





FARMERS' CLUB PICNIC

Members of the Southern White and Norvell Farmers Club, and their friends, to the number of about three hundred, met at Charles King's grove at the foot of Wampler's lake, on Saturday, the 12th inst., to enjoy the pleasure of a basket picnic.

The Bridgewater brass band with their uniforms were on hand to furnish music, which seemed to enliven the occasion.

It was an enjoyable sight to watch the people hurrying to and fro with lunch baskets, packages, etc., chatting and laughing with each other, busily about to take place, and when the sun indicated the hour of high water there was a scrambling for places, and in short order the work of destruction had begun.

After the boards had been swept, Mat D. Blosser, who had been selected as toast master, invited the people to gather around the decorated restraint, when he announced the first toast, "Our Farmers' Club, an enjoyable and profitable association."

S. M. Meriweth, president of the Southern White and Norvell Club, was called to respond, but begged to be excused as he was not accustomed to public speaking.

The next toast, "Clubs are Trumps," well followed suit, was responded to by T. B. Halladay, of the Norvell Club, as follows:

Yes, Clubs are trumps! From the earliest days of history down to the present time people have associated themselves together in "Clubs" for the promotion of some common object, and we have had literary, scientific, social and other "Clubs" and why should we not have Farmers Clubs? Certainly, if we estimate the importance of these clubs from the numbers engaged or the amount of capital employed in their pursuit, the Farmers Club must stand pre-eminently first as the trump club.

When we consider that 25,000,000 of our people are engaged in or dependent upon agriculture, and that the value of one year's production amounts to \$80,000,000,000 of which we exported \$750,000,000,000. No wonder that the commercial and industrial products of our country should come with entrenched hands, imploring us to put forth our very best efforts to increase our crops and again bring the balance of trade in our country's favor.

The Farmers' Club, as we have seen, is a very old institution, and its history is a long one. It is the duty of every teacher to go to the front and make his own work, and it is the duty of every school officer and every parent to promote the interest of the pupils, not only by hiring teachers and sending children to be taught, but also by overlooking the school work from time to time and showing interest in the children's work.

First National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

It is a noble and beautiful valley for miles around. The grounds contain 500 acres and are laid out in a most beautiful and interesting manner. It is one of the most attractive places in the United States.

There are 140 buildings which make it seem almost like a city. The buildings are large three story brick or frame structures, 100 feet long by 30 wide, with unadorned roofs, perfect ventilation and are mostly used for barracks.

The church is a beautiful Gothic structure built of stone, the basement of which is fitted up for a society hall and is used by the different associations of the home each evening.

Some of the pioneers fairly ached to go fishing but the lake was so rough they could not, so they had to content themselves with the fishing in the stream.

The labor performed at the home is done almost entirely by the disabled soldiers, the only exception being the domestic compensation varying from \$5 to \$25 per month, a portion of which is left with the treasurer and put at interest for the benefit of the soldier until enough is realized to enable him to take care of himself.

Any soldier of the war who was honorably discharged and disabled by wounds or sickness in the service can gain admission to this Home. By act of congress soldiers of the war of 1812 and war of Mexico are also included.

From the Michigan Farmer we learn that Harry Phillips, a well known live stock dealer of Detroit, is now in England and proposes bringing home with him, the latter part of this month, some very fine race sows and lambs, chiefly Hampshire Downs. Several of them were winners at the Royal Agricultural show and all are from noted flocks.

There will be found a farmer or a mechanic who will employ men to do work and never look after them? The farmer when his horses come from the field at night is first to see that they are well fed and properly cared for; the mechanic will look after his own interests, and yet those same men who employ the services of a stranger to instruct them in their work, do not look after them.

A French chemist reports that water made slightly salt, and to which, when boiling, lime in the proportion of one quart to every gallon has been added has been found in a series of experiments to be better adapted to the purposes assigned to it than the ordinary drinking water.

THE STORY TELLER

"Yes, it's the 24th. But let's see your letter, and I can tell you what you mean."

"Well," said Mr. Ward, as he gave Polly back her letter, "it is a very long letter, and I have not time to read it now. I will read it to you when you are next in town."

"I don't know," said Polly, "but I have a feeling that it is not a very good letter. It is so long, and I have not time to read it now. I will read it to you when you are next in town."

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