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SOPH-JUNIOR DEBATE.

The Annual Inter-Society Debate is Won by the Representatives of the Phi Society

The annual Junior-Sophomore debate between the Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Societies took place in Gerrard Hall on the night of November 25th. The query was as follows: "Resolved, That the Railroads in the United States Should be Owned and Operated by the Federal Government." The representatives of the societies were Messrs. C. J. Hendley, '05, and W. B. Love, '06, of the Dialectic, and E. A. Daniel, '05, and S. T. Stancell, '06, of the Philanthropic. W. W. Eagles, '04, presided and B. H. Perry, '06, was secretary. After an interesting debate the committee, composed of Drs. Smith and Alexander and Prof. Gore, finally decided in favor of the Philanthropic.

Mr. Love argued as follows: "It is a function of government to develop the people's interests in the way that will give the best results. Since the railroads are a part of such interests, it is a function of government to develop them. Private control has not given the best results. It is tending to concentrate the wealth into the hands of the few. Smaller institutions are being destroyed. Government regulation has been ineffective, and has allowed great discriminations. Since they have been entrusted to private control, it must have a tendency to foster the present evils. A change in ownership would change the manner of control. Their influence in politics is too great and is increasing. National ownership would relieve this position."

Mr. Hendley's argument was as follows: "The government would be successful in its own exercise of its function to provide adequate railroad transportation. Sufficient proof of this are the facts: that the government would make stable railroad capital and reduce the fixed charges on it, would have the advantage of economies amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, and would inaugurate non-partisan management of the railroads, and that other governments have been successful with this policy. And this policy would certainly promote the general welfare of the country; because it would eliminate the present evils resulting from the present policy."

Mr. Stancell's argument ran as follows: "It is not a function of government to own and operate the railroads, because they cannot be best managed and controlled by political forces. Our government is essentially a political compact to protect private rights, to maintain equitable conditions in all pursuits, and to promote the general welfare. The railroad problem is an industrial problem and must be owned and operated by the business world. "The policy, if adopted, would be a source of political corruption.

No two sections of our country are alike, hence no one railroad policy that the Federal government or any political party could devise would meet the requirements of the various sections.

"It would weaken the efficiency of management. Each railway has an industrial bureau whose business it is to look into the interests of the various sections through which it passes. They advertise our railroad resources and help to develop new sections. Our system has its source not in the social or political world. Spurred on by American genius and American invention and business talent it has won the admiration of the world."

Mr. Daniel for the negative spoke as follows: "Our ground of contention is: Do unavoidable abuses arise in the railroad system under private ownership? I purpose, first, to show that the present system is effective, and second, that government ownership would not cure existing evils, but new evils would be added. In the past the government has performed its function by regulating, and has left the individual to perform his function by owning and operating. Has the individual performed his function? Under private enterprise, we have developed a railroad system almost perfect in its operation, well deserving the name of American system. The government couldn't give as cheap rates of transportation as the individual without running at a great loss, a thing it couldn't possibly afford to do. Discriminations arise in three ways: personal, local and class discriminations. As to personal discrimination, law prevents. As to local and class discrimination, we see the same principle demonstrated in every phase of our industrial life; we see it in the postal system, first, second and third class mails. Thus in putting the railroads in the hands of the government, you merely inflame the spark you would quench. Evils would arise under government ownership unknown to private enterprise. Our Federal constitution prevents an individual from suing the government. Again, if the government has the right to own and operate the railroads, where is the end, and where is the limitation to government ownership? With one bound we leap into paternalism."

Need of Southern Colleges.

Work will soon be begun on the gymnasium at the University of North Carolina for which Judge Bynum, of Charlotte recently gave \$25,000. This sum will supply a handsome and modern affair with first-class equipments. It is a great pity that all our Southern colleges have not thoroughly equipped gymnasiums and it is encouraging to know that such a liberal donation has been made for this purpose in North Carolina.—Columbia State.

Meeting of Philological Club.

The Philological Club met and held its monthly meeting in alumni building Tuesday evening.

Dr. Hume presented a paper on "Some Characteristics of Wycliff's Version of the Bible." The introduction sketched the life and character of Wycliff, scholar and organizer of a great religious movement. His was the first complete Bible in English, and it prepared the way for Tyndale's and many successive versions down to our King James Bible. Striking selections from Wycliff were read and commented on. The vocabulary was noted, with its direct borrowings and imitations of the Latin Vulgate, which was its direct source and model, and the numerous French derivatives in several chapters were presented. The ecclesiastical and theological dialect which had been growing up was defined and added to by this version. The coloring of the social life of the England of this day was imparted to many passages. Some interesting words are now obsolete. Many others are used now in a different sense. The felicitous phrasing which charms the ear and the soul in our great version is in numerous passages transmitted to us from Wycliff. Purney's Revised Version improved his diction and his syntax here and there. It is well that we have escaped some of his Latin-like participial constructions. His quaint marginal glosses on Ecclesiastes, 12, are often touched with an over strained allegory. Men lived by and died for this great Bible, and the author's personality and work have quickened all our thought and life.

The next paper was by Dr. Smith on the subject: "Is it True That 'Where form remains Anywhere Function Remains Everywhere'?"

Dr. Smith took the dictum of Professor Gildersleeve quoted above and subjected it to the test of usage in several languages, particularly Latin, French, and English. In other languages he found the usage to agree with Professor Gildersleeve's dictum, while in English a number of examples were quoted in which a single noun was used in a sentence, performing the functions of both nominative and objective.

Form remains in English pronouns, but in function an English noun may be in two cases.

The Gymnasium.

The condition of our gymnasium is miserable. Since a new one has been donated, no effort has been made to repair breakages in the one we have. The new one cannot be finished before next year. Until then the present one has to be used, and should be kept properly. At present nearly all the most useful apparatus is out of order. Only two of the chest weights can be used; the basket ball courts need rings and nets; there are not enough dumb bells or Indian clubs for large class drills; one of the parallel bars

is broken and cannot be used; other troubles are as bad.

No effort whatever is made to remedy these things. To do so would require but a slight expense. We realize that the University treasury is not over-stocked, but we do believe the gymnasium fee paid on registration should be so applied as to furnish the best gymnasium possible. That this is not done, is shown by the fact that the present troubles have not always existed. Will the proper authorities please give the gymnasium some attention?

Dr. Smith in Fayetteville.

Dr. Smith lectured in Fayetteville last Saturday evening on Italy. The lecture was given at the request of the Book Clubs of Fayetteville, one of which is making a detailed study of Italian history and art. The *Wilmington Messenger* of December 2d refers to the lecture as follows:

"The writer has had the good fortune to attend series of lectures at Chataqua meetings through the country, but has never been so charmed, so delighted, and so instructed as by the lecture on Italy by Dr. Smith of the University of North Carolina. It was in faultless literary taste, with easy, graceful delivery, and of oratorical effort not a trace. But there was the true eloquence in the expression of ripe ideas and rich ideas and rich thought, with the simple classic diction of choice English.

It was a flawless gem sparkling in its own lustre, without garnish setting and ornamentation, and the auditors carried home little treasures of valuable information for future use.

The Observer has received from a student at the State University a rather unique letter, which reads, in part, as follows: "I noticed in your columns of Friday that you had received photographs of Miss Madeline Besley, of 'The Mocking Bird,' scheduled to play in this region Tuesday evening. Could you oblige a poor college chap with one of those photos? I am rather a late arrival and desire to furnish my cage * * *." The extract from the letter is amusing and yet there is something about it that touches a responsive chord. If Miss Besley doesn't object, the young man shall have a photograph of her for his cage; even if he should be a terrible, gay Lothario, who may turn from the photograph on his mantel to say sorrowfully to his mates: "Alas, poor girl. I fear I was not as kind to her as I might have been. But then, women are such foolish, tender-hearted creatures. How she did love me, to be sure!"—Charlotte Observer.

At a meeting of the North Carolina section of the American Chemical Society at Raleigh last week, Dr. A. S. Wheeler was elected President of the society.