The M. A. Record.

Vol. 5.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1900.

No. 26

State Board Meeting.

The board of agriculture met at the College Friday, March 17, and in addition to routine business, located the new farm barn and dairy building and let contracts for the farm barn and dairy building. The dairy barn will be placed immediately east of the dairy barr, and the dairy building will be on the site now occupied by the farm barn. The new city hall is to be placed to the present location of the herdsman’s house.

The contract for the wiring for electric lights was awarded to The Capitol Electrical Engineering Co. of Lansing, at $770.50, and A. W. Mohnke received the plumbing contract at $4,698.50.

Prof. Munford and Mr. Wells of the board were instructed to visit the agricultural colleges of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, for the purpose of studying the methods used in the agricultural departments of those institutions.

Mr. Thos. Gunson was given a vacation of ten weeks during the summer to permit him to visit his property in the Argentine Republic before the meeting adjourned.

A Cold Week in Spring.

The weather for the week, March 16th to 16th, has been severe even for the fourth month of the year. The average temperature has been 15° F., the average of the highest temperature for the days 28° F., and the average of the lowest temperatures 45° F. The temperature fell distinctly from Monday until Thursday night, and remained unchanged Friday night.

At the weather station at Lansing the average temperature for the week was only attained 4°, and it would only be fair to express that the temperature should be much lower at the College than in Lansing. There are two reasons for this: First, the large number of fires burning in the city will have an influence in raising the temperature of surface air.

Second, the thermometers at Lansing are 60 feet above the ground, while those at the College are 4 feet above the ground. Cold air is heavier than warm air, and tends to sink to low levels. When the air is still and no winds to break up the lake of cold air at the ground level, the air is found to be warmer a few feet above the ground. On a grass thermometer will register a temperature 7° F. lower than a thermometer 50 feet above the ground. In windy weather the difference is less because the air currents equalize the temperature.

Whatever the fluctuations, all will agree that the past week was much warmer than far from springlike. In his poem on the Seasons Thompson has this suggestive line:

"Come, Gentle Spring, Ethereal Mildness, come!"

Gentle Spring has come to College with her winter furlongs and furs, Ethereal Mildness lingers around, a suggestive drop at the end of a winter nose. If this spring give us a little reasonable winter.

The Literary societies have elected the following officers for the spring term:


Eclectic: President, E. S. Good; vice-president, G. M. Bradford; secretary, W. S. Palmer; treasurer, M. L. Ireland; marshal, S. W. McClure.


Feronian: President, Bertha Macon; vice-president, Winnie Shedd; secretary, Ella Phelps; treasurer, Edna Dyarmond; marshal, Allie Cimmerer.

Hesperian: President, A. J. Cook; vice-president, W. J. Bailey; secretary, C. Johnston; treasurer, W. R. Sneed; marshal, B. A. Peterson; Record reporter, J. R. Thompson.

Phi Delta: President, H. B. Clark; secretary, H. M. Eaton; treasurer, E. A. Eggple; marshal, W. Overstreet; steward, May Hemphill; warden, E. Price.

Olympic: President, W. G. Kohl; vice-president, W. W. Nichols; secretary, Maude C. Armstrong; treasurer, Edna V. Smith; marshal, Helen Keith; stewards, W. E. A. Adams; R. C. Kedzie.


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THE M. A. C. RECORD.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

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For previous reasons THE M. A. C. RECORD is occasionally sent to those who have not subscribed for the paper, such persons need have no hesitation about taking the paper from the post-office, for no charge will be made for it. The only way, however, to secure THE RECORD regularly is to subscribe.


(Concluded.)

FEEDING SILAGE TO STEERS.

In the absence of Mr. Gilbert, of Harbor Beach, the discussion of this subject was opened by Prof. Smith, for the suggestion that the time is soon coming when more Michigan farmers will feed silage to their steers, and that whether the corn will be placed in the silo in a special question for each man and himself at any rate the increase in the number should be slow.

The use of the silo enables a farmer to clear his field and get it ready for wheat; he can place it at once under the sun without losing it, for it can be fed with greater economy, though when placed in shocks.

FEEDING STEERS WITHOUT SILAGE.

The other side of the question was presented by William Ball, of Harmony, who stated that the highest prices were obtained in the Chicago market for steers that had not been fed silage. They had been raised on pasture, corn, and water. Well-fed steers, finished early with corn, will bring profitably, but a solid food combined with other food is desirable for fattening cattle, sheep or swine.

L. D. Watkins, of Manchester, gave his method of feeding corn in the shock to steers. The corn is tied in bundles and twenty to twenty-five are placed in a shock, the top of which is firmly tied. In this way, it keeps perfectly, the inside of the shocks being bright and when opened.

The steers are kept in feeding yards where there is an open shed for shelter, and the corn is husked as needed. This prevents waste. In this way the labor of husking is saved, and a man can grow a much larger number of acres, and as the corn does not dry out as much as when husked, it is more easily dried.

FEEDING FINE WOOL SHEEP.

Peter Vorhees, of Pontiac, advised keeping large bodied sheep with a heavy fleece and a good quality of wool. Fine wool sheep are an improvement, even for mutton purposes. In breeding fine-wool sheep one should understand the type, so far as form, size of bone, length of staple, amount of oil, etc., are concerned. Sheep are a nice stock to handle, they require but little care as compared with dairy cows. They are also content in an apartment, as they will run to the fallen apples and eat them before the worms have time to escape.

POSSIBILITIES AND ESSENTIALS OF SHEEP BREEDING IN MICHIGAN.

Robert Gibbons of the Michigan Farmer, presented this subject. The first requirement is a suitable location. This should be in the open, rolling, with short, sweet grass and an abundance of pure water always accessible. On land and heavy land it is impossible to grow well-haired and sound-footed sheep.

The size of the farm will generally be in proportion to the amount of food obtainable while they are growing to maturity. Most of our heavy draft horses have come from Europe, but Vermont is the home of the Morgan, the American Arab, and several American trotters established in Orange county, New Jersey, while Kentucky is the home of the running and saddle horse. Many counties of Michigan are admirably adapted to the breeding of fine wool sheep.

One should have a liking for sheep and understand their wants. A man who has provided the horse has a kind disposition and good temper, but, unless properly handled, the best animals may become vicious and stubborn, and only men who are lovers of horses should be tolerated as attendants.

Different men make different selections for breeding. There is always a demand for well-bred draft horses, and if they are early to escape, they are likely to have poor feet and spongy bones.

Among the lighter animals are the French and German coach horses, English hackneys and American trotters. The latter come from the thorough-bred, and these from the Arabian or Barb. The French and American coach horse command for artillery horses, and in many ways are desirable, but the breeders do not know what more could be done to improve them possibly as good animals have not been brought here.

The hackney is well to sell to the "smart set in the East, who desire to aspire to attendants.

In the past, the American trotter was not bred for speed, but he did fast it made little difference what other defects it had. They have now been bred out and are already occupying a higher plane.

Foreign buyers are numerous and are paying good prices. There is a large demand for the American trotter in England and on the Continent, where breeding stud farms are established in several European countries. The English, French, and German hunters are looking to this country for their horses for the races, because no other country can supply them in sufficient numbers.

WHAT TYPE OF HORSE SHOULD THE MICHIGAN FARMER Breed?

Prof. H. W. Mumford, who spoke on this subject, believes that the demand of the export trade should be considered in this question, as when we have a surplus of good horses, buyers will be heard of. The American farmer may breed any type of horse that requires special training to fit them for market. At present there is an excellent demand for heavy draft animals for market, and the farmer can meet the demand by using well-bred animals, provided he can get them to 1500 pounds, for his farm work, and breeding them to heavy stallions will result in a larger demand for them if they are carefully worked and liberally fed. One great leak on a farm is the wintering of horses on small grain crops, and it will be best to have them furnish a colt.

Do not treat the sick hog.

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About one hundred of the students and a number of the faculty heard Walker Whiteside in "Hamlet," at Baird's last Thursday night.

Harry Blunt, a brother of Miss Blunt, was given the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery at the meeting of the Board of Regents in Ann Arbor, March 14.

Rev. Fred George Cadwell has resigned the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church, Lansing, to secure a very fine Brown Swiss bull calf from E. M. Barton, Hillsdale, Ill., one of the best breeders of Brown Swiss cattle in the United States.

All College people are especially invited to attend the lecture, "The Schools and Good Government," by Walker Whiteside in "Hamlet," last Thursday afternoon.

The Rev. W. H. Osborne, who is well known and liked among the students above mentioned, returned Saturday night.

The Aberdeen Angus cattle that were fed at the college barns by agricultural seniors, Ranney and Bodoezian, were sold on the Buffalo market Monday, March 12th. They sold for fully twenty-five cents per hundred pounds above the market quotations for such cattle and were pronounced by the Buffalo commission firm that sold them, Sweeps, Hughes, Waltz, and Benstead, as being a most excellent lot. They showed an average daily gain of two pounds per head for the four months they were on feed at the College. A full account of gains and cost of same will be included in the theses of the students above mentioned.

Prof. Smith returned Saturday from Delavan, Wis., where he attended the Wisconsin "Round Up." Institute, and a convention of the American Society of Institute Workers. He was elected president of the latter organization.

The Experiment Station is sending out two hundred, six oz., packs of Sand Lucern seed, to test their value as fertilizers. They are being manured crop. The experiment firm that sold them, Swope, Bodourian, were sold on the Buffalo market Monday, March 12th. They were fed at the college barns by agricultural seniors, Ranney and Bodoezian, were sold on the Buffalo market Monday, March 12th. They sold for fully twenty-five cents per hundred pounds above the market quotations for such cattle and were pronounced by the Buffalo commission firm that sold them, Sweeps, Hughes, Waltz, and Benstead, as being a most excellent lot. They showed an average daily gain of two pounds per head for the four months they were on feed at the College. A full account of gains and cost of same will be included in the theses of the students above mentioned.

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A. C. Bird.

An essay on corn

There are two kinds of corn—the Indian corn, grown in the ground, and the anatomical corn, grown on the foot. One is measured by acres and the other by aches.

Indian corn is starchy, but if a man tells you that a human corn doesn't amount to shucks, he's a liar in six languages.

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We pay all transportation on wheels to and from College when repairs amount to one dollar or more.

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