

OREGON EMERALD

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Saturday, October 2, 1909.

A HAZING RECORD

There is a class of people whose sole standard of truth and justice is a reflection of the popular mind. With one ear to the ground, they stand ready, as a wind detector, to face in any direction that may seem most useful. Of such a character is much of the agitation in the national press about hazing.

In speaking thus, we do not intend to defend hazing. We believe that hazing theoretically might be a good and useful thing. We know that in its present degenerate form it is both useless and foolish and that agitation against it is in many cases justifiable at least.

But when agitators, seeing a chance to win popular approval, do injustice to the party they agitate against, we must disapprove. When they so slander the University of Oregon, we protest.

The Oregonian yesterday morning printed an editorial in which, after lauding the Agricultural College on its hazing record and its attitude in the matter of hazing, the editor referred to the record at the State University as something for which it should be ashamed.

The latter fact we deny. On the contrary, the University of Oregon should be and is proud of its hazing record, as it is of all its records.

The agitation against hazing that so many hasten to echo whenever the subject is mentioned, began less than five years ago at West Point. Since that time, not a single student has been permanently or even seriously injured at the University of Oregon. We will not waste time quoting authorities and facts. The editor of this paper has been intimately acquainted with the facts during five years' residence at the said university and knows whereof he speaks.

The editorial we refer to says the faculty at O. A. C. has forbidden the use of liquor or tobacco on the campus and about the college buildings, and suggests the University of Oregon should do likewise. The University faculty, however, believing that her students can be trusted to do some desirable things voluntarily, leaves such matters without any rigid rule; and their wisdom is shown by the fact that the students themselves never tolerate the use of tobacco on the campus.

The said editorial also states that the Agricultural College "is of the opinion that the way to stop hazing is to stop it. In pursuance of this belief, the announcement has been made that hazing will not be tolerated in any form at the O. A. C. this year." In the closing lines of the editorial the writer expresses a desire to note "a like stand on the part of the University of Oregon."

Such rigid rules as the above are frequently made by college faculties just after the fall hazing and when there is little probability of any more taking place for a year. They are published

far and wide as a fearless stand for the right. As an instance of this we quote the following resolution passed by the faculty of the university under criticism on the 7th of last January: "Resolved: 'That any student who shall participate in the hazing of any student in whatever manner and with whatever object shall be excluded from the privileges of the University.' Only the University faculty kept its word and enforced the rule.

We do not say these things to censure our friends at Corvallis. We only wish to emphasize the truth which is that the University of Oregon passed a rule just as rigid and enforced it just as seriously as did the Agricultural College, and that almost one year in advance of the Agricultural College.

In regard to the present hazing the faculty could quite easily have pretended ignorance and allowed the matter to pass. Instead they have exerted every means in their power to detect every man connected with it. To do this, it is true, they made concessions, but we believe their action was the best possible one under the circumstances.

This is a hazing record that the editor of this paper, as a student of the State University, is proud of. With "charity toward all, with malice toward none" we beg leave to correct the errors of our great morning paper and maintain with it a hearty desire for the policy of a "square deal."

LENIENCY

Hazing at the University of Oregon is at an end. This desired state of affairs is not the result of any of the blood and thunder tactics of those who, only waiting to see that a man is down and the side against him is popular, shout joyfully "off with his head." Neither is it due to a rigid enforcement of drastic penalties by the faculty. Such methods never did destroy hazing or any other deep rooted student tradition in an American college, and they never will.

Two forces have combined to root out hazing at the State University. First, there is a growing sentiment against it among the students, especially in the upper classes. It is very probable that a majority of the students at the present time, whatever their opinions may be of the value of hazing in the abstract, are convinced that the degenerate form in which it has been perpetuated is detrimental, if not to the students themselves, at least to the welfare of the University they love. Second, those who were in favor of hazing have now been won over against it by the recent trouble involving some of the best members of the sophomore class. To save these men they are willing to give up hazing. It was the promise of leniency the faculty held out that induced sixty-six sophomores to give in their names as guilty. It was this inducement that brought about the unanimous sentiment in the student body against hazing.

For this reason we believe the faculty should respond to the trust thus placed in them. They should give material leniency. Such action, by fulfilling the hopes and expectations of the students will do more in a few hours to accomplish their result—radiation of hazing, than as many years of drastic action and unwise agitation could do.

If the faculty betray their trust—for any other action than the above can be nothing less than a gross violation of their implied promise,—a reaction would take place among the students that few would dare to face. All the moral disapproval that has been built up against hazing would be swept away in the violent storm that is sure to follow.

We speak of the effect it would have on hazing in particular because that is the particular evil the faculty is trying to eliminate, in doing which by this method, they would only plant it more firmly. The other effects and possible open mutiny on the part of the students,

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may be far worse but less pertinent in this discussion.

It is our firm belief that if the faculty is truly desirous to root out hazing and not to make a grand stand play for public opinion, the best possible way they can do it is to take instant advantage of the almost fortunate opportunity that the present situation offers and give the guilty students at least one more chance to make good. Not only will they be doing a great service in eradicating hazing, but they will take a step toward opening amicable relations between students and faculty in which cooperation will take the place of competition and strife.

THE EMERALD OFFICE

The northwest room on the first floor of the new engineering building has been secured as an office for the Emerald. The room is occupied till ten a. m. by Prof. Grider's classes, but after that time it will be used by the editorial staff. Subscriptions should be made and copy and news items handed in here. The Weekly last year felt the need of a room where the editors and reporters could meet and work, and the even more emphatic need of the Emerald this year resulted in securing this room, and a typewriter for the use of the staff.

One of the persons whom many returning students anticipated seeing this fall and greatly enjoying during the year was Mrs. Prof. A. C. Terrill, whose sudden and most deplorable death occurred early in the vacation season. Mrs. Terrill had greatly endeared herself to the students during her year of residence here, proving herself capable of large service in town and college.

Professor Terrill is now general secretary of the City Y. M. C. A. His friends feel the sincerest sympathy for him in his great sorrow and for the dear motherless but not friendless babe who is soon to journey southward with Mrs. Terrill, Sr., to sunny San Diego. May the brightness of that clime not only get into the life of the child but come back also to the saddened friends

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left behind. A life cut short is not a life lost to the world when it has been of the sort Mrs. Arthur Terrill lived.

The College Y. M. C. A. considers itself very fortunate in securing for its secretary for the coming year Mr. E. M. Brown. Mr. Brown graduated last spring from Morningside College, at Sioux Falls, Iowa. He was assistant secretary of the Y. M. C. A. there, and stood high in college affairs. He may be found in his office in the Dormitory any time between 10 and 11:30 a. m. and 1:30 and 3:00 p. m.

Book Exchange

It is now in the secretary's office in the dormitory. Books, pennants, posters, drawing materials.

Y. M. C. A. meets next Friday night.

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