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DR. ROSEWATER SPEAKS

Addresses the Pol. Econ. Club on "Difficulties of Charter Making."

WAS A SCHOLARLY TREATISE

He Presented Facts with Careful Precision—Outline of the Various Elements Which Are Troublesome in Charter Making.

Under the auspices of the Political economy club, Dr. Victor Rosewater of Omaha delivered a lecture on "The Difficulties of City Charter Making" last Tuesday evening in the university chapel. President E. B. Perry in a few words introduced Dr. Rosewater said in substance:

In order to understand the difficulties of charter making, it is first necessary to understand what a charter is and what is its primary effect. Its purpose is the government of a municipality, into which enter four leading elements. The first requirement is a community of people, which must necessarily exist before there can be a municipality. Second, the municipality must be properly organized. Third, it must submit to the control of the state, there must be subjection to some central authority to which the city is responsible. The fourth element is incorporation and almost every city is a municipal corporation.

The original form of charter making was in the form of grants from the sovereign. This is the earliest way in which charters were handed down. The power of charter giving later was invested in parliament and the early colonies of America received their charters from parliament. After this the colonial government had the right of charter making and later still this power was given to the legislature. Every change in the municipality had to receive the indorsement of the legislature. This system however was not satisfactory and laws were passed providing incorporation of municipalities by special legislation. After this, cities had to be incorporated under general acts of incorporation.

This was the first advance in charter making and the tendency was to do away with incorporations by special legislation. But this did not check the abuse of the system, and general acts of incorporation have practically failed. The classification of cities has practically made or generally made the acts of the same effect as a special act. For instance, there are laws in Nebraska providing for cities of the metropolitan class, but it might just as well specify Omaha, as that city is the only municipality of that class.

In New York, in regard to whether the cities should have absolute home rule or should be wholly under the supervision of the state, the legislature tried to take a middle ground. This plan did not succeed very well, however.

In San Francisco, another plan has been tried. The proposed charter may be drawn up by a board of free holders and then submitted to the people and approved by the legislature. The people however, voted against the charter and so this plan failed.

The process of charter making under a form such as is in force in California and Missouri, has been shortened by not submitting the charter to the approval of the legislature, but it is adopted by the people themselves.

If a charter was to be formed for an ideal municipality, the task would be comparatively easy, but there are thousands of disturbing elements which must be taken into consideration. New York for instance is composed of all classes and nationalities of people and this important state of things must be taken into consideration by New York charter makers.

Much of our charter making is experimental. The success of charter making in one city causes this charter to be introduced in another. It does not meet immediate success and is soon dropped. Thus there is little certainty as to the result of what in some localities might be a good charter.

Difficulties of charter making fall under five heads; partisanship, officialism, contractors, franchised corporations, and wealth or tax shirking. The pernicious features of partisanship have been emphasized again and again. But only in a few instances has the fact been pointed out what the bane of partisanship is in its effects on charter making. Changes in the charter have often been made with the object of increasing the salary of certain of-

ficers who have been warm partisans of a certain cause.

Changes are often forced upon a city by a legislature wholly ignorant of un-mindful of city needs. Partisanship obstructs changes, vital to municipal reform and advocates changes detrimental to the best interests of the city.

Officialism is closely allied with partisanship, and is used for official preservation. This is often manifest when certain officers are to be done away with. This is the more dangerous force, because it is so difficult of discernment. The intrusion of franchised corporations does not stop at the primaries or poles. It has a great effect on the making of municipal charters.

They often force through the legislature valuable franchises in spite of the protests of the public. These corporations work not only through private agents but through public officials and political parties. The influence of franchised corporations is to advocate favorable legislation and to oppose unfavorable legislation.

The contractor is also able to take a hand in charter making. The contractors in different lines of business combine and exert a great deal of influence in forming that part of the charter which affects their interests.

We must also take into account the disposition of a certain class to shirk taxes. This class always opposes any attempt to establish a tax commission which would to some extent remedy this evil.

The power of a municipality to impose licenses or fees, has caused the persons taxed to oppose such tax, and these people combine in their different interests. The result is that they are invincible from lack of a counter organization.

A charter bill is usually framed under the supervision of a citizens' committee. Here is where the first conflict takes place as the committee is composed of men of all occupations and their business interests clash. A second squabble takes place in the committee of the legislature. A third chance for interruption occurs when the charter is taken before the committee of the upper house and there is still another chance if it is recommitted. Such steps in the making of a charter are points of great danger, and the fewer of them the better.

The acceptance or rejection of a city charter should not be allowed to have any weight, but the tax payers should be the final judge of it. There is only one way in which to bring the city charter to the condition of absolute home rule and that is by making the framers of the charter responsible to the taxpayers.

HOW WE STAND.

Professor Bates saws some pretty nice things in an article in the Outlook about the university of Nebraska. Extracts from his article follow.

The university of Nebraska is but twenty-seven years old, yet it has over twelve hundred students in college classes; and the last remnant of its preparatory school, a rudimentary appendage, will be dropped at the end of this year. Its buildings, six in all, include besides the regular lecture rooms, a modern library well equipped, chemical, physical and electrical laboratories, and a large gymnasium. It has a faculty of over a hundred men, graduates of the first universities of this country and Europe. In short, in numbers, both of students and faculty in all the externals of scholarship, it ranks ahead of Princeton, Brown, or Amherst, and stands approximately on a level with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Yet we of the east know that numbers and size are no criterion. We ask instinctively, "But is this great school a 'university'?" Does it not teach, under the name, only what is taught in our eastern high schools and academies?" This question is easily answered. The examinations for entrance equal, even exceed in severity those for admission to Yale or Harvard. Indeed, trigonometry and solid geometry, not required in the latter are required in Nebraska. In classics and modern languages the requirement is severe. And the average age for entering is the same as in colleges in the east.

In the beginning the university of Nebraska had comparatively little either of accurate scholarship or of inspiring culture. It began in the seventies, at a point at which the eastern colleges were at the beginning of the century. There was little attempt to teach more than was conventionally expected in college instruction. There was, indeed, little call for more. The west was then plowing its

(Continued on fourth page.)

PREPARE FOR SENIOR PROM

Class of '97 Holds an Important Meeting and Talks Business.

THE COMMENCEMENT MATTERS

The President rules that a "Slate" Does not Go and Members of the Committee are Selected Separately—Other Committees.

The class of '97 held an important meeting last Tuesday in room 3, university hall. President Phillips in calling the meeting to order stated that its object was to start several projects which previous classes had usually left until too late to make them successful. The committee on class play had nothing to report as yet, but it is understood that considerable progress has been made in writing the play.

On motion power was given the president to appoint a committee of five to look after the commencement printing. The members of the committee were: G. F. Warren, chairman, Misses Gulle, and Helso, Messrs Korameyer and Nienheis.

After the regular form had been completed with the president appointed the following as a committee to make arrangements for "Senior photographs": H. E. Reagan, chairman, Miss O'Sullivan and Charles Kuhlman.

Mr. Rowe then took the floor and brought up the subject of the senior prom. He stated that heretofore the classes had given the prom so late in the spring that the weather was too warm for comfort. Further the time at commencement is so filled that it would be wise to get this event out of the way at an earlier date than usual.

In view of these facts he moved that the class give their prom April 23. This motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Shedd then proposed a list of names for the committee to take charge of the arrangements for the prom, and moved the election of those names. The president ruled such a motion out of order as the committee could be chosen either by the president or elected one at a time by the class. The motion was then carried that the class proceed to the election of said committee. R. H. Manley was elected chairman. The other members were: Misses Griggs and Camp, Messrs. Ricketts, Cameron, Rowe, Griggs, Lindquest, Packard and Wilson.

The matter of tickets for commencement was then discussed a committee appointed to confer with the powers that be in regard to this; Alexander, chairman, Miss Rhodes and Leo C. Smith were appointed.

Several members stated that they would like to purchase a class pin and it was decided to see the jeweler who had ordered the pins in regard to ordering a new supply. The committee was Cameron, chairman, Miss Byam and Count Lindquest.

The young ladies were invited to remain after adjournment. At this adjournment the co-eds accepted the invitation of Misses Anne and Jessie Spurck to spend Saturday evening at their home in North Lincoln.

THE LAW OF LIBEL.

D. M. Butler of the Nebraska Legal News spoke before the class in Journalism Thursday and Tuesday, on the law of libel. He succeeded in making clear to the members what is not generally understood in a great many newspaper offices. He said that libel may be defined as a censorious or ridiculous writing or picture made with a mischievous and malicious intent towards governments or individuals. It is not necessary to charge a person with a crime of any kind but if an article holds a man up to ridicule it is sufficient for a libel suit. The fact that the published article is true does not exempt it from being libellous, it must also be proven that it was not printed with evil intent. In the case of public officials the right to criticize is more privileged than in the case of individuals.

To avoid the libel suit, the publisher must be sure that he prints the truth. He should never give publication to a charge made by a third person unless he knows the facts. Especially is this true when an irresponsible person makes the charge.

ABOUT THE SOMBRERO.

There has been a great amount of misunderstanding in regard to the Annual of late. The question is being asked daily,

"When will the Annual be out?" Another question is, "Is it too late for copy?" Now let us say to these people and all others that the Sombrero of '98 is coming out sure and that before very long, but there is a great amount of work to be done in the meantime and the class of '98 in particular and the college in general must assist if they would do credit to themselves and the university.

In many departments the book is full, but in others there is yet great gaps to fill. It is not yet too late to hand in good copy, especially such as does not require illustration, and it is such copy that is most needed now. The proposition we wish to make is this: every junior can find a joke, funny illustration or some one or some thing, or perhaps something that has sentiment in it; and he can either fix his mind up, or get someone else who can do it, and then he can turn in his mite to help make the book which he intends to show to his relatives and friends and say, "Our class got this book out."

Now Miss Junior or Mr. Junior, can you do that with a clear conscience if you haven't done a blessed thing to help? Don't say you can't do anything good enough. If you can't find a good thing and tell someone who can write it and you will be doing just as well.

Then to the other students of the university, you are interested too. Can't you lend a hand? Your help would be appreciated. To make the Sombrero interesting to all parts of the university, there must be contributions from all parts, and this can only be had by getting students from all parts interested in it. Do something and help to make this Sombrero a credit to the university.

With regard to copy from organizations which have already engaged space, this must come in at once. If it is not in by next Wednesday the space will probably be filled by other matter for a large part of this is such matter as requires more accurate proof reading and more consultation etc., before it is finally ready for the press and we must get it into type immediately.

We do not wish to imply by this that the Sombrero board have not accomplished anything as yet, for they have done a great deal and there is material enough now for a very creditable Sombrero but it is not general enough and we must have more to choose from.

Allow us to close with a final appeal to the loyalty of the class of '98, and the pride of the student body in affairs of the university.

Respectfully,
WILL L. MCKAY,
P. J. BARRON
Editors-in-chief.

SIGMA ALPHAS ENTERTAIN.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity entertained a few of their lady friends Saturday evening by an informal dance. The hall was tastefully decorated with the fraternity colors and palms. Music was furnished by Miss Willoughby. Mr. and Mrs. Slaughter chaperoned the party. Those present were: Misses Risser, Watkins, Slaughter, Cropsey, Farwell, Harley, Nance, Houtz, Lennie Stuart, Hansen, Lowe, Woods, Lansing, Anna Stuart, Carscadden, Hargreaves, Outcall and Messrs. Green, Farwell, Corby, White, E. Sawyer, R. Sawyer, Hayney, Dufresne, Morrill, Harmon, Davison Clapp, Worcester, Kenney, Reagan, Bartlett, Hatfield and Stopher.

WISCONSIN'S UNIVERSITY.

The investigation of the affairs of the university of Wisconsin by a legislative committee shows that the university has overdrawn its account at the state treasury to the amount of \$145,944.76, says the New York Tribune. The investigation was begun at the request of certain citizens who want President Charles Kendall Adams to resign, and it may possibly have that result. The dissatisfaction with Dr. Adams arose soon after he became president, according to the Chicago Record, when it was discovered that he was under contract to edit an encyclopedia. The regents of the university, knowing of this contract, agreed that he should not be obliged to give more than two hours a day to the duties of the presidency. For this he was to receive \$7,500 a year and house rent. For his five years' services on the encyclopedia he was to receive \$40,000. It is now said that he did not give even two hours a day to his college duties, and it is felt by many that he ought to resign in the interests of the university.

George Constance's barber shop is located at 1010 O street. Four of the best workmen in the city are to be found here.

THE ORATORICAL CONTEST

Will Be Held in the University Chapel This Evening.

EVERYTHING IN READINESS

The Program is Varied by Musical Selections and is Bound to be Interesting—Personnel of the Orators—The Program.

The oratorical association will hold forth this evening in the chapel. The orator to represent the university in the state contest will be chosen. The orations have been in the hands of the judges on manuscript for over a week and those who have seen them say that they are on the whole, the best ever presented.

The contestants this year are especially strong. R. C. Roper who came into prominence suddenly by winning the Palladian Chase and Wheeler contest is an excellent speaker of whom the Palladians are proud. Miss Esther V. Smoyer, a member of the elocution department and of the English club, has a good local reputation. A. L. Deal who is a new student in the university this year, a member of the Junior class, will undoubtedly hold his own among the others with whom university students are better acquainted. He has won many prizes from different schools elsewhere. The law school will be represented by C. O. Brown and J. D. Dennison. Mr. Brown's oration on "John Adams" will be of an interesting nature. The Union society as well as the debating club will be represented by G. E. Hager, who has won first place in the Union society contest.

J. D. Dennison who is one of the three debaters who are to go to Kansas is picked out as the winner by many who know him. His oration is reported as being excellent. There is some objection to Mr. Dennison entering the contest as the constitution of the state oratorical association provides that the contestants shall be an undergraduate student of an academic college. Mr. Dennison holds his degree from an Iowa institution and also, is not an academic student or is he in the law school.

He probably will not be barred from entering the local contest. Following is the program.

Instrumental music—Ideal Madolin club.
Oration—The Author Hero of the Revolution, R. C. Roper.
Oration—The Practical Truth of Theosophy, A. L. Deal.

Oration—Herr Slezhch, Esther V. Smoyer.
Vocal solo—Miss Barnaby.
Oration—Municipal Reform, G. E. Hager.
Oration—A Triumphant Democracy, J. D. Dennison.

Judges on manuscript; Professors Wolf, Sherman and W. O. Jones; on delivery; Judge Field, Superintendent Saylor and Professor Wilson of the law school.

LANCASTER COUNTY TEACHERS.

The teachers of Lancaster county hold their educational meeting in the university tomorrow. Chancellor MacLean and Professor Luckey are among the speakers. The Chancellor will make the address to the afternoon session, and in the forenoon Professor Luckey will speak on "Recent changes in education."

The school of mechanic arts, under the direction of Professor Edwards will be open to visitors from 8 to 10:30 a. m., where the students who are taking the regular course may be seen at work at the forge and lathe, learning practical mechanics. Other departments will be open, and university guides will show visitors through the museum.

The following interesting statistics concerning six leading institutions were recently published by the Berkleyan of the university of California.

1. Amounts invested in buildings—California spent \$646,000 with 1,554 students; Illinois spent \$670,000 with 815 students; Missouri spent \$640,000 with 723 students; Michigan spent \$561,000 with 2,903 students; Minnesota spent \$1,025,500 with 2,400 students; Wisconsin spent \$1,169,000 with 1,600 students.

2. Provision made for current expenses—Nebraska, 1,100 students, \$34c; Wisconsin, 1,600 students, 45c; Colorado, 257 students, 2c; Michigan, 2,922 students, 1-2-3c; Wyoming, 85 students, 14c; Ohio, 960 students, 1c; Indiana 879 students, 2-3c.

3. Annual incomes and number of students—Harvard, \$1,093,846 with 3,600 students; Yale, \$729,681 with 2,900 students; Cornell, \$525,708 with 1,800 students; Columbia, \$1,253,575 with 1,800 students; Michigan, \$403,697 with 2,900 students; Wisconsin, \$400,000 with 1,600 students; Chicago, \$578,828 with 1,881 students; California, \$250,000 with 2,274 students.