

# The M. A. C. Record.

VOLUME I.

LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1896.

NUMBER 15.

## APRIL WILD FLOWERS AT M. A. C.

C. F. WHEELER.

The weather during the first ten days of this "singing month" was unusually cool with severe frosts at night. Spring flowers remained in winter quarters till after the rain storm with thunder and lightning accompaniment on Friday night the eleventh, when they burst into flower in rapid succession, eager for the warmth and sunshine.

Among the earliest flowers to be found about the college grounds and in fact the one which generally leads the procession is the Skun's Cabbage (*Symplacarpus foetidus*). This mephetic plant is the one black sheep in an otherwise useful and showy family, which boasts of the Sweet Flag, Calla, Golden Club, Jack in the Pulpit among its members. A walk along the river bank will show the curious red and green hoods which protect the flower, giving out an unsavory odor to attract the curious flies which feed on the abundant pollen and carry the same to older flowers.

The Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana*), now puts out its long, slender catkins to catch the wind, followed soon, by the American Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and the Wild Hazle-nut (*Corylus Americanus*).

Soon the white or Silver Maple (*Acer Lasycarpum*), along the river banks, is covered with a multitude of small, dull red flowers, visited by swarms of busy bees, attracted by full cups of honey which are spread out for them without price. The bees pay for this abundant spread whether they know it or not, by carrying the necessary pollen to imperfect flowers, thus bringing about nature's method of improvement of the individual by insuring cross-fertilization.

If we visit the woods now, the little white and purple clusters of the shy harbinger of spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*), may be seen. More common is the rose-purple of the Spring Cress (*Cardamine purpurea*), and the whole range of tints in blue and pink and pure white may be found in the flowers of the Liver-leaf (*Hepatica acutiloba*). The spring beauty (*Claytonia Virginica*), is just opening its delicate pink bells, a thing of beauty forever.

The American elm (*Ulenus Americana*), and the rock elm (*N. racemosa*), are covered with an abundance of unattractive flowers which are wind fertilized giving the trees a soft, hazy brown color for a few days.

The red maples (*Acer rubrum*), are out with most brilliant red to yellow flowers attractive to honey bees. The low grounds are full of pussy willows of one sort, the glaucous willow (*Salix discolor*), and on light, sandy knolls may be found the low prairie willow (*S. Lumilis*).

Botanical Department, April 17.

## STATE TAXATION.

PROF. W. O. HEDRICK.

The past few years have been prolific of criticisms upon our State taxing systems not only in Michigan, but in neighboring states also. There are few northern states east of the Mississippi river that have not had within this time one or more tax commissioners or statisticians delegated to examine their unsatisfactory systems. A few weeks ago the writer desiring to get the opinion of the farmers of Michigan upon our taxing system, sent out a list of questions thereupon to the leading men in this industry in the State. The answers received were quite satisfactory, and it was thought that a tabulation of them might be attractive to others interested in taxation. Up to the time of this compilation only twenty-three answers had been received. Yet they agree so well upon the leading conclusions and harmonized so well with expressions of farmers' opinion as given in Grange reports or at farmers' institutes as to be thought fairly representative.

The questions and answers are as follows: 1. Is the taxing system in this State broad enough—that is, does our general property tax together with the specific taxes get taxes from all who should pay them? The answer, "It is not broad enough," was quite unanimous. 2. What classes of persons should pay taxes in your opinion? Twelve answered "all property holders should pay taxes." The rest favored an extension of our system to incomes, inheritances and other taxes. 3. Do you think personal property escapes taxation under our present system, if so, to what extent? All agreed that personal

property escaped taxation. Seven only ventured estimates of the amount. These varied from 50 to 90 per cent of the whole. 4. How would you treat personal property with regard to taxation? Fifteen answered "Exactly the same as real estate;" some would have it taxed upon its earning power. 5. It is frequently said that all property is undervalued by the assessing officer. Is that statement justifiable in your opinion? Ten, only, answered that it is. Three of the remainder answered "It is impossible to value it lower than its real value at the present time." The remaining ten thought it valued at its real value. 6. Would the full valuation of property for taxing purposes be desirable in your opinion? All but three answered affirmatively. 7. Are unjust discriminations as between one property holder and another in valuing property practiced to any extent within your knowledge? Only a small number, seven, knew of any instances of this sort. 8. Ought the specific taxes on railroads, insurance companies, etc., in your belief be increased, or do they already bear their share of taxation. Ten made no answer to this question. Ten thought they should pay more taxes.

A summary of these criticisms shows that a majority believe:

Our taxing system is too narrow.

That personal property escapes taxation.

That corporations do not bear their share of State expense.

That there is no uniformity in the valuation of property.

A summary of the remedies suggested shows:

That twelve would tax all property holders, eleven would extend taxation to others.

That fifteen would treat personal property the same as real estate.

That twenty would value all property at its full cash value.

That ten would secure more taxes from corporations.

Department of History and Political Economy.

## A NOBLE WOMAN.

At her home in Claremont, California, surrounded by her grief stricken family, Mrs. Mary Baldwin Cook, wife of Prof. A. J. Cook, '62, fell asleep Friday, April 17.

A little over a year ago Mrs. Cook became affected with a slight throat trouble which seemed to be confined to the tonsils. By advice of one of the best doctors at Los Angeles, one of the tonsils was removed. The operation afforded but temporary relief. An examination of some of the tissue removed from the throat made by an expert pathologist determined the presence of a cancerous growth. Coming east to consult her brother, Dr. James Baldwin of Columbus, Mrs. Cook was advised to place herself under treatment by the new anti-toxine method at the New York Cancer Hospital—opposite Central Park. The treatment at the hospital was commenced early last autumn and continued for some weeks without apparently more than slightly retarding the progress of the disease. Becoming satisfied that the treatment had accomplished all that was possible, late in October she returned to Claremont accompanied by her son Bert.

Day by day, hour by hour, watched and prayed for by her sorrow burdened family she has awaited the coming of death. But with what fortitude none but her friends can know. Letters from her hand written not longer than two weeks ago contain not one word of complaint—nothing but expressions of pleasure that "they were all together," and "that the days were so bright."

Mrs. Cook's life at M. A. C. dates from the summer of 1870 to the fall of 1893. As a bride she established her home in the two rooms in Williams Hall in the second story over what is now the Y. M. C. A. rooms, later the little white house just east of the orchard was occupied, and finally the house on the campus now the home of Dr. Barrows. Here for nearly twenty successive years the home of Prof. and Mrs. Cook was a place where any student was welcome to call and be cheered and brightened in his loneliness by the light of that fireside. How many of our alumni and former students will, as they read these lines, turn back in recollection to some midsummer night party at Professor Cook's and remember the cheery smile and greetings of Mrs. Cook.

No

"Storied urn, nor animated bust"

is needed to commemorate such a life. She lives in the hearts of her friends.

The following telegram was sent Saturday evening:  
*Agricultural College, April 18, 1896.*

A. J. Cook, Claremont, California:

Old college friends unite in deepest sympathy over your great sorrow. In twenty-five years residence at this College Mary Cook had won the love of all and her death is a personal grief. Her name is precious at the College.

Signed by all the faculty and their wives.

## NEWS FROM GRADUATES AND STUDENTS.

Edward C. Varnum, with '79, is a druggist at Jonesville, Mich.

W. J. Goodenough, '95, m., has resumed his position as draughtsman to the Detroit Dry Dock Co.

Will W. Parker, '93, is assistant chemist on fertilizer work at the Geneva, N. Y., experiment station.

Leroy Wilcox, with '82 for over two years, was killed recently in a runaway accident at Irving Park, Ill.

C. P. Close, '95, is assisting Prof. Beach in horticultural work at the Geneva, N. Y., experiment station.

A. C. MacKinnon, with '96, m., is superintendent of shops for the MacKinnon Mfg. Co., boiler makers and machinists, Bay City.

Alva T. Stevens '93, Prof. Agriculture at Greenborough, N. C., has sent north for two bicycles, with which he and his wife will seek recreation.

Tom. L. Bradford, with '92, m., is ass't supt. of the Ames Iron Works, Oswego, N. Y. He has given up pole vaulting, as the result of an injury.

C. H. Alvord, '95, and O. J. Cornell, with '96, both of Hillsdale, were among those who applauded M. A. C.'s good plays in the game with Hillsdale college.

"The most helpful kinds of reading" is an interesting essay written by A. M. Patriarche, '98, for the "Lyceum Advocate," a monthly printed by the Saginaw, E. S. high school.

Myron S. Gregory, with '92, principal of the Honor schools, Benzie county, is rejoicing at the increasing strength of his eyesight. He hopes some day to finish the course at M. A. C.

The St. Louis Journal of Agriculture, for March 26, contains a very suggestive article on "Feeding and Breeding Steers," from the pen of Prof. Fred B. Mumford, '90, of the Missouri Agricultural College.

Rev. Frank 'Barnett, with '77, pastor of the Baptist church at Pontiac, visited the College Wednesday, accompanied by his son Howard. His congregation will dedicate a new church costing \$20,000 about June 1.

C. J. Strang, an all around newspaper man, formerly in the employ of Robert Smith & Co., and recently winning an enviable reputation as a job printer in Grand Ledge, brought his family here last Saturday and will now give his undivided attention to the achievement of success for *The Sentinel*.—*Sunfield Sentinel*.

Daniel Strange of Oneida township, in a communication to the *Charlotte Leader*, acknowledges that he would be proud to represent the Democrats at their national convention. Mr. Strange was the candidate in this district in 1892 on the Democratic ticket for Congress. He is educated and talented.—*Sunfield Sentinel*.

I have been following horticulture ever since I left my *alma mater*. I love the choice of my vocation better than ever, and mean to make a success. We have 85 acres in fruit, viz.: almonds, lemons, and prunes for profit, and two acres of different varieties for family use. I hope to have the pleasure to send, some day, one of my sons to M. A. C.

SAM'L C. DONDORE, '91.

Lakeside, Cal.

## ARBOR DAY EXERCISES.

Program of exercises for Arbor Day at Michigan State Agricultural College, to be held in the chapel at 1:30 p. m., Friday, May 1, 1896:

Hymn—"Tribute to Nature."

Invocation.

Introduction.....President J. L. Snyder.

Address by his Excellency....

John T. Rich, Governor of Michigan.

Music—"Blest Spring Time."

"The Early Forests of Michigan,".....Dr. R. C. Kedzie.

Music—"The Brave Old Oak."

"Michigan Forests of Today,".....Mr. A. A. Crozier

Music—"Woodman, Spare that Tree."

"What now shall be done with our forests,".....

Dr. W. J. Beal.

Music—"Swinging 'Neath the Old Apple Tree."

"Arbor Day on the Farm".....Prof. L. R. Taft.

Hymn—Whittier.

# The M. A. C. Record.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

EDITED BY THE FACULTY.

ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO LOCK BOX 262 LANSING, MICH.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR.

Business Office with ROBERT SMITH & CO., State Printers and Binders,  
406 Michigan Ave., East, Lansing, Mich.

Entered as second class matter at Lansing, Mich.

Every young man ought to rejoice when he finds himself so entirely in accord with his work as to become seemingly indispensable to the place he fills. The memory of this perfect adjustment in the case of a teacher promoted, lingers in the mind of both pupils and parents and makes the lines of his successor fall in anything but pleasant places.

When a member of the faculty called at Lawton, Mich., on H. W. Lawson last Friday evening at the close of his first week of service as principal of the schools at that place, he found him gloomily realizing the full force of the above remark. C. B. Smith, '94, had been his predecessor and had done his work so well as to be fairly worshipped by the pupils and idolized by the parents. Lawson thinks the pace set him is almost too fast but he will risk Lawson. The mantle could not have fallen on worthier shoulders and it is safe to prophesy that the schools will keep on their upward trend as long as Mr. Lawson can be induced to stay there.

The Board at its recent meeting transacted some very important business for the college. Probably that which will stand for the most is the change of the long vacation from the winter to the summer months. Next year college will open about the middle of September and close the middle of June. Heretofore, unlike most other schools, the work continued during the summer in order, mainly, to give the students an opportunity to study agriculture during the harvest season. This plan also made it possible for a number of students to teach school during the winter vacation and thereby gain the means by which they could defray their expenses during the remainder of the year. A great many of the friends of the school have urged from time to time that the plan ordinarily pursued by colleges would be much more satisfactory to the majority of those interested, hence the change. Agriculture will now be studied to very good advantage during the spring and fall, and students who do not spend their vacation on a farm will be required to spend at least one long vacation at the college. It is believed that students, from the practical standpoint, will lose nothing, while on the other hand they will be benefited in many ways by the change. It has been the custom to turn loose two hundred or more young men in November for a three months' vacation. Last year 21 per cent of this number taught school; some of them did so out of actual necessity, but the majority took up this work because their services were not needed on the farm during that season of the year. It is very evident to anyone who carefully investigates the matter that even for those students who are earning their own way through college, the new plan will be to their advantage. There are at present very few district schools that have three month terms. Every year the number should, and will, grow less. Outside of this employment there is very little work to be had. On the other hand, under the new plan, mechanical students who desire work will find employment with our larger machinery firms in setting up and putting their harvest machinery into operation; others will go on our lake boats, some as "greasers" and some in other lines of work. Agricultural students will, it is believed, have little trouble in securing employment at good wages on farms and in the fruit district. But the great majority of students are needed at home during the summer months. Here they will labor and put into practice the knowledge they have gained at the college. They will keep up their interest in the farm, and when graduated they will be likely to settle down in that vocation for which they have made special preparation.

It might be noted right here that the students who teach school during the winter vacation very rarely make farmers. They usually follow teaching or take up a profession. It is all right in a way for a young man to enter a profession, but it is the object of this school to make farmers and mechanics and not professional men,

There has been a demand, growing from year to year, for short courses of study. A great many young farmers, farm hands, and farmers' boys can neither take the time nor money to pursue a four years' college course, but many of them can and are anxious to take six or

eight week courses during the winter. Some want to learn dairying, some stock feeding, others fruit culture or floriculture. This demand could be properly met only by changing the term and coordinating these special courses with the regular college work.

As intimated above, a number of special courses have been adopted by the Board and will be put into operation next winter. These are designed to meet the needs of a large class of farmers and will be thoroughly practical. It might also be added that the four year's agricultural course of study has been thoroughly overhauled and made more practical. It will be impossible in the future for a boy to take this course for even one year without receiving much information that he will use in everyday life upon the farm.

It is the intention of the Board to make this college coeducational after this college year. The State Grange, many of the alumni, and other friends of the school have been urging this move on the part of the Board for years. Abbot hall, one of the finest buildings on the grounds will be refitted and given over to the ladies, who will be under the care of a careful and competent matron. The course of study has not yet been published, but it is generally understood that there will be a full four year's course, with perhaps some short special courses in cookery and other domestic studies. The long course in a general way, will be the same as the agricultural course in mathematics, English and the greater part of the science work. Optional courses will be offered in dairying, poultry raising, floriculture, etc. But instead of the technical agricultural studies there will be given a thorough course in domestic science. This will include cooking, sewing and such other useful subjects as every woman in charge of a home should know. On the other hand, the artistic features of home making will not be neglected. Elective courses in music, painting and other branches of a like nature will be provided for. It is the purpose to offer to the ladies advantages equivalent to those now offered to young men, and to afford to the young women of our State not only the opportunity to acquire scholarship and culture but to prepare in a scientific, accurate and intelligent manner for taking charge of that institution ordained of God, and upon which the happiness and prosperity of any people so largely depends—the home.

## AT THE COLLEGE.

Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Butterfield have new bicycles.

The cupola stack at the foundry has been lined with fire brick

Born, Monday, April 13, to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wittstock, a boy.

Mr. A. A. Crozier received a visit from his father, of Ann Arbor, last week.

Our fat steers brought the highest price paid in Detroit markets this spring.

One section of agricultural freshmen is taking work in the dairy this last half-term.

Hon. W. E. Boyden spoke to Prof. Mumford's class in agriculture on "Shorthorn history" last Wednesday.

The ladies of the Feronian Society will entertain the members of the Union Literary Society next Friday evening.

The Hesperians recently finished laying a fine hardwood floor in their rooms, and celebrated the occasion by having a hop.

Mr. and Mrs. Bachtel, of Flint, visited Mr. and Mrs. Dean at the College, last week. Mrs. Bachtel is a sister of Mr. Dean's.

The pine, spruce, arborvitæ, and balsam trees have been planted along the west side of the farm and in the lot east of No. 7.

In the dairy, additions are being made to the apparatus for Pasteurization, and much more stress will in future be given to this subject.

Prof. G. W. Howell, Superintendent of Gladwin schools, called on Prof. Taft last Tuesday to discuss plans for decorating his school grounds.

Under the auspices of the Republican Club, Gov. Rich will address the students on the subject of Taxation next Friday evening, April 24. Everybody is cordially invited.

Last Wednesday several members of the faculty met at Prof. Holdsworth's and organized a Dante Club, with Prof. A. B. Noble president. The club will first read Dante's "Inferno."

Last Thursday evening the Terrace Club, alias "Ladies' Mutual Benefit Association," had a jubilee at the residence of Mrs. Holdsworth, to celebrate their success in getting the Board to remove the woodshed back of the terrace and to make other improvements in the vicinity,

including the planting of shade trees and fixing up the lawns. Ice cream and cake were served, followed by toasts—one from the president, Mrs. Chamberlain, which was responded to by Prof. Babcock.

The game of ball with Albion last Saturday resulted in a crushing defeat for M. A. C. Score: Albion 31; M. A. C. 5. The junior hop did part of it and a bad attack of the rattles the rest.

Mr. Purfile, instructor in the pattern shop at the U. of M., visited our mechanical department last Wednesday and was much surprised at the excellence of our equipment, admitting that in several respects we are ahead of the University.

Our dairy department keeps the most complete milk record of any institution in the country. Tests of the butter-fats and solids-not-fats are taken from every milking of every cow. This with records of feeding, temperature, and change of conditions makes a very complete record.

The Horticultural department has sent out the 500 collections of flower seeds for the decoration of Michigan rural school yards. To each school were sent directions for preparing the ground, planting the seeds, and caring for the plants, and also a few words of instructions for Arbor Day planting.

As a result of Prof. Smith's visit to Paw Paw, several experiments under the supervision of the Director will be carried on by farmers in that vicinity during the coming season. H. O. Sheldon will experiment with corn; Jason Woodman, with varieties of grasses, and A. H. Smith with plants for green manuring.

Two of our seniors are doing thesis work in the dairy department. Mr. Buek's work is on the comparative efficiency of different methods of creaming—centrifugal separator, cold deep setting, and shallow pan setting. Mr. Morse will trace odors in milk from feeding bagas, carrots, etc., and study methods for removing them.

Mr. Sees' thesis is along an interesting line of work. "Census of the Bird Population of our Grounds." He has a chart upon which he will indicate the location of each nest found. These nests and the birds, he will watch closely so as to be able to estimate the success of incubation, and the varieties and the number of birds in each variety that make this their nesting place.

Several former students attended the Junior party among them were: C. S. Goodwin, with '94, O. Gorenflo, with '97, m., now attending U. of M.; J. P. Churchill, '95, m., Chicago; J. H. Kimball, with '95; R. C. Bristol, '93, and O. H. Reed, with '96, m., Lansing; F. M. Paine, '89, Traverse City; F. N. Bierce, with '97, m., Dayton, O.; W. C. Stewart, with '97, Flint; Miss Mary Green, with '98, Charlotte.

At a meeting of the Senior class last Tuesday, the following officers were elected:

*Class Officers.*—George Williams, President; F. N. Jaques, vice president; John W. Tracy, secretary; W. T. Barnum, treasurer; S. B. Young, marshal.

*Literary Officers.*—C. A. Jewell, orator; L. P. Fimple, historian; R. B. Buek, prophet; L. D. Sees, poet; R. L. Clute, toastmaster.

Last Wednesday Dr. Grange, assisted by the Sanitary Commission, held a post mortem on the grade cow, Hebe, one of the animals that in the recent tuberculin test showed strong evidence of having tuberculosis. Pearly deposits were found in the walls of the intestines, and the mesenteric glands and one posterior mediastinal gland was also affected. Later Dr. Grange found the posterior pharyngeal glands to be badly affected, all of which gives unmistakable evidence of tuberculosis. For purposes of experimentation three Guinea pigs were inoculated, one from the pearly deposits of intestines, one with pus from the mesenteric glands, and one with caseous matter from the posterior mediastinal gland.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Proceedings of the meeting held at the College, April 14-15.

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 14.

All members present except the Governor.

A communication was received from the faculty recommending the degree of Master of Science for L. C. Colburn, of the class of '88; also recommending the degree of Master of Agriculture, for Eugene Davenport, '78, each having presented an acceptable thesis. The recommendation was adopted and the degrees were conferred.

A communication was received from the experiment station council endorsing the recommendation of Dr. Grange that the cattle which have recently been subjected to the tuberculin test and pronounced diseased, should be kept for experimental work in the line of

investigation concerning tuberculosis as to methods of infection and possible remedies, and was referred to the farm and experiment station committees.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.

Same members present.

The report of special committee appointed by the board which was presented at last meeting was taken from the table. The question of changing the long vacation from winter to summer was considered. It was resolved that the change be made, and that the fall term for 1896 begin Monday, September 14, and continue 14 weeks; the winter term to begin January 4, 1897 and continue 12 weeks. The spring term to begin April 5, and continue 12 weeks and that thereafter the school year begin on Monday, of the third week in September, the length of terms and vacation to be as noted for the year 1896 7.

The President presented a scheme of study and work for the agricultural course which had been prepared with the advice of a committee from the faculty which after consideration was adopted. The President and faculty were authorized to make such minor changes in the schedule as may be found necessary to properly conduct the required study and work.

It was resolved that a committee consisting of Pres. Snyder, Mr. Munroe, and the special committee appointed by the board be requested to consider the arrangement of a ladies course and arrangements therefor in connection with the funds at hand and report to the board at the next meeting

The special committee in charge of the publication of the M. A. C. RECORD reported as follows: In accordance with instructions from the board we have proceeded to make terms of cooperation between the faculty and the students for the publication of the RECORD.

The report was accepted and amended by making the selection of the editorial managers on the part of the faculty subject to the approval of the board and was then adopted.

The sum of \$200 was appropriated for clerical work in connection with the publication of the RECORD for the current year.

The salary of Instructor Westcott was increased to \$750 per annum.

The joint committee on farm and experiment station reported, recommending that the cattle recently condemned by the tuberculin test be turned over to the experiment station, to be isolated from the College herd and retained for experimental work under the direction of Dr. Grange, with the assistance and cooperation of the agricultural department of the experiment station, and that the sum of \$210 be appropriated from experiment station funds, for the purchase of material and equipment to begin the work. The report was accepted and adopted.

The sum of \$250 was added to the apportionment for the veterinary department for the current six months to be used in the purchase of additional equipment for bacteriological work.

The chairman of the committee on farmers' institutes was requested to canvass the faculty and ascertain what arrangement can be made for institute work by college men under the newly adopted system of college terms and how much of their time we can depend on for this purpose.

The superintendent of institutes made a report regarding the Institute work of the year, which was referred to the committee on institutes to take such action on the recommendations contained therein as the committee deems best.

The president and secretary were authorized to arrange for such distribution of electric lights as will supply the library with light.

A communication was received from the ladies of Howard Terrace relating to the sanitary condition of the Terrace and adjacent building. The matter was referred to the president and secretary.

The building of closets for dormitories was left with the president and secretary.

The president, Prof. Vedder, and secretary were authorized to confer with the manager of the street railway line relative to the extension of the line to a point nearer the college buildings, and this committee was authorized to make the street railway company the following proposition: If the line is extended along the highway to the township line near the hospital building, the board will erect a neat station, build a cement walk to connect with the present system of walks, and purchase \$200 worth of tickets.

The field known as the flat-iron north of the road was placed in charge of Prof. Taft with directions to plant trees and shrubs under the direction of the committee on botany and horticulture.

Adjourned to meet at call of the president of the board.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

URBANA, ILL., March 31, 1896.

Editor M. A. C. Record:

I enclose subscription to the M. A. C. Record. Its establishment is one of the best movements ever instituted at the college.

You must not imagine that because I am engaged in a neighboring state that I have any less interest in the welfare of the old college. It is a noble old pioneer and as such is laboring under the disadvantage of upholding and teaching a subject at present not popular: indeed, it has never been popular. It stands, therefore, as an educator of public sentiment.

There are a hundred men ready to do some unusual thing, even indifferently well, to one that is able to do ordinary things unusually well. This is not because the unusual thing is of a higher order, but because it is easier.

Many of our young men have been leaving agriculture from a feeling that it is but an ordinary occupation, that it does not pay, or that a salaried position is better. Already, however, some of the brightest are beginning to observe that a man may outlive his occupation; that a salaried position rarely builds up a business; and that ownership of land is a power in the world.

Accordingly, from unexpected sources any fair observer of current affairs can but note a real interest in the soil and its productions. I encountered a few days ago agents buying farm lands for a Chicago syndicate.

These things mean something and seem to say to the young man, "Get land, buy land, keep land, and do not sell it or squander it." If there be a golden day ahead, wherein the soil shall be tilled by lovers of a rural life, then such institutions as the M. A. C. will not have lived and labored in vain. May the old fashioned "country gentleman" speedily return to us, that future great men may find good homes in which to be born.

Fraternally yours,

EUGENE DAVENPORT,  
Dean of College of Agriculture,  
University of Illinois.

## NOTES ON BASE BALL.

The first nine will not play ball on Memorial Day,

The team has chosen C. E. Hoyt umpire and J. T. Berry, scorer.

Manager Herrmann wants another pitcher. If any man on the campus has a talent for throwing he should report at once.

Through the kindness of Dr. Beal and Secretary Butterfield, the team now has a dressing room near the ball ground, in which are lockers where each member of the team can keep his base ball property in security.

Those who have paid their base ball subscriptions will find receipts for the same at the secretary's office. Those who have not paid will please hand in the amount of their subscriptions at the secretary's office and get their receipts. The subscription list has not yet grown to such alarming proportions that additions will not be thankfully accepted.

Please remember students, faculty, and all, that our players are young and that they need encouragement; that we are supporting the letter and spirit of the faculty's desire for a strictly amateur team of good standing in scholarship; that we are beginning all over again, building a foundation for a team that we hope to make worthy of your support next year and the years to come; and, finally, that we are much more in need of your hearty support and friendly criticism than of your adverse criticism. If you have criticisms to make go to the manager or captain and not to the players.

## NEW YORK FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

K. L. BUTTERFIELD.

On my return from Wisconsin, I found in my mail a circular from Mr. Geo. A. Smith, Director of New York Farmers' Institutes, giving dates of their meetings. By this I discovered that during the week of March 23 there would be held a number of institutes in western New York. Being anxious to study the New York system, I again packed my grip and hied for Ira. I spent two days there, two more at Albion, and one at Penfield. These places are all on or near the line of the New York Central Railroad, Albion, being about the center of the apple growing district of the state, and of a very intelligent community. I thus had a fair opportunity to observe the workings of the New York system.

The appropriation for farmers' institutes in New York is \$15,000 per year, the largest in any state. This enables the management to hold nearly three hundred two-day meetings during the season. Besides this they

send out lecturers on request during the summer to granges, farmers' clubs, etc. There are no local institute societies, but the superintendent, or "director" as he is called in New York, gets into correspondence with some local person interested in getting an institute, whom they call the "correspondent," and who makes all necessary local arrangements. The programs are made out in the office of the director, a small advertisement on the back of a four page program paying the entire expense. There are from three to five state workers at each institute, each one therefore appearing but once or twice upon the program with a set talk; as with us, where institutes overlap, some speakers will remain but a day in a place. Some member of the state force presides at each session. Local speakers occasionally appear upon the program, but not so frequently as formerly. I was told that the people preferred to have fewer local speakers. The general conduct of their meetings is not very different from ours, except in one particular. The topic, when presented, is not likely to be discussed very freely, but at the beginning of each session except the first about an hour will be devoted to a question box, all the questions being written and being asked on any topics. It is expected that most of the questions will be on the topics treated the previous session, but this is by no means always done.

I will note some of the strong features of the system the first one being the magnitude and extent of the work. It is by far the most extended of any system. The appropriation is large and it really does a vast amount of work. Another good point about the plan is, by reason of this magnitude partly, that it reaches into the smaller and less progressive districts of the state. Another feature of the New York work is the high grade of the men employed as workers. I presume that the New York institutes have the benefit of more strong farmer specialists than has any other state. They are, as a rule, not only practical and successful men, but they are able to talk intelligently about the scientific side of their business. The experiment station workers at Geneva and Cornell and the professors of Cornell university, are occasionally used, but not very frequently for lack of time on their part.

One feature of the New York meetings is the comparatively small attendance. If the meetings I attended are a criterion, and I was informed that they were fair samples, it would be safe to say that the average attendance at the New York meetings is less than half of ours, when communities are compared. Perhaps the strongest criticism to make, from the standpoint of the Michigan man at least, is the lack of local help. There is no local organization of any sort, local people are not encouraged to appear on the program, they do not very often ask questions except through the question box, so that the identity of individuals is lost and the development that comes from taking an active part is missing. In New York they do not feel that this is a weakness, but we should certainly consider it so. There is a misfortune in the New York system lying in the fact that the institute work is a part of the department of agriculture, the head of this department being appointed by the governor, and himself appointing his subordinates; thus the directorship becomes a political office. This is a misfortune certainly, not so much because of the failure to get good men, because that is not yet true, but because of the frequent change, and the fact that a man has not opportunity to develop certain lines of work during the time he holds the office.

Comparing the work in New York with that of other states, I can conscientiously give New York the credit of having the most extensive system of any, and as I said above, it probably has more strong specialists right from the farm than any other state. But I do not think the meetings are nearly so well attended as in the west; I do not think that they are quite so well conducted as in Wisconsin, and I think that in a matter of local help, New York is behind Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. In the matter of local organization and in recognition of woman's work, Michigan is far in the lead.

Supt. of Institutes.

## '97 ENTERTAINS.

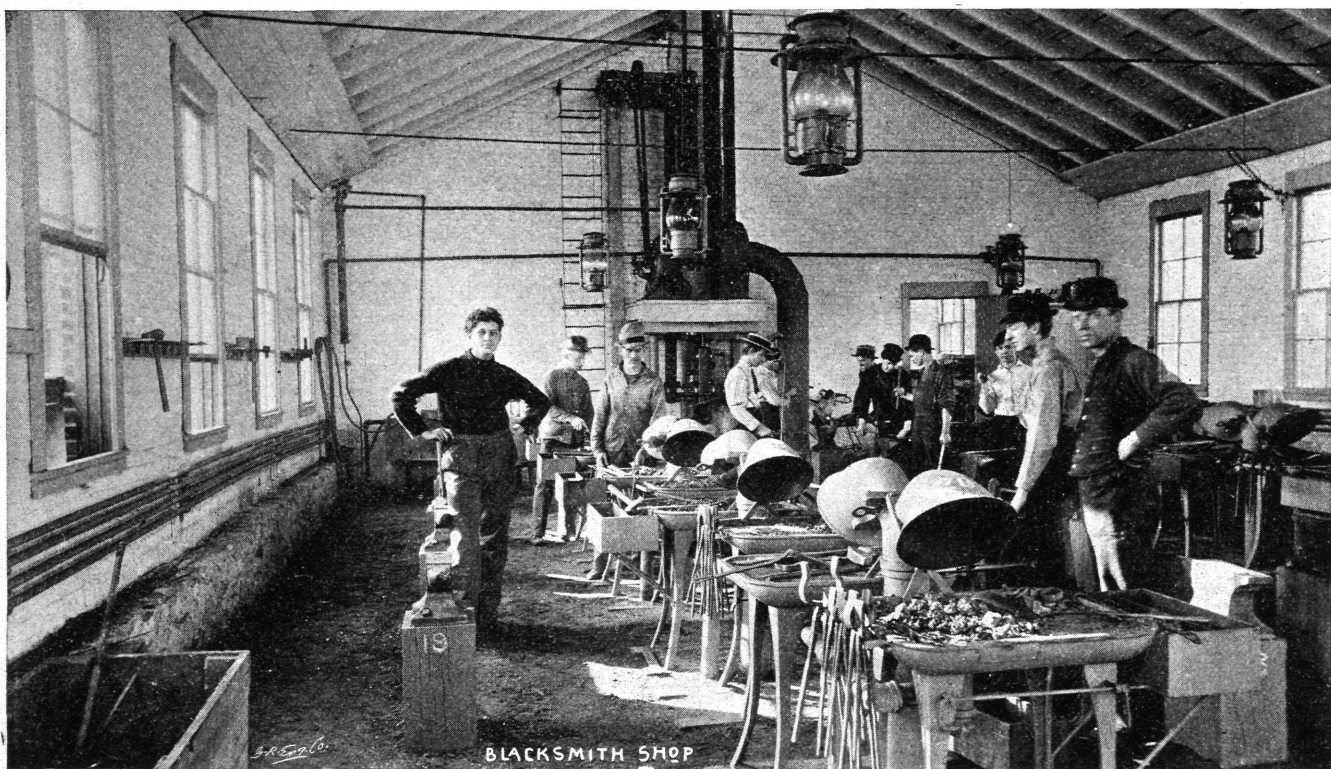
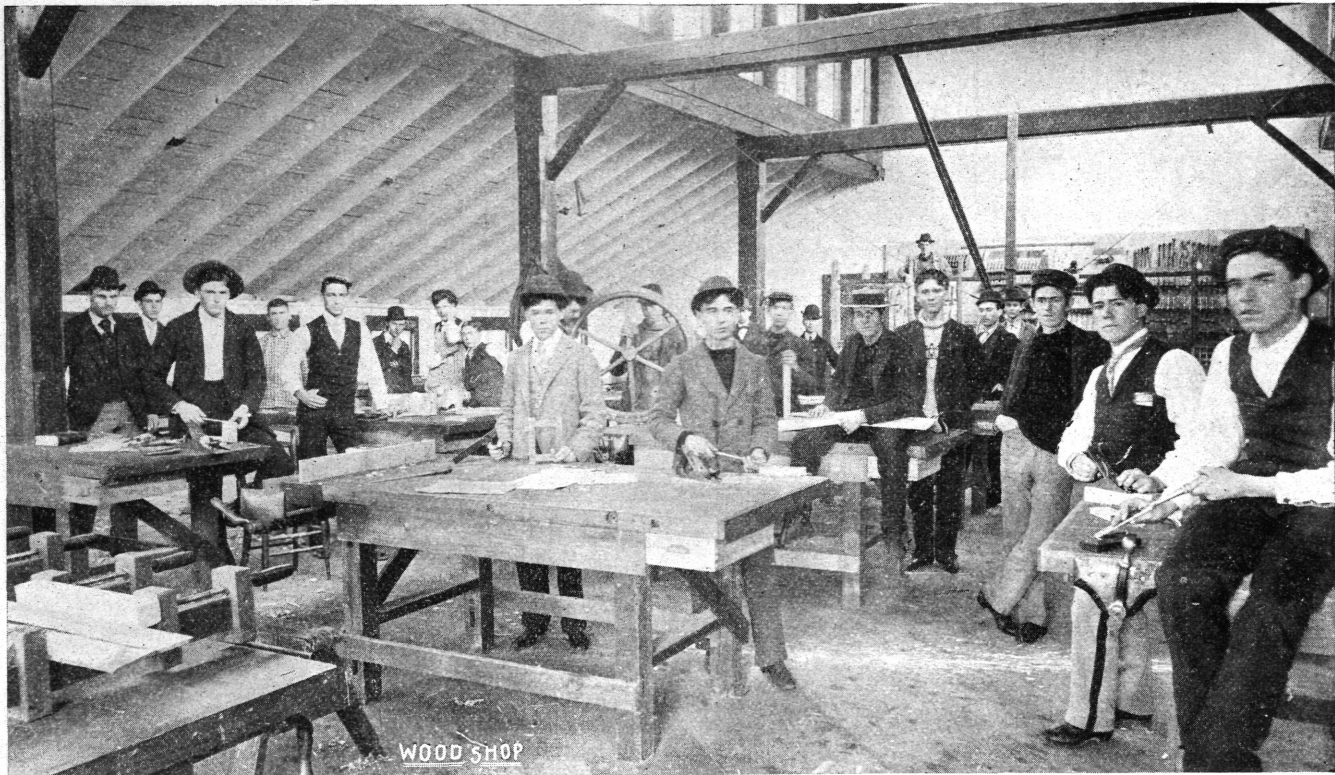
Everyone was assured of the success of the Junior hop by the hustling spirit evinced by the members of the class in getting the armory ready. "Is it going to rain Friday night?" has been the chief question for the past week. Happily it did not and '97's hop passed into College history as one of the most successful ever held.

Wurzburg's orchestra of Grand Rapids, consisting of ten pieces furnished excellent music.

President and Mrs. Snyder received the participants at the west entrance. Many of the faculty and former students from abroad attended. All day Saturday the Juniors busied themselves in putting the armory into its everyday attire.

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF

STUDYING ENGINEERING



# OBTAIN AN M. A. C. CATALOG

And note the instruction offered in the

# MECHANICAL COURSE.

The work is carried on in the following departments:

**Mechanical Engineering, Physics and Electrical Engineering,  
Mathematics and Civil Engineering, Drawing, Chemistry,**

**LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES.**

**EXCELLENT SHOP AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT.**

Moderate Admission Requirements.

Low Expense.

For Catalog address

College Year Begins Sept. 14, 1896.

**"THE SECRETARY."**