

Miss Olive Tucker is home from Chicago.

J. M. Stewart is among our sick this week.

Mrs. Tom Elder went to Dubuque Monday.

Miss Faye Ford went to Osage Thursday for a short visit.

Frank Roney of Independence spent Sunday with relatives here.

Gildner Brothers quote special prices on overcoats this week. See their adv.

About sixty couple enjoyed a dance in the Pythian Hall last Thursday evening.

H. R. Wolcott leaves this week for Columbia Falls, Montana, where he has secured a position with a lumber firm.

Mrs. Squire, of Spencer, attended the Farmers' institute, and while there was the guest of Mrs. J. B. Rutherford.

Mrs. Cassidy, mother of the late John Cassidy, died Sunday afternoon at the Cassidy home on Fayette street.

Elmer and Ted Copeland attended the funeral of their stepfather, Geo. Stamp, at Strawberry Point, last Wednesday.

Miss Bessie Thorpe and M. Powers attended the wedding of Julia Stone and John Powers at Waterloo, last Wednesday.

S. S. Shilling was elected president, and P. H. Keiffer secretary, of the Iowa State Dairy Association, at the meeting held at Mason City last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Meskimen leave to-day for Carlsbad, New Mexico, where they expect to remain during the remainder of the winter weather.

Chas. O'Hagen died last Sunday at his home in Masonville. The funeral services were held yesterday.

He was postmaster at Masonville and for several years past had been one of the most prominent business men of that place.

Miss Julia Stone, daughter of Mrs. Ellen Stone, and Mr. John Powers, were united in marriage last Wednesday morning at St. Joseph's church in Waterloo, Rev. Father Cooney performing the ceremony. Manchester friends extend congratulations.

Dr. P. E. Triem met with a painful accident Monday morning while coming in from the country. His team ran away throwing both the Dr. and the driver out, and breaking the Dr.'s right arm badly. He has the sympathy of a great many friends in this misfortune, all who hope the fracture will soon heal.

Geo. P. Blaisdell, a well known farmer of this township died of pneumonia last Monday, age sixty three years. He is survived by his wife and four children, two boys and two girls. The funeral services will be held at one o'clock this afternoon at the family residence four miles northeast of this city. Rev. J. E. Wagner pastor of the Methodist church officiating.

On Friday, February 10th, the members of the Congregational church and congregation, with their friends, will have a picnic supper in the parlors of the church to which all are invited, bring the whole family and a well-filled basket. The tables will be spread for your use and coffee will be furnished. The ladies are invited to come in the afternoon and bring their work with them and prepare for a good social time.

Mrs. M. Hennessey died at her home in this city last Friday. The funeral services were held at St. Mary's church on Monday forenoon and the remains were taken to Castle Grove—her former home—for interment. She was about seventy years of age. Prior to her removal to this city about thirteen years ago, she was a resident of Linn county, where her husband died in 1890. Mrs. Hennessey was a kind and affectionate mother, a good friend and neighbor. She is survived by nine children, five sons and four daughters, four of whom, Lizzie, Daniel, Maurice and Sheriff Thos. J. Hennessey are residents of this city.

Rev. J. E. Wagner, the pastor of the M. E. church, will begin a series of lectures on next Sunday evening on the fact of God, Christ and their works in earth. Not a set of dry, philosophical thesis, but a series of six live, wide-awake lectures, touching the vital life of man, and his best interests. These lectures are the product of several years work and ought to be helpful to every listener. The first in the series, to be given next Sunday evening, is, "How do we know that there is a God? What do we know of His character?" These evening services will be live with good music and good fellowship and earnest thought. Each lecture is a link in a chain. Hear the first one, and get the chain. Any honest skeptic is cordially invited to be present.

Mrs. Ichabod McDonald.

Mrs. Ichabod McDonald died at the McDonald home, one and one-half miles south of town, Sunday afternoon at one thirty o'clock, after a brief illness of lagrippe. Mrs. McDonald was born in Illinois, August 1st, 1843, making her 61 years, 7 months and 5 days old. She was a kind and loving wife and mother and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. Besides a large number of friends, Mrs. McDonald leaves to mourn their loss, a husband and two children, Minnie and Jesse, both of this place. The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock from the Universalist church, Rev. Mrs. Effie K. M. Jones, of Waterloo, officiating.

Mesdames Will Blake and J. B. Hoag entertained the six handed euchre club last Saturday evening. Refreshments were served. The prize was awarded to Mrs. R. A. Denton.

The Farmer's Institute.

(Geo. S. Lister's paper, continued from page 2.) and sheds are kept clean and well bedded, and see that the cattle have a tank of good water free from ice and protected from the west and north winds.

The Silo is a very economical means of obtaining winter feed. You can raise from 12 to 15 tons of fodder corn to the acre and there is no shrinkage to it. Everything will eat it with the possible exception of horses. I think this is by far the cheapest feed that can be produced on the farm. In connection with these feeds you will raise your hay, corn, oats, etc.

Marketing the cattle.—Raise as well bred stock as you possibly can. In raising the calves, whether you raise them on whole or skimmed milk, try to keep them in a good healthy condition and do not let them become emaciated or stop growing. Commence feeding them grain as soon as they will eat, first corn meal, shelled corn, cob meal, oil meal, etc., but give them a feed containing a large amount of protein, at least feed them as near as possible a balanced ration. Usually this class of calves will, at one year old, bring a good price. But I think the better way would be to put them on full feed ration as soon as circumstances will permit, and sell them fat at from 16 to 20 months old. By doing that you can dispose of the buyers to a better advantage. They will generally fatten a little faster than the steers, but will not be quite so smooth and will not sell within 50 to 75 cents a hundred weight as much as the steers. But that is disposing of them better advantage than you usually do.

Speaking of this "Baby Heft", I do not see why we should not mature and finish our cattle as we do our hogs. There are very few farmers who sell their hogs until they are fat and you can put flesh on a young creature much faster for the amount of feed used than you can on a more matured animal. Your Secretary said he was talking with Mr. L. H. Kerck, one of the largest feeders in Illinois, who said some years ago they discontinued feeding 4 year old steers and later they cut out the 3 year olds. He also said, I think the two year olds will have to go, and feed yearlings.

FRANK D. JOSEPH

I have been asked to write a few words regarding agriculture in our rural schools. In doing so I shall take the liberty of digressing somewhat from the real subject and treat it more in general relationship to our public schools. It is my intention to explain no wild cat scheme but shall speak of some things as possibilities. While not in full sympathy with the present movement for agriculture instruction I believe there is real value in its study. France, Germany and England require it in their course of study. Even in America some states make it compulsory.

My teacher is allowed to graduate from the Wisconsin Normal Schools without pursuing an elementary course. The people of that state are conducting county agricultural schools that give the farm boys a course equal to the other course in most state schools. A number of states teach the subject in their rural school districts, so we can see it is not a new one.

Some one has said that there is a crying need for agriculture in our public schools, and naturally we wonder from whom comes the cry. Is it from some one anxious to exploit his ideas before the people, or some book company shrewd to see the opportunity for profitable investment or is it the common sentiment of our people? We are inclined to believe the latter. Many persons, that a book company could not succeed in its avocative spirit but that the public believes agriculture a heaven of good to our rural community. We must all agree there is an ethical value in the study, whatever our minds may be regarding the method of teaching. The farm is shown to be worthy of study. The things about the farm are dignified as being worthy of scientific investigation. The pupil also learns that he may study the things near at hand and receive the mental power for which he is striving. And his pursuit is making his own pleasure.

Permit me to say, it matters little that I may think on this subject but it is what the taxpayer wants and is willing to pay for, that governs our public schools. In the few words that follow I desire to direct your attention along two lines of discussion. First—agriculture, its relation to our rural schools. Second—agriculture as taught in our county high school. These do not of necessity go hand in hand. Either will live without the other though perhaps the high school will receive more attention and reach a larger number of students if agriculture is taught in the district school.

There is a common idea about, that the teaching of agriculture means expounding the best methods in plowing, dragging, sowing, and reaping, or that some man in his office tells how to do these things with which the farm boy is already familiar. Such is not the case. In a simple way the child is led to observe the things about him, how the soil takes up the water—drainage—how plants feed—parasites of plants—weeds and crops—dairying—principles of feeding and animals. All these naturally tend to sharpen the intellect and stimulate an interest in nature, like the teach us to work with our hands as well as the mind.

Again we hear, "Our rural schools no educate the boy away from the farm." In this statement there is an element of truth. The study of history, civics, and biography does carry away from him nature's teachings. It presents to him the full grown man, active in the world's affairs. He sees the town or city as the home of his ideal and even pictures himself at no great future standing shoulder to shoulder with those who shape our nation's destiny. Is it any wonder, then, that an ambitious boy is fired to seek a city home.

I would not deprive him of these

ideals nor quench his fiery spirit, but I say if we could give him a greater love for nature's teachings he would cling to his ideals and in addition find friends in the birds, the bees, the old or the flowers along his pathway. Give him a little more of the Burroughs spirit, a keener appreciation of Ernest Seton Thompson or Thoreau, a greater desire for the things at hand and you will have solved to a large extent the question of the boy and the farm.

Since agriculture has an educational value, how shall it be taught? Should it be compulsory and have a place on our daily program? If we do this the time allotted for the recitation must be taken from some other branch. Our course is already crowded. Both teacher and pupils find themselves driven from one task to another. The branches that give definite information and upon which all other work is based, must not be neglected. I believe we should admit subject just so far as its educational value will permit. I believe in the essentials first, those of lesser importance after. Our teachers are not prepared to teach agriculture. They know little about it. Imagine, if you can, a young woman girl starting her first term of school and handling the subject of beef, cattle, dairying. I am afraid her reputation for wisdom would soon be shattered. Her standing in that community marred and her future injured.

But our teachers can learn. If given an opportunity they will make them selves proficient. Schools are necessary for this and at present we are not sufficiently equipped. We must have some place of training. A place where our teachers can get the practical as well as the book knowledge; for in agriculture the two go hand in hand as in no other branch.

I believe we can begin our study with the rural school library. Secure the best books at our disposal. Call attention to their value. Encourage, by parents and teacher, the reading of these books. Have our teachers devote a few special sessions each week to subjects of special interest. In this way our enthusiasm may be gradually worked up and our teacher equipped to teach the subject intelligently. Unless we pursue some gradual system of introduction our efforts will cause a vast waste of time.

In Dunn and Marathon counties, Wisconsin, secondary education in agriculture is brought close home to the farmers by means of a county school of agriculture. This was brought about, largely, through efforts of Hon. L. D. Harvey, State Supt. By comparing American educational system with those of European countries Mr. Harvey believed Europe worthy of emulation. He decided to take up the cudgel in behalf of county schools. It did not seem feasible to introduce the subject in the rural schools owing to lack of experienced teachers. As the county high school was not permissible he presented his cause to the legislature, secured proper enactments, with a fair sized appropriation. By the law passed, the state would pay one third of all running expenses providing they did not exceed \$2,500. This plan was so successful that the state increased its appropriation to \$4,000. Wisconsin has now two well equipped county schools, giving excellent instruction in agriculture, manual training and the science of teaching. At Menomonie the school includes agricultural and manual training while at Waupun a course in agriculture and science of teaching is given.

These schools were built and equipped at an expense of from sixteen to twenty thousand dollars respectively. (It might be well to say that a considerable sum was donated by private parties.) The annual running expense is about \$6,000. Of this amount the state pays \$4,000. Thus we can see the county has an excellent school with the total expense of \$2,000. The taxes in Dunn county have not been noticeably effected. The taxable property is ten and one half million dollars. Any person assessed \$100 would pay almost two cents toward the school. An assessment of \$1,000 would increase his tax less than twenty cents. At a glance we can see the annual cost to individual taxpayers is almost nothing.

In each school the tuition is free to all residents of the county. Those outside pay \$10 per year. The cost of living for those at Menomonie is about \$3 a week, but many board themselves for \$2 a week and even less. Since the school is located near the center of the county many pupils are able to attend school with much less expense as they receive many things from home.

In most town [high] schools certain requirements are demanded before one can enter the high school. This is necessary for the child's welfare. The requirements for entrance to the county agricultural school are only such as will enable him to carry on his work successfully. Any pupil can easily gain admission even though he may not have entirely finished the rural work. The common branches are reviewed, giving him a business training specially for his work. He would on completing his course know little about Latin or Geometry but could build a corner cupboard, make his mother a clothes reel or do, reasonably well, a job of blacksmithing.

The school at Menomonie is steadily growing in numbers, influence and efficiency.

Each year they hold farmer's institute in various parts of the county discussing carefully such subjects as you have at this Institute but to better advantage. Their teachers know the soils, the climatic influences, the dairying conditions, and can give more accurate information. Their experiments are made under conditions found at the farm thus making them more valuable. The whole community is aroused to intense interest in industrial education and their schools are famous throughout the entire United States. The farmer's children are receiving training in cooking, sewing, millinery, laundering, hygiene, home economy, blacksmithing, farm carpentry, rural architecture, stock feeding and care, soils, fertilizers, farm accounts, poultry, dairying and science of agriculture in addition to other branches.

A wave of interest seems to be surging over the country. The young peo-



Illustration of a man in a long overcoat standing next to a horse, likely related to the 'A Few Specials' advertisement.

A Few Specials In Overcoats.

We have a few extra good numbers left from our big sale that we want to close out within the next few weeks. If you are thinking of an Overcoat, be sure to see us before you buy. We know that we can convince you that we are saving you money.

- MEN'S OVERCOATS in black and blue Kerseys, to close, \$ 3.50
MEN'S OVERCOATS in blacks and fancy patterns, to close, 5.75
MEN'S OVERCOATS in gray and long full backs, also blacks, go at, 7.75
MEN'S OVERCOATS in the finer grades, going at almost half price
All Men's Wool and Cotton Fleece Underwear, 39c

GILDNER BROS YOUR CLOTHIERS.

ONE VICTIM IS DEAD

Banker Beckwith, Hypnotized, or Suggested, by Mrs. Chadwick, Passes to Eternity—Was Under Indictment.

Oberlin, O., Feb. 6.—C. T. Beckwith, president of the defunct Citizens' National bank of this city, is dead, only the family surrounded the deathbed of the banker. Beckwith was about 65 years of age. On Dec. 14 last the federal grand jury in Cleveland returned five indictments against Beckwith upon the charge of violating the national banking laws in connection with the loans made to Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick by the Citizens' National bank of Oberlin, of which deceased was the president.

From the day of his arrest Beckwith's health failed rapidly, as a result of worry over his troubles. He frequently declared during his illness that he wanted to die. The death of President Beckwith may materially weaken the cases of forgery and conspiracy to misapply bank funds, now charged against Mrs. Chadwick.

She was expected to be the star witness against her, and there is no way to perpetuate his testimony.

NO SENATOR FROM MISSOURI

Niedringhaus Says That Under No Circumstances Will He Withdraw from the Race.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 2.—The declaration of Thomas K. Niedringhaus, the Republican caucus nominee, that under no circumstances will he consent to withdraw from the senatorial contest, even though an important embassy was offered to him by President Roosevelt, has served to strengthen the prevalent opinion of the politicians that no senator will be elected at this session of the legislature. It was currently reported that such an offer was to be made so that had money in the Republican ranks might be restored.

The thirteenth ballot showed the following result: Cockerell, 78; Niedringhaus, 72; Kerens, 12; Pettijohn, 2; Solon T. Gilmore, of Kansas City, 1; G. A. Finkelburg, of St. Louis, 1.

Rev. Bentley's Mysterious Death.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 6.—Rev. C. F. Bentley, prohibition candidate for president in 1896, was discovered dead in a cheap lodging-house in this city, and the police are searching for a mysterious veiled woman who accompanied him to the place.

Miners Declare a General Strike.

Charleroi, Feb. 6.—The miners' congress by a large majority decided to declare a general strike today.

MONEY TO LOAN AT 5% TO-DAY.

I have a large fund to loan on first-class farms at 5 per cent. Will make loans from 5 to 10 years, with privileges.

J. E. Davis, Abstractor.

Main Street, North of Court House, Manchester, Iowa.

Mason Work.

Now I am ready to take contracts in mason work of any description.

C. P. MILLER.

The Commoner Mr. Bryan's Paper

Now is the time to secure Mr. Bryan's paper. All democrats need the paper and Mr. Bryan needs the support and cooperation of all true friends of reform. The Commoner has commenced to organize the democratic hosts for 1908. Mr. Bryan's advocacy through the Commoner of public ownership of railroad and telegraph systems, the election of U. S. judges and U. S. senators by popular vote, direct legislation, the overthrow of private monopolies (tariff reform and other issues, insures interesting and instructive reading as well as new life to the party. The Commoner and the Manchester Democrat both one year for the low price of \$2.15. Regular price of the Commoner, \$1.00. This offer applies to both new and old subscriptions. ADDRESS ALL ORDERS TO THE COMMONER, Manchester, Iowa.

BOWEN REPORTS SITUATION BAD

United States Diplomat May Be Handled His Passports by President Castro.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Dispatches received from Minister Bowen again give the Venezuelan situation a grave look: President Castro is expected back in Caracas, and the information from Mr. Bowen is that he will not be surprised if he then is handed his passports. Mr. Bowen does not believe Castro is acting in good faith in his informal offer to arbitrate all the disputes, except the asphalt controversy, but thinks he is only playing for delay.

From another source, the exact nature of which is not divulged, the president has been told that Castro wants to be received in order to avert revolution. State department officials take little stock in this theory, but the president thinks there may be something in it. Mr. Roosevelt went to Secretary Hay's home immediately after luncheon and talked with him more than an hour. Venezuela and Santo Domingo were the subjects discussed.

Just Robbed for Fun New York, Feb. 6.—Christopher Smith, arrested for numerous daring robberies in private residences recently, has confessed, and rather glories in being a sort of second "Raffles." It says he did not rob for the plunder, but for the enjoyment he got out of the excitement.

A GREAT OFFER.

Now is the time to supply yourself and family with

The Iowa Homestead (weekly) : : \$1.00

The Homemaker Monthly Magazine : : .50

The Farm Gazette (monthly) : : .50

The Manchester Democrat : : 1.50

Total : : : \$3.50

ALL FOR \$2.10.

Call early at this office and take advantage of this great offer.

Manchester Democrat.

Farm for Rent.

240 acres, one mile north of Petersburg, known as the Davidson farm, consisting of 60 acres of pasture, 35 acres of hay ground, balance plow ground. To the right parties, will rent the plow ground on shares; pasture and hay land for cash rent.

JOS. HUTCHINSON, Administrator of T. S. Davidson Estate, Manchester, Iowa.

Stock Reducing Sale.

For this week we submit a pagof Bargain News.

Clearing Women's and Children's Cloaks.

\$10.00 and \$12.50 garments, fine Kersey cloth, to close, \$5.00 and \$6.25.

\$8.50 garments, Cheviots and fine Kersey cloth, to close, \$4.25.

\$6.50 garments, Black and Kastor cloth, to close, \$3.50.

Every Cloak has a quick-selling price mark. In many instances, half is all we ask for these garments.

Fur Clearance.

We have not hesitated about cutting in order to accomplish a rapid clearance. ONE-HALF OFF on nearly every piece of fur in our stock.

Dress Goods Clearance.

1,000 yards of high class, all wool, Dress Fabrics reduced to fraction of former price. In the lot, every piece is an excellent value.

Waist Clearance.

You can save one-half on many of the season's best selling Waists.

200 Flannel Waists, tan and reds, good quality flannel, \$1.20.

\$2.25 and \$2.50 Flannel Waists, blues, greens and tans, choice, \$1.49.

B. CLARK.

DRESS GOODS

Just received, our first invoice of Spring Dress Goods and fine selection of New Novelties. You should see them.

Low Price to Close.

All heavy goods at reduced prices, especially in Cloaks, Fur Coats, and Heavy Dress Goods. You should see the prices we have made on some very desirable Dress Goods, in order to reduce stock. We can interest you.

Respectfully,

W. L. DREW

Kalamity's Kolumn.

Valentines

Valentines