

THE HESPERIAN

if the speaker appeared. Notwithstanding this precaution seventy-two speakers registered, and all but a few of these took part. The debates were held in nine divisions, and sixteen men were chosen from these sections to enter a second preliminary from which nine were to be chosen. The contest came off just before the Christmas recess, and the following speakers were successful in winning out: Weaver, Wilson, Hawxby, Bertha Stull, Griffith, Craft, Talbot, O'Connell, Motis, Harry Landis, Warner, Hawthorne, Nims, Barr, Bollenbach, Henry.

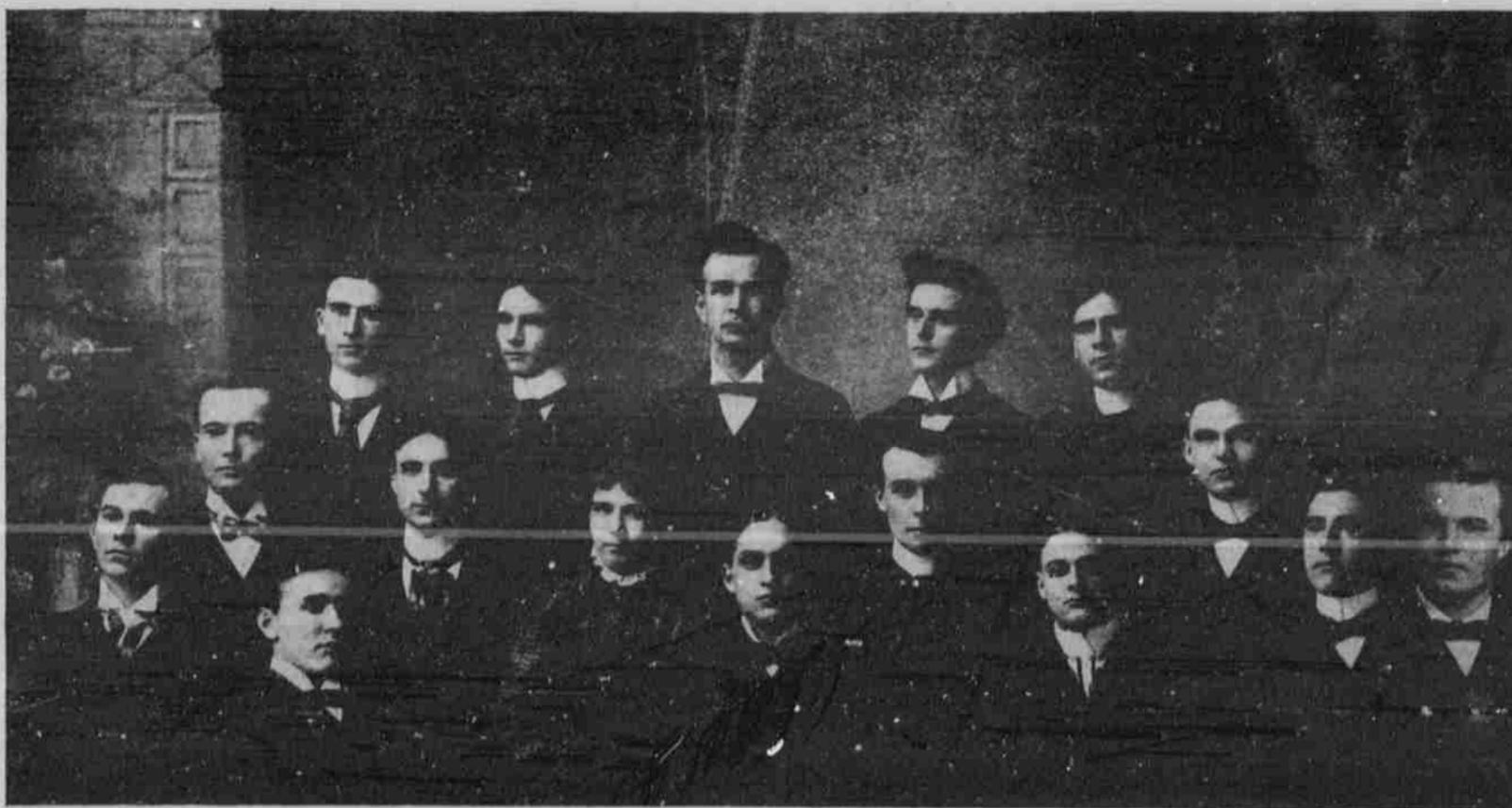
When the boys returned from their Christmas vacation, the next topic of importance was the date of the second preliminary. Colorado, Missouri and Kansas were the states that the debates were to be held with, and our association entered into correspondence with them in regard to questions. The

McNaughton and Bollenbach went to Colorado Springs to debate Colorado College, and were worsted, although the judges decided that our boys had the better delivery.

Talbot, Nims and Stull remained at home and debated with Missouri. The Missourians proved themselves superior on the argument, but our speakers were conceded by the judges to be much better on delivery.

Hawxby, Craft and Wilson went to Lawrence, Kansas, and were successful in getting an unanimous decision for Nebraska.

Nebraska's weakness as shown by the result of these contests, is a failure on strength of argument, coupled with the fact that there was a lack of effective team work. Probably the real fault was not with the debaters, but with conditions. It appears that if the number of entries could be cut down to



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GRIFFITH

question sent by Kansas: "Resolved, That combinations of railroads to determine rates are undesirable and should be prohibited by law," was accepted, and Missouri also chose the same topic for the joint debate. Colorado chose the expansion question. After considerable parleying it was decided to discuss the railroad question in the two sections of the second preliminary, which was held the first week in April. Three men dropped out of the original sixteen in the second contest and the seventeenth and eighteenth men of the first preliminary, McNaughton and Sampson entered the second preliminary. The successful speakers in this contest were Talbot, Craft, Stull, Hawxby, Wilson, Nims, Weaver, Bollenbach and McNaughton.

The result of the Inter-state contests is as follows: Weaver,

men of recognized ability in debating, that the result of the judge's decisions in the first preliminary would be much more satisfactory. Another improvement might be suggested in regard to choosing of judges. Some means ought to be devised to secure men to act in this capacity who are in no way personally connected with the University—men who have no personal knowledge of the speakers. In this way an impartial decision could be rendered. No one can gainsay that the present method does not secure conscientious men, but the fault lies in the system. What we want is men who will use the same system of marking used by judges in Inter-state contests. The individuals who have acted as judges in the past would feel much relieved if outside men were chosen to act in this capacity. If possible, the change should be made.