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EARLY DAYS OF THE UNI.

Prof. Fossler Recalls Some Interesting History At Convocation

Convocation period yesterday was occupied by Professor Fossler in an interesting talk upon the early days of the University and one of the first instructors, Professor Orsanus Charles Duke, first head of the department of English literature here. Professor Fossler said in part:

Professor Duke was a small man with a gruff stern demeanor, and a deep bass voice, but withal a kind heart. The University at that time was primitive in almost every respect. The requirements for entrance, as one may suppose, were not very high, and as an illustration of the laxity along that line he told a joke on Professor Duke. The latter was the sole member of the examining board at that time. One day a youthful candidate came to him to take an examination for entrance.

"Can you read?" demanded Duke in his sternest voice.

Yes, sir," was the frightened reply.

"Well, read."

"Where?"

"Oh, anywhere."

The candidate took up a book and read a few lines.

"That will do. You have passed."

At times the boys tried to tease Professor Duke. He had one weakness and that was for smoking, and he used to smoke in his office on the second floor of the main building. One day one of the students came in to the office, and after sniffing the air a moment, said:

"What's this I smell?"

"Mind your business," was the reply he got, and he minded it.

The University was not very extensive in 1871. Judge Dales was the only representative of the Junior class at that time. During that year there were two Sophomores and five Freshmen. There were eighteen second year stub Freshmen, and forty ladies, making in all about 120 students.

The library facilities at that time were also very meagre, probably numbering thirty books, which can be purchased now for fifteen or twenty dollars.

Probably it will be thought that good work could not be done with such meagre facilities, but it is a mistake. The professors and the students came in closer touch than they do now, when the students number thousands instead of hundreds. In 1871 there were only seven members of the faculty, now there are about 185 members. All told there are now about 285 people connected with the faculty. This shows the wonderful growth of the University in about thirty-two years.

In closing Professor Fossler read several poems from Professor Duke's volume of poems, entitled "Midland Poems."

English 15 Debate.

In English 15 this afternoon at 1 o'clock the following question will be argued by Messrs. C. A. Sawyer, L. J. Zook, Charles Mohrman and C. H. Taylor: "Resolved, That the Southern States are justified in excluding the Negro from exercising the franchise."

Important.

All students who did not leave their rooming addresses at the time of registration, also all students who have changed their addresses are requested to leave their correct addresses at once, at the registrar's office.

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Sophomore Hop.

The Sophomore Hop will be given this evening at Fraternity hall. Eddie Walt will furnish the music and all indications lead us to believe that this dance will be the swellest informal of the year. Owing to extra expenses the committee has decided to charge \$1.50 for tickets.

Pershings Spell Down.

The Pershing Rifles drill in the Armory last night. Captain Stanley conducted a spell down.

These spell-downs are held at stated intervals and a medal awarded to the man winning. This medal must be won three successive times by a man to entitle him to be the permanent possessor.

After a close contest last night L. A. Sheldon won.

The drilling was good throughout. At the close of the drill a short meeting was held at which the date for the Pershing dance was announced. It is to be held December 11th at the Lincoln hotel.

Seniors Challenge Winners.

According to the inter-class athletic rules, each class must publish a list of the players, who will take part in a game, four days before such game is played. The following Seniors will play the winners of the Freshman-Sophomore football game: Mac Donald, Allen, Melick, Walton, C. N., Walton, E. R., Pritchard, Vasey, Lewis, Newton, Mouck Hazen, Elliott, Waltman, Myers (Capt.), Blekford, Goodrich.

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