A New Departure.

A very important movement is under consideration by the ladies of Leon which if successful, will certainly work great good to the town. It is no less than the project of the organization of a Village Improvement society.

A reciprocity meeting of all the women's clubs of the city was planned for and was most successfully carried out at the home of Mrs. R. L. Parrish last Friday, at which the subject was thoroughly discussed and considered. Months had been spent in preparation for this meeting to the end that all possible information might be gained and laid before the same. Inquiry had been made of other towns which have such societies and the results were presented in such a way as to inspire all with confidence as to the feasibility and desirableness of just such an organization in Leon.

Papers were read by members present as follows: "Village Improvement in Our Neighboring Cities," Mrs. Cummins; "What Village Improvement May do for Education," Mrs. Lew Jackson; "Would a Village Improvement Society be Feasible in Leon." Mrs. C. M. Ketcham. These papers are so instructive and suggestive that for the benefit of all interested we take pleasure in presenting them to our readers at the request of the meeting as a whole. A committee composed of nine ladies was selected as an executive body representing the woman's clubs and the public spirited non-club women of the town and this committee met at the home of Mrs. J. W. Harvey Saturday afternoon and formulated plans for further action.

The co-operation of the town council is to be earnestly invited in the furtherance of the good cause as is also that of every good citizen, man, woman and child. When the preliminary plans are perfected a mass meeting is to be called for the purpose of organization. This will probably be within two or three weeks and due notice of same will be given later. Following is the paper read by Mrs. Cummins last Friday. Other papers will appear later.

Village Improvement in our Neighboring Cities.

A paper read by Mrs. Ruby Steadman Cummins at the Reciprocity meeting of the Leon Women's Clubs, Oct. 10, 1902.

In collecting material for this paper I have found and been supplied with so much of interest that I hope you will pardon and bear with me if I give you a little more than cold facts, I find there are so many interesting things connected with village improvement.

Women are always the leaders. With their knowledge of cleanliness, their desire for order, their love of the beautiful and artistic, they show patriotism by furthering on this work, sometimes with the city council, sometimes alone. In some cities the ladies have only to plan and supervise and the city stands ready to meet the expense. Some cities are voting a special tax for this work.

I will endeavor to tell you in as brief a manner as possible what some of our neighbors have done and are doing to improve the beauty of their cities and to add to the comforts of its visitors and citizens as well.

I find that Chariton was one of the pioneers in village improvement and will now tell some of the things that have been done. I gleaned some information while there this summer, then I shall give you the benefit of a few thoughts from a paper written by one of her ladies and the leader in the improvement movement, Mrs. Jessie Mallory Thayer.

Though Chariton did some of the first work in Village Improvement, many other towns who had cemetery associations years ago, developed them into Village Improvement clubs, notable of which is Osceola, of which I will read a report later.

Mrs. Thayer says, "As a rule it is not the lack of Civic Laws, but that they are not in operation, which produces the slovenly, ill-kept town. In our case we find upon investigating that we had ordinances galore; laws piled upon laws and some of them regular blue laws, but many of them quite unobserved by authorities and people. Why, said his Honor the Mayor, "If I was to demand strict obedience to every law that is on our books, nearly all our best citizens would be in jail." Hence we should first know that we have reasonable, sensible laws and then insist that they be carried out to the fullest extent." She suggests that anyone who is able to rent or own a home ought to have pride enough to keep the grass out and to plant flowers. Also, that though not so agreeable but quite as important is the consideration of the back yards of a town. In our own town, I am sure if you will drive or walk in the alleys instead of always upon the main streets, you will find the back yards far from what they should be in most cases. And though some may say it is no one's business how his premises are kept, yet let that not discourage you. It is someone else's business if that same back yard breds illness and fevers to your family. It is generally the families of others that pay the penalty for the neighbor's neglect and carelessness.

Noting further from Mrs. Thayer's "Pleas for Village Improvement:" Let us address ourselves to the rear end of this problem, and show that every woman can care for and burn her own rubbish; have the tin cans buried in the alley, covering them with cinders and ashes, and thereby make a good road instead of the mudhole which is so often the chronic condition of the alley. "Don't throw things away. Where is the 'away' to which we consign things? It does not exist. It is amusing to note the satisfaction with which many a notable housekeeper says, 'I have my garbage taken 'away' twice a week." She does not realize that there is no 'away,' and that the garbage is only transferred from her premises to some place where it will breed malaria for other people's children instead of her own. And the load of old tins which she delights to be rid of is deposited in a conspicuous spot by some pleasant country road—a blot on the landscape greeting the eyes of all who pass. What she says of teaching the children to help is very true. They can be taught that by doing some things by not doing others they can tender great aid to their town. Teach them not to throw their school papers into the street, not to throw down the envelope and paper wrappers as they come out of the post-office; not to throw down fruit parings for some one else to pick up, or to lie and decay, breeding evil germs. Teach them that there is as much patriotism in picking up the remains of Fourth of July pleasures as there is in scattering them broadcast over the town. In their effort to care for the waste paper they placed boxes on the streets for the reception of the same. I noticed boxes of this kind in the parks in Chicogo, but particularly in the streets of Columbus, Ohio, which is noted for its beauty and cleanliness. There, men are kept upon the streets continually, sweeping and cleaning the pavement and carting away refuse.

You have noticed men in the large parks you have visited, going around with a long, sharp iron, picking up the scraps and depositing them in a sack slung over his shoulder, and didn't it make you feel rather sneaking if you were guilty of throwing paper, fruit peel, etc. for him to pick up?

The improvement of cemeteries is almost a sacred task. It makes one feel that there are loving hearts left behind when the city of the dead is tenderly cared for.

"In addition to its possibilities for fanning the flame of practical patriotism, says Mrs. Thayer, the Village Improvement Club is an organization which should make community life happier. It is a common ground whereon all citizens should be able to meet in perfect accord. The very broad air of the Village Improvement Club necessitates the co-operation of both men and women. The women alone have done excellent work in many instances. but they have had the assistance and sympathy of the men in their tasks or they oftentimes would have failed. They can aid greatly in the work. Teachers in our schools should appreciate the value of this work."

Some amusing anecdotes are told resulting from the visits of our committees to the primary grades. One small boy astonished his family after one of the appeals to the children, by rushing into the house and exclaiming, "oh, mother, can I pay ten cents and go out and clean up the streets?" while one baby girl carried a loose paper in from the lawn and said solemnly, "mamma, burn this quick or the improviation will be after us."

If two or three families will take the trouble to keep the grass cut, not only inside their fences but outside, too; park the strip of ground between the sidewalk and the street, plant trees, shrubs and flowers it will not be many seasons until the contrast between the well kept places and the old order of things will make itself felt, not only from the aesthetic standpoint of beauty, but from the more practical point of view, real estate value.

In Chariton we began on the town cow. five years ago, (which is ten now, the paper having been written in 1897) our streets were common pastures. For many years our citizens as individuals sought the council to give us an ordinance restraining stock, but the possible loss of future votes overbalanced the weight of individual petitions. Organized effort however, proved of more avail and the improvement club secured the much needed stock law. The "poor widows' cow," is restrained where she cannot break down other poor widows fences, ruin their gardens and make a general nuisance of herself. After downing the innocent cow, we began our attack of the far less innocent back alley. We found the accumulated filth of many years and in comparison with the task the town cow paled into nothingness. We are now after the loose papers thrown into the streets. Nothing is easier to dispose of than a piece of paper, but alas, nothing is so lasting, so unsightly as that piece of paper when sent out into the world.

Now right here let me tell you what the merchants in a thriving Kansas town do with their papers and trash. They have a brick lined pit built in the back alley, into which all rubbish is put and burned every day. Leon might profitably use this suggestion from the looks of some of her back alleys.

But to finish up the subject of the work done in Chariton. The railroad company promised the Improvement Association if they would see that their right of way was not used as a dumping ground, they would spend some money to beautify the R. R. property. This they have done as you who have visited Chariton know. The triangular piece of ground between the tracks at the depot is fenced, nicely grassed, and upon a raised pillow of greensward the name Chariton is placed in large white letters of chipped stone. I was told that each ladies' club planted and kept in good condition a flower bed in the city park which they transformed from a forsaken looking place into a blooming garden.

They are not doing much this year, one reason being lack of support of the citizens, another Mrs. Thayer, the leader in the work is not able to devote her time to it on account of her father's sickness.

In the report kindly sent me from Osceola by Mrs. Warren Lewis, I find they are keeping up the good work they have already done but the rainy season has prevented them from doing much this year. As they started out a cemetery association, they still keep up that work and have full charge of the cemetery. Every lot is cared for alike including the Potter's Field. The object of their association is to assist the council in the improving and beautifying the grounds and lots of the cemetery and the village and to keep the same in good order from year to year. Then follow these plans and methods of procedure, including amounts of sums raised for certain parts of their work. They have trimmed the trees, placed the name of the cemetery in the sod near the entrance and had stones repaired. They have placed flowers about the court house, had the names of the streets placed at each corner and furnished half the fund for the clock on the court house tower. A park and parklet have been secured from the Q. R. R. Co. Flowers are kept blooming in the parks. The railroad park took considerable care to keep the newly seeded grass from dying out, the flowers here also made the place beautiful. One plain seat was bought for it. Four porch settees were bought by different organizations and placed in the city park. This proved a failure in that they were not made plain and stationary. (Reminds us of what was done in Leon by the P. E. O. ladies doesn't it! and how the seats were nearly all ruined.) Four barrels painted black and the word "Refuse" upon them, were placed on the square to be cared for by the marshal. This did not prove all they hoped for, but Mrs. Lewis adds, "If the marshals had been ladies it would have worked all right," also, "It has been noticed that our village has taken more pains with its lawns and belongings and the influence of an improvement society has been felt for the good of the town. They now have a tax on cemetery property holders which aids them in the care of all the lots. Some of their topics for consideration are: "Pleasing Church Surroundings," "Our Parks," "Unsightly Vacant Lots," "Fresh Paint," "Garbage Disposal," "Care of Alleys," "School Sanitation," "Sidewalks and Parking in Front of Homes," "Lawns" and "Vine and Tree Planting." We are glad to have such a good report from a close neighbor.

(*Continued next week.*)

What is Worth While in Life.

A paper read by Mrs. Frank Long before the Decatur County Farmer's Institute.

Man is a social being, and whatever plan leaves out the social side of his nature is a failure. Much has been written and said on the isolation of the farm, but with the daily mail and telephone facilities distance is annihilated, and one might as well live on the farm as in Boston as far as keeping abreast with the times but with all these modern improvements, man needs social cultivation, especially in the rural district. It has been said the telephone is a great promoter of sociability, but I don't agree with my friend; it may promote friendliness but I can imagine quite the contrary effect. You call your friend, over the 'phone on business or pleasure and many of the receivers along the line come down with a click. Sociability means companionship ready to unite in general interest those inclined to company. How then shall we promote sociability on the farm by organization?

We live in an age of combines, all kinds of business and labor are organized for financial betterment and the farmer and his family can't afford to be behind the procession. The earliest farmers' organization of which I have any knowledge was the Grange, out of this grew the Daughters of Ceres, whose object is natural improvement and recreation and free discussion for the purpose of gaining knowledge. This is the fundamental principle of all our modern clubs. In some neighborhoods a mother's club might be most wise where the latest and most scientific knowledge on the care of the child from his earliest moments, also on management and all that pertains to his mental and moral well being. Others might prefer a home maker's club where all that goes to make a successful home both culinary and artistic might be discussed. Still others might prefer a social club, where one might meet his friends and be merry, something similar to the one in Leon called the Laugh and Grow Fat Club. I suppose the grow fat part of the club consists of something more substantial than laughing, likely something good to eat. The ladies north of Garden Grove have a very democratic organization, inviting all the ladies in their territory to membership. They call themselves the Rutheans; their object is religious as well as literary work, their meeting being opened by scripture reading and prayer. They have had an organization of four or five years, the last two years they have used the Bay View course of reading. Then there is a young Ladies' Club whose members live south and east of the Grove and they call themselves the C. H. C. and is modeled after the C. C. C., with an afternoon meeting of the ladies for literary improvement and an evening meeting monthly when they invite their best fellows and as many friends as they care to and have a good social time. Then there is the C. C. C. club of which I am a member which celebrated its seventh anniversary December 7, and has demonstrated that it is possible to have its meetings throughout the year even in a sparsely settled neighborhood and the wish has been expressed that like Tennyson's brook it may go on forever.

I might go on indefinitely mentioning clubs and their work but enough has been said to show the practicability of club work even on the farm. Some object to clubs on the ground of no time for farmer's wives to attend meetings of this kind but it is a very poor manager indeed that cannot take an afternoon once in two weeks to attend a club. In summing up the benefits of organization it is not only the pleasure of social intercourse with those who are congenial but the mental stimulus and up lift that comes from an association with the brightest and best in literature. My observation is the best club women are the wisest mothers and the best home makers, that organizations of this kind strengthens one for their home duties and helps to make life worth living. There is no neighborhood but what ought to have a club of some kind and I know of no way that the social conditions on the farm may be improved so satisfactorily as by organization.

To Cure a Cold in One Day

Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

The Next Attraction at Opera House "Gillhooley's Reception"—A Farce-Comedy.

Manager VanWerden announces for Monday, Oct. 20 an Irish Farce-Comedy with the above title. It is like all the farce-comedies of today—very little plot—just enough to interest one and keep them guessing as to what is coming next. A drama that is produced with a deep plot upon broad lines could not be otherwise. A farce-comedy is put upon the stage to make you laugh with the least thread of romance. Such is "Gillhooley's Reception." Reserved seats are now on sale at VanWerden's.

Trial Jurors for November Court.

J. L. McCutchan—Eden.
B. D. Barger—Leroy.
C. P. Mickleson—Fayette.
Fred Boyce—Garden Grove.
Frank Bowerman—Burrell.
J. A. Bullock—Burrell.
A. D. Curry—Morgan.
Samuel Wheeler—Garden Grove.
Joe Donelson—Fayette.
W. C. Young—Richland.
Joe Willis—Fayette.
H. J. Culver—Garden Grove.
George Jennings—Eden.
P. H. O'Grady—Richland.
W. H. Shields—Grand River.
S. F. Reed—Leon.
E. G. Murry—Long Creek.
Eugene Stanley—Bloomington.
James Martin—Bloomington.
Charles France—Fayette.
Frank Riddle—Decatur.
Peter Brenneman—Grand River.
E. J. Robinson—Fayette.
Ed Gillette—Fayette.

If You Use Ball Blue,

get Red Cross Ball Blue, the best Ball Blue. Large 2 oz. package, 5 cents.

New Court Cases

Julia R. Chase vs. N. M. and T. J. Gibson. Suit is brought to foreclose a mortgage for $100 on two lots in Leon. Harvey & Son attorneys for plaintiff.

Mollie VanBeek wants a divorce from E. O. VanBeek. They were married at Ottumwa April 15, 1900 and lived together until July 1902 when she alleges he deserted her. She also asks for alimony in the sum of $1,000. Hoffman & Jackson attorneys for plaintiff.

S. M. Campbell also wants a divorce from his wife Mary A. Campbell because she has treated him cruelly and been guilty of adultery. They were married at Keosauqua, Feb. 16, 1902 and their honeymoon only lasted until April 1st when they separated. Hoffman & Jackson attorneys for plaintiff.

Laura A. Snyder is also in line asking for a divorce from Hartley Snyder on the grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment and non-support. They were married in Leon on March 31, 1900, and have one child a boy two years old in December. She asks for the custody of the child and $800 alimony. Hoffman & Jackson attorneys for plaintiff.

P. M. Coop requests that he be granted a divorce from Amy A. Coop to whom he was married in April 1891 and lived with her for three years when she deserted him without cause. George W. Baker and Ed H. Sharp attorneys for plaintiff.

George Stone vs. Charles Bradshaw. Suit is brought for $300 the amount of a surety note which plaintiff has paid for defendant and an attachment has issued against his property. Hoffman & Jackson attorneys for plaintiff.

W. F. Main Co. vs. Galloway & Ruffcorn. Suit is on an account for $120. Geo. W. Baker attorney for plaintiff.

Yellow Clothes are Unsightly.

Keep them white with Red Cross Ball Blue. All grocers sell large 2 oz. package, 5 cents.

Entertained.

Mr. Chauncey Bogue entertained a number of his young friends at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Caldwell last Saturday evening. All report a jolly time. Those present were:

Misses:—	
Lucy Cave	Nellie Dobson
Bessie Pritchard	Lew Smith
Lizzie Akes	Ida Holmes
Mary Sears	Bertha Hanner
Maud Kentner	Zora Cummins
Emma Akers	Iva Pritchard
Morna Cochran	Jessie Hanner
Nora Dobson	Nellie Sutherlin.
Messrs:—	
Orey Clark	Ernest Cummins
Ira Akes	Lloyd Bogue
Otto Pritchard	Lew Kentner
Fred Millsap	Sam Shy
Ray Cave	Clyde Wagoner
Glen Millsap	Bert Millsap
Jake Smith	Grover Sears
Lon Smith	Lew Dobson.

License to Wed.

The following marriage licenses have been issued by Clerk Kehler since our last issue.

J. R. Bashaw. 62
Mrs. Mary J. Warner. 58

High Grade Men Wanted.

We want a first-class man to sell our Standard Stock Food in this County. He must have good ability, some knowledge of live stock, be in good standing in every way and a steady worker. He must have a team and give all his time to the business. A permanent business for the right man and will pay well. Address, giving age, experience, present business, etc.

THE F. B. SANBORN COMPANY,
8-4t Omaha, Neb.

Hosiery! Flanneletts! Underwear! Furs!

These four articles of wearing apparel is what we wish to call your attention to this week. Our stock was never larger, the values more greater, as found at this store this season. Goods are new, first-class in every respect and guaranteed to be just as represented or your money back.

UNDERWEAR

We carry a nice line, and our prices are exceptionally low. Would be pleased to have you call and look over the line.

HOSIERY

We are proud of our hosiery stock. Got the best assortment we every had. Would like to show you our line.

FLANNELETTS

Our line will be found to be a hummer. In fact we don't think there is a better line in the city. Prices range from 5c to 10c per yard.

FURS

Largest and swellest line of furs ever brought to Leon. We want you to come in and look at this beautiful line whether you buy or not.

Fancy Millinery.

New fresh goods are arriving every day to fill in the gaps made by the heavy sales this season. You always find the latest styles in this department and the prices are always reasonable.

Cotton Bats at 3c Each!

Only a few left and when these are sold it closes the sale.

THOMPSON & WARNER.

DRY GOODS. MILLINERY.

The Farmers Institute.

The Decatur County Farmer's Institute held in this city last Friday and Saturday was a little better attended than the institutes of former years and the meeting was both entertaining and profitable to those who attended. The session was presided over by Ralph Baker who has always taken an active interest in institute work. There were a number of very interesting papers on various topics read before the institute, after a very able address by the president. Mrs. Frank Long read a paper "What is Worth While in Life" which should be read by every farmer's wife in the country. We take pleasure in printing it in full in another column. Hon. Henry Wallace, the well known editor of Wallace's Farmer was in attendance and in addition to participating in the various topics discussed, delivered two splendid addresses on "Rotation of Crops" and "The Production of Corn and Clover." On both subjects he was thoroughly familiar and there was an interesting discussion and Mr. Wallace was ready with an answer for every question. Mr. Henry Vogt gave a very amusing experience talk on raising Angora goats which was greatly enjoyed. At the evening session Mr. C. W. Hoffman on behalf of the citizens of Leon made an address of welcome and it was responded to on behalf of the association by its efficient secretary, Hon. Robert McCaull.

Saturday morning the business session was held and the election of officers for the coming year which resulted as follows:

President—L. D. Garber.
Vice President—C. C. Dye.
Secretary—W. H. Hazlet.
Treasurer—J. W. Keeler.
Executive Committee—Ralph Baker, A. N. Arney, G. P. Arnold, and Wm. Asbach, James Walton.

On motion the time and place of holding the next meeting was left with the executive committee.

C. C. Dye, of Woodland read a splendid paper on "Good Roads" which he has made a special study and has put his theories into practice. It was discussed at considerable length and we hope to be able to present it to our readers in the near future.

Mr. W. K. Gammon, one of the pioneer settlers of Eden township gave his experiences in farming when he first came to Iowa and how he has lived to see the difference in the method of raising corn now from what it was 50 years ago, as well as the improvement in various farm implements.

County Superintendent McIntosh read a paper on "Township vs. District Schools," and on motion it was ordered that the Leon papers be requested to publish all the papers read. (THE REPORTER will be pleased to do so if the papers are furnished us.)

The prizes offered by the Leon business men for the best corn brought out some fine samples of corn. J. B. McGrew won first prize for the biggest corn, first for mixed variety and second for white corn. Ralph Baker was awarded first and E. H. Lewis second prize for yellow corn. L. D. Garber won first prize for white corn with the famous Silver Mine variety.

Stops the Cough and Works off the Cold.

Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets cure a cold in one day. No cure no pay. Price 25 cents.

Coming For One Jolly Night!

Gillhooley's Reception

A Screaming Irish Farce Comedy!

Music, Comedy, Singing, Dancing and Choruses!

Mechanical Effects, Special Scenery, Musical Specialities!

3 Big Funny Acts! 3

8 Big Vaudeville Features! 8

Get your seats early at Van Werden's drug store—Prices 25c, 35c and 50c—One night only.

Opera House, Monday, Oct. 20.

Excursion Rates.

National convention Christian church at Omaha, Neb., October 16 to 23. Rate one fare for round trip. Dates of sale October 15, 16 and 17, 1902. Limit October 25. C. M. KETCHAM, Agent.

ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY.

State Board will insist on Assessing Property at its Actual Value.

The state executive council has revised the instructions to assessors, laying especial emphasis on the need of assessing property at its actual value. The council is looking forward to next July when it will sit as a board of review, and it hopes not to be compelled to increase the assessments on real and personal property as returned to it from the counties. In the new instructions the council will call attention to the fale that it has information that the taxable value of much real property is from 16 to 18 per cent instead of 25 per cent of the actual value, as the law requires.

Section 1305 of the code, which requires property to be assessed at its real value will be quoted. County auditors and assessors will be asked to devote especial attention to obtaining a correct assessment under this section of the code. Notice will be given that unless the assessment is put at the right standard, the council sitting as a board of review will adjust it, as it has the power to do by the code. The instructions were framed and will be prepared for issue by Auditor Merriam, and by him sent out to the auditors and assessors. Another change in the instructions decided on by the council was that automobiles should be included in the same class as bicycles and vehicles.

FOR SALE.—One good heating and one good cook stove. Call on Dan W. Stanley.

WANT!

To buy, sell, or rent a

FARM!!

in Decatur county. It will pay you to write or call on us. We are the new men that will treat you right.

FRY & KANE,
Real Estate Agents, Van Wert, Ia

NOTICE OF FINAL REPORT.

In the District Court of Iowa, in and for Decatur County. No. 537 probate.

In the estate of H. E. Newlin, deceased.

To John Newlin and Margaret J. Buck:

You are hereby notified that the undersigned Administrator of the estate of H. E. Newlin, deceased, has filed his final report therein in the office of the Clerk of the District Court in and for the aforesaid County, and has asked for its approval and his discharge from further duty or responsibility therein, and that said report and application for discharge will come on for hearing before the court aforesaid at Leon, Iowa, on the 17th day of November, A. D., 1902, at which time and place you can appear and show cause, if any you have, why said final report should not be approved and the undersigned discharged from any further duty or responsibility therein.

8-4t J. E. LENTZ, Administrator.

Low Rates.

The Chicago Great Western Ry. offers very low rates to points in North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Tickets on sale daily during October. Inquire of J. P. Elmer, G. P. A., Chicago. 6-5t

W. C. STEMPEL & CO.
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Good Goods—Right Prices.

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