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## Brief Account of Debating in the University.

The various debating clubs have carried on debates off and on for about twelve years. But an all University association as it is now known was organized in the fall of 1894, with Mr. Forsyth as president and Ned Abbott as secretary. Since then the gavel has been wielded successively by Ben Matthews, R. S. Baker, H. B. Stewart and F. G. Hawxby. The scribes of this organization have been J. W. Searson, O. H. Allen, F. G. Hawxby and E. F. Warner.

During the first year there were but twenty-one members. In '95 Searson enrolled thirty-one contestants for the preliminaries, formulated a written constitution and by-laws for the regulation of the Kansas-Nebraska debates which was adopted and has been followed as a criterion for all the interstate debates since.

In '96 O. H. Allen registered thirty-five for the preliminaries, and left the association square financially.

In '97 and '98 F. G. Hawxby registered over sixty men and one lady. That year the association made successful negotiations for two additional interstate debates—besides the annual Kansas-Nebraska contest—one with Colorado College at Colorado Springs, and one with Missouri University at Columbia, Missouri.

This year E. F. Warner has registered over seventy men for the preliminaries and about sixty actually participated.

In the first interstate debate held at Lawrence, Kansas, in the spring of '95, the decision was first announced as a tie but afterwards given to Kansas. In this contest Nebraska was represented by A. J. Weaver, E. McNeal and E. B. Sherman.

The next year, '96, H. W. Quaintance, H. E. Newbranch and A. J. Weaver defeated Kansas at Lincoln on the Initiative and Referendum question.

In '97 R. S. Baker, J. D. Denison and Guy Green lost the decision at Lawrence two to one, on the question of the wisdom of United States extending her dominion.

In '98 Nebraska won unanimously over Colorado College on their own grounds through the efforts of Bertha B. Stall, H. E. Sackett and R. S. Baker.

In the first debate with Missouri at Columbia, May, '98, Nebraska lost the decision. She was represented by F. G. Hawxby, C. W. Taylor and G. E. Kindler on the negative of the question "That the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands would be beneficial to the U. S.

In the Kansas-Nebraska debate of '98, Kansas won unanimously over Nebraska on the affirmative of the question: "That the English Cabinet System of Government would be better for the United States than the present Congressional System." Nebraska was represented by E. B. Perry, E. F. Warner and C. E. Matson.

This year P. B. Weaver, A. Bollenback and W. F. McNaughton represented Nebraska at Colorado Springs, and were defeated. Last week the decision was given to Missouri, though all the judges agreed that G. D. Talbot, F. A. Nims and Bertha Stall were better speakers, and excelled in manner of presentation.

At Lawrence, May 12th, F. G. Hawxby, C. P. Craft and Claud S. Wilson won the unanimous decision over Kansas on the question: "That the combinations of railways to fix rates are not desirable and should be prohibited by law."

The first place in the finals has been won by the following persons: in '95, E. B. Sherman; in '96, H. W. Quaintance; in '97, by Guy Green and R. S. Baker who tied for first; in '98, by Geo. E. Kindler and in '99, by Guy D. Talbot.

Though Nebraska has lost two debates on argument this year, she has been declared first in delivery in each of the three contests.

In '95 Nebraska was defeated at Lawrence, Kansas.

In '96 Nebraska won at Lincoln, Neb., over Kansas.

In '97 Nebraska was defeated at Lawrence.

In '98 Nebraska was defeated by Kansas at Lincoln.

In '99 Nebraska defeated Kansas at Lawrence.

In '98 Nebraska defeated Colorado College at Colo. Springs.

In '99 Nebraska was defeated by Colorado College at Colo. Springs.

In '98 Nebraska was defeated by Missouri at Columbia.

In '99 Nebraska was defeated by Missouri at Lincoln.

## Preliminary Debates.

A few weeks after school began last fall, those interested in debating kept constantly enquiring when the first preliminary debates would be held. The officers of the Association soon became convinced that the entries would far exceed the number engaging in such contest in previous years. A meeting was called to consider some plan whereby promiscuous entrance would be anticipated. An amendment to the constitution was adopted providing that all contestants deposit \$1 with the secretary as an evidence of good faith, the money to be returned