

THE HESPERIAN

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The election of members of the athletic board for next year was the most exciting contest of its kind that has been held in the university for some time. According to rules recently adopted the names of the candidates were posted and published a week in advance and the election was conducted on the Australian system. The results of the election are as follows: R. W. Bliss, 215 votes; R. S. Hunt, 193; C. H. Root, 190; R. E. Benedict, 172; E. W. McDiaswaid, 154; R. D. Kingsbury, 141; J. J. Plowhead, 135; C. H. Mansfielde, 134; M. N. Liebmann, 131. The first five were declared elected and will constitute the board for next year. THE HESPERIAN wishes to commend the work of the present athletic board. We believe they have conducted affairs in an able, business like manner. We also believe that the newly elected board is composed of representative university men who will spare no efforts to continue the good work of this year.

Reflections on the Innter-State.

The Inter-State Oratorical Contest for 1899 will pass into the history of these student meetings indelibly stamped with "success." We do not say this because we must, nor in the spirit of that senseless journalism of more senseless journalists who write up glowing, patent bunkum before events take place. The Inter-State was a success financially, a success qualitatively, a success in every way, even in the decision of the judges—a thing that can seldom be said of such a contest. Financially, it was far more successful than any contest held for several years. At Topeka, Kansas, in '96, the receipts failed to meet half the expenses of the contest, and the several states were called upon for a special levy. This year there will be returned to the several states, after all the expenses have been met, something like \$325, nearly \$100 more than the ten states subscribed as their annual dues.

Not for years has the whole University been so wrought up with a common spirit and a common interest. It seems almost

as though we had taken on a new life to see an event take place among the students in which everybody really seemed to have an interest. Nearly every organization in the University was represented. For a week before, the common talk on the campus was about the contest. And all this interest and college spirit culminated in one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in the history of the University, in which the large Oliver Theatre was filled from parquet to "nigger heaven." And to whom is the credit for all this due? We believe we are not mistaken when we give the chief credit as due to Mr. J. P. Maguire, Vice-President of the Inter-State Association. He has spared no efforts and lost no opportunity to push the matter to a successful end. When we remember how a year ago we were considering the advisability of having the Inter-State here, and how the "wise ones" shook their heads, and the timid ones shrunk at the thought of the great responsibility, we can only wonder at the contrast between the results and our expectations. Mr. Maguire has spent weeks in working up interest, and it had to be "worked" considerably, too. He impressed forcibly on each and every organization the responsibility and duty owed to the University in making this event a credit to our institution. He has shown abundant evidence of splendid executive and business ability, and the HESPERIAN is glad to give credit where credit is due.

The contest has been a success in another way. It has brought the University prominently before the people, and especially students, of the great northwest. Representatives visited us here from ten interior states, and we hope, at least, that they took away with them impressions creditable to our University.

Our institution was the only State University represented and the only institution of any great size, with a possible exception of one or two colleges. It has seemed to many that it was unwise for us to continue our connection with this association, for the very reason that we do not meet in competition with other like institutions, but with smaller colleges, usually denominational, in which a radically different kind of oratory and public speaking is developed, an oratory to which we do not aspire. Our style is not ministerial, but argumentative and strictly convincing. In order that we may be put on a basis of equality, at least, in kind of oratory, the HESPERIAN will make a few suggestions that may help in getting us into an association that will better suit our ends. If it be possible let there be formed a new association on the following plan: To include simply state universities, for instance, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and possibly, Colorado, although it would seem that six states would make a large enough association. Then, the rules governing these contests, be as broad as the university itself, which is composed of different colleges, making no discrimination between the colleges. In our state association now, we are continually meeting with difficulty, the smaller colleges and academies always uniting to restrict our power and resources, until this year our colleges of law, agricultur, and any professional college that we yet have, are barred out. So a new association,