

University of Nebraska Debaters



FRED M. HUNTER.



CECIL C. NORTH.



JOHN TOBIN.



NEIL M. CRONIN.



GEORGE ARTHUR LEE.



S. C. HAWTHORNE.

connected and judicial thinking, and to present a subject straight from the shoulder. They are taught that, first of all, an argument to be effective must be built upon a foundation of sound analysis of the subject and are drilled, almost severely, in this department of the work.

The instruction and training in the department of debating is under the direction of Prof. Miller M. Fogg, who was formerly a member of the faculty of Brown university, with Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews. "Foot ball and debate are alike in one respect," said Mr. Fogg. "In both, long and hard training, often through two or three years, is usually necessary to develop a champion team. As not every strong man is a good foot ball player, so not every entertaining speaker is a good debater."

Nebraska's Debating Schedule.

On Friday evening of last week the first of the three conflicts of the season was waged by representatives of the Nebraska university, the visiting team being from Colorado college. The question discussed was, "Resolved, That American municipalities of over 100,000 population should own and operate their facilities for surface transportation." Nebraska supporting the affirmative. The debate took place in the Memorial hall on the campus, Governor Savage presiding.

Nebraska's second debate will be with the University of Kansas, in Memorial hall, on April 25. The visitors have chosen the affirmative of the question submitted by Nebraska, "Resolved, That the United States should, by appropriate concessions in its tariff duties, extend its export trade and cultivate amity with other nations."

The third contest, which will be with the University of Missouri, will be held at Columbia, Mo., on May 9. It will be on the municipalization of street railways, but sides have not yet been chosen.

In the debate with Colorado college Nebraska was represented by Charles A. Kutcher, law, '03, of Sheridan, Wyo.; Neil M. Cronin of Sutton and Thomas Maxwell of Lincoln, '03, with John Tobin, '04, of Lincoln, as alternate. Mr. Kutcher is graduate of the Colorado Agricultural college, where he won the oratorical contest last year. Mr. Cronin has won honors this year in the introductory course in argumentative composition and debate, and Mr. Maxwell, who opened the debate, is considered one of the best speakers among the students.

In the debate with Kansas the Nebraska debaters are Charles M. Bracelet, '02, Lincoln; John C. Doubt, '03, University Place, and Samuel C. Hawthorne, '02, Arcadia, with Fred M. Hunter, '05, of Blue Rapids, Kan., as alternate. While inexperienced in intercollegiate debate, Mr. Bracelet has taken high rank in the course of debate and also in general scholarship, having been elected to Phi Beta Kappa scholarship fraternity. Mr. Doubt, who is a very ready speaker, has been prominent in debating during his university course. Mr. Hawthorne was a member of the Nebraska team which defeated Colorado college two years ago.

In the contest with the University of Missouri the Nebraska representative will be Charles P. Craft, '03, of Aurora; W. Frederick Meier, '03, Lincoln; Cecil C. North, '02, Bridgeport, with George A. Lee, '03, Humboldt, as alternate. Mr. Craft began interstate debating in his freshman year, being a member of the team that defeated Kansas in 1899, and also being appointed on the Missouri team last year. Mr. Meier is also experienced in intercollegiate warfare, having fought Kansas in 1901. This is the first interstate debate for Mr. North, who ranks high in scholarship. To Mr. Lee's powers as a debater at-

ention was attracted last year by his excellent work against Missouri, prepared for in a few days.

New Method of Selection.

The method of selecting the interstate debaters was radically different this year from what it has been heretofore. Last year's plan of holding a preliminary debate in each of the four debating societies, at which the same number were chosen to compete in a second preliminary, proved unsatisfactory, because it shut out some able debaters. This year the society preliminaries were abolished and in their stead was held one preliminary debate early in February, which was open to all comers. The board of faculty judges was able to handle the candidates at one preliminary because the number was much smaller than usual. On account of the high standard set in the regular courses in debate and on account of the stiff training and great amount of work required of interstate debaters this year, those debaters who had not yet attained to a pretty high standard did not start in the race. Instead of from fifty to seventy-five candidates there were twenty-five, almost without exception able debaters. From these twenty-five the faculty committee selected fifteen, who were then put in charge of the instructors in argumentative composition and debate, who tested them still further in repeated debates. According to the skill exhibited in the preliminary and these subsequent tests the interstate honors were conferred.

Honor is Distinctive.

The increased difficulty in securing a position on one of the interstate teams has naturally made the honor a mark of high distinction. The fact that a candidate had earlier in the course been a member of one of the teams gave him no assur-



CHARLES P. CRAFT.

ance whatever that he was sure of "making" the team this year. In general scholarship the members of this year's teams average high. The squad includes some of the ablest minds in the university, the result mainly of the present puncturing methods of criticizing the class room debates, methods which lay stress first and last on hard and close thinking rather than on glib talking. The training in debate is conducted on the assumption that power in genuine debate is, in general, not so much a common, natural gift as it is the result of special training. The members of the teams this year are nearly all juniors and seniors and graduates of the law school.

THE DEPARTMENT of the University of Nebraska that has recently come into prominence is that of debating or argumentative composition. In the work carried on the chief doctrine or principle upon which instruction is given is that, in expression, the first and last imperative requisite is to have something to say before you say it. The idea is kept uppermost that a windbag in motion is neither an orator nor a debater. More attention is directed to the logical and rhetorical structure of the argument than to elocution or delivery. The students are trained in close-



CHARLES M. BRACELET.



THOMAS A. MAXWELL.



CHARLES A. KUTCHER.



J. C. DOUBT, JR.



W. FREDERICK MEIER.

Seeds Centuries Old Germinate and Reproduce

HOW long seeds will live is a question that is attracting much attention among the scientists, gardeners and horticulturists of Europe at this time. The discussion was started by the publication of a story that a handful of peas found in a sarcophagus of the Pharaohs, who died 3,000 years ago, had been planted and had grown. The vine of these peas grew to a height of six feet; the blossoms, instead of being white, were red, with a narrow yellow border. The pods were a little longer than the pea at present raised and the peas were a little larger and sweeter to the taste.

Hundreds of well authenticated stories have been published of seeds that had lain dormant for years, and when, by accident, the proper conditions for their growth had been brought about, had sprung into life.

In 1845 a preacher of Flarlight, England, had his old church, which had stood for 500 years, torn down, as a new church was to be built on its site. For some reason the building of the new edifice was delayed. Soon a thick bed of henbane sprang

up where the church had stood. Henbane was a rare plant in the neighborhood, and an old man who had lived in the town for nearly a hundred years said that it had been very rare, even when he was a boy. In the same village a year or two later some old buildings nearly as old as the church were torn down, and almost at once henbane sprang up. These seeds had evidently lain dormant in the ground for hundreds of years, waiting for the proper conditions for their growth.

At another place in England some pheasant covers were cut down for hoop poles. The space thus freed of shade and thick undergrowth was almost at once carpeted with primrose seedlings, although there had been no plants of this variety in the neighborhood for many years. In another instance an oak that was known to be over a hundred years old was grubbed up, and in a short time wild strawberry vines sprang up where the oak had stood.

One of the most remarkable cases was the finding of some small seed in an old chest in an English castle. The chest contained papers that now rest in the Brit-

ish museum. These papers were letters and the diary of an owner of the castle who had gone to the Holy Land with the Crusaders led by Richard.

These seeds had evidently lain in the old chest since about the year 1195. No one knew just what seeds they were, so some of them were planted in a hothouse and carefully watched. They sprouted and bloomed and proved to be popples.

But England is not the only country that can tell tales of this kind. Many instances of the curious tenacity of life shown by seeds have happened in the United States. A Kentucky colonel, just before the battle of Chattanooga, pulled an ear of corn from a shock as he passed. Shelling it, he ate some grains, placing a handful in his pocket. He was wounded at Chattanooga and sent home. He saw no more service and his soldier clothes were packed away. As a matter of sentiment he kept them until about three years ago, when they had become so moth-eaten that he decided to throw them away.

In searching through the pockets of the coat he felt a small lump, and drew forth

from the lining two grains of corn that had been there ever since the "Battle of the Clouds." Curious to see if there was still life in them, he planted them, and they grew. The next year, as they corn they produced was unusually fine, he saved every grain and planted it the following year, when he again saved the grains. Last year he planted twelve acres of corn with what one might call the grandchildren of those two veterans of the civil war.

Just out of Indianapolis, near Broad Ripple, there is a peach tree growing that has a remarkable history. It was planted, or rather the seed from which it grew was planted, about six years ago. For two years it has borne fruit that is not very large, but which is unusually sweet.

The seed from which the tree was produced was carried in the pockets of three men for 103 years. When the grandson of the man who first placed it in his pocket as a lucky piece planted it, it had been worn so smooth that no one could tell what kind of a seed it was. Many thought it a plum seed and others a peculiarly shaped coffee bean or buckeye.

James Wilkerson was the first man to

carry it. After he died James, his son, carried it until he died, when John, his son, who is a telegraph operator, carried it for fifteen years, and then planted it to see if it would grow. He said the reason his grandfather had kept it so long was that he had eaten the peach with his sweetheart, each taking bite for bite. This sweetheart he had married. She had died when the planter's father was born. So it can be seen what a pretty little story is wound around the roots of that tree.

In Louisville a number of years ago an old building in the center of the city was torn down. It was said to have been built by Daniel Boone. The next spring a beech sapling sprang up, and at almost the same time beside it a columbine vine sent up its shoots.

For several years they grew together, recalling the days when Simon Kenton, Boone, the Wetzel boys and other well known pioneers had hunted the redmen over the country.

For how many years those seeds had lain dormant no one really knows, but that it was a greater number than man generally lives is certain.