

The Daily Nebraskan

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LINCOLN, NEB., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1901.

THREE CENTS

SPEAKS ON FORESTRY.

Dr. Bessey Sets Forth the Advantages of Tree Planting—Would Tend to Conserve the Water Supply.

The president's message in its application to forestry was the subject of an address by Dr. Bessey at convocation yesterday.

Dr. Bessey defined forestry in the words of President Roosevelt in his message. "The fundamental idea of forestry is the perpetuation of forests by use." A forest, said Dr. Bessey, is a rank perennial vegetation which does not die down but keeps growing from year to year.

He then compared forest land to prairie land with reference to the amount of moisture held in the soil. In the forest there is a soft spongy soil filled with sticks and roots and covered over with grass and fallen leaves. This soil acts as a water reservoir, soaking up large quantities of moisture when the rains come, and letting it trickle slowly away through little brooks to water the land down stream.

"Forests are the sources of all large rivers," said Dr. Bessey. He showed that the forests also hold the water in reserve by protecting the ground from the wind, which would otherwise cause evaporation. On the other hand, he said, that rainfall on open land is subject to evaporation and the ground soon becomes dry. As there is nothing to hold the rain when it falls, great torrents rush down the slopes and cause much damage, then in a few days the torrents are gone and the ground is dry.

Dr. Bessey expressed himself as well pleased with the president's attitude to forestry which is shown in his message where he says, "The water supply itself depends upon the forest. In the arid region it is water, not land, which measures production. The western half of the United States would sustain a population greater than that of the whole country today if the waters that now run to waste were saved and used for irrigation. The forest and water problems are perhaps the most vital internal questions of the United States." In another place he says, "The forests are natural reservoirs. By restraining the streams in flood and replenishing them in drought they make possible the use of water otherwise wasted. They prevent the soil from washing and so protect the storage reservoirs from filling up with silt. Forest conservation is therefore an essential condition of water conservation."

The speaker maintained that we use our forests too much as a farmer uses his crops, we cut them down and leave nothing. He declared the forests should be preserved for posterity, and the forestry as a science, aims to show how to preserve them and at the same time use them.

The president recommends that the United States Geological Survey, the Land office and the Bureau of Forestry be merged into one office. Dr. Bessey explained that these three offices handle different parts of the forestry work.

As to the work which is being done toward the preservation of forests, Dr. Bessey stated that fifty million acres of forest land had been

reserved in the western states and that ten million more were soon to be reserved in the southern Alleghanies. This last summer the Bureau of Forestry sent a party into western Nebraska and the surrounding region to study the problem of making trees grow on the plains. "Ten years ago" said Dr. Bessey, "experiments were made in the sand hills which prove that pine trees eighteen feet high can be grown in ten years. The government proposes to reserve land in Nebraska and plant pine on it. If this is done, in twenty years from the time of planting we shall have usable forest timber."

DEBATING BOARD BUSY.

Questions For Intercollegiate Contests Now Being Selected—A Special Bulletin to Contestants.

The fact that the Debating Board has not announced much interstate debating news this week does not mean that the board is not pushing the matter of selecting questions to a conclusion with all possible speed. It has not announced the questions because it has not yet succeeded in coming to agreement with the three colleges. It expects, however to make some definite announcement by

either the secretary of the board or with the instructor in argumentation and debate.

In case the questions are not decided until after the candidate leaves town, the board will thus be able to notify him without delay, and it will do so in every case, what the questions are. The best material in the University library on the interstate questions will be reserved at once so that it may be accessible to all concerned not only during the Christmas recess but also thereafter.

Registration for the preliminary debate, the board voted at its last meeting, will not be closed until a week after the last interstate question is announced by the board.

Officers' Hop.

Walsh Hall, Jan. 16.

CERTIFICATES TO BE ISSUED FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Certificates for reduced rates to students and members of faculty will be issued at the Executive Office Friday morning for those obliged to leave on Friday afternoon trains and Friday afternoon for those leaving Friday evening and Saturday morning. Certificates will also be issued any time Saturday. Tickets are only good on trains leaving Friday and Saturday. The rate is one and one-third fare

tomorrow morning.

The desirability of having the questions settled before the University classes tomorrow night, no one appreciates more than the board. That it has not been able to announce the questions before today is, the board states, because it is taking especial care to have genuinely debatable questions. Had the board been willing to settle on a vague, general question without a definite issue, it could have announced at

The special offer of 75 cents for the remainder of this semester made by the daily will positively be withdrawn December 25.

All names must be new on the list and be accompanied by cash.

for the round trip limited until January 6, 1902, good to all points in Western Passenger Association.

SENIOR PARTY TONIGHT.

The Seniors will hold their class party tonight in the armory. Every attention has been given to make the party a success. The armory will be decorated prettily with the University and class colors. The entertainment will be strictly informal, as it is hoped that the class will become better acquainted than at a formal reception. All seniors are invited. The committee wishes to announce that all senior girls are privileged to invite their escorts.

BASKET BALL EQUIPMENT.

The athletic association voted \$50 Tuesday evening to the basket ball team. This money will be used to buy a basket ball and eight suits. These suits will be given to the eight men making the best showing. This is the first time in the history of the University that the basket ball team has had uniform suits. The offering of these suits to the 8 best men will it is thought create enough competition and rivalry among the players to develop a strong team for this season's games.

The final examination in Contracts was given in the Junior Law class Tuesday.

least one question today. But the board has insisted and still is insisting on definite questions. This kind of a question one of the institutions Nebraska hopes to meet, evidently does not want to debate on.

With this institution the debating board, through Secretary O. G. Horne, has been arranging in correspondence by telegraph as well as mail the last thirty-six hours. The board is insisting on a final reply today and to expediate the opponent's decision it has given him not only the choice of one of several questions but also the choice of side.

From another of the three institutions Nebraska is expecting a decision any hour as to the question.

What the interstate questions are to be the board will announce by bulletin in University Hall just as soon as they are known here.

To provide, however, for a possible delay of a day or two in settling the questions, the board issues to those students who have already registered or the preliminary contest and to those whose registration is contingent upon the character of the questions, the following:

SPECIAL BULLETIN.

Present and possible candidates for positions on the interstate debating teams will, before leaving the city for the Christmas recess, leave their addresses during the vacation with

CHEMICAL SOCIETY MEETING.

The twenty-sixth regular meeting of the Nebraska section of the American Chemical Society will be held in room 4 of the Chemical laboratory on Thursday, December 19, at 8 pm. The papers to be read are as follows:

The Indirect weighing of Quantitative Precipitates, Roscoe W. Thatcher. Report of the Twenty-fourth General meeting of the American Chemical Society, Professor Hudson H. Nicholson.

All those interested are invited to attend.

SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAM TOMORROW.

A special program of sacred music has been arranged for the convocation period tomorrow. A number of features of unusual interest will be introduced.

IMPORTANT.

The address of every student should be correct in the student directory which will be out in a few days.

Today and tomorrow are the last in which corrections can be made. Students who have moved since registering should leave their correct address at Registrar's office at once.

ENGLISH 13 DEBATE.

What promises to be an interesting debate will take place in English 13 the advanced class in oral discussion, this afternoon in the Supreme Court's decision on the Porto Rico tariff case.

The question will be, Resolved, That the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Downes vs Bidwell was inconsistent with the previous interpretations of the constitution by that court.

The speakers for the affirmative will be Messrs. C. P. Craft and I. P. Hewitt, and for the negative, Messrs J. C. Douot and M. L. Hart.

Professor Charles A. Robbins, a new addition to the faculty corps of critics that is ripping up loose logic, will co-operate with Instructor Fogg, criticising the debate from the point of view of constitutional law.

The debate will be held in the old chapel from 2 to 4 o'clock.

The vacation in the law school will be the same as that of the Academic College, beginning Friday evening December 20 at 6 o'clock and ending at 8 am. Monday, January 6.