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The Richardson County High School Debate

An audience which taxed the capacity of the Gehling assembled Friday night to listen to the high schools of the county debate the question "Resolved that the United States should own and control the railroads."

It was more than a large audience, it was a very pretty audience as well. The high school girl was there from all parts of the county. She was in her best dress, there was a rose in her hair and the light of youth in her eyes. In most cases he was with her. The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm and romance. In all it furnished a glimpse of a new world, or it may be, an old world long since forgotten where every prospect pleases, and the passing years bring nothing but the fulfillment of dreams.

The program opened with vocal selections by the girls high school quartette and by Miss Robbins. These were so well received as to require an encore in each instance.

The first speaker for the affirmative was Emmons Bateman of Stella, who dealt with the discrimination in freight rates which tended to build up one man's business by the destruction of his competitor. Mr. Bateman had a pleasing delivery and advanced many valid reasons, why governmental ownership would be an improvement over the present system. Mr. Weddle of Shubert replied on behalf of the negative taking the position that the idea of governmental ownership was impractical. Mr. Weddle made a very favorable impression and was loudly cheered as he concluded his argument.

The next speaker was Miss Melva Kern of Rulo who waded into private ownership in a way that contributed a great deal to her side of the question. She related the experience her own city and schools had suffered from private ownership. She ripped the B. & M. up the back for refusing to pay its taxes and turning to Mr. Weddle of Shubert she reminded him of the fact that under private ownership the natives of his village had never seen a daylight train. When the lady sat down the applause was deafening. Miss Belle Bolejack of

Dawson replied for the negative in a speech of great strength. The impracticability of buying the railroads was clearly set forth. She related that the value of railroad property would require a purchase price three and a half times greater than the total war debt. She also denied that governmental ownership could be had under the constitution. Miss Bolejack's argument was impressively delivered and the high school cry of the Dawson boys "see our Belle, ain't she a honey" met with an affirmative response from every auditor.

Miss Caroline Cunningham of Verdon was the next speaker for the affirmative. Miss Cunningham possesses a deliberation in delivery well suited to debating. She had one of the most carefully prepared arguments of the evening. Her statements as to the influence of great corporations on our legislative bodies made one really wish that government ownership might be brought about. From an argumentative standpoint, she delivered one of the strongest speeches of her side, and the general applause was a well merited tribute.

Mr. Cline of Falls City next spoke for the negative and produced facts and figures backed up by the greatest authorities on the question, that brought confusion to his opponents. Mr. Cline's argument showed great research and a natural ability in the forensic field. In addition to a remarkable memory, he has constructive ability and a modest self assurance.

Miss Ura Mobler of Salem, the littlest girl of all, at once won the sympathy of the audience and proceeded to advance some new and telling arguments in favor of the affirmative side of the proposition.

Mr. Stalder of Humboldt closed for the negative in an extemporaneous argument in answer to the position of his opponents. Mr. Stalder proved himself fully equal to the emergency. Mr. Bateman of Stella replied in a three minute speech.

A duet by Misses Wentworth and Valentine followed while the judges were considering. Prof. Clemmins of Fremont addressed

the audience for a few minutes. The judges reported in favor of the negative which was defended by Falls City, Shubert, Dawson and Humboldt. First place was given to Earl Cline of Falls City. Miss Belle Bolejack of Dawson second and Miss Melva Kern of Rulo third with Miss Cunningham of Verdon a close fourth. After which the audience dispersed.

Two Caucuses Held This Week.

ANTI-SALOON CAUCUS.

Pursuant to the call issued a number of our citizens who favor the abolishment of the saloons from our city met at the court house Monday evening. The meeting was called to order by W. H. Maddox who stated in a few words the object of the gathering. The convention was organized by the selection of Samuel Lichty, chairman, and Jacob Schaible, secretary.

Upon the chairman asking for the pleasure of the meeting V. G. Lyford proposed that they proceed to nominate a city ticket, and the name of E. R. Mathers was presented as a candidate for mayor, but Mr. Mathers stated that owing to certain conditions he could not accept the nomination, and asked that they nominate some other man. Samuel Lichty's name was then put forward, and while stated that he would accept the nomination, he would have preferred to have had more notice so he could have made a good campaign.

L. C. Mauger was nominated for city treasurer by acclamation.

V. G. Lyford and John Lichty were nominated for members of the school to succeed themselves.

Henry Shaw was nominated for police judge and John Crook for city engineer.

Ed Daeschner was nominated for councilman of the first ward, W. B. Schmucker, second and Frank Brenizer for third.

Several talks were made and it was urged that no man would be placed on the ticket who would not absolutely refuse to license liquor under any circumstance. They also declare against Sunday base ball and all forms of vice, and pledged themselves if elected to abolish it.

CITIZENS CAUCUS.

A crowd that was too large for the capacity of the court room, was present at the citizens caucus Tuesday evening. The meeting

was organized by the selection of John Nulk as chairman and C. C. Davis and J. C. Martin as secretaries. The chairman stated the business of the meeting and called for the nomination of candidates for mayor and C. Gillespie named W. S. Leyda, which was seconded by J. M. Whitaker. There being no further nominations a motion was made to make Mr. Leyda the choice by acclamation. The ayes and nos were called for and the chair decided that the ayes had it. A division of the house was called for at this time but the chair refused to give it, and declared Mr. Leyda the nominee. Apparently a large majority of those present were opposed to the nominee.

Irvin Bode was the unanimous choice of the convention as candidate for city treasurer, as was also O. W. Brown for clerk. M. N. Bair was named as candidate for city engineer.

The chairman called for the nomination of a candidate for police judge and J. E. Leyda nominated John C. Wiltse and he was about to be declared the nominee when Mr. Cleaver, the present incumbent informed them that inasmuch as a police judge was elected for two years and as he had only served one year of his term, that he thought it was hardly the proper thing for them to name a candidate.

V. G. Lyford and John Lichty were nominated for members of the school board.

The rooms were then divided off into wards for the purpose of choosing candidates for council men.

The first ward named Warren Hutchins, the second, Ferd M. Harlow and the third Martin Gehling.

We are informed that Mr. Harlow refuses to make the race as councilman in the second, but we have not heard who has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by his resignation.

Surprise Party.

Fourteen of her school-girl friends planned and executed a farewell surprise party on Mary Lippold, Tuesday evening. The girls met at the home of D. P. Grush which is close to the home of Miss Lippold. Taffy-pulling was a very interesting past time.

The girls presented Mary with a lovely silver nut set and silver souvenir spoon as a token of their friendship.