

# THE NEBRASKAN

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## PINKERTON IS THE ORATOR

### FIRST IN THE LOCAL CONTEST

Will Represent University in the State Contest at Doane College March 20th—Marks of the Speakers.

Friday evening, February 15, the annual oratorical contest was held in the university chapel. Enthusiasm seemed to be lacking this year in oratorical matters, as it was noticeable that the crowd was not nearly so large as in former years.

The first orator was Mr. H. B. Alexander. His oration was "The World Brain." He attempted to prove that reason was the court before which the various conceptions of God had to be put on trial. He showed to his satisfaction that a pantheistic conception was the only reasonable one.

Mr. Alexander did not seem at ease on the stage. His delivery lacked in force.

"The Dean of American Statesmen" was the title of the oration of Snowden Summers. He thought that Daniel Webster was the man who held that position. He was a little nervous in his appearance on the stage.

Mr. S. W. Pinkerton, the university orator for 1896, will speak on "The South and the Race Question" in the coming state contest. Mr. Pinkerton made a good impression in the local contest, winning first place with ease. His delivery was easy, graceful and showed careful training and application. The subject was treated thoughtfully and in a novel manner. The following is a synopsis of the oration:

"Diseases are inherited. The political transgressions of our fathers have fallen upon us. That crime, which to them was a service of profit, later became the most baneful curse of the republic; and today its effect menaces our entire social and political structure. For the race is the vital problem of the hour. To deal with the negro so as to make him a valuable element in our government; to determine his position in relation to the civilization of this country is the problem that is today confronting the American people.

"This is essentially a southern question. The north has great interests at stake, but the south by reason of its closer contact and more intimate knowledge is better qualified to solve it. Herein lies the beauty and excellence of our complex form of government. Local questions are left to be determined by those most interested in their correct solution, and best acquainted with the facts of which the questions arise. We of the north can aid; we can sympathize; we can suggest; but we cannot solve without the hearty co-operation of the south. The south is to solve the question of the hour. She is giving her best thought and highest effort to its correct solution, and she stands in need of all the sympathy and all the encouragement we can give her. How nobly she has conducted herself since the war! With what patience and forbearance she has adjusted herself to the new conditions! What awaited the return of the southern soldier? Was there a beautiful home there to welcome him? Did thrifty fields and well-filled granaries meet his eye? The story needs no repetition.

"But in recent years the dense ignorance and illiteracy of the negro has been urged by the south. Intelligence is becoming recognized as the most important qualification of citizenship. Gradually the states are realizing this. The idea is growing. It is crystallizing. What is it that our large cities are today demanding? What is it that our nation has been needing so long? Citizenship, intelligent and capable.

"Hitherto three-fourths of the colored voters have not realized the intrinsic value of the ballot, and I say it is but justice to the negro, to the state, to the nation that he should promptly equip himself for the discharge of his duties as a citizen. Justice is given then both to the intelligent and ignorant colored voter. But the intelligent negro cannot accomplish much while so many of his race are in poverty and ignorance. The individual, however learned, accomplished, or wealthy, must in a large measure follow the conditions of his race. What we need today is to educate them as a mass; to stimulate in them a motive to become enlightened; to make them realize, above all, the high distinction of citizenship. Then and not till then can we look for development and progress.

"The negro takes readily to civilization. He has spent his life on American soil and is in close touch with American ideas of progress and civilization. Again they say: 'The negro is not capable of the highest development.' This theory sinks into insignificance when confronted by the throng of colored men who have attained distinction in the last thirty years!

"The negro was brought here against his will; we knowingly kept him in poverty and ignorance; we reaped the profit of his labor; and where is the man, where is the citizen, where is the American, who at this time would shrink from educating and uplifting, these, the victims of our misconduct? Too long have they been left, steeped in degradation and ignorance. From beneath the mists and clouds of their degradation they today call to us for rescue. Shall they call in vain?

"Definite action must soon be taken. The injustice of the struggle becomes yearly more apparent. It is bursting into lynching and murders; the complaining murmur of an approaching storm. The negro's struggle will soon become organized and irresistible. It is time to become aroused to the real conditions of the problem. It is time for the nation to take upon itself the task of educating and lifting these, her citizens. When these conditions are fulfilled, the negro granted the blessings and privileges of the civilization which surrounds him, the north and south first truly reunited, with what faith and hope can we look forward to the future! What grandeur and sublimity does that future hold! What priceless legacies yet to be conferred upon us, as citizens! Then let us be taught to live and work in harmony and unity, taught to enlarge our conceptions to the circle of our duties, and then hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, brother with brother, we will march on to the consummation of an achievement, on to the grand triumph of the centuries, whose vastness and grandeur and majestic fulness can be symbolized only by the infiniteness of eternity."

"Mirabeau" was the subject on which Mr. E. E. Edgerton spoke. He portrayed the conditions existing in France prior to the revolution. He then gave an account of the part played by Mirabeau in the States General of France. Mr. Edgerton held the attention of his audience. He has an excellent composure on the platform.

Next H. W. Quaintance delivered an oration, "Trial by Jury." He sought to prove that he had outgrown the jury system. It rather partook of the fun of a debate than of an oration. His delivery was easy and graceful.

The last oration on this program was by L. J. Abbott, jr. The title of his oration was "Senior Bolivas." He thought this hero of South America should be classed with Mirabeau, Washington and other world heroes. His oration was not well committed and greatly affected his delivery.

S. W. Pinkerton was awarded first place, H. W. Quaintance second, and Snowden Summers a close third. The markings were as follows, the letters in the left hand column being the initials of the speakers:

On Mrs. Holmes Tibbets, Smith, T. G.				
H. B. A. Grade...	86.02	90	95	271.02
Rank...	6	3	2	11
S. S. Grade...	91.40	98	100	289.40
Rank...	4	2	1	7
S. W. P. Grade...	100.00	89	94	274
Rank...	1	5	3	9
F. E. E. Grade...	93.55	88	89	261.55
Rank...	3	4	4	13
H. W. Q. Grade...	96.77	88	85	269.77
Rank...	2	4	5	11
L. J. A. Grade...	89.25	100	90	279.25
Rank...	5	1	4	10
Delivery. Hammond, Frost Mungler, T. G.				
H. B. A. Grade...	75	80	75	230
Rank...	6	5	6	17
S. S. Grade...	90	75	90	255
Rank...	3	6	3	12
S. W. P. Grade...	100	85	85	270
Rank...	1	2	4	7
F. E. E. Grade...	80	100	100	280
Rank...	5	1	1	7
H. W. Q. Grade...	95	85	95	275
Rank...	2	4	2	8
L. J. A. Grade...	85	90	80	255
Rank...	4	3	5	12

The grand total gave S. W. Pinkerton grade 54, rank 19; H. W. Quaintance grade 54.77, rank 19; Snowden Summers grade 54.4, rank 19; F. E. Edgerton grade 54.55, rank 20; S. J. Abbott grade 54.25, rank 22; H. B. Alexander grade 50.02, rank 28.

Rectors soda fountain, always ready for use—use it.

## HIS INDUCTION INTO OFFICE

### THE FORMAL CEREMONY OVER

The Lancing was Packed to Hear the Chancellors Inaugural Address—Estabrook's Witty Speech.

With all the ceremony and pomp befitting such an occasion, George Edwin MacLean was inducted into the office of chancellor of the university of Nebraska last Friday afternoon. It was a great event in the history of the university and the state as well.

Before 1 o'clock the people had begun to gather in front of the Lancing theatre, where the exercises were held, and by 1:50, the time the doors were opened, the crowd was even denser. The cadet battalion and band had been formed in the armory at 1:30 and a little before 2 o'clock could be seen marching down Thirteenth street to the theatre. By 2:20 every available seat in the building had been taken and many were standing.

Scarlet and cream, the university colors, were everywhere in evidence. Above the proscenium arch the great seal of the university was hung. From it beautiful streamers were suspended, some of them reaching to the upper boxes.

When the curtain went up at 2:35 there was a burst of applause from the audience that almost shook the building. On the stage were seated the distinguished visitors, the large chorus and the members of the faculty.

The exercises began with a selection by the university orchestra, conducted by August Hagebow. The invocation was then offered by Rev. O. W. Pifer of Geneva, a member of the class of '89. President Morrill of the board of regents then made a neat little address, in which he welcomed the audience to the exercises about to take place. In closing his address Mr. Morrill presented Chancellor MacLean with a United States flag and a charter of the university. He then declared the chancellor formally inducted into office.

Chancellor MacLean made a brief reply, speaking with deep feeling. The flag, with its scarlet and cream streamers, was unfurled and laid on the reading desk.

The inaugural hymn, written by William Reed Dunroy and set to music by Willard Kimball, was then sung by the large chorus.

Chancellor MacLean was introduced and proceeded to deliver the inaugural address. In spite of its great length, the address was listened to with the closest attention. The history of state universities, especially during the last ten years, was admirably developed. Almost every phase of university education was given ample consideration. A great deal of information about our own university was given, and comparisons made between the work done by it and other universities. The chancellor thought that the inevitable culmination of the state system of education must be the establishment of a national university at Washington. Had the Nebraskan sufficient space it would be glad to publish the address in full.

Governor Holcomb was introduced to give the congratulatory address on behalf of the state. He reviewed the advantages of Nebraska and her achievements in education. He thought that the university had done a great work for Nebraska.

The common school system was represented by State Superintendent Corbett. He thought that Nebraska could be proud of the intelligence of her citizens. No other commonwealth on earth had such a small per cent of illiteracy, he said. The university was also highly commended.

Hon. H. H. Wilson spoke on behalf of the alumni and students. He was glad that the university was endowed by the common people and that it offered a free education to the poorest of Nebraska's boys and girls. Mr. Wilson's address was eloquent and sensible and secured the applause it deserved.

Hon. H. D. Estabrook, on behalf of the regents and faculty, gave an address which those who heard it will never forget. He held President Morrill up to good-natured ridicule in such way as to bring out round after round of applause. He referred to Chancellor Canfield as that "sawed-off Hercules with the static force of dynamite." He said the faculty were "inspired beggars and wanted the earth." "Why," said

he, "only a few days ago I got an almost tearful letter from one of them begging me in the name of heaven and by hook or crook to raise a few hundred dollars to buy a wagonload of miscellaneous bugs. He said they were so cheap no family could do without them." Mr. Estabrook called the chancellor "the best valentine he could get for the university."

President Cyrus Northrop of the university of Minnesota, in responding on behalf of the sister universities, paid a tribute to the chancellor, who had been associated with him for eleven years in Minnesota. In conclusion, President Northrop took the chancellor by the hand, saying: "I welcome you to the body of college presidents. I want you to be fully equal to your task while entering upon it with humility. You will need great firmness and wisdom. But I believe in you and your success. I pray God to bless and keep you and make your years of service years of joy and blessing to the great state of Nebraska."

The audience arose and joined in singing "America," and the benediction was then pronounced by Chancellor Dungan of Cotner university.

### PROF. ADAMS' VIEW.

As to withdrawing from the oratorical association Professor Adams thinks that the oratorical contests have not been as successful as all concerned would wish them to be, the fault resting chiefly with the judges; he does not know certainly whether it would be advantageous to the university of Nebraska to withdraw from the international state league and form one with Kansas, Missouri and Iowa; but could they do so he deems it extremely necessary to have a clearly defined program which would be carefully followed.

To make this venture a success a different course must be adopted as something is lacking in these contests.

Provided the four states combine in a manner that will call forth the best powers of the contestants, the new league would be successful. He thinks that the missions of the contests is not clearly understood, therefore they are not what they should be.

Prof. Adams thinks the fundamental question in regard to oratorical contests is not whether we shall continue to belong to the present association or form a new one, but what we shall try to accomplish by means of an association. Either the present one or the proposed one will do us good if, by means of it, we strive for good things.

Sometimes we have failed to get benefit from the old association because our judges have been unwisely selected, and the poor exercise has been ranked above the good one; sometimes because our speakers have failed to see what is good and the judges have consequently had only poor material from which to choose.

Either association will benefit the university if the participants shall come to understand the purpose to be striven for in an oration, and if the judges shall be carefully chosen and directed by a wise set of rules.

### RIFLES DRILL.

The Pershing rifles gave an exhibition drill Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock in honor of the university's birthday. A mass of spectators lined the parade grounds on the east and south, and it was all that a dozen guards, with fixed bayonets, could do to keep the crowd back. The company was marched upon the parade ground, having that quickstep that turns backward the thoughts of every old soldier more than a quarter of a century. They were given "right-front into line" and halted immediately in front of the chancellor, regents, the governor and other distinguished guests. And then with words that enthused even more patriotism into the veins of the young men, whom he called the post-graduates of the military department, Chancellor MacLean, on behalf of Lieutenant Pershing, the father of the company, presented handsome swords to the officers of the company, Capt. J. W. Dixon, first lieutenant, C. C. Puls and Second Lieutenant C. F. Swartz.

In the Central Journal of February 14 appears an article on "Actions on Penal Statutes," written by Roscoe Pound of this city.

Francis brothers, proprietors of the Capital Cafe, have purchased a new coffee urn and are now prepared to dispense a delicious cup at any time of night or day.

## MR. FRANK M. BLISH TALKS

### TO THE POL. ECON. STUDENTS

Is Replete With the Good Common Sense of a Practical Business Man—Substance of his Speech

On Wednesday evening, Mr. F. M. Blish, Lincoln agent for R. G. Dun & Co., addressed the Political Economy club on "Commercial Agencies and Credits." This is the first of a series of practical talks by practical business men to be given before the club this semester. Mr. Blish traced the origin and growth of commercial agencies. From planes of experiment they have risen to positions of authority. In their early stages these agencies battled against the prejudices born of the general antipathy of the American people for speculators. When the real work of the agencies became better known, not only business men patronized them, but the courts early extended judicial sanction. To Benjamin Douglas, a prominent New York business man, the mercantile world is indebted for the present complex office system of the agency. The object of the agency is to give a true statement of the condition of each man's business thereby to establish and sustain confidence where due, and to protect all patrons against loss by fraud and failure. The total social benefit to the community is incalculable. By means of an army of about forty thousand correspondents, the agency of Dun & Co. is enabled to keep in close touch with over one million business firms. The last Reference Book published contains 1,300,000 houses. Daily notification blanks inform each subscriber of the mortgages filed, failure, or renewals of the day before. In addition, special reports of any particular business are furnished patrons on demand. Formerly the employment of local reporters constituted a weakness in the system now avoided by the employment of special travelling and responsible local agents, as well as by the improved system of transmitting news.

Mr. Blish then showed the class the agency Reference Book, the Daily Notification sheet, and read facsimiles of special reports. The club eagerly questioned Mr. Blish on the minute details of the business, all of which questions were very clearly and felicitously answered. The club unanimously expressed its thanks to Mr. Blish for the instructive address, then adjourned.

Hon. G. M. Lambertson will address the Political Economy club next Wednesday evening on some phase of the treasury question. Mr. Lambertson is too well known among university circles to need recommendation as a speaker. Every student interested in the practical workings of American finance should arrange his work so as to be able to hear one who, from his personal experiences and observations, is familiar with every detail of the treasury system.

A Senior, a Junior, a Soph and a Fresh Were debating one day on the merits of flesh.

The Senior, of eating said beef was the half.

While the Junior claimed nothing's so tender as calf.

The Soph thought that mutton completed the bill.

And the Fresh said of pork he could never get his fill.

A Professor in passing that way heard them talk.

And he reasoned it out as he kept on his walk.

The bull-headed Senior tried hard to look wise.

And the Junior has calf-love affecting his eyes.

A Soph is too sheep-ish to let his thoughts soar.

While the poor little Fresh is always a bore.

—W. U. Courant.

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.