The two years that the State Farmers’ Association has been in existence have been marked by a rapid and healthy growth. Notwithstanding this success, however, there are many forces working against it. Two years ago the State Association was organized with a membership of fifty clubs; now it includes over two hundred. Many of these clubs are substantial and some of them are large.

Governor Rice gave the address of welcome, which included a good sound talk on state affairs, taking for his text the concluding sentences of a letter from Worth Whitaker. He said: "Michigan has as wise a government as her sister states." He then showed that our high state taxes come from appropriations for new institutions, increased cost of prisons, greater number of insane, and from paying debts incurred in previous years. He gave considerable attention to the military fund, which has been so severely denounced by the farmers of the state, maintaining that we should support our military in time of peace for the same reason that the prudent man provides for the future, especially by having his life insured. "A man in Texas does not want a pistol often; but when he does want it, he wants it mightily bad and at once." The state encampment is a school for soldiers. "The most essential duty of the soldier is guard duty, and this he can learn only at encampment." Michigan has not had the case of it being once in the midst of hostilities at once, hence, the necessity of maintaining her military.

President Angell’s annual address showed careful preparation and earnest thought. He first reviewed the origin and growth of the Association and then proceeded to a consideration of public expenditures. In this connection, he dwelt upon the inadequacy of the state tax, but scorning without mercy the failings of both political parties. "The question is not how much can institutions exist if the people are willing, but how little can they along on without being seriously cramped." "Institutions should be as economical as the people are compelled to be." He maintained that reforms along this line must come through Farmers’ Clubs, and urged those present to take a timely and active part in the work of these clubs.

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The following is taken from the Battle Creek Journal:

A large crowd assembled on the afternoon of the second day at Ypsilanti to hear President Angell address the meeting. "Relation of the University to the Farmer." President Angell spoke in his usual easy, yet forcible manner, and presented a strong plea for the reform of institutions to make full grown, broad minded men of my pupils? " The question is, not how much can be done by the students of M. A. C., but how much can be done by the students of M. A. C., and at once."

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Professor Weil of M. A. C. on the subject, "Steam Engines." The lecture was listened to with close attention. Much interest was manifested in it, and the Q. & A. session was very instructive and sensible discussion took place. The specimen shown was that of the step by step process. It included much praise from the mechanics present. Institute is well adapted to the purpose, and Senegaw, but the one held last evening was the largest at head of any. This speaks well for the enterprise and intelligence of the farmers and men who have the work of the institute would seem to be that such organization could be bought about with but little difficulty and at a moderate price."

The next institute in the interests of mechanics will be held at Grand Rapids on Feb. 12 and 13.
Wherever the Record has been distributed at the Farmers' Institutes during the past three weeks it has met with a hearty appreciation by the farmers that has been of the greatest benefit and encouragement to us here at the College. We wish to make use of the words of a stockholder, who is interested to know what the College is doing for him and what it can do for his sons and daughters whom he must some day educate. Those of us who go out on institute work make a brief acquaintance with the farmers in attendance at the institute and the names of our next appointment just as we were beginning to get well acquainted. Now, if the Record fulfills the object that had in view in when it was first considered it will in a measure prolong these institute acquaintances and make us—farmers and teachers—better acquainted and more alive to each other's needs for we are fully convinced that the College and farmers can only prosper together—united and not separated.

Not a foot of ice has been harvested yet. Prof. and Mrs. Weil have moved back to M. A. C. from Lansing.

Frequent visits to prominent engineering students have led the writer to look upon the M. A. C. shops with a considerable degree of satisfaction; these shops are keeping pace with those of the larger schools.

It is to be noted that while not an agronomy student, a prominent farmer, Mr. A. C. Little, of Hart, is recognized as a stockholder of the College, and we are confident that his institution is interested to know what the College is doing for him and what it can do for his sons and daughters whom he must some day educate. Those of us who go out on institute work make a brief acquaintance with the farmers in attendance at the institute and the name of our next appointment just as we were beginning to get well acquainted. Now, if the Record fulfills the object that had in view in when it was first considered it will in a measure prolong these institute acquaintances and make us—farmers and teachers—better acquainted and more alive to each other's needs for we are fully convinced that the College and farmers can only prosper together—united and not separated.

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The 12th annual convention of the Michigan Dairyman's Association began in the Legislative Hall in the Capitol at Lansing on the morning of February 4. Each visiting delegate found awaiting him as he came into the hall a pamphlet, copy of the programme which contained the programmes. This booklet was the result of the efforts of Secretary S. J. Wilson of Flint, MICH., and besides the programme of the different sessions of this convention, it contained a host of items of very valuable information to the dairymen of the state. Mr. Wilson was very kindly and heartily congratulated upon his success in so far as a programme and providing for such a beautiful and appropriate setting.

It is impossible in the limits set for this short article to even mention the good things said and done at this convention. From the opening prayer of the Rev. C. F. Swift, and the address of welcome by his Honor, Mayor James D. F. Porter, of Lansing, and President E. H. Martin, of Albion, the last session of the last day of the convention, it contained a host of items of very valuable information to the dairymen of the state. Mr. Wilson was very kindly and heartily congratulated upon his success in so far as a programme and providing for such a beautiful and appropriate setting.

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surely ignorance is not a counselor for such emergencies. The speaker closed with hearty commendation of the difficulties in the present condition of the industrial education. He had the greatest admiration for self-thinkers. A man can walk from here to Detroit, but is made men, but had always regarded it as a disaster that should ever come when poor boys and girls cannot pay for his own education all it costs. "Now," said the speaker, "if this principle were carried out it would not be untrue to such a policy. This is the Michigan speaker, " if this principle were carried out it would not offer, that day my services shall be ended. If ever a man could be a benefit to all. An erroneous idea prevails in one sense the biggest farmers' school in the same origin. The distinguished Prof. Olney had all his diseases of animals, as lumpy jaw and hog cholera, their germs and conditions. President Angell referred especially to Dr. Granger, Dr. Granger, Dr. Gray, and Dr. Gray, and many officials in the Department of Agriculture at Washington as being more or less directly interested in the University's service. He characterized the University as in some sense the biggest farmers' school in the world, where thousands of sons and daughters of farmers there, and about half the faculty are of the same origin. The distinguished Prof. Otway had all his school and college history in one school, and learned his geometry by drawing diagrams on the blackboard while his horses were resting.

The great object of the University is to do the best work for the State; to educate men for all pursuits of life; to furnish the State as a whole with broad minded, noble men, men with the best equipment the world can give, to do their work for all, and to be a benefit to all. An erroneous idea prevails that the graduates are equipped at public expense for private pursuits. In the years of the State for the money expended upon them. A man cannot appropri­ate an education to himself. It inevitably becomes a public good, a public duty, a public asset to the whole community. It is in this broad view that the people should look at education. It is sometimes said that each man should pay for his own education all it costs. "Now," said the speaker, "if this principle were carried out it would not affect the rich, they would be educated in any case. But where would the poor man's son be? If the day should ever come when poor boys and girls cannot come and get the very best education Michigan has to offer, that day my services will be ended. If ever there shall be two distinct classes, the rich and educated, and the poor and ignorant, then God have mercy on Michigan. Michigan is glorious throughout the world, for the joys that any boy to the best and highest education she has to offer, and she will never be untrue to such a policy. This is the Michigan idea, any other is foreign.

"People sometimes say you make boys afraid of work." The speaker had seen lazy boys, but never one whose nature in that respect was changed for the worse by education. He did not advise education for self-made men, but had always regarded it as a disaster that these excellent men have not had the help of other things besides brains. The trials of life and the self-help are not a stifling, not a saving of time and energy to be used for other purposes, to take the cure?

And when asked to her proud progeniece, her resources are bounded, her waterways and her rail­ways give every opportunity for commerce. There are difficulties of diagnosis for the industrial world that requires grave and careful consideration. Surely ignorance is not a counselor for such emergencies. The speaker closed with hearty commendation of the institutions as an incentive to the cultivation of habits of observation and induction, and as safeguards against ignorances.
RUSSIAN PEASANT LIFE.
OCCUPATIONS AND SYSTEM OF LAND OWNERSHIP.

(Concluded)

The prevailing system of cultivation consists in some years of successive crops, followed by a period of land in rotation with other crops—as clover, potatoes, timothy and grains—succeeded by several years of pasture. In the region where forests occupy the land, girl children begin to help their parents when from seven to ten years of age. The prevailing system of spinning flax on hand spindles and weaving linen is one of the occupations of women. The character of these industries depends mostly upon the nature of the products of the given locality and upon the zeal of the people. In the vicinity of iron works the production of metallic wares, as knives, scissors, locks, fire arms, etc., takes place of the industries depending on wood. The character of these industries depends mostly of the last few years. The fertile steppe of Southern Russia were colonized during the present century under the system of individual ownership of land but proprietors themselves are abolishing the system of individual ownership and introducing the communal possession. This is noticed not only among Russian colonists, but also among Germans, Bulgarians and Greeks who settled there.

With regard to intensive culture the result is even more favorable for everywhere commune, have more means for buying improved machinery for the use of all the members of the commune, supporting little farm homes, orchards and kitchen gardens in connection with the village school houses, and introducing rotation of crops after having experimented in a field especially set apart by the “mir” for this purpose. They undertake and execute some irrigation and drainage works on a large scale. They often set apart a piece of land and cultivate it for the support of the church, schoolhouse or poorer member of the commune.

I shall not speak about the ethical side of the communal life—it is clear to everybody that it must and it does promote health, morals and make the commune to be felt by all, especially, by women, readiness to help—in short “good will unto men.” Let us remember that communal ownership of land existed almost everywhere—in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America (among Arabs), and it survives in many countries as yet (France, Switzerland, Japan, Italian peninsula, etc.). Nowhere in Europe did it die by natural death, but was crushed by feudal lords. And how necessary it was to crush it! It was necessary to slaughter so many comones during the time of the Reformation and Peasants’ wars before feudal lords couldknout into the peasants’ heads the idea of communal ownership and the famous “twelve articles.” We must remember this and think over what is speaking about the future of the communal land ownership and, reader, should not we better “let the narrow take care for itself.”

NOTICE!

The Round Up Farmers’ Institute is in session at PUTNAM HALL, Grand Rapids, February 11-14

THE RAILROADS have granted 1 3/4 fare for round trip. When buying your ticket, take a receipt from the agent.

The mechanics of the “Round Up” Farmers’ Institute will meet in Y. M. C. A. HALL, at 7:30 p. m., Feb. 12 and 13, 1896, under the auspices of the “Round Up” Farmers’ Institute.

WHY

Of course you are going to College
But you haven’t quite decided
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Every progressive young man wants a good education
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He can get it without expending a fortune he should not hesitate.

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Of our most noted graduates paid their College expenses by hard labor.

The work of the class room is supplemented with practical work in field, garden and shop; and this together with military drill, gymnasium practice and athletics promote vigorous health. A street car line connects us with the city, thus giving us exceptional social and religious privileges.

Expenses are Reasonable

Tuition Free to residents of the State; $600 per term to non-residents. Board in clubs costs about $2.50 per week. You can get board and rooms in the city if you desire.

The students maintain Six Open Literary Societies and Three Fraternities.

Our next term begins Monday, February 24, '96.

The next College Year begins Monday, August 24, '96.

We have three times as many fellow students, three times as many classes, three times as many professors and teachers, three times as much work, but three times as much fun.