

# THE NEBRASKAN

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## OUR ORATORICAL AFFAIRS

### CONTEST TO-MORROW NIGHT.

Interviews on the Advisability of Withdrawing from the Inter-State League—Students' Opinions.

The annual contest of the university oratorical association to select a delegate to represent the university in the state contest will take place Saturday night, February 15. The contest promises to be very spirited as the orators have been working hard. Yet not much interest has been manifested in the coming event, owing to other festivities taking place this week. An admission fee of 10 cents will be charged as usual.

#### THE PROGRAM.

Vocal solo (a), "My Lover Will Come Today," R. DeKoven. (b) "The Silver Ring," Chainmade, Marie Pollard.

Oration, "The World Brain," H. B. Alexander.

Oration, "The South and the Race Question," S. W. Pinkerton.

Oration, "The Dean of American Statesmen," Snowden Summers.

Vocal solo, D. N. Lehmer.

Oration, "Mirabeau," F. E. Edgerton.

Oration, "Trial by Jury," H. W. Quaintance.

Oration, "Senior Bolkvor," L. J. Abbott Jr.

#### Music.

Decision of judges. The judges are: On manuscript, Judge E. P. Holmes, Judge A. S. Tibbets and W. M. Smith; on delivery, Ross L. Hammond, Hon. A. R. Talbot. The third judge on delivery has not yet been selected.

The question of withdrawing from the interstate oratorical association is becoming very pertinent in view of the lack of interest manifested in the coming local contest.

As usual, the majority of students have thought little about it. The only prevalent feeling among most of the students seems to be indifference. Many of them feel that something should be done to revive the somewhat lagging interest. That if a change in the entire system would accomplish this end it should be tried. University people are growing tired of seeing a college of 200 send down a delegation of twenty with a lot of horns to blow their rustic orator to victory. It is a shock to the dignity of a state university to see such institutions placed on a level with it and it is certainly no compliment to the chosen orator of a university of 1,800 students to make him compete with a half a dozen fellows fresh from their training at a country spelling school. If this is the real cause of the lagging interest in the state university in oratorical matters, steps should be immediately taken to remedy it. Many students advocate the new system, a few still stay by the old and a very goodly number suggest dropping the affair entirely. They think that unless the interest of the student body can be roused there is certainly no reason for taking up the proposed system, but if the new system is not taken up the old one should be dropped. It is time the university of Nebraska had ceased to identify herself with Gages and Cotner.

Robert Graham in an interview said that for several reasons he thought we should not withdraw from the interstate oratorical association. First, it would preclude the eastern style of oratory, which is most pleasing to the public; second, it would destroy the existing relations that holds us in touch with eastern education.

There are the primary causes, but there are others. All of the oratorical schools of any note are east of Chicago, and to keep in the reach of these we should not withdraw from the international association. It would have a tendency to make us narrow to withdraw and establish a more local association, and there are very few benefits to be derived from the change.

Mr. Baker, in substance, said, "I think that it is very advisable that the association should withdraw from the interstate association for the fact that the majority of colleges which belong to the association are in reality no more than high schools. The university has reached that standard in which we may be leaders in education and public thought. The association in recent years has been carried on not for the best interests of oratory, but for selfish motives. It is time that the university of Nebraska become a member

of an association in which oratory can be developed in the broadest and noblest sense of the word. The members of the present state association do not pretend to come up to our standard of learning. Their interests are different from ours.

"It is very desirable that the university of Nebraska should continue its membership in some oratorical association. Oratorical art belongs to college life. Then it is the duty of the oratorical association to form an association in which the art may be cultivated and developed.

"Yes, the state universities should form themselves into an association since they have a common interest. The ultimate purpose of our state universities is primarily the same. The object is not only to keep pace, but to be leaders of the broader and better education of today. Since the system of education is different from those of denominational colleges it is apparent that the greatest results can be accomplished by the friendly co-operation of the state universities. Not only would the oratorical art be better developed, but it would bring the state universities into closer relations and upon more friendly terms. The standard of oratory is practically the same and I believe that it is the duty of the universities to put forth every effort to perfect such an association.

"So far the committee has corresponded with the heads of the English departments of four state universities and the answers that we have received show that all of those universities are anxious to form such an association.

A prominent student and one who has won the state oratorical contest said that the principal reason for withdrawing from the interstate oratorical association was that we did not consider the smaller colleges to be in our class. He said that as far as his experience went, however, the smaller colleges had good departments of elocution, and that their men were as hard to beat as those of the larger colleges. In fact, the winners have not usually been state university men. The present dissatisfaction began when we were losing, and has been smouldering ever since.

The only valid reason for withdrawing from the present association is that the local contests have been financial failures. If we go into a contest with Missouri, Kansas and Iowa the expenses will be lessened, as there will be no state contest. Probably more interest will also be shown, at least for a while.

The building association of the state university held its usual semi-annual reception Wednesday night in the conservatory. This was the first of the exercises of Charter week. The rooms were comfortably filled with the merry company, although many members could not be present on account of their school duties. The number was increased at 10:30 o'clock, when the library closed.

The object of the gathering was recreation and enjoyment. It is needless to say that this was not lost sight of from the first arrival until the end of the evening. Games of many kinds were played in the parlors, the practice rooms and the hall. Each one on entering the building was given the name of some celebrated man or woman. They also received numbers, by which they selected partners for the different games. The ideal mandolin club furnished some lively music that pleased the students. The club had seats in the office and played from time to time through the evening.

The building society is collecting its forces gradually this year and thinks that it sees its way clear to the plans that have been outlined for a hall in which the literary societies may meet. Some corresponding is being done and the officers think that if Nebraska has a few good crops the society can soon begin the erection of the building, which will be its gift to the state.

#### ELECTED A MANAGER.

At a meeting of the university athletic board on Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock W. H. Oury was elected manager of the football team for the coming year. Mr. Oury's ability as a rustler is well known and there is no doubt but that he will make a first rate manager for the team. He has already shown capacity as a business man.

Don Cameron's lunch counter, 118 South Eleventh street.

## PROF. MARTIN'S LECTURE

### AT THE FUNKE LAST NIGHT.

The Distinguished Editor Makes a Scientific and Scholarly Address—A Brief Sketch of His Life.

As a prelude to the festivities that will attend the inauguration of Chancellor MacLean and the celebration of Charter day, T. C. Martin, editor of the Electrical Engineer of New York city, lectured last night at the Funke opera house on "The Development of Power at Niagara Falls." He was introduced in a very easy and pleasant manner by Chancellor MacLean. As a preface to his remarks Mr. Martin spoke of the fact that he had come across the continent to lecture on his subject for the purpose of awakening an interest in electrical engineering, and also to aid those who were studying that branch of engineering to understand what was being done in their line of work. He stated that he was a personal friend of Prof. R. B. Owens, the head of the department of electrical engineering in the university, having known him during his undergraduate days and also afterwards in the east. He further stated that he advised Professor Owens to come to this university at the time had the offer. Mr. Martin will be in the city until Saturday morning, and will attend the exhibit at the university. He is an entertaining speaker, and handles a technical subject in a way so that the uninitiated may readily understand.

"It is a singular fact," said Mr. Martin by way of introduction, "that among the national glories of this western world Niagara alone is not associated with some great work of art or literature. Such being the case, it will not seem wildly fanciful if I venture to think that hereafter the great work of genius that is to associate itself in the world's thought with Niagara, is to be a piece of engineering. This will in no way belittle its splendors nor cheapen its charms.

"Far from apologizing for the presence of modern machinery in this realm of natural masterpiece, I would urge we have here the promise of the part electricity is to play in the large reclamation of hitherto wasted forces of nature—a process of utilization that will give us light, heat and power without grime and dust, and pure air in large manufacturing cities.

"As early as 1725 the water of Niagara was used for power, but 150 years elapsed before any systematized effort was made to harness its forces.

"At that time the present hydraulic canal was dug. It has long been obvious, however, that even an enormous extension of this system would not answer for the proper utilization of the illimitable energy contained in the vast stream and lofty fall. The ordinary overspill of this Atlantic set on edge has been determined to be equal to about 275,000 cubic feet per second. The gigantic power seen here is the equivalent of that embodied in the 200,000 tons of coal dug up daily for the uses of mankind.

"It was Thomas Evershed who first unfolded the scheme of taking a large amount of water from above the falls and after using it returning it to the river below them. In five years \$5,000,000 has been expended in bringing this plan into operation.

"The first plan was to construct a canal and situate factories all along it allowing each to take its power direct. This has been vastly improved upon by the present plan of erecting a great power house where the water power is turned into electricity and then transmitted to widely diverse points to be used by factories situated in dry, healthy places and in places close to the supply of raw material."

Here Mr. Martin showed a series of stereopticon views showing the stages of the work of construction during five years. Following these views he described the origin of the canal, power house and tunnel and their rapid advance to completion. Then taking up each he described its parts and explained its advantages over other systems.

"The power house," he said, "is 200 feet in length and three dynamos are now in operation in it. All the masonry is most solid. The water enters the house by way of an open canal leading almost at right angles from the river above the falls. It enters by way of gates, which regulate its flow, and falls down a well 135 feet deep, at the bottom of which it strikes the turbine wheels. These are attached to shafts leading up

to the dynamos. After turning the wheels, the water is turned into a tunnel which leads past the falls and empties below them into the river."

Mr. Martin advanced rapidly from the technical description of the plant erected at such an expense and risk at Niagara falls, to the possibilities of its future use and somewhat of its present use.

"Having reclaimed all this truant energy, it is the next thing to put it in use. It is delivered to the people by way of a switchboard, which is a mammoth affair erected in a separate building. From here it is delivered to the various factories and railways which use it. Already a large number of factories have located near Niagara for the purpose of getting cheap power. One factory came from a place where coal was 50 cents per ton and finds Niagara electricity cheaper."

Having very fully described the immediate vicinity of the power house and falls, the speaker spoke of the possibilities of using the increased power at distant points, showing by illustrations that Niagara electricity could compete with steam as far away as Albany.

"A number of miles of the Erie canal is already under electrical operation," said he, "and before long its entire length will be operated by power from the plant. Not only this, but also the railroads are fast seeing the advantages of this power and in a few years many of them will use it entirely.

"This use of some of the water that daily flows over the falls may help to keep the scene from losing its beauty by the constant wear, but be that so, or not so, those of us who are lovers of engineering can now at Niagara gratify find with them renewed pleasure and delight in the majestic, organ-toned and than ourselves love natural beauty, and that taste in the unpretentious place where some of this vast energy is reclaimed for human use and then, as ever, join with those who, not more eternal cataract."

#### A NOTED ELECTRICIAN.

Prof. T. C. Martin of New York, who lectured on "The Development and Utilization of Power of Niagara Falls," is one of the most eminent electrical authorities in the country. Professor Martin's early training was for the church, but at the age of twenty-one he left his home in England and came to this country to become associated with Mr. Edison. His early work was on the phonograph, and while at Menlo Park he participated in the work on automatic telegraphs, telephones and microphones and the beginnings of electric light. Later Professor Martin turned his attention to journalism. He edited a daily paper in the West Indies for two years, and was also correspondent of the London Daily News and New York Times. For the last fourteen years he has been engaged in electrical journalism. With Wetzel he wrote "The Electric Motor and Its Applications." He was one of the editors of Appleton's "Cyclopedia of Applied Mechanics." He was the author of "The Inventions, Researches and Writings of Nikola Tesla," a collaborator with Mr. Sachs in the writing of "Electrical Boats and Navigation," editor of a book on "Electrical Measurements," contributor to the North American Review, Century Magazine, Cassier's Magazine, Engineering Magazine, and editor of the Electrical Engineer for the last six years. Professor Martin was one of the founders of the American institute of electrical engineers.

As they sit upon the sofa

A familiar tune she trills;

"Draw me nearer," is the whisper,

The enraptured youth fulfills.

—Ex.

Burlington's personally conducted excursions to Utah and California. A Pullman tourist sleeping car will leave Lincoln every Thursday at 12:15 P. M. for Denver, Salt Lake, Ogden, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Only \$5 for a double berth Lincoln to Los Angeles in one of these cars. Remember there is no change of cars. For full information and tickets apply at Burlington & Missouri depot or city ticket office, corner Tenth and O streets.

G. W. Bonnell, C. P. & T. A.

Remember that Francis Bros. have reopened the Capital Cafe, 121 North Eleventh street. Short order meals are their specialty.

## PHI BETA KAPPA HONORS

### WERE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY

The Chapel Filled to Overflowing—The Fortunate Ones—More Names to be Announced Later

The inauguration of the Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa will take place at the home of Chancellor MacLean on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. The chancellor announced at chapel last Thursday morning that the members of the society would be elected from the culture departments. The members of former classes who are entitled to membership will be announced some time in May, as also the remainder of the present senior class. The following members of the class have already been elected: J. W. Searson, Ralph Benedict, Ernst Bessey, J. E. Almy, Miss May Whiting and Miss Sarah Taylor. The following are the charter members of the society: Chancellor MacLean, Williams college; Dean Sherman, Yale; Professor Edgren, Cornell; Professor Davis, Johns Hopkins; Professor Lees, Western Reserve; Professor Hodgman, Rochester university; Professor Ward, Williams; Professor Taylor, Harvard; Dr. Clark, Williams. Also the following have been elected to membership for special distinction in the sciences: Prof. C. E. Bessey, Prof. Lawrence Fossler and Prof. O. V. P. Stout.

#### DR. WARD'S LECTURE.

Dr. Ward's lecture Monday morning on the scope and aims of Phi Beta Kappa, the new scholarship society, a chapter of which has been established in the university, was listened to by the largest crowd that has gathered in the chapel this year. The lecture was listened to with the closest interest throughout.

The doctor devoted a considerable of his time to the origin and early history of the society. Born in the historic college of William and Mary in Virginia about the time of the Revolutionary war, Phi Beta Kappa soon branched out into other colleges. It was first a strict literary society, holding its meetings weekly, consisting of essays, declamations and debates. These weekly meetings were soon merged into annual meetings. In 1881 the national council of Phi Beta Kappa was formed. This council is now made up of some of the most prominent educators of the country, such men as Angell of Michigan, Adams of Wisconsin, Northrop of Minnesota, Thwing of Western Reserve, E. E. Hale, Colonel Higginson and Bishop Potter.

Phi Beta Kappa is strictly a scholarship society. Members are elected without regard to age, sex or nation. Of course the members must be men and women of unimpeachable character. The society is wholly unlike the average college fraternity. Its name is the only thing that Phi Beta Kappa has in common with the college fraternity. In every college and university where a chapter of the society has been established, the students have been encouraged to do better work.

Professor Ladd, formerly the head of the psychology department at Yale, will fill the chair in the graduate department of Harvard, made vacant by Professor Palmer, who is now in Europe.

Miss Weston of Beatrice and Miss Bonnell of Chicago attended the junior Prom, and will stay over Sunday and attend the Kappa Alpha Theta spread Saturday night.

#### THE JUNIOR PROM.

The dining room of the Lincoln hotel was brilliant with decorations on last Wednesday in honor of the long-looked for junior prom. The chancellor's picture hung in a prominent place and Lincoln and Washington looked down on the brilliant assembly of gay young people. The national colors twined with the scarlet and cream looked brave amidst the groups of fraternity and class colors. The Sigma Chi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Kappa Psi and Beta Theta Pi were represented by emblems and colors and the Union society had a motto and colors. In the centre of the room hung a large football of cream and purple, the class color, and on the top was the figure "97."

About sixty-five couples were in attendance and the affair was impressive and most highly enjoyable. The patrons and patronesses of the promenade were: Chancellor and Mrs. MacLean and chancellor's mother, Regent and Mrs. Morrill, Captain Guilfoyle and lady, Miss Ellen Smith, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Richards, Professor and Mrs. Ansley, Professor and Mrs. Fling, Professor and Mrs. Harbour, Dr. and Mrs. Ladd and Professor and Mrs. Taylor.