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THE FIRST PRIZE DEBATE.



UNTIL the present year public debating was almost unheard of at Ottawa University. But "the old order changeth," and this year's enterprising committee resolved to make a beginning in that line. On Tuesday evening, May 14th, the first Public Debate was held, and the unqualified success of the undertaking reflects great credit on the Society as a whole, the executive committee and the debaters especially, and augurs well for a continuance of this highly desirable custom, as an annual affair, in the future. Despite the fact that approaching degree examinations made the task of preparing a debate very difficult, and even shut out some of our best men from competing, the committee contrived to make all the necessary arrangements and to place on the platform men who were thoroughly deserving and representative.

The subject chosen for discussion was, "Resolved, that governments should own and control railroads." The pertinency of the question made it most interesting, and it was discussed in a comprehensive and eloquent manner, which held the attention of the large and distinguished audience from beginning to end. Twenty minutes were allowed to each speaker. Sharp at 8.30 the judges, Messrs C. F. McIsaac, B. A. M. P., N. A. Belcourt, L. L. D., M. P., H. J. Logan, B. A., M. P., D'Arcy Scott, L. L. B., and D. J. McDougal, B. A., L. L. B., took their seats. A well-rendered quartette, "Play On," by Messrs. King, Martin, Nolan