

State Collegian.

Vol. V, No 10.

STATE COLLEGE, PA., NOVEMBER 26, 1908.

Price Five Cents

PENNSYLVANIA DAY

Fitting Exercises Mark the Celebration in Honor of the State.

The presence of many distinguished visitors, prominent in the political life of the state, ideal weather conditions, and a general spirit of optimism as to the future of The Pennsylvania State College characterized the annual celebration on last Friday of Pennsylvania Day. Beginning with the arrival of the Pittsburg visitors on Thursday afternoon, and ending with the departure of the last guests on Monday, it was the aim of trustees, faculty, and students to show to the visitors the actual workings of the institution, and to convey if possible some idea of the needs of the college if it is to measure up to its greatest degree of efficiency and usefulness in the coming years.

After the arrival of the Pittsburg guests on Thursday, they were invited to dinner by President Sparks, and later in the evening were tendered a reception by the engineering clubs. Music was furnished by the mandolin club and the quartet, and refreshments were served. Following this most of the guests attended the various fraternity house dances.

The arrival of the reviewing officer, Gen. Wiley, was announced on Friday morning by the firing of a salute by the college cannons. The military precision with which this was carried out was remarked upon by a number of visitors.

The exercises proper began at 10:30 a. m. on Friday in the auditorium, and included talks, mostly

impromptu, by President Sparks, General Beaver, Mayor Reyburn, of Philadelphia, Major General John A. Wiley, W. W. Atterbury, general manager of the Pennsylvania railroad, W. P. Wilson, head of the Philadelphia Commercial Museums, Senator Blewitt of Lackawanna county, and Representatives Cox, of Allegheny county, Morrison, of Beaver, and "Farmer" Creasy, of Columbia county.

In his opening remarks introducing General Beaver as presiding officer, President Sparks emphasized the fact that the college is the only institution in the state which offers, tuition free, instruction in engineering, mining, chemistry, and agriculture.

General Beaver explained that most educational institutions owe their birth to some individual and consequently celebrate a founder's day, but that this college celebrates Pennsylvania day, in honor of her good old mother, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He also spoke of Governor Stuart's statement made a year ago, "You need \$20,000,000 here to carry on your work, and I am afraid you are going to get it, too." His reply was that we do need that amount, but only a sufficient part of it each year to educate properly the young men and women of the state.

Judge Harry Hall, of Ridgway, was expected to make the principal address of the day, but on account of the death of his brother was unable to be present. The remainder of the program therefore took the form of short impromptu speeches by a number of the prominent guests.

Continued on page 2

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT ABOLISHED

No Sub-Freshman Work to be Carried on After This Year.

At the meeting of the trustees of the college held on Friday it was decided that at the end of the present college year the preparatory department of the college be abolished. Candidates for the freshman class who are deficient only a fixed number of hours, to be determined hereafter, may be coached in the deficiencies without cost.

In the early days of the college, before the high schools and the fitting schools of the state had enlarged their courses of study, it was necessary to maintain a preparatory department of two years at the college. About ten years ago it was found that the high schools of the state could do the work and one of these years was cut from the college at no small saving of money. It would seem that the time has come for the cutting off of the second year and raising the dignity of The Pennsylvania State College by making it a full college without a preparatory department attached. The college will thus gain the good will of the preparatory schools of the state, since it will no longer compete with them by taking their students.

A very considerable saving of both space and money will be effected. The instruction for the sub-freshman class at present costs far more per capita than that of the regular students. With the present large numbers of regular college students it is a serious problem to provide space and facilities for work. The fact that fourteen rooms of the college are used one hour per day to provide for the preparatory class renders the problem even more difficult.