



A GRAND SUCCESS

A LITERARY FEAST FOR FARMERS AND OTHERS.

Great Interest Taken in the Farmers' Institute at Centre Hall, by all Classes.

The Farmers' Institute at Centre Hall, on Thursday and Friday of last week, was successful beyond the best anticipation, and all pronounced it the best Institute, or gathering of the kind ever held in our county; both as to attendance and the value of the addresses and talks at each of the six sessions. Each session, after Thursday morning was attended by a crowded house, and the evening sessions were a perfect jam, and many could only get standing room, and others did not even have that, yet the best of order prevailed, so intense was the interest.

The sessions were held in the basement of the Evangelical church.

The Institute was called to order on Thursday morning, by Mr. F. Kurtz, manager for the state board, and announced that J. A. Keller would act as chairman and Simon Harper as treasurer, Rev. Eisenberg opening with prayer.

The first lecturer was Prof. Buckhout, of State College, whose subject was, Insects and their Relation to Plants. Large charts were used by the Prof. to illustrate his subject as he went along. He showed that in many instances, insects, dreaded so much by farmers and fruit growers, were an actual benefit, rather than harm, and that many of the hated little creatures were exterminators of others really harmful; the insect often serves as a scavenger and devours what would otherwise destroy a plant or fruit, and the little harm it does is not to be measured by the good it serves. The Prof. is perfect master of the science of entomology and his lecture was highly appreciated,—a lecture upon insects should always have a place upon an agricultural program.

Dr. Calder, of Harrisburg, was the next lecturer. His subject was, Essentials for a Good Crop. The speaker is an authority upon this topic because he speaks from a life study and experience, and is a thorough agriculturist in his sympathies. Stony ground bears sweeter fruit than other ground or that which is more highly colored, hence when your ground is too stony for cultivation bear in mind it is the best for fruit. He has had remarkable success in his tests, and closely observed results. He dwelt upon fertilizers and the bold frauds practiced upon the farmer in the commodity, many being sifted coal ashes with a mixture of something bad smelling to gull the purchaser. He explained what good fertilizers consisted of. The Dr. went for the "old women," both male and female, who did all in signs, and showed the fallacy of signs—a sign for sowing, planting, reaping, harvesting, and so on. All foolishness and no foundation in reason for it. He has tried the "sign" business to test it and he found it all foolishness, and correct he is.

J. T. Ailman, of Millin county came next, and spoke upon, National Wealth and the Farmers Share of it. Mr. Ailman said some very sensible things. The farmers average share of the National wealth would be about \$5000 per family.

What farmer can boast that much? Most cannot show up \$1000. The farmer is not possessed of this average share, and somebody else smarter has got it, railroads and millionaires have got it. He did not think a farmer need be highly educated to get along. Technical grammar and fine arithmetic or adept in figures are not essential, as the farmer makes so little he needs few figures to sum it up. Plain common schooling will see the farmer along all else being right. That is his experience; but we can't expect all our boys to become farmers, as there would not be farms enough to go around, so many of the boys must go into some other pursuit.

Thursday afternoon Prof. Buckhout read a carefully prepared paper upon, Forests and the Farmer. Our forests wantonly disappearing to the injury of the farmer; we make no care for a new crop of tree growth to serve for coming generations. Europe practices cutting in alternate sections, and a new growth is required to follow where trees have been cut away, and thus the wood and timber supply is kept up in the old country. It is highly important that our American farmers protect their forests.

Dr. Calder followed, corroborating all that Prof. Buckhout advanced in his lecture upon insects. Toads and snakes are friends of the farmers as they feed upon and keep down insects that would otherwise ruin him.

John F. Potter also rose and endorsed Prof. Buckhout upon insects. Mr. Whitehead also endorsed Prof. Buckhout's lecture upon insects.

Hon. M. Whitehead, of Washington, D. C., was the next speaker, topic: Farmers' Department of the National Government. The agricultural department of the National Government was raised from utter insignificance to its present importance by the demands of the various farmers' organizations, and is now of marked good to the farmer, small as that department may be as yet. You spend \$20000 upon agriculture in Pennsylvania, but spend \$300,000 upon a militia jaunt. The most highly interesting portion of Mr. Whitehead's lecture was that upon the weather bureau, by which the farmer is now able to tell what the weather will be thirty-six hours ahead, and he can shape his work accordingly. With three or four large and elegantly finished maps, the speaker pointed out how the weather predictions are reached. He showed the cause of storms, what effect sudden changes in temperatures had in producing cyclones, proving from the charts, what had been predicted and how and where the cyclone did its deadly work. Those to whom the workings of the weather bureau had heretofore been a mystery, learned from the lecturer in a short time what they could not before understand, and the audience considered this treatise upon the weather bureau well worth a day's travel to have it explained in so simple a manner.

"Matilda on the Grange," recitation by Miss May Rhone, was prettily rendered and faultlessly recited. Her effort showed the young lady is possessed of the qualities of an elocutionist, and her recitation received a good round of applause.

Thursday evening session.—Music, "Sowing the Tares," prayer by Rev. Davis. Questions answered.

Dr. Calder was then announced to speak, Fruit Growing for Profit. Although the Dr. is a divine and was a college professor, his talk showed that he knew a great deal more upon the subject of fruit growing than some who think they know it all and that men of other professions don't know anything. His thoroughness upon the subject led to his being frequently plied with questions upon the subject, which he always readily and satisfactorily answered. Suit your fruit to your soil, is one great point. Bee culture was also favorably mentioned by Dr. Calder.

A duet, My Faith Looks up to Thee, was prettily rendered by Misses Tacy Kreamer and Emily Alexander, Jennie Kreamer organist.

Education of Farmers' Sons and Daughters, was the next topic, J. T. Ailman being the lecturer. He discarded high school learning for farmers, the common school learning is what the farmer boy needs, he has no use on the farm for the high learning of the universities.

The Farmer Feeds us All, was a recitation by John Keller, of near Centre Hall. The topic readily tells what its purpose is, an appropriate selection, and spoken in a clear voice and quite cleverly recited.

A Song, "O My! What a dreadful Thing," by Willis A. Holly, colored, who has his home with the editor of the REPORTER. This just brought down the house, by round after round of applause.

Recitation, "Jimmy Butler and the Owl," by Miss Edith Sankey, of Poters Mills. This piece afforded the audience much amusement, as it was rendered by Miss Edith in true Irish dialect. Closed with music, "Good Night."

Friday morning—prayer by Dr. Calder. Questions answered. Followed by a paper on Sheep for Profit by Jas. McCracken, of Jefferson. The paper was interesting and attentively listened to, but space will not allow us to follow the speaker further.

The next topic was, The Potato Crop, by Hon. Gerard Brown, state senator from York. Mr. Brown is a scholar, statesman, and practical farmer—the latter his delight from boyhood, in which he received the encouragement of a kind father, and is regarded as one of the brainiest men in the grange, there is no narrow-mindedness about the senator, he is broad in his views, thorough as an agriculturist, and devoid of prejudice, desiring to enlist all classes in behalf of the agricultural interests.

The speaker deemed clay soil not the best for potatoes, a sandy loam brings the greater results. The northern limits of our country are best adapted to the growth of Potatoes, the warmer southern latitudes do not produce so well nor as hardy a potato. When a youth he saw a new kind of potato advertised, called his father's attention to it, it would cost \$16 per barrel, and expressed a desire to have it for seed. His father properly granted his request, and by way of encouragement all the profits. His profits on the crop from that barrel of seed potatoes were \$1100, he sold the crop at \$2 per lb. and this was his first money made

in farming. Potato rot can be much hindered by a disinfectant now being applied. Mr. Brown then proceeded to give his entire experience in the science of potato raising, which was quite a treat to the crowded audience. The most valuable fertilizer is one containing much potash such as good wood ashes. I take four bushels ashes one-half bushel salt, three pecks of lime slacked, and mix so as to be a paste and apply about one table spoonful to each hill; this is cheap, and found better than a fertilizer that will cost \$30 to \$40 per ton. Mr. Brown answered numerous questions very satisfactorily.

Roads and Road Making, by Gen. Beaver. We have not an extra soil for potato raising, but we have the best soil in the world for road-making. Enjoyment is valuable, but nothing affords so much enjoyment as good roads. He knows of no region where there is such solid enjoyment as down in Brush valley—a road right through the valley out of which they get all possible comfort. The old plan of farmers in June having a good time hanging on shovels, is not the way to get good roads, plowing up the sides, throwing dirt in the centre, and have the next rain wash it all away. The schemes for road making are so many that it is bewildering. What we want is not road laws, but roads. The law is good enough as it is to give us good roads if we will only elect supervisors who are fit and know how to make a road, no matter if Democrat or Republican—the fellow who knows how to make a road is the one you want, not the one who is after the \$2 per day. Let us abolish the working-out-tax plan. You may just as well ask to be allowed to work out your school tax by each one teaching in the schools one or two days. Roads are too much laid out to favor this one or that one, but not for the community in general for whom the roads are. Gen. Beaver gave good, plain, practical ideas on road making, which were favorably commented on by all, and proved that he knew more upon the subject than some supposed. He has made it a study for many years. His address was one of the most valuable of the Institute.

Rev. Eisenberg took the subject of Book-farming, for his theme. Farmers are prejudiced against it, yet it is as old as the ancients, and much of it might be profitable to the farmers of the present day. What! shall the farmers not have a literature? The Greeks were great farmers as shown by their system of draining. This is the first time we ever heard a defense of Book-farming, and when the revered gentleman had got through, he had handled it so ably and convincingly that there would be no bottom left for an anti to stand upon. Book farming is simply that which is written from experience and for a farmer to decay it shows he don't know what he is about. Rev. Eisenberg's remarks met with general approval.

Friday afternoon. Questions answered.

The Repeal of the Fence Law of 1700, by Gen. Beaver, was the next topic. The ex-governor was to give his opinion as to how the repeal affected our county. There was a diversity of opinion, but he gave it as his that we were not required to have fences in Centre county, and stock going upon unfenced property was trespassing. It might not be best for our county, that fences were not required, but for the greater portion of the counties in the state it was desirable, hence the repeal of the act of 1700 was justifiable. A safe way to get the question settled would be by an amicable suit testing the matter in court.

Senator Brown then again addressed the Institute, subject, The Farmers' Interest in Legislation. The gentleman being a statesman handled this subject ably.

How to Destroy Canada Thistles, by James McCracken. The gentleman advised congressional enactment. How that would kill 'em, we could not see. As to other remedies he could give none but such as are practiced—keep cutting them down, and so on. This lecture did not give the light on killing the weed that was expected, they are not yet killed in his own county of Jefferson.

Mr. Ailman delivered an address on poultry raising.

Friday evening. Music, Prayer. Geology in Relation to Farming, by Prof. Calvin Neff. Knowledge of scientific principles will often aid the farmer in spite of the opposition to Book-farming. He needs to understand the relation of the rocks to the soils, to the plants; their disintegration furnishing the soil for plant life. A knowledge of Geology is beneficial to the farmer in a financial sense, as he knows what the soil is he may intend to farm. The Prof. explained the rock formation of our valley, and the peculiarities of lime stone and other rocks. Specimens of dark rock are not coal, and there's no coal where

that kind of stuff is—it is merely carboniferous shale. One need not expect to find coal in this region we are 2500 feet too low down.

Subjects like this one by Prof. Neff, should be more frequent, they would prove great educators. The Prof. understood his subject thoroughly.

Song by Willis A. Holly, The Fancy Colored Ball, which was greeted with rounds of applause. Educating Children to Become Farmers, ably discussed by Dr. Calder. Economy in Farming by Rev. Baskerville. No class needs more instruction in economy than farmers. He had a quantity of hay in his barn which disappeared at the rate of 200 pounds per day, by actual observation, yet had only a horse and a cow, other things were also disappearing from his stables. When the audience caught on to the point of the remarks, much merriment was created, as it appeared his "farm products" were systematically disappearing under the manipulation of thieves.

Declaration by Miss May Rhone, The Farmer Goes up Head, greeted with applause at the close.

Solo, Is Maude In, by W. A. Holly. Farmers to the Front, address by M. Whitehead, spiced with some jokes that pleased the crowded house.

Duet, Till we meet again, Tacy Kreamer, Emily Alexander, organ accompaniment.

For reasons given above we must boil down a list of resolutions offered by Mr. Rhone, which were agreed to, viz: Demand better roads; right to tax telephones and other companies, mercantile and personal property to bear its equal share of taxes, &c., to aid in road making, etc. Also.

Resolved that the taxpayers of Centre county are opposed to diverting or misappropriating the \$5,000,000 appropriated for school purposes, and urge school directors to carry out the true intent of laws regards this increase of the school fund.

Adjourned. The music at the evening sessions was fine. Mr. S. Rowe, Harry Kreamer, and Samuel Kreamer, male voices, and Misses Tacy Kreamer and Emily Alexander female voices, with Miss Jennie Kreamer as organist.

The sentiment of the Institute if put to vote, would have been largely against issuing bonds for road purposes. Farmers will object to having their property bonded for such a purpose.

We are indebted to the *Congregationist* for the information that there are in this country, outside of the Roman Catholic Church, 143 religious communions. There are twelve kinds of Presbyterians, seventeen of Methodists, twelve of Baptists, several of Episcopalians, and four of Quakers. There are three sects of Mormons, two of Dunkards, and a dozen of Mennonites, besides the Schweinfurthites, the Winebrennians, the Schwenkfeldians, the Spiritualists, Theosophists, Ethical Culturists, and a whole lot more. Is there any other country in the world which has as many religious bodies as there are in the United States?

THE PHILADELPHIA *Times* does not view the anti-option bill kindly. In its issue of Wednesday, it says: In the passage of the anti-option bill the Senate has given its sanction to one of the most absurd of all the many vicious excesses of legislation that have recently found favor with Congress. The redeeming feature in this bill is that it will prove practically inoperative, though it will harass business enough to do some mischief. It will be observed that most of the lawyers in the Senate opposed it on constitutional grounds, but the Populists and their sort were enough to give it a majority.

NEBRASKA has a poverty stricken ex-governor. It has been discovered that ex-Governor John M. Thayer, who created such a great sensation two years ago by refusing to allow Gov. Boyd to take possession of the office, is being sheltered by a poor soldier in the suburbs of Lincoln. All his wealthy political friends turned against him after his exit from office, and he is penniless. It has been hitherto understood that he was in Texas.

THE ALABAMA house passed a bill prohibiting sale or giving away or otherwise disposing of cigarettes, cigarette tobacco and cigarette paper in Alabama. It imposes a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$50 and imprisonment or sentenced to hard labor for not less than thirty days for violation of its provisions. The bill also prohibits the smoking of cigarettes in any public place.

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CAPITOL GOSSIP

NEWS OF A WEEK AT THE NATION'S CAPITOL.

The Funeral of Mr. Blaine. Postmaster General Wannamaker's Reception. The Annexation of Hawaii.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—President-elect Cleveland has long ago shown that he possesses the rare faculty of being able to see and to do the right thing at the right time and place. Therefore it was not surprising that his telegram of condolence should have been among the first received by the widow of James G. Blaine, the American statesman. Although differing widely in many of their ideas there was one bond of sympathy between them, one prominent trait in the character of each of them that the other could admire without forgetting their political differences, and that was the intense Americanism, which was the keystone of Mr. Blaine's great popularity, and which makes Grover Cleveland the most popular living American to day. And therein lies a lesson that should not be lost upon men ambitious of popularity and power. There never was a period in the history of our country when sturdy, uncompromising Americanism was more highly appreciated by the masses than it is now.

Mr. Blaine's funeral, which was held to day at the Church of the Covenant, was by request of his family made as simple as possible. The pall bearers were all intimate personal friends of the deceased and the services at the church were confined to the reading of the Presbyterian burial ritual and a prayer by the pastor. With the exception of an organ dirge before and after the short service, played by Walter Damrosch, the husband of one of Mr. Blaine's daughters, there was no music. Not one-tenth of the people who wanted to attend the funeral could get in the church, and a very large crowd remained outside during the services and afterwards following the remains to Oak Hill cemetery, where the interment was made, Mr. Blaine having requested that he be buried there by the side of his son Walker, who died suddenly several years ago. There was much disappointment here because the funeral was not public, and at the Capitol. Congress adjourned from Saturday to two o'clock this afternoon to give its members an opportunity to attend the funeral, and all of the Government buildings were closed to day.

Unless there is great change in the present opinion of the democratic senators nothing short of a cloture rule which the Senate refused to adopt when the Force bill was under consideration, will enable the republicans to confirm the nomination of the republican successor to the late Justice Lamar, whom Mr. Harrison is said to be determined to nominate. The democratic Senators are unanimous in the belief that this vacancy should be filled by a democrat and they will not allow a vote to be taken on the nomination of a republican unless compelled to do so by a cloture rule.

The House committee on Rules has set aside February 9 and 10 for the consideration of the Andrew's bill for the repeal of the Sherman Silver law. The general impression seems to be that a vote will not be reached, although a number of the friends of the bill express confidence in its being passed. If Postmaster General Wannamaker holds the reception to the employees of his department which was to have been held at his residence to night, the invitations to which were withdrawn on account of the death of Mr. Blaine, he will retire from office with the personal illwill of nine-tenths of the white employees of the department. The reason is not difficult to locate. In sending out the invitations for the reception he included all of the negro laborers, watchmen, messengers, and scrub women on the department pay roll, and the white clerks, particularly the females, object to associating on terms of social equality with the negroes.

Considerable interest is felt as to what position the administration will take on the petition of the provisional Hawaiian government for annexation to the United States. Whatever view Mr. Harrison may take of the matter it is hardly probable that any action will be taken by the present Congress.

The House Ways and Means committee is putting in some hard work studying and digesting the Treasury statement furnished by Secretary Foster last week, and Senator Carlisle has taken a copy of it over to President-elect Cleveland.

Senator Carey has given notice of two amendments to the House bill for the admission of New Mexico; one including Utah and Oklahoma in accordance with a decision of the republican caucus, and another including those two and Arizona. Unless the plans of the republican caucus are changed it is

very doubtful whether any vote will be reached on this question at the present session.

The election of Representative Mitchell, of Wisconsin, who was chairman of the democratic Congressional committee, in the last campaign, to the Senate is gratifying to democrats here, and they regard the promotion as deserved.

PROFESSOR BRIGGS is in an amiable mood since his acquittal and in a recent sermon pleads for unity in the church, suggesting that those who have peculiar views should form clubs for their consideration. It would be well if his advice would be taken, for it is certain that quarrels in the church over doctrinal points do no good and much harm.

Some readers may be interested in knowing the nature of the mission of Monsignor Satolli in this country. (1) He is the Pope's permanent representative. (2) He is empowered to settle all disputes which arise in the Roman Catholic Church of this land. (3) If he makes any mistakes, the infallibility of the Pope, it is supposed, will not be involved.

IN ORDER to have weight, in legislation, the farmers of the state must act in harmony—it will not work to their good to be divided into different organizations; and with the friends outside of their class, and they number thousands, something can be accomplished for the benefit of our drooping agricultural interests.

The Luminary announces that the engineer corps of the new road to be built from Turberville to Williamsport, have located the permanent route as far as Mr. Wilson Hughes, four miles south of Muncy. The line will probably run half a mile east of Muncy, as the chief engineer says it is impossible to get in to the town with out great expense.

The State Senate has passed a bill providing for the execution of murderers in a state penitentiary instead of in the jail of the county where the prisoner was convicted.

DenBois aspires to be a county seat. There is talk of trying to have a new county erected out of the northwestern corner of Clearfield and adjacent sections of Jefferson and Etk.

During the year 1892, \$1,300,000 were paid to the employes at the Altoona car shops making an average of \$60 to every one employed there.

Justice Lamar, General Butler and Mr. Blaine, three distinguished Americans died within about the same week.

How Mingle Succeeds. There are various methods employed to bring about success in business. Mingle has relied on but one method. That one—selling good goods at small profits. If he didn't sell good shoes he would be foolish for getting at small profits, because he could never establish a trade. He could sell a customer one pair of shoes, no more. But by selling nothing but reliable goods he has established himself so firmly that the bitterest competition has failed to draw his trade from him in the least. He is selling today more boots, shoes, slippers and rubber goods than ever before, and he is selling to the best people in the county. Everything is marked as low as it could be. When you want shoes don't miss Mingle's shoe store, Bellefonte.

An Old Lady Burned to Death. Dorothea Keller, aged 71 years, a maiden lady in the family of Zachariah T. Harnish, in Morris township, while lighting a lamp Tuesday night was fatally burned by explosion of oil. The old lady was alone in the house at the time and her incinerated remains were found on the return of the family.

The Number Large. The number of applicants in Centre county this year for liquor license will be almost double as many as usual.

More Snow. Wednesday evening rain. Thursday morning started in with a heavy fall of wet snow.

The peach crop is reported safe as yet.

J. W. Runkle, advertises letters of Adm't on the estate of his father, late of Gregg.

Wanted,—a young man to learn the blacksmith trade. Call on or address, Centre Hall Carriage Works, Centre Hall, Pa.

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