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Monday, February 3, 1908

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

On next Friday the "Big Six" universities of the Northwest will each send two representatives to the first meeting of the new Northwest Conference, which will be held at Walla Walla, Washington, on that day. The delegates will be the guests of Whitman College during the session.

By a peculiar co-incidence the University of Washington and Whitman College each sent out an invitation to the five other leading universities of the Northwest on the same day. Both desired that the meeting should be held at Walla Walla and in detail each held the same idea as to what work the conference should accomplish. Very gracefully the University of Washington withdrew her invitation when it was learned that Whitman wished to be the host and as a consequence the missionaries have arranged to hold the first meeting on next Friday. The members of the conference are: The three State Universities of Washington, Idaho and Oregon, Whitman College, Oregon Agricultural College and Washington State College.

All of the six institutions are eager for the session. Each realizes that a reorganization is necessary in intercollegiate athletics and it is a generally acknowledged fact that much good will result in consequence of the session. The following letter was sent out by Whitman, which shows precisely the ground upon which the conference is called. A fuller discussion of the merits of the suggestions here

offered will appear later in the Weekly. The letter is as follows:

"To the universities and colleges invited to be represented in an intercollegiate conference February 7 and 8, 1908: In order to have a common basis of agreement and an understanding concerning the character of the proposed conference, we suggest the following points as essential to a successful meeting:

First—Each institution may be represented by two delegates who shall be officially accredited by its faculty and its student body. These delegates need not be members of the faculty or of the student body, but must have power to represent their institution and to bind it in honor by their action.

Second—Each institution shall have one vote in the conference.

Fourth—It is suggested that the action of the conference shall be allowed to stand without change for a period of two years in order that it may be tested by experience before alteration.

Fifth—Each delegate should be prepared to submit credentials showing that he officially represents either the faculty or the student body of his institution or both.

Sixth—The conference will be called to order on the morning of Friday, February 7, as soon as possible after the arrival of the Northern Pacific train, due at 9 a. m. The representatives of all institutions will be entertained as the guests of Whitman College during this conference. Please let us hear from you immediately and definitely concerning your approval of the suggestions above."

'VARSITY HAS MANY FRIENDS

That the University of Oregon has well-wishers and supporters outside our city who are ready to take active steps for her welfare has been repeatedly demonstrated during the present controversy in regard to the appropriation for her maintenance. In the past week two bodies of such supporters have taken preparatory steps toward the passing of the bill at the June election which provides for an annual appropriation of \$125,000. These two bodies are the Union Republican Club, of Multnomah County, and the University of Oregon Alumni Association. At the monthly meeting of the former on January 29, resolutions were unanimously adopted disapproving of the stand taken by the Linn County grange in invoking the referendum against the appropriation and pledging support toward securing the co-operation of the voters of Oregon for the

passage of the bill. The members looked at the question from a broad standpoint, deeming that by seeking to advance the standard of the State University, they were serving the best interests of the state itself. The club also commended the work of President Campbell and the faculty upon their splendid work under adverse circumstances, and further resolved to extend an earnest appeal to all organizations and newspapers in the state to join hands and make the vote in favor of the appropriation as nearly unanimous as possible.

The work of the Alumni Association is of somewhat more definite character. The committee in charge of the work, consisting of C. N. McArthur, Homer I. Keeney, Homer D. Angell, Allen H. Eaton, and Lewis R. Alderman, on Feb. 1 filed a 3,000 word argument in support of the Eaton bill, with Secretary of State F. W. Benson. This argument will be printed in pamphlet form and a copy sent to every registered voter in Oregon. In it are shown the conditions at the University at present; the lack of buildings; the inadequate equipment of class rooms, and laboratories, and the need of more instructors. Facts and figures are cited comparing Oregon's State University with those of other states, in which it is shown that Oregon gives the smallest appropriation of any state in the Union.

The University is shown to be a democratic institution within the reach of any student. Considerable length is given to the refutation of the arguments of those opposed to the appropriation.

Altogether it is a very strong argument and its widespread circulation will aid materially in opening the eyes of the people to the needs of the University.

WITHYCOMBE FOR OREGON

At a meeting of the Albany Grange at Albany on Saturday, February 1, Dr. James Withycombe, of the Oregon Agricultural College, spoke on the University appropriation bill situation. The general trend of his address was exceedingly favorable to the State University bill and left the impression that the supporters of the Agricultural College are also supporters of the University of Oregon. From all parts of the state favorable mention of the University is heard. Through the columns of the state press every week editorials appear favorable to the passage of the bill. From the present outlook, we have nothing to fear at the June election.