

# Debate



*Marvin Nabben*

*James Weckwerth*

*Axel Rynning*

Debate meeting number one for the season was held December 2, 1936. Present at this meeting were all six of the members who composed the school squad this year. During the entire season no additions or subtractions were made from the original squad. The question for debate this year was: "Resolved: That all electric utilities should be governmentally owned and operated." This question was debated by high schools throughout the entire nation.

The debate season really got under way on January 7, when the Northwest School was host to four high school debate teams in a debate tournament. High schools participating were those of Grand Forks, Thief River Falls, Warren, and the A. C. On January 20, we went to Thief River Falls to meet them in a battle of wits. The Beltrami High School debate team came to the Northwest School on February 15 for another mental combat. The purpose of these practise debates is to prepare the debaters for the final conference debates. Three Minnesota agricultural colleges take part in the final contest; they are

the West Central School of Agriculture at Morris, the Central School of Agriculture at St. Paul, and our own Northwest School.

The benefits one may derive from the study of debate are numerous and varied. Debaters usually gain fluency of speech; they learn to "think on their feet." Rebuttal demands an amount of extemporaneous speaking, and good public speakers never practise memorization. Debaters must present their arguments eloquently and candidly, and this usually contributes to one's ability in general discourse. Vocabulary enhancement invariably results from the study of debate. Then, too, the topic itself is informative; the current series of government operation and control questions teach much about the affairs of the government.

As the Aggie goes to press the teams are making final preparations for the conference debates. If the decision is against us, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that we have gained an appreciable amount of knowledge and reason from our studies.

*Henry Becker*

*Duane Moen*

*Arthur Gordon*

