

## STATE COLLEGIAN

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THURSDAY, JAN. 17, 1907.

## EDITORIAL.

Next week being examination week the editors will be unable to put the required amount of time on the paper; consequently there will be no issue next week.

The developments of recent years have opened the eyes of our industrial men to the fact that agriculture is becoming more and more a mainstay of our nation. Along with this awakening comes the opinion expressed by one who, by reason of his position, must necessarily be intimate with prominent industrial and economic conditions, and an opinion showing the vital importance that this occupation has lately assumed.

In the Pittsburg Gazette-Times of Sept. 5, 1906, James J. Hill, president of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroads, declares that the welfare of the people of our nation hinges on an intelligent de-

velopment of our great agricultural resources.

In commenting on the diminishing supply of coal and iron, Mr. Hill says that the middle of the present century will find the best and most convenient coal and iron already mined, leaving only an inferior quality or such as will require an immense cost to develop it. With this decrease in abundance of these two commodities, to what will the people turn for employment and support? A few quotations from Mr. Hill's article will give a solution:

“ \* \* \* The country is approaching the inevitable advent of a population of 150 millions or 200 millions with a potential food supply that falls as the draft upon it advances. How are these people to be fed?

“ \* \* \* Concentrate popular interest and invention and hope upon that neglected occupation. Genius has shunned the farm and expanded itself upon mechanical appliances and commerce and the manifold activities whose favorable reactions filter but slowly to the plot of ground upon which stands solidly the real master of himself and of his destiny.

“ \* \* \* There must be a national revolt against the worship of manufacture and trade as the only forms of progressive activity and the false notion that wealth built upon these at the sacrifice of the fundamental form of wealth can endure.

“ \* \* \* The country needs more workers on the soil.”

These few quotations intimate to us quite clearly what need there is for more extensive development of agriculture. The national and state governments have already realized this pertinent fact and have estab-

lished schools for the purpose of instructing men how to cultivate their land in the most scientific way known and how to get the most out of it.

The people of Pennsylvania realize that agriculture is their future hope. The buildings on “Agricultural Hill” attest the fact, as do the recent revolution and activity in the agricultural department, designed to put this school on a plane where it may effectually meet the demands that are advancing.

The inauguration of a new form of winter sport by the athletic department is a step to be commended for various reasons. During the winter months general outdoor exercise for the majority of the students is impracticable so that some other form has been found advisable.

Heretofore the great majority of men in College have not made any attempts to try their skill in track work and consequently have missed a great deal of physical good. The proposed “stunt,” however, will undoubtedly tend to increase interest in athletic work of this nature and will assist materially in developing the bodies of those who have previously been more or less indifferent. Ability in any one branch of track work will not necessarily give any particular man an advantage over his opponents, as general all-around skill will be demanded, opening the contest in this way to a larger number of competitors and giving every man in this institution an equal opportunity to gain the laurel wreath of victory.

It has often happened that men who have been ignorant of their