

Old Home Week Boosters Encouraged by Predictions

PAPERS IN NEARBY TOWNS COMMEND OUR CITIZENS' EFFORTS FOR GREAT CELEBBATION

The Spirit Predicts Twenty Thousand People will be here from August 19 to 24 of this Year.

FIREWORKS, BALL GAMES AND FREE STREET ATTRACTIONS

These are the First Things Arranged for by the Amusement Committee and they have a Pile of Propositions a Foot High from Entertainers Anxious to Spend Old Home Week in Reynoldsville.—Invitations and Envelopes are now Ready and will be Given Free to Every Person in Town to Send to Friends, or they will be Sent out from the Headquarters to Any Address Requested.

The Punxsutawney Spirit, speaking of the coming "Old Home Week" celebration and reunion, says:

"Old residents who have not seen the town in years will be on hand and for the older members of the community it will bring back their boy and girlhood days. A large number of the residents of Punxsutawney were born and raised in Reynoldsville and many of these are planning to spend the entire week in their old home. The extent of the celebration will be hard for the people to realize and if they but get their think tanks in working order, they will realize that it is going to take some money to put the thing through, but the notoriety and life it will give the town, as well as the coin that will pour in from outside towns, will repay the business men of the town a thousand fold. Invitations are being sent out by the thousand and these alone ought to bring ten thousand people into the town. For the sake of the excitement alone people from every town in this section will visit Reynoldsville, which ought to swell the total number of visitors over the twenty thousand mark. The week of August 19 to 24 promises to be one long remembered by our neighboring town."

Speaking editorially the same journal says: "Such a reunion of acquaintances of the days of "auld lang sayne" will be a rare treat, and one worth journeying many miles to see. To the old, who have an appalling sense of those "lonesome latter years," when most of the friends of their youth are long since "in bed and asleep," as Ben Franklin expresses it, such a reunion will be especially delightful."

Editor Adam, of the Brockwayville Record, a former Reynoldsville boy himself, sizes things up this way: "The village of Reynoldsville is planning to have an "Old Home Week" from August 19th to 24th, and preparations are being made for the best celebration the town has ever seen. Reynoldsville has a lively bunch of enterprising business men and when they decide to give a blow-out you can gamble the tobies on it that there will be something doin'."

The Brookville Republican gives the celebration a boost, closing as follows: "The people have set to work with a will which promises a celebration which will eclipse anything heretofore held in the town, and our neighbors are no slouches when it comes to celebrating, at that."

Some of the former residents of town have already written in to express their approval of the reunion. A lady well known in Reynoldsville, now living elsewhere, wrote last week: "I am glad to note the movement for an 'Old Home Week.' Boom it all you can. I shall certainly be there. My grandfather started to boom the town and you must keep it going." And this is the sentiment of thousands of other Reynoldsville people whose business interests have drawn them away, but have not severed the ties which bound them to the community.

Things are booming all along the line in the Old Home Week camp and reports from the various committees show that there has been no let up in the efforts for an all-eclipsing celebration. In fact all creation is getting excited as was evidenced the other day when Chairman Gillespie, pondering over the coming celebration, wandered into his garden to pull some weeds and had hardly commenced when he was astounded to see a huge fish-worm emerge from the ground, raise itself fully four inches in the air and gravely inquire: "Old Home Week yet?"

It only goes to show that when the people of Reynoldsville get in earnest they do things in no half-hearted way. Just now the amusement committee has the center of the stage. Their little "ad" in New York papers brought in a deluge of offers to furnish entertainment and among them are some of the finest attractions on the road. The advertising committee received their first lot of lithographs and streamers Monday and are now busy decorating all the barns and scenery for twenty miles around with a catchy invitation to the world in general to drop in and see us August 19 to 24. More free stationery is being distributed on residen-

tial streets and a supply is also kept at headquarters where it will be issued free to all who ask. It would be well for all the citizens of town to stop at the headquarters over the Bing-Stoke Co. store and get acquainted with the rooms and the work being carried on. They are open day and night and a secretary constantly in attendance.

The Invitations

Are now ready, including a neatly printed envelopes in which to mail them. These are issued absolutely free and it is a duty which every citizen owes to the town to send out a few or at least request the secretary to mail them to given addresses. A great part of the success of Old Home Week depends on this.

If the plans of the general committee can be carried out, the town will be transformed during this week by bunting, flags and evergreen, by street arches and building decoration, into a fairy city given over to a continuous round of pageants and revelry.

Confetti Privilege Sold for \$101

At the committee meeting last night the confetti privilege during Old Home Week was sold to Barney Sisson, of Blairsville, whose bid was \$101.00. Two other bids of \$40 and \$42 respectively were made.

Attractions Arranged For.

The amusement committee reported that for a leading free attraction they expect to secure a daily exhibition of an automobile and rider making a thrilling jump of a gap in mid-air. This is a costly feature but one of the latest and best, and will draw big crowds of itself.

A high tight rope walker will probably be another daily feature. The committee is in correspondence with a number of other companies.

A series of ball games is being arranged with the leading teams of Jefferson, Clearfield and Indiana counties.

Out-of-Town Merchants.

A DuBois daily had suggested that one day be set apart for DuBois people. The idea was adopted on a wider scale and it was voted that a special invitation be sent to the merchants of other towns to participate on Tuesday, August 20, which is Merchants' and Manufacturers' Day.

Museum of Relics.

It was voted that a museum of pioneer relics be opened during the week. W. C. Murray, H. E. Phillips and S. M. McCreight were chosen to manage it. This will be especially interesting to the "old timers." Old photos, war time relics and other curios are desired.

Meeting Friday Night.

A special meeting of all committees was called for Friday evening of this week. The request for attendance is urgent.

A Plea for a Physical Laboratory in the Public Schools of Reynoldsville.

BY AN ALUMNUS.

In a time like the present, when the public school system has evolved into an organization which not only aims to control the education of the children of our land, from the earliest stage of their development until the period of self sustenance, but also offers a diversity of instruction along the line of fundamental principals, in both the trades and the professions, it fairly deserves the stamp of a University in embryo. The school of today, with such co-operative accessories as laboratories, kindergarten, domestic science and manual training departments, has become a more representative institution than when Arts and Sciences were taught almost wholly by text. There is a reason now in the prospective artisans or tradesmen, as well as those inclined professionally, remaining within the range of a general instruction during the formative period of their lives, for here we have placed before the youth of practical inclination, a course of instruction, which if followed out, will not impair his bread-winning qualities or handicap him in the struggle for mastery in his trade, here also is that general knowledge which is so necessary in the following of any profession. Then the school of to-day is one comprehensive in character and democratic in spirit; comprehensive, in that it offers a curriculum which is designed for no special class. This then is a layman idea of what the school of to-day represents. Let us ask ourselves to what degree our schools approach this idea? To me, it appears, they approach the ideal of success in a degree which is wholly compatible with the finances at hand.

Assuming then, that the faculty and directors in their official capacity have given their best efforts to building up and maintaining a high standard for our school; why cannot we, outside of the official nature of the affair, offer some help which will materially aid the instructor in the presentation of many subjects which are now being taught in the schools.

The following suggestion is not offered in competition, or on equality with other branches, or ideas, which we know might be of great benefit to the school, rather take it as being a feasible plan to improve the efficiency of school, and the popularity of certain sources, at a small outlay and along other lines which are already in practice.

The means to the end is a Physical Laboratory. What is a Physical Laboratory, and what are its uses are pertinent questions and need demonstration rather than explanation.

The subject of a Physical Laboratory in our school is not a new one. Those who were enrolled in the science courses, up to the time when our new building and laboratory apparatus were destroyed by fire, will remember, how, with the meager facilities then at hand the cold dry facts of the text were made interesting and clear by the use of such material as a vacuum pump, electrical apparatus, prisms, lenses, etc. There is no more common or ever present phenomena than the physical properties of heat, light, sound, electricity, magnetism and mechanical energy, and perhaps there are no subjects concerning which the popular notion is so far from the true facts.

In presenting some of the features of such a laboratory, that which can interest the people most is not an explanation of the apparatus in detail, for that would be as devoid of interest as teaching the science without the apparatus, and certainly would be futile within the space allotted.

The most vital question is—what can it accomplish?

Were I to say to some of you, that the pure white sunlight which shines upon you each day is really composed of innumerable shades of color, that steam is invisible, that without the medium of air we would have no sound, and that an equal bulk of lead and wool would fall to the earth with equal velocity were the resistance of the air removed, what discussion would be aroused?

However with proper demonstration, just such truths are made clear to the young and untrained mind at a time when a first and correct impression is most valuable. There the prime ob-

ject is to give us a true insight into the things with which we are in contact each day.

It is not right only to know that we have electric lighting and haulage, telephone systems, steam movers, etc., but it is imperative that we become familiar with the properties of nature that have been harnessed for their making, and in what manner.

The perfection of any of these things has simply been an evolution along physical lines and it is a simple matter with proper demonstration to trace each step, giving tangible proof, and elemental facts, so that the ordinary mind can have a perfect understanding of them.

The men, who are responsible for these great strides in these lines had to present their idea harnessed, so to speak. That is the discovery of the phenomenon itself did not arouse much enthusiasm except among those similarly employed, and not until some practical application of the theory was made, did the public reward it with its interest. To-day with these different lines of work perfected it is easy to retrace these steps and familiarize ones self with the causes and effects of the principal involved. It is this idea of being "on the right track," the analytical training of mind, and the practical side of the problem which makes the influence of a laboratory felt when it is least expected.

I would call your attention to the fact that the pupils in the High School to-day are at an age when they accept the assertion of a text on its face value. Their immaturity does not permit them to have a deeper interest than to accept the statement. However, immediately outside influences are set to work, in other words, when these same ideas are made to assume a material nature their interest becomes aroused and results in the awakening of new ideas. I have seen men who have spent years of time trying to perfect "perpetual motion" machines; when a few demonstrations in a physical laboratory would have

proved to them that you "cannot get something for nothing."

Then among the greatest values of such a laboratory is the presentation in a practical manner, the laws and principals which enter into the physical side of our workaday life. It places before the pupil in a simple manner, the discoveries and information of centuries, and leaves him in a position to begin where the "other" left off, and not waste time and energy along futile lines.

The champions of such a proposition must be the parents, and what parent does not wish to place before his child all the modern opportunities of education and prepare him for his life's work?

AN ALUMNUS



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