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Utah Arid Farming Association.

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Salt Lake City, Utah,

Saturday, December 12, 1908.

The Farmers' Institute campaign this year promises to be more effective than ever before. The railroad train given jointly by the various railroads of the state, begins its work on January 6th, and will continue uninterrupted for some sixty days. It is expected that every town that lies on the railroad in the state will be reached, and it is hoped that a good representation of farmers and farmers' wives will be in attendance. Watch these columns for future notices.

President Kenyon I. Butterfield of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, was formerly Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes for Michigan. While here he took particular interest in the workings of Farmers' Institutes here, inquiring particularly into the methods pursued last year where a Farmers' school was conducted. Mr. Butterfield expressed himself as being very much pleased with the West and hopes to be able to make a visit to the Inter-mountain country at a more opportune time.

Dr. Widtsoe and the faculty of the Agricultural College are making special efforts this year for the Winter's course. The program has been outlined and a circular has been issued giving the entire details regarding this work. The farmers who can afford to leave home for a few weeks should write to the College and secure a copy of this circular.

Professors Hogenson and Caine leave for the Uintah country early during the coming week, and will spend several days in that section, attending Farmers' Institutes there. These gentlemen are both Utah born and have also had splendid special training elsewhere, and are well fitted for this kind of work. The farmers of Uintah county will undoubtedly derive much benefit from their visit.

Dr. Henry W. Gardiner of Bozeman, Montana, has been a visitor to the city and the writer has had pleasure in showing him some of the agricultural possibilities of this region. Dr. Gardiner is a graduate from an agricultural course, later taking his degree in veterinary medicine, and is an enthusiastic, energetic, and courteous gentleman. This is his first visit to Utah and he has been delighted with the evidence of thrift found on the farms in these valleys.

THE COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION.

Utah was favored last week by a portion of the committee recently sent out by President Roosevelt to inquire into the conditions obtaining on the farms and throughout the rural districts of the country. The commission here consisted of Henry Wallace, editor of Wallace's Farmer; Kenyon I. Butterfield, President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and C. J. Blanchard of the Reclamation Service. A meeting of the representative men of Utah was called to meet these gentlemen at the Governor's office. During the day three sessions were held. All phases of the problem in Utah were discussed, and it was believed that as much good was accomplished by awakening thought and giving an opportunity for discussion among those at home here, as by the suggestions given by the commission. In fact the commission did not come here to give suggestions or make speeches,

but it was a board of inquiry and as such confined themselves to their work very closely. The problems most discussed were the need of more teaching of agriculture in the public and high schools throughout the state; better roads throughout the country, and better sanitary conditions. The need of inter-urban railroads and a cheaper supply of money was also discussed, but these were rather incidental.

Prominent among the speakers representing these various problems, were Dr. Widtsoe of the Agricultural College, J. G. Duffin, C. J. Adney, W. W. Riter, Dr. Beatty, Peter Droubay, T. R. Cutler, Geo. Austin, W. S. Hansen, Prof. J. F. Merrill, Prof. W. M. Stewart, President Kingsbury, and Prof. Gillilan. Prof. Gillilan misinformed the commission in stating that the farmers of Utah were not a reading class. The majority of the farmers are readers and as President Widtsoe informed the commission, the farmers of Utah are as intelligent and efficient as can be found in any section of the United States.

The writer was asked to explain before the commission, the work of the Farmers' Institute, and afterwards received words of congratulation from President Butterfield, on the excellence of the organization here.

The work of the commission was helpful in many ways, and Utah received much good from the visit of the distinguished visitors. A feature of the meeting was the banquet tendered by Governor Cutler, and another one tendered by the State Board of Horticulture, to the visitors and invited guests.

SLOVENLY FARMING.

It is a fact, not very pleasant to contemplate, that our population increases much more rapidly than the yield of food-stuffs and other farm products. Hence, we no longer enjoy that inestimable blessing, cheap living, without which no people can long continue prosperous.

There is a remedy—intelligent, diligent, and thrifty cultivation of the soil. If American farmers should adopt and adhere to the methods of Belgian and French farmers, in less than a decade the yield of our farm products would be more than doubled. We claim to be the most energetic and progressive population in the

world, and yet, as a rule, our farmers are some millions of slovenly agriculturists. Abandoned farms, worn-out old fields, puny crops, weedy pastures in every State attest this lamentable fact.

Collier's Weekly cites poor seed as one cause of thriftless farming in the corn States. Where \$2,000 in premiums are offered at county fairs for horse shows, but \$10 in reward are bestowed for the corn shows; whereas excellence in seeds is more desirable than superiority in live stock, for it requires grain and forage to make a fine horse, a fine cow, a fine sheep, or a fine hog. If every grain of corn planted were perfect, that of itself would double the yield of corn, and it requires no more labor to cultivate a stalk from a faultless grain than one from a defective grain, and the same is true of wheat, oats, rye, barley, and all the vegetables. In a measure, it is true of cotton, rice, and tobacco; possibly so of hemp, clover, alfalfa, and other grasses.

There should be more agricultural schools, and every one should have a professor in love with his science, graduated from Luther Burbank's farm.

American farms, properly tilled, could supply the world with food. A farmer in York county, Pa., has succeeded in making an average yield of 35 barrels—175 bushels—of corn per acre on his land. He did this by intelligent rotation, perfect cultivation, and the propagation of a faultless seed. When he began, his average yield on the same farm was less than ten barrels an acre.

What that man did any other farmer of the corn belt can do by employing the same system of cultivation and devoting to the work the same love of the soil, the same intelligence to plan, and the same energy to execute.

If some philanthropist like Mr. Carnegie should offer \$100,000 as reward for improved seeds, it would bring more benefit to the American people than \$1,000,000 in libraries.

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