

## The Daily Nebraskan

A consolidation of  
The Heplerian, Vol. 81, The Nebraskan, Vol. 12,  
Scarlet and Cream, Vol. 4.

Managing Editor C. E. PARRINGER  
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ASSOCIATE EDITORS  
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Literary John D. Rice

REPORTERS  
E. F. Becker, I. C. Baldwin, J. M. Paul, R. A.  
Miller, L. C. Hurtz, J. R. Green.

Office: 208 1/2 University Hall. Phone A 1230  
Post Office: Station A, Box 13, Lincoln

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska,  
as second class mail matter.

## Staff Editorials.

It is not difficult to answer Mr. Westover's communication, found in another column of today's issue. We are glad to be able to heartily agree with his claim that Nebraska athletics are cleaner than those of any other large school in the west, and that we have not been technically guilty of professionalism in recent football elevens. As to the spirit of professionalism—well, on that we might say considerable, but are contented to say little. The real question is: Can we eradicate professionalism from inter-collegiate athletics, and if not, how far is Nebraska justified in maintaining a higher standard than do the schools with which it competes? If anyone can answer that question, he may have an entire issue of the Nebraskan—if he wants it—in which to make his discovery known. Meanwhile, such criticisms as we may pass upon Nebraska athletics are made in no spirit of hostility, and express merely The Nebraskan's opinions as to what is wise or unwise in their conduct.

No comment is needed on the overcrowded condition of the library. Nevertheless, students could facilitate matters considerably if they were so disposed. Many make a practice of holding a seat down while at class or at meals, by leaning a chair against the table. Some seats are reserved in this manner for two or three hours at a time. It is impossible for the librarian to keep track of how long a certain chair has been reserved in this fashion. If a student leaves his seat for only a short time, well and good. But no one should be so selfish as to try to hold a monopoly on a chair while he is at class or gone from the library for an hour or two.

Since the final announcement that James Beltzer, the crack pitcher, will not play ball with the Cornhusker nine this year, and since it has been learned that one or possibly more of the few old base ball men who have returned this year may not be permitted to play on the team on account of not having made twelve hours credit last semester, there is already a tendency among the base ball men to feel discouraged. One of the men when approached on the subject replied: "We can't have a good team if they take our best men away from us and I, for my part, don't want to play on a losing team." This is certainly a very unfortunate state of affairs and is deeply regretted by all. Nevertheless, if the professional element is getting too strong a hold in our athletics, the sooner a halt is called the better. While everyone appreciates what athletics do for a university, no one will deny that they should not be carried to extremes as to sacrifice scholarship.

Arship. Athletes should not attempt as a rule to carry as heavy work as others during the season, and should then make up all back work at the earliest possible moment and keep their work up to a good standard after the season is over. Often times they register for seventeen or even more hours and the result is obviously bad. In most colleges, as at ours, athletes are required to "pass up" in a certain number of hours at the end of the semester, or are not permitted to try for a team until they have cleared up their record. Most colleges at least claim to enforce this measure. If a rule is worth making it should certainly be lived up to, and authorities are justified in enforcing it. If it is a bad rule, it should be abandoned. At any rate, a word of warning has been sounded, and it would be well for '03 base ball and track men to take heed.

Tomorrow morning, for the first time in the history of the institution, a body known as the class athletic board will convene. At their first meeting the members of this body will take action upon some business which concerns every student. They are to decide the junior-freshman basket ball controversy, which concerns these classes directly and the other classes indirectly. The board is composed of three men from each class. Ordinarily it is the duty of every loyal classman to stand up for his own class and stand by his fellow classmen through thick and thin. On this occasion, however, every member of this board should entirely forget, for the time being, his class affiliations and sit as an honest, unprejudiced juror and attempt with all possible zeal to conscientiously render a fair and unbiased decision. This is a time when all personal ill feeling or jealousies of any sort should be laid aside and whoever is concerned be given his just dues.

## Convocation Notes

## Program for the Week:

Thursday—Rev. H. C. Swearingen.  
Friday—Musical program.  
Chaplain for the week—Rev. H. O. Rowlands.

## Yesterday's Exercises:

James Manahan addressed the students yesterday at convocation on "The Irish Question." Though he was limited to ten minutes' time, he covered a great deal of ground in a very pointed and instructive talk, giving a very vivid description of the wrongs inflicted upon the Irish people by the English government. A long time ago, he said, the king of England sent an army into Ireland for the purpose of conquest. It was successful, and according to the English law the land thus conquered became the property of the king, who parceled it out among his military officers and court favorites, making them landlords of Ireland.

This condition of affairs, followed by continued oppression, became so unbearable that the Irish people have banished themselves to the four corners of the world in order to find relief. And everywhere the Irishman appears to be at home, while Ireland seems to be away in the unknown. He is like the solitary Indian upon the plain, who, when asked if he was lost, grunted and said, "Umph! No, me no lost; tee-ee lost." And yet there is in every Irish heart a deep love for his native land.

During the last year a law has been introduced into parliament for the pur-

pose of aiding the tenants to buy their homes. This law provides an appropriation for that purpose, which will be given as a loan to the tenants who can, by paying about seventy-five per cent of what they pay for rent, clear the debt in fifty years. It also provides for a bonus for the landlord, who, if he were compelled to give up his claim without compensation, might, while his land was covered with mortgages, be left destitute. This move on the part of England should not be considered as a gift to Ireland, but merely a mode of restoring what is rightfully hers; for Ireland has paid more than five hundred million dollars more than her just taxes. The law is to be looked upon as a hopeful sign of the times, and as marking the advance of civilization. It is a move which will restore to Great Britain one of the most courageous peoples in the world.

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