

THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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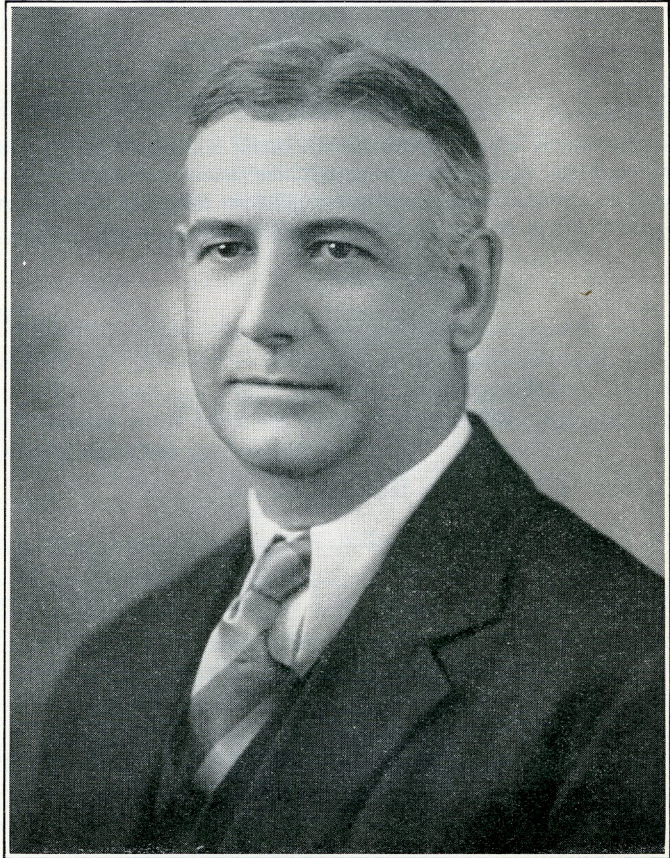
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EGBERT RAY NICHOLS

One of the Founders of Pi Kappa Delta

THE HISTORY OF PI KAPPA DELTA

Pi Kappa Delta is now entering upon the twenty-first year of its existence. In January, 1913, the constitution was signed by the ten National Founders and the first chapter was granted to Ottawa University, Kansas Alpha. Although the society is still in its youth, with a score of successful years behind it it can no longer be considered an uncertain experiment. As it emerges into its maturity, it is fitting and proper that it look back over its life. It can do this in no more appropriate manner than by reviewing the history of its organization and by bringing to the attention of its present members the names and services of those who are responsible for its existence. Ten years ago a rather full account of its history was printed in the *FORENSIC*. The facts of the present account are taken from that record.

"There are ten founders of the national forensic honor society, Pi Kappa Delta," wrote Professor Egbert Ray Nichols, the first national president in his account of its organization. "Before me as I write are their names signed in ratification of the first constitution on a page of typewritten paper now somewhat battered and torn. How did these ten men get the idea of Pi Kappa Delta, how were they brought together in this common purpose, and how did they come to affix their signatures to a constitution establishing such an organization?"

"The history of Pi Kappa Delta properly begins with the birth and growth of the idea rather than the documentary evidence of its existence. The first concept, which resulted in the creation of Pi Kappa Delta, was the realization of the need for some reward or honor for orators and debaters in the smaller colleges. Although this idea was present but dormant in the minds of many persons, it came to two of the founders of Pi Kappa Delta—John A. Shields and Egbert Ray Nichols—in a more vigorous way and came to them almost simultaneously. The plan of Pi Kappa Delta was the logical outgrowth of this first concept—a forensic need.

"In the autumn of 1911 Shields was a junior at Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas, and Nichols, who had been professor of English for two years (1909-1911) at Ottawa University, began his work at Ripon College, Wisconsin, as head of Composition and Public Speaking. The two were friends and kept in touch with each other by occasional letters."

Nichols relates how his debaters on a trip to Lawrence College at Appleton, Wisconsin, discovered the debaters there wearing a forensic key. Lawrence College had just been admitted to another society, a society which at the time had a rule which permitted the establishment of only one chapter in a state. This suggested to the Ripon people the need of establishing a new organization.

Back in Kansas Shields had also discovered the need for such a society. When the delegates to the Kansas State Prohibition Oratorical Association, the I. P. A., assembled in Manhattan, Kansas, with the Agricultural College as host, Shields found an ally in Edgar A. Vaughn, who was also seeking some means of giving recognition to orators and debaters.

Concerning the action taken at this meeting, Vaughn wrote, "The minutes of the Prohibition Oratorical held at Manhattan will show that Shields made a motion to have a committee appointed to the end of creating an honor society of debaters and orators. They will show further that I was made chairman of that committee, that Shields was appointed on it, and that C. J. Boddy, of Kansas Wesleyan, was the third and inactive member, since his college was 'agin fraternity lodges,' as one student there expressed it. Shields' motion was made after I had conferred with the head of our English Department, who said that he thought there was one already in the field and that he saw no use of another. You will recall that at that time the small colleges had no chance whatever for a chapter in the other society. Well, I called Shields out and introduced myself to him and told him my plan. He asked some questions and made the motion at the close of the afternoon session, whereupon the committee was appointed. The reason that he was selected was because it was K. S. A. C.'s first participation in the Prohibition Contest and I had been told that Shields was the power behind the throne. He proved to be so."

Shields continues the account. "Already some agitation had been carried on at a number of colleges, and a temporary organization had been formed at Ripon College, Wisconsin. A little later, Messrs. Shields and Vaughn invited Mr. C. J. Boddy, of Kansas Wesleyan University, to join them in their endeavor to organize the fraternity, the matter being informally placed before the Kansas Oratorical Association (Old Line) at its meeting in Winfield, Kansas, in March, 1912. Mr. A. L. Crookham, of Southwestern College, was added to the committee. These gentlemen in due time, with mutual consent of the entire

number, were added to the list and joined to the committee of National Founders: Messrs. E. R. Nichols, Ripon College, Wisconsin; H. O. Pritchard, Cotner College, Nebraska; P. C. Somerville, Illinois Wesleyan; J. H. Krenmyre, Iowa Wesleyan; Daniel C. Lockwood, College of Emporia, Kansas; and Frank P. Johnson, Morningside College, Iowa."

In the meantime Nichols had formed a local organization in Wisconsin. He was appointed to confer with Shields and with the representatives of other colleges in the middle west for the purpose of working up an organization.

The embryo organization was still without a name. The honor of supplying the name goes to Miss Grace Goodrich, an accomplished student in Greek from Ripon who was then just beginning her teaching career. At the request of her brother, Lowell P. Goodrich, she suggested a number of names. Pi Kappa Delta was chosen as being superior in euphony and in motto, since it was composed of the initial letters of the phrase *Peitho Kale Dikia*, the art of persuasion, beautiful and just.

The name was adopted at a meeting of the local organization at Ripon. At this meeting Nichols also drew up a rough sketch of the key and a member of the group was designated to get bids on it from various fraternity jewelers. Nichols also reported that he had letters supporting the plan from P. C. Somerville, Illinois Wesleyan; M. M. Maynard, Monmouth College, Illinois; E. C. Griffith, William Jewell College, Missouri; H. O. Pritchard, Cotner College, Nebraska; and Charles A. Marsh, Morningside College, Iowa. As Shields' reports showed considerable progress with the Kansas colleges, Nichols was instructed to see if he could merge the two movements. Maynard, Sutherland, and Nichols were asked to draw up a constitution.

The Ripon constitution, largely the work of Nichols, as soon as adopted locally, was sent to Shields at Ottawa. Shortly afterwards he returned it with suggested changes. The Ripon committee went over the changes, made a revised copy and sent it to Shields. Shields and Vaughn prepared a third revision and sent it back. The Ripon committee reamended the Kansas product and returned it with the design of the present key, a design which had been suggested by the Edward Roehm fraternity jewelry firm. By this time commencement was at hand, and the matter was allowed to rest until the opening of college in the fall.

"Shields and Vaughn made a fourth draft of the constitution and sent it to Ripon. This constitution, amended in a few

articles by Nichols—chiefly in the article concerning the key—proved acceptable. Shields and Vaughn agreed to the changes made by Nichols and the fifth or final version was ready to go before a larger group for acceptance.”

In writing of this period of the development of the constitution Shields says, “The constitution was written and rewritten by mail over a period of several months, and then, when about in shape, Vaughn and I met in my room in Ottawa and shaped her up after a couple of days of work, and it was adopted practically as we wrote it. It has been changed since, but remains basically the same.”

The plan for the key was the work of Nichols. Originally Nichols designed a square key with jewels in each corner and an eye in the center. This design called for a key that was too expensive. The Roehm company then submitted the pear shaped key with two jewels, explaining that such a key could show anything which was required. The economy of the Roehm idea appealed to the Ripon people and was accepted by the Kansas men. Key number one was ordered by E. A. Vaughn in January, 1913. During the next three years one hundred twenty keys were ordered.

While Wisconsin furnished the name of the organization, from Kansas came the idea of having degrees as well as orders in the new society. Perhaps this shows a Masonic influence, as both Shields and Vaughn were Masons. They may have caught the idea of degrees from the Masonic organization. Shields was the orderly organizer. Vaughn had the imagination to see the future possibilities. Nichols had the better sense of the essentials of the organization and the things necessary to make it appeal to the colleges it was intended to serve. “Above all, he sought a workable document representing an organization which was to bestow an honorary key on orators, debaters, and coaches, and he wished to show by jewelizing the key the distinctions each individual had achieved. He felt that this was practical. In the end they were all satisfied, and their combined labor produced an organization which not one of them working alone could have achieved.”

As the constitution neared completion, the method of launching it came up for consideration. Nichols proposed working through local organizations, such as the one at Ripon. Shields thought it would be better to create a national organization of the group of founders and work down towards the local chap-

ters. Nichols accepted this, but proposed that an intermediate provincial organization be placed between.

To Shields goes the credit for setting the organization into action. He selected the officers from the founders and as secretary cast the ballot which put them into office. Nichols and Vaughn, when they met for the first time at the first convention at Washburn in 1916, had a good laugh over it. None of the other founders ever objected. According to Shields' disposition Nichols became the first president; Vaughn the vice-president and chairman of the charter committee; Shields himself acted as secretary-treasurer; and J. H. Krenmyre of Iowa Wesleyan the historian. Crookham of Southwestern and Somerville of Illinois Wesleyan were appointed on the charter committee.

The historic scrap of paper attached to the first constitution bears the signatures of the following who are, therefore the national founders:

Egbert Ray Nichols, President of Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin.

John A. Shields, General Secretary, of Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas.

Edgar A. Vaughn, Vice President, of Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas.

J. H. Krenmyre, Historian, of Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

C. J. Boddy, of Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kansas.

Frank P. Johnson, of Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa.

Arthur L. Crookham, of Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas.

H. O. Pritchard, of Cotner University, Bethany, Nebraska.

Daniel C. Lockwood, of the College of Emporia, Emporia, Kansas.

P. C. Somerville, of Illinois Wesleyan College, Bloomington, Illinois.

On this sheet of paper are also two blanks with places for the signatures of representatives of Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois; and William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. M. M. Maynard of Monmouth and E. C. Griffith of William Jewell were to have been included among the founders, but for various reasons including local opposition they were unable to join the others. Charles A. Marsh, the third national president, was expected to sign as the Morningside representative. For some

reason he was not able to do this and his place was taken by one of his students, Frank P. Johnson.

It was naturally expected that the Ripon organization would receive the first charter as it was already in the field. But the Ripon group was held up by the non-fraternity organization of the institution. The local chapter was obliged to petition the college board for permission to proceed. The petition could not be acted upon until the meeting of the board in June. The hustling Shields did not lose any time. He was anxious to secure the first chapter for Ottawa. He did not wait to get all the available students, but signed up four beside himself, the minimum number allowed for a chapter, and rushed in the first petition. It was accepted January 20, 1913. The charter members of this first chapter were: John A. Shields, Leland H. Jenks, Jesse Elder, Charles T. Battin, and Samuel Marsh.

The second chapter to qualify was that organized at Iowa Wesleyan by J. H. Krenmyre. In the meantime Shields had met and interested C. Benjamin Franklin of Washburn College. He organized a group which secured the third charter. Shields was also responsible for the fourth chapter, Nebraska Alpha, at Wesleyan. This chapter soon became inactive, but was rechartered in 1920. By the end of the school year the new society had four chapters and two other groups striving to qualify. In June the Ripon group received permission to go ahead. Charter number five was granted to it. Frank P. Johnson had a group about ready to petition at Morningside, but he left college before the petition was completed and the embryo chapter died. One state chapter, consisting of Ottawa and Washburn, had also been organized.

The ten national founders had each expected to bring in a chapter. The anti-fraternity sentiment in some of the institutions prevented this. Nichols was about to bring in a number of chapters through correspondence, but in May, 1913, he found his health seriously threatened and had to drop this work. That summer he moved to California. On the way west he stopped at Cotner to see about the organization there. Pritchard had found the Cotner group unable to meet the expense. In the fall of 1914 P. C. Somerville brought in Illinois Wesleyan as the sixth chapter.

Early in 1914 Vaughn brought in the chapter at Kansas State Agricultural College. A problem arose in regard to this petition. Kansas had a state organization which claimed juris-

diction. There was objection from the other two institutions and the Kansas Aggies chapter was delayed for some time. It however became chapter seven.

The eighth chapter was established at Central College, Pella, Iowa. The college was sold soon after this and the chapter died.

Nichols had taken a position at Redlands University, California, and brought in the ninth chapter there in the spring of 1914. He also interested a group at Occidental College, California, and charter ten was granted to it. It soon developed that this group had neglected to secure faculty permission and it was not allowed to continue its connection with the national organization.

Dark days now fell upon the young society. While it had ten chapters at the end of two years, the organization was not functioning. Dues and charter fees had not been paid. Some of the chapters were dying. The Nebraska and Iowa Wesleyan chapters lost interest and Washburn felt the society would not live. The situation was critical. Shields and Nichols felt that the society must have a publication or it would go under, but there was no money with which to publish a magazine. They decided to go ahead at their own expense. Nichols began to prepare copy. "With affairs at this stage the National Council received a bit of encouragement. The Colorado Agricultural College applied for a chapter. It was granted with alacrity. Alfred Westfall, the organizer of this chapter, was known personally to Shields and Nichols as an old debater of Park College. The coming of this chapter in January, 1915, insured more money and enabled the council to take the risk of issuing a publication."

(This is the first of a series of articles giving the history of Pi Kappa Delta. The others will follow in early issues).

As a historical record of the growth of Pi Kappa Delta a list of the chapters is given with the year in which the charter was granted, the order in which the chapters were established, and the total number of members each chapter has received.

PI KAPPA DELTA

List of chapters, year of installation, and total number of members received since installation.

Chap. No.	Year Granted	Name of Chapter	College	Member- ship.
1	1913	Kansas Alpha	Ottawa University	148
2	1913	Iowa Alpha	Iowa Wesleyan University	151
3	1913	Kansas Beta	Washburn College	163
4	1913	Nebraska Alpha	Nebraska Wesleyan Univ.	112
5	1913	Wisconsin Alpha	Ripon College	84
6	1914	Illinois Alpha	Illinois Wesleyan Univ.	117
7	1914	Kansas Gamma	State Agricultural College	194
8	1914	Iowa Delta	Central	157
9	1914	California Alpha	Univ. of Redlands	145
10	1914	California Beta	Occidental, (Inactive 1929)	43
11	1915	Colorado Alpha	State Agri. College	158
12	1915	Kansas Delta	Southwestern College	159
13	1915	Illinois Beta	Eureka College	107
14	1915	So. Dakota Alpha	Dakota Wesleyan College	182
15	1915	Iowa Gamma	Des Moines U. (Inac. 1929)	88
16	1916	Alabama Alpha	Ala. Polytech. (Inac. 1918)	13
17	1916	Kansas Epsilon	Wichita University	83
18	1916	Oklahoma Alpha	Agri. and Mech. College	70
19	1917	Kansas Zeta	Emporia Teachers	218
20	1917	Iowa Delta	Morningside College	193
21	1918	So. Dakota Beta	Huron College	118
22	1918	Colorado Beta	Colorado Teachers	174
23	1918	Michigan Alpha	Kalamazoo College	156
24	1918	Iowa Epsilon	Simpson College	195
25	1919	S. Dakota Gamma	Yankton College	125
26	1919	Missouri Alpha	Westminster College	81
27	1920	Iowa Zeta	Parsons College	145
28	1920	So. Dakota Delta	State College	97
29	1920	So. Da. Epsilon	Sioux Falls College	104
30	1920	Missouri Beta	Park College	104
31	1920	Oklahoma Beta	Univ. of Tulsa	56
32	1920	Nebraska Beta	Cotner College	78
33	1920	Nebraska Gamma	Doane College	71
34	1920	Nebraska Delta	Hastings College	80
35	1920	Maine Alpha	Colby College	74
36	1920	Illinois Gamma	Carthage College	80
37	1920	Kansas Eta	Kansas Wesleyan Univ.	74

Chap. No.	Year Granted	Name of Chapter	College	Member- ship.
38	1920	Montana Alpha	Intermountain Union Col.	55
39	1921	Ohio Alpha	Baldwin-Wallace College	64
40	1921	Ohio Beta	Heidelberg College	100
41	1921	Missouri Gamma	Central College	92
42	1921	Montana Beta	State College	80
43	1921	Minnesota Alpha	Macalester College	92
44	1921	S. Carolina Alpha	Wofford College	70
45	1921	Michigan Beta	Olivet College	73
46	1921	Kansas Theta	Pittsburg Teachers	90
47	1921	Kentucky Alpha	Georgetown College	69
48	1921	Illinois Delta	Bradley Polytechnic	100
49	1921	Michigan Gamma	Hope College	48
50	1921	Michigan Delta	State College	88
51	1921	Indiana Alpha	Franklin College	92
52	1921	California Gamma	Calf. Inst. of Tech.	95
53	1921	Texas Alpha	Southwestern University	85
54	1921	Illinois Epsilon	Hedding College (Inac. 1924)	24
55	1921	Michigan Epsilon	State Normal College	183
56	1922	Nebraska Epsilon	Grand Island C. (Inac. 1931)	64
57	1922	So. Dakota Zeta	Aberdeen Teachers	120
58	1922	Tennessee Alpha	Maryville College	136
59	1922	Missouri Delta	William Jewell College	85
60	1922	Washington Alpha	College of Puget Sound	81
61	1922	Ohio Gamma	Hiram College	75
62	1922	Illinois Zeta	Monmouth College	81
63	1922	Penn. Alpha	Grove City College	97
64	1922	Kansas Iota	College of Emporia	99
65	1922	Iowa Eta	Upper Iowa University	106
66	1922	Kansas Kappa	Baker University	71
67	1922	Oklahoma Gamma	Oklahoma Baptist Univ.	65
68	1922	So. Carolina Beta	Presbyterian College	48
69	1922	Missouri Epsilon	Mo. Wesleyan (Inac. 1928)	30
70	1922	Minnesota Beta	St. Olaf College	107
71	1922	California Delta	Col. of the Pacific	69
72	1922	Tennessee Beta	Tusculum College	100
73	1922	Ohio Delta	Univ. of Akron	55
74	1922	Missouri Zeta	Culver-Stockton College	60
75	1922	Kentucky Beta	Centre College	43
76	1922	Oklahoma Delta	Alva Teachers	70
77	1923	Kansas Lambda	Sterling College	125
78	1923	Minnesota Gamma	Gustavus Adolphus College	126
79	1923	Iowa Theta	Coe College	54

Chap. No.	Year Granted	Name of Chapter	College	Member- ship.
80	1923	So. C'lina Gamma	Newberry College	61
81	1923	Minnesota Delta	Hamline University	61
82	1923	Oklahoma Epsilon	Okla. City University	39
83	1923	Illinois Eta	State Normal University	99
84	1923	Arkansas Alpha	Henderson Teachers	63
85	1923	Connecticut Alpha	State College	44
86	1923	No. Dakota Alpha	Jamestown College	88
87	1923	Calif. Epsilon	Univ. Calif. at L. A.	78
88	1923	Ohio Epsilon	Otterbein College	81
89	1923	Kansas Mu	Bethany College	94
90	1923	Nebraska Zeta	Kearney Teachers	56
91	1923	Michigan Zeta	Col. of the City of Detroit	58
92	1924	Oregon Alpha	Linfield College	68
93	1924	Arkansas Beta	Ouachita College	36
94	1924	Kentucky Gamma	Kentucky Wesleyan College	31
95	1924	Illinois Theta	McKendree College	82
96	1924	Wisconsin Beta	Carroll College	75
97	1924	Iowa Iota	Western Union College	56
98	1924	Kansas Nu	Ft. Hays State College	63
99	1924	Illinois Iota	North Central College	94
100	1924	So. Dakota Eta	Augustana College	52
101	1924	Iowa Kappa	Buena Vista College	69
102	1924	Illinois Kappa	Lombard Col. (Inac. 1930)	34
103	1924	Texas Beta	Trinity University	31
104	1924	Texas Gamma	East Texas Teachers	64
105	1924	Kentucky Delta	Transylvania College	59
106	1924	Missouri Eta	Warrensburg Teachers	38
107	1924	Texas Delta	Howard Payne College	52
108	1925	No. Car'lina Alpha	State College	38
109	1925	Iowa Lambda	University of Dubuque	66
110	1925	Colorado Gamma	Western State College	41
111	1925	Louisiana Alpha	Louisiana College	52
112	1925	Texas Epsilon	Baylor College	42
113	1926	Louisiana Zeta	Centenary College	44
114	1926	Ohio Zeta	Marietta College	27
115	1926	Oklahoma Zeta	Okla. College for Women	29
116	1926	Minnesota Epsilon	College of St. Thomas	28
117	1926	Iowa Mu	Drake University	66
118	1926	Texas Zeta	Texas Christian Univ.	34
119	1926	No. Carolina Beta	Wake Forest College	23
120	1927	Texas Eta	No. Texas Teachers	40
121	1927	Idaho Alpha	College of Idaho	50

Chap. No.	Year Granted	Name of Chapter	College	Member-ship.
122	1928	Texas Theta	Simmons University	51
123	1928	Illinois Lambda	Shurtleff College	44
124	1928	Virginia Alpha	Farmville Teachers	42
125	1928	W. Va. Alpha	W. Virginia Wesleyan Univ.	28
126	1928	Wisconsin Gamma	Oshkosh Teachers	31
127	1928	Texas Iota	Baylor University	28
128	1929	Iowa Nu	Penn College	49
129	1929	Texas Kappa	Sam Houston Teachers	14
130	1929	Mississippi Alpha	Millsaps College	18
131	1929	Michigan Eta	Alma Col. (Charter revoked)	
132	1929	So. Dakota Theta	Madison Teachers	27
133	1930	Illinois Mu	Wheaton College	39
134	1930	Ohio Eta	Bowling Green Normal	33
135	1930	Louisiana Gamma	S. W. Louisiana Inst.	24
136	1930	Missouri Theta	Kirksville Teachers	36
137	1930	Oklahoma Eta	Ada Teachers	29
138	1932	Maine Beta	Bowdoin College (Pending)	
139	1932	Missouri Iota	Cape Girardeau Teachers	9
140	1932	Missouri Kappa	Maryville Teachers	11
141	1932	Arkansas Gamma	College of the Ozarks	13
142	1932	Florida Alpha	Rollins College	9
143	1932	Tennessee Gamma	Johnson City Teachers	22
144	1932	Illinois Nu	Macomb Teachers	16
145	1932	Ohio Theta	University of Toledo	9
146	1932	No. C'lina Gamma	Asheville Teachers	15
147	1932	Oklahoma Theta	Durant Teachers	14
148	1932	Puerta Alpha	Univ. of Puerta Rico	5



The Southern Branch of the University of Idaho brought three debate teams to the College of Idaho, Alpha, for a series of debates. The College of Idaho won two of them.—*The College Coyote*.



Wake Forest, North Carolina Beta, celebrated its ninety-ninth anniversary January 31. Mr. J. M. Broughton, a former debater, but now a member of the board of trustees, was the chief speaker. Part of the exercises consisted of debates and orations by the students. Wake Forest is the oldest and largest exclusively men's Baptist college in the United States.—*The Gold and Black*.

MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE HEAR P. K. D. DEBATE

In the senate chamber of the Capitol of South Dakota, before the members of the legislature, with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presiding, the Augustana and Dakota Wesleyan debate teams argued the cancellation of the allied war debts.

"There was the perfect setting, that all coaches pray for," writes Prof. Hugo A. Carlson of Augustana. "Chief Justice Rudolph, a former college debater with plenty of experience, was in the chair; the senators were at their desks on the floor of the chamber; and the gallery was filled to capacity with citizens of the city; in fact there were people standing in both the gallery and lobbies. There were six hundred in attendance."

The debate was arranged with Lieutenant-governor H. A. Ustrud who presides over the senate. It was felt that the war debt question connected with so many national and local problems that the members of the legislature would be glad to hear it discussed. The Lieutenant-governor suggested, in fact, that the senators and representatives would be glad to take time out to listen to the debate. Dakota Wesleyan was invited to furnish the other team and the debate was scheduled for the evening of February 11.

The Augustana speakers, who upheld the affirmative, were Myron Domsitz and Keith Case. Wesleyan was represented by Dwight Schwab and Clement Van Nice. The affirmative focused attention primarily upon the economic phases of the question. The negative met them squarely and a good clash resulted. At the conclusion of the debate, the chairman called for an open forum discussion. Several of the law makers took part in the discussion. There was no tendency to challenge the arguments of the debaters. The open forum amplified or continued some of the issues brought forward in the debate.



The National University Extension Association has selected the following question for the official high school question in the state debating leagues under its jurisdiction: Resolved: That the federal government should enact legislation providing for the regulation and control of radio similar to the system in Great Britain. This announcement was sent out recently by T. M. Beaird, of the University of Oklahoma, chairman of the committee on Debate Materials and Interstate Cooperation.

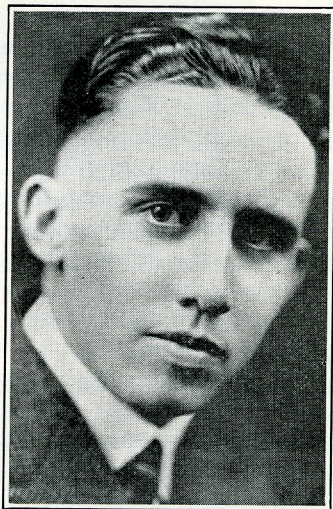
ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE---THE ORATOR OF NATIONALISM

HOWARD I. ROSS, De Pauw University

The voice of martial music sounded throughout the nation on the seventh of October, 1862, the day on which Albert Jeremiah Beveridge was born. The notes of the bugle and the beat of drums still echoed through the hills of the Ohio farm from which, but a short time before, Thomas Beveridge and his four sons had marched away to fight for the preservation of the Union. Bravely Frances Parkingham Beveridge remained at home, managing the farm and nurturing her son with her patriotism and devotion to country.

With the surrender at Appomattox, the men of the family returned, but economic misfortune overtook them and the farm holdings were absorbed in financial losses. Thomas Beveridge, like many another of his neighbors, resolved to move westward in an attempt to start anew. As a result, the family was moved to central Illinois, where a large farm was leased near Sullivan. The community was strongly Democratic, but Mr. Beveridge and the other veterans of the Union army in that vicinity were strong Republicans. Their gathering for a political rally was soon of greatest interest to young Albert. Sitting close between his father and mother on an old split-log bench, he listened with awe to the flamboyant and impassioned orators as they waved "the bloody shirt" and urged the crowd to support the party of Lincoln and Grant. Their questionable eloquence aroused in Albert a burning desire to become an orator.

The Free School of Sullivan provided him with his first meager instruction in speaking. Here the oratorical selections in the *McGuffey Readers* were read and re-read during the week and publicly declaimed at the Friday afternoon programs provided for the parents and citizens of the community. Albert be-



HOWARD I. ROSS
De Pauw University

came so popular as a speaker that when the Francis Murphy Temperance movement swept through Moultrie County, he was selected as one of the speakers sent out from Sullivan to talk at meetings organized and held in the country school houses. On one occasion, when a noted temperance lecturer failed to arrive, he addressed a large meeting at the county seat.

The subject of temperance did not long supercede his natural love for patriotic and nationalistic themes. His high school graduating oration closed with this passage:

"And this is why I believe my dream is prophecy. Let us all join hands and make it so. Across the distant years ring happy bells of joy, welcome echoes of the reaper's song, gleam the future's golden fields. Hail, mutual confidence returned! The nation omnipotent and immortal! Hail, Republic of the future, with the flag of Liberty floating o'er it. 'Hail the glad dawn whose early twilight Washington saw, a thousand years'."

In 1881 Beveridge entered Indiana Asbury College, now DePauw University. Here he found that a great interest in oratory and debating permeated the institution. Forensic honors were the highest that a student could attain, and the competition was intense and stimulating. He had entered the college in the hope of winning the many cash prizes offered for speaking, but he soon realized that unless he strove diligently to develop his abilities, he would not be able to succeed. As a consequence, he formulated from his study of ancient oratory, a Ciceronian program by which he hoped to attain not only college success but a development which would enable him to become in later life a complete and accomplished orator. ⁽¹⁾ The program was followed assiduously. First he sought to master as wide a field of knowledge as possible, by reading not only the material assigned for class study but by following outside reading suggestions and courses, and by hunting through the library for books which might prove of interest. The second part of the program called for a mastery of voice and delivery. Daily he rose early in the morning and spent an hour practicing in a wood near the edge of Greencastle, declaiming the masterpieces and perfecting the delivery of orations which he expected to give in the school contests. The third division of the program was the mastery of composition and style. To attain this skill, Beveridge wrote and

1. "The Education of an Orator," *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 18 (February, 1932) 70.