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WESTMINSTER, MD., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 12, 1909.

VOL. 44.—NO. 18.

## IMPROVED FARM LIFE

### PRESIDENT'S COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION MAKES ITS REPORT

Suggests Co-operation, Sanitation, and Better Means of Communication

Washington, February 9.—The report of the Country Life Commission was today transmitted by the President to Congress, accompanied by a special message in the course of which the President says:

"At the outset I desire to point out that not a dollar of the public money has been paid to any commissioner for his work on the commission.

"Judging by 20 public hearings, to which farmers and farmers' wives from 40 states and territories came, and from 120,000 answers to printed questions sent out by the Department of Agriculture, the commission finds that the general level of country life is high compared with any preceding time, or with any other land. If it has in recent years slipped down in some places it has risen in more places.

"There are three main directions in which farmers can help themselves; namely, better farming, better business, and better living in the farm. The National Department of Agriculture, which has rendered services equalled by no other similar department in any other time or place; the state departments of agriculture; the state colleges of agriculture; the mechanic arts, especially through their extension work; the state agricultural experiment stations; the Farmers' Union; the Grange; the agricultural press; and other similar agencies, have all combined to place within the reach of the American farmer an amount and quality of agricultural information which, if applied, would enable him, over large areas, to double the production of the farm.

"The object of the Commission on Country Life, therefore, is not to help the farmer raise crops, but to call his attention to the opportunities for better business and better living on the farm. Those engaged in all other industrial and commercial callings have found it necessary, under modern economic conditions, to organize themselves for mutual advantage. The farmers of every progressive European country have found in the co-operative system exactly the form of business combination they need.

"It is not within the sphere of any government to recognize farmers' business or reconstruct the social life of farming communities. It is, however, quite within its power to use its influence and machinery to give publicity to the needs and facts. For example, it is the obvious duty of the government to call the attention of the farmers to the growing monopolization of water power. The farmers, however, all should have that power, on reasonable terms, for cheap transportation, for lighting their homes, and for innumerable uses in the daily tasks on the farm.

"It is true that country life has improved greatly in place with the health, wealth, and comfort, and that the farmers' earnings are higher than they were. But city life is advancing even more rapidly, because of the greater attention which is being given by the citizens of the towns to their own betterment.

"From all that has been done and learned three great general and immediate needs of country life stand out. First, effective cooperation among farmers, to put them on a level with the organizers of business, with which they do business; second, a new kind of schools in the country, which shall teach the children as much outdoors as indoors and perhaps more, so that they will prepare for country life, not as at present, mainly for life in town; third, better means of communication, including good roads and a parcels post, which the country people are everywhere, and rightly, unanimous in demanding. To these may be added the need of sanitation; for easily preventable diseases hold several million country people in the slavery of continued ill health.

"The government through the department of Agriculture, must coordinate any man's farm for him. But it does not put at his service useful knowledge that he would not otherwise get. In the same way the national and state governments might put into the people's hands the new and right knowledge of school work. The art of maintaining and developing the schools would remain, as now, with the people themselves.

"The only recommendation I submit is that an appropriation of \$25,000 be provided, to enable the commission to digest the material it has collected, and to collect and to digest much more that is within its reach, and thus complete its work. The commissioners have served without compensation, and I do not recommend an appropriation for their services, but only for the expense that will be required to finish the task that they have begun.

"The climate of this section of the Union has certainly undergone great changes since my boyhood days," said Mr. T. V. DeLomere, of Wheeling, W. Va., at the Carrollton Hotel, Baltimore.

"The winters are not like those as cold as they were in the '50s. I had 1859, particularly, as a year of intensely severe cold. Was then living in the back woods of western Maryland. A hard freeze came on the 6th of June. The following winter brought an immense amount of suffering to men, bears and birds. I recall finding near my home, one December day an entire covey of quail every bird of which was frozen as stiff as a chunk of granite."

**Brookes—Yingling.**  
Roger Gregory Brookes, of West Point, Va., and Miss Virginia Yingling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel K. Yingling, of this city, were married at West Point January 14, at the M. E. parsonage, Rev. E. W. Hudson, pastor, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Brookes are visiting the latter's parents, East Green street.

## FIRE-ALARM SYSTEM.

### A Necessary Adjunct to All Fire-Fighting Organizations.

Westminster is in the rush on every thing but the fire alarm system. It is time now for the people of the city to consider the needed improvement, which will prove a great saving in property and probably of lives. The alarm can be quickly turned in from any part of the city and the firemen will be on the scene much earlier than if they were notified by the old system, when, in so many cases, not one-third of the firemen were present at a fire, because of not hearing the bell. The people of our city do not stop to consider the real necessity of a fire alarm system, as soon do, which led to the calling of a special meeting of the Westminster fire company on Monday night last to take up the subject and consider its usefulness to the town. After a number of the members expressed their views of the fire alarm system the meeting adjourned to report at an early date.

From the meeting, the firemen went to Martin V. Shriver, proprietor of the Albion Hotel, who is the inventor of one of the latest fire alarm patents. After Mr. Shriver explained most thoroughly the workings of his invention, the firemen, about 25 in number, did not hesitate to say to Mr. Shriver that they were astounded at its striking qualities and workings, and would recommend its adoption.

The Westminster Fire Company most earnestly asks for subscriptions from the citizens of our city to help to install the "International System," patented by Mr. Shriver. The company has already received about \$800 in addition to the amount already subscribed, and asks for any donation from 10 cents to \$500 which will be thankfully received, and help to cheer our brave boys, who risk their lives to save property.

The system is to consist of 15 street boxes, which will be placed throughout the town, and 400 central devices, with 50 department strikers, and one 20 inch gong which will be placed on the front of the firemen's headquarters. Among them are a quarter of a mile when in action, which will cause an alarm from the bell in the tower, which now gives the general alarm.

The system can be put in operation in 30 days after the contract is signed. The questions are: Do you want our fire department to arrive promptly at fires? Do you want your properties protected from fire? Do you want to see our fire company succeed?

If so, please help by a liberal contribution toward the fire alarm system. A committee will make a house to house canvass within the next month.

Martin V. Shriver, the inventor of the international alarm system, has been working on his patent since 1894, and successfully completed the same in June, 1908. A number of cities are in communication with Mr. Shriver, and contemplate installing his system in Baltimore, Annapolis, Frostburg, Loudon, Oakland, Piedmont, Keyser and York Springs.

Mr. Shriver was called to Baltimore on Tuesday by a number of financiers who had the lead of large banking and brokerage firms in the city, and a half interest in his patent. A committee from Baltimore will inspect the system shortly.

## Epworth League Social.

February 5 the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Shipley, of Sandyville, was the scene of a very enjoyable surprise to Mr. Shipley, it being Mr. and Mrs. Shipley's 25th wedding anniversary. The program for the evening was in charge of Mrs. Gorchuch, of this department, after which Ernest Stockdale entered, all present with his Edison graphophone, and games of different kinds were also played. While the social was in progress a table of refreshments of cake and lemonade, about 10:30 o'clock the guests were invited to the dining room, where the repast was served, to which all did ample justice. In the wee sma' hours the guests departed expressing themselves as having enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

Those present were Rev. Frederic H. Ambrose, F. O. Shipley and wife, Butler Gorchuch and wife, Albert K. Hoff and wife, Noah Stockdale and wife, N. H. Shipley and wife, Dennis Green and wife, J. Williams Fleming and wife, Wilson Zepp and wife, Mrs. Jennie Conway, Misses Mollie Read, Jessie Matthews, Bertha Matthews, Adelle Hoff, Carrie Koontz, Ada Conway, Grace Glover, Florence Shipley, Myra Caple, Ada Glover, Myrtle Rhoten, Ogg, Beasi, Green, Viola Rhoten, Marie Stockdale, Helen Stockdale, Jabez Shreeve, John Zepp, George Glover, Jesse Close Walter Shipley, Horace Blizzard, Ernest Stockdale, Clarence Glover, Gladys Zeppo, Master Edgar Armacost, Charley Green, Earl D. Fleming and Edgar C. Fleming.

## It Was Cold in '50.

"The climate of this section of the Union has certainly undergone great changes since my boyhood days," said Mr. T. V. DeLomere, of Wheeling, W. Va., at the Carrollton Hotel, Baltimore.

"The winters are not like those as cold as they were in the '50s. I had 1859, particularly, as a year of intensely severe cold. Was then living in the back woods of western Maryland. A hard freeze came on the 6th of June. The following winter brought an immense amount of suffering to men, bears and birds. I recall finding near my home, one December day an entire covey of quail every bird of which was frozen as stiff as a chunk of granite."

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## BUYING MARYLAND FARMS.

### Men from the West Settling in This State.

A number of families from the West, who have bought farms in Maryland, arrived in Baltimore this week and are endeavoring to make the necessary accommodations and facilities to reach their new homes by the State Bureau of Immigration. Among the newcomers are J. Ohmsted and family from Nebraska, who has 270 acres in Dorchester county; B. Fitzer and family, from Ohio, who recently bought 100 acres near Cambridge; B. Bargmann and family from Nebraska, who also has 100 acres in Dorchester county. Two more families from Saak, Canada, have bought farms in Anne Arundel county. Engon Knauer and Fritz Braun, who have purchased a farm of 669 acres in Prince Georges county, arrived with their families some days ago, and also Joseph Maier and family, from Kansas, who has obtained a farm of 233 acres in the neighborhood of the Maryland Agricultural College, formerly of Manila, P. I., is looking for a farm near Laurel, and G. Sander, a well-to-do gentleman from Germany is at present negotiating for a big farm in St. Mary's county. Another big farm deal with a Western man who likes Maryland's waterfowl, the State was closed in Easton, Talbot county, Monday.

From the mass of mail received by Mr. Trappe, the dictum of Horace Greeley has been reversed, and "Go West, young man," is now the sentiment, a large majority of inquiries for Maryland farm lands coming from the western part of the country.

"All eyes now seem to be turned to Maryland," said Mr. Trappe to a reporter for The Star this morning, "and Maryland is now better known to the farmers of the country than any other state in the Union."

In proof of which assertion the secretary cites the fact that the demands in December and January for information as to farms on the market already exceeded those for September, October and November combined, and the ratio of increase is growing daily. Forty letters a day is the average at the present time.

Letters were found in the first mail this morning, with four more delivered during the day.

With practically all the homestead lands of the West pre-empted, explains Secretary Trappe, farmers are turning to the East in general and to Maryland in particular, for better social conditions in the border States, being especially alluring. Those who have tried the Far South have been disappointed, and the Far North has held no attractions, while Maryland offers all the advantages sought by the thirty farmer.

No less than 40 families from the West have recently settled in Southern Maryland, all speaking in the language of the land and fitting into conditions with the greatest ease and comfort.

## Surprise Party.

February 4 there was a total surprise given to Mrs. Emory Zepp, Maple Grove farm, near East View. The smiling faces of the host and hostess showed that it was agreeable for us to enjoy their hospitable home. The evening was spent in various games, music, and singing. At 11:30 o'clock the guests were invited to the dining room by Marietta, who had arranged everything that was pretty to the eye and more pleasing to the taste, consisting of cakes, mints, chocolate, nuts, fruits, lemonade, coffee and cocoa, to which all did ample justice. In the wee sma' hours the guests departed saying it was good to be here. Those present were Emory Zepp and wife, Thomas Shilling and wife, Frank Yingling and wife, Frank Stockdale and wife, W. H. Westaway and wife, Wilson Zepp and wife, Mrs. John Harman, Marietta Zepp, Grace Zepp, Grace Yingling, Elizabeth Klee, Maria Shilling, Maud Taylor, Mae Taylor, Dixie Shipley, Verge Osterhuz, Clara Green, Annie Stockdale, Myrtle Rhoten, Bessie Green, Katherine Cropper, Helen Harman, S. Parish, Ada Glover, Grace Glover, Jennie Harman, Edith Harman, Minnie Walking, Carroll Stockdale, Raymond Boughman, Raymond Shilling, Harry Klee, Louis Lee, Walter Stockdale, George Glover, Vernon Green, Leslie Gorchuch, Larry Flatter, Walter Shipley, Herbert Hill, Gilbert Brown, Horace Blizzard, Ernest Stockdale, John Zepp, Pan Green, Frank Pool, Vernon Rhoten, Roy Taylor, Charles Walking, Wm. Shilling and Berlin Caple.

## Centenary M. E. Church.

Next Sunday, February 14, in this church will be devoted to the cause of Foreign Missions. At 10:30 a. m. Rev. C. Herbert Richardson, D. D., pastor, will preach the missionary sermon, and at 7:30 p. m. Hobin T. Yokoyama of Japan, will make an address on "Why I became a Christian." The annual missionary collection will be taken during the day.

Preparations are being made for the Washington and Lincoln service to be held Sunday evening, February 21, the full program of which will be published in next week's Advocate.

## Methodist Protestant Church.

Sunday school and adult Bible study classes at 9:30 a. m. Public worship class at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sermon themes: "Mourning a Consolation" and "How Habl Made a Hero." Christian Endeavor meeting at 6:30 p. m. Wednesday evening prayer and praise service at 7:30, and at 8:30 teachers training class. Any Sunday school teacher wishing special preparation for his work will be very welcome to this class.

## Evangelistic Services.

Evangelist John M. Warden will preach at Grace Lutheran Church Sunday morning and evening. He will also conduct evangelistic services at the church every evening during the week at 7:45 o'clock. Everybody is invited. The prayers of all Christians are requested.

## AMENDMENT ALL RIGHT

### STRONGLY URGED BY STATE SENATOR

### PRICE, OF WICOMICO COUNTY

### Under Its Provisions No White Man Will Be Deprived of His Vote

State Senator Jesse D. Price, of Wicomico county, is heartily in favor of the proposed suffrage amendment to the constitution of Maryland. While in Baltimore one day last week, he said:

"The people of my county, and I should think of the counties generally, are vitally interested in securing the passage of this amendment, because it means so much to those counties and sections of the State which have large percentages of negro voters. My county was among the first that gave a majority for the Poe amendment, which was defeated in the State by the fear that its provisions might disfranchise a few white people among the foreign element of our citizenship. No sane man should have any objection to the present amendment, and we have the highest authority to prove the claim that no white man will be disfranchised by its passage, which should commend it to the favorable consideration of every citizen of the State."

"The President-elect, Mr. Taft, states plainly in a letter to Mr. Stone that the only persons to be disfranchised by its provisions are negroes. Cardinal Gibbons in an interview, although admitting he has never read it, states his opinion that it is anything but objectionable, and that it will disfranchise negroes, and concedes that no white man will lose his vote under it. In fact, all the leading lights in the Republican party of the State concede the same thing. If this is true, and the white people of the State are in favor of it, this amendment should carry by a large majority and I believe it will.

"The chief point of attack by those who oppose it is the 'grandfather clause,' or the principle of 'hereditary rights.' In these anything but remarkable for the State to preserve, without test, the right to vote to the sons of those who fought to establish this Government, and who, even though unlearned in books, have inherited instincts of true government. Will anyone contend that the grandsons of our white forefathers are not better qualified to exercise the right of suffrage than the descendants of a race that has never had the responsibility of self government? And has no one thing that should not be forgotten, and that is this, that the right to vote is not inherent, but a right conferred by the State. God has never created a voter, only the State creates them, and to deny the right to vote to those who haven't the right to say what restrictions shall be placed upon this privilege, the exercise of which can make or mar her prosperity and progress? Both parties believe in hereditary property. The Democratic party believes in the kind that negro voters have, which is composed of the great rank and file of the white people. The Republican party believes in hereditary voting also, but in that kind which comes into our midst through the vote of ignorant negro tramps to come into our midst through the vote of ignorant and worthless negro voters. We will be disfranchised, and we take the position that the best interests of the State demand that they should be. Under the educational and property qualifications of the amendment the property of the native negro voters will be able to register and vote, and I believe that any unprejudiced mind must admit that the migratory, vagrant, criminal negro, who will not be able to vote, will be perfectly safe in the hands of the government of this State, and will have a voice in the government of this State."

"When one hears the wall that is now going up in this State by the opponents of this measure that the 'wicked' Democratic party would disfranchise a large class of voters, one would think it was the party that had ever undertaken to disfranchise anybody. The history of the Republican party is one of disfranchisement from the beginning, the difference being that the Democrats have by constitutional and legal methods undertaken to disfranchise a few of the worst element of an inferior race, while the Republicans have tried, and I regret to say, sometimes succeeded, in disfranchising the flower of our white American manhood, without even the warrant of law.

"One of the arguments frequently used against the adoption of this amendment is that it would make Maryland a 'one-party State.' I do not believe this is true, and I believe that if this amendment were adopted there would be an increase in independent voting, and the fear that now keeps a large class of our voters from ever voting a Republican ticket on account of the negro would disappear. For the sake of argument, concede that it would make it a 'one-party State.' It would be the party that is controlled by two-thirds of the wealth and white intelligence of the State, and it is safe to say that the State would be perfectly safe in the hands, especially so with the added increase in independent voting. I can conceive of far worse things happening than that the great Democratic party should control in the State. I want to say further that Maryland is fast tending toward a 'one-party State' on account of the negro, and that party, the party that has for its chief asset 50,000 negro voters and with one more chance to change our election laws and let the bars down to 20,000 more negroes who will gladly flock into our State

and to the registration offices, we will have a 'one-party State' for good and all, and will go back and back in the scale of progress and have conditions far worse than we had in 1908, when they were in complete control in this State, and God knows that was bad enough.

"This question is so serious as to call forth the efforts and sympathy of every white man in Maryland and should induce them to rise up as one man, regardless of party, and settle forever this blight that is fastening itself on the politics of our beloved State, and, notwithstanding the adverse criticism and opposition of our opponents and of outside interference, we propose to explain the provisions of this righteous measure in every corner of this State and make a winning fight for its adoption at the polls."

Citizens of Westminster were surprised and delighted Sunday afternoon by the appearance of something entirely new in the automobile line. This was a car of the Automobile type, equipped with a miniature pipe organ of 25 reeds and anything may be played upon the car, as played upon an ordinary organ. The notes are not harsh, like those of the calloph, but are peculiarly sweet, and it is said they can be heard for nearly a mile in the open country.

The car remained in Westminster nearly two hours, and all who could do so got within range of its music. Residents along Main street hurried there until the notes died away in the distance. Mr. Leinbach, who had charge of the car, stopped at several points and furnished a variety of selections upon request. O. G. Hoff, Baltimore sales manager of the Olds Motor Works, performed on the organ during the tour.

R. Abner Parks, of this city, boarded the car here and piloted Mr. Leinbach through the town. Western Maryland College was visited and the boys and girls treated to a serenade.

Members of the party say the machine created a sensation all along the road from Baltimore to Westminster. At a church this side of Beltsville the congregation adjourned long enough to go out and hear several hymns played by Mr. Hoff. They were so much pleased that the minister probably will have had some difficulty in getting the organ back into the church had the occupants of the car consented to remain.

It is certainly a great advertisement of the Oldsmobile, and if it should be placed upon all cars the approach of an auto would come to be regarded with pleasure instead of the antagonism which now greets it from drivers of less pretentious vehicles.

## MUSICAL AUTOMOBILE.

### Instead of the Horses "Hoak, Hoak," the Machine Plays All Sorts of Tunes.

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## NO LINCOLN WAY.

### Project for the Great National Boulevard Abandoned.

Washington, February 11.—The project for a national highway from Washington to Gettysburg, to be known as the "Lincoln Way," was today definitely abandoned. The opposition of the House killed the proposed boulevard. Yesterday in the House the plan to make Lincoln's birthday a national holiday was temporarily killed because the members of the Lincoln Way would not permit the national holiday to become a law unless the Lincoln Way amendment was adopted.

Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, today relieved the deadlock. He asked the Senate to recall the House bill which it passed several weeks ago providing for the Lincoln Way and making Lincoln's birthday a national holiday. This was done, as the Senators recognized that unless they surrendered the Lincoln Way project, the national holiday could not be created. With the Senate bill out of the way the Senators consented to accept the House bill and it was passed.

The action of the Senate in surrendering the Lincoln Way makes the outlook for the future of this great highway dubious. The House has shown plainly that while it favors some great memorial, such as a park or an arch in Washington, it is opposed to the Lincoln Way, and the Senate showed today in surrendering its own bill for the way that it is not seriously committed to the plan, and that when Senator Knox leaves the Senate there will not be sufficient support for legislation for a Lincoln Way in future.

## Mrs. Eckenrode Surprised.

Mrs. George F. Eckenrode, Liberty street, was surprised by a number of her friends on Friday last, it being her birthday. The guests assembled at the residence of Judge Eckenrode and proceeded from there to the home of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Eckenrode. When the guests rushed in upon Mrs. Eckenrode, she said, "I thought you'd do this. The evening was most pleasantly spent in cards and a number of other games manufactured for the evening. Refreshments were served to all.

Those in attendance were Judge and Mrs. John E. Eckenrode, John Shuman and wife, Harry H. Harbaugh and wife, Charles L. Thomson and wife, Geo. F. Eckenrode and wife, Albert Thomson, wife and children, David E. Walsh and wife, Wallace Gogel and wife, James L. Stoner and wife, E. O. Diffendal and wife, Mrs. Fred Eckenrode, Mrs. John Steffy, Mrs. Frank Shaffer, Misses Margaret Eckenrode, Grace Yingling, Anastasia Sinnott, Maggie Eckenrode, Flora Steffy, Mary Steffy, Mae Stoner and Ada Jerome, W. Harry Cassell, John Case, Elmer Shriver, Thomas Case, Harry Berwager, Vernon Eckenrode, Leonard Eckenrode, Harry Thomson and others.

An automobile that swallows its own dust is described in popular Mechanics. Pipes suck up the dust from the rear wheels and draw it into a box, from which it is again deposited on the road in granulated form.

## DEATH'S HARVEST.

### Well Known Residents And Others Who Have Passed Away.

### Zepp.

Mrs. C. W. Zepp, wife of C. W. Zepp, of Reese, Md., died suddenly at 1:30 p. m. Friday, February 5, aged 34 years, 7 months and 15 days. She was not taken ill until Thursday about 1 p. m. Mrs. Zepp before marriage was Maggie B. Caple, daughter of Mr. Sarah J. Caple and the late Hezekiah R. Caple, of Sandyville, this county. Mrs. Zepp was survived by her husband, 3 children, Earl, Elton and Tolby; her mother, Mrs. Sarah J. Caple; and the following brothers and sisters: Daniel E. and Harry B. Caple, of Muscatine, Iowa; John M. Caple, of Beloit, Kansas; Harvey B. H. Roy, Misses Emma M. and Fannie B. Caple, of Sandyville.

The pallbearers were Frank Brightwell, M. C. Green, Wm. Leister, Edgar Lockard, Wm. Eckenrode and Marshall Flater.

Short services were held at the residence, followed by services at Pleasant Grove M. E. church by Rev. Amrose, pastor, assisted by Rev. Betts, Frank C. Sharrer undertaker.

Mr. Zepp wishes to thank the many friends and neighbors who assisted him in his bereavement.

The choir was led by Frank Magee, of Sandymount M. P. Church. Among the many hymns sung were "Nearer My God to Thee," which was always a favorite of the deceased.

### Schaffer.

Mrs. Emily J. Schaffer, formerly a resident of Prizelburg, died at her home in Baltimore on Saturday, February 6, aged 62 years and 4 months. She leaves a husband and a number of children, two brothers—Ephraim Haffey of Prizelburg, and Jacob Haffey, near Markers Mill—and a sister, Mrs. Sarah Duder, of Prizelburg. The body was brought from Baltimore and interred at Baus's Church on Tuesday, Rev. G. W. Buchanan officiating, assisted by Rev. Smith, of Baltimore.

### Haines.

Ephraim Haines, a well-known resident of Carroll county, died at his home near Medford at 8:30 last night, in his 61st year. Mr. Haines was stricken with paralysis about 4 years ago. Two weeks ago he had another stroke, and this, complicated with other diseases, caused his death. Deceased was sheriff of Carroll county from 1897 to 1899, and had since been living on his farm near Medford. He leaves children, 2 daughters and 5 sons—Emma and Ella Haines, Harry of Baltimore; Carroll and Roy at home—and 5 brothers, James, of Taneytown; William, Samuel, John and Thomas, all of New Windsor. Funeral services will be held Sunday at 12 m. at Winter's Church, New Windsor.

### Slonaker.

Mrs. Amanda Slonaker, one of the oldest residents of Unton town, died Wednesday at the home of her son-in-law, Samuel Harbaugh, in her 83rd year. Mrs. Slonaker was the widow of Andrew Slonaker, of Unton town, and the last survivor of the seven children of the late David Slonaker. She leaves two daughters and five sons—Mrs. Samuel Harbaugh, Mrs. Reuben J. Mathias, of Unton town; Howard, David, Charles and Joseph Slonaker, of Baltimore; and Bradford O. Slonaker, of Taneytown; also 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

### Murray.

Ephraim Murray, the oldest citizen of Hampstead district and a lifelong resident of that locality, died Saturday night. He was 87 years old. Mr. Murray was a farmer, and one of the most prominent and influential citizens of that section of Carroll county. Politically he was an earnest Republican. His widow survives him, and he leaves three sons—William Murray, of Baltimore; Richard and Harry Murray, of Hampstead. His funeral took place on Monday.

### McGirr.

Annie McGirr Jones, wife of Dr. Edward L. Jones, died at her home in Cambridge, Md., January 23. Deceased was the eldest daughter of the late Francis A. and Eliza McGirr.

### Corn Show.

The corn show held in Westminster at the Farmers' hall was quite a success. The exhibits were numerous and of a high standard.

An address on the subject of selection of seed corn was delivered by Professor Nash, of the Maryland Agricultural College, to the large crowd assembled.

The first premium was awarded to Upton M. Gladhill, of Avondale, for bright yellow and white corn; 1st premium for white corn was awarded to Jacob Rader, of Sandyville; 1st premium for white capped corn to Christopher Schnable, of Smallwood; 2nd premium to John Leese; 3rd premium to Geo. A. Leister; 4th premium to Adam Rupert.

Among the numerous exhibits were Lewis Green, Thomas J. Miller, George Neudecker, Wm. Zent, John H. Leister, Elias G. Shipley, Michael E. Walsh, Adam Rupert, Joseph A. Lepore, J. Jacob Basler, John L. Breckenridge, Andrew Dreschler and others. Professor Nash judged the exhibits.

### Westminster Soldier Honored.

Having served in campaigns of the country's wars and been in action, two commissioned officers and four enlisted men of the Maryland National Guard will be entitled to wear the campaign medals shortly to be issued by the War Department to the organized militia.

One of the men to be honored with a medal is Capt. John N. Weigle, Company H, First Infantry of this city, for service in Cuba, in the Ninth Infantry and with Parker's galling gun detachment, Fifth Army Corps, 1898.

When not soldiering Captain Weigle puts in his time as foreman of Smith & Reifsnider's lumber yard.

## AEROPLANE CONTESTS

### \$300,000 IN PRIZES WILL BE OFFERED DURING THE PRESENT YEAR

### France is Taking the Lead in Their Development.

If the record of the past year is a safe criterion, France is about to take as prominent a part in the development of the aeroplane as she did in the invention of the automobile. Although the invention of the automobile is by no means to be ascribed to the French alone, no one will dispute them the credit of having been the first to develop the machine to a point of speed and reliability at which its rapid commercial success was assured. Similarly, we may expect that the great enthusiasm and liberality with which they have taken up the problem of mechanical flight will result in the production of a new aeroplane, which, in reliability, speed, and range, will be as perfect as those automobiles in which the French astonished the world a few years ago by winning 200-mile road races at speeds of over 50 miles an hour. We say this with no disparagement of the American work that is being done, on a much more limited scale, in this country; indeed, we must ever remember that the most brilliant flights of the past year were achieved by an American-built machine of a purely American design. The strong position held by the French people have taken up this new form of locomotion, the large number of intelligent men who are building and trying out various types of aeroplanes, and lastly, the great liberality with which the art is being stimulated by the offering of attractive prizes.

Evidence of the great hold which the new sport has taken upon the French people is afforded by the fact that the French company which bought the Wright patents has in hand orders for the construction of thirty-three machines. The Voisin brothers, builders of the type of aeroplane used by Farman and Delagrange, and also M. Pelletier, are building several orders on hand, and outside of these three firms there are other less well-known builders, who are constructing machines ready for the forthcoming season.

It is estimated that altogether some \$300,000 will be offered for contests during the coming year. One of the latest is a single prize of \$2,000 which has been placed at the disposal of the Aero Club of France. It is to be open to all types of flying machines, and dirigibles not exceeding 1,200 cubic meters capacity. The prize will be won by covering a 105-mile course. The most notable aeronautic meeting of the year will be held at Brescia next September, when prizes to the amount of \$20,000 will be offered. The leading event will be a trial for a distance of 93.2 miles over a quadrangular circuit, to be laid out on a plain comparatively free from villages, trees, or other obstructions. It is also announced that the abandonment of the Grand Prix race for aeroplanes has rather encouraged than otherwise the promoters of the Anjou Flight Cup, the contest for which is to take place from Angers to Saumur and back, a total distance of 80 miles. It has even been suggested that the Grand Prix of the motor car Grand Prix be taken by a big aeronautic meeting to be held some time in September.

Finally, the offer by the Daily Mail of a \$25,000 prize for the first crossing of the English Channel during the year 1908 by an aeroplane has been extended by that journal to the present year, and the amount of the prize has been increased to \$5,000. In view of the fact that Wilbur Wright has been even been suggested for a contest between three aeroplanes, the French as that which separates the French and the English shores, there is no question of his ability to win this prize, should he be willing to take the risks involved. The chief, and practically the only risk would be that of the stopping of the motor, and the danger of alighting on the sea might be eliminated by fastening a couple of light racing shells to the runners below the planes, and choosing a perfectly calm day for the attempt.

### Orphans' Court.

Monday, February 8.—The last will and testament of Annie M. Murray, deceased, admitted to probate, and letters testamentary thereon granted unto Joshua M. Patterson and Jesse M. Patterson, who received warrants to appraise real estate and personal property, also order to notify creditors.

Letters of administration on the estate of John D. Stem, deceased, granted unto John S. Crabbs, who received order to notify creditors and who reported sale of personal property.