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THREE CENTS

DESIRE A CHANGE

Professor Gobinger Says People Want Another Method of Choosing Senators.--Change Will be Slow.

Professor Lobingier of the law school occupied the half-hour at convocation yesterday in a discussion of the proposed method of electing United States senators by popular vote. He said that the question has been brought into prominence by various means, all of which indicate a desire for a change. The most powerful influence, however, has come by way of memorials to congress from state legislatures proposing plans for the choosing of representatives to the senate. To date thirty states have sent in such memorials. This number, if it had been used at the proper time and in the proper way, would have been sufficient to amend the constitution. The latest development, and the one that has brought the matter before the people was the action of the last congress favoring popular election of senators.

The senate, said the professor, has been termed the "millionaires' club," because, it is said, only wealthy men can secure election. In spite of this, other important questions must be considered. First, is the lower house of congress really nearer the people than the senate, under the present system of election? In the second place, would the proposed change secure better men for the senate? As a matter of fact, political conventions always select men who will be most likely to win. Such men are not always the best to be found for the positions.

There is a movement on foot, namely, direct primaries, which would possibly do away with the evils of popular elections. It is thought that such a system would enable the individual voter to wield the full power of his vote.

Professor Lobingier said that the strongest arguments are from the standpoint of the legislature, rather than of the voter. Both the personnel and the workings of legislatures and congress must be considered, he said. Questions involving the relation of the states to the United States are to be dealt with. Such matters as taxation and education are handled by the state legislature while questions of revenue, tariff and coinage are disposed of by congress. Since the state and national affairs are distinct, it is better to keep them separated, which would be the tendency resulting from popular election of senators.

The most prominent evil of the present system is the amount of time and money spent by legislatures in making a choice. Whole sessions are consumed and oftentimes the deadlock is not broken at all. It is argued by Sen-

ator Hoar, the strong advocate of the proposed new plan, that popular election would weaken the position of the senator as regards the state. He would at once become a national character instead of a state representative. This would come from the fact that election would be according to population, regardless of state or sectional lines.

However, said the speaker, the change, if it comes, will be slow, because the people are loath to give up old rules laid down by the founders of the union. The senate of the United States, he said, is the greatest body on earth today. It may decide the success of the administration, make peace and sit as judge in impeachment trials of the president. Every senator is a king. The best works that the country has ever produced have come from the senate. Such men as Clay, Calhoun, Webster, Benton, Blaine—men who never reached the presidency—have proved to have been the greatest and most powerful minds in history. And so any change that would improve in any way this extraordinary council deserves the best thought and most careful consideration of the public.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

B. E. Forbes, assistant engineer of the United States geological survey in Nebraska, and J. C. Stevens went to Arlington this morning to gauge the Elkhorn river at that point.

James A. Barkley, a former student of the university, is in the city. Mr. Barkley is a graduate of the electrical engineering department and since his graduation has had wide and varied experience along that line. He was connected with the Philadelphia Street Railway company for a time. From there he went to Hawaii, where he was engineer for the Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land company. He is now about to start for South Africa.

The class in masonry construction has had a chance to show off its oratorical powers during the last week. Each member of the class has had to take up a recitation period with a discussion of some difficult bridge foundation. Monday morning H. C. Searles addressed the class on the Kansas City bridge foundation. He handled his subject skillfully and his address was greatly enjoyed by the class.

"The Quincy Bridge by Moonlight" was the topic on which C. H. Larsen spoke yesterday morning. The St. Louis bridge will be discussed this morning by C. W. Engel. Mr. Engel has spent a great deal of time in preparation and much is expected of him.

On Thursday morning W. M. Kalbach will speak on the Missouri river bridges.

THE BRYAN PRIZE

Question and Conditions of Award Made Public.—Contest Open to Juniors Seniors and Graduates.

The students intending to contest for the Bryan prize may now begin their work of solving a knotty problem in political science. "Are there any constitutional or other limitations on the power of the United States over newly acquired or conquered territories?" is the question upon which the students are expected to write. The subject is a deep one and at the same time a very popular one in the public mind.

The object of the Bryan prize is to create an interest among the students in problems of political science by offering them a suitable reward should their productions and investigations prove of some value. In order that the number of contestants may be limited, that is, so that only students who are supposed to have had considerable training in this line of work, may enter the contest, only juniors and seniors and graduate students who have not yet taken their second degree will be considered eligible to the contest.

The theses must contain at least 3,000 and not more than 6,000 words. As has been said, the object of the prize being to encourage students to study political problems, no thesis will be accepted which is not written in good English and which does not show some degree of originality in the form of arrangement of material or ideas. The work which is handed in will be submitted to a committee of three competent judges, consisting of the head of the department of political science (government), the head of the department of English (or English literature) in some western university, and some recognized scholarly constitutional lawyer, to be chosen by the chancellor.

Each contestant for the prize is expected to hand in to the chancellor three copies of his thesis on or before May 1. A copy of each thesis submitted will be placed in the university library. Announcement of the successful contestant will be made in the first day of commencement week.

HANDY WITH FEET.

The following appeared on the blackboards of the senior law lecture room at the University of Virginia some days ago: "At the last recitation the members of this class were somewhat too handy with their feet. Where everything is striking nothing strikes, and indiscriminate applause is mere noise. Judicious applause without unnecessary noise is the stamp of a good class." It is said that the sheriff of the Moot court has a warrant for the ship than ever before.

arrest of the author of the following bit of doggerel:

The big bad boys make too much noise
In Pleading and Practice hour,
For with applause they often cause
The man of Law to lower.

It is not meet that with their feet
They should handy be,
And where all is striking it's not to the
liking
Of good Professor G.

When they idly beat on the side of the
seat,
Or stamp with their feet on the floor,
Such useless applause, without any
pause,
It, the stamp, he stamps as a bore.

All of this goes to show that law
students are much the same wherever
they are found.

STUDENTS' RECITAL.

The students of the school of music will give a recital tonight in Memorial hall. The program is as follows:

Piano solo—Theme and variations,
D minor..... Handel

Pauline Meyer.

Piano solo—Prelude C sharp minor
..... Rachmaninoff
Josephine Poynter.

Piano solo—Carnival Op. 9 (com-
plete) Schumann
Gertrude Alexander.

Piano solo—Minuet, "Musette, Ga-
votte" Handel-Martucci
Elizabeth Phar.

Piano solo—Rondo Capriccioso...
..... Mendelssohn
Cora Herrick.

Violin solo—Second Fantasie.....
..... Wohlfahrt
Hazel Hare.

Piano solo—Fantasiestücke-Grillen
..... Schumann
Jessie Emerick.

Piano solo—(a) Why; (b) Dream-
Tangles Schumann
Eva Fuller.

*Piano solo—Fantasie Ballet Op. 12
(For solo piano and orches-
tra) Pierne
Nellie Trigg.

*Orchestra parts on second piano by
Mr. Eames.

Y. W. C. A. ELECTS OFFICERS.

The members of the Y. W. C. A. met yesterday afternoon for the regular annual election of officers. Miss Lottie Weldy, who has for some time been acting as secretary of the association, was unanimously elected president for the ensuing year. The other officers chosen were: Vice president, Miss Anna Van Zandt; secretary, Miss Edith Lathrop; treasurer, Miss Carrie Stetler.

The meeting was well attended and an unusual amount of interest was shown in the work for the new year. The association will start out with increased strength and a larger member-