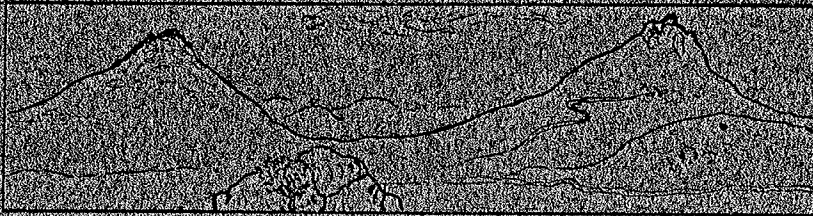


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# DEBATING



The Polytechnic School's first step in interscholastic debating was taken the first year that the school was open, when in January, 1904, Miss Gwendolyn Stewart, teacher of English, proposed a challenge to debate be sent by our institution to the San Luis Obispo High School. The proposal was followed by animated discussion, but by a standing vote it was decided to send the challenge. For three weeks we fourteen boys of the Polytechnic awaited a reply. The reply was an acceptance, and preparations for the contest at once began in earnest.

Each school first appointed a committee of three to arrange for the debate. The High School committee was composed of the following: Roy Lind, chairman, Roy Goodrich and Miss Vesta Smith. The Polytechnic School committee were Chas. J. Emmert, chairman, Gus Wade and Allan V. Emmert. At a meeting of the committee the Polytechnic School offered the following question, "Resolved, that the United States is unjust in excluding the Chinese from Federal territory."

The High School accepted this question and it was agreed, First, that one week before the debate the schools should draw for sides;  
Second, That the debate should be held in the Polytechnic School assembly hall;

Third, That Dr. Anderson should preside, and also choose the timekeeper;

Fourth. That each school should choose one judge, and that these two judges should choose a third.

As agreed the arrangements were carried out. In the drawing the High

School secured the affirmative side, thus giving the negative to the Polytechnic School.

The judges selected were Judge Unangst, Rev. Harry Hillard and Attorney Thomas Norton. The timekeeper was R. M. Reed.

A few days before the debate took place the High School Alumni Association, through its president, Miss Grace Barneberg, offered a silver trophy cup to the winner of two out of three successive debates between the California Polytechnic School and the San Luis Obispo High School. At the instance of the Alumni Association, Irving Sinsheimer purchased the cup in San Francisco.

The High School students who comprised the team were, Mr. Herman Mehlman, Miss Katherine Stewart and Miss Helen Darke. The Polytechnic debaters selected were Messrs. Floyd H. Tout, Henry Wade and Chas. J. Emmert. Henry Wade on account of illness was unable to debate, and Geo. Coonradt, the alternate, therefore appeared in Mr. Wade's place. The time allowed each speaker was ten minutes, with an extra two minutes for the affirmative leader, each leader in addition being allowed three minutes for rebuttal. The Polytechnic School team won the decision of the first debate.

Early in February of 1905 arrangements were begun for the second debate of the series. A committee from the High School came to confer with the committee representing our institution, and, as a result of the meeting terms as follows were agreed upon:

First, The question for debate was to be submitted by the High School not

later than April 20, 1905. Within one week from that date the Polytechnic School was to announce its choice of sides;

Second, The question should bear on Russian politics of the present age;

Third, The debate was to be held the evening of May 5, 1905, in Maennerchor Hall, San Luis Obispo.

These preliminaries having been agreed upon, Polytechnic students began to study Russian politics as best we could until our opponents should submit the actual question for debate. The question came on April 20th and read as follows:

"Resolved, That the Efforts of the Russian Nihilists are for the Best Interests of Russia." The Polytechnic School decided to take the negative.

The team to represent the Polytechnic School was chosen by means of a series of preliminary debates on minor subjects. As a result of these trials the honor of taking part in the final debate fell to Messrs. Floyd H. Tout, Henry Wade and Allan V. Emmert, with Miss Jeanne Tout as alternate.

The High School was this time represented by Messrs. Roy Goodrich, Lloyd Patten and Roy Lind.

The eventful evening came, that of the 5th of May, 1905. The debate was important and both sides knew it. If the Polytechnic School won, then the cup would be lost forever to the San Luis Obispo High School, but if the High School won this contest, then a debate in the year 1906 would decide the ownership of the trophy cup. The judges chosen were Judge Unangst, Mr. Walters and Attorney W. H. Spencer. The time allowed was fifteen minutes to each speaker, and the affirmative a three minute rebuttal.

As the High School was to uphold the affirmative, their speaker, Mr. Roy Goodrich, was the first to take the platform, after Mr. Mergotten's opening address. After a skillful presentation

of the subject at hand, Mr. Goodrich was followed by Mr. Floyd H. Tout, the first speaker for the negative. The other representatives of the respective teams followed, the negative argument being closed by Mr. Emmert, after which the affirmative leader, Mr. Goodrich, was allowed three minutes for rebuttal.

After a brief conference of the judges, Judge Unangst took the platform to announce the decision. It was an anxious moment. Only those who have participated in a debate know the heart-flutter of the minutes which are hours before the deciding word is spoken. Was the smiling trophy already ours, or must there be another hard-fought battle one year hence? The magic word came, Victory for the Polytechnic School! We had won two successive annual debates of the proposed three, and the cup was ours. Cheer upon cheer from the throats of loyal supporters almost lifted the roof of old Maennerchor Hall, for the victory had been won from a most worthy foe.

This is the history of the silver cup in the library of the Polytechnic School. We are proud of the trophy, for hard work won it. In the years to come may the rewards of future efforts find a place beside this silver trophy cup, our first prize.

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Mr. Twombly—"How many have done the experiment to determine the per cent of water in potato?"

Ester B.—"I did other experiments similar.

Mr. T.—"What other similar experiment have you done?"

Ester B.—"I have done it with wood (Wood.)"

\* \* \*

Edna W. (In chemical laboratory)—"I smell burnt rubber."

He (working with a lamp).—"You must have had your neck near this flame."