

THE FARMERS INSTITUTE OPENS

The Snow Storm Kept the Attendance From Being as Large as Was Expected but Many Are in Attendance.

ADDRESS OF JOE FRY

The President of the Association Made His Annual Address This Morning at Opening of Meeting.

[Special to The Gate City.] DONNELSON Feb. 17.—The fourth annual institute of the Lee County Farmers' Institute association opened here today, but the attendance was quite slim on account of the weather.

The officers of the association are: Joseph Fry, president; Geo. W. Green of Donnellson, vice president; G. W. Mattern of Donnellson, treasurer; and E. C. Lynn of Donnellson, secretary.

The executive committee is composed of E. P. Arnknecht of Donnellson, F. H. Krell of Donnellson and James Vermaer of Charleston.

The program for the two days' session is as follows: Wednesday, February 17, 10 a. m. Invocation.

President's Address—Joseph Fry. Treasurer's report—G. W. Mattern. Election of officers.

Report of township committeemen. 1:30 p. m. Agriculture in Schools—Prof. A. V. Storms, Ames, Iowa.

Timely Topics by Lee county farmers. Resurrecting a Farm—E. P. Mechner, Mt. Hamill.

Value of Feeds—J. F. Brodsky, Vincennes. Farm Dairying—Edward Dow, Denmark.

Corn Culture—G. W. Green, Donnellson. Question box, in charge of W. P. Morrison.

8 p. m. Successful Traits of Character in Business Men—Y. P. Morrison, College Springs, Iowa.

Thursday, February 18, 10 a. m. Soils—Prof. A. H. Snyder, Ames, Iowa.

Silos—Prof. B. Naylor, Des Moines. 1:30 p. m. Domestic Science—Miss Nellie Maxwell, Ames.

Defects in the Corn as Found by the Corn Judge—J. M. Maxwell, Crawfordville, Iowa.

Question box concluded—W. P. Morrison. Selling prize corn.

The address of Joseph Fry, the president of the association, was as follows: President Fry's Address.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the farmers of Lee county have met in this hall for the purpose of discussing those questions that pertain to agriculture, and judging the present by the past.

What better investment can a farmer make than to put in two days at the institute helping to solve those questions that are akin to the life which he follows.

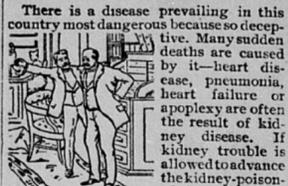
It would be best if every farmer could take part in the discussion, but if he cannot take part in the discussion his presence is indicative that he is willing to grasp the thoughts, carry them home and help to solve them at his fireside, for after all, the great problems of life are solved at the home and fireside.

That which a farmer learns at the institute should beget in him the habit of systematic study and when a man begins to study systematically he begins to think systematically—and that is the beginning of knowledge.

We know that, as a rule, it is the most successful farmers who attend the institute; we know that as a rule the most successful men and women are the ones who attended educational institutions; we know that the most successful men and women are the ones who know how to think and act; they are practical; they are the ones who know how to deal with facts; they study facts and they are the ones who

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There is a disease prevailing in this country most dangerous because so deceptive. Many sudden deaths are caused by it—heart disease, pneumonia, heart failure or apoplexy are often the result of kidney disease. If kidney trouble is allowed to advance the kidney-poisoned blood will attack the vital organs, causing catarrh of the bladder, brick-dust or sediment in the urine, head ache, back ache, lame back, dizziness, sleeplessness, nervousness, or the kidneys themselves break down and waste away cell by cell.

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When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, and don't let a dealer sell you something in place of Swamp-Root—if you do you will be disappointed.

make the facts that they deal with and study about.

Away back in the mists past the farmer got no education through books, agricultural colleges, experiment stations or short courses. The monopoly on books then was held by the priest and scribe and those who wore royal clothes. The agricultural college for the farmer was not even prospected. It took centuries upon centuries before the mind could unfold enough to even begin to think of those things that are useful to the farmer. It was only when the people began to rule instead of the priest and the king; it was only when the people became the tribunal of right and justice that the mists began to roll away, and even then no effort was made to improve, to instruct, or to teach the practical things of life. In fact every effort, every new idea, every contribution, every attempt made to improve or ameliorate the condition of the masses was met with opposition, the martyrs of the cause often meeting with imprisonment and death. But this martyrdom was the beginning of education, the beginning of knowledge. It took centuries of warfare against this kind of monopoly, against this kind of combine before a point could be reached wherein the common people might be allowed to study and investigate. It has been but a few centuries ago that those agencies which contribute so much to our welfare today, such as the arts and sciences, were denied admission to institutions of learning. It is in American institutions that most of the battles have been fought for those things that are useful to the farmer. But has the battle gone far enough? Is the evolution of education for the farmer to stop here? No. We are only on the threshold; we have just reached the thought point that education and life are very nearly one and the same thing. A large per cent of the farmers have not yet learned the difference between living and existing. Those things that are taught in our agricultural colleges, short courses at the experiment stations are very closely akin to the life the farmer must live. But such is not the case with our rural schools. Our country schools should be the means of preparation for a higher, better and completer living on the farm, such being the case, the more closely akin the country school is to the life the farmer is going to live, the more successfully have they fulfilled their mission. The safety of our country is going to depend upon the intelligence and character of her people. It is going to depend upon her churches and her schools. These are going to be the army and navy that will protect us in the future. The Israelites were not carried away into captivity until they became ignorant and corrupt; as long as Samuel and David fostered schools and churches they grew stronger and stronger. Rome was not destroyed from without, but from within. Russia lost out with little Japan simply because of the ignorance of her masses, and those serfs are today in the grasp of a hierarchy that is making no attempt to dispel their ignorance. In Russia, as in other countries, in times past, there will have to be some martyr before the mists can be dispelled. It has always been that some had to suffer for others for every step in advance. The South American republics are in a state of turmoil today, not from the fact that they fear an invasion from some foreign power, but from the fact that their ignorance makes them unfit for self-government. They are unfit to use the tools that have been given them.

We are separated from other powers by vast oceans and with over eighty millions of people why need we to spend millions of dollars each year for battleships and standing armies when all history teaches us that a nation's only safe-guard lies in the intelligence and character of her people. It is simply admitting the fact that we have not reached that point of intelligence and character wherein we can dispense with brute force. If the millions of

dollars that are spent each year for battleships and standing armies by the United States and other powers of the world were spent in the education of their masses it would not be many years until the people would be intelligent enough to settle their difficulties without a resort to arms. That which makes warfare so popular now is the fact that the commanders both on land and water remain at a safe distance from the heat of battle. They remain practically outside of the firing zone. But when that times comes—which will come inside of twenty-five years—the commanders both on land and water will be made the first targets you will hear of no more appropriations for battleships. Aerial navigation is going to settle that question, for it will be just as easy for airships carrying bombs and other missiles to drop them on the commanders as it will on the soldiers whom the commanders now keep between them and the firing zone. There is every indication that aerial navigation will become an absolute success before many years and whenever airships safely navigate the air swords will be beaten into plowshares. As we are now, the enemy that we need to fear most is the same enemy that destroyed the Israelites; the same enemy that destroyed Athens and Rome, and that is the enemy within. Such being the case that which we need most is education and a redirection of the present system of education for the farmer, an education that will be an incentive for him to live better and farm better.

HON. JOE FRY,



President of the Lee County Farmers' Institute.

Iowa has always stood in the forefront in everything that pertains to agriculture. We have the best equipped colleges, experiment stations and schools for short courses. They are manned by the best of teachers, several of them having national reputations. Professor Holden, everywhere considered one of the greatest corn experts in the world. With soil and climate and those things in our favor, why should we not lead in everything that pertains to agriculture. A short time ago an appropriation of \$27,000 was made by the legislature for agriculture and for the agricultural education of the farmer. By this act the state colleges were authorized to make experiments in different sections of the state. This act also authorized that instruction be given in grain and stock judging, also lectures on the growing of crops and fruit, on dairying, land drainage and domestic science. There has also been organized a public school division, having for its object the promotion of agriculture in the public schools. Several short courses for teachers, in conjunction with the county teachers' institute have been held. The deep interest that has been taken in these proves their timeliness. Several experiment stations have been established in as many sections of the state; short courses in as many districts, with an enrollment of over four thousand students are being successfully conducted. Over ninety counties in the state have farmers' institutes and these are reaching the masses. It comes within the province of these farmers' institutes to point out wherein the rural schools are lacking; in promoting or teaching those things that will best fit the boys and girls for their life work on the farm, that is, to show if they are getting the right knowledge, equipment and information.

One hundred years ago more than 95 per cent of the people in the United States lived on farms, now less than 40 per cent live on farms. What is the cause of this? The consensus of opinion is that it is the system of education that has prevailed in our country schools that has caused the most of it. In no other profession are men growing rich more rapidly than are the farmers. I say in no other profession is it growing more dignified each year. The rapid rise in price of land in the last ten or fifteen years has made farmers rich even if they never made a dollar raising grain and stock, and especially is this true of the farmers in the middle and western states. To prove this I will cite you to two farms that have been sold quite recently in this county. One of these farms is in Green Bay township, the other in Denmark township. And what is true respecting the rise in the value of land in these two townships is especially true in the rise in value of land in every township of this county, and approximately true of every county in the state. The farm that I refer to in Green Bay township consists of 190 acres and was sold quite recently by

a Mr. Frank Tucker for \$19,000. Twelve years ago Mr. Tucker bought that 190 acres for \$7,000. Here you see there was a steady increase of \$1,000 a year, or \$12,000 in twelve years. This increase was not in improvements put on it for they were no better when he sold it than when he bought it twelve years ago. The other farm I refer to, in Denmark township, is what is known as the Quinton farm, consisting of 400 acres. About twelve years ago that farm sold for \$16,000. Quite recently it sold for \$41,500. Here you will see that the rate of increase in value was about the same as in the Tucker farm, and, as I have said, the increase in value of these two farms is equally true of every farm in Lee county, and approximately true of every farm in the state. If Mr. Tucker had deposited this \$7,000 in a bank at 3 per cent it would have made him \$210 per year instead of \$1,000 in land. If he had loaned it out at 6 per cent it would have made him \$420 per year, but instead of investing it at 3 per cent or 6 per cent he invested it at 15 per cent and that is about the kind of investment that farmers have been making all over Iowa who put their money into land. From all indications this rise in value of land is going to continue for a while, at least. Some one may ask, what is the cause of this increase? Well, corn is the cause of the most of it, then, surely, corn is king and the farmers are the lords, dukes, earls and barons; and who is it that would not love to bask in the sunshine of King Corn? Good government land is not to be had any more, that has all been taken, and the poor young man starting out in life with the intention of winning some of this high priced land must be better equipped mentally, that he must understand the fundamental principles of agriculture better than the men who entered it from the government at \$1.25 per acre, or the man who bought it for \$10 or \$15 per acre. He must be able to make two bushels of corn grow where only one grew before or he will not possess the land. Now where is this young man going to get his education along agricultural lines. If he leaves school when he is twelve or fourteen as too many do he will not know so much when he is twenty-one as he did when he left school and the city. We are beginning to learn that the principles of elementary agriculture should enter into and become a part of a child's education from the very start. It is equally admitted that the farm is the best place to bring up children. The history of our country bears ample evidence of that fact. There they are brought into contact with nature, which they can neither cheat nor fool. But that many have drifted from the farm and into haunts that are strange and new to them, or, in other words, to the city, statistics amply prove. Why is this? Why is it that the bent of so many boys and girls is cityward just as soon as they are old enough to leave the home of their birth? We all know that the books we studied, the stories that we read and the ideals that are placed before us are largely based upon city things and what more natural than for some to seek the city? Now agriculture can't be taught in our rural schools out of the text books that are now used, but their books, their stories and their ideals can be so changed as to give the mind of the young and different bent for the mind grows upon what it feeds. Now I say that agriculture can't be taught in our country schools out of the text books we now use. When I went to study agriculture at the Mt. Pleasant short course, two years ago, I found there more than a half dozen teachers but no text books. When I studied corn I took an ear on my desk and dissected, so to speak; I was taught to examine the germ and embryo; I learned upon examining that germ and embryo that certain colors and consistencies of that germ and embryo indicated if the ear was good or bad, that is, if it had strength, vitality, power to reproduce itself. Now that I could not have learned out of a text book. Of course, the questions could be embodied in text books, but the raw materials would have to be supplied. I learned in studying an ear of corn: about the amount of starch it should contain; about the size, shape and depth of the kernel. I learned that a kernel with a full, plump tip had vitality and would stand more hardship in the ground on a cold, wet spring than a kernel would that had left the ear with the chaff adhering to its tip, or a kernel that had left the ear with its tip adhering to the cob; I learned about the amount of starch it should contain; I learned if the kernels were uniform and the ear was well filled at the butt and tip that it had constitution and that it would shed more corn to the cob and consequently to the acre; I learned about the amount of starch it should contain for feeding and other purposes; I learned in studying an ear of corn if it showed breeding—that is, if it had many years of careful and intelligent selection, detasseling and proper cultivation back of it; I learned about the rows and the space between the rows; about the indentation of the different types and varieties of corn. Now, there were only a few of the points that I learned in studying an ear of corn that I could not have learned from a text book. Of course, as I have said, the questions can be embodied in a text book but the raw materials will have to be supplied. There are some things that I learned that I could have learned from a text book. For instance, the climatic conditions

depth of a kernel, the signs of maturity and immaturity, the types and varieties and those characteristics which lead us to believe what corn will do under various conditions. In the study of agriculture the same principle will hold true of any product of the field—the raw material will have to be supplied. When I studied animal husbandry I had to go to the pavilion where the animals were. I present these views from the fact that the teaching of agriculture in the rural schools is being quite generally agitated. If the attempt were made to teach agriculture in the rural schools of Lee county now in some of the schools it would prove a failure, for some of the schools are taught by teachers who were born, reared and educated in cities and they would not know as much about agriculture as the scholars themselves. But the necessity exists for the teaching of agriculture in the rural schools, and a few failures should not deter from trying to get at the right method and the proper training of men and women to teach that method. The raw materials will be more easily supplied than the text books and teachers. It is probably an easy matter to teach agriculture in an agricultural college, but a widely different method will have to be evolved before it can be successfully taught in our rural schools. But when that method is evolved and we have teachers as capable of teaching it as we have of teaching the other sciences I believe it will have a greater educational value for the farmer than any other subject now taught. A greater responsibility will be placed upon children, they will have something to do; they will be putting into practice each day those things which they study.

We all know that it is the putting of responsibility upon men that develops their intellectual ability, their character and their efficiency the most, and if the same thing will not hold true of children will some one please tell me why. The last report of the state educational commission claims that the laws relating to public schools of the state are badly arranged, conflicting and inconsistent with true wisdom and the commission points out their deficiencies very plainly. To remedy this confusion the commission has, with the approval of the state superintendent of schools, recommended to the legislature that an entirely new code of school laws be prepared, "using as much of the existing laws as possible." One among many of the changes to be made will be the creating of a county educational board consisting of three members. This board will in no way interfere with the duties of the county superintendent of schools and as the board will receive no pay per diem there can be no objections to it from a taxable standpoint. The office of township school treasurer will be abolished and the money in his hands be placed in the hands of the county treasurer who will put the money where it will draw interest. A few township treasurers may object to

this but the state will be benefited, and it is the greatest good to the greatest number, for which laws should be enacted. In the matter of school organization the county is made the unit replacing the school district. House file No. 62 which is Holmes bill embodies the recommendations of the commission. It is very lengthy and while some provisions in it may not work to the satisfaction of all, yet in the main it points in the direction of progress. This bill points to the centralization of county schools, and the centralization of country schools points to good roads. When land comes to be worth from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars an acre, that land can afford a good road along side of it. Senator Seeley has a bill which provides for the teaching of elementary agriculture in rural schools. This will benefit the masses, but Senator Nowberry's bill which provides for the establishing of chairs in agriculture in our colleges will not benefit the masses. The eyes of the business world today are turned to the farmer to restore prosperity, and the eyes of all should be bent upon the education of the masses, for when the masses are educated up to a point that will eliminate the purchasable vote then the office seeking, baby kissing candidate with his pockets full of cigars and chewing gum will be eliminated. Every political campaign teaches that there is as urgent a need for a reduction of political ills as there is for a reduction of the tariff.

The commission on country life that was appointed by President Roosevelt has just made its report. Its report, like the report of the Iowa state educational commission, which is Holmes' bill, points in the direction of progress. But it makes no difference what kind of reform you advocate there will be some who think it so great an evil that they will oppose it with might and main.

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FRATERNAL CAUSES. MASONIC Hall, corner Fourth and Main Eagle lodge, No. 12—holds its regular meeting the first Tuesday evening of each month. Hardin Lodge, No. 29—Holds its regular monthly meetings the second Monday evening of each month. Gate City Royal Arch Chapter, No. 7—holds its regular meetings the second Friday in each month. Damascus Commandery of Knights Templar, No. 5—Regular convocations Tuesday of each month. Elmira Chapter, No. 40, Order of the Eastern Star, holds its regular meeting the second Tuesday evening of each month. Mrs. E. A. Eaton, W. M., Mrs. Mary A. Johnson, Secretary. G. A. R. The Hawkes Hall, Torrence Post No. 2, Department of Iowa. Regular meetings second Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 o'clock, B. F. Crow, Post Commander; S. H. Johnston, Adjutant. W. R. C.—The Hawkes Hall—Regular meeting of Torrence Relief Corps, No. 100, the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 2:00 o'clock p. m. sharp. Mrs. Chas. M. Cook, President; Mrs. Lena Van Fleet, sec. retary. Belknap Post G. A. R., No. 515—Schouten's Hall, Tenth and Main streets—Meets the first Wednesday of each month. L. A. Berryhill, Commander. INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS. Hall Seventh and Main Streets. Keokuk Lodge, No. 13, meets regularly Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. H. R. Miller, N. G.; A. J. Hershey, Recording Secretary. Puchschuck Lodge No. 43, meets every Friday evening at 8 o'clock. J. R. Hellenenthal, N. G.; Geo. W. Immegeart, Per. Sec. Herman Lodge, No. 116 (German), meets regularly every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. Fred Korschaga, N. G.; Albert Keifer, Rec. Sec. Colfax Rebekah, Lodge No. 4—Meets regularly every second and fourth Tuesday of month at Odd Fellows' hall, corner Seventh and Main streets. Mrs. Effie Boler, N. G.; Nellie Hardesty, Financial Secretary; Nina Phillips, V. G.; Miss Minnie Brienstein, Recording Secretary. Puchschuck Encampment, N. 7—Meets first and third Tuesday evening of each month. Otto Anschutz, Scribe. Canton Leach, No. 4, P. M.; I. O. O. F.—Meets every second Tuesday of each month. Frank Wahlgren Captain; Geo. W. Hardin, Clerk. MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA Gibbons Hall. Keokuk camp No. 622—Meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p. m. Our latch string is out to neighbors. A. C. Wustrow, V. C.; J. A. Pollard, Clerk. B. P. O. Elks. Keokuk Lodge No. 106—Meets first and third Thursday nights at Elks' hall Gibbons opera house block, Sixth and Main streets. Club rooms open daily. Visiting brothers cordially invited. Rice H. Bell, z. R.; William Reimbold, Secretary. FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES Keokuk Aerie, No. 683—Meets first and third Wednesdays of each month at Horn hall, corner Eighth and Main. Visiting brothers cordially invited. Frank J. Moeller, W. President; A. Noaks, Secretary. KNIGHTS OF HONOR. Hall over Savings Bank. Keokuk Lodge, No. 544—Meets regularly on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. J. W. Stelzer, Director; Charles Schulz, Reporter. COURT OF HONOR. A. O. U. W. hall, Eighth and Main. Meets the first and third Friday nights of each month. Visiting members cordially invited. W. J. Kessler, chap. IOWA LEGION OF HONOR. Hall over Savings Bank. Lee Lodge, No. 58—Meets the fourth Monday in each month. S. S. Lowitz, President; Ira W. DeMoss, Recording Secretary. A. O. U. W. Keokuk Lodge, No. 255 Meets every Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock at hall over Keokuk Savings bank corner Fifth and Main streets. Visiting brethren cordially invited. Robert Patterson, M. W.; Ed. W. Moore, Recorder. K. O. P. Morning Star Lodge No. 5—Meets fifth and Biendean, K. of P. building, Tuesday at 8:00 p. m. John E. Craiz Chancellor; Commander; Edward F. Carter, J. of R. and S. Visiting Knight, is fraternally invited. CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS. John W. Young, Builder. Superintendent and Contractor for all kinds of construction. Also general repair work. Prompt and careful attention given to plans and estimates. Your patronage solicited. Office, 509 E. on. Eau. Iowa phone, office, 2143; residence 3342. Every Woman is interested and should know about the wonderful MARVEL Whirling Spray. The new Vaginal Preparation. Best of all. It cleanses gently. Ask your druggist for it. It is a genuine surprise. Do not accept a cheap copy. Get the full particulars and directions in valuable booklet. MARVEL Whirling Spray. 44 East 43rd Street, N. Y. C.