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The M. R. F. C.

The Maple River Farmer's Club for December met at the home of Mrs. Julia Moore. A large and commodious house made it not only possible but remarkably pleasant for the members to welcome a goodly number of guests. The Whelans *all* were there and aided materially in the discussions assigned for the day.

The first topic, "The future of our national banking system," was introduced by Clayton Cook. The second subject for discussion, "The improvement of country roads," was led by Messrs. O. C. Moore and Theron Gladden. "How to make life easier" was the subject of an essay given by Mrs. H. A. Ellis. "The advisability of making rag carpets" was discussed by Mrs. Robert Purdy and Mrs. William Lewis. The literary part of the program was closed by a recitation, "A pit of death," given by Miss Minnie Moore.

Music for the occasion was furnished by Masters Frank and Bush Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Richardson and Henry and Miss Minnie Moore.

The club adjourned to meet with Mr. J. and Mrs. E. Boyd, January 26.

A New Year Party.

One of the most enjoyable New Year's family gatherings in our city was that of the Warren family, children of the late James M. Warren, of the township of Burns, in this county, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Parker, on South Cedar street, beginning on Saturday and continuing until Tuesday. The surviving members of the family who were all present consist of J. M. Warren, of North Dakota; J. H. Warren, of Merrill, Saginaw county; Mrs. A. H. Herron, of Saginaw; Mrs. M. L. Smith, Northville; Mrs. J. M. Dunlop, of Holly; and Mrs. M. L. Parker, of this city, the hostess of the gathering. The last year's gathering was at the home of Mrs. A. L. Benjamin, of Novi, one of the oldest sisters, who died very suddenly in May last. There were present this year, J. M. Warren, of North Dakota; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Warren, of Saginaw county; Mrs. J. M. Dunlop, and son Lee, of Holly; A. L. Benjamin, of Novi; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Herron, of Saginaw; Mrs. M. L. Smith and James Smith, of Northville, and Mrs. Ruth Belford and nephew, Kinnie Parker, of this city. The spacious residence of Mr. and Mrs. Parker was appropriately decorated, and the entertainment was royally done, and a glorious reunion was enjoyed, saddened only at the thought of the broken ranks which the hand of death is causing. These earthly reunions should prefigure a grand family reunion in the heavenly land whither we are rapidly passing one by one as the years come and go. A. H. H.

Byron.

Mrs. E. Kelsey went to Fenton, Monday——Miss Lee Cowan, of Ann Arbor, is the guest of Mrs. W. M. Schad——Revival meetings began at the M. E. church Thursday night with an evangelist from Grand Rapids——Mrs. M. Winans, of Mt. Pleasant, is visiting her sister, Mrs. O. J. Clark——Mr. and Mrs. E. Gibson have been spending the week at Fowlerville——The party given by the K. O. T. M. Monday night was a great success and a very enjoyable time is reported——Miss Genia Cronk and Miss Atchinson, of Flint, were the guests of Mrs. H. E. Cole over Sunday——Will Savage commenced teaching in the Williams district last Monday——James Goff and son Howard spent Sunday with relatives in Elsie——Isaac Crawford, of Detroit, visited at I. Barnum's the last of last week——Miss Maud French, of Vernon spent Sunday with Byron friends——Roger Haviland, of Ithaca, is visiting his mother, Mrs. R. Haviland, of Burns——Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Close visited at Corunna last Saturday——Miss Effa Root, of Vernon, is visiting at F. Strawsine's——Mrs. Dougall, of Muskegon, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. S. H. Devereaux——Miss Grace Williams, of Grand Rapids, is visiting her grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Williams——Mr. and Mrs. F. Savage and Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Close spent New Year's day with relatives in Conway——Mumps and chicken pox seem to be going the rounds among the school children——H. H. Rosenkrans and family left for their new home in Jackson county, Wednesday——Miss Blanche Pierson, of Bay City, is visiting at S. H. Devereaux's.

Vernon.

Prof. French entertained company from Byron this week——E. Severance was in town the first of the week——Will McKnight spent Sunday here——Miss Hattie Cronkhite, of Imlay City, was in town this week——B. Holmes was at Pontiac, Friday——Miss Mary Dyer has returned to take up her old place in our school——A. Garrison and wife were at Durand on Friday——Miss Lou Saterlee, who has been spending her vacation here, has returned to Owosso——Mrs. W. Hollinbeck visited at Lapeer the first of the week——The week of prayer is being observed at the Baptist church——Fred Sheldon, of Ann Arbor, has been spending a few days with his sister, Mrs. Jas. Curtis——Jim Sadler, of Linden, spent Sunday at A. T. Scranton's——E. Crane and family, of Durand, were at A. Garrison's on Monday——Miss Frankie Patterson was in Owosso this week——Miss Nellie Buyea has been spending her vacation at Bancroft——Mrs. M. A. Stone spent New Years at J. L. Jennings near Flint——Misses Ida and May Downey are visiting their many friends in this place——George Minto was in town, Monday——Mrs. E. Nobles is visiting her sister, Mrs. H. Clark, of this place——Mrs. H. Hunter visited her mother at Owosso, Saturday——Rev. Halliday commenced a series of meeings at Venice Centre, Monday evening——Duane Martin was in Detroit on Friday——Jos. Martin and daughter, Maud, were in Detroit, Wednesday——Scud Reed has purchased Mrs. Swain's farm——E. L. Button has located here as Veterinary Surgeon——Miss Winnie Nichols, of Detroit and Mrs. J. Simison, of Bancroft, spent Sunday in this place——Messrs. E. Scranton and C. Hart were at Owosso, Saturday——Rev. H. Marshall has resigned his position as pastor of the Congregational church——The repairing of the furnace prevented school commencing until Wednesday of this week——The Beethoven Quartettè, of Kalamazoo, here on Friday evening was a grand success. The receipts of the evening were over fifty dollars.

Judd's Corners.

There was a social at Mrs. Edwin Gridley's Friday evening——Eugene and Chas. Rathburn, of Algonac, are visiting at G. W. Warner's——While Mot Brown and his sister, Mrs. Williams, were on their way to the Christmas tree here, they were run into by another buggy. Their buggy was a total wreck, the occupants escaping with but slight injuries——Fred Lyon met with a painful accident last Saturday, caused by a log falling on his foot. He will be confined to the house for some time.

Thomas Dixon, Jr

Mr. Dixon is about thirty years old, we believe. He is a Tar Heel—racy of the soil—a genuine production. Tall, lean, wiry, looking like Abe Lincoln's picture, with a keen eye, mobile and strong features, you would take him for a man of mark at a glance. He is a man of observation, a student of books and a student of men. He knows his fellow men uncommonly well. He is a brave man, perpendicular, with the courage of conviction and bold of speech. He has ridicule, fun, language, imagination, passion. His voice is penetrating and some times a bit strident, but distinct always—articulation, emphasis, intonation—admirable. He is the most rapid speaker we ever heard. He can pack away a marvellous amount of thought, language, description, and rollicking humor in an hour. We now understand how and why it is he has made such a profound impression in Boston and New York and in Maine. We have *heard* him.—Editorial Critique.

Mr. Dixon lectures in Y. M. C. A. Course Wednesday night, 11th inst.

Burton Farmer's Club.

The day for the last meeting of the "Club" was bright and clear, and although the roads were somewhat rough a good company of members and visitors gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Shepard, and were welcomed by the host and hostess. The visitors were, Walter Dewitt, Miss Anna Dewitt, Mrs. Marcia Launstein, Miss Leah Moss, and Miss Mamie Winkler.

The time before dinner was taken up in social visiting.

The dinner was very good, but we dare not say much about these club dinners, for fear your readers will think that is all we go for, or that it is the only time we ever have anything good to eat.

After dinner, (our president being absent) a motion was made and carried that Mr. Baldwin should act as president for the day. Devotional exercises were conducted by J. W. Rose.

Mrs. Launstien, Myrtle Mason and Edward Merrill sang "The Jasper Sea."

The questions were called for and answered. Miss Guilford read a good exp'anation of the term "Uncle Sam" as applied to the government. Miss Guilford had another important question to answer, which she said deserved a good deal of serious thought, and she asked and was granted four weeks longer time. The question was, "Which is the best way to bring up our babies, by hand or by slipper."

Mrs. Thorp read an excellent paper on the ladies subject, "What influence does good reading have on the farmer's family."

Mrs. Baldwin read a selection from the Household. Mr. Dewitt made quite a speech. C. R. Woodin spoke and read on the subject for the gentlemen, "What can we do to equalize the price of our farm products or avoid a surplus."

R. C. Shepard read a poem about the "Old times and the new."

The subject for next meeting is, "The Farmers Institute, our part in its success or failure." Speakers, F. M. Shepard, Miss Guilford, W. A. Merrill, Mrs. R. C. Shepard, J. T. Moxley, Mrs. C. R. Woodin. Miss Blanch Shepard is to give a recitation.

Meeting adjourned to meet in four weeks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ross.

Bancroft.

Everyone is enjoying the sleighing——Our public school opened again on Monday with a large increase in scholars. Prof. Brandt is doing excellent work——Miss Maybelle Olney returned last Monday to Oberlin where she is taking a musical course——Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are spending a few days with their son, H. P. Shaw——Deyer Phelps, a well-to-do pioneer farmer living on the Grand River road about four miles west of this village, died Sunday, January, 1st, about 11 o'clock, a. m., after an illness of three weeks. Funeral Tuesday at 11 o'clock from his late residence. He was buried in the Fremont cemetery——Mrs. William Quinn died at her home, on Christmas, and her remains were taken to Dexter for interment. She leaves a husband and two small children——The guessing contest on the squash at Watson Bros'. came off last Saturday evening. The lucky ones, were, Miss Maude Simonson, first prize; Mrs. J. Davis, second; Matt. Thomas, third. The number of seeds was 357, and this number was guessed by five different persons——Our merchants report a good holiday trade——The social event of the season was the installation of F. and A. M. officers on last Tuesday evening. The entertainment was of high order. Long before the hour to begin the program, Masonic hall was crowded and many were not able to gain admission. Rev. C. E. Benson, of Perry, delivered an eloquent address on Masonry, which was greatly complimented by all. The banquet which followed was held in the opera house, there were two hundred plates and every one was taken. The collation was the finest of the kind ever in this place. Roberts' new and complete orchestra furnished fine music during supper. The occasion is one long to be remembered by those present——Mrs. Godfrey, of Pennsylvania, is visiting her sons, Chas. and Will. Godfrey——Miss Della Fuller gave her young friends a party at her home on New Year's Eve.——Roger Sherman left for Lansing Monday——Charles Parker has moved his stock of groceries to Owosso, and the store he vacated will be occupied by B.D. Rathburn for his window screen manufactory——People who have ice houses are now filling them.

Death of Dr. Barnes.

T. D. Dewey received a letter Wednesday announcing the death at San Jose, California, Dec. 28, of Dr. John B. Barnes. Mr. Barnes was one of the pioneers of Owosso, coming here 50 years ago, remaining until 1887, when he went to California to live with his daughter. He had much to do with the early history of this city, was one of its early mayors, one of the charter members of the Congregational church and in many ways was prominent. To him we owe many of the beautiful shade trees about the city, he having set them years ago. His age was 87 years.

A Mexican Reception.

SANITARIUM, BATTLE CREEK, 1, 3, '93.

Dr. and Mrs. Kellogg attended the recent meeting of the American Public Health Association which was held in the City of Mexico, and on their return brought with them a large collection of curios, photographs, etc., and additionally, two bright and interesting Mexican children, a brother and sister, aged respectively seven and five years, whom they will educate. One evening last week Dr. and Mrs. Kellogg tendered the Sanitarium guests a Mexican reception which was a very novel affair and greatly appreciated. The chairs were arranged in a straight row entirely around the parlor and reception room, as is the Mexican fashion, and the tables were covered with crocheted spreads and tidies, that kind of handwork being very common. Some mats, purses, etc., were crocheted out of the fibre from the century plant. After the guests had been formally presented, they began a tour of inspection of the curious and interesting objects and scenes which the room presented. In one corner stood the Mexican fruit vendor, a native of that country, about sixteen years old, who came to this place some three months ago for an English education. He wore sandals and had a gay zerape, a coarse blanket, for an outer garment and a sombrero on his head, and suspended by a strap over his neck was a tray containing models of twenty different kinds of Mexican fruit. On one of the mantels and on the top of the piano were arranged twenty-five or thirty models of street scenes, including the water carrier, pulque gatherer, street vendors, etc., etc. An improvised Mexican shrine, the like of which is found in every household, with its crucifix and picture of patron saint, occupied a central position. The altar lamp was burning and a stool placed conveniently for the worshipers to kneel.

But the making of tortillas attracted the most attention. In that warm climate the poor do much of their domestic work on the street, so here under an awning near a pretty palm, were the two little Mexican children, dressed in native costume, hard at work during the entire evening making this, their daily bread. The little girl knelt at the *metate*, a sort of crude stone mill by means of which she ground corn which had been previously soaked and hulled, as is their custom. When the doughy meal was fine enough, she deftly shaped it into little flat cakes, throwing them from hand to hand, and then she placed them on a griddle over a little charcoal hand stove to bake. It was the duty of the little boy to fan the fire constantly to keep it from going out. Near by, a Mexican woman was engaged in the same occupation. (I am afraid she was not genuine, though she acted her part so well that a number asked her how long she had been in this country and if she could speak English.) Her tortillas were baked on an exact model of the ordinary brick charcoal fireplace, only in this the bricks were laid up loose instead of being cemented with mortar. Her kitchen wall was ornamented with the usual semi-circle of pottery utensils and her "baby" was asleep on the floor at her side. Besides the tortillas, various other prepared foods were exhibited, as the tamales, made of corn, ground, dried, sifted, mixed with fruit and then steamed in corn husks, and the atone, a kind of gruel or soup.

A bazaar table held several varieties of vegetables, the garlic, pumpkin seeds, which they roast and eat, two or three kinds of beans and also of peppers, including the round, red berry-like peppers from the pepper tree. Then there were corn husks in which to steam the tamales, brooms, baskets, toilet articles, etc.

On tables about the parlor were arranged fine and coarse specimens of Mexican pottery, several Aztec idols and copies of Aztec vases, onyx in plain pieces and others daintily carved and highly polished, and a large collection of photographs. One of the most curious articles exhibited was the primitive needle and thread, which consisted of the point of the century plant to which was attached some of the long fibres from the same plant. Mention must be made of a pig skin, designed to hold pulque (their common fermented liquor) which swung to and fro empty. Pulque is made from the sap of the century plant. The heart of the plant is cut out and the exuding sap sucked into a gourd and allowed to ferment. A plant will live about six months after it is tapped for this purpose.

Very truly yours,
HELEN L. MANNING.

The St. Louis Republican-Leader has been sold by Editor Foster to a newspaper syndicate of Gratiot county men.

Stole A Rig.

Monday morning about ten o'clock, a woman giving her name as Jennie Thorp, went to Geo. Devereaux's livery barn and hired a rig to do some collecting, claiming to have done some sewing for people in town. She did not return until about seven o'clock, much later than she had agreed to, and even then asked to be allowed to drive up to Oliver street to see some one, promising to be back inside of three-quarters of an hour. However that was the last Mr. Devereaux saw of her that day. Telegrams were sept in various directions, but nothing was found of the outfit, until Thursday afternoon, when Mr. Devereaux received a telegram from Lewis Grant, of Bancroft, stating that he thought he had the person and the rig. The woman was brought back to Owosso and arraigned before Justice Byerly and then sent to jail to await her examination which takes place January 11th. The same woman left an unpaid board bill at the Miller house and was associated with an old man whom she called her father, but whom she admitted before Justice Byerly was her husband. The rig had very rough usage and the woman claims she did not intend to steal it, but, of course, fails to give a satisfactory explanation of her conduct.

Make Good Roads.

From The Grand Traverse Herald.

Some sort of county system is needed to secure permanent good roads. To insure best results there must be a common plan adopted for a county and then followed out. There should be two or three main thoroughfares north and south and east and west, in the northern counties, and into these feeders from every neighborhood. The first thing to be done is the establishment of the main roads. These should follow easy grades as far as possible. If this cannot be done without unreasonable lengthening the road, then *cut down the grade*, even if it should cost a good deal of money. Make these main roads *for keeps*. Build them substantially and well. If only a short distance can be done each year make that short distance to last. Use gravel freely, *not clay*. Turnpike carefully, ditch thoroughly and permanently. Make every rod as if you were preparing a city boulevard. Plant shade trees on either side. Make these roads so good that when a man comes into one from a "feeder" he will at once see the necessity of making the road he has just left as good as the one he has just reached. These main roads should be built and kept in repair at county expense. Everybody will have an interest in them. The other roads leading into these can be maintained at township expense. Once established a half dozen or so good roads in a county and all the others will quickly be made to compare. All this means money, but it need not be done in one year, or two, or three. Suppose this work had been started in Grand Trayerse, or Leelanaw, or Antrim, or Benzie county, or any other northern county a dozen or fifteen years ago. Today we would have had a splendid system of thoroughfares, and the cost would have been saved to the farmer over and over again. There is more money lost to the farmers in any northern county of the state by bad roads, in any five years, than would be required to build such a system of roads here suggested. *Let us have good roads.*