

# The Daily Nebraskan

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THREE CENTS

## CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

**Professor C. A. Robbins Endorses President Roosevelt's Position in an Address at Convocation.**

Professor Robbins gave a very interesting talk yesterday at convocation on Civil Service Reform. This was the third in the course of addresses that are being delivered on phases of the president's message.

He defined civil service reform as the substitution of the merit system for the spoils system in civil service appointments, and summarized the principles of the reform thus: "No one shall hold an appointive office in virtue of any consideration other than merit and ability." The only argument in favor of the spoils system that has any weight at all with the people, he said, is that the merit system is said to be European.

He then proceeded to show that in the early history of the American republic there was no such thing as the spoils system. Washington, during his eight years as chief executive removed but nine men from office and one of these was a defaulter. Adams removed ten men, it being clearly his purpose to remove as few as possible. Jefferson said that if the servants of the government conducted themselves right, they would never have anything to fear from him. He removed thirty-nine men from office and declared that not one was removed because he was a federalist. Madison removed five men, three of whom were defaulters. Monroe removed nine men and John Quincy Adams two.

Professor Robbins said that so far from the merit system being un-American, it has been the policy of all the early presidents and the spoils system was not inaugurated until the presidency of Andrew Jackson. President Roosevelt declares that the merit system is as American and democratic as the American school system itself.

The speaker then pointed out some of the evils of the spoils system. He showed that improper men are appointed to office simply because they represent the party. There must be an increase in the number of offices, as the office holders find themselves secure in their positions and sometimes do very little work. It has been said that in one of the departments at Washington seventeen men have been found attempting to do the work of one man. From 1873-'83, the last ten years of the reign of the spoils system, the number of clerks in the executive officers increased sixty-six per cent, an increase wholly disproportionate to the increase in the amount of work for them to do. From 1883-'97 the number of men in the classified service remained stationary, while for the unclassified service the number increased forty per cent. The increased expenditures which results from the spoils system, is shown by the fact that in the last twenty-five years the wages in the classified service have remained stationary and in the unclassified service have increased twenty-seven per cent.

The spoils system he declared, protects defaulters, as then party is responsible for their acts and must

shield them in order to escape blame, itself.

President Roosevelt's attitude to civil service reform was there discussed by Professor Robbins. He was present at the national republican convention in Chicago in '84 when Mr. Roosevelt counseled the convention in favor of civil service reform. The doctrine which Mr. Roosevelt expressed then was put in practice by him as police commissioner of New York. As governor of New York he put in the statutes the best civil service law the state has ever had. He absolutely controlled the republican machine organized by Platt.

Professor Robbins closed his address by saying that he believed the most fundamental question now before the American people is the reform of the government itself.

During the course of his talk Professor Robbins several times paid high tribute to President Roosevelt showing the high regard in which he holds the latter as a man.

## ENGLISH 13 DEBATE TODAY.

The debate in the advanced course in oral discussion—English 13—this afternoon, will be on the question:

"Resolved, That in times of depression municipalities should furnish labor to the unemployed."

The speakers for the affirmative will be F. J. Kelly and Ernest Allen; for the negative, W. F. Meier and John I. Milek.

Professor A. Ross Hill will cooperate in the criticism with the officer in charge.

## ENGINEERS MEET.

The regular meeting of the Engineering Society last night was turned over to the slide-rule enthusiasts. Dan Gutleben presided and with the aid of the ten foot slide-rule built in the shops a few days ago all the common uses of the "stick" were demonstrated. A 4.8 horse-power audience was present weighing 3.85 tons or 1800 pounds per horsepower. In comparison with this it was found that the engine in the wood shop weighs 190 pounds per horse power. After a number of problems, including trigonometric functions and the co-ordinates of an adiabatic expansion curve, were solved the Society attended to its fortnightly quota of business.

The book committee reported a continuance of success. On the recommendation of the membership committee Messrs E. H. Gibson, C. D. Peebler, J. S. Barks and R. R. Langer were elected to membership in the Society.

C. W. Engel, chairman of the "smoker" committee recommended that the society have a smoker next Saturday evening and in behalf of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity he invited the society to their house. The report was approved and the invitation was accepted with a vote of thanks. The society will therefore indulge in its first smoker next Saturday evening.

Professor Candy's class in mathematics 2b will decide by vote whether they will take 3c or 33d. 3d is the cause in analytics, especially designed for those taking the engineering course.

## DEBATING BOARD MEETS.

**Registration to Close After Questions are Selected—Correspondence With Competitors Begins.**

The Debating Board held a meeting Tuesday afternoon. The only subject discussed was that of questions for the interstate debates. The board is hard at work on this matter in connection with the other institutions. The board will announce what the questions are just as soon as they are determined which will be before the Christmas recess.

The board voted that registration for the preliminary contest be closed about a week after the board announces the questions for the interstate debates, which questions will be argued in the preliminary contest.

The exact date of closing the registration will be announced by the board as soon as the interstate questions are fixed. Those possible candidates, whose registration depends upon what the questions are, will be given ample time to get in.

Not closing the registration until after the interstate questions are determined, will also, it is hoped, enable the University to enlist a few more students strongly equipped in the fields in which the questions lie.

For the information of students who are, or may become, candidates for positions on the three teams that will represent the University of Nebraska next spring in the arena of intellectual combat with Colorado College, the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri, the debating Board has put upon the official bulletin board a lengthy statement in further explanation of the two regulations the board passed two weeks ago relative to the methods of selecting and training the interstate debating teams this year—methods which were set forth at that time in "The Daily Nebraskan."

This bulletin states again exactly what those two regulations are and explains how they will be made operative. The bulletin explains especially in detail the methods and the one general object and the three specific objects of the new system for training the teams that was sanctioned by the University senate.

The new course which will be given next semester will enable systematic instruction to be given those who are to compete in the interstate contests and will permit contestants to get credit for the work they do. The training that will be given will be exceedingly helpful aside from the immediate object—victory in the inter-collegiate battle.

Any student desiring more detailed information concerning the methods either of selecting or training the debaters this year is urged to see the officer in charge of the courses in debating or some member of the debating board.

## PROFESSOR BARBOUR TO SPEAK TOMORROW ON IRRIGATION.

At convocation tomorrow Professor E. H. Barbour will speak on irrigation as treated in the president's message. This morning Albert Watkins will address the convocation on Anarchism.

On next Monday the address of Professor Taylor on Reciprocity will be concluded as the time Tuesday was not sufficient to permit of his completing the subject. He did not in his remarks then, reach the point of expressing his own opinions on the subject, but confined himself to a review of the points presented in the message itself.

## REGENTS LACK A QUORUM.

Owing to the absence of three of the board of regents there has been no quorum present at any of the sessions. Those in attendance are Regents Forrell, Teeters and Rich. Instead of transacting the work of the board only committee work has been done. An adjournment was taken late last night.

## PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM.

The Physics colloquium met at the home of Professor Brace Tuesday night.

Mr. Cartmel reviewed a paper by Mr. Nutting on the reflecting power of various substances for ultra violet light and afterwards spoke on the anomalous dispersion and absorption of fustian.

Mr. Bates' paper on the Anomalous Rotation of Light in the Magnetic Field which was read last August before the American Association for the Advancement of Science was reviewed at considerable length in a recent number of Science.

## THE WEATHER.

Forecast for Lincoln and vicinity: Thursday partly cloudy probably with snow; slight change in temperature.

Weather report for 24 hrs. ending 7 pm Tuesday.

Highest temperature 24 degrees, occurring at 7:00 pm.

Lowest temperature, 15 degrees, occurring at 9:15 am.

Mean temperature, 20 degrees, which is 13 degrees below the normal.

Precipitation for the past twenty-four hours, trace of snow.

GEO. A. LOVELAND,

Section Director.

## SOPHOMORES.

All sophomores who wish to play basket ball will meet in the old chapel Friday morning at ten o'clock. By order of the president.

Fred Stratton gave a talk to the surveying class yesterday on resurveying of government land and laying it out into townships. Mr. Stratton has seen several seasons of service with a government surveying party in the snow-capped hills of Wyoming.

Jay A. Barrett, of the historical library, will speak Friday to the Unity Club of Omaha on the subject of "Historical Societies as a Part of the Work of States." He will touch on the feature of the duty of states to preserve their records and anything having to do with the state's history.

A walnut case has come from Buffalo to the Historical Society which was constructed there to hold the medals of the Nebraska Horticultural Society which were exhibited at the exposition.