

THE OREGON WEEKLY

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Monday, March 30, 1908.

THE PAIN OF DEFEAT

It is no pleasant duty to send the message out over the state that an Oregon team has met defeat at the hands of an opponent. Yet this is exactly what the Weekly is forced to do this week. It is with pain that we are forced to relate on our front page that our two forensic teams were, on last Thursday, beaten by their respective opponents, Idaho and Washington. As to excuses which might be offered we have none. Sufficient it is to say that while our representatives did well our opponents must have done better. However we were beaten fairly and we can say that we heartily congratulate the champions from the University of Idaho and their splendid coach, Mr. Edward M. Hulme, whose thorough work has twice brought the championships to the Idahoans.

The result of Thursday night's debate gives Idaho the championship by a good margin. According to the constitution of the league the vote of each judge counts one point and the decision one point. Hence, Idaho won two points on judges and one on decision at Eugene and three on judges and one on decision at Moscow, making a total of seven points. Washington comes second with four points, three on judges and one on decision. Oregon is a poor third, with but one point.

The total defeat of our debating teams is a very bad disappointment to

our debaters who, although trying to take the situation in happy vein, still feel the disgrace of defeat very keenly. It is no happy duty for a defeated team to explain to four hundred students and a large faculty, just why their arguments did not bring about victory. It is a situation which had best be forgotten and the lesson to be learned used on our representatives of the future.

On the other hand the consoling words, "You can't always win, you know," tell a good deal of truth. Last year we were champions of eight states and this year we are not champions of any. Quite a mathematical difference, yet we are still in the race. All six of Oregon's debaters will be back in college again next year and every one of them is secretly determined to erase the blot upon his name caused by the recent adverse decisions of five judges.

Let us profit by the lesson learned by these last two debates. Next year we must show that we can come back harder than ever. A rubber ball has to be thrown down hard before it will rise very high any way. We have been thrown down hard this year, let us do our rising next year.

FAILING AND BEEKMAN

For years it has been the custom at the University of Oregon for orators from the Senior class who have represented the University in the intercollegiate or interstate oratorical contests to prepare new orations for commencement at which time they took part in the Failing and Beekman contests. The result has been, that handicapped by the short space of time intervening between the Intercollegiate and the Failing and Beekman contests, the men who have taken the time to represent the University have usually failed to get the lucrative prizes offered to the winners of the oratorical contest in June. Last year both our intercollegiate and our interstate orators took part in the Failing and Beekman contest yet neither won one of the two prizes offered; it was not because of lack of ability; but largely because of lack of time for preparation.

It seems to the editor of the Weekly that the present policy of the University is altogether unfair. For the past few years the Failing and Beekman prizes of \$150 and \$100, respectively, have both been won by students who have never previously even made an effort to represent the University in a contest with another college.

If an orator is unselfish enough to come out and try to win honors for

his university with no financial or other reward, why should he not be still allowed to use the same material in the Failing and Beekman contest in June. In the past the winning orators in June have been successful mainly because of more time put on orations and our men who have represented the Varsity in contests with other colleges have lost because of lack of time for preparation. By all means there should be a change in our custom.

THE STANFORD SITUATION

Commenting on the situation at Stanford, last Thursday's Oregonian has the following to say:

"The unfortunate feature of the Stanford affair is that it will induce a great many very respectable parents not to send their sons and daughters to that institution. So far as Oregon is concerned, this will occasion no great loss, for we have in our own state, institutions which offer students as good opportunities for securing an education as can be had at Stanford. While the large college has its advantages, so it has also its disadvantages. The small college brings its students into close relations with instructors and gives them the benefit of this personal contact. Oregon will not hesitate to compare the records of graduates of the University of Oregon, Willamette University, Pacific University, or even smaller colleges, with the records of graduates of Stanford. Results are what count. We have no need to send our young people to Stanford, whether drunkennes is permitted on the campus or not."

THE PROPER SPIRIT

That Southern Oregon is strongly lined up behind the University could be plainly seen at the recent meeting of the Roseburg Commercial club when resolutions were unanimously adopted favoring the University appropriation bill.

When the resolutions were first proposed, a prominent citizen of Roseburg, an ex-graduate of the University, arose to speak on the question, but a second man rose to his feet and yelled, "You don't need to talk on that question, nobody in Roseburg will vote against the bill." From all sides voices sounded in assent and the result was that the resolutions carried without a dissenting vote. Roseburg has the proper spirit without a doubt. Like all towns who are located in a progressive community Roseburg is lined up for education. Hurrah, for Roseburg. May more towns follow her example.