

THE OREGON WEEKLY

ALUMNI EDITION

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The Thirty-First Annual Commencement of the University of Oregon has brought to a glorious close one of the most prosperous years in the history of the institution. The visiting alumnus sees signs of growth and enlargement on every hand. Not so much is this growth noticeable in the material improvements that have been made, though the erection of the library building and the new club house for ladies has been accomplished in the past year, but in the general atmosphere of development which tells that Oregon's University is rapidly taking place with the larger and older institutions of our country. The year has not been a sunny one when financial matters alone are considered, for the very fact that an effort has been made to invoke the referendum and withhold from the University the annual appropriation of \$125,000 which was granted by the last legislature, has been a dark cloud over the campus and has threatened to dampen the zeal and ardour of students and faculty alike. But throughout this seeming depression the "Oregon Spirit" characterized by determination and firmness of purpose, has steadily grown stronger and stronger, the obstacles but serving to furnish motives for more earnest endeavor.

The class of 1907 is the largest that has ever been graduated from the university. But this class is not remarkable merely for its numbers, for it is a class that has established new and worthy precedents; that has held to high ideals of scholarship and culture. Its members have won fame in debate and oratory, and in athletics have led Oregon to many victories.

Each incoming class is larger than the one preceding it, and from year to year, as new high schools are established over the state, the new students will increase in numbers and in the quality of preliminary preparation. Each succeeding year will bring new and larger responsibilities to the State University. These responsibilities must be met fairly and borne honor-

ably, for, while a small minority of the citizens of the state may fail to recognize the value of the University to the commonwealth, the great majority do see it in its true light and are willing to give of their means for its support. But no loyal Alumnus will say that his responsibility toward the University ceases when he has paid his portion of the tax for its support. While the Board of Regents, and President Compbell and his worthy Faculty spare themselves no effort that will make for the betterment of the University in any way, the highest state of perfection cannot be reached without the loyal and persistent aid of everyone who calls "Oregon" his alma mater. Remember that a word of suggestion or encouragement kindly given, is often worth more than gifts of gold or silver.

A UNIVERSITY EMBLEM.

During this commencement there was more or less dissatisfaction expressed at the fact that there is no practical, decent emblem of our alma mater, which graduates can wear. Many an Oregon alumnus would be glad to wear some eligible and significant insignia of the Varsity, but is forced to go without, because there is no fitting badge.

Let us take stock of what badges the alumnus has to choose from: We have (1) the yellow pennant pin bearing the word "Oregon"; (2) the official University seal pin; (3) the official class pins, and (4) the green and yellow "O" button. Does any one of these available emblems pass muster as being a dignified, easily identified and significant badge of the University? The most passing examination will tell us no.

The yellow pennant pin lacks dignity, and no business or professional man cares to wear a badge so essentially academic in its appearance.

The official seal pin, on the other hand is so overlaid with classic dignity that the average man is unable to decipher its inscriptions—they are in Latin. And furthermore, the seal pin lacks the quality of easy recognizability, because it has no contrast of colors, and because the inscriptions are too long and too closely crowded together.

The class pins, consisting of an "O" with the class colors and numerals inside, fail absolutely of their purpose as badges. We have yet to meet the stranger who has recognized one of

these pins as representing an "O", and under such conditions, of what value are they as insignia of the University? Yet they are the only pins that senior classes may wear with the authority of the Associated Students.

The latest invention, the green and yellow "O" button, we are told, is supposed to represent graphically the lemon yellow by having the "O" made in the shape of a lemon, but when a recent graduate was heard to enquire of a wearer of one of these buttons, what it stood for, it seems doubtful that their significance would flash very vividly upon a stranger. The "O" neither suggests a lemon nor an "O".

Why may we not have a pin or badge at once dignified, legible and recognizable, wearing which, the Alumni can be known as graduates of the University of Oregon. The alumni owe it to our alma mater and to ourselves to have such an emblem; we should set about getting such an emblem, and by introducing it, relegate to deserved obscurity all the useless makeshifts now extant.

While we are developing valuable traditions, it seems a shame that we have not an Oregon pin which will grow up with the University; the wearing of which will become one of the high privileges and honors of association with our alma mater. Other universities have them, why should not we?

Amid the joys of commencement week there came a note of sadness to the old friends of the University. The selfsame scenes and associations which brought remembrances of the happy days of college life, brought also recollections of a dear friend, whose familiar figure is seen no more on the campus walk-ways or in the college halls. It was with deepest sorrow that the alumni of the University received the news that on February 11, 1907, Professor Condon, having completed his years of service, passed into the eternal life.

Thirty years of loving devotion and service, was the offering that Thomas Condon so graciously made to the young people of Oregon assembled in the State University. Having dedicated his life, while still a young man, to the enlightenment and elevation of his fellow beings he turned to Nature as the book in which, he who understands, can read the revelation of the Creator. He saw the Master workman in everything, rock, wood and field and his delight was to study and