

THE DAILY IOWAN

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No. 62

IRVINGS VICTORIOUS

DEBATE HOTLY CONTESTED

Irving Institute Will Elect Two Men on Wisconsin Debate and Zets One—A Majority Decision

Irving Institute will have two speakers and Zetagathian society one, on the Wisconsin debate to be held in Iowa City next May. Such was decreed when the judges of last night's debate decided two for the negative. The question was one that most people are unfamiliar with and know little about, yet the opera house was filled with an enthusiastic audience, eager to see the contest of intellect and oratory and to get information from the knowledge accumulated by the debaters after months of hard study and research.

The debate from start to finish was spirited, full of go and extremely close. The audience could but guess whether the outbursts of oratory by the affirmative, or the cool, logical argument of the negative should win. The consensus of opinion seems to be that this was the best preliminary debate ever had. Every man did well and would have been an honor to any debating society. The affirmative as a whole perhaps excelled in delivery and general ease on the floor, but the logic, reserved power and team work of the negative saved the night for them.

The question discussed is worded as follows:

Resolved: "That in the commonwealth of Iowa, a system of taxation in which the personal property would be taxed by and for the state, reserving to the local bodies the exclusive taxation of realty, would be preferable to the present system." Zetagathian affirmed the proposition while Irving denied it.

Mr. F. H. Randall opened the debate by explaining the present system and showing wherein the proposed system would be a change for the better. The system in vogue now is wrong in principle. The evils are not local but general and it fails economically, being nothing but a sham and a humbug. It is a relic of the middle ages. England, France, Germany, all Europe in fact, as well as many of the states in our commonwealth have abandoned it as useless. Tax commissioners condemn it because personalty ought not to pay the same tax as realty. The equality in rate of taxation does not make equality in taxation. Property should be taxed according to its productive powers. He showed that the assessment of personal property in Iowa varies from 20 per cent of its value to 60 per cent, thus making it unfair that some counties should pay more proportionately for state expenses than their share. Each county strives to make the value as low as possible. The new system would remove the evils and state officers would assess alike. Personalty nowhere bears its share of taxation, yet it increases in value and escapes the

assessor. The very nature of the general tax system is unjust and has been amended until worn out and even if enforced it would not be a good one. Mr. Randall filled the difficult part of opening the debate in a pleasing manner, although at times his delivery was a little hesitating.

For the negative Mr. C. T. Kemmerer, as first speaker demonstrated that the general property tax is not in force in Iowa now. The present system is the result of a gradual growth and evolution. The state board of equalization removes the unequal assessments which sometimes occur in the different counties. This is done by ascertaining the selling price of property and comparing it with the assessed value. The local assessor is more capable of assessing personal property than the state officers, for the local officers know all the conditions and could be more just. The present system is so satisfactory that there has been but little discussion concerning it. It is impossible to completely separate the personal from real property. No economic writer has ever given a definition of these two kinds of property because that distinction is a matter of legal definition. Even the Supreme court have great difficulty to decide which is which. There has never yet been any complete separation and New York had great trouble in trying to draw the line between personal and real property. Mr. Kemmerer's debate was clear and argumentative, having the best of attention from his audience. A great part of his speech was extemporaneous rebuttal and showed his ready thinking power while on his feet.

The second speaker on the affirmative, Mr. W. H. Anderson, pointed out some of the evils in the present system. It is unjust by attempting to tax personalty as it does, and in letting the counties do their own assessing for state taxes. The local bodies can easily tax real estate while the state officers can enforce the taxation of personalty. The proposed system eradicates these evils of the present. It is Iowa's time to fall in line with the other nations of the world and commonwealths of our U. S. and adopt an up-to-date method of obtaining local and state revenue. He proposed to do away with the difference in assessment in the various counties. The state board of equalization is a bungling affair and never was a success. There are almost as many bases of assessment as there are counties in the state. He recommended the modern and successful system. This was the best delivered speech of the evening, Mr. Anderson having a good voice, and fine command of himself while talking.

H. E. Spangler continued the debate for the negative. He charged the affirmative with using old figures for its chart, using data from 1893 when the present system was not as successful

PHI PSI ENTERTAINS

WITH AN ARMORY BALL

Decorations, Music and Crowd Unite to Make a Most Beautiful Social Function

Phi Kappa Psi entertained with a dancing party last night at the armory.

The old barn like interior of the building was transformed by magnificent decorative work into a place of rare beauty. All round the four walls were hung heavy draperies and above them was a band of cardinal obscuring the whitewashed plaster. The gallery was covered with white and blue bunting gracefully draped. Overhead, the colors used were old gold, pink and blue, and the effect was most pleasing, the streamers being caught up to the roof in two places and falling gracefully to the gallery. The two corners by the stage were cleverly made into cozy places where it was convenient to chat between dances. The stage itself was covered in front with a mass of bunting round all four faces. Lace curtains stretched across the bottom, rose a yard from the floor; back of the musicians were banked a mass of palms, the whole producing a most beautiful effect.

The music was furnished by six pieces of Petersen's Davenport Orchestra and after the first few strains had sounded though the hall, it was easy to understand why Petersen's was for so long the only music that was allowed to play at the armory parties. Throughout the evening his faultless rendition of new and popular music seemed to grow on the appreciation of the dancers.

Refreshments were served in the usual place in the gallery. The beauty of the service and decoration of the table were the admiration of all. Diagonally across the large table was a wide band of lavender ribbon. The fraternity initials were beautifully inscribed on the cloth with violets, and pink-shaded lamps cast their soft rays on the scene. A rather more elaborate menu than usual was served.

Add to the beauty of the hall the gorgeous gowns of the ladies set off against the black and white of the men's apparel, listen if you can to the sweet, rhythmic beat of the music, and then see the floor covered with sixty couples gracefully moving in the sinuous dance and you have some idea of the enchantment of the scene. The hosts received many merited congratulations on the success of their efforts as entertainers and beauty of their party. It was not till past the "Wee Sma" hours that the delighted dancers left the scene for their homes.

The patronesses were: Mrs. Mac Lean, Miss Gregory, Mesdames Mayer, Musser, Shrader, Shambaugh and Lovell Swisher.

The out of town people in attendance were: Mrs. Carl Stutsman, Miss Elsie Carpenter, Miss Edna Dow, Miss Lulu Waite, Mr. Carl A. Stutsman of Burlington; Miss

Musser, Miss Gertrude Musser, Miss Small, Mr. Zell H. Hutchinson, Harold Mahin, Muscatine; Miss Anna Farrell, Ft. Dodge; F. B. Gleason, Davenport; Guy S. Mannatt, Grinnell; Miss Althea Simmons, Cedar Rapids.

Recital Monday.

The recital of Jocelyn Leigh Monday afternoon by Miss Katherine Jewell Everts promises to those who attend one of the greatest dramatic treats of the year. Miss Everts is regularly employed with the Eastern Lyceum Bureau and it is fortunate that Iowa is without the territory covered by her contract else we would not be able to hear her at the nominal price to be collected Monday.

Those who heard Miss Everts in her presentation of the popular novel, Jocelyn Leigh, in December are practically unanimous in declaring her recital to be one of the best they have ever heard. The recital was in fact a rare treat and presented the entire story without a break. Miss Evert's ability and dramatic art are certainly of the very highest order and to hear her Monday afternoon the auditorium will certainly be crowded.

Historical Society Publication.

The State Historical Society has received from the press a vest pocket edition of "The Constitution of the State of Iowa" with an interesting and instructive historical introduction by Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh. It is a very desirable book to possess for it is the only copy of our state constitution which can be obtained in pamphlet form.

Wisconsin Submits Question.

Wisconsin submitted the following question today:

"Is it desirable that the National Banking law be so amended as to permit National banks to establish branches." Our team has until Jan. 25 to choose their side.

Gospel Meetings.

A series of special meetings will begin at the Christian church tomorrow morning. They will be conducted by Sherman Hill A. M., of Ossawatimie and by the pastor, Rev. C. Percy Leach. Mr. Hill will occupy the pulpit tomorrow morning and evening and each evening during the week. The evening services will begin at 7:30. A cordial invitation is extended to all students.

Are you a believer in early hours? You can keep them at the sophomore cotillion. One hour at this party is worth aeons at others.

Are you a poor dancer? The music and surroundings will be such that you will dance in spite of yourself at the sophomore cotillion.

Carlisle Sweigert, '05, of Maquoketa, is pledged to Alpha Chi Rho.

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Eleventh Year

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THE DAILY IOWAN
IOWA CITY, IOWA

Entered at the post-office at Iowa City, Iowa, as second class mail matter, Oct. 11, 1901.

By R. J. BANNISTER

Now the preliminary is over and the debaters for the Wisconsin contest have been chosen. They are good men and able men. They are going to work hard to win. Everybody together and help them.

Without referring to any party in particular, for they are all alike in this respect, it would seem to an ordinary person, that if an hour were taken from the end of university functions, they would not be impaired and neither would the constitutions of those who attend.

If we don't get a little more money from this legislature for buildings we are liable not to have that gymnasium while any of the present student body is in school. Many, many years have we waited in enforced patience, but it seems as if there was some chance of doing something at this time. May that chance not get away unimproved.

The legarthy and indifference on the subject of oratory in the University is nothing less than appalling. Last year there was a moderate degree of enthusiasm exhibited in the N. O. L. contest, resulting in Iowa's winning a

good place in the final markings. And this was done by a man who was never thought of as contest material before. The time now is short, not more than six weeks till the orations will be called for and yet at this time there are very few indeed writing, or thinking of doing so. This matter of lack of interest, few contestants, new men hanging back, is the reason of our defeat. It is the same old story that comes from track and baseball teams. It is something that we have got to get over here at Iowa. Men must try for the team, even if they know they cannot win a place and at a sacrifice of time and tastes, simply because the University needs them. They must go in for the sake of the old gold and for its glory.

Several changes in the system of choosing our representatives to the N. O. L. have been proposed and some of them, particularly that of Prof. Gordon, seem very good ones. But all of them are aimed at the one evil, lack of contestants. If we could once get seventy-five or a hundred students to write orations any old system of selecting our representatives would do. If it is impossible for you to write yourself through ignorance of the English language or loss of both hands, persuade your neighbor to do so.

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Prof. Patrick is giving a course in the History and Theory of Aesthetics, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 10:00, open to graduates and undergraduates who are prepared. This is the first time such a course has been offered here.

Coming Events.

January 13, 4:30 p. m.—
Katherine Jewell Everts
January 14th—
Katherine Jewell Everts, dramatic recital
January 17th—Sophomore Cotillion
January 23—
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January 24th—
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Irving's Victorious.

Continued from Page 1.

as today. He introduced a chart showing that the new system would let personal property bear 7 per cent of the taxation and real estate 93 per cent, making an injustice, for the former consists of 21 per cent of the total property and the latter 79 per cent. Thus personal property would only bear 14 mills on the assessed dollar and realty would bear 45 mills. Therefore, the affirmative's plan discriminated against the real estate owner in favor of the man with personal property and most severely against the laboring man and the small farmer.

He then for the sake of argument granted the injustice claimed by the affirmative and then showed that on \$2000 it was only 70 cents while the injustice of the proposed system in comparison \$15.50.

The real estate owners would transfer their property into personalty and lower taxes over two-thirds. The longer such a system is used the greater the injustice. The speech was the most effective of the entire debate, full of good argument, implying great reserve power in the deliverer of it.

The closing constructive speech for the affirmative was presented by E. K. Brown. He said the general property tax is the same in Iowa today as it was in 1893 and no intelligent community should tolerate it. The governor of Pennsylvania had sent word by telegraph that the system he advocates was far superior to the one in Iowa. Governor Nash, of Ohio, recently asked the legislature in that state to change to the modern way. This throws the burden on corporations instead of on the farmers. If state officers could assess personalty then much of the intangible property that escapes with immunity would be reached. The state revenues would increase and then the rate could be lowered. When the local assessors are done away with all personalty will be taxed on the same basis. Mr. Brown was extremely forcible, with a flow of language which aided greatly in the effectiveness of his speech.

Mr. L. H. Minkel, third speaker for the negative contended that the present method is simple, economic and efficient and all property is taxed alike. He then took the matter of taxing railroads and showed how the counties are incapable of assessing the value of the property belonging to railroad corporations. Local officers would be prejudiced against them. Nine tenths of the collateral inheritance tax would escape under the proposed system.

Mr. Minkel is a convincing speaker, showing that his line of argument had been well thought out.

The rebuttal by H. E. Spangler the closing talk by the negative, cleared the objections to the negative arguments and earnestly pleaded in favor of the present system. E. K. Brown closed the debate and showed the injustice of railroad taxation at present in Iowa. The rebuttal by him had a telling effect on the judges.

The judges of the debate were Prof. G. W. T. Patrick, C. M. Dutcher and Prof. H. S. Richards who decided two for the negative.

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