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MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1904

DECISION LOST

The Whitman trio won the debate. The decision was unbiased, justifiable and unanimous. It met with the approbation of a large and attentive audience; it meets with the approbation of Oregon's representatives. They won the decision: they won the debate. The affirmative speakers advocated that the incorporation of labor unions would be beneficial to society as such unions would then be legally responsible for every act of each individual member, but they failed to show why such unions would be beneficial. The Whitman men cited instances where labor unions were incorporated, and demonstrated conclusively, that such incorporations did not solve the difficulties which they themselves admitted to be existing. The Oregon men did not definitely and clearly express the fact that they were not advocating the incorporation of labor unions under the present incorporation laws. They did advocate the incorporation of labor unions under new and effective laws.

Again, the supporters of the negative asserted that should labor unions be incorporated there would be a lack of the identity of interest between the incorporation and the individual members. They also asserted that the incorporation of labor unions is unconstitutional; is not in accord with the pleasure of the unions and hence cannot be desirable. The Varsity debaters were unable to meet these arguments and for this reason lost the decision.

The Oregon men did not lose the contest through the lack of skill and preparation. They had the burden of proof; they were compelled to establish a solution for the

intricacies of unionism without having immediate precedent for such a solution. They presented their case strongly and are deserving of much credit. To the credit of the University it may be said that the English of its representatives was good. This may be said of the Whitman debaters as well. For this reason the contest was much stronger than was the Oregon-Washington debate held here last spring.

The next debate is the Oregon-Pacific University contest to be held in Villard Hall. A debating contest, like all other contests, is won in preparation. Every man in the University should enter the try-out that we may be able to score a single victory.

Enough has been said regarding the importance of attending assembly. A word may be said concerning the usurping of the whole hour for special exercises when a very important meeting of the Associated Students is to be held. We all agree that an excellent programme, such as was rendered last week, is of special interest and power but the students all agree also that the choosing of a debating trio to meet the Pacific representatives is of more vital importance. The schedule was arranged in order that the students might have one hour each week during which time special meetings could be held. Acting in accord with this definite and excellent plan the president of the Associated Students called an important meeting last Wednesday. When the gongs began to ring and it was time to hasten to the lecture halls the programme was completed. Students must either hasten to their appointments or give an excuse. How can the meetings of the Associated Students be attended under such circumstances? What incentive is there for upper classmen to enlist interest in student enterprises when the general attitude of the University appears against them? There is no incentive except it be that deeply rooted spirit that causes men and women to work for the upbuilding of the literary reputation of the University. Co-operation is the secret of power in University work. It was the lack of the hearty co-operation of the students that lost for us the Whitman debate. There is enough good debating material in college to have won every debate of the season but no one responds, due to the fact that no interest can be aroused at Student Body meetings.

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