

MINUTES OF THE CENTRE COUNTY CONFERENCE OF WOMAN'S CLUBS.

The Centre County Conference of Woman's Clubs convened in the Bellefonte High school building, Saturday, March 25th, 1916, at ten o'clock.

The president of the Bellefonte club, Mrs. J. Thomas Mitchell, presided and welcomed the visiting delegates, and stated the object of the meeting. First, re-organization of the county organization; second, to become better acquainted and helpful to each other in club work; third, to further civic and educational work in towns and rural districts.

The following Constitution was read and adopted.

NAME.

The name of this association shall be the Centre County Conference of Woman's Clubs.

OBJECT.

The object of this Conference shall be to increase through co-operation, the civic and educational activities of the clubs, and to make more effective their work in the community.

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership shall consist of Woman's Clubs of Centre county. Each Club and Auxiliary club shall be represented by its president and four members.

MEETINGS.

Meetings shall be held semi-annually—in April and September—these may be open meetings, at the discretion of the chairman.

OFFICERS.

The officers shall be a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary—the chairman shall be the Centre county vice-chairman of Civics of State Federation; but the vice-chairman and secretary shall be elected at the spring meeting for a period of one year.

AMENDMENTS.

These rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Nominations for vice-chairman were next in order—Mrs. John I. Olewine, of Bellefonte, and Mrs. Edwin Earle Sparks, of State College, were nominated, when Mrs. Olewine withdrew her name and Mrs. Sparks was unanimously elected vice-chairman. Mrs. John S. Walker, Bellefonte, was elected secretary.

The visiting women were asked to register at the noon hour in a book provided for that purpose.

The chairman of the conference appointed Mrs. Hoffer Dale, of State College and Mrs. W. B. Johnson, of Howard, a committee to provide a meeting place for September and to report at the afternoon session.

Reports from the County clubs represented were next in order—the Howard club being the first to be called upon. Mrs. Leathers reported a membership of twenty-three and that while they had had some difficulty in organizing, that their meetings had been well attended and interesting and instructive. Well prepared papers had been read. A sewing school had been organized and the work of the scholars exhibited showed most efficient progress.

Mrs. Margaret Holzworth, of the Unionville club, reported a membership of thirty-five and the work progressing nicely. In the absence from home of Miss Mary Griest, president, Miss Julia Parsons, vice-president had taken up the work—social evenings had been held, when papers were read, interspersed with music, refreshments served and a silver offering lifted. With the fund collected the Unionville women were planning street cleaning and town improvements. A sewing class was new work planned. Mrs. Holzworth was most interesting in her report of how the Unionville women solved the problem of disposing of garbage and refuse. They secured a plot along the creek. To have the use of this plot, they were obliged to have a pit dug, so women like, they planned a public dinner and induced the men to dig the pit, which has proved a most satisfactory disposal of garbage for Unionville.

The Alumnae club of State College, as reported by Mrs. Hoffer Dale, originated in the year 1906, Miss Elizabeth B. Meek, being the leader. The object of this Club was to establish, if possible, a Department of Home Economics. The Club was small but determined—with the help of the College Board of Trustees and Gen. James A. Beaver, an appropriation was secured through the State Legislature to establish the work. The Alumnae club has seen the attendance grow from five to one hundred girls—each year increasing the number. The Club has, at present, eleven resident and twenty-seven non-resident members. Only women who have completed a four years College course are eligible to membership. The annual meetings are held at Commencement time.

Mrs. Hugo Diemer, of the State College Woman's club, gave the conference a most excellent and varied report of the work being accomplished by that Club, which was organized in 1894 and now has a membership of one hundred and eighty. Their work covers a number of departments—Art, Civic, Drama, Library, Literature, Mission and Music Study—meet twice a month. The meetings are arranged by different members of the Club, covering the subjects named in the

year book. This Club has been most helpful financially, contributing to improvements in the public school building, hospital committee, civic and library departments. Through this report, the women of the conference realized that woman's work could be done from many sides and well accomplished.

Mrs. William Foster, of State College, reported a wide-awake Parent-Teacher association, doing most helpful work for parents, teachers and children.

Mrs. Harry C. Valentine called the attention of the conference to the work of the needle work Guild, an organization doing much helpful work. Any woman may become a member, if she will give to the Guild two new garments during the year. Mrs. Valentine asked the interest of the visiting club women, requesting them to do what they could for the Guild. Mrs. John M. Shugert, at the suggestion of the chairman, gave the conference an outline of the work being done now by the needle work Guild, affiliated with the Red Cross association, which consisted in the making of bandages which are sent directly to the Red Cross association in New York.

Mrs. Chas. Lutz, Mrs. F. T. Hunsinger and Mrs. J. E. Longwell were present, representing a newly organized Community club in Buffalo Run. Mrs. Lutz told of their being organized by Miss McDonald, of State College; but due to weather conditions they had not been able to accomplish much. Hoped a little later in the season to be doing good work.

Mrs. John S. Walker reported the work of the Bellefonte club, organized in 1910 and now having some one hundred members. The Club is working under three distinctive departments—civic, educational and charity. Under the civic department much work has been accomplished through annual "clean-up-days," street cleaning, good citizenship, league work and other features. The educational department has much of which to be proud—their work has placed both sewing classes and domestic science in our public schools, a study class with an attendance of from sixty to a hundred for three months in the year, being held every two weeks in the High school room, where topics of the day are discussed. The Charity committee has done efficient work in providing for the needy—especially among women and children.

There being no further reports, Mrs. John P. Lyon called the attention of the club women to the fact that the school house could be made a social centre—that the Bellefonte public school was used for sewing school, domestic science classes, needle work guild, club meetings, study class and other gatherings.

The chairman read a letter from Mrs. Helen Y. Sharp, vice-president relative to the district meeting at Wellsboro, Penn., in May, 1916, urging club members to be present.

As the noon hour had arrived, the conference adjourned to the domestic science room, where a lunch was served and a social hour spent, which was a most pleasant feature of the conference.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session opened with a talk to the conference by Mrs. Edwin Earle Sparks on practical education work—the work to be done not only within the school house, but on the outside as well. That copies of well known pictures should be placed upon the walls, and the artists be studied by pupils and teachers—victrolas with classical records would help in cultivating the musical side of school life—books by standard authors should be placed upon the book shelves of the school room to be read and explained. That parents and teachers could be educated to improve the school grounds by applying paint to the buildings and planting shrubbery in the school yards. She said that State College landscape gardeners would be glad to give their services in assisting to improve the school grounds. Advised superintendents and teachers to plan for a practical Arbor day. Mrs. Sparks' talk was practical and heartily applauded by the conference.

The chairman asked for report from committee on next meeting place, when Mrs. Dr. Hoffer Dale said that Howard would like to have the conference in September, 1916, the date to be fixed later. Miss H. E. C. Overton called the attention of the meeting to the "Flag Law," copies of which she would furnish to anyone asking for the same. Asked the co-operation of all women present in doing everything they could to protect the flag, and to stop the desecration, which was now most plentiful. Miss Overton also spoke of State Historical work being done by some States—that is making a complete history of the State to which we belong, and that it could be worked out in a most attractive way.

Miss Forsman, of the Y. W. C. A., presented the necessity of work to be done for girls. She announced the completion of a County organization for Centre county, Miss Margaret Hiller, of State College, having been appointed Y. W. C. A. secretary—Miss Anna Hoy, Bellefonte, president, Miss Lovejoy, State College, vice-president and Mrs. H. E. Whiting, Bellefonte, secretary. Mrs. G. G. Pond, of State College reported that eight hundred dollars had been collected towards Miss Hiller's salary and that the balance of the amount for the year would be easy to get.

In an address by Mrs. Robert Beach, the conference was asked to not take up too many types of work; but to concentrate on some one or two things and

work each out as undertaken. Mrs. Beach felt that whatever work was taken up by the Club should be finished, so that it would be a stronghold in the work that women are attempting to accomplish in club work.

The Mother's Pension bill, which provides for mothers dependent upon their own support was discussed. Centre county's share of this pension fund is \$1023.00. Twenty-three counties are making use of this pension. In order to get the benefit of this pension for Centre county for this year, the Commissioners must be interviewed and a like sum of \$1023.00 be appropriated by the Commissioners for this work. To this end Mrs. Robert Beach offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The amount of county appropriation, if not accepted before May 31st, 1916, will be used for the benefit of the counties that have already accepted the appropriation, and

WHEREAS, There is much need of the Mother's pension in Centre county, be it

Resolved, That the Centre county conference of Women's clubs request the County Commissioners to accept the State appropriation of \$1023.00 by their appropriation of a like sum. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Howard visitors asked for an outline of Bellefonte's safe and sane Fourth work, which was given them by Miss Overton.

The meeting closed with a brief discussion as to how several nearby towns could be induced to organize Woman's clubs and become a part of the conference.

There being no further business, the conference adjourned to meet in Howard, Penna., some time during the month of September, 1916.

Mrs. JOHN S. WALKER, Secretary.

Gift That Has Been Given to Man Is Not Shared by Beast, Fish or Reptile.

In a recent number of London Opinion the sage, James Douglas, speculating on that pleasurable emotion which is accompanied by face cracking movements of the muscles of the physiognomy and a brightness of the eyes and is known as laughter, describes the phenomenon as "the human miracle," and says: "No bird or beast or fish or reptile can laugh. You can teach an ape to do almost anything, but you cannot teach him to laugh. The awful solemnity of animals is the one really intolerable thing on this earth. They are cut off from the abiding miracle of humor. The worst consequence of the war is its tragic solemnity. It starves us of laughter, which is the food of the gods. . . . A wise man has warned us to interrogate ourselves when we laugh. I totally and entirely repudiate that diabolical doctrine. Never interrogate yourself when you laugh. You should never look a laugh in the mouth. There are many kinds of laughter, but they are all good. Interrogate yourself, if you like, when you weep. But if you value the well being of your soul, never interrogate yourself when you laugh. Laughter is a good in itself, and an end by itself. The quality of laughter, like the quality of mercy, ought never to be strained. Laugh before you look!"

Special From Gehenna.

The devils were holding a council of war to devise ways and means of inflicting extra special tortures upon poor human beings.

"I know a writer chap," said the first devil, "who has a gift, a pre-eminence gift, for comedy. I will plague him with the false notion that he was born to scale the loftiest heights of tragedy."

"And I," said the second devil—"I know a painter with a true genius for his art. I will put into his head while he is asleep the notion that in his pre-occupation with paint and canvas the world is getting cheated of a great musician."

"And I," said the third devil—"I mind me of a chap—a full-blooded, not too refined sort of fellow—that cannot be happy without wine, woman, and song to cheer his days. I'll poison his life with moral scruples. I'll torture him with the fixed idea that he ought to have been a minister of the gospel and an evangelist to the heathen."

Economical.

Economy was the text of Mr. Jones' discourse one evening after he had been settling some household bills, while Mrs. Jones listened with true wifely interest.

"I don't want to make you unhappy, darling," finished the husband, "but really we must be a bit more careful in future. For instance, look at the bill for petrol. That motor car is costing us rather too much for the time being."

"Yes, Henry, dear," agreed Mrs. Jones. "I'm afraid it is."

Then her sweet young face brightened as she went on:

"But just think what it saves us in carriages and boot leather!"

Out of the Abundant Caution. An elderly gentleman from the country was at the head of a line of arrivals at a New York hotel, and, after signifying his acceptance of the rate offered him, was invited to sign the register. He consumed such an unconscionable amount of time in this that the clerk became impatient.

"Just sign your name, please," snapped the clerk. "The other guests, too, would like to register."

"See here, young man," exclaimed the old gentleman, "don't you try to hurry me. I don't never sign nothing I ain't read carefully."

WHO ARE MEXICAN PEOPLE?

They Had Civilization Before Spanish Explorers Entered Continent—Mixture of Races.

There are still numbers of Americans who are under the misapprehension that the Mexican is some kind of negro—or, at least, that there is a strong infusion of African blood, as in Haiti. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Not only is there less African blood in Mexico than in the United States, in proportion to population, but there is less even after you have eliminated our black belt. Many better informed persons refer to the native Mexicans as Indians. But they are not Indians—as we know Indians. True, here and there in the mountainous regions are found tribes of semi-savages who compare with the native peoples of what is now the United States, says the World Outlook. But their figure in national affairs little more than our own pure-blooded Cherokees at all figure here. When the Spanish conqueror came the bulk of the aboriginal Mexicans were not savages, but a civilized people, as far removed from the wild nomads of North America as the white races themselves. This aboriginal Mexican element is variously estimated as representing from one-third to one-half the population, by some guessers even more. It has furnished some of the most learned scholars and exalted patriots celebrated in Mexican history. The greater part of the remaining population is made up of mixed Spanish and aboriginal blood, from which is derived the term, "Spanish-American." It is this mixture of European and Aztec that is attributed the peculiar traits of the "Spanish-American character," and the supposedly woolf inferiority of our neighbors to the southward.

ST. JOHN'S EVE CUSTOMS

Brittany Village Folk Kindle Great Bonfires and Maidens Use Charms To Get Husbands.

Some of the customs of St. John's eve in Brittany are as quaint as they are picturesque. In many villages giant bonfires are built, and round them, in a circle, seats are placed for the departed. The cure has charge of kindling fire, or, where it is possible, a boy dressed as an angel is let down the bell tower by means of a pulley, and lifted up out of sight again after he has applied a lighted faggot to the pile.

To insure getting a husband before the end of the year the village maidens dance round nine bonfires, and return home to dream of the young man destined for them. At midnight they rise and lay the table with bread and cheese and garlic, and throw the front door wide open. There is no obligation for them to accept whoever is the first to enter, but it often happens that they do, for the right man is not likely to miss his chance. If, indeed, he appears, the parents are quickly called in to give their consent to a betrothal, which takes place there and then.

Swiss Move of Importance.

The Swiss federal council recently authorized the creation of the Societe Suisse de Surveillance. It will be composed of fifteen Swiss appointed by the council and chosen from the various cantons where German, French and Italian are spoken. The organization will supervise the importation of supplies and materials required for home consumption and to provide Swiss industries with material. It will exercise no control over the importation of metals, which is in charge of a separate syndicate under government control.

French Colonial Possessions.

The French possession of Indo-China comprises the colony of Cochin-China, the protectorates of Cambodia, Annam, Tonkin and Laos, and the territory of Kwong-Chow-Wan, leased from China—an area embracing approximately 310,000 square miles. The population is estimated at 18,000,000, of which about 35,000 are Europeans, the rest being natives, savage tribesmen, Chinese, Malays, and Hindoos. The principal city as well as the principal port of entry is Saigon, Cochin-China. There are now 1,378 miles of railroad operated in Indo-China.

Modern War Conditions.

The sword is the costliest single article in the equipment a subaltern officer of the British army must buy, and since under present conditions this weapon is worn only when royally reviews the troops that form of celebration is proving none too welcome in the new armies. Presumably grandchildren of veterans sixty years or so hence will weep over the dear little rusty tin can in which the old hero carried his bouillon to the battle line at Mons.

Gets Soft Wood From America.

China draws its principal supplies of soft woods from the United States and Japan. In 1913, the last year for which figures are available, China imported from the United States approximately 79,700,000 feet board measure, valued at \$1,500,000. These imports were more than twice the amount of the preceding year and 16,000,000 feet in excess of 1910.

Germany Has 2,500 Ambulance Dogs.

At a meeting of the German Ambulance Dogs association it was stated that the number of trained dogs owned by the association at the beginning of the war was only eight, but that the number was now 2,500.

THE ARMY TITLE ORIGINS

Names of Official Positions Go Back to Greek and Roman Days—Some Curious Derivatives.

An article on the origin of the names of weapons of war has led us to speculate idly on the origin of rank in the army, with more or less interesting results.

We find that "private" comes from the Latin "privatus," meaning deprived. Probably that's because the humble private is deprived of the privileges of his officers; or maybe it is because he is deprived of his freedom. At any rate the Latin term is prettier than the Greek. The Greek private soldier was called "idiotes" and he was supposed to be so ignorant that we derive the word "idiot" from him. "Corporal" is corrupted from "caporal" and its root is the same as that of "captain," from "caput," a head. The corporal is a sort of head private, in theory. A sergeant is higher rank, but the derivation of his title is lower; for "sergeant" is from the low Latin "serviens," meaning a servant.

"Captain," we have considered; its earlier form is "capitan" and it is thus in the Spanish. "Lieutenant" is "locum tenens"—one who takes another's place. The old English form was "lietteuant," and from that pronunciation "lietteuant" still lingers in England. "Major" is simply the Latin word for "greater" and "mayor" is only another form of the word in a different application. "Colonel" is from the Italian "colonnella," meaning a little column. How the little column or regiment, gave its name to the commander thereof is somewhat uncertain. "Cadet" is an interesting word. It comes from the Gascon "capdet" and means a little captain, or the youthful member of a "head family."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

ALASKAN CLIFF DWELLERS

Residents of Ketchikan Must Climb Stairway Up Mountainside in Order to Reach Homes.

Ketchikan, Alaska, lies right on the water. The mountains, says the Christian Herald, rise in green walls behind it. Their tops are sprinkled with snow, and great rocks show out through the evergreen trees that cover their sides. The houses are built on the rocks.

The harbor is in the shape of a half moon protected by islands. It has no beach to speak of and the business part of the town rests upon piles. The streets are planked roadways upon posts, and much of the freight is carried about on trucks and carts pushed by men. There are several drays hauled by horses, but horses are unpopular, for their shoes roughen the planks, and they shake the town as they trot through the streets. Of late automobiles and motor delivery trucks have come in and these will probably be the future traffic conveyancers.

The residence section of the city is located in the sides of the cliff higher up. It is so steep that you have to climb stairways to reach certain streets, while other streets have winding roadways of boards upon which slats have been nailed to the planks to keep one from slipping. The Ketchikaners make you think of the tree dwellers, who have to climb ladders to get to their homes.

France Bars Imported Trucks.

The French government recently disposed of 740 motor trucks, used in the war since August, 1914, at public auction. The trucks were originally fitted with motor-bus bodies and were running in the streets of Paris. At mobilization they were commandeered and have been used in transporting meat and other provisions. New French-made chassis have taken their places and the government sold the old trucks. Hereafter all imported trucks will be "run to destruction" and then replaced by domestic product. France announces its intention of using no more imported trucks in the war.

Sherman's Phrase Indorsed.

General Sherman's epigram, "War is hell," has an apt paraphrase in a personal letter recently received from a surgeon of the British forces in Flanders: "This war, as I see it here, in the trenches," he says, "may be summed up in three words—mud, blood and blasphemy." The atmosphere of Flanders, it will be remembered by readers of "Tristram Shandy," is conducive to profanity—"Our armies swore terribly in Flanders," said Uncle Toby.

English Women "Man" Cars.

Woman tram conductors have now appeared on the electric cars of the Leeds (England) Corporation tramways. The first corps, composed of 20 young women dressed in blue serge tunics and skirts with red facings and wearing uniform caps, has proved satisfactory, and it is stated that the number to be employed may reach 200. The rate of pay proposed is the same as that of the men.

Ice-Breaker of Value.

An ice-breaking steamer built in Sweden for the Russian government has cut its way through ice fields 60 feet thick. It is now of great value in keeping the harbors open for war supplies.

Drought Affects Ostrich Feathers.

Largely because of the great drought in Africa, the supply of ostrich feathers is smaller in quantity and inferior in grade.

HERO WORSHIP TOO COMMON

Absurd Failing Which Seems to Have Remarkable Hold on Majority of Mankind.

Americans, like most other people, are disposed to do a moderate amount of hero worshiping. One phase of it, says the Kansas City Star, is the respectful hearing given on all subjects to a man who has made a success in some one line. If a man is highly successful in manufacturing tooth brushes we assume that he knows all about art and science.

"There is Smith," we say. "He is a phenomenal maker of socks. He can turn them out at the rate of 10,000 pairs a minute. He is getting rich by his ability to make socks so rapidly without dropping stitches in them. Besides, it is said the socks really wear well. That being the case, what do you suppose he thinks about the ethics of that Chicago baby case. Let us get his opinion as to the desirability of encouraging the modern schools of art. We surely must ask him what to do about typhoid vaccination. When does he think the war will end?"

Of course, Smith may never have given any attention to these subjects. He may have been so busy perfecting the machine for speeding up without dropping stitches that he may have no ideas whatever on the European war or the immortality of the soul or the higher criticism of the Bible or the advisability of masticating one's food thoroughly, or the relative advantages of Corot and Troyon as painters.

Still, we write him letters and ask him his views. Unless he is a very remarkable man he takes the questions seriously, is immensely flattered by them, and by and by comes to think that having been successful in making socks he must be equally successful in every other line of human endeavor.

Of course, if he falls for this sort of thing, in time he is bound to make some perfectly fool statement. When he does this, we are all as likely as not to turn and read him for being an ass, when the original trouble was with those of us who insisted on his qualifying as an expert on subjects that he knew nothing about.

FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN

World's Markets Supplied With Dates Which Are Grown on Spot Believed to Be Site.

The London markets and stalls are covered with dates which come from the Garden of Eden.

A palm tree yields approximately 400 pounds of fruit annually, which represents an income of about £8. It takes nearly eight years to attain this state of perfection, but when once reached, it continues for almost a century.

Dates can be prepared in many ways, and are packed according to the country to which they are being sent. For instance, dates destined for America are hand-picked, as the Americans like them sun-dried; while we like them "wet." Our dates are prepared in a special manner—they are piled on matting and trampled into a mass.

The date is not the only product of the palm. The stem furnishes a kind of timber, and the fibers, twisted, become rope. Then, again, the buds are quite fit to eat, and are considered by some to be a delicacy; and peasants, too poor to afford a house, weave the fronds into matting, and so make quite a serviceable habitation. Crushed date-stones form food for the cattle.—London Answers.

Regimental Journalism.

Steps have been taken by the authorities of the British museum to secure as complete a collection as possible of the regimental periodicals, the production of which is one of the curious features of the present war. Some of these publications are printed and others typewritten. They are not quite without analogy in the history of past wars. The British who were besieged at Mafeking during the Boer war contrived to keep going a little journal issued daily, "shells permitting." In the wars of about a century ago Lord Exmouth, while carrying out a blockade of French ports, had a printing press set up for the amusement of officers and men engaged in that tedious duty. They did not attempt to produce any original records or literary matter of their own, but they printed several considerable works, and printed them, it is said, very well.

Rabies.

A case of rabies reported in England last spring was the first in that country since 1902, and occurred in a dog that was being held in the six months' quarantine which the English law imposes on all dogs brought into the country to prevent the introduction of this disease. Rabies was banished from England by muzzling. Australia and New Zealand have never had any cases of rabies, and a system of quarantine and inspection prevents its introduction. Sweden, Norway and Denmark are practically free from it.—Scientific American.

Awakening.

"Geraldine is growing cynical," said one girl. "Why do you think so?" inquired the other. "She confided to me that she doesn't believe half the poetry people send in valentines comes from the heart."