

JOHN P. DAVIS WINS DEBATING HONORS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Washington Student Is Mem-
ber of Bates College Team
Sent Abroad.

HIS FORENSIC ABILITY
ACCLAIMED BY PRESS

Unusual Honors Are Accorded
Graduate of Dunbar
High School.

First among colored men to be sent overseas, under auspices of the American University union, to engage in international debate, John P. Davis, 61 N street northwest, has achieved four victories and lost two in the intercollegiate contests thus far staged. He is a graduate of the Dunbar High school and now a senior at Bates college, Lewiston, Maine.

The American team, of which Davis has been the pivot, has defeated Cambridge university, Birmingham university, Sheffield university, and the University of Edinburgh. It has been defeated by Liverpool and Oxford universities. Debates with Manchester, Leeds, Dublin, Aberdeen and London universities are to be held soon.

At Cambridge the American team took the negative of the question: "That the House demands the immediate recognition of the government of Russia by all civilized nations." In reporting this debate, the Granta stated:

"Finally John P. Davis wound up for Bates with a purely debating speech, riddling all his opponents with facts and a devastating analysis of their arguments. The House has never heard the debater's art used to greater effect."

Similar comments were made on the work by the Cambridge Review, The Gownsmen and the New Cambridge.

Given Special Honor.

At Cambridge Davis was roomed at Trinity college, where he had the special honor of taking dinner with H. A. Holland at the High Table of Trinity, an honor said to be shared thus far by but two other Americans. He was breakfasted also by the Viscount Clive. The debate was judged by the Rt. Hon. Lord Chalmers, associated with A. L. Goodhart, of Corpus Christi college, and J. T. Sheppard, of King's college. The American team received the favorable vote of the house as well as the unanimous decision of the judges.

College students at Sheffield university, rooting for the home team, heckled the American debaters. The university president stopped debate to caution the students against over-enthusiasm. Davis, the last speaker, according to the Sheffield dailies, captivated his audience, so that "on leaving the hall, the party of students broke into song once more, seized Mr. Davis, and carried him off shoulder high in triumph."

Prohibition was discussed in the affirmative by the American team at the University of Edinburgh. The team was successful in winning the debate on such a subject in the "heart of Midlothian," where but a short time before "Pussyfoot" Johnson lost an eye in the melee that followed his advocacy of Volsteadism.

Acclaimed By Press.

While the team was not victorious at Liverpool, the metropolitan newspapers gave a favorable decision. According to English custom, the university decision there was by vote of the assembly. Only at Cambridge were judges used. At Liverpool the team was met at the boat, interviewed and photographed, and lodged at the Midland Adelphi, where they were entertained by Sir James Reynolds, one of the wealthiest cotton dealers of the world. With him they visited the cotton exchange of Liverpool. The press stated:

"In the matter of debating skill the American team carried off all the honors. It was well equipped with arguments, spoke easily and confidently and handled the points

DEBATE LEADER.



JOHN P. DAVIS.
61 N street northwest, member of
Bates College International De-
bating team.

raised by opponents with great readiness."

Davis entered Bates college in September, 1922, won the freshman declamations, captained the freshman debating team and made the varsity team. He was also elected associate editor of the Bates Student in his first year in college. In his sophomore year he won an essay contest for excellence in English composition, took part in dramatics and wrote several plays.

In his junior year he gained the distinction of being the first colored college student to engage in international debate, when his team met and defeated Cambridge university at Lewiston. He was appointed an assistant instructor in English at the college and a member of the governing board of the Young Men's Christian association. He is now president-elect of the Bates debating council.

After the debates have been concluded in Ireland, Scotland and England the debaters will tour the continent and do original art and literary research work in France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. In preparation for this tour Davis coached the foreign language plays at Bates during the last collegiate year, and acquired a working knowledge of French, German and Spanish.