The Mid-Winter Session of the Delaware County Farmer's Institute.

On Wednesday and Thursday last was held the winter session of our Delaware County Farmer's Institute, and a happier or more profitable session of institute workers has never been recorded in the history of the society.

As nearly the hour of ten as is usual in such cases, the meeting was called to order by President A. S. Coon's gavel, and Rev. A. W. Caul offered an invocation asking divine blessing upon the deliberations of this body of agriculturalists. The farmers of the county were warmly welcomed to our city by M. F. LeRoy who spoke of the banker's dependence upon the prosperity of the farmer and congratulated the Delaware County farmer upon his industry and upon the high standard of success to which he had raised the pursuit of agriculture in this county. The response by F. L. Durey gracefully acknowledged Mr. LeRoy's many pleasant words and Mr. Durey closed by thanking the citizens of Manchester, on behalf of the Institute, for the hospitality and cordial welcome proferred.

The address by President A. S. Coon was well received. Mr. Coon is popular as the controlling spirit among our farm friends and his reception by them on Wednesday forenoon tended but to show their appreciation of his efforts and a concurrence with his opinions.

H. L. Rann was heartily applauded in the rendition of an Irish solo, in which he accompanied himself on the banjo.

L. Hubbell presented the question, "The Most Profitable Way to Rent Our Farms." He said of the two ordinary ways, renting for cash or renting on shares, he was strongly in favor of the latter; for, while the landlord is relieved of all care and responsibility when he rents for cash, this method presents an actual incentive to the tenant to get all that he can out of the farm to compensate him for his money outlay and often to the detriment of the land. Mr. Hubbell gave it as his opinion that in the long run there was no doubt but that the owner of the farm lost by the cash rental system, and was the gainer when he rented on shares.

E. M. Carr followed the last named gentleman on the same subject. Mr. Carr spoke from a long experience in the rental of farms and he also disfavored the cash rental system. Mr. Carr said in part, that what the owner of the farm wanted was a partner and suggested: Let the owner contract to put in the use of the farm against his associate's contract to do all the necessary work on the farm, each partner furnishing a share of the required stock and machinery, and each sharing equally in the profits. Hugh Clemans and J. C. French were to have talked on this subject, but were not in attendance upon the session.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Promptly at the hour of one fifteen Wednesday afternoon, the president's call to order was obeyed and the subject, Are Farm Separators Profitable, announced, with L. G. Clute opening the discussion. Mr. Clute said in part: In the matter of having better milk to feed our calves and pigs, the advantages are all on the side of the separator, for the average creamery separated milk is decidedly too thin upon which to grow the average calf. By using the farm separator, starting it as soon as you begin milking in the morning, you have the warm sweet skimmed milk for feeding and it can always be fed sweet, not sweet one meal and sour the next, as is the case too usually with creamery separated milk. But while favoring separating milk upon the farm, I do not want to make butter upon the farm; let the team come along and take the cream to the creamery. This will lessen the expense of hauling and expense of milk cans, will save the loss by milk souring in the hauling during the summer and freezing and ice during the winter. I favor the farm separator because it means less expense, better milk for the calves, better steers, more money for the farmer, more of the comforts of life for his family and a greater love for farm life on the part of the farmer, his wife and his children.

S. B. Shilling, of Mason City, followed Mr. Clute in the discussion of this subject. Mr Shilling is well known in this vicinity, Delaware county having been his former home; he is fat, fair and on the bright side of forty, his remarks partaking of his sunny disposition. He rather scoffed at the idea that one could possibly doubt the profitableness of the baby separator, but further stated that he was employed on a salary to convince his farmer brothers that there were barrels of money in every baby separator. And then speaking seriously, Mr. Shilling answered the question under discussion in two words—It depends, further stating that it depended wholly upon the people. He made some very interesting statements, one of which was really startling—inasmuch as he said that two thirds of the 107,000,000 pounds of oleomargarine sold in this country last year sold under the name of butter. Another fact given out by Mr. Shilling was to the effect that but one third of the butter shipped to the eastern markets gardes as extra first. These are both important matters especially to be considered by the farmers of Delaware county, who are primarily dairymen, good dairymen ranking well up to the top with the best butter makers of the land.

Mr. Shilling laid the chief blame for the poor grade of butter made, n ot so much with the creamery as with the farmer, claiming the farmer as a rule was not sufficiently acquainted with the cows individually. He said if the farmer did know each one of his cows individually and knew what crack cow was paying him, if he were to subject each one in the herd to the Babcock test, he would soon rid himself of a large number of his cows. He spoke with much emphasis in favor of the Babcock test on the farm, saying the andn probably only then would our butter grade better in the market place. Mr. Shilling closed his remarks by reading a letter recently received bearing on the support of the Grout bill before the Senate by the farmers of the state. This letter was given over to the Committee on Resolutions for action upon at a late date.

Wattson Childs, one of our county's foremost private dairymen spoke shortly and in favor of the Babcock test and the farm separator. Mr. Childs is one who is listened to with much respect by the dairy farmers of the county as one of large practical experience in this line of the farm industry.

Assistant State Dairy Commissioner F. W. Bouska was called for and responded by saying the subject divides itself into three different phases: from the standpoint of the man who makes butter on the farm; the patron of the cream gathered factory; and the patron of the milk creamery. For the first two classes the home separator is profitable, but possibly not to the last. The only way to determine this will be by actual test and Mr. Bouska knew of no cream gathering creamery that was making the test as a financial experiment.

Chairman Coon here announced that the paper to be given by J. B. Rutherford on the question, Shall We Raise Our Own Cows? which was postponed on account of lack of time in the morning session, would here be introduced. Mr. Rutherford rather startled his hearers by making the statement that he did not consider it of profit to raise a cow, further elaborating by saying that the farmer could buy two heifers for what it cost him to raise one, but advising that the farmer never buy under four years of age. Those taking up the discussion of this after Mr. Rutherford, with one accord disagreed with that worthy gentleman. Wattson Childs raises his own dairy cows, adding however that he thinks it always advisable to subject his young cow to the test, then if she prove what he hoped for her he keeps her, otherwise not. J. F. Graham strongly favored raising his own dairy cow and was seconded in his approval of that side by L. G. Clute. They stated that the calf when raised from a known breed of good milkers, if found deficient, be sold as a beefer, but they believed a young cow so raised was worth more anyway than the two cows she would pay for with the money spent for her raising and which was at best an uncertainty as to milking capabilities. They made the point on Mr. Rutherford that the eastern stock buyer, of whom he proposed to buy his cows, could not buy the best young cows a Delaware or any other county farmer had; they keep the best and sell the least desirable members of the herd to these self same eastern buyers. G. H. Van Houten also expressed surprise at Mr. Rutherford's stand, giving one of his reasons for looking on the opposite side, that a successful dairyman acquainted himself with the young calf and trained her to a successful dairy cow.

A recitation "The Dying Alchemist" was given by Mrs. C. C. Hoag in her usual charming style, which was followed by a paper on the subject "Apples Adapted to Delaware County," by C. H. True, a topic admirably suitable for this gentleman who through his horticultural experience, knows whereof he speaks. Mr. True began by saying: At least three conditions are positively necessary in order to establish a permanent and profitable orchard, whether the attempt be made in Delaware county or in any other county of our state. The conditions are these: a suitable tree, a favorable location and a sensible man, the latter being of greatest importance. With many it has become a custom to attribute the causes of failure in the production of orchard fruits to a lack of adaptability in the tree to its surroundings, when in reality the chief cause of failure in a large majority of instances has been gross neglect on the part of the planter. An ordinary tree in a moderately favorable location and under the management of an observing, intelligent and painstaking man will prove a far better investment than the very best tree planted in the most favorable location and left to the care of an indifferent and shiftless cultivator. To some, such remarks may seem harsh and unwarranted, nevertheless they are true. I wish to note four of the principle causes that in the past have proved destructive to our orchards in general throughout the northwest, namely: sunscald or body blight, girdling or gnawing by mice or rabbits, root killing by severe freezing and the work of the apple tree borer. There are other minor causes, such as early seeding of the orchard to grass, lack of proper fertilization in the soil, the severe pruning of large branches out of the proper season etc. all of which in a greater or less degree prove detrimental to the thrift and continued life of orchard trees. He then gave some preventatives for the destructive influences known to work to the detriment of the orchard. His entire paper was so soundly practical and so full of real interest to the farmer who is struggling to keep his orchard in proper trim that we wish the Democrat had space to print it in full. However Mr. True closed with a short talk on the proper location for an apple orchard which he said was settled in favor of a northerly exposure, or even an elevation or hill top in preference to a southern slope and a clay or clay loam is preferable to a mucky or sandy soil. He named as the three best apples in each season of the year, as, for summer, the Tetofsky, the Duchess and the Charlemoff. For fall, the Wealthy, the Plum Cider and the Fameuse or Snow. For the winter, the Wallbridge, Northwestern Greening and the Malinda.

A male quartette rendered a vocal number which was much enjoyed by the audience, before G. H. Van Houten took up the discussion by saying that horticulturally Iowa was in an advanced state of backwardness. Speaking of Iowa in general he did not wholly endorse the list of apples as presented by Mr. True, especially the Wallbridge, though he did not doubt Mr. True's statement as to their adaptability to this part of the state. Mr. Van Houten advocated the raising of apples at home, for then you have them cheaper, as many as you want and when you want them. L. G. Clute endorsed this selection of apples, only substituting the Ben Davis for the Plum Cider.

N. Griffith, C. H. Cruise and Jos. Hutchinson, who should have assisted in the discussion of testing milk at our creameries, were absent and F. W. Bouska therefore opened the question.

Mr. Bouska was a favorite before the audience at once for his manner was very pleasing and his method of explaining not only concise and clear but very entertaining. Indeed to the farmers present Mr. Bouska was an agreeable surprise, turning out to be not the mere school boy he looked to be but a thoroughly posted and clear headed man with a reasoning ability of no mean stature. He explained that though many creamery patrons did not believe the Babcock test reliable and much fault was found therewith, it was at the same time reliable, and further explaining, said the variations in the percentage of butter fat in milk are due to natural, accidental and unaccountable causes. Rough treatment of the cow, exposure, change of diet or of milkers, excitement and sickness, these are some causes of variations. From a chart covering a period of nine months from December to September, Mr. Bouska gave the fluctuations in milk produced and quantity of butter fat therein of one cow during each month and from which he concluded that the greater the quantity of milk given, the lower the test and vice versa. An animated discussion was precipitated at this time by the question propounded by Mr. Van Houten asking Mr. Bouska if he believed with Governor Hoard that it was impossible to feed quality into milk. Upon affirming that he did so believe, Mr. B— brought about spirited controversial opinions from not only Mr. Van Houten, but also L. G. Clute. James Clugston and others took sides with the affirmative and the twilight hour came all too soon for the interested debaters and the not less interested listeners.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

This session was a well attended and most interesting meeting, full of instruction entertainingly worded. Hon. R. W. Tirrill gave the first address of the evening on "Agriculture in the Orient." Fresh from a year of travel in the countries of the east, Mr. Tirrill spoke with understanding and at no time did the attention of his hearers lag under his interesting treatment of the question. The honorable gentleman stated that the first fifteen years of his life were spent on a New Hampshire farm. He then described the recent European trip so enjoyed by his wife and himself, always showing the optimistic side of the picture, even asserting that sea sickness was absolutely necessary on ship board in order that a fellow feeling between the passengers be established. At Gibralter the milk merchant drove his flock of goats from door to door milking a quart for this customer and that as called for, and thus since seeing is believing making it doubly certain that the milk was fresh and the real article. In other places Mr. and Mrs. Tirrill saw cows driven and milked in like manner. Following this many bright thoughts on the different places visited were sent out by Mr. Tirrill, and finally in Egypt, the "Child of the Nile", he again came in touch with the tiller of the soil. He spoke of how wonderful it was to see the crops raised and the tools used in their cultivation in that country. The natives start in with two camels about a rod apart with a pole between to which is attached the plow. They plow a furrow and then plow another a few feet from the first and so on. Then after irrigating the soil, they raise surprising crops. They were plowing sowing and reaping, all at the same time, no seasons being defined as far as Mr. Tirrill could see, though writers on the subject give Egypt two seasons. Mr. Tirrill also gave some very interesting notes on the points visited by them in the Holy Land, and throughout, his address was one well worth the hearing. T. N. Arnold sang a pleasing solo, which was heartily appreciated by his audience.

T. N. Arnold favored the audience with a very pleasing solo following Mr. Tirrill's closing words.

Hon. G. H. Van Houten then picked up the subject where Mr. Tirrill left off concluded a clever talk on Agriculture in the Orient. He saw the donkey and the camel driven together in Palestine, and among the many things he did see, he did not see once a team or single animal harnessed. They have no harnesses there. The ground is cultivated on shares by the Turkish government and when the crop is ready for harvesting the farmer gets a government official, whose duty it is to make the division to perform this duty, often having to bribe the agent that he may receive his quota of the season's crop. Mr. Van Houten described the gardens of Jerusalem and other valleys in that vicinity, leaving his hearers with a shuddering horror at the unhealthful condition of the drinking water etc. as used by the Arab and native. He also had a fund of witty anecdotes, charmingly told, which in all kept the listeners in constant and good humored attention. In the valley of Jezreel are broad plains and every evidence of a considerable amount of agricultural activity. There are no fences. The natives are very saving and Mr. Van Houten concluded with a few illustrations of their mode cooking and the economy shown by them.

A chorus of about twenty five voices sang Italia to the delight of the audience after which an adjournment was had until Thursday morning.

THURSDAY FORENOON.

The Thursday morning session was called to order about half past ten, F. L. Durey taking the Secretary's chair until the arrival of T. Wilson.

The attendance was rather small but as the program progressed, the farmers gathered in until the Court room was very comfortably filled. The best of it was everyone there was deeply interested in what was being done and said. It was a bright alert congregation of our intelligent farmers. After the invocation by Rev. C. A. Highfield, a quartette of gentlemen singers, Austin D. Brown, H. L. Rann, Noble Arnold and Harry Toogood, with Mrs. H. L. Rann accompanist, won the favor of the audience by their ever enjoyable singing.

F. L. Durey in his paper on "The Most Economical Feed for the Average Farmer" said: Considering the value of the average farmer's land in Iowa, it will be plainly seen that everything grown on the farm should be utilized, so that we may obtain the most value from each acre, and still conserve the fertility of the soil. This can be done by raising corn and clover. Putting the land to clover prepares it for a big corn crop. It clears the land of weeds. The roots open the soil and enrich it. Mr. Durey prefers a little timothy sown with the clover, thus obtaining a larger crop of hay. In view of the fact that we must raise the fodder to get the corn, it would seem that this fodder would be the most economical feed. The cost of harvesting a corn crop with a corn harvester is about the same as husking it in the field. And the feeding value of an acre of corn fodder is not far from that of two tons of timothy hay. So it will be more profitable to have more acres of corn and less acres of grass. Touching the matter of shredding corn fodder, Mr. Durey said: My stock run to shredded fodder in the barn at night, and corn on the stalk day times in the pasture, with a little clover hay and straw. They have made a good gain all winter. He concluded: All things considered I think that corn fodder is the most economical feed. But not even corn fodder makes all the stock so glad as does clover hay, from the milch cow down to the brood sows and chickens.

M. E. Blair followed with an informal talk, in which he advocated the feeding of clover hay, as the most economical feed for the average farmer, it is always clean and leaves no refuse.

G. H. Van Houten talked from an extensive knowledge on this subject. He urged the necessity of rotation of crops and said this was the only way to ward off the need of the commercial fertilizer which is rapidly forging westward. He said much that was instructive but space does not admit of its repetition.

Jas. Bishop in his paper on the subject recommended rye straw, both horse and cow relish it. Barley straw is also relished by the stock. Corn fodder met the approbation of Mr. Bishop. He said from his own experience, he had found it cheaper to cut and shred his corn than to husk it from the field. There is as much rough feed in an acre of corn fodder as in an acre of hay, and you have the corn besides. He considered timothy hay, though desirable, very expensive and concluded with the opinion founded on personal experience that straw and shredded corn fodder was most economical.

Mr. C. Martin here treated the assembly with a song number "Treasures That Gold Can Not Buy," and a real treat it was indeed.

L. G. Clute, an ensilage man, claimed for his favorite feed that it is easiest handled, easiest fed, and less waste, from the expense point of contention, it is decidedly cheapest and all in all, it is best. It costs Mr. Clute about fifty cents a ton to put up his ensilage. Many people silo their clover.

This ensilage question was comparatively new to many of the institute members, and L. Matthews, another advocate of the silo, was called for. Mr. Matthews claims there is more good feed in six acres of ensilage corn than in ten acres of any other feed. The discussion on this subject was probably interesting to more farmers present than any other subject on the program and questions were freely asked and cheerfully answered. From this interchange we learned that while it takes three acres of pasture (hay) and feed to keep one cow through the winter, one acre of corn ensilage will keep a cow seventeen months.

Chas. Clute opened the discussion of "Is It Profitable For the Average Farmer to Raise and Fatten His Steer Calves?" Mr. Clute's paper was bright and witty and received hearty applause at its close. He began by saying: Brother farmer, if your steer calf is well bred and you feed him as he should be fed, a good shed for him in winter, warm water in his yard that he may drink several times a day, it will pay you to raise and feed him. The carload of steers, with plenty of hogs to pick up, what might be wasted, along with the dairy cow make the three money makers of the farm for Delaware county. After telling of the breeds of calves he did not like, Mr. Clute spoke of the Aberdeen Angus, black as midnight saying "This is the fellow that it pays to feed." He followed this with a few words of sound advice concerning the proper feed for the calf from babyhood to the time when the steer is ready for the market. The paper was certainly one complete and full of real help to the farmer who wishes to know how to properly choose his steer calf and fatten him for the market.

C. C. Hoag agreed with Mr. Clute as to the Aberdeen Angus, and thought it almost a necessity for the average farmer to raise his steer calves. He suggested in the feeding shredded corn fodder, husked corn, shelled corn mixed with other foods to produce bone and fat, and to balance the ration, a feed of ground feed.

M. I. B. Richmond did not believe it advisible for the average farmer of Delaware County to raise his steer calves, stating that in his opinion they should be disposed of under the age of one year. Dairying is primarily the industry of the Delaware County farmer, and the raising of the steer calf entails the need of a separate pasture.

G. H. Van Houten said he did not think it paid a dairy farmer, who by the way is not an average farmer, to raise his steer calves.

It was after the hour of twelve when this discussion ended, and the meeting adjourned until one o'clock.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The Court room was filled to a nicety Thursday afternoon with a representative gathering of the farmers of Delaware, the county of Iowa. And it was an assemblage of men and women who were neat of appearance, whose faces shown with intelligent thought, and who are withal the kings and queens of our common weal.

The election of officers was quickly accomplished; A. S. Coon, president; and T. Wilson, secretary; being re-elected by an unanimous vote.

T. Wilson, secretary of the association, then read a well written article on Good roads. Mr. Wilson's paper should be printed in full, but again our enemy "space" reduces us to the extremity of giving but a few of his thoughts at this time.

The first great requisite in road building is drainage, the foundation on which the road rests must be dry at all times. Macadam, the great road builder, favored instead of the big stones, the native soil dry as the best foundation upon which to build the durable road. Over this dry mother earth should be put a waterproof covering, the thickness of which should be regulated by the quantity required to make the foundation waterproof. Mr. Wilson closed with the statement that Good roads have a money value to all who use them, pointing out in his argument:

They save time and power in the moving of produce to market.

They enable the producer to take advantage of rises in the market.

They are a great saving of horses, harness and conveyances.

They would go a long way towards solving the rural district problems. Among them the consolidation of our country schools and free mail delivery.

They ought to advance the values of farms.

It seems to me if we would take into consideration, the small loads, the greater time, the tear and wear of our horses, our vehicles and our tempers and at times our almost total inability to get anywhere or take advantage of a sudden rise in values, and the losses resulting therefrom, and all directly chargeable to our present system of road making. I say if we would only give these facts our earnest study, we would all willingly give our help and our money toward any feasible plan of getting permanent roads and that at the earliest possible moment.

W. B. Robinson gave as an estimate of the cost of macadamizing the 1000 miles of Delaware county roads, as one million dollars. The Macadamizing of the principal roads $350,000, and his sum would have to be raised by taxation. The farmers are generally against so vast an outlay for permanent road making. Mr. Robinson's experience in this line of work also has tended to show macadamizing is not practical in this county. He thought it unfair too that one part of the county should be taxed for the benefit of any other section, and favored the reversion of the taxes for road building to the township from which they had been collected. He also suggested in place of the present system and with the amount of road tax levied a plan whereby at least three time as much work would be done as under the present system It is consolidate the 8 districts of the township into one road district; let the Township Trustees appoint a Township Superintendant of roads, to oversee all road work, subject to the direction of the board and to dismissal by them at any time, the Trustees to direct the expenditure of all road funds either of work done or material furnished. The statute laws of Iowa provide that any township may adopt this plan at its option.

Miss Mary Link gave a highly entertaining paper entitled Looking Backward. Miss Link is a woman of uncommon ability and her paper was thoughtful, bright and interesting.

Mrs. M. J. Yoran charmed the audience with her rendition of "There Little Girl, Don't Cry," a song made more beautiful by the sweet voice of the singer.

"Shall we have Graded Schools in the Country", was answered in the affirmative by Mrs. Lizzie Irmscher in her paper. And in a studiously written article, the author sums up as the reason why, that better work can be done by teacher and pupil. There was much quotable material in Mrs. Irmscher's paper, she has had practical experience in the school rooms and her paper was valuable as coming from one whose opinion is to be heeded.

Our English friend, Geo. H. Millard sent his paper on this subject, he not being able to attend in person. We doubt not but that the worthy gentleman was looking for trouble when he wrote the article, which was, however, a good one, and evidently written from the fullness of his heart. H. J. Schweitzer took up the further discussion of this subject and gave a scholarly and practical resume of the question.

A song solo by A. D. Brown, "They All Love Jack" delighted the audience and won hearty applause for the singer.

Following this, State Superintendent of Schools, Richard C. Barrett was introduced. Mr. Barrett spoke on Rational Problems Relating to Rural schools of Iowa in which he deplored the fact that though in 1880 the Federal Census gave Iowa the lowest percentage of illiteracy, the census of 1890 placed us third, Nebraska and Wyoming standing ahead of us, and which condition exists today. There are 333 schools in the state whose average daily attendance is less than five: 2557 with an average daily attendance of less than ten, 4300 less than fifteen; and 9300 less than twenty. Bringing this matter home, he illustrated from Bremen township, in this county. In 1880, Bremen had a population of 993, average attendance in schools, 107, number of teachers employed, 6. In 1900, population 968, a decrease of 25; average daily attendance in schools, 53, or less than one half what it was in 1880; same number of teachers. A number of other illustrations, from Coffin's Grove, Manchester and from Cedar County, went to show the status of the state schools as to illiteracy, etc. Mr. Barrett advocated the consolidation of the country schools. A map illustrating the Buffalo Center system of county schools was exhibited and explained. Mr. Barrett stating that this method was a lessening of the cost per pupil in the running of the school. In addition to this it provides an encouragement to the farmer to stay on the farm, for one reason the farmer moves to town is to obtain better school privileges; you can have better school houses for your children. The schools can be connected with the Superintendent's office by telephone, and the centralized school will make his work easier of accomplishment and his office of more use to the several districts. These higher educational advantages, with the rural mail routes bringing the daily paper and the keeping in touch with the great outside world is going to do much to keep the farmer boy and girl upon the farm. Mr. Barrett said that after all, if you have the best of buildings, the finest of organizations and a poor teacher, the work is of no value; and vice versa, you may have the poorest organization and a good teacher, and that school is a winner.

At the close of Mr. Barrett's address an executive committee was elected, the members thereof being, F. L. Durey, E. H. Blanchard and C. C. Hoag. The report of the Good Roads committee was read by chairman M. E. Blair, and adopted. It was as follows.

FIRST, In view of the fact that good roads bring the farmer nearer to market. Therefore be it resolved.

That we favor a myre uniform system of constructing and manufacruring on highways.

SECOND, Resolved, that we would recommend larger road districts, which will require less road supervision and less systems of working the roads, and if our road taxes were all paid in money and expended under the supervision of competent person, it would give better roads. Signed.

M. E. BLAIR.
F. L DUREY
A C. SEWARD.

The Committee on Resolutions also reported to the Institute, Chairman R. W. Tirrill reading the same, which were approved, as follows.

Whereas: The Delaware County Farmer's Institute has been an educator to its members, as well as those attending its meetings, whereby useful knowledge through the interchange of wide experiences has been disseminated throughout the entire county, showing a degree of development in diversified husbandry unparalelled in former years before the organization of this Institute.

Be it therefore:

Resolved: That we here today, at the beginning of this twentieth century, pledge ourselves anew to its best interests, and that we will as individual members use our utmost endeavors for the continuance of this great work along the same beneficial lines, and that we will try by all persuasive means to enroll among our members the names of all farmers and farmers' wives of Delaware County.

Resolved: that we are under great obligations to the Hon. Geo. H. Van Houten for the very useful information he has given us during this meeting and especially for his excellent and interesting address on Palestine. Also we desire to thank S. B. Shilling for his valuable information on farm separators.

Resolved: That we tender our hearty thanks to the President, A. S. Coon, and all officers of the Institute for their untiring labors in making this Institute meeting a success.

Resolved that we have been highly interested in all of the addresses which have been made during this meeting, whether written or oral, and that we tender our grateful acknowledgments to all speakers.

Resolved: That our hearty thanks are hereby extended to all singers who have given us interesting and artistic music, and especially to those artists who have attended at the piano.

Resolved: That our thanks are due to the Hon. Richard C. Barrett, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Iowa, for his exceedingly interesting lecture on the subject of Rational Problems Relating to Rural Schools.

R. W. TIRRIL
MRS. H. W. SABIN } Com.
C. H. TRUE

This committee also offered the resolution printed below concerning the support by the Delaware County farmer of the Grout bill.

Whereas: There is now pending in the United States Senate, a bill placing a tax of ten cents per pound on oleomargarine colored like butter, and,

Whereas: We believe that such tax is just and fair and will if levied benefit one of the most important industries in the country and protect the public from fraud,

Therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Delaware County Farmers' Institute in session this 31st day of January 1901, that we request and urge our Senators from Iowa to use all honorable means for the passage of said bill, and that the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to both our Senators at Washington.

DELHI.

[Too late for last week.]

J. H. McMeel and Pat McMeel, of Lost Nation, visited friends here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Blanchard visited Greeley friends Tuesday.

Charles Getske, of Earlville, transacted business here last Tuesday

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. George Oehler on Wednesday, January 16, a son.

Mrs. E. J. Carpenter, of Earlville visited her mother, M. White, east of town Tuesday.

The little eight months old son of Mr. and Mrs. George Moulson died last Tuesday. Funeral services were held at the house on Thursday morning conducted by Rev. Salisbury. The bereaved parents have the sympathy of all in their loss.

O. J. Jamison and daughter, Miss Edith, were shopping in Manchester Tuesday.

Mrs Barney McMeel and children of Mead Center, Kansas, attended the funeral of her mother, Mrs. McElMeel here last Wednesday.

Mrs. McElmeel died at her home east of town last Thursday, aged 84 years. Services were held in St. John's church here Wednesday morning conducted by Fahter O'Meara.

John Daker, of Milo township was in town Saturday.

F. A. Doolittle transacted business in Monticello Tuesday.

Frank Byerly and wife returned Friday from a two weeks oisit with relatives at Anamosa.

Mrs. O. D. Stone is quite ill with the grip.

Byron Clark was a business visitor at Guttenburg last Tuesday.

At a regular moeting of the M. B. A. lodge Friday evening the following officers were installed for this year. President, W. Z. Phillips; vice-president. G. M. Hummel; secretary and treasurer, B. A. Stone; conductor, Rynard Dyreman; watchman. J. M. Mast; sentinel Albert Meister; chaplain, R. J, Van Antwerp.

John Hartman had the misfortune to have the flesh torn off his thumb in a feed mill Saturday.

George Seeley was up from Anamosa Friday and Saturday visiting friends.

J. W. Swinburne transacted business in Earlville Tuesday.

Joe McElmeel was here from Fonda to attend his mothers funeral.

Fred Doolittle was a business visitor at Nashua last week.

Last Wednesday evening J. G. Eberhart delivered a lecture on "His Thrilling And Romatic Adventures as a Missionary in Arizona", it being the third entertainment given here for the benefit of the school library. The lecture was very interesting, but only a few attended as there is so much sickness in town. The next entertainment will be given by the Polyphone February 18.

Dr. Ferry is visiting at Independence.

Epworth League social at E. H. Blanchard's on Friday evening, Feb. 1.

COGGON.

John Knox and family will start for their new home at Mission, Washington, about the 26th of February.

Mrs. Andrew Dewoody enjoyed a visit from her friend and old schoolmate, Miss Maggie Belman, from Manchester, the latter part of last week.

John Ward, of Carbondald, Illinois, will visit his sister, Mag Ward, at this place one day this week. Mr. Ward is chief clerk under B. J. Gillease road superintendent of the Illinois Central Railroad.

Master Joe Wilson had a narrow escape from drowning last Thursday evening. He was playing on the ice which broke through and Joe went to the bottom, the water coming up around his neck. His companions helped him out. It was pretty cold at the time, and he was shivering like a good fellow by the time he got home. He does not care to repeat the performance.—Monitor.

ALMIRA.

The merry chime of the slegh bells are heard once more.

Seth Hamblin was a caller here Friday.

Nell Sullivan's little girl has the scarlet fever.

Mr. Savage, of Ehler, was through these parts on business one day last week.

Mrs Charley Sheppard, of the Bay visited with relatives here Friday.

Several from here attended the big dance at Ryan last Friday night. One hundred and nineteen numbers were sold and a good time was had by all.

Pete Hugh of the Bay was a caller here one day recently.

John Beacom, of Ryan was through here last week buying cattle.

Wm. Haigh Sr. has been quite sick the past week.

Olie Thomas will have a sale in the near future. We understand that he will rent his place and take an easier part in life.

Dr. Donnely, of Ryan, was a caller here Wednesday.

HOPKINTON.

Miss Amy Chaplin of Sand Spring was the guest of her sister, Mrs. John Good, during the past week.

The deal was made yesterday by which J. J. Kirkwood becomes the owner of the 130-acre farm of Stephen Green, east of town, the consideration being $6400.

P. M. Littlefield has sold his 120-acre farm to Frank Reed and Jay Griffith, the consideration being $55 per acre Mr. Littlefield has now disposed of all his real estate holdings in this section.

S. P. Carter, J. S. McConnell, Prof. Wilson and and C. Joseph expect to go to Missouri next week to look up the lead prospect and determine where the first drilling shall be made.

H. H. Wheeless has completed the canvass for a third rural mail route to run east from Hopkinton and the petition has been sent to the authorities at Washington for their approval. The route extends nearly to the Dubuque county line, evading Sand Spring both going and returning, and will serve about 74 families.

Chas Cramer and Miss Agnes Hogan were married last Monday morning at Argand, Rev. Father Murphy performing the ceremony. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hogan and is well spoken of by those who have her acquaintance. The groom is well known to the people of this vicinity. The newly marriedcouple have returned to Hopkinton to make their home and are receiving the congratulations of n merous friends.—Leader.

County Finances.

To balances of the different funds on hand at the close of business Dec. 31 1900 as shown by Treasurer Matthew's report were:

County fund	$9694 58
State fund	59 76
School fund	521 95
School house fund	257 00
Contingent fund	576 67
Teachers' fund	2520 07
Apportionment fund	290 35
Bridge fund	2276 50
Poor fund	3320 80
Poor appropriation fund	300 00
Institute fund	119 00
Dog fund	269 50
Manchester cor fund	20 85
Sinking fund	4 04
Firemens' fund	2 03
Library fund	2 02
Sewer fund	1 01
Hopkinton cor fund	45 95
Earlville cor fund	2 84
Greely cor fund	74
Colesburg cor fund	17 77
Edgewood cor fund	6 74
Insane fund	14 39
Soldiers' relief fund	819 35
Health fund	91 81
State University fund	2 05
Special Poor fund	245 48
Game protection fund	10 00
County road fund	3108 98
Road fund	990 17
Permanent School fund	604 37
Temporary School fund	513 60
	$26,710 26

Transfers.

Julia Duerst to C M Andrews lots 10, 11 and 12 in block 1 Dundee	$1000 00
Anna J Sickles and husband to Frederick Zothnam lots 1, 2, 3, 7, 4 in block 1 Wood & Woodruff's add to Dundee	350 00
Agnes Brock to G H Jacobs and wife n 30 feet of lot 18 McNamee's add to Colesburg	300 00
Augusta G Ames by Excr to W D Hogan lot 276 and e½ of lot 277 Manchester	3700 00
Wm J Good and wife to B E First w½ nw¼ except s 11 a sec 35 and e½ ne¼ except s 11 a sec 26 87-3	6900 00
J F Sutton et al to W H Long com at sw cor of sw¼ sec 2-88 5 e 8 chains 98 96¼-100 chains w 8 chains s 9 96¼-100 chains	200 00
Carrie Thompson and husband to F B and Alice J Slauson nw¼ ne¼ and ne¼ sw¼ sec 24-87-3	1800 00

The chewing tobacco with a conscience behind it.

No Premiums! Wetmore's Best sells on its merits.

Made only by M. C. WETMORE TOBACCO CO. St. Louis, Mo.

The largest independent factory in America.

The Maid was in the GARDEN.

hanging out the clothes and met with a most unpleasant accident. Why not send your clothes to the Manchester Steam Laundry to be laundried and this save all trouble at home? You can get better work for less money at a first class laundry than you can in any other way. Clothes called for and delivered promptly.

'PHONE 238

MANCHESTER STEAM LAUNDRY,

SOMETHING FINE IN

TEAS and COFFEES.

If you have not tried a pound of that fine CHERRY BLOSSOM, uncolored Japan Tea or a pound of that M & J Coffee that we are selling, you had better come in and get a pound. We know that it will give you satisfaction.

Yours,

T. N. ARNOLD.

JUST RECEIVED!

A new stock of up-to-date patterns in triple and quadruple-plated

FARWELL the JEWELER

Silverware

Articles which make fine Wedding and Christmas Presents.

A COMPLETE STOCK OF

WATCHES

for the coming holiday season, with Boss, Crescent, Fahys and Dueber cases, fitted with Elgin and Waltham movements.

FARWELL THE JEWELER.

Special Inducements to Buyers of Overcoats.

If it has been your intention to wear your old coat this winter and buy a new one next season, perhaps this cold weather has changed your mind. Anyway, we would like to persuade you to change it; and perhaps good material, good styles, at special low prices, will. In fact, we will make you prices that will make it profitable to iuvest in an overcott this winter.

We have all styles in Men's Overcaots from which to select. Also a splendid line of Youths' and Children's Overcoats and Reefers. Some day when you are chilly and overcoat thoughts come into your mind, call in and see how comfortable we can make you, and what excellent bargains we have to offer.

L. R. STOUT,

THE LEADING CLOTHIER.

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Shirts Shirts Shirts Shirts

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what flour is the most popular with the housewives of Manchester, or Delaware County, what would you

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You would say Quaker Mill Flour, o course. Because there is more of that kind used in Manchester, or Delaware County than all the other brands put together and we've got the credentials to prove it.

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Don't Let Any One

make you believe the inferior stuff he ships in is worth 15 or 20 cents a sack more than the flour made by us. Buy a sack of "QUAKER" flour and get a towel free. It costs no more than our other high grades.

QUAKER MILL COMPANY