

INSTITUTES TO UNDERGO CHANGE

Will Become Livelier Gatherings Under Prof. Rasmussen's Plans



The last farmers institutes to be held under the system which has been in vogue for about a quarter of a century will be held in Pennsylvania this week. The whole plan of conducting these meetings for farmers will be changed next year under authority expected to be conferred by the Legislature and instead of lectures on subjects which have been gone over year after year there will be efforts made to have the farmers exchange experiences and to have the addresses made upon topics which are uppermost in the locality. Where any district specializes in a product or has been afflicted with a plant or cattle disease cognizance will be taken of it.

Attendance at institutes this year was greater than usual owing to the open winter and in some localities the meetings developed into debating societies. Reports generally showed increased acreage in grains. The closing meetings were held Saturday in Bustleton for Philadelphia's farming district; and Gratz for upper Dauphin with meetings at Geeseytown for Blair and Prospect for Butler. Today the final meetings will be held in Gradyville, Delaware county; Nixon Hall, Butler, which will last two days, and Bald Eagle for Blair. A few additional meetings to make up for some which had to be changed will be held.

Closing Draft — Final steps to close up the draft in Pennsylvania will be taken soon. Eighty per cent of the local boards have sent word to State headquarters that records are ready for shipping. Calls have been sent out for additional historical sketches to complete the story of the draft; lists of men who volunteered for army or navy before being called in the draft and data regarding personnel of draft boards, members of which are requested to send photographs to the State headquarters to form part of the record.

McClure's Last Case — Notice that the Public Service Commission will not tolerate disobedience or evasion of its rulings in regard to jitney service is contained in an opinion handed down by Commissioner H. B. McClure directing C. B. Henry, J. D. Druary and E. P. Christie to stop carrying passengers between Cresson station and the State sanatorium. The decision says that while some of the evidence shows failure to grasp the effect of the order issued last year, there are indications of "deliberate evasions." The commission directs the men to stop soliciting and carrying passengers and says, "The commission will not now enforce the penalty for violation of the order, as it might do under the circumstances disclosed in this case, but further evasions will subject the respondent to the penalty which the law imposes." In another decision the commission directs the Lehigh Valley railroad to begin construction under a bridge near Bowman's station, Carbon county on or before April 1.

Tree Doctors Out — Warning against "tree vaccinators" who offer to treat fruit and other trees for diseases and to inoculate them against pests has been made by State Zoologist J. G. Sanders. "This is the season of the year when these tree doctors operate," said he. "We wish to put people on their guard and to give notice that the State has authority to prosecute under the insecticide act of a few years ago. Some cases which approach deliberate fraud have been reported to us."

Must Show Reasons — The State Water Supply Commission has refused to approve a number of applications for fills along rivers and smaller streams in mining districts on the ground that it would interfere with the streams. A number of such applications have been made with intention of doing the work this year.

General Beary Member — Adjutant General Beary has been named as one of the members of the committee to welcome home Allentown soldiers.

Attending Court — Attorney General Hargest has gone to Scranton to argue a compensation case in the superior court.

Governor at Capital — Governor Sprull is at the conference of the governors at Washington.

To Give Slips — As a result of an agreement reached with the public service commission the Pittsburgh, Harmony, Butler and New Castle Railway will give excess fare slips.

Deer From Wisconsin — A number of deer from Wisconsin have reached this state and will go into the Jamison City preserve.

To Discuss Gas — A general conference on natural gas will be held at Pittsburgh by the public service commissioners with representatives of the national government, Ohio, New York and West Virginia and the big producing companies.

County Teachers Approve School of Instruction

Teachers in the rural and borough districts of lower Dauphin county attending a local institute session in the Courthouse on Saturday unanimously passed resolutions at the afternoon meeting endorsing the State teachers' retirement law, commending the move to increase salaries of public school instructors throughout the state and recommending a preliminary period of instruction for those teachers just about to enter the profession in this county.

Superintendent F. E. Shambaugh is authorized in the resolution to make arrangements for such a school should be approved the plan. School boards throughout the entire county are requested also to set a uniform date for opening of the schools so that all teachers who need this instruction course can attend without losing any time. During the present year in the rural districts there are 93 teachers gaining their first year's experience.

Announcement was made by Superintendent Shambaugh that the Upper Dauphin county institute for teachers in schools north of Peter's Mountain, will be held at Millersburg on Saturday, March 22.

TO HOLD FESTIVAL — Troop 24, Boy Scouts of America, will hold a festival to-morrow evening at the Augsburg Lutheran Church, Fifth and Muench streets. Ice Cream, cake and candy will be on sale.

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