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# The Daily Nebraskan

TO-DAY'S  
WEATHER  
Fair, with slowly  
rising temperature.

Vol. II

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1903.

No. 82.

## APPROVES IT

Ex-Chancellor McLean Believes  
in Football.

HAS MORE GOOD THAN EVIL EFFECTS

But Should Be Played only under Proper  
Supervision.

The college and university press of both east and west has been filled the past week or two with articles for and against football. Indications are, that a strong reactionary tide is rising, and that the friends of the gridiron sport will be compelled to rally, as they have periodically been compelled to rally before, in defense of their game. Perhaps the most significant feature of the present movement is that suggestions of modifications of rules sufficient to decrease the danger of injuries, are being made by supporters of the game. Even though their suggestions are not accepted, they indicate that the present criticism of football "brutality" is not one raised wholly by enemies of the game.

In view of this general discussion of the question which received some little consideration at the hands of one of the city papers at the end of the last season, the opinion of President McLean, of the University of Iowa, will be of considerable interest to University and Lincoln friends and acquaintances of our ex-chancellor. The Daily Iowan has been conducting a symposium on the football question, and in response to its request for an expression of opinion, President McLean wrote as follows:

"Without elaboration to reply briefly to your questions as to the effect of football on the player, and the university and the scholarship, I would make the following statements:

In an experience of eighteen years either directly or indirectly related to committees on athletics in state uni-

versities, I have never known a player to be degraded by football. I have often known of the elevation of a fellow of large physique and animal spirits into a man of more intellectual and moral type. To state it in another way, I have known men without lofty instincts and possibly low tendencies to go upon teams, and I have never known them to go any lower, and frequently have observed their elevation in every particular. Since the preaching far and wide of muscular Christianity, it has often come about that the leaders of our teams have been members of the Y. M. C. A. For example, the captain of the team of the University of Iowa was a president of the university Y. M. C. A.

The universities which formerly neglected too much the physical side of the student and did not take sufficient interest in this play, in no small degree through the influence of football have come to recognize not only the importance of physical training and of play in education, but also the social obligations of the university to its students. The development of university spirit is traceable in no small measure to football.

Too great prominence is frequently given to football in newspaper reports; nevertheless, the support of football and athletics is a significant straw as to which way the wind blows in a university in all lines of activities.

The effect of the game upon scholarship is negative rather than positive. It has been found necessary to demand a minimum of scholarship standard upon the part of the players. Some of the best scholars maintain a high standing upon the team, but it is doubtless a strain upon the individual. Scholarship is gained in the way of greater scrutiny of the standing of students on the part of the faculty.

The evils which spring up about football, like betting, should not be attributed to it; they are evils too much fostered in the home life and social life of Americans. They should be prohibited and suppressed not only as vices, but as doing harm to a legitimate sport we need among others in America which has been lacking in healthful amusements.

It is to be understood that I am writing only of football in a college or university with a proper physical director and thorough faculty and alumni supervision. The major portion of the accidents and evils of which we hear occurs among the young, untrained players, and on other than university fields."

GEORGE E. MAC LEAN.

In addition to the regular program, announced elsewhere, attendants on Friday morning convocation exercises will be treated to several musical numbers from the Omaha Deaf and Dumb Institute's sextette. The sextette is making its visit to Lincoln under the charge of Supt. R. E. Stewart, and will render a second program, after convocation, before the Charities and Corrections' Conference, in session at St. Paul's church.

## Timely Topics

A reporter of The Nebraskan, by interviewing several members of the faculty and some of the students, gleaned what is probably the true feeling of the University on chapel-going and convocation attendance. The object of the inquiry was to learn, as far as possible, the reason why convocation is not more generally attended and to secure suggestions that might aid in bringing students out to these exercises.

The students, as a rule, were inclined to make light of the question. They seemed to look upon the problem as rather a joke than a serious matter. When asked for their opinions as to why convocation is not better attended they make such answers as, "We have better business to attend to," "There's nothing in it," or "Life is too short." Some few, however, took a serious view and tried to account for the falling off of attendance while the good standard of convocation exercises is maintained.

One said: "The students as a whole fail to appreciate the value of the talks that are given. They are not interested in the problems that are before the public, the problems that must be solved by the individual members of the commonwealth." "But why this lack of interest?" was asked. "One would think that advanced students would be up on all such problems, and would be eager to hear and even to enter into a discussion of them." "Well, perhaps University students are too much isolated from the outside world. They are influenced too much by environment and care only for technical matters."

No satisfactory answers were made to the question of how to increase the convocation attendance. All seemed to regard the solution of such a vexing problem as beyond them and turned it off with, "The only way to get students out is either to pay them for the time, which would bankrupt the institution, or to give them an hour's credit."

The professors, when interviewed on the matter, were also at a loss to know how to meet the question. One said: "Poor attendance may be a lack of appreciation on the part of the students, or it may be that they attend and are too often disappointed. It is certainly worth the time that students spend at convocation, for the speakers are usually prominent men or specialists on the subject under discussion, and have made some preparation for their talk. The student body is probably too much absorbed in books to keep up with thought outside of the University. As to an effective remedy, it is hard to say what measures ought to be taken. I know of one way to get the students out, but whether it would be practical or not I am not so sure. If the lecture rooms were locked up during convocation hour the students could not congregate in the various rooms and study or visit. They would be compelled to attend chapel."

Another professor said: "I would suggest that the hour be changed to 8:30 o'clock. The 10 o'clock period breaks into the forenoon's work and makes it very difficult, for the instructors especially, to attend chapel. By beginning the day with convocation there would be no interruption for either professors or students. Eight o'clock is a little early anyway for the day to begin, especially in cold weather. Students usually avoid eight o'clock classes for this very reason. They like to come to the University about half past eight and begin work. If such a scheme were put into practice the library and class rooms would not have to be opened until about ten minutes before nine. The only difference would be that actual work would begin at nine instead of at eight o'clock. The idea is to introduce the chapel hour where it shall not interfere with the work of the day. In smaller institutions, when chapel-going is made compulsory, the hour is usually selected just before dinner or early in the morning. But here, there is no way of compelling attendance to such exercises, and other means must be resorted to."

At the executive office it was learned that the plan of conducting convocation will be essentially the same as has been made use of for the past year. The ten-minute talks will be continued. Prominent men will be secured to speak on questions of immediate importance and interest to the public. The music feature of the exercises will be given a more prominent place, however. Besides the Friday musicales, probably one other day's convocation period will be devoted to music each week. The music element in the regular daily exercises will also be made more prominent. Besides the music by the quartette and pipe organ, there will be some special feature added to each day's program. The administration has evidently noticed that the Friday musicales are best attended and proposes to introduce more of the pleasing element into all the exercises.

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