

# THE OREGON WEEKLY

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Monday, January 27, 1908.

## A UNIVERSITY FUNCTION

In these days when not a few in Oregon are striving with might and main to relegate University service and activities to the limbo of the useless and the more or less senseless luxuries which may be affected by a few snobbish triflers it behooves those who see things as they are in the matter of the distinctive and fundamental service of the University to the common good of the people of Oregon to "speak out." Little, of course will be the effect of any degree of light upon those who will not see. An examination of the stake a people have in their university in our rapidly developing civilization is always in order. The special stress in the present situation of the university is only a lesser occasion for proposing this inquiry. Any prime agency for keeping civilization, with its modern bewildering complexities and its exigent demands for the last results of science, plumb and strong and moving upward needs be fully understood in this democratic Oregon. In order that any agency that has vital relations to the general development may yield a full measure of good it must of necessity be strengthened and adjusted to meet the demands of enlarging sphere and responsibilities. Every prime and permanent agency in the making of a greater Oregon must grow in power as Oregon grows. The question then narrows down to the inquiry: Are the distinctively university functions requisite for realizing the best for the Oregon that is to be?

Limitations of space forbid anything

more than a mere hint at the relations to the public good of only one distinctively university function. A bureau for collecting, filing, indexing and organizing all material for throwing light upon all questions of commonwealth policies is referred to. In it, in most available and systematic form, would be found a record of life changes of a people. With it the principles of the social sciences could be applied towards social betterment. Such a bureau becomes the laboratory for advanced work in politics, economics and sociology. It supplies facilities for the best graduate training. Scholastic work in which every stroke is directed to social and commonwealth betterment inculcates the highest patriotism. This collection of organized material is ready at hand for utilization by every student in any part of the state conducting investigations for the common good. The university has for several years conducted this line of work, but no tithe of normal results are possible without more adequate support.

How such a bureau of research is of highest service to the people of the state becomes clear with the slightest glimpse of their commonwealth interests. To illustrate: Grand material structures are being built in the different parts of the state and grander ones will be in the years to come, but these in their planning and purpose are as but hovels in comparison with the proportions and adjustments in the structure of the commonwealth itself. Great and increasingly intricate are the private and the quasi-public corporations, but the public corporation—the State itself—must "hold it over them" in power, in adjustments, and, above all, in the purpose of its existence. Noble work has been done by the church, the private school, the club and other associations, yet these are but molding the characters that are to have their largest and deepest life in the commonwealth. The State necessarily and normally in the past limited itself to crude negative purposes. The conditions of the present and future call for a far different role. Other commonwealths in their public policies are meeting these conditions. Shall Oregon as highly favored as any in her population and in her resources renounce her heritage of destiny? A people that have given hostages to democracy as the Oregon people have can least afford to disperse with a bureau of social and political research at their university. At the university, if anywhere, must be the focus of the creative mind of the State. There must be organized the guides to experience

where men are trained at the same time the materials are shaped.

F. G. YOUNG.

## AN ACTIVE CAMPAIGN

The Alumni campaign committee, consisting of C. N. McArthur, '01; Allen H. Eaton, '02; H. I. Keeney, '97; Homer D. Angell, '00; and Lewis R. Alderman, '98, appointed by the Alumni Association last June, to wage an active campaign for the passage of the University appropriation bill at the coming election, has had several meetings, and has outlined a plan of campaign that is bound to bring results.

The law makes it the duty of the Secretary of State on the 55th day before election to mail to every voter in the state a copy of all measures to be voted upon under the initiative and referendum, together with arguments for or against such measures. The Alumni Committee has prepared a strong line of argument in support of the appropriation bill and the same will be filed with the Secretary of State next Saturday. The cost of printing the argument will amount to about \$350.00 which amount has already been subscribed by the friends of the University. The enemies of the University will, of course, present their side of the case in the same pamphlets. The law requires the state to pay for the binding of the pamphlets and also the postage. The expense of printing the argument is borne by the interested parties.

The Alumni Committee expects to wage a very vigorous campaign for the passage of the bill, especially through the newspapers of the state. There will be a lot of circular letters, special editions of newspapers, personal letters, speeches, resolutions and other campaign features that will educate the people to the needs of the University.

Mr. McArthur, chairman of the committee, will devote the greater part of his time between now and June 1 to the campaign for the bill. Mr. Alderman and Mr. Eaton will do the same. Clerks and stenographers will be employed at an early date. Alumni in all parts of the state are offering their services and when a good organization is once perfected, the campaign will begin in earnest.

## DON'T FORGET THIS

Next Friday evening, in Villard Hall, the annual contest to select the orator who shall represent the University of Oregon in the State Intercollegiate contest will be held. At this time six orators will compete. They are: Bert