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CONCORD, N. C., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 1,568

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Distinguished Representatives Present—Vital Topics Discussed—A Farmer's Club Organized.

The Farmer's Institute of Mt. Pleasant, Cabarrus county, N. C., met Nov. 25, 1896. Commissioner S L Patterson was present, and by his request Rev. M G G Scherer opened the meeting with prayer, after which Mr. Patterson proceeded to organize the Institute by asking the audience to select a chairman and secretary. T A Moser, Esq. was elected chairman and O D Barring, secretary, after which a committee on programme was appointed by the chairman, which are: G E Ritchie, J W Foil, R A Smith and B Irby.

Mr. Patterson then proceeded to explain the law and made some important remarks on the subject of farming after which the Institute took recess to meet at 1 o'clock.

The afternoon session was called to order by the president after which the committee on programme reported the following subjects for discussion, viz: 1st, Work of the Agricultural Department; 2nd, work of the Agricultural and Mechanical college; 3rd, How to keep our hills from washing away and our bottoms from being ruined by being covered with poor soil from the hills, as well as being flooded; 4th, Renovating crops; 5th, Stock raising, including dairying; 6th, Cheapest feed for cattle; 7th, Use of commercial fertilizers.

Dairying being called first, Prof. F E Emery opened the subject and spoke at some length, after which Prof. B Irby, by request, made a few remarks on the subject.

Many questions were then asked by persons from the audience, which showed a deep interest in the work. Prof. Irby having the floor, proceeded with some very interesting remarks on the Agricultural and Mechanical college. The subject of hills washing away and filling on bottom land was then taken up, and was discussed at considerable length by Prof. Irby. The question of deep plowing was then called for and Prof. F E Emery led off in the discussion, followed by Prof. Irby and also by Commissioner Patterson. This discussion brought forth many questions from the audience. Great interest was manifested among the attendance. Commissioner Patterson then gave some practical ideas as to the use of commercial fertilizers, its analysis, value, etc. He was followed by Prof. Irby.

The work of the day now being over, the farmers present proceeded to organize a Farmers' Club at once by electing the present chairman and secretary. A committee was appointed on organization, consisting of Prof. H T J Ludwig, Geo. E Ritchie and W N Misenheimer. The meeting then adjourned, subject to the call of the chairman at St. John's Agricultural Hall. Thus ended a very profitable, as well as sociable, meeting of the representative farmers of eastern Cabarrus.

C. D. BARRINGER, Sec'y.

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m17 tf

THE CONVICTS' FRIEND.

Mr. G. S. Griffith, of Baltimore, is Making a Tour in the Interest of Prison Reform.

It will be seen in the following statement of Baltimore's noted philanthropist, Mr. G S Griffith, that North Carolina has more youthful criminals than Virginia and South Carolina both, which is indeed a black eye to the State:

He is making a tour of the South and while in Atlanta told the Journal that he was working in the interest of prison reform and for the organization of societies for the prevention of cruelty to children. Mr. Griffith is president of the Maryland Prison Aid Association, the society for the protection of children and the industrial home for colored girls.

He says he found in the Virginia penitentiary 228 prisoners under 20 years of age. In the South Carolina penitentiary he found 178 under 20 years of age and in the North Carolina penitentiary he found 473 prisoners under 20. In that prison he found 99 under 16. He thinks there should be reformatories for the young and that better influences should surround the older prisoners.

"My experience has convinced me," said Mr. Griffith, "that there are four necessary factors for the reformation of criminals—labor, education, physical strength and religion—and these cannot be properly developed in camp life. Labor as a reform measure must be of a useful kind, to teach the prisoner the proper means of self-support after discharge, and at the same time make him support himself while in prison. This is best done in a penitentiary which is under careful supervision.

"Education is one of the main factors of reformation; neglected youth is the greatest cause of crime. In a criminal camp it is impossible to give that careful training as well as in a permanent prison, with its facilities of library, teachers and ministers of the gospel. The physical strength of a prisoner is necessary to his mental improvement. A weak, abused physical condition cannot be but antagonistic to an improved mental condition.

"Religious training cannot have any great effect in criminals leased out, in camps, with their pernicious environments. While surrounded with such influences, they will not realize the all-comforting power of religion, but become more hardened and antagonistic to society.

"The proper prison buildings, the careful management and treatment of criminals, facilities for teaching them how to work, with conscientious, religious and secular education, have more influence in the reformation of criminals and the prevention of crime than all the punishments ever devised.

"The education and protection of children from the ignorant and dissipated classes is a study worthy all Christians. The children of today are the future depraved or respected citizens. They will either become a menace and expense to society from neglect, or a supporter of the laws and a protection to the community through training.

"Prevention has been held as subsidiary to the repression; but, instead of being a mere secondary aid, should be considered the primary defensive function of society, and

should begin with the original sources of crime, both physical and social.

"All prisons should be considered more as schools to reform than as places of punishment, and then, instead of being places to learn more vicious habits, they would become teachers of habits of useful industry, physical training and moral improvement, and cause a great reduction of the criminal classes."

Mr. Griffith thinks a good law is one that was put on the Maryland statute books two years ago, giving judges discretion to suspend sentence in cases where young men are arraigned for first offenses, provided previous good character is shown and there are extenuating circumstances.

Mr. Griffith has been engaged in this work 50 years and is 83 years old.

Building and Loan New Series.

The seventeenth series of stock in the Concord Perpetual Building and Loan Association will be open for first payment Saturday, December 5th, 1896. Call on the Secretary and Treasurer at Cannons & Fetzer's store and subscribe.

J. P. ALLISON, President.
H. I. WOODHOUSE, Sec'y and Treas.

W. M. Brooks' Law Suit.

Saturday was a busy day with C A Pitts, Esquire. Mr. W M Brooks, principal of Georgeville academy, has brought suit against J W Widemhouse, suing for tuition. The case is somewhat complicated and owing to the lack of time on the part of several important witnesses, the case was continued until Saturday, December 26th. It is destined to be an interesting case and one of much importance to the school regulations pertaining to transfers from one district to another.

Gave Policemen a Chase.

Saturday afternoon, just after the performance at Belford's circus, a group of young men standing on the outside of the canvass, bent and determined on having "fun," created considerable excitement when Henry Bost, one of the party, out with his knife and ripped the canvass. This act of degradation infuriated the circus men and one of them chucked a rock at Bost, when the latter made a break for escape at a 2:40 gait with his pal, Madison Hall, at his heels. The two men were chased by the policeman and several hundred other people for several blocks, finally being overtaken at the Jim Long place, east of church street. Bost submitted to having done the cutting and the matter was adjusted by a compromise. Madison Hall, who took no part in the cutting, but who ran with Bost, was arrested on suspicion and on being searched, a pistol was found on his person. In default of a \$50 bond he was sent to jail.

Bost and Hall were chums and are both from No. 11 township.

Buried Saturday Afternoon Without Ceremony.

The mangled remains of Mrs. Lizzie Bonds, whose terrible death occurred on the railroad Saturday at noon, were buried at the Presbyterian cemetery at 5 o'clock on that day. The unfortunate woman's relatives turned the corpse over to Messrs. Dry & Wadsworth, the undertakers, who conducted the burial without ceremony.

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