

## MERCER DEBATERS WIN; MISSISSIPPI AND HOWARD ARE FORENSIC VICTIMS

### JUDGE'S DECISION MADE UNANIMOUS

Green and McRae Champion Against One, Mathews and Marshall Subdue Other College.

By J. P. Leggett

Mercer University debaters proved that government by direct action of the people is both advisable and inadvisable last Thursday night. Mississippi College and Howard College were forced to bow before the forensic onslaughts of the Mercerites in the first of a series of debates.

Robert W. Green and William G. McRae, with J. A. Ruffin as alternate, championed the negative side of the question. Resolved, that the modern tendency of government by direct action of the people is inadvisable, against Howard College at Birmingham, Ala. The decision of the judges was unanimous for the negative. A large crowd attended this debate and the Mercer debaters were applauded many times for their cleverness and skill in confusing the opposition.

L. W. Mathews and W. M. Marshall, with Rabun Brantley as alternate, composed the affirmative of the same question against Mississippi and won for Mercer. The negative side of the question won the decision in only one debate, that of the Mercer-Howard contest.

On April 28, Mercer meets Furman University in the auditorium at Brenau College, Gainesville, Ga. Furman is noted for the strong debating teams she produces and Mercer will have real opposition in that debate. But, Mercer remembers the defeat handed her gridiron aggregation by the Furmanites and is determined to turn the tables.

Emory University is slated to meet Mercer in debate at Forsyth in April. No mention need be made of the caliber of Emory debating teams, for their fame is well known. But Mercer knows that her debaters can deliver the goods and is confident of the result being favorable.

### EDISON IS DEBTOR COLLEGE GRADUATE

Without Morse and Maxwell Electric Genius Powerless.

"Thomas E. Edison could never have made his great inventions had it not been for the work of college men," said Dr. C. B. Williams, professor of New Testament Exegesis at Mercer University, in an address to the student body Tuesday. "College men as moulders of civilization" was the subject of the speaker. "Samuel F. B. Morse, a college man, invented the telegraph, and Edison began his electrical experience as a telegraph operator," said Dr. Williams. "Mr. Edison also studied the works in physics and chemistry of John Clerk Maxwell, another college man."

The speaker discussed the influence of college men on the political and social problems of the ages. Next the contribution of college men to science, culture, morals and Christianity was shown.

Dr. Williams received a great ovation from the students at the conclusion of his address, which was considered one of the best ever heard at Mercer.

The University of Dubuque, of Dubuque, Iowa, has invited Dr. Williams to deliver a series of lectures in New Testament Exegesis to graduate students next summer.

### BASEBALL PRACTICE FACULTY MEMBERS ON ALUMNI FIELD GIVEN ONCE OVER

Pitchers Already Displaying Good Brand of Ball.

By Tally Kirkland

The hottest practice game of the season was played by the Mercer baseball candidates Tuesday afternoon. The teams were composed of what looked to be the first nine and the scrubs. This was the first real workout under Coach Cody, as he has been away with the basketball team until recently, while the baseball practice has been conducted by Captain "Tige" Stone in the absence of the coach.

The hurlers in yesterday's practice game was Stone, Thompson, and "Lefty" Stapleton. Other pitchers who will be given a showing in the next few days are Mulligan, Wallace and Daniels. Ryals, who is a first-class pitcher, is also a number one third sacker, and looks as though he will play the hot corner while not in the box.

Although the pitchers in the practice game were displaying a first-class brand of ball, they were hit to all corners of the lot, thus making the appearance that Mercer would have a heavy hitting club this year as well as one that can field the ball. Those hitting the hardest are Hammock, the nifty left fielder; "Consuello" Smith, who, it is said, has the first sack sewed up; Sears, who has been shifted from short to second; Hop Morgan, the catcher, also takes a hearty swat at the ball; Harry Sheppard, the left-handed right fielder, is also a heavy hitter.

The catchers who are competitors are Morgan, Ellison and Clegg. Owing to illness Clegg has been unable to be out for practice for the past few days, but is now back on the job.

The infielders are so numerous that it is impossible to give them all a workout every day.

Those in the race for third are McRae, Wilkes, Ryals, Cobb and Warden. The shortstop position is also hotly contested for by Henderson, Jackson and McBrayer. Second is being fought over by Sears, Rice, Harmon and a few others.

The outfield looks good with all of last year's varsity men back to fill those places, but it is evident that these places will be fought to a finish between Hammock, Harper and Sheppard, who held those positions last year, and "Shorty" Poore, "Shorty" Petteway, Burke, Coltran, Gaines, Solomon, Connell and Lee.

The first college game will be with the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla., and the next games will be with Rollins College in Orlando. The team leaves on the first of next week to be gone through the 25th of March.

The games between Mercer and University of Georgia will be played on March 31 and April 1. The games with Georgia Tech are scheduled for the following week-end. The above games are played in Athens and Atlanta, respectively.

### FLORIDA WINS FROM L. S. U.

The University of Florida won from Louisiana State University in their annual debate Friday night. Florida had the negative side of the subject:

"Resolved, That the nations recently associated in the World War against the Central Powers shall effect a mutual cancellation of their debts in so far as they were incurred in the war."

It was Florida's first victory over her ancient rival.

College Booster Sold a Goat and Educated Himself.

By I. G. Wilkes

"I rode through college on a goat," was the startling statement made by Prof. George Sparks, publicity director of Mercer University, to a number of students who were gathered in his class room for their regular recitation.

Everyone was of course surprised and desired to know the real meaning of his statement, but were just a little bit afraid to ask him. They were wondering if he meant that in some manner he had cheated the college and himself, that he had used what the students of today called a "jack."

Prof. Sparks soon made himself clear by stating that he made his first dollar by the sale of a white goat. He said that he took this money and placed it in a savings bank and as often as he received some spare change he would add to it. By the time that he finished high school he had saved enough that he was able to take a full college education.

In his high school days Prof. Sparks was known by the name of "Spargie." This nickname had been with him since early boyhood but immediately upon entering college he was nicknamed "Big Boy." At this time he weighed only 123 pounds. He now weighs 185.

But since coming to Mercer as a professor and publicity director he has outgrown those nicknames, and now he is known by all the students as just "George." When he walks across the campus, he is hailed by all, whether they be Senior or Freshman, in the usual manner, "Hello, George."

Prof. Sparks has one real hobby, which is known to all the students here and that is college athletics. Their appreciation for what he has done in regard to athletics at this institution and in various other ways was shown by the students recently when they presented to him a handsome watch fob.

Now had it not been for the fact that he had sold this goat, Mercer University might not have acquired the services of such a man. They might not have desired his services. Indirectly we can state that the selling of this goat was a great help to Mercer University.

Prof. Sparks was born in the quaint old city of Quitman, Ga., Brooks county. He often reminds people of this and the fact that Brooks county is today one of the richest counties in South Georgia. But hail to this little city, for they have produced a man who is a real true Mercerian.

### CLONIAN PLAY

Members of the Clonian Society of Bessie Tift College presented a delightful musical program at the college Saturday evening, March 4.

The first number on the program was a reading, "The Last Joy," by Miss Rossie Champion. Following this a most interesting debate was held, the subject being, "Resolved, that people were happier fifty years ago than they are today."

Championing the affirmative were Miss Grace Garner, Miss Betty Coker and Miss Elizabeth Nix, the negative being upheld by Miss Mary Granade, Miss Nadine Little and Miss Irma Herr. The decision favored the affirmative, the general feeling among the members of the audience being one of uncertainty as to whether they would prefer to live now or in the style of fifty years ago.

By E. Hammock.

### MERCER FOOTBALL STAR IN MOVIES

Big "Bill" West Now Earning \$500 Per Week and Going Higher.

By F. R. Nalls, Jr.

The most versatile and extraordinary character that has ever come to my knowledge is Lionel West, a Southern gentleman, descendant of the gentle Pocahontas, all-around athlete and well known moving picture star and director," said Prof. W. W. Hollingsworth, of Washington University and Mercer graduate, in a speech to the students.

West was born and reared on a plantation in Georgia and early developed the size and physique for which he is so widely known today. At the age of sixteen he left his plantation home with the ambition to become a railroad engineer. He went to the foreman of the Macon railroad yards and by dint of much persuasion at last obtained a position as fireman on the Southern Railway. They told West he was too young, but he then showed for the first time his fighting spirit, and in spite of his youth he set in and won his spurs. At the age of 20 he was promoted to become a knight of the throttle, the youngest fireman and engineer in the history of any great railroad.

Mercer in 1909

A short time after this, however, his people persuaded him to give up his position with the railroad and get a higher education, so he entered Mercer in 1909 and began here his career as a football star. His relatives wished him to become a farmer, so he left Mercer and took the agricultural course at Georgia. He started at that institution as a football player, but soon decided that farming was not the thing for him. Becoming interested in engineering, he went to Georgia Tech to study for a degree as civil engineer. Once again he started as a football player but once more also he decided that the course he was taking was not the one for him, so he stopped school entirely and began to travel all over the world.

Several years later he was once more found in school, this time at the second largest in the world, the University of California. This time he was studying law and political science. When the call was sent out by the coach for football candidates West was one of 287 men to report for practice. He was told frankly that there was little chance for him to make the team, as he had been out of athletics for several years. This did not discourage him, however, and he set out to show them that he could make the team, and he did make it. He played in the California-Washington game, and was influential in winning the game.

Fought Dempsey

After he left the University of California, several interesting chapters were added to his extraordinary career. Three armed highwaymen tried to hold him up near San Francisco, and although he was unarmed he fought and conquered the robbers but not before he had been shot through the chest. Because of his superb physical condition he was in the hospital only two days.

A short time after he was the only actor on the screen to have courage enough to stand up to Jack Dempsey in a 20-round exhibition boxing match.

Until he entered the moving picture business he had not really found himself. Now he is happy and at last satisfied with what he is doing. He is known to the movie world as "The Dramatic Giant" and "Screenland's Greatest Athlete." He owns his own producing company and is making a great success in the picture game.

Dr. Harrison and several members of the law faculty remember West while a student here as does Prof. George Sparks, who was a student with "Bill" West, as he calls him.

### TUDENTS THERE'S GOT TO BE CHANGE

Dean Holder's Cows Courteously Invited for Service.

By F. M. Holland

"Tudents there's got to be a change, a change has got to come to pass. Tudents, I just can't eat this dinner today," mimicked Marvin Pharr in the dining hall several days ago.

Pharr was evidently having trouble with his digestion and needed less solid food for he left the hall in the general direction of the book store.

"What's the matter with Mrs. Worsham?" was the question asked by boys over the dining hall who took time out from eating long enough to marvel at the strange actions of the one in charge of the dining room, as she side-stepped in and out among the tables in an effort to reach the door.

"Mr. Pharr! Take Dean Holder's cow out of this hall! What's the matter with you?" exclaimed Mrs. Worsham.

"A change has got to come to pass," replied Pharr. "We need some sweet milk for dinner; got to have it!"

And Pharr would have had it, too, if the door had not been suddenly closed in his face.

### SOCIETY MEMBERS SPEAK OF RISING

By T. Kirkland

The Ciceronian Literary Society held its regular meeting on Monday evening at 6:30.

An interesting program was rendered which consisted of an oration by Eric Long, "How International Disputes Could Be Settled by Arbitration." This speech was followed by a debate on the question, "Resolved that there are more opportunities for one to rise today than there were fifty years ago."

The decision of the judges was in favor of the negative, although the affirmative brought out the point, which could not be rebutted, that everyone had an opportunity to rise to a much higher plane today than of olden times, even though he had to do so by means of the aeroplane.

The affirmative side of the question was upheld by F. L. Gunn, John A. Lawrence and M. A. Powell, while the negative was defended by F. T. Jones, T. R. Harville and W. B. Freeman.

### CICERONIANS HOLD CHAPEL PROGRAM

Green, Wood, Atkinson and Johnson Are Speakers.

For the first time in the history of the Literary Societies of Mercer University, the chapel exercises were conducted by the Ciceronian Literary Society, a few days ago.

A program which appeared to be enjoyed by all the students was given by representatives appointed by the society.

The devotional service was led by W. J. Wood. J. H. Green spoke on "The Value of a Literary Society to the Individual." "Society Products" was the topic of Guy Atkinson's address. Mr. Atkinson showed that the great men who have left Mercer have been either Ciceronians or Phi Deltas. Among these men are John Roch Straton, pastor of one of the largest churches of New York City; Clem Powers, former assistant district attorney of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the present governor of the state of Georgia. A. S. Johnson spoke on "The Value of a Literary Society to Mercer University."

W. H. Odum, president of the society, was the presiding officer of the day. Talley Kirkland acted as secretary.