet somewhat bitter, rivalry engendered between the different debating clubs in the university. The Union society secured a majority of the speakers in the final contest. Messrs. Weaver, McNaughton and Ballenbach went to Colorado Springs; Craft, Hawxby and Wilson were successful at Lawrence, Kan., while Nims, Stull and Talbot went down in defeat against Missouri.

The financial condition of the association last spring was very bad. Through troubles among the debaters interest was lost in the success of the contests, and although President Hawxby and Secretary Warner did all they could to meet expenses, they both retired from office leaving the association \$30 in debt. Under these circumstances C. P. Craft was elected presi-

dent and J. F. Boomer secretary. The situation was discussed. Plans were outlined for the future. Arrangements were made for the preliminary debates. A registration fee of \$1 was charged for entering the contests. The membership dues of 25 cents were collected. The result is, the association has now about \$100 in the treasury. A small admission fee will be charged at the preliminary debates to pay for light and heat and other incidental expenses. Two of the interstate debates will be held in Lincoln this year and speakers and judges from abroad will have to be entertained.

It is earnestly hoped by the members of the association that the faculty, as well as the students, will take more interest in these intellectual contests. A few of the professors have shown the greatest appreciation for oratory and debating, but these are very few.

PLANS FOR SENDING A TEAM TO PARIS.

The committee on general athletics of Cornell have submitted the following budget of expenses connected with the proposed sending of a team and trainer to the Paris meet in 1900:

Expenses of one man, round trip from New York to Paris (transportation), \$150; board, lodging and transportation (four weeks), \$50; incidents (per man), \$10; reserve fund (per man), \$50; seven men and trainer, \$2,080. It will be noticed that the total sum of \$2,080 includes a reserve fund of \$400.

The committee have figured on the basis of seven men and trainer as a probable number, but the number to be sent will depend largely on circumstances.

The committee on general athletics agree to send no more men than conditions will warrant.

It is the intention of the committee to raise funds sufficient to defray the expenses of sending two members of the team by subscriptions from the student body.

An effort will be made to raise the remainder of the desired sum by an appeal to the alumni of the large cities which have a strong Cornell representation.

MORE ROOM FOR ART STUDENTS.

The art gallery in the library building has at last been turned over to its rightful owners, the art classes. The room was formerly used by the mechanical drawing classes and the students in art were compelled to use the small ante room opening out on the hallway. This was not only much too small, but people working here were greatly annoyed by the members of the drawing classes passing through the room to and from classes and during recitation hours. The art classes now have possession of both rooms and a few new tables and stands have been added.

GOOD GRASS FOR NEBRASKA.

The Nebraska experiment station has just issued bulletin No. 61, treating of Hungarian brome grass. It is a dry-weather grass, imported from Russia, and has been found admirably adapted to the semi-arid region of this country. The subject matter of the bulletin comprises tests of the grass on the station farm, tests by various persons throughout the state, and directions for sowing and caring for the crop. The bulletin may be obtained free of cost by writing to the agricultural experiment station, Lincoln, Neb.

HISTORICAL MEETING.

Old Settlers Will Relate Experiences at the University Next Week.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska state historical society for 1900 will be held at the chapel of the state university on the evenings of January 9 and 10 at 7:30 o'clock. It is desired that all interested in old overland freighting will attend, on Wednesday especially, bringing all old maps of freighting routes with them. The program for the two evenings is as follows:

Tuesday evening—President's annual address, Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City; "The State Republican Convention of 1870, and Incidents of That Campaign; a Character Sketch of Governor Butler," Dr. L. J. Abbott, South Omaha; "Ex-Senator Thomas W. Tipton," Hon. Robert W. Furnas, Brownville; "Hon. Champion S. Chase," Clement C. Chase, Omaha; "Our First Settlement of Nebraska," David Anderson, South Omaha; "Pioneer Days in Boone County," John Turner, Indiana.

Wednesday evening, old freighters' evening—"Reminiscences," Eugene Munn, University Place; William Fulton, Kansas City; R. M. Rolfe, Nebraska City; Thomas J. Majors, Peru. This will be followed by ten minute talks by old freighters present and by a business meeting.

The officers of the association are as follows: President, J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City; first vice president, Robert W. Furnas, Brownville; second vice president, G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln; treasurer, C. H. Gere, Lincoln; secretary, H. W. Caldwell, Lincoln; assistant secretary and librarian, Jay Amos Barrett, Lincoln. The office and rooms of this association are on the ground floor of the library building. This will be headquarters for the session, although the meetings will be held in the chapel. On the same dates the state historical society will hold its annual meeting. The sessions, however, will be during the day. A large attendance is expected at both meetings, as interesting programs have been arranged.

NEW ORNITHOLOGICAL UNION.

The organization of the Nebraska ornithological union occurred December 16 in mechanic arts hall. The meeting was called to order by President Bruner. A temporary organization had been effected by correspondence and officers had been elected to serve temporarily. The work of the Nebraska ornithological union and that of the Nebraska academy of science is different. The older society is an organization of recognized scientists of ability. The work of this society is of a more technical nature than that of the new organization will be. The primary object of the union is to popularize ornithology in Nebraska. The annual meeting will be held for the purpose of discussing and reading papers on the bird life of Nebraska. The work will be to study ornithology from a popular standpoint, work to secure protection for the birds of the state and to collect data.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year. The offices to be filled and members elected to fill them are as follows: President, J. S. Trostler of Omaha; vice president, Miss Caroline Stringer;

recording secretary, Professor Barbour; corresponding secretary, W. D. Hunter; treasurer, Professor Lawrence Bruner.

The meeting in the afternoon was well attended. The program of the afternoon's proceedings was as follows: Address by the president, "Ornithology in Nebraska," Professor L. Bruner; "A Twenty-three Years' Record by Dr. Childs," Dr. K. H. Wolcott; "Further Notes and Observations on the Birds of Nebraska," Rev. J. M. Bates; "Some Bird Notes from the Upper Elkhorn," Merritt Carey; "The Bird Fauna of the Salt Basin near Lincoln," J. S. Hunter; "Nesting Habits of the Raptorial in Otoe County," M. A. Carriker; "How to Popularize Ornithology," Wilson Tout; "A Plea for the English Sparrow," Lawrence Strow; "Suggestions for an Accurate and Universal System of Recording Observations in Birds," Dr. R. H. Wolcott.

A MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

The Scalchi operatic festival company will appear at the Oliver theatre Tuesday evening, January 9, under the auspices of the University of Nebraska school of music. Without doubt this will be the greatest musical treat of the year for Lincoln. Mme. Sofia Scalchi is by far the greatest contralto in the country today, and for any one to miss this treat is to miss a rare opportunity.

To support the great Scalchi the management have secured the best artists available, regardless of expense, with a view to merit, adaptability, deportment and personality. It therefore obtains that all precautions have been taken to justify the prediction that the Scalchi company will easily be the most attractive musical organization before the public this season.

Flattering comments are too numerous to quote to any extent. Criticisms highly favorable come from all cities of Europe and America. As an example of what is said, we quote the following by Elwin Townsend in Scribner's magazine: "Scalchi is an artist of the first magnitude and there is no adjective left to laud her with. She is an artist one never hears enough of. I would like to have a rich feast and hear no other voice but that of the great contralto. Her singing always perfectly satisfies me."

Of Mme. Scalchi as an artist and of her marvelous voice it is superfluous to speak in terms of praise. She has been heard by the most profound musical critics in all parts of the universe and has yet to score one criticism unfavorable to her art.

Mme. Scalchi is today the great artist she has always been and her voice retains that same beautiful, resonant, cello-like quality and remarkable flexibility and agility so distinctly lacking in other contralto voices. It is one voice in a million and she the only artist to divide the honors with Mme. Patti, her associate for years.

The Scalchi European tour has been postponed to satisfy the great demand for her throughout America. This is positively her farewell tour. Mme. Scalchi is accompanied by Mme. Bernice De Pasquali, prima donna soprano; Signor De Pasquali, primo tenor; Signor A. Franceschetti, primo baritone; Signor Guiseppe Lo Verdi, musical conductor. Regular prices of admission will be charged.