

# NEBRASKAN.

Newspaper Issued Every Friday Noon  
the University of Nebraska.

AND AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

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We are grieved to notice the little interest that is taken in university affairs by the great mass of the students. Many come here, plod along with their studies, never join anything, never do anything, and never go anywhere. Some give the excuse that they can't afford the time or the money. This, in the majority of cases, is a very poor excuse. It costs but very little to be interested in athletics, societies, oratory, debating, and the welfare of the university. Don't be a clam and shut yourself up in your shell, but come out among us and let us see who you are and what kind of stuff you are made of. It is a lamentable fact that there are hundreds in the university who do not belong to societies, fraternities, or any of the active organizations of this institution. Even among those who do belong the interest is not what it should

The only way to get out a crowd at a class meeting or an athletic election is to have a genuine "scrap" worked up a week before.

Is it any wonder then, that we have such little college spirit, and that confined to a comparative few? What are we here for? Some seem to be here for the express purpose of doing nothing. Others, who are hard workers but indifferent and lack the true spirit, are here to grind away at their book without noticing anything else, until they get to be petrified moss-backs.

Study and reciting are by no means the whole of a college education. The rubbing up against your fellow-student, learning their ideas and views of life, meeting them in open contest on the athletic field or in joint debate, associating with them in society; these are the things that make the man. Give us one who understands his fellow-man, who lives in the same world as he does, and who makes the world better and happier by his example.

We are here to get all the good and do all the good we can. If we simply get our lessons, we get but part of an education and lose opportunities that will never present themselves again.

In view of these facts let every loyal student of the Uni. of Nebraska get out and show his colors, interest himself in something and make this institution the greatest center of activity in the west.

Next Tuesday will decide a great many questions in Nebraska. The present campaign has been one of the most exciting in the history of this commonwealth. That the majority of students of the university of Nebraska are awake and are taking active interest in the campaign has been shown on more than one occasion.

There is no body of people which

should be more interested in politics than those persons who study politics and the art of government, who are well versed in the history of their country, and who have the best interests of their country at heart. As students it is our duty to do whatever we can to make good government and place clean, honest, upright men in power to administer that government. Our votes will not count no more than the Dagoes of the street, but our influence cannot be measured. Think what a power the graduates of U. of N. would be in this state if all were working for a common cause with all the vim and energy of true college-bred men. The times call for men of principle who will stand by their principle, even though it cost them their office.

Demagogues have controlled offices long enough. We want men at the helm now.

It may seem presumptuous in us to lecture our fellow students on their duty as voters. But there are students in the university, qualified to vote, who would not take the trouble of spending a few minutes every year in casting their ballot for a righteous cause. They say they care not whether republicans, democrats, or populists are in power, one is as bad as the other. Those men seem to care only for their books and their meals. They forget that all public questions are of vital importance to them individually. It makes a great difference whether we pay heavy or light taxes; whether we are cheated out of large sums of money by corrupt "rings," and bad legislation, or whether that money goes into the proper channels.

The interests of the university are at stake in every election to a certain extent. The funds of the institution have to be appropriated by the state legislature and it makes a great difference whether large-minded, liberal men are in power, or whether selfish men with few ideas have control of the government.

In view of the above considerations see to it that you get out and cast your vote next Tuesday for the men and for the principles you believe will best carry out your ideas.

Athletic sports are bound to come to the front in the university some day. We have abundant material to draw from, but the proper spirit is not present. When a little college like Doane, with about one-eighth the number of students, defeats us in foot ball, or any other athletic sport, there is something wrong somewhere. Our foot ball team has always been handicapped, partly from lack of funds, partly from lack of support, and partly from lack of coaching. This year a new hinderance looms up and may cripple the team quite seriously. It is the refusal of parents to allow their sons to play such a rough game. Jones, Fair, and Shue, three of our best men, have thus been laid upon the shelf. There is no doubt that foot ball is a rough game, but it has been so greatly exaggerated that many parents actually believe their boys in imminent peril while playing. Means should be employed to dispense these people of this idea. It has been suggested that some of the old alumni, who are out of school, who know what they are talking about, and who are freer from prejudices than the undergraduate, should write to these parents stating the condition exactly and asking that the boys be allowed to play.

The preliminary debates for selecting representatives to the Kansas-Nebraska debate will be held next week, beginning Tuesday evening. The success of this venture will depend largely on the interest taken in it, as shown by the attendance and by the preparation of the participants. All who are desirous of making this debate a permanent fixture to be looked forward to each year, should come out to at least two of these debates, if not to all of them.

The members of the Y. M. C. A. held an informal reception in the parlors of the new conservatory of music, Hallowe'en. The halls were brilliantly lighted and tastefully decorated with plants and university colors. The boys spent the evening in getting acquainted with one another, playing games, and singing college songs. This is the first of a series of receptions to be given by the association during the year. Although "sidewalk fever" and various parties attracted many of the boys elsewhere, a goodly number were in attendance.

### A NEW IDEA.

#### A Proposed Bill to Educate Students in Practical Reform Work.

A new department for the university is promised by a bill which has been drafted in the rough, and which will be presented to the next legislature, providing for the creation of a State Board of Charities and Correction for Investigation and Counsel. The new bill, which originated with the Prison Reform Association, is intimately connected with the state university, as it provides that the general secretary shall offer definite instruction at the university to such students as are properly qualified to receive it. Such instruction is to equal two hundred and fifty student contact hours for each academic year.

The board is to consist of four commissioners, besides the Governor, and president of the board of regents. The new department to be established is the study of sociology. The student is to be directed to the study of practical reform. The various state institutions and their government will be studied and attention directed to the wrongs that exist here. The new bill also provides that the officers of all state institutions shall be appointed by the Governor with the recommendation of the new board. It is from this last clause that the projectors expect strong opposition, as this will interfere greatly with the usual practice of politicians of putting any sort of men into office who have a political pull.

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