

The M. A. C. Record.

Vol. 6.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, JAN. 29, 1901.

No. 19.

Michigan Political Science Association.

(Concluded from last week.)

The most striking feature of the paper read by Hon. Harvey B. Hurd, of Chicago, was the importance of the modifications on theory introduced by actual practice. For instance, it would seem that theoretically all property assessments should be made at the full cash value; but Judge Hurd showed successfully that a low valuation (uniform, however, in its ratio) is under existing conditions absolutely essential to prevent gross extravagance and unbearable extortion. Several boards have the legal right to spread taxes on the same property up to a limit fixed usually at 5 per cent., and the uniform tendency of each board, exaggerating the importance of the functions over which it exercises control, is to carry its exactions up to the legal limit. Such a situation would be unbearable were it not for a low valuation of property.

He took up, one by one, many of the abuses that have grown up under the law, and by careful analysis showed the weak place in the law, the remedy to apply, and the actual results when such remedy had been applied. For instance, the go-between or "tax agent" was considered. Here the assessor would set an abnormally high *relative* value on a piece of property, yet one still below the actual value, thus shutting off recourse before a board of review. Then would come the go-between and offer to have this valuation reduced, say, two-thirds, provided he were given one-half of the resultant reduction of tax. The owner, shut up to the alternatives of paying the whole difference in tax or saving one-half the difference by paying the other half to the "agent," would probably adopt the latter. Here analysis showed that the key to the situation lay in the fact that the assessor was a member of the board of review and still held the tax rolls.

I cannot follow the valuable paper any further, but by a series of careful and apparently flawless analyses Judge Hurd deduced the following eminently practical laws relating to local taxation.

1. The standard of valuation must be a practicable one—one that can be lived up to. (In Chicago it is fixed by law as one-fifth the fair cash value.)
2. Such a standard will consider the debt-making power of the several municipalities having jurisdiction over the property, and the possible rates these several taxing bodies may levy.
3. Some way must be provided of limiting the total of all possible rates in any one year.
4. The tax-payer must know beforehand what the total of these rates is to be, and it must not go much beyond one per cent. of the fair cash value of his property.
5. The assessor must not be a member of the board of review, and should have no control of lists after his duties are performed.
6. Ample time should be given

for a full, fair and patient hearing of all objections to the assessment. [Quadrennial assessments were recommended for real estate, with yearly readjustment for additions or losses.]

7. Assessments should be published by locality.

The next speaker was State Senator James R. Garfield, of Ohio, a son of President James A. Garfield. The modest and yet perfectly self-possessed and business-like bearing of the young man, together with his pleasing address and thorough familiarity with his subject, won him a ready and attentive hearing. He took up peculiar features of experimentation in Ohio and showed the degree of success or failure that had followed each. The address was valuable rather for what it taught us to avoid than for what it recommended.

Professor Seligman was called upon at this point for suggestions, and suggested a separation of state and local taxes, following out the line of thought in his book entitled "Essays in Taxation," published in 1895. He argued that this is no longer a theory, since it is successfully practiced in several European countries, notably England. He might have found, closer home, an exact parallel to England in our national government. The parallel between England and our individual states is, however, an extremely faulty one, as no one knows better than Professor Seligman. An excise tax is known and recognized by all the people as a tax on themselves, and they well know their interest lies in keeping expenditures low in order that the excise may be light. Such a tax levied by a sovereign government is a very different thing from a tax levied by a subordinate state on the great corporations within its borders, against which the average man has vengeful feelings. Even so, however, since an indirect tax does have the advantage of hiding from the tax-payer *when* and *how much* he pays, it renders the close relation between payment and expenditure less obvious, and lessens the intensity of watchfulness on the part of the voter. The result is shown in the recklessness of expenditure characterizing the congress of the United States, the most prodigal governing body in the world today. Nothing but the superb youthful vigor of our nation and our unparalleled natural advantages enable us to sustain such a drain, and no individual state could keep such a relative pace for a single year without overwhelming disaster. Disjoin the expending body from the revenue-paying body and you court disaster. No principle is more firmly fixed in our political philosophy and history.

At a very pleasant informal reception at Dr. Adams's house members of the association met Mr. Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor Unions. He is a man of vigorous, striking personality, and after talking with him and hearing him talk to others earnestly and at length, I came away feeling that it is a great thing for America and for the world that a man wielding such enormous in-

fluence for good or for evil should be so level-headed, so fair, and so conscientious.

HOWARD EDWARDS.

The Feronians Return Thanks.

Monday, January twenty-first, was certainly a red letter day for the Feronion society. A very important special business meeting was called for five o'clock at the request of Mrs. Landon. All the girls wondered what they had done or what they had left undone that Mrs. Landon was to criticize them for.

At the appointed hour all the members went down to the society room and waited. In a few minutes Miss Cimmer and Miss Wheeler came in bearing between them something which resembled a chair although it was so carefully wrapped up one could hardly tell. Behind them came two men carrying something much more bulky and seemingly heavier, which they placed in front near the president. Following came a number of visitors whom we did not recognize but who proved to be old Feronian girls.

Miss Alice Gunn, president of the society, called the meeting to order. She waived the regular routine of business and proceeded at once to miscellaneous business asking Mrs. Landon to speak to the girls. Mrs. Landon, in a few very well chosen remarks, told the girls that she had taken this means of bringing them together. She said Miss Wellman had something which might interest them more than anything she could say and she would ask them to listen to her for a little while.

Miss Wellman told of a little plan which had been talked of last summer while a number of the old Feronians were camping. This plan, consisted in the main, of a way to help the present Feronians in their new home. To carry this out a circular letter asking for help in furnishing the new rooms, was sent to all the old Feronian girls, by three of our resident Feronian alumni, Miss Wellman, Miss Cimmer, and Miss Wheeler; and the influence of the society and the sterling qualities of the girls showed itself in the generous contributions which immediately followed. Miss Wellman gave the society some excellent advice and advice which the girls must heed in order to maintain the standard of the past. At last, Miss Wellman concluded her remarks by presenting the society with a purse of twenty-five dollars, then as a gift from Mrs. E. W. Ranney, better known to us as 'Tressie,' a beautiful mahogany president's chair and from Miss Lucy Monroe, a solid mahogany table.

These gifts from the old Feronians are appreciated by the present members of the society far more than the givers imagine, but above this is the thought that we have the hearty cooperation and sympathy of the girls who have built up the society in the past. This we prize more than all and it stimulates us to better work and a truer society spirit.

A Possibility.

They were rather young and altogether lonesome, otherwise this had never been written. With the open frankness which comes only from bachelor life, they had, night after night, discussed divers suggestions as to how their domestic fortunes might best be improved. So far, the results had been disappointing. At every turn, they were confronted by the grim skeleton of discontent. Ere long, people saw a reflection of it in their faces that before had been as clear as the limpid waters of Pine Lake; men paused on the threshold of chapel to make anxious inquiry. But it was not a matter for the world at large; troubles such as this can best be borne in silence.

The dawning of the century brought no relief. The first meeting of the Club found things in *statu quo*, rather the recent taste of home comforts seemed to magnify many diameters, trifling inconveniences before unnoticed. Something must be done and that quickly.

And so it came to pass, after a deal of hard thinking, that from the grey matter of one of the Nine there emanated this plan. Nine ballots were to be placed in a hat, eight marked X, one left blank. At midnight, under subdued lights, the drawing of lots should take place: the man who drew the blank should have until the first of September to purchase a house and equip it with all the comforts of home. To his fireside he should bid welcome the other eight. "Better" said he "that one should suffer than that all should remain miserable." Midnight came, so did Seven of the Nine: one was ill; one was missing; finally, eight were together and a proxy was chosen for the absent brother. You might have heard a fly breathe. Eight ghastly faces questioned like Peter of old "Is it I?" Blissful unconsciousness soon overtook the latest arrival; he succumbed in graceful negligence; no one heeded. As the fifty cent clock on the mantel announced another day, the drawing was done. And now all the curiously inclined around the campus ask each other "Who was the Ninth Man?" As for him, his only remark so far has been "*Kismet*."

F.

State Analyst.

The faculty and students of the College are gratified by the action of Gov. Bliss in re-appointing R. E. Doolittle ('96) State Analyst in the Dairy and Food Department of the State. The friends of pure and unadulterated food throughout the State are to be congratulated over the appointment of so efficient and trustworthy a chemist. The work he has done in detecting or exposing frauds and adulterations in food in most common use, is of a very satisfactory character. His recent work in exposing the dangerous character of the milk offered for sale in Detroit is an illustration. The addition of poisonous preservatives to the milk which constitutes so large a part of the food of infants and young children, is not to be tolerated in our State. R. C. K.

THE M. A. C. RECORD.

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The General Teachers' Meeting.

Twice during each term all the teachers of the College come together for the presentation and discussion of subjects and methods in our courses of study. It is, probably, the general opinion among our teachers that these meetings have been of increasing interest and of general utility in informing the whole body concerning the scope and method of work in each of the various departments, and in strengthening the mutuality of interest and respect among us. It is good, also, for him who has been accustomed to consider the student only as affected by the work and discipline of his own subject, to be brought squarely face to face with the fact that this same student is being influenced and moulded by other men and other work, that his own is after all only a part of the training the student is receiving, and that we are all working toward one common end—the formation of a rounded manhood and womanhood.

By the public it is sometimes forgotten that the less showy and noisy subjects, like mathematics and history and English, are taught here and play a large part in the shaping of the finished product. Not long ago a stranger on the grounds, after considerable conversation asked: "And what department do you have here?" Now if I could only have announced myself as professor of hydrography or palingenesis or something, my friend would have been duly impressed and happy, but when I truthfully and modestly said that I taught English, he looked at me for a moment with mingled pity and condescension and replied: "Well, I guess after all that is of some use, too." In a recent address to a large gathering at the College, in the course of a lengthy review of our curriculum for girls, the speaker took the trouble to remark that "along with all this [domestic science, botany, etc.], the girl received a little training in English, some history, a good deal of mathematics, economics, literature" and possibly other miscellaneous matters. [The remark is quoted from memory.] In view of facts like these, it seems especially proper to give considerable emphasis to the statement that these studies form a large, important and effective part of the training imparted here.

The meeting of last week considered the work and methods of the mathematical department. The following extracts from Prof. Vedder's remarks seemed especially valuable.

"In dealing with the algebra of

these courses we try to work from the special case to the general one, which all agree is the right way. The average student entering this college has never been taught to make generalizations. He doesn't know that algebra is general arithmetic. In fact, he has, more often than not, never been taught to generalize even to the extent of deducing the rules of arithmetic. So while our first term of algebra nominally covers a certain section of text book, a major part of the teacher's work is in dispelling vicious ideas of algebraic mystery and in substituting a facility of passing from the numerical expression to the literal one, from the special to the general, in changing a labored fearsome process named algebra to a natural time-saving one. It frequently takes as much as two terms to do this with the crude material we have to begin with—and then, the candidate is through with algebra. It is much to be deplored that a longer time cannot be given to this work.

Fortunately for the teacher of geometry, the capacity of student brain for that subject is greater than for algebra. Imagination, the image-making faculty directly dealt with in geometry, is particularly susceptible to geometric truths and is easily developed by studying them. But it should be added that a peculiarly troublesome situation always arises in classes doing work in geometry; namely a separation into two parts, one of which learns the subject without much effort while the other part, usually the much smaller portion of the class, seems almost incapable of learning it at all. That is, while as I said before, the capacity of the general run of students for geometry is high, the measure of the individual capacity is very variable. Manifestly it is demoralizing, at least discouraging to the poorer members to have part of a class make progress without effort—sometimes reaction has a bad effect on the easy learners themselves. Of course the only safeguard against this situation is attention to the individual, which is next to impossible when classes number thirty or more and the ground to be covered is both plane and solid geometry in two of our terms.

We strive in all our work in geometry to stimulate independent thought, both in taking apart and putting together. Besides, we try to give a fair practical knowledge of the relations between the boundaries of limited portions of space, of those forms that appear in the arts which are commonly known as bread-winners. These considerations shut out absolutely anything in the way of parrot-like recitation, and of simply "going thro' the book"—a too common mode of expressing the amount of geometry covered in our secondary schools.

Trigonometry as taught here is almost exclusively utilitarian, the main purpose being the solution of the plane triangle. The foundation of the subject is the geometry of a particular figure—its treatment is more largely algebraic. There is a traditional fear of the subject among college students here and elsewhere; but statistics show that for the learner who has satisfactorily grasped his algebra and geometry, there need be little to fear in trigonometry. The percentage of failure is very low. Trigonometry is of practical application in a multi-

tude of ways, and besides, its study is admirably adapted to fixing by practice many algebraic principles and some of geometry. In passing, I may deprecate the fact that the women's course ends without trigonometry. I can't understand how future work in some lines (say physics) can go on without it. Besides, considering only its value in fixing earlier algebra and geometry, it seems the women's course must be gaining one-fifth in time at a loss of at least one-half of knowledge gained.

Analytic geometry (or general geometry) and the two terms of calculus may be considered together. We teach these because they are necessary tools for the young men we are sending out. All that has been said as to methods of teaching algebra and geometry apply here, except that the student's mind, the ground we have to work upon, is now a little better prepared.

Structural engineers need analytic geometry and calculus constantly. No beam can be rightly proportioned without their help. Rough empirical formulae and even scientifically perfect ones improperly applied sometimes are substituted and serve as makeshifts for a time. They serve until the structure fails, until the roof caves in or the sills under the barn begin to crack. The hydraulic engineer needs the subjects to design his conduits and build his dams. The electrical engineer to discover the distribution of potential, the mechanical engineer for many purposes.

So far as possible, in all the classes in mathematics we deal with the individual rather than with the group. This is of the greatest importance with the class of students attending this College. Perhaps it would not be necessary to follow this principle if we dealt with older men and women, but I am convinced that there must be little if any deviation from it when the average age is from sixteen to twenty. Some few young men under twenty acquire or inherit habits of application and absorption, economical methods of study and ability to concentrate attention. Unfortunately the majority are not capable of these things unaided, hence a certain amount of their teachers' energy must be directed to the development of the lacking powers.

To deal with the individual does not mean that a teacher must direct each separate principle and truth at each member of a class and repeat the process as many times as there are students; but there must be used devices to make it seem that everything is so directed.

If any success follows our work in early mathematics, it comes mainly from adhering to three main points in conducting the class exercises. I do not mean to say that these alone would be sufficient, but they are most important. The three points are individual instruction, frequent written recitations and numerous practical problems.

Of the three reasons for mathematical study, utility, disciplinary value, and pure knowledge, only the first is really considered to any extent in determining the continuance of a subject in the courses. Disciplinary value could not be avoided if we would avoid it. Our methods of teaching are frequently directed to making the most of mental discipline. But the fact remains that when any portion of a subject

can be shown unnecessary from the utilitarian point of view, even a single formula or rule, its exclusion from the course almost invariably follows. My own connection with the courses of study in the College began with a recommendation to throw out a certain branch of mathematics and the process of elimination has continued to the present time."

(Professor Babcock's paper follows next week.—H. E.)

Athletic Notes.

Basket ball is now by far the most popular sport of the hour. Several teams have been organized and daily practice has begun in earnest. The first official game to be played, occurred last Friday evening between the senior team and that of the sub-faculty. The seniors possessed some good material but the teachers were too much for them and the final score stood 14 to 6 against '01.—The teams—

SENIORS	POSITIONS	SUB-FACULTY.
Tower, G. E.	Center.	Bemiss.
Capt.		
Jewell	Right Forward	Reed, H. S.
Norton	Left "	Locke.
White	Right Guard	Parrot,
Capt.		
Reed, C. P.	Left Guard	Reynolds.

Among the seniors, Tower did some exceptionally good playing, while Parrot and Reynolds did the star work for the faculty team.

At a recent meeting of the Athletic Association it was decided that the track team should begin light training in the armory at once. All candidates for the team are requested to report as early in the term as possible. J. B. Stewart, '01, has been elected captain of the team.

The regular College Basket Ball team was organized last Tuesday night with C. M. Blanchard, '03, as captain. Some promising new material is showing itself among the ranks of the freshman class and the prospects for a good team are very encouraging.

A. H. Case, '03, has been elected foot-ball captain for next fall.

Manager C. A. McCue, '01, of the base ball team has arranged the following schedule of games for next spring:

April 27—M. A. C. at Albion.
May 4—M. A. C. at Ypsilanti.
May 11—M. A. C. at Alma.
May 13—Olivet at M. A. C.
May 18—Ypsilanti at M. A. C.
May 25—M. A. C. at Olivet.

A large number of students, both old and new, have already signified their intention of trying for the team. Capt. Decker is assured of the worth of his men and promises us a winning team. H. E. Y.

Do not forget to come to the armory next Friday evening, at 8 p. m. and hear Benjamin Chapin interpret "The Reign of the Rail-splitter." The lecture promises to be an entertaining one not only for the reason that Benjamin Chapin is a noted dramatic interpreter, but because there is no one who will not enjoy seeing the actions, looks, and speech of the greatest of the American presidents interpreted. This is the third number in the course, and tickets for the remainder of the season are on sale at reduced rates with the librarian.

Prof. Barrows gave a talk before the Farmers' Club last Wednesday evening on "Better Protection for Birds Useful to the Farmer."

About Campus.

A pair of gloves are awaiting an owner at the librarian's desk.

The College carpenters are building several large cases for the museum. These cases have been sorely needed for the proper display of new specimens.

Nearly two hundred lambs are being fed by students. Each student has a certain experiment he is conducting under direction of Professor Mumford.

There will be a meeting of the Natural History Society in the zoological lecture room Wednesday evening Jan. 30, at 6:30 p. m. The whole time will be given to the discussion of sugar beets. E. A. S.

Eighty-three pigs have been purchased by the Farm Department to consume the skim milk from the dairy school. Mr. McCune is to use the same in an experiment to determine the value of skim milk for feeding pigs.

The dedication of the new dairy building under the auspices of the State Dairymen's Association will take place February 7, when Secretary of State Warner, who is also president of the association will deliver an address.

The Special Courses.

The close of last week marked the middle of the work of the special courses in live stock, creamery management and fruit culture. The attendance has been in the highest degree satisfactory and demonstrates the good will of the people of the state towards these comparatively new departures of the College. By courses, the attendance is as follows:

Live Stock Course.....	27
Creamery "	22
Beet Sugar "	16
Fruit "	5

Total attendance.....70

There has been a fear on the part of the College lest these special courses should draw from the regular College courses. This fear is evidently groundless as there is at present no evidence of an inclination on the part of students now in College to accept the training of the special course in place of the education given by the full College course; nor is there any evidence of a tendency on the part of young people who could by any possibility take the full course towards contenting themselves with the special courses.

The demand for special training along definite lines is, however, growing in the state, and young men and women who for any reason cannot be away from home for the four years required by the College courses, are coming in larger numbers every year to the special courses. The "boom" in live stock manifests itself in the increased attendance upon the course devoted entirely to training men for the care of cattle, sheep, swine and horses. The work in that course has been intensified and improved for this class. From the first hour in the morning, when Professor Marshall instructs in stable hygiene through the veterinary work of the next hour, the stock feeding at ten and stock breeding at eleven, the forenoon is given up to intensely practical lectures. In the afternoon, for a couple of hours, the men are in the barns and

yards studying animal forms. Then comes an hour in the library, and finally an hour on soils and crops. Every moment of every day is thus given up to just the work which young men from the farm need.

The same practical nature distinguishes the work in the creamery course. Here the afternoons are given up to running separators, churning, testing milk, or studying boilers, engines, and such mechanical appliances as are found in creameries, while the forenoons are given up to courses of lectures parallel with those in the live stock course. The instruction at this College in the creamery course differs from that given at some other institutions in one respect; here the student both runs a separator and churns more than once per week, while elsewhere, where the classes are large, the opportunity to do the practical work which he will have to do later in actual creamery practice comes much more seldom.

In the fruit course the students spend a large proportion of the time in horticultural manipulations. Besides the lectures in pure horticulture they get a good drill in botany for an hour and a half a day and in entomology for the same length of time.

The work in the beet sugar course for this term is purely elementary chemistry and physics. The time is so limited that, to cover the ground necessary, the boys have to work very hard. It is absolutely necessary, however, that whoever undertakes to maintain a chemical control of a sugar factory shall have a full knowledge of elementary chemistry. For this reason thoroughness cannot be sacrificed to haste.

I am glad to report that the work is going on fairly smoothly in all the courses. The equipment of the dairy building is still far from complete, causing no inconsiderable hardship to the members of the class which uses it. This is especially true of the intake, which must be improved before the beginning of the course next year. The milk

comes from Wixom, in Oakland county. To get it at all it was necessary to take the entire supply of the cheese factory. This furnishes more milk than is needed, and adds

both to the cost and the business of the course, but at the same time gives more abundant opportunity for practice in dairy work.

C. D. SMITH, Dean.

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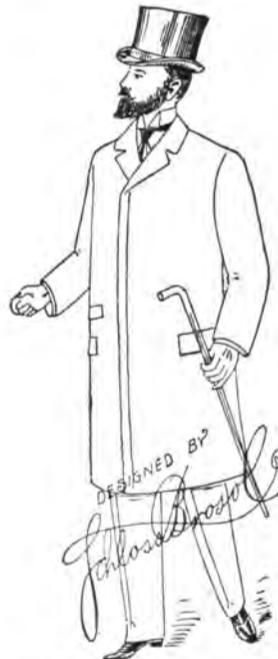
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Students Tables at	\$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00

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Former Students and Graduates.

Henry A. Haigh, '74, has been appointed by Governor Bliss as a member of the State Board of Health.

Orel L. Hershiser, '84, is superintendent of the New York State Apiarian Exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo.

On Jan. 19, P. B. Woodworth, '86, delivered a lecture in Chicago on "An Artificial Climate." How on earth did he find out about it?

L. H. Bailey, '82, M. S. '86, professor of horticulture at Cornell since 1888 has recently published a "Text-Book on Botany," which has met with such instant and great success that the first edition of 4,000 is already exhausted and a second is being prepared to supply the demand.

Professor Wheeler is in receipt of a letter from L. H. Dewey, '88, assistant botanist in the U. S. department of agriculture, Washington, stating that the good will and subscription list of the *Asa Gray Bulletin* has been turned over to the *Plant World*. It will be remembered that the *Bulletin* was founded and edited by the late Gilbert H. Hicks, '92a.

The last issue of the *Michigan Tradesman* contains an interesting and instructive sketch of the life of C. W. Garfield, '70, of Grand Rapids. The opening paragraph expresses a philosophy of life so much needed and so true that we reproduce it. "If there is one comfort which the larger and the better part of humanity delights in, more than another, it is the hand grasp of a business man who does not think it is 'all of life to live, nor all of death to die.' Work is wholesome. Toil is necessary. Devotion to business should be cheerfully given; but to wear out one's body and soul the first half of life for the sake of slowly and painfully dying the last half is not the Divine intention nor the part of good sound common sense. A creed like that, early believed in and practiced, may not end in the accumulation of millions; but it does insure almost to a certainty a life free from fret and anxiety and worry, with time enough to do all that was expected to be done, when the struggle for existence began."

The following from Guy Stewart possesses interest for several reasons. My dear Dr. Edwards:—Perhaps you may wish to know what a few of the M. A. C. fellows are at.

I see Smith, '94, Lawson, '95, Young, '96, W. F. Wight, '94 and Whiteley, with '02, once in a while, not oftener. They all seem to be as busy as government clerks find agreeable with their health. Briggs, '93, I met one morning going to Johns Hopkins for work.

Now just a word about some more M. A. C. men—At the Maryland State Horticultural Society we were well represented. Of the nine regular articles on the program M. A. C. was represented by Prof. Bailey, W. A. Taylor, Assistant Pomologist, and myself—beside having Roland Morrill as one of the chief attractions. I think this speaks well for M. A. C.

I have this year lectured before Farmer's Institutes in Garrett county, Maryland, Alleghany county at Cumberland, in Washington county at Hagerstown—also at Philippi in Barbour county, West Virginia.

Next week I have a paper before the West Virginia State Horticultural Society at Charleston—So you see I am having some agricultural work after all.

I have heard that Williams, '98, is somewhere in West Virginia. If so, I should like to know where?

With kind regards to all—

Sincerely,

GUY L. STEWART.

[F. T. Williams, '98, is no longer in West Virginia.—H. E.]

About the Campus.

That the College is constantly growing in the esteem of the people of the State is proved by the fact that the enrollment on Jan. 24 was 56 more than on the corresponding date last year. Of this increase 19 are due to the special short courses.

Three fine steers were recently purchased in the East Buffalo market. Professor Mumford hopes to make something fancy of them by spring. These steers are to be used this winter to illustrate to regular and special course students the type of steers demanded by the market.

The museum has just secured from Mr. Bliss S. Brown '04 a nice collection of Indian arrow heads, two or three stone axes, and other implements, mainly found in the neighborhood of his home at Monterey, Mich. The collection numbers about 100 specimens.

It may be of interest to note that 18 tons of soft coal and 3 tons of hard coal are consumed daily on the campus in heating College buildings. The College has a storage capacity of 700 tons soft and 100 tons hard coal. At this time of year all available storage room is filled to its utmost capacity for fear the supply may be cut off through strikes or other unforeseen misfortunes.

Prof. Munson has sent to Dr. Kedzie an old Book on Beet Sugar which he found in his grandfather's library. It was written by Edward Church, of Northampton, and published in 1837. It is a rare and curious little volume, and it is interesting to compare the methods of extracting sugar from the beet then in use, with the methods in use in the sugar factories of this day.

The Agricultural College Committee of the state senate is composed of Senators Palmer, High, and Helme. The House committee is made up of Representatives Nevins, J. H. Read, Osborn, Perkins, and Hardy. The College is fortunate in the selection of these committees. Chairman Bartlett A. Nevins of the House committee is an M. A. C. graduate (class of '75) and he may be depended upon to see that his *alma mater's* interests are taken care of.

Both Dean Keller and Instructor Crowe of the Women's Department have found themselves unable to continue their proposed Farmers' Institute work owing to illness. It is with sincere regret that they have been compelled to give their institutes into other hands. Other members of the teaching force have been victims to the grippe epidemic. Hardly a department on the campus has not had one or more of its staff indisposed during the past two weeks. Among the unfortunates are Professors Wheeler and Blunt, and Instructors Ferguson, Reynolds, Michaels, and S. F. Edwards.

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