

THE LIT.

Any feelings of regret the Seniors may have been harboring since the football season were quite forgotten at the Lit. Friday evening when they defeated the Juniors in the first round of the inter-year debating series. Messrs. I. N. Loeser and W. L. Nichol, of '03, essayed to prove "that Government ownership and control of railways would be in the best interests of Canada," and were opposed by Messrs. E. H. Oliver and W. A. Craik, of '02.

Mr. Loeser charged the railways with being the chief cause of the corruption of politics in Canada, and pointed out how this might be avoided if they were controlled by the Government. He claimed that it would have been cheaper for the Government to build and operate railways rather than grant large subsidies, as in the case of the C.P.R. The subsidies which the Government would grant to railways in eighty years would be sufficient to buy the Canadian systems at the present time. He suggested a system such as is utilized in New South Wales where the railways are controlled by the Government, and managed by commissioners, removable only by the votes of both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. E. H. Oliver maintained that the experience of other countries did not warrant the policy of the affirmative. In assuming control of the railways the Government would be breaking an important law of jurisprudence by complicating the machinery of Government. Managers of railways, who are usually stockholders, would not exercise the same keen supervision if they were working merely for salary. The Government would bribe constituencies before bye-elections by building railroads which were not needed.

Mr. Nichol contended that since railways are the arteries through which the trade of the country flows they should not be controlled by private companies. Under Government ownership expenses would be greatly diminished by dispensing with employes of rival roads. Discrimination of rates would also be discontinued.

Mr. Craik pointed out that the affirmative had neglected the first consideration, viz., whether or not the transference of railways to the Government was feasible. He doubted if the Government could engineer so vast an enterprise. He mentioned the Intercolonial railway, which he claimed was operated at a loss, as an example of the results of Government control. It would hardly be wise to hand over the railroads to the Government which has been responsible for the corruption mentioned by the affirmative. Conditions are different in Australia. The Government had to build railroads there because private companies would not build through deserts.

Mr. Loeser refuted the previous speakers statements regarding the Intercolonial Railway. He stated that the government of New South Wales had the advantages of being able to give low rates to sparsely settled districts and thus encourage immigration.

Vice-President Young, who occupied the chair in the absence of the President, Dr. Thompson, urged the students to attend the Conversat. He stated that while there would be no radical change from other years, more attention would be given to the program. He called upon three graduates, Messrs. S. Casey Wood, Moss and Sydney Woods to act as judges of the debate.

During the intermission before the judges' decision a solo was capably rendered by A. W. Grant, '02.

Mr. Moss, in giving the decision, complimented the speakers of the affirmative upon the exceptional merit of their oratory, but stated that the presentment and arguments of the negative had outweighed those of their

opponents. He congratulated the society upon the vast improvement in the oratory of its members since his undergraduate days, and the increased interest shown in the society by the students. The other speakers likewise commended the excellent management of the Lit.

Mr. S. Casey Wood, former president of the Lit., received a hearty welcome. He expressed pleasure at being among his old friends again, and congratulated them upon the success of the Under-graduate Union which was inaugurated during his presidency.

Mr. G. A. Cornish, '00, caused much merriment by addressing "Mr. Vice-President, graduates and gentlemen." He spoke of the increasing success of the post-graduate course, and urged closer union between the under-graduates and post-graduates. Messrs. MacMurchy, C.P.R. solicitor, and Sydney Woods also made timely addresses.

Mr. E. H. Oliver was elected to represent the society at a public meeting of the Knox College Literary Society on the 28th inst.

EEDY.

WYCLIFFE NOTES.

The annual At-Home of the students and Council of Wycliffe College was held last evening, January 24th, when some three hundred guests were entertained within walls to which sounds of festivity are a thing almost unheard of. The Library, at all times a charming place for receptions, was literally transformed into a fairy bower of blue and white—the college colors. Elsewhere visitors found various pleasing color schemes carried out in the decorations, e.g. in the Rotunda, which was heavily festooned with red, white and blue, and draped with large flags. The east lecture room was done in light and dark blue—the Argonaut colors; the west, in red and blue—the colors of the Dental College. Scores of palms lent a luxurious air to the scene, as well as rich Oriental curtains, which draped every conceivable nook. Special praise, however, is due to the students who erected scores of cozy-corners on the upper flats. Many guests, instead of following out the usual route of promenades, wended their way to these secluded spots to enjoy an occasional tête-à-tête, hidden from the eagle glances of the mob.

The reception lasted until half-past nine, when a concert began in one of the lecture rooms. It was remarked by several of the guests that our programme was the most interesting provided at any of the college At-Homes thus far this season. Professor Cody, in his usual gracious manner, performed the duties of chairman, introducing the following pleasing artists: Miss Nelson, Miss Evans, Miss Bowles, The Havergal Canaries (a whole flock of them this time), Mr. Stoneburg and Mr. Kennedy.

After the concert Glionna's orchestra played a promenade programme of twelve numbers, during which refreshments were served in the Refectory. Even as late as one o'clock our guests were loath to depart, and only when those traditional strains were sounded, which all have heard many a time with sighs of regret because they come so soon, did loiterers hasten from sequestered nooks to say good-night. Our friends are of the unanimous opinion, after visiting the comfortable and home-like rooms of Wycliffites, and listening to stories of midnight feeds and various mysterious orgies, that residence life must have powerful attractions. "How any University man can afford to spend his four years at academical work, without enjoying the advantages of College Residence is something I cannot understand," was the opinion expressed by one fair enthusiast.