

The M. A. C. Record.

VOLUME I.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1896.

NUMBER 5.

STATE ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS' CLUBS.

The two years that the State Farmers' Association has been in existence have been marked by a rapid and healthy growth of local clubs throughout the state. Two years ago the State Association was organized with a membership of fifty clubs; now it includes over two hundred clubs, and most of these sent delegates to the Lansing meeting last week.

Governor Rich gave the address of welcome, which included a good sound talk on state affairs, taking for his subject, "Is the Government Worth What it Costs?" He said: "Michigan has as wise a government as her sister states." He then showed that our high state taxes come from appropriations for new institutions, increased cost of prisons, greater number of insane, and from paying debts incurred in previous years. He gave considerable attention to the military fund, which has been so severely denounced by the farmers of the state, maintaining that we should support our militia in times of peace for the same reason that the prudent man provides for the future of his family by having his life insured. "A man in Texas does not want a pistol often but when he does want it, he wants it mighty badly and at once." "The state encampment is a school for soldiers." "The most essential duty of the soldier is guard duty, and this he can learn only at encampment." Michigan is a border state and in case of war would be in the midst of hostilities at once, hence, the necessity of maintaining her militia.

President A. C. Bird's annual address showed careful preparation and earnest thought. He first reviewed the origin and growth of the Association and then proceeded to a consideration of public expenditures. In this he was eminently fair, giving credit where credit was due, but scoring without mercy the failings of both political parties. "The question is, not how much can institutions use judiciously, but how little can they get along on without being seriously cramped." "Institutions should be as economical as the people are compelled to be." "Our prisoners should be self supporting." He maintained that reforms along this line must come through Farmers' Clubs, and urged those present to take these questions home with them and discuss them in local clubs. He characterized the last three legislatures as extravagant, and closed by making a strong plea for unity of action among farmers' clubs, regardless of party, for a reform in our system of taxation and expenditures.

The meetings continued throughout Tuesday afternoon and evening and Wednesday forenoon. The papers and discussions were nearly all in the nature of criticisms of legislative enactments and of the disbursement of public funds.

In the informal discussions every state institution, from the Fisheries Commission to the State University was attacked. While those who had prepared speeches seemed to know what they wanted to say, and said it conservatively and well, the discussion of these speeches was characterized by a disposition to cry out against real or supposed evils without suggesting any remedy. "We are getting at the wrong end of this thing. The tax system should be reformed. Personal property does not bear its portion of the burden,"—H. B. Cannon.

President Bird, in discussing the compensation of county officials, hit one vulnerable point when he said that fees should go into the public fund; that officers should receive salaries and nothing more.

Hon. Job. T. Campbell said: "Salaries of elective state officers should be high enough so that we could rightfully demand their whole time in the performance of their duties." Some are at present too high, some too low. There should be a more equitable adjustment.

Robert Gibbons thinks the trouble is not so much with existing laws as with their non-enforcement. "You can get any amount of law with but little justice." "Too much property escapes taxation." Reforms must come through existing political parties; in thirty-eight years has not known of a single reform coming through a third party. He would have the state support such schools only as will benefit the masses. Thinks higher institutions of learning, colleges, universities, etc., do not do this, and should not be supported by the state.

In general the meetings were marked by an earnest desire for reform in the management of our financial affairs.

M. A. C. was represented at this Association by Messrs. A. C. Bird, '83, from Highland F. C.; H. B. Cannon, '88, from Washington F. C.; and C. B. Cook, '88, from Owosso F. C.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

Institutes have been organized in a number of the larger towns for the special benefit of mechanics, engineers, and young men contemplating a mechanical career.

A mechanics' institute—probably the first ever undertaken in Michigan—was held at Bay City on Jan. 14, 1896, and was characterized by a good attendance, and the interest manifested in the work on the part of the audience. The lecturers at Bay City were Profs. Weil, Chamberlain, and Westcott, and the lectures given were on technical matters of special interest to mechanics and engineers. Also much interest was aroused among the audience by an exhibition of samples of work done by students in the shops at M. A. C.

On Jan. 24 a mechanics' institute was held at Battle Creek. At this place lectures were given by Profs. Weil and Westcott. This institute was marked by a large attendance and the great interest displayed by the mechanics of the city. Indeed such was the interest shown that the lecturers remained, by request, and addressed a large number of men on the following evening. During this second session a committee was chosen from the audience to consider the desirability of forming a special club for mechanics at Battle Creek. That the mechanics of Michigan should organize and meet, in various towns and cities, for the intelligent discussion of technical questions, seems highly desirable; and the work at the institutes would seem to show that such organization could be brought about with but little difficulty and at a low cost.

The following is taken from the Battle Creek Journal:

A large number of the mechanics of this city were present last evening in the Y. M. C. A. rooms to listen to Prof. Weil of M. A. C. on the subject, "Steam Engines." The lecture was listened to with close attention. Much interest was manifested in it, and in the conversation which followed. The specimens shown of the work done by the students of M. A. C. was closely inspected, and elicited much praise from the mechanics present. Institutes have already been held at Bay City and Saginaw, but the one held last evening was the largest attended of any. This speaks well for the enterprise and intelligence of this large and important class of wage earners of Battle Creek. A vote was taken which favored the continuance of the Institute another day.

The next institute in the interests of mechanics will be held at Grand Rapids on Feb. 12 and 13.

WASHTENAW COUNTY FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

President Angell's Speech.

A large crowd assembled on the afternoon of the second day at Ypsilanti to hear President Angell on the "Relation of the University to the Farmer." President Angell spoke in his usual easy, yet forceful manner, and presented a strong plea for the farmer's interest, not merely in university education, but also in all forms of education that influence public and social life. His word in support of the Agricultural College was graceful, timely and cogent. He said that the assembly before which he stood carried him back in memory to his own earlier history and spoke of his being born and brought up on a Rhode Island farm. He took up education in its various phases, beginning with the district school. He believes in the old fashioned district school. This is the school that molds the masses and hence it deserves the fostering care of all. It may be made more useful, especially to the farmers, and the first and most important requisite in so doing is to secure the best teachers. The first qualification of the best teacher is an ability to stir up the intellectual activity of the community. She must be tactful and sensible; full of wisely directed energy, and able to inspire mental activity in others. The question constantly before the minds of such teachers is: "How can I do most to make full grown, broad minded men of my pupils?" Torpid neighborhoods must be awakened, torpid boys must be intellectually aroused; and to do this we must put in each district school a teacher that can stimulate.

Teachers should be taught that much can be indirectly done for the farmer by oral and incidental instruction in the sciences connected with agriculture. Farming used to be regarded as a mere routine business. Today science is entering into all the operations of the farm. Teach children to observe and to draw correct conclusions from what they see. Direct their attention to processes of plant growth and animal life. "I sometimes wish," said the speaker, "that I could drop my

work and go out to try some of my theories as a teacher in a district school."

The speaker next referred to the service done by the Grange and by these institutes. They teach men to observe and to draw just conclusions. Not merely men in colleges are scientific observers. The word scientist is somewhat imposing, but it means simply the man who makes accurate and intelligent observations and then draws the conclusions that God meant us to draw. "I have known many scientific observers on the farm—farmers at whose feet the greatest scientists were glad to sit."

There is no department of human labor that has so much to hope for from science as farming. Liebig, the German chemist was the first who thought of applying chemistry to agriculture. He first analyzed different soils and determined their needs in the way of fertilizers. Since, there has been a host of workers. Chemists, by showing how to extract all the sugar from the cane, have practically doubled the sugar crop. Butter-making is undergoing careful study; you have heard today, no doubt, of the work of bacilli in ripening cream. Plant life is receiving the same careful scrutiny, and diseases are being banished by newly discovered remedies. The speaker here adduced several instances of such discoveries, among others mentioning the sulphate of copper treatment for diseases of the grape, the cure for something similar to peach yellows among almond trees discovered by a young U. of M. man, Pasteur's rescue of the silk worm in France, and the discovery by the President of Kansas University of a parasite to destroy the chinch bug.

All this has been done by scientific experimentation, but much of this scientific investigation, not only can be, but also must be done by the farmer for himself. A farmer in Vermont by studying farm problems in this scientific way had raised his product from \$125 per acre per year to \$315. A few such men in each neighborhood constitute an agricultural college, through which better methods, better culture, better results spread among the people. For we learn by contagion, by observing and imitating what others do, and this is the great service done by agricultural colleges; they scatter throughout the country such centers of contagion.

Here the speaker alluded to his own career in Vermont when, as president of the Vermont University, he was called upon to put in operation the agricultural college of that State. Almost all the opposition came from the farmers. At first, the university having no suitable land, there was no farm attached to the college, and the farmers scoffed at an agricultural college without a farm. Then, as soon as means were available, a farm was obtained and experimental work was begun. But the experimental farm was quite expensive. It was the facts obtained that were being paid for, not the crops taken from the plats, and so the farmers said again, "Why send students to learn from a farm where the farming costs more than the entire yield of the fields?" Now the truth is that the plan of work for agricultural colleges has had to work itself out without models, without analogies even. Hence there have been mistakes, and apparently slow progress; but, in fact, not only education as applied to agriculture, but the whole plan and theory of education itself is subject to criticism. This has, however, been especially so in agricultural colleges, because we at first took the Germans as our models without considering whether our needs and conditions were the same. German agricultural schools are of two kinds: The Bauernschulen—peasant schools—to educate peasants in certain lines of handiwork. But, thank God, we have no peasants, hence no need for that kind of school. The second are higher technical schools to educate stewards to take charge of large estates. Again, in America there is no corresponding class. Each farmer lives on his own little farm and cultivates it as a free man. Just in so far, then, as we closely imitated German schools, just in so far did we go wrong. And now the problem is being worked out on independent lines to form a school suited to the needs of a nation that contains neither peasants nor absentee land-lords; a nation of sovereign men of broad culture, of practical knowledge, of patient, intelligent industry. And so there is the necessity for patience, for constructive, not destructive criticism. Already much good has been done and there is no doubt that these schools will yield large returns to farmers.

But the University has not been idle in the behalf of
Continued on third page.

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Wherever the RECORD has been distributed at the Farmers' Institutes during the past three weeks it has met with a hearty appreciation by the farmers that has been of the greatest benefit and encouragement to us here at the College. The farmer as a stockholder in the institution is interested to know what the College is doing for him and what it can do for his sons and daughters whom he must some day educate. Those of us who go out on institute work make a brief acquaintance with the farmers in attendance at the institute and then pass on to our next appointment just as we were beginning to get well acquainted. Now, if the RECORD fulfills the object had in view when it was first considered it will in a measure prolong these institute acquaintances and make us all—farmers and teachers—better acquainted and more alive to each others' needs, for we here are fully convinced that the College and farmer can only prosper together—united and not separated.

There are many young men in our State today who from some cause or other have dropped out of school and do not know just where to drop in again. Perhaps with many they have been out of school two or three years and dislike to take the examination required to enter upon a College course. To the young man so situated we desire to call your attention to the fact that under the laws of Michigan if you are eighteen years old or over you can enter this institution and pursue the course you desire. The entrance work will be provided for later. Many of the best students now in College came to us without the required preparation but they had the determination to succeed and they succeeded.

As one of them once said regarding the mathematics: "I kept whacking away at it until I got it."

Bring your determination with you.

AT THE COLLEGE.

Not a foot of ice has been harvested yet.

Prof. and Mrs. Weil have moved back to M. A. C. from Lansing.

Assistant Secretary Kinney has been suffering with the grip for a week.

Dr. John Hinkson, '92, and a lady friend took dinner at the Bachelors' Club Wednesday.

Mr. M. L. Dean, assistant in Horticulture, received a visit from his father and mother last week.

C. B. Cook, '88, was among the College visitors from the Association of Farmers' Clubs last week.

Alvord and Bowditch will open another book store at the College at the beginning of the spring term.

Mrs. Woodworth and Paul, who have been spending the winter at Caseville, returned to M. A. C. Thursday.

F. B. Wells, of Rochester, Mich., special horticultural contributor to the *Michigan Farmer*, called at M. A. C. last week.

G. N. Eastman, '96, m., will take special work at M. A. C. during the next two terms, in preparation for a course at Cornell.

The boys who enjoy dancing gave a very pleasant party to their leap year friends in the Union Literary Hall last Thursday evening.

B. O. Longyear, assistant in botany, has returned from a few weeks' vacation spent clearing brush from his 20 acre farm near Mason.

Dr. H. F. Palmer, '93, and wife were in Lansing during the recent meeting of Veterinarians, and made the College a visit—the first time since graduation.

H. B. Cannon, '88, was a delegate to the State Association of Farmers' Clubs from Washington, Macomb county, last week, and on Thursday called on his College friends.

H. E. Van Norman, '97, (assistant in dairy) took the first prize (\$20) offered by the Champion Milk Cooler Co., of Cortland, N. Y., for an essay on "Advantages of Aeration and Cooling of Milk." The second prize was awarded to G. H. Nichols, of Jackson.

Prof. P. B. Woodworth, '86, was unable to attend the long institute at South Haven this week, being detained as a witness in the Maison Island suit (Kidney Cure

Warner's preserves). During the winter following graduation Mr. W. made a complete survey of the disputed territory.

NOTES.

BY PROF. C. L. WEIL.

Frequent visits to prominent engineering schools have led the writer to look upon the M. A. C. shops with a considerable degree of satisfaction; these shops comparing favorably with those of the larger schools.

It is to be noted that while as favorable a comparison cannot be made between the experimental laboratory facilities in the Mechanical Department at M. A. C. and those of the larger schools as in the case of shop facilities, still the demands of our students are becoming of such a nature as to call for laboratory equipment that shall be nearly equal to what is found at our more prominent institutions.

A feature of the meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at New York—December, 1895—of particular interest to the M. A. C. men was the reading of a paper describing the design and construction of the blacksmith shop at M. A. C., also giving an account of tests made of the blast and suction apparatus, etc., contained in the shop. The paper was written by Prof. Chamberlain, '88. The reading of the paper was followed by an interesting discussion in which a number of the members of the society participated.

Prof. R. C. Carpenter, '73, was prominent among the speakers at the above mentioned A. S. M. E. meeting. Recent writings by Prof. Carpenter have attracted much attention in the engineering world.

The writer recently visited a number of prominent technical schools in the east and observed the educational methods employed at the present time. It was noted that in those schools where manual training is a prominent feature of the work the tendency is to accompany such training with instruction in *pure science*. A modern writer has stated the following proposition: "Modern science as training the mind to an exact and impartial analysis of *facts* is an education specially fitted to promote sound *citizenship*." The writer has maintained for some time that in many instances a so called "practical education" is very impracticable in so far as the training of the citizen is concerned. May it not be possible that in educating men for technical pursuits too much emphasis is placed, in many instances, upon the so called "practical" side of the work? The foregoing question is worth consideration.

STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The 12th annual convention of the Michigan Dairymen's Association began in the Legislative Hall in the Capitol at Lansing on the morning of February 4. Each visiting delegate found awaiting him as he came into the hall a charming little book of 116 pages which contained the programme. This booklet was the result of the efforts of Secretary S. J. Wilson of Flint, Mich., and besides the programme of the different sessions of this convention, it contained a host of items of very valuable information to the dairymen of the state. Mr. Wilson was very justly and heartily congratulated on his success in securing so full a programme and providing for it such a beautiful and appropriate setting.

It is impossible in the limits set for this short article to even mention the good things said and done at this convention. From the opening prayer of the Rev. C. F. Swift, and the address of welcome by his Honor, Mayor James M. Turner to the closing words of President McBride on the last hour of the session there was one continuous feast of good things.

Tuesday was cheese day, and the afternoon and evening was given up to a discussion of the various problems that confront the cheesemaker from the feeding of the cows to the sale of the product. Ex-President E. N. Bates of Moline, described the five things about a cheese factory which need the most watchfulness and care. Senator Warner of Farmington, presented in his usual, clear, concise and pleasing air the question of prevention of the sale of filled cheese. Mr. E. A. Haven of Bloomingdale gave an unusually clear cut and concise statement of the advantages of the use of the Babcock test in cheese factories and the methods of applying the test to factory work.

The members of the convention had occasion to congratulate themselves on the presence of Mr. J. H. Monrad, who represented the new Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture, at Washington. His broad experience in all lines of dairy work, combined with his keen intellect and clearness of expression, made his frequent talks the most interesting features of the whole convention. The Hon. H. B. Gurler of DeKalb, Ill., the author of "American Dairying," was a fitting

yoke fellow to Mr. Monrad and together they furnished a fund of information that alone repaid the visiting delegates for their time and expenses in attending the convention. The Hon. Geo. B. Horton of Fruit Ridge, Robert Gibbons of the *Michigan Farmer*, and Mr. Fred H. Ball of Grand Rapids, occupied the evening of Tuesday. The questions which they discussed regarding the kinds of cheese to be made in this state and the method of disposing of the product developed a lively interest. Mr. Gibbons stoutly maintained that we should make a firmer "meaty" variety of cheddar, while Mr. Horton argued in favor of a more quickly ripening cheese, such as is now made in Lenawee county and finds a rapid sale in Michigan and in the states south. Each maintained his point with skill and plausible arguments, but it seemed to a disinterested observer that the future growth of the cheese industry would demand an improvement in the quality of the product along the lines suggested by Mr. Gibbons.

Wednesday was the butter day. The opening paper was "A Twelve Pounder," a paper by an old M. A. C. boy, Colon C. Lilly, of Coopersville, on the way of "Reducing the Cost of a Pound of Butter." He emphasized the importance of economy as taught at the College, viz., careful selection of the cows, combined with heavy feeding of wisely selected food. A delightful and poetical paper on "Life on the Dairy Farm," by Mrs. Mary H. Sprague, of Battle Creek followed. And the concluding paper of the morning was on "How to Increase the Profit of Our Dairies," by H. B. Gurler. The lessons drawn from his wide experience pointed in the same direction of careful selection, thoughtful attention to details, study all along the line, the growing of one's own feeding stuffs, carefully planned stables and fixtures, skillful manipulation in the manufacture of the products and feeding the by-products to young pigs and calves. In the afternoon after a letter was read from D. W. Wilson, which exposed the injury done to our farmers by the growing sale of oleomargarine and imitation goods generally, a spicy paper was given by Mrs. E. E. Rockwood, which brought out a lively discussion as to the methods to be used in the manufacture of butter for private customers and the little points to be observed in working up and keeping a good trade. Mrs. Rockwood is getting twenty-six cents a pound net for her butter, and evidently knows how to make a good article every time. She laid special stress on the necessity of furnishing a uniform grade of butter, excellent in quality, and delivered promptly, taking all the trouble herself and leaving her patrons none. The taste of the patrons must be consulted as to the salting, color and package in which the butter is delivered. She believed that it was this system of making and marketing butter that was alone profitable to the private dairyman. Mr. J. H. Brown, the associate editor of the *Michigan Farmer*, has had a successful experience in building up a small dairy of selected cows. It fell to him to insist upon the value of the Babcock test and the necessity of being well up on dairy points all along the line of feeding and caring for the cows if success is to be attained. The scrub dairyman will soon be a thing of the past. Another M. A. C. man, Mr. H. E. Van Norman, followed on the "Proper Fixtures and Their Care" in the model dairy room. Here again the instruction at the College manifested itself in the thorough familiarity of Mr. Van Norman with his topic.

Wednesday evening was taken up by a discussion of the silo, pure cultures in ripening cream, and a history of the dairy legislation during the session of 1895. The practical points elucidated were that reasonably pure cultures of the desired bacteria could be furnished the private dairyman at small cost, and their continued use would be fairly certain to improve the quality of the goods produced. Mr. Marston, of Bay City, though a young man, is building up a successful dairy business in the northeastern part of the state and is a stirring advocate of the silo. He recommends a round silo, reasonably deep, and built of vertical 2x4's, clothed inside and out with two thicknesses of half-inch stuff with tarred paper between. Such a silo can be built very cheaply and is very effective. The fight for helpful dairy legislation last winter was but partly successful, ending in a law which did not meet all the difficulties of the dairyman. The color clause as applied to oleomargarine was stricken out so that the present law is but partly sufficient to exclude imitation goods from the state.

A dairy banquet followed at the Hudson House. The dairymen furnished good appetites and mine host, Pearsall, furnished good supplies. The combination of the two forces brought about a most happy result. Everybody went away in the "wee sma" hours with a full stomach and a satisfied air. We draw a veil over the toasts except to say that our beloved College came in for its full share of attention and praise. Thursday forenoon was given up to a discussion of the manu-

facture of butter from the cow to the consumer, to the reports of committees on selection of the next place of meeting and report of the Treasurer and Secretary. In the afternoon a large number of the visiting dairymen came to the College, visited the grounds, examined the dairy herd and the dairy rooms, and went away loud in their praise both of the work done at the College and of its most excellent equipment.

An interesting feature of the convention was the display of machinery and exhibits on Michigan avenue. The College again congratulates itself on having the samples of butter which secured the highest score.

Two samples of butter shown scored 98 1-2 and 99 1-2 respectively. Among other exhibitors we are glad to say that our dairy students received scores on butter shown by them. There was a fairly representative exhibit of dairy butter, but it is to be regretted that there was not a larger exhibit of the product of the creamery. The cheese exhibit was not large and the highest score was 98 1-2, obtained by A. D. Champion, of Bismarck. The practical exhibition of butter making according to the Danish method by Edward Kramer, of Battle Creek, was of much interest and worthy of high commendation.

WASHTENAW COUNTY FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

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the farmer. It has furnished teachers for the agricultural colleges; its chemists are now at work on the peach yellows; a large number of men are at work on farm problems in the lines of chemistry and bacteriology. Dr. Vaughan has discovered the poison in cheese and in ice cream, but his work is most useful in relation to diseases of animals, as lumpy jaw and hog cholera, their germs and conditions. President Angell referred especially to Drs. Kedzie and Beal, Dr. Grange, Secretary Morton and many officials in the Department of Agriculture at Washington as being more or less directly the gift of the University to farming interests. He characterized the University as in one sense the biggest farmers' school in the world. There are over 1500 sons and daughters of farmers there, and about half the faculty are of the same origin. The distinguished Prof. Olney had all his schooling (six weeks) in the district school, and learned his geometry by drawing diagrams on the plow while his horses were resting.

The great object of the University is to do the best work possible for the whole State; to educate men for all pursuits of life; to furnish the State as a whole with broadminded, noble men, men with the best equipment the world can give, to do their work for all, and to be a benefit to all. An erroneous idea prevails that the graduates are equipped at public expense for private gain and return nothing to the State for the money expended upon them. A man cannot appropriate an education to himself. It inevitably becomes a public benefit. Take the average physician. Is his medical education of greater service to himself or to the community in which he lives? He is much more a blessing to the world than to himself.

It is in this broad view that the people should look at education. It is sometimes said that each man should pay for his own education all it costs. "Now," said the speaker, "if this principle were carried out it would not affect the rich, they would be educated in any case. But where would the poor man's son be? If the day should ever come when poor boys and girls cannot come and get the very best education Michigan has to offer, that day my services shall be ended. If ever there shall be two distinct classes, the rich and educated, and the poor and ignorant, then God have mercy on Michigan. Michigan is glorious throughout the world because she has never set any barrier to the highest and best education she has to offer, and she will never be untrue to such a policy. This is the Michigan idea, any other is foreign."

It is sometimes said "you make boys afraid of work." The speaker had seen lazy boys, but never one whose nature in that respect was changed for the worse by education. He had the greatest admiration for self made men, but had always regarded it as a disaster that these excellent men have not had the help of other thinkers. A man can walk from here to Detroit, but is it not a great saving of time and energy to be used for other purposes, to take the cars?

We must hold Michigan to her proud preeminence; her resources are boundless; her waterways and her railways give every opportunity for commerce. There are difficulties in the present condition of the industrial world that require grave and careful consideration; but surely ignorance is not a counselor for such emergencies. The speaker closed with hearty commendation of the institutes as an incentive to the cultivation of habits of observation and induction, and as safeguards against ignorance.

NEWS FROM GRADUATES AND FORMER STUDENTS.

Students in Mechanical Course designated by "m." and specials by "sp." after name.

Marie Sterley, with '93, is teaching near Harbor Springs.

Fred W. Ashton, '91, is city attorney at Grand Island, Nebraska.

Judge W. H. Burgess, '81, is judge of probate for Sanilac county.

Will Cannon, with '93, is making a specialty of botany at Leland Stanford University.

Silas F. Scott, '94, is a messenger in the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Prof. G. L. Teller, '84, Fayetteville, Ark., visited his old home at Mendon, Mich., this winter.

H. R. Parish, '95, m., is draughting for the Chicago Ship Building Co., 10051 Avenue J., South Chicago.

Walter G. Amos, '96, m., is collector for the National Life Insurance Co., 315 Hammond Building, Detroit.

Bert Cook, '93, who is with his parents at Claremont, Cal., is just recovering from a severe attack of scarlet fever.

James Morrice, '73, an active farmer and fruit raiser, near Harbor Springs, took an active part in the institute at that place.

J. V. Kinsey, '97, m., will not return next term. He is canvassing for "Practical thoughts for Practical people" in southern Ohio.

Benj. Halstead, '73, Probate Judge of Emmet Co., has the reputation of being one of the best lawyers in northern Michigan.

C. H. Eaton, who was here in '59 and '60, is in the hardware business at Harbor Springs. He will send a son to M. A. C. next August.

The three months old daughter of Mrs. Mary (Abbot) Moore died suddenly Jan. 15, of heart difficulty, at the family home, in San Gabriel, California.

John Swift, '68, was president of the Emmet Co. Institute. He spends much of his time platting resort grounds. Will send us another son in the spring or in August.

J. H. Kimball, with '95, appeared before the Winchell Club at Lansing, Friday, Jan. 31, and explained the workings of the Weather Service, with which he is connected.

Samuel P. Orth, with '94, sp., will graduate from the theological department at Oberlin this year. He spends part of his time lecturing on his ill fated trip to the Arctic regions.

Robert L. Reynolds, '95, m., "is gaining a good deal of valuable experience with incidental cash revenue" as electrician with the Mount Lowe Electric Railway, near Pasadena, California.

H. H. Winde, '87, Brampton, Mich., after writing of his busy work as lumberman, farmer and merchant, closes thus: "Should you wish to mention anything of this to the boys advise them that I am on earth and doing well in all but matrimony."

H. R. Smith, '95, instructor in science in Tilford Academy, Vinton, Iowa, writes of an "exceptionally bright and interesting class of students." A room has been newly fitted out for chemical laboratory, and practical work entered upon by the students.

From the Kewanee, Ill., *Evening Star* we learn of the marriage of Will Curtis, '89, to Miss Lida J. Griffen, both of Kewanee. Mr. Curtis is a member of the firm, Curtis, Stilwell & Co., publishers of the *Daily* and *Weekly Star*. The RECORD extends congratulations.

The Hillsdale Leader endorses the name of Jason E. Hammond, '86, (Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction) for the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to succeed H. R. Pattengill. Mr. Hammond, when asked if he were a candidate for the position, said, "Yes, and I propose to make a fair and honorable fight for the nomination."

H. M. Wells, '85, writes from Oak Grove, Mich., "I have been engaged in general farming since I left Rochester, four years ago, with gardening as only 'a side issue.' Am trying to work up in small fruits a little but that takes time and capital. I see that many of the old students have taken a degree since leaving college. Well, I am working for a degree too, that of Master of Agriculture. I do not expect to get my degree this year or next. If I ever do get it, it will not be conferred by any institution of learning but by mother nature herself.

THE OLD LOG HOUSE.

[Read before the Oakland County Farmers' Institute, at Pontiac Jan. 28, 1896, by Mrs. Kittie C. McCoy, of Walled Lake.]

It stands by the roadside, deserted and lonely,
A quaint looking structure now crowned with decay;
The roughly hewn timbers are slipping asunder;
Time-worn and discolored and crumbling away.

'Tis many a year since the door has been fastened,
The threshold is sunken, the floor is worn thin,
The windows are broken, the roof small protection,
The snows of the winter drift drearily in.

The trees which surround it have long been neglected,
Their o'erhanging branches grow whither they may;
Not even a pathway is traced in the door yard,
For seldom a visitant happens that way.

And thus the old house stands deserted and lonely,
Claiming only decay from each swift passing year,
And yet 'tis the center of fond recollections,
Of beautiful pictures to memory dear.

'Tis many a year since the slumbering echoes
Awoke to the ring of the pioneer's blow,
Awoke to the crash of the trees, which in falling,
So rudely affrighted the fleet-footed roe.

Long years have gone by since the gold of the harvest
First gleamed where the tangle of wildwood had been;
Since the sods of the valley were cleft of the plowshare,
And the hillsides were dotted by corn growing green.

'Tis long since the thicket gave place to the garden;
Since the fruit trees took root in the life giving loam.
'Tis long since the farm was marked out in the woodland
And given the endearing title of home.

Ah, strong was the arm of the pioneer farmer,
And love was the motive which thrilled in his breast;
What wonder the dwelling, though rude in construction,
Became a small haven of joy and rest.

And there by the gloom of the forest environed,
Save the trail of the Indian no pathway in sight,
The dear little home shed an influence cheering,
As the gleam of the star in the shadow of night.

And proud was the bride in her rough little cabin,
As proud as the queen in her palace so fair,
For life stretched before her with all its ambitions,
With love to inspire and to lighten her care.

Oh, wonderful magic which brightened the shadows,
And lightened the burdens from day unto day,
While blessed contentment, a guest ever honored,
Remained in the log house made welcome alway.

Time hurried along with its measure of changes;
The farm grew in beauty and value each year.
Within the log house there was thrift, there was comfort,
And the prattle of children was pleasant to hear.

The howl of the wolf and the scream of the panther
No longer were heard from some far away hill.
The trail of the Indian became a broad highway
Which led to the church, the store or the mill.

There were larger barns needed to store the rich harvests,
And cellars for keeping the bounteous store,
And when there was builded a handsome new dwelling,
The little log house held the home light no more.

Away from the shelter for many years given
The home circle moved to the house on the hill.
The tide of improvement swept steadily onward,
But the little log house and its memories stood still.

Sometimes they would visit the old house together,
The two who revered it as home long ago;
And they loved to remember and loved to talk over
The scenes and events which they once used to know.

The shelf was still there which had held the worn bible;
The three-cornered cupboard was still in its place;
There were hooks in the wall, where had hung the good rifle,
And the queer wooden clock with its oft studied face.

There were marks here and there which were made by the children.

And each brought its own little story to mind.
Thus came the remembrance of joys and of sorrows
That were strewn in life's pathway for each one to find.

In the evening of life there is much to remember,
Who would care to live over the long day again?
There is a tincture of grief in the sweetest of music,
The joys that are deepest hold measures of pain.

How strangely the sweet and the bitter are blended;
How close intermingled are laughter and tears,
As the sunbeams of morn meet the mists of the valley,
As the rainbow's bright arch on the dark cloud appears.

And oft in their dreams time for them would flow backward,
On reflux wave to the days long ago,
When the home in the woods held their hearts' dearest treasures.

And hope crowned their zeal with a radiant glow.

They enjoyed the new house with its modern designing,
The bright pleasant rooms gave them comfort and cheer,
But the pioneer memories ever they cherished,
And still to their hearts were those memories dear.

The years drifted by and this father and mother
Drew nearer and nearer the shadowy shore.
At last came a day when their places were vacant,
And death's silent mystery shrouded them o'er.

But still by the roadside the old house is standing,
A quaint looking structure forsaken by all;
The roughly hewn timbers are slipping asunder,
The weather worn rafters seem ready to fall.

Farewell, dear old house, those who builded and loved you
Have yielded their hands to the clasp of decay,
Like those brave pioneers you have finished your mission,
And we give you a tribute of honor to day.

RUSSIAN PEASANT LIFE.

Occupations and System of Land Ownership.
(Concluded.)

[Written for the RECORD by Vadim Sobennikoff, '96.]

North Region has abundance of natural meadows and forests, but very poor soil. Its characteristic product is flax, grown for fibre. It is usually sown on well manured land in rotation with other crops—as clover, potatoes, timothy and grains—succeeded by several years of pasture.

Thanks to the abundance of natural meadows, cattle raising and dairy industry are among the principal occupations of the peasants.

Severe and long winters prevent any farm work during a large part of the year, and work in the fields is active only during certain periods. A great quantity of time would be wasted but for household industries. In many localities, especially in such where the soil is poor, the peasants when free from field work occupy themselves with household trades, earning sometimes the only means for the existence of their families. Boys and girls begin to help their parents when from seven to ten years of age.

The character of these industries depends mostly upon the nature of the products of the given locality and upon the markets. In the region where forests are abundant such industries as carriage making, coopering, joinery, and making of pitch, tar, baskets, bast shoes and mats are the principal occupations. Primitive method of spinning flax on hand spindles and weaving linen is one of the occupations of women.

In the vicinity of iron works the production of metallic wares, as knives, scissors, locks, fire arms, etc., takes place of the industries depending on wood.

The region of Black Earth is the most productive part of Russia, possessing a warmer climate and fertile soil, though lacking forest. Its characteristic feature is extensive grain cultivation, much of which is exported. The prevailing system of cultivation consists in some years of successive crops, followed by a period of land rest differing in different localities, but usually two successive crops and one year of rest, so that the land is divided into three parts, two parts are sown and one left fallow.

Besides cereals there are raised many sugar beets for sugar refineries, tobacco, sun flowers, and for forage, timothy and clover.

During winter months peasants make cloth out of wool, felt goods, boots, hats, sheepskin overcoats, etc., which are made in great quantities, as warm clothing is needed by every peasant. Women are engaged in the manufacture of lace.

The Steppe region produces some of the best varieties of hard kernelled wheat for export, and a great deal of forage plants, as timothy, clover, and lucerne, which make it possible to raise cattle and some especially fine breeds of sheep. The prevailing system is a succession of crops for about six years, and then the land is allowed to rest and is not cultivated for some fifteen or twenty years.

With regard to farming machinery and implements, Russia is in a state of transition from primitive implements to modern improved machinery. On some large estates and among wealthier communities of peasants, all kinds of improved machinery are appearing little by little, such as hay presses, drills, spring harrows, mowing machines, self binders, and even steam threshing machines. Most machines of American make are considered the best and they are supplanting those from England and other countries, but plows are mostly imported from Germany.

The importation of improved machinery created a demand for repair shops, which gradually began to build whole machines, and the manufacture of all agricultural implements is now developing quite rapidly.

But, owing to poverty and lack of knowledge among peasants, in a greater part of Russia they perform their work with a most primitive kind of implements—a homemade wooden plow and a wooden harrow consisting of wooden frame and wooden teeth. Sowing is done by hand, cutting of grass with scythes, reaping with sickles, threshing with flails or with the aid of horses. As there is comparatively little variety of crops, and most of these ripen about the same time, the time of harvesting is called "strada," which means "suffering," and is well deserved, for it exhausts peasants to the utmost.

To a foreigner the main point of interest in the life of Russian peasantry is undoubtedly the communal system of land ownership. The arable land and the pasturage belong, not to individual persons, but to the commune—to the whole village; and all the households are collectively responsible for the entire sum to be paid annually to the government. The land, except that occupied by the house and the yard, is distributed and

after some years, redistributed among the families by the village assembly called "mir." "Mir" is an assembly of all the heads of households—fathers of families, or if the father be absent or dead, then his wife is considered to be the head of the household and she takes part in the deliberations of the "mir," or else sends a son or daughter to take her place in the proceedings.

"Mir" distributes the land in most cases according to the power of the family to work and to pay taxes and its decision is final. "Mir" even has the power to banish to Siberia any member of the community who becomes obnoxious to its welfare.

Such relations among families necessitate a close acquaintance with the family affairs of each household in the village, but the weaker sex usually fulfils this important social duty and sometimes even takes more interest in the affairs of their neighbors than is absolutely indispensable for the welfare of the community. Men well posted in the questions of the communal ownership of land differ in their opinions with regard to the future of the communes. Some think it will become inadequate to the requirements of the intensive culture and will be supplanted by private ownership. Others think communes will survive in that or another form, and their opinion is supported by the experience of the last few years. The fertile steppes of Southern Russia were colonized during the present century under the system of individual ownership of land but proprietors themselves are abolishing the system of individual ownership and introducing communal possession. This is noticed not only among Russian colonists, but also among Germans, Bulgarians and Greeks who settled there.

With regard to intensive culture the result is even more favorable for everywhere communes, provided they have means and knowledge, are buying improved machinery for the use of all the members of the commune, supporting little model farms, orchards and kitchen gardens in connection with the village schoolhouses, and introducing rotation of crops after having experimented in a field especially set apart by the "mir" for this purpose. They undertake and execute some irrigation and drainage works on a large scale. They often set apart a piece of land and cultivate it for the support of the church, schoolhouse or poorer members of the commune.

I shall not speak about the ethical side of the communal life—it is clear to everybody that it must and it does produce brotherly feeling towards others, readiness to help—in short "good will unto men."

Let us remember that communal ownership of land existed almost everywhere—in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America (among Aztecs), and it survives in many countries as yet (France, Switzerland, Japan, Balkan peninsula, etc.). Nowhere in Europe did it die by natural death, but was crushed by feudal lords. And how crushed? It was necessary to slaughter some 150,000 peasants during the time of the Reformation and Peasants' wars before feudal lords could knock out of the peasants' heads the idea of communal land ownership and the famous "twelve articles." We must remember all this and think over it before speaking about the future of the communal land ownership and, reader, should not we better "let the morrow take care for itself."

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