THE NEBRASKAN.

VOL. VII. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, NOVEMBER 4, 1898. PRICE 5 CENTS.

GALA DAY IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY

New Mechanic Arts Building Dedicated With Appropriate Ceremonies--The Governor and Others Present.

ADDRESS -- "ELECTRICITY AND EDUCATION."

A Scholarly Discussion of the Part Which Electricity Has to Play In the Modern World and in Modern Education.

On last Friday the students of the University, aided by their friends, and led by the faculty, board of regents, and several of the men prominent in politics throughout the state, dedicated the north wing of the new Mechanics Art building. The event was one of universal interest throughout the state as well as the University, so that a moderately large number of people were present to celebrate the event. There were not so many, however, as would naturally be expected upon an occasion indicative of such public advancement.

The faculty had fully anticipated the great amount of interest that the student body would take in the affair, consequently had made the day one of general freedom and dismissal from all classes. The Freshmen, especially, showed their spirit and turned out in goodly numbers. The committee of the faculty having the program in charge, had spared no pains to have the best of everything obtainable. From morning until night there was a continual round of rejoicing upon the campus. Everyone came to enjoy themselves and apparently did so. School and class spirit was at a maximum. This enthused the visitors, so that the excitement naturally followed.

The first affair of the day was held at 10 o'clock in the morning in the chapel, when Prof. Morgan Brooks, of the Electrical department, made the inaugural address. The regents, the chancellor, the deans of the several colleges, and the members of the faculty occupied seats on the rostrum. The electrical engineering students, who had attended in a body, occupied seats near the front of the room. Each of the latter wor his colors. Each of the latter wore his colors.

Regent von Forell opened the exercises, after which the secretary of the board of regents announced the action of the board in accepting the resignation of R. E. Owens, professor of electrical and steam engineering and the appointment of Morgan Brooks of Minneapolis, to fill the vacancy. The chancellor, acting in an official capacity, then proceeded to declare Mr. Brooks as regularly installed professor of electrical engineering, and presented him with appropriate remarks to Professor Bessey, dean of the Industrial college. The latter welcomed him heartily.

Prof. Brooks now proceeded with his address, which was to be the event of the morning. His discourse was upon "Electricity and Enlightenment," and was as follows:

"We are all familiar with the wonders which electricity has wrought in the material world, but perhaps not sufficient thought has been directed to the influence of electrical inventions upon our civilizaton.

What is Electricity? We have the sense of hearing for the perception of sound, sight for light, and touch for the sensations of heat, but we have no special sense for electrical phenomena, hence we may understand why electricity has been so much behind her sister sciences in development. The definition given by Tyndall to heat may be applied equally well to electricity, "A mode of motion." Indeed heat and light have long been recognized as different manifestations of the same motion, and now electricity can claim to include both light and heat, since they are believed to be forms of electro-magnetic energy. The intelligence of man clearly shown by his invention of delicate measuring instruments so well adapted to their work that we now have means of measuring electricity with even greater precision than we can waves of light or heat, or even sound.

Practically, all the progress in electrical engineering has occurred within the present century. Nearly one hundred years ago Davy discovered the arc light, and fifty years ago, King in England patented the form of lamp since known as the incandescent lamp. They did not come into use owing to the absence of any economical means for producing the electric current, and when that means was found in the dynamo, which came into use about a quarter of a century ago, it was found necessary for Edison in this country and Swan in England to invent the incandescent lamp anew, as the former invention had been forgotten.

Electric lighting has now become so common, that we scarcely realize the short time that it has been in extensive use. The very rapidity of its introduction proves its value. It is by far the cleanest, safest, and most desirable of all forms of illumination and would supercede other lights entirely should our engineers succeed in making the cheapest source of illumination, which may well come to pass. Besides the convenience of electricity and its elegance for producing spectacular effects as will be admitted by all who have seen the Trans-Mississippi exposition in the evening, it is the safest of lights. Indeed for certain places, such as flour mills and powder magazines, it is the only light permitted, the magazines of our naval vessels being dark before the introduction of electriet lighting. You will say that "electrical" fires are frequent. True, but they are due entirely to carelessness or recklessness in the wiring of buildings. Equal carelessness in piping would cause equal destruction from gas fires.

The first application of electricity to attract wide attention was the electric telegraph, invented by Morse sixty years ago. While the value of the invention was known, it did not come into rapid use, as is shown by the fact that fifteen years after wires were run, there were but six messages received at New York daily upon other than business matters. This was not due to exorbitant rates, although the tariff was somewhat higher than at present. The simple fact was that the public had not learned to use the telegraph as we do now to announce a foot ball victory.

One New York merchant who early realized the value of the telegraph was Cyrus W. Field, through whose untiring energy, coupled with a wonderful faith, was due the laying of the first Atlantic cable. After innumerable obstacles which would have crushed any man without extraordinary pluck, the laying of the cable was successfully completed in 1858. The first message flashed across the ocean was prophetic of its value to civilization, of course, of special value to our railroads, since upon the accuracy of the engineer's watch depends the safety of our trains. Some twelve years ago an attempt was made with moderate success to telegraph to a moving train. It was done without a direct connection and was a species of wireless telegraphy, although very different from the wireless telegraphy that is attracting so much attention today. At present a message has been transmitted without wires over a distance of eighteen miles, and with great expectation of greatly increasing that distance. It is, however, probable that this has a field of its own, and that it will never usurp the present telegraph in the general transaction of business. When the rates for telegrams shall be reduced to a low enough point then all letters will become telegrams, and the mail will be devoted to the carrying of parcels perhaps by electric cars.

It has been said that the long distance telephone has curtailed passenger travel upon our railways. Doubtless this is true to a certain extent. It now rests with our mechanical engineers to so improve the railway tion stride over our broad lands. He has equal pleasure in noting the progress of national wealth. The process has been not a transfer, but a development.

"This advance in material prosperity has not caused us to lose sight of the welfare of our fellow men or diminished our patriotism, as is evidenced by all the cries we have ever been through.

"We have held to the same form of government that always had. While the English people have seen their power descend from the throne to the House of Commons, France, too, has been very unstable, and all the European nations have changed with the exception of Russia. With us the Constitution has become a part of the people, and we have less of patrualism.

"The progress of education has been equal to the others. School houses appear wherever there is a settlement, and this fact has brought it about that in America there is the greatest extent of territory in which one language is spoken and the most numerous body of people to whom one language is the vernacular. Taking these facts into consideration it is evident that we have passed the experimental stage and started on a long, prosperous career.

"The colleges of England and America were founded for the same purpose; that of training men for three professions. This was the only deal higher education for some time, dealing with speculation more than it did with actuality and with ancient times than with modern.

"Formerly an educated man was one who knew certain things; now he is one who has a certain amount of mental training. In the old system individuality did not come into play; now it is stimulated.

"The State University helped materially to bring about this change. Supported by the state, it must respond to the needs of the state. Its purpose is to bring out the talents of the youths of the state and develop them, to place within reach of all the opportunities to recognize the full extent of their mental make-up.

"Women are admitted to our schools on a par with men. This is a radical departure from the ancient custom and its result has been that there are many more female students in the country than male, and the average American woman is the most highly educated woman in the world. It is a fact, too, that the women of this country are more highly educated than the men; a state of affairs the world has never before seen.

"After the first railroad was built, mechanical schools began to come into existence. The first school of the kind was at Troy, N. Y., the faculty consisting of one man. Others have sprung from this one.

"The aim of the scientific school is fession, and to this end the course of study is four years, consisting almost entirely of technical studies. Here is a chance for reform in that our own language is not put into these courses to a greater extent. From this it results that the graduate in engineering is not looked upon as the equal in mental training of the graduate of a college of liberal arts.

"The great tendency in all modern education has been to become more practical. It is the spirit of the age, and will widen our educational possibilities to include many kinds of special instruction.

"It is a part of the duty of education to help solve the problems that have recently been thrust upon us. Educated men are needed here, in our great cities, everywhere.

"Education will grow to include more subjects as time goes on, and there will be a steady approach to the practical needs of our individual and national life. No shortening of the time for education is anticipated, and in time it should bring the people to such a point that they may be enabled to view the questions of the day dispassionately and cooly. The basis of grandeur and duration is the intelligence and character of the people and intelligence and character are founded on education."

The octette then sang "The Engineer's Song," and as an encore, the beautiful ballad, "Spin, Spin."

In the absence of Mr. Meiklejohn, who was to have represented the government on this occasion, Captain Michael of the state department at Washington, made a few remarks on the consular service.

Nelson H. Darton of the department of geological survey, made a few congratulatory remarks.

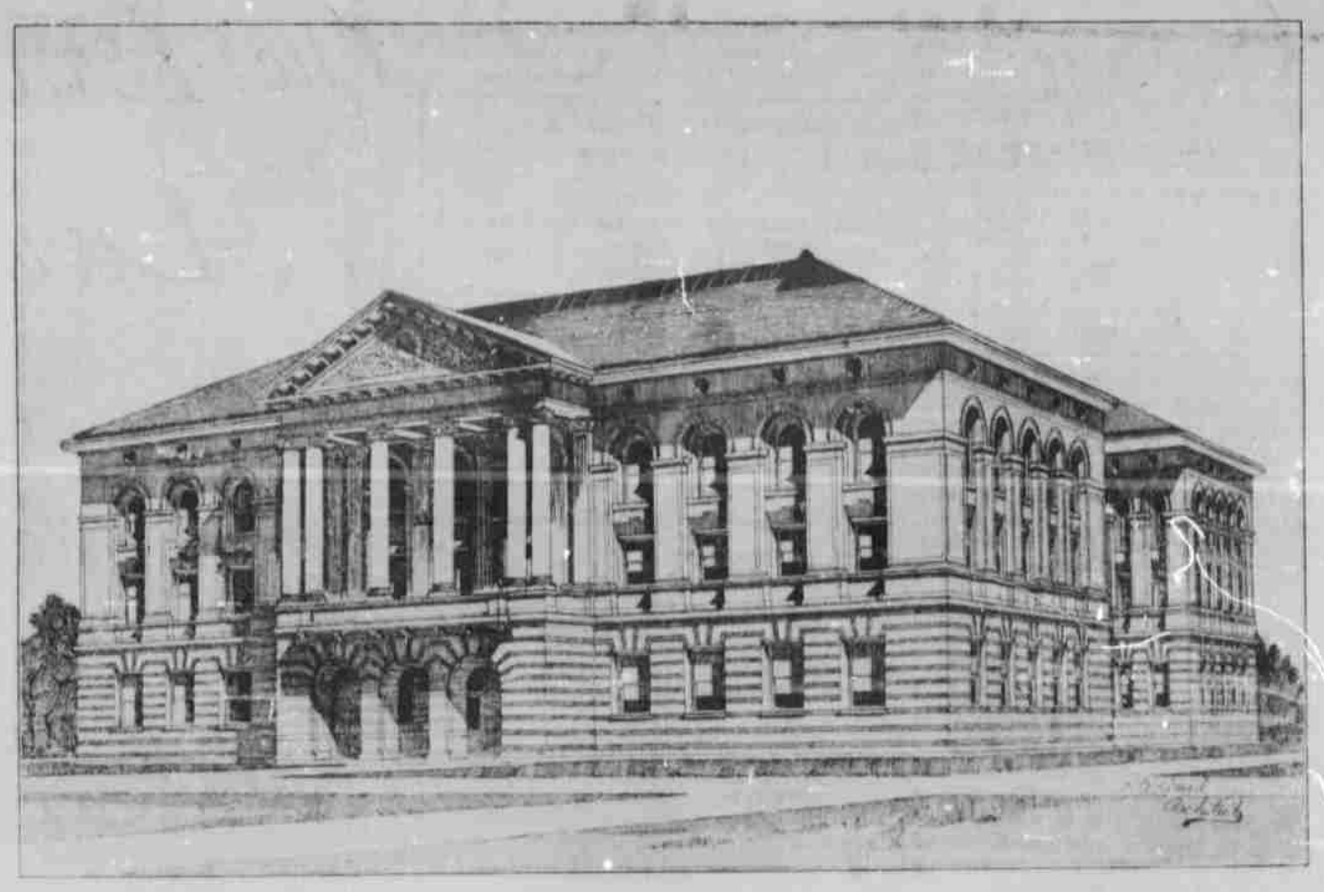
Frederick W. Smyser, of the B. & M. shops at Havelock, made a very interesting talk apropos to the occasion.

Hon. A. E. Sheldon, the man who pushed the bill appropriating the money for the new building, read a poem from A. L. Bixby, which was much appreciated, and then told how the bill was worked through.

Prof. Holmes of the University of North Carolina, was present, and made a few congratulatory remarks which put him in sympathy with the audience at once.

Superintendent Jackson read a con-

(Continued on page 4)



THE MECHANIC ARTS BUILDING COMPLETED.

NEBRASKA WILL BULLETIN GAME TOMORROW IN FRONT OF THE MAIN BUILDING. RESULTS SENT AFTER EVERY TOUCH DOWN.

NO BULLETIN NEWS NO SCORE.

tion. "Glory to God in the Highest; on Earth peace, good will toward men."

It is fair to say that misunderstandings are the frequent source of disputes even between nations. The telegraph has been successful in preventing many a trouble from this source by removing the cause before serious results had accrued.

The position of our ambassadors at foreign courts has been relieved of much of its former responsibility by reason of the telegraph, and negotiations can now be concluded with much greater rapidity. The publicity due to the telegraph has doubtless done much to do away with a Machievelian policy among diplomats, since only truth can stand the test of publicity. The telegraph gives our nation greater power of government even in the distant Philippines than that of the thirteen colonies over its small territory. In the prevention and detection of crime, electricity has made a fine record. Besides the burglar alarm and watchman's clocks to deter the robber, the telegraph has made it possible to follow a murderer across the ocean, and provide for his reception upon a distant shore by officers of the law. The telegraph has made extradition treaties of the utmost value.

The fire alarm telegraph service has been the means of saving immense amounts of property; the weather bureau has been of great assistance to agriculture and navigation even if it has made an occasional mistake. The distribution of standard time from our astronomical observatories to all cities and towns of the union by daily signals is of far greater value to business than is generally supposed. It

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS

A Large Crowd Greet the Head of the Washington University of St. Louis, Missouri, Last Friday Evening.

REMARKS MADE BY PROMINENT EDUCATORS.

Congratulations Read From All Over the Country--President McKinley Writes.

The exercises of the day closed with the address of President Chaplain of Washington University, St. Louis, at the Oliver. His lecture was scholarly and extremely interesting, his subject being the "Educational Development of the United States."

The University orchestra rendered a selection as a starter to the exercises. This was followed by a double quartet number, "The Village Blacksmith," sung by Messrs. S. O. Williams, John Randolph, John Williams, Henry Eames, John Perkins, F. A. Bumstead, W. K. Tuttle and Bud Gillespie. As an encore they sang "The Bold Fisherman," which was much appreciated.

The chancellor then introduced President Chaplain, as being a man particularly fitted for making a speech on such an occasion, he being a patriot, having served his country in the civil war, a professor, a practical engineer, and at the head of one of the leading Universities of the west.

President Chaplain said in part: "To an American it is an agreeable task to review the history of the United States. It is with a feeling of satisfaction that he watches civiliza-