

# The Daily Nebraskan

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THREE CENTS

## THE FRENCH IN AFRICA

Professor Fling Discusses the Colonies of France in Algeria— Comes Near Being a French Empire.

Dr. Fling of the European History department addressed the student convocation yesterday on "Algeria." He emphasized the results of the colonial experiments of the French in Algeria and western Africa and the movement toward a second great French Empire.

Dr. Fling spoke in substance as follows:

Algeria is the latest French experiment at colonization. France, in the eighteenth century, attempted to establish a colony in America. The soil, where we live came near being a part of the French Empire. Again at the outset of the twentieth century, France is building up a second great empire in Africa.

Algeria, in northern Africa, lies along the Mediterranean Sea, and has an area equal to that of France, Switzerland, Belgium and Holland. France has been working on the conquest for half a century, and holds an area larger than France itself, which, according to the census of 1892 is peopled by about 11,000,000 souls.

The Berbers or native Mohammedans, constitute about seven-eighths of the population. The remainder is made up of 300,000 French, 200,000 other Europeans, and 4,000 Jews. The people are divided into three classes owing to the nature of the country. The agricultural class live along the fertile coast of the sea. The mountainous region supports a more hardy type of people, and lastly, roving tribes inhabit the region along the Sahara desert.

The French are organizing the country with the intention of making it a part of France. The government is divided among three communes; the civil, the semi-civil, and the military.

The Berbers take a very small part in the government, although they have excellent opportunities to become citizens.

The government has organized the state so as to give the greatest benefits to its citizens. The taxes are light, and considerable effort is made to educate the inhabitants. Since 1860 the Berbers could become citizens of France, yet only 700 have done so. It means social suicide to the Mohammedans to accept citizenship in a Christian state. They also take little interest in the schools. The racial differences make it almost impossible for the two races to meet on an equality.

The French have introduced several institutions such as saving banks and pawn shops. The natives have little use for the savings banks, but patronize the pawn shops extensively. The government has encouraged col-

onizations among Europeans, by furnishing transportation, land and provisions for a term of years. But the tendency has been for the immigrants to drift back to the city and abandon the farms. The French population has been increasing faster than the Mohammedan. This is due to the high birth rate and low death rate and immigration.

It costs France about \$4,000,000 annually to hold this territory over and above the receipts of the revenue department.

An immense amount of capital has been invested in railroads and improvements. France holds a large portion of western Africa and is harnessing the territory with railroads and telegraph systems. She is attempting, slowly but surely, to assimilate the people by forcing her language and customs upon them. Rome ruled this territory 600 years, and then lost control, without having Romanized it. Will the French experiment prove successful in founding a great French colony in northern and western Africa? The answer, said Professor Fling, must be given 250 years hence.

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECITAL.

A musical recital by the students of Mrs. Will Owen Jones and Mr. John Randolph will be given tonight in Memorial hall.

The program consisting of the compositions of Edward MacDowell is as follows:

Piano solo—Keltic sonata op. 59, Measotos, Miss Rose Yont.

Piano solo—Wood and Sketches op. 51; In Autumn, To a Wild Rose; Shadow Dance, op. 39; Miss Josephine Poynter.

Piano solo—Concret Etude op. 36, Miss Louise Hargreaves.

Soprano solo—The Pansy, The Clover, from op. 26, The Yellow Daisy, The Blue Bell, Miss Marion Johnston.

Mezzo soprano solo—"Confidence," "Midsummer Lullaby," from op. 47, "The Robin Sings in the Apple Tree," Miss Nellie Griggs.

Contralto solo—"Folk Song," from op. 47, "The Beaming Eyes," op. 40, Miss Florence Fiske.

Piano solo—A summer Idyl p. 28, Song from Sea Pieces, p. 5, Miss Cora Herrick.

Piano solo—March Wind, op. 46, Miss Sydney Murphy.

Piano solo—Two Poems After Heine, op. 31, Miss Katherine Bixby.

Tenor solo—"Sweetheart, Tell Me," from op. 40, "Sunrise," from op. 85, Mr. George Johnston.

Soprano solo—"Merie," "In the Woods," op. 47, Miss Bessie Burruss.

Contralto solo—"Long Ago," "The Swah and the Lily," from op. 56 "As the Gloaming Shadows Creep," "A Maid Sings Light," Miss Lotta Talcott.

Piano solo—Concerto A minor op. 15, Andante Tranquillo, Maestoso-Allegro con fuoco, Miss Martha Hasse.

(Orchestral parts on second piano played by Mrs. Will Owen Jones.)

## FIRST DEBATE TONIGHT

One Division of the Preliminaries to Discuss Municipality Question—Many Strong Debaters to Speak.

Fourteen of the twenty-six students who covet the distinction of representing the University of Nebraska in the interstate debates with Colorado, Kansas and Missouri, will attack one another in the arena of debate this evening in the old chapel under the auspices of the Debating Association. The conflict of intellect will begin promptly at 8 o'clock—not at 8:10 or 8:15. By 8 o'clock the audience is requested to be in its seats. During a speech no one will be admitted to the room. Ushers will enforce this rule strictly. Each speaker will be allowed eight minutes. The sides are, as to number, evenly balanced, seven contestants preferring to argue for the affirmative and seven for the negative. The order of speaking will be as follows:

Affirmative. 1. W. F. Meier, 3. Thomas Maxwell, 5. Mr. Baldwin, 7. Mr. Willetts, 9. F. J. Kelly, 11. P. H. Smith, 13. C. A. Kutcher.

Negative. 2. John Tobin, 4. John Milek, 6. B. H. Lewis, 8. C. P. Craft, 10. C. C. North, 12. William Yoder, 14. N. M. Cronin.

This list of contestants includes some of the very strongest students and ablest speakers in the university. It includes some who have already done interstate debating; others who have made reputations in the state inter-scholastic debates; and others who have distinguished themselves this year in the two courses in argumentation and debate.

The question for discussion this evening will be that which Nebraska will debate with Colorado College—and with the University of Missouri.—Resolved, That American Municipalities of over 100,000 population should own and operate their surface transportation facilities. This is one of the most interesting problems of municipal government, and upon it most of the fourteen men who will argue tonight have been working since Christmas.

The members of the faculty appointed to choose the fifteen best debaters out of the competitors this evening and Friday evening, are Professor G. W. Langworthy Taylor, of the chair of Political Economy; Professor Ellwood A. Ross, of the chair of Sociology; Professor Howard W. Caldwell, head of the department of American History and Professor Fred M. Fling, head of the European History department.

## PHILOSOPHICAL CLUB MEETS.

Dr. Brace gave a short but very interesting discussion before the philosophical club last night on, as was announced, the philosophical bearing of some recent physical gen-

eralizations. The physicist's basis, he said, is a materialistic one and he deals mostly with appearances, with things as they are. However he does not do so entirely as is true in the experiments with the oscillating lights which seem to be one continuous light. His object is to explain the world of facts by correlating them and then finding a theory to fit them or merely some hypothesis. The physical facts afford the basis for the philosophical discussion. As yet explanations of the fact have been largely mere hypothesis and have varied from time to time. Instances of these are nebular theory, the wave theory of light, of the origin of the sun's heat, etc. Often when it is found impossible to form these hypotheses, generalizations may be reached by finding certain facts to be true to a certain extent without contradiction.

Thus far, however, many of the former theories have been abandoned to new developments. Very few things in physics have been definitely settled. Even the old law of the conservation of energy has not been conclusively proven. The physicist has therefore resorted to various means to prove many of the doubted facts. The most popular means has been of ether. Thus the theory of action at a distance is sought to be explained by the idea of a perfect fluid, that is, one in which there would be no friction whatsoever.

The old vortex theory was good as far as it went but it failed to explain electricity. Especially has this been true since the discovery of the so-called X-Rays. This has necessitated a new idea as to the nature of matter. In fact, said Dr. Brace, a reconstruction of our ideas in general on these matters is necessary. We are now in a reconstruction period.

After the address by Dr. Brace, there was a general discussion.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SENIORS.

The committee of the senior class appointed to collect the subscriptions for the Alumni organ earnestly request that all subscriptions be paid at once. The reason for making the appeal to the senior class at this time is that the organ is to be turned over to the university on Charter Day. As the money must be sent to New York and a receipt obtained before that date it is necessary to send a draft for amount remaining unpaid by Friday of this week.

Kindly leave the money with any member of the committee or at the chancellor's office.

## CONVOCAION ANNOUNCEMENTS.

This morning State Superintendent Fowler will speak on Public School work.

Tomorrow Dean Davis will talk on California as I knew it.