Howard-Atlanta Debate

On the evening of April 13th the annual triangular debate among Atlanta, Fisk and Howard took place with Atlanta and Fisk debating in Atlanta, Fisk and Howard in Nashville, and Howard and Atlanta in Washington. In the third struggle for supremacy the universities were represented as follows:

Howard—(1) Thomas B. D. Dyett, (2) William S. Nelson, Affirmative.

Atlanta—(1) H. H. Thomas; (2) L. B. Moore, Negative.

The judges were Reverend O. L. Mitchell, Professor Feran, and Mr. Albert H. Putney.

In opening the debate, Mr. Dyett stated and defined the question: “Resolved, That the National Government should Provide Compulsory Arbitration of Disputes between Capital and Labor, Constitutionality Waived.” He held that the evils of our industrial system demand a remedy; for (a) the present system of strikes and lockouts have proved injurious and destructive, and (b) present voluntary methods have failed. During his discussion he pictured the long, rugged trail which industrial upheavals have blazed through the decades, leaving in their wake losses in money, injuries and deaths. He contended that the present system of strikes and lockouts has repeatedly threatened the American nation with untold suffering and privation. He showed that in all labor controversies three parties are concerned, capital, labor and the public; and that strikes and lockouts have levied their toll against them. Besides the aggregate loss to capital of $400,000,000 in no more than five significant cases, and the $500,000,000 loss to labor in thirty years, he pointed out the incalculable loss to the third party, whose loss is greater than the other combined. Regarding as less important the enormous expenditures of which he had just spoken, and the ruthless destruction of our industries which he had but recently denounced, Mr. Dyett contended in the name of the public “who never give the orders but who always pay the cost,” for the adoption of compulsory arbitration as a means of settling industrial controversies.

Further, he showed that the voluntary methods employed to check the action of capital and of labor have failed completely, that the number of strikes and lockouts has increased greatly in recent years, and that this increase is accompanied by added lawlessness and destructiveness. Finally, in establishing the fact that voluntary arbitration, mediation, conciliation, trade agreements and all similar methods have failed, failed in Europe,

(Continued on Page 2)

Fisk-Howard Debate

The Howard University Debating Team met the Debating Team of Fisk University on Friday evening, April 13, at Fisk. The question debated was “Resolved: That the National Government Should Require Compulsory Arbitration of Disputes between Capital and Labor, Constitutionality Waived.”


At 8 p.m. these two teams clashed in one of the best and cleanest fights ever witnessed. Fisk defended the affirmative. Mr. King of Fisk opened fire on Howard by attacking the present system—Voluntary Arbitration—and pointing out a large number of strikes that had imperiled the nation. He made excellent use of the recent labor disputes which threatened to tie up all transportation. His argument was to prove that Compulsory Arbitration was necessary. As soon as he had finished Mr. Jackson of Howard opened up in a heated rebuttal by pointing out some inconsistent statements of Mr. King. Here it must be said that Mr. Jackson placed a burden upon the Fisk team that it felt throughout the debate. He argued that Compulsory Arbitration was unnecessary, because...
argued that Compulsory Arbitration was impracticable, because it had failed to work in those countries where it had been tried, and because it was inconsistent with the principles of democracy. He pointed out that no leading nation adhered to the features or principles of Compulsory Arbitration; and that such a measure in the United States would destroy individual liberty, freedom of contract, and state's rights. Throughout his argument he was pleading for industrial freedom, and the protection of the sacred principles of democracy.

The rebuttals were very clever and heated. Both teams threw the audience into spells of laughter by hurling hot retorts at each other. In rebuttal the men fought like gladiators of old, each one using every opportunity, and even turning disadvantages into advantages. The affirmative closed the debate. The judges rendered a split decision in favor of Fisk University. This was the first time that Fisk had defeated Howard in eleven years.

Howard-Atlanta Debate

(Continued from Page 1)

and failed in America, failed because they cannot compel parties to arbitrate, failed because they cannot enforce their awards, Mr. Dyett proved that the evils of our industrial system demand a remedy and pleaded in the name of the peace, the security, and the prosperity of the American people, for a method which both experience and reason recognize as the best method for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor.

Mr. Thomas, the first speaker of the negative, discovering defects in the proposition set forth by Mr. Dyett charged the affirmative to prove (1) that strikes and lockouts are expensive enough to warrant a change; (2) that compulsory arbitration is superior to any other method; (3) that it is capable of enforcement; (4) that it is wise and sound. He outlined the negative argument and contended that compulsory arbitration should not be employed for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor: (1) compulsory arbitration is unnecessary for (a) present conditions do not demand it; (2) compulsory arbitration is unwise for (a) it will destroy the system of collective bargaining and (b) it will abolish the present system of mediation; (3) compulsory arbitration is wrong in principal for (a) it disregards the right of the laborer to free contract, and (b) it produces a state of involuntary servitude. Mr. Thomas brought his argument to a close with a plea to the “honorable judges” not to afflict the American public with a system which disregarded the great and fundamental principles of collective bargaining and free contract—

Mr. Nelson of the affirmative refuted the contention of the negative that compulsory arbitration it unnecessary. Hastily but forcefully reviewing the history of American industrialism

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it is capable of enforcement; (4) that it is wise and sound. He outlined the negative argument and contended that compulsory arbitration should not be employed for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor: (1) compulsory arbitration is unnecessary for (a) present conditions do not demand it; (2) compulsory arbitration is unwise for (a) it will destroy the system of collective bargaining and (b) it will abolish the present system of mediation; (3) compulsory arbitration is wrong in principal for (a) it disregards the right of the laborer to free contract, and (b) it produces a state of involuntary servitude. Mr. Thomas brought his argument to a close with a plea to the “honorable judges” not to afflict the American public with a system which disregarded the great and fundamental principles of collective bargaining and free contract—

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during the past ten or fifteen years, he pointed out the misery and want produced by the present inadequate system of mediation. In a masterful summary of his colleague’s contentions, he re-established the fact that the present evils of our industrial system demand a remedy, and contended that compulsory arbitration is the necessary remedy, for (a) it is right in principle and economically sound; and (b) it is practicable. He held that the compulsion involved in compulsory arbitration is in accord with the principle of the American government which provides for compulsory sanitation, compulsory taxation, compulsory education—all for the public good. Further, he argued that since “the American Constitution guarantees protection to life, liberty and property” it must maintain a system of Compulsory Arbitration which is in accord with its own principles. Mr. Nelson contended, moreover, “our whole industrial system has for its ultimate aim, an increase in returns; the capitalist, the laborer, the public look to it for and increasing share of the world’s wealth, for an improvement in the economic welfare.” Because Compulsory Arbitration insures these hoped-for results by providing against the great losses suffered annually from strikes and lockouts. Mr. Nelson urged the adoption of Compulsory Arbitration as a means of settling industrial disputes.

Basing his argument as to the practicability of Compulsory Arbitration upon the intelligence of our supreme lawgivers, upon its success in European countries and finally upon the loyalty of the employers and employees, Mr. Nelson concluded his speech with an exhortation to the strong hand of American government to intervene in the fight between capital and labor that the precious cargo of the American Ship of State might not be jeopardized and that all the hands might be joined “in helping the old Ship of State into a haven of safety.”

In continuing the argument of the negative Mr. Moore of Atlanta branded Compulsory Arbitration “the proposition of the gentlemen of Howard,” as absurd and contended that the Federal Government should not provide Compulsory Arbitration as a measure of settling disputes between capital and labor.

At the end of the four main speeches, the audience eagerly awaited the rebuttal; the main arguments had shown the teams to be rather well matched, for although the Howard sympathizers felt that the Affirmative had the advantage in argument and delivery, they could not gainsay the fact that Atlanta, too, had acquitted herself well.

The rebuttal was opened by Mr. Thomas who contended that the public did not demand compulsory arbitration. He rebutted the contention of the affirmative in no uncertain terms attempted to establish the merits of the negative argument. Again, he attacked the argument that compulsory arbitration is practicable and challenged the affirmative to prove that the expenditures resulting from strikes and lockouts are sufficient to warrant a change.

Mr. Dyett returned to the rostrum with renewed vigor and produced overwhelming evidence to prove that present conditions demand a change. He showed that the annual expenditure from strikes and lockouts is 250,000 millions of dollars and asked the gentlemen of negative if that was a sufficient sum. He contended that Compulsory Arbitration would not result in involuntary servitude as the Negative had argued earlier, for a law for Compulsory Arbitration would be the same as any other law for the employee would enter according to certain rules and the contracts would be entered into voluntarily. Mr. Dyett held that Compulsory Arbitration would foster collective bargaining and reestablish it upon a firmer basis, also that Compulsory Arbitration did not destroy the right of the laborer to free contract, but saved the laborer from becoming the prey of the Capitalist. At the close of his rebuttal, the assurance of Howardites expressed itself in hearty applause and even the most skeptical foresaw a victory for Howard.

Mr. Moore of the Negative began his rebuttal with an attack upon the Affirmative’s argument (Continued on Page 8)

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EDITORIAL

A Baseball Team

The baseball team that has just completed an elaborate tour through the South has done all that was in its power to win. The power, however, was so far below what it should have been that hardly a game was won. The question that now confronts us is not “Why the team lost?”—that is known,—but rather “Was that our best team?” This question was asked by many people of the South, who know Howard, and respect her products at the best. Now was that team Howard’s best? No! The truth is that the team that was dispatched through the South was composed of the poorest players. It is hardly fair to call them players for with the exception of one or two, there were no ball players in the bunch.

We do not mean to disparage any individual or group, but we simply want to have it known that the men who constituted the baseball team that represented Howard in the South was not the best baseball team that Howard has. They were truly Howard men, but they were just caught in the wrong clothing, attempting to fill the wrong positions. The men were trying to do what they had not been trained to do.

Where does the fault lie? Truly somewhere. Some one is guilty of disloyalty to Howard. Somebody has played the part of an enemy. When the officials of the Athletic Council saw what the conditions were, they should have remedied them instead of allowing the Manager of the team to pick up any one that said he could play ball. In the first place, the constitution—that new organ of rule—should not have been forced upon baseball players who are professionals at this time. This constitution should have been published this year and put into effect at the beginning of the next school year. Then, even if the council was justified in putting the constitution into immediate action the more logical, loyal, business-like, and fair-minded thing that it should have done was to inform the Manager of the whole affair in every detail before any contract had been made. But for the council—all powerful in its nature—to take the dogmatic and selfish attitude that it did was wholly unjustifiable. Such action has caused the loyal Howardites to suffer humiliation and unnecessary disappointment. Such obstinacy has caused the name and glory of Howard to wane in value throughout the South, and has caused much adverse criticism to fall upon us.

The feeling at Atlanta, where Howard played Morris Brown, was certainly unpleasant to any loyal Howardite. The team of last year had brought honor and respect to Howard, whereas the team of ’17 was so humiliated that nothing was heard but criticism of an unfavorable kind. We are not advocates of victory at any price. But we complain because the team was unnecessarily handicapped by some dogmatic creatures of the athletic council, and because the honor, respect, and admiration of Howard were entrusted to a team that was inferior and inadequate in its very nature to the task. We complain because loyal Howardites were made to feel sorrow and disgust by the unfair representation.

An Open Letter

Editor of The Journal,
Howard University,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

It is with sincere regret that I have to write this letter to you, but the great chagrin and disappointment which the Howardites of Atlanta have been made to feel

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during these few days warrant me in writing an open letter to the Officers, Members of the Faculty and Student Body of the school so dear to our hearts.

During the past week the supposed Howard University Varsity Team visited Atlanta for the purpose of playing a series of games with Morris Brown University, and the showing that was made by this team was unquestionably the worst exhibition that has ever been staged in the South by any school team. Last year Howard was represented by as fine a bunch of fellows, as good players, and as gentlemanly men as possibly could be found in any school. These men reflected credit upon the White and Blue, and were the greatest advertisement that Howard could have possibly gotten in any way. We were proud of our boys, and did everything possible to make their stay in our midst a happy one. The team demonstrated that Howard stood as the peer of all comers, and in beating Morris Brown they won a victory over the fastest colored aggregation in the South.

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The very fact that a reputation of this nature was made by the Howard team should have warranted the return of the same team, as far as possible; but, on the other hand, it seems that because of the fact that the Athletic Council could not handle the matter, or because of some disgruntled student, or whatever it might be, that we, as loyal Howardites, must have to suffer the chagrin, disappointment and disgust that have come to us from this series.

I do not profess to know where the blame lies, although I have heard several versions of the affair, but I do know that the time has once when some change must take place in the adjudication of such matters to the satisfaction of all concerned, or else the reputation of the University is at stake.

In sending these baseball teams to the South, you are invading territory where baseball is the Major Sport, and the fastest aggregations are found in this section. When Howard sends a team to this section, and makes a clean sweep of the games, the people appreciate that they are Champions of the entire country. The advertisement is invaluable, and the students who have attained distinction in athletics in their respective schools are anxious to attend a college or a university where they will be rated as the best. I know of a number of instances where Howard has profited on account of Howard winning the Morris Brown game last year, and I also know, on the other hand, that there will be a great many instances where her value will be depreciated by the showing made in this city, and in every other city embraced in this year’s trip.

As I have said before, I do not know where the blame is to be placed, whether at the doors of the Athletic Council, or some student sorehead, as I have heard was the case, but it is time for a radical change to be made, or for some radical step to be taken, and if nothing is done, we hasten to say that we would greatly prefer having Howard remain away from this section of the country. Howard has always stood for victory, and heretofore, she has in most instances attained her wishes, and we do not care to have her start on her descent in our territory. If you cannot send the best that is in the University do not send any. If you send the best that is in the University and we should lose, then our sorrow will be as great as yours, and we will weep for Old Howard, and share the burden of the loss, but if you send your worst when there is better to be had, then we must in fair play to all concerned express condemnation for the responsible person or persons.

Trusting that this letter will be received by all in the spirit in which it is written, I am

Ever for the White and Blue.

—Chas. A. Shaw.

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Howard Defeats New York All-Stars

On Thursday evening April the fifth, in New York, the ex-champion Howard basketball team of 1913, under the captaincy of George Gilmore, met and defeated the New York team which was composed of the best players of the various New York clubs. The Howard team consisted of Oliver, "Snake" Sykes, "Ed," Grey, Gilmore, Holland and "Doc" Curtis with Taylor and Maurice Curtis as substitutes. The New York team was formed by Tishinisky and Dash of the Spartans, Capers and Scott of the Alpha Club, and Brown and Accoe of the Brooklyn Y. M. C. A. The victory was so decisive that it proved to the public that the retired champions were still the active ones.

The game was characterised by the snappy and accurate passing of both teams. In the first half Dash made the first field goal. This basket of the opponents acted as a stimulus to the Howard boys and caused them to display their former skill. "Ed." Grey and Huddy Oliver, in a series of clever dodges and eccentric twists, succeeded in advancing the ball from the opponents' goal to their own where Huddy scored the first field basket for Howard. When the ball was put in play again, a hearty rivalry ensued. The passing of both teams was so snappy and accurate that the sound, resulting from the ball's contact with the players' hands and with the floor, resembled the beat of a drum. A second basket by both Dash and Oliver, also one by Holland, completed the field goals for the first half. Gilmore scored two points from fouls and "Tisch" scored four. The first half ended with the New York team slightly in the lead.

Between the halves the Howard rabble, under the leadership of Dr. Beamon, entertained the spectators with songs and yells. It seemed as if the presence of this famous well-known team had revived the old Howard spirit from its slumber. The rabble, one hundred and fifty strong, produced great volume with its unified singing and shouting. The familiar songs and yells furnished the team with all the necessary enthusiasm.

When the whistle blew for the second half, the team, led by "Jap" Brown, returned with determination to win stamped on their faces. Gilmore got the jump, when the ball was tossed up, and passed it to Sykes, who with a very little difficulty advanced it to the Howard goal where he caged the first ball in the second half. At this point in the game, Dash, who hitherto had been somewhat inactive, began to distinguish himself and scored three goals before Holland could prevent him by guarding closely. His term of activity merely lasted long enough for Holland to display how effectively he could perform the art of "crossing" to deter ambitious forwards from making spectacular shots. With Dash under control, the boys gained confidence and began to pile up a score. The New York team was now five points ahead. A field goal by "Ed" Grey and a foul shot by Gilmore made the score 21-19. When there were three minutes to play, "Doc" Curtis, coach of the varsity team, leaped out into the basketball arena and did such effective service that his name will always be remembered in the annals of basketball at Howard.

As soon as he reached his position on the court, he received a long pass from Gilmore and scored a goal that not only made the score tie, but also brought forth from the spectators a wild applause. Oliver, with a long shot from a difficult angle, placed the team in a winning position. When there were fifty nine seconds to play, the referee called a foul, whose legality our boys protested. After some discussion, the game continued and, at the end of fifty nine seconds, the retired champions were still the active champions.
At the close of the game the rabble, led by Doctor Beamon, performed the Howard "Snake" Dance. Three abreast, the loyal Howardites paraded up and down the basketball court of Manhattan Casino to the tune of "Hail! Hail! The Band's All Here." After the noise had subsided, Oliver Grey, Sykes, Curtis, Holland and Gilmore were presented with handsome silver cups, which were donated by various New York organizations. As each warrior proudly advanced to receive his reward, the rabble gave three hearty cheers.

— M. E. Ross, '78.

Spring Training

When a notice calling for football practice was read in chapel a week ago, there seemed to be some surprise and wonder. Some thought that there was some mistake, that the notice should have read "baseball," instead. I wish the student-body, especially those who participate in football, to understand first what we are doing.

We intend to take advantage of every opportunity that may help us to success in the coming football season. There is enough time between now and the end of the school year for a good deal of very profitable practice. All of the new men can, in that time, learn our system of signals and many of our plays. Thus much valuable time may be saved in the fall, for the weeks that would otherwise be used in learning those plays and signals can be used in perfecting the fine points of the game and in bettering the physical condition of the players. Instead of having ten months in which to forget the plays and signals there will only be a few months. This spring practice will impress upon the men the importance of the trust placed in them. It will make them think about football during the summer; it will make them careful of their health and physical condition during the summer and be an incentive for clean living that they may be as fit as possible when they return in the fall.

These things may seem far-fetched but experiment has proved them true. Nearly all large universities have spring training to start the men in the right way during the summer. It is time Howard should wake up and be a little more progressive. Success will not come unsought, and no stone should be left unturned if the turning of it will help us to success. This is an appeal to every man who has one bit of "Howard Spirit," one spark of love for his Alma Mater. Let every man who knows how to play football assist in every way possible in the building of a successful machine for next year, by reporting every afternoon for football practice, the remainder of the year.

Let us work now that we may bring success and glory to Howard next year, and feel that there is no one who, when the season is over, will say that we were not true to the trust placed in us.

— Capt. C. L. Pinderhughes.

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Phi Beta Sigma Establishes Another Chapter

On Monday, April the ninth, the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity established the Delta Chapter in Kansas State Agricultural College, at Manhattan, Kansas. The youngest member of the Fraternity, the Delta Chapter, has already taken possession of a fraternity house and has entered upon a promising academic future. In this regard, Delta Chapter bids fair to rival Gamma Chapter, which was recently established in Morgan College, at Baltimore, Maryland.

The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity stands for scholarship, brotherhood, and service. Its aims are cosmopolitan and must be spread with the West in carrying forward the aims and intentions of its fraternal existence.

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Special Notice!

The Journal staff has been seriously handicapped this year because of the lack of finance. This condition has been brought about by:

1. The double cost of production.
2. The refusal of a large portion of the students to subscribe.
3. The negligence of the subscribers to pay their subscriptions.

It is the last item to which we wish to call attention. The Journal is being printed at the University Printing Office, and must be paid for by the staff, before the printed pages leave the press-room. It is then urgent upon the staff to have the money on hand if the paper is to be published. The money must come from the subscribers and if they refuse to do their duty by paying, or if they defer payment until the last moment, the staff is hindered and ultimately forced to stop the Journal until the proper finances are secured. The staff remains willing to do its duty but it must have the money if success is to be had.

Now, Mr. Subscriber, it is your turn to act. Your thoughtlessness of this matter robs not only you but the paid subscriber of his paper. We appeal to you to pay your subscription now, and to let us make the paper successful. Please do not defer payment later than Wednesday, April 24. Payment may be made by mail or at the Journal office on the fourth floor in the Main Hall. The future depends upon you.

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Howard-Atlanta Debate

(Continued from Page 8)

that Compulsory Arbitration is practicable. He contended that the Affirmative failed to prove that argument, he held that until they could meet the argument satisfactorily the national government should not provide Compulsory Arbitration as a means of settling individual disputes. In concluding he questioned the superiority of the proposition of the affirmative and sought to re-establish the negative arguments which Mr. Dyett had attacked so vigorously.

Upon taking the platform, Mr. Nelson emphasized his colleague's contention that the public demand compulsory arbitration, and pointed out to the negative their failure to prove the contrary. He eloquently refuted the argument that compulsory arbitration is impracticable by citing the instances in which it has succeeded. Further, he showed that if the idea of impracticability that so often prompts Americans to object to new propositions, had been allowed to prevail, many of America's most famous institutions would not exist today.

When Mr. Nelson had ended his rebuttal, victory for Howard was certain, and the audience waited eagerly for the decision while the Glee Club entertained them with the prophetic refrain, "Good News, the Chariot Is Coming." After the last strain had died away, the presiding officer proclaimed the arrival of "good news," and if his tone was less melodious it was hardly less joyful—for "the chariot had come" bringing with it a unanimous decision for Howard.

G. Dorothy Pelham, '18.

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