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INTRODUCTORY.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND HOME EDUCATION

The legislature of last winter passed an act, commonly known as the Hackney bill, creating a division of agricultural extension and home education in the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota, and providing for the publication and distribution of home education bulletins. To be more specific, the law provides for the publication of comprehensive elementary courses in the several phases of husbandry; for teaching such courses to all people of the state desiring them, by means of correspondence, local lectures, demonstrations, instructions, and giving in any way possible information calculated to place agriculture on a higher economic and social plane. The idea of the framers of the bill was to make rural life more attractive to not only the older people, but to the young, whose tendency is too strong to leave the farm and drift to the cities because of the unattractiveness and monotony of the farm under the old regime. In other words, the aim of the law is to establish a new regime on the farm by supplementing the rural route and rural telephone with practical helps, such as furnishing the people of the farm with the results and investigations of the various divisions of the state experiment station and sub-stations, together with such other information and advice as may be helpful in any farm home or on the field, in aid not only to the men in the conduct of their business, for farming is at its best only a matter of dollars and cents, but to the women in the conduct of the home. It was the intention of the legislature to devote energy, effort and money to assist the farmer and his family to a higher plane and successful methods of conducting his business.

Supervision of the fund created by the law in question has been left in the hands of Dr. Cyrus Northrup, President of the University of Minnesota, Prof. Samuel B Green, President of the Board of Administration of Farmers' Institutes, and Hon. A. E. Rice, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the University, constituting a joint committee of the board of regents and the board of administration, who have chosen Mr. A. D. Wilson, Superintendent of the Farmers' Institutes, as superintendent of the extension work; Mr. Geo. F. Howard, late superintendent of schools of Olmsted county is chosen for rural school work; Mr. O. M. Olson, a successful farmer of Chippewa county, who has been long identified with the Farmers' Institute work in Minnesota, as well as an institute worker in Washington state, is the specialist in agriculture; Mrs. Margaret B. Baker, an expert in home economics, is specialist in this line, and will devote her time and talents in suggesting better methods in household work, where much of the burden of farm life falls heavily, and where relief is seriously needed, Mrs. Baker's helps will be

found no less useful in her department than the work of the gentlemen named in their respective fields of instruction. Specialists in the field of live stock and horticulture are yet to be selected, but the management may be relied upon to choose men, who, by experience and training, are prepared to disseminate information of practical value, rendering help to those whose business lies at the base of all industry, to make their labors more profitable and pleasurable.

An editor of long experience in Minnesota journalism has been selected whose duty it will be to prepare matter for publication and dissemination to all residents of the state who wish the practical lessons in agriculture, that experience, experiment and investigation have developed through the medium of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, supported by liberal legislative appropriations wisely expended in the development of the wonderful possibilities of the state's great and varied resources.

Everything Free.

Under the law all bulletins, lectures, instruction, both by correspondence and orally, are free to all citizens of the state. It is the intention to issue bulletins semi-monthly at least, and to inaugurate a correspondence course as early as possible, but in the near future. Every newspaper in the state, and many in adjoining states, will be given an opportunity, and is requested, to publish so much matter as it desires from the bulletins, either as original editorials or under credit to the University Farm Press News. Short articles will be prepared especially for newspaper use, and it is the hope of both the board of regents and the board of administration that the newspapers will co-operate in this effort to develop the farm possibilities of Minnesota, as a matter of self interest and as an aid in reaping the success in their business their efforts entitle them to. Co-operation is the spirit of the times, and as the newspaper co-operates with its closest constituents, in return will the farmer and his family become interested in the paper and its success, and help it to grow alongside the industry it tries to foster and promote.

Hence the Agricultural Extension asks the help of the newspaper men. The Department will supply the copy; will they "do the rest?"

AN EDITOR WITH

THE RIGHT IDEA

The editor of this Bulletin wishes that every country editor in Minnesota could be induced to handle the stock question with the enthusiasm with which Editor Lee, of the Todd County Argus takes hold of the stock and dairy interest of his county. It would not be a difficult task to give encouragement to the readers of the county papers.

Mr. Lee is devoting much time to argument with his subscribers on vital questions of farming, only hoping to see the farmers increase their wealth, and if each editor to whom the Farm Press News is sent will even use his space for the articles we supply he can help the good work along. But intelligently written articles on kindred subjects, which local

conditions are developing, will be of immense value, and combining the two suggestions the papers would soon find themselves and their farmer friends working in co-operation to attain the splendid results desired.

LIVE STOCK.

STATE DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION

The State Dairymen's convention will be held at Hutchinson on the 18th, 19th and 20th inst. The program has been carefully prepared. It is the intention to make this one of the most valuable conventions ever held by the state dairymen, and some of the best talent in the state has been secured to lecture on the economical production of milk, and subjects kindred to the dairy interest. The citizens of Hutchinson will provide accommodations for all who attend and give a banquet to all members of the association. The program deals with all the practical questions concerning the dairy, care of milk, etc. The speakers will all be practical men in dairying. On the 19th, Prof. A. D. Wilson, superintendent of the Farmers' Institute, will give an address, as will also Professors Vye and Haecker of the agricultural school at St. Anthony Park.

EXTENSION WORK.

INDUSTRIAL CONTESTS.

The immense results obtained by the Industrial Contests of last year induce the department of Farmers' Institutes to continue the contests for another year. The interest has become general throughout the state, wherever the experiment has been tried, and has spread to new communities, until this branch of college extension work seems too encouraging to be abandoned.

This is a contest in the production of grain, corn, fruit, vegetables, and in sewing and baking, by the boys and girls of Minnesota under eighteen years of age. Its object is to interest the boys and girls in the general duties around the home and farm, and to enable them to realize the value of things constantly being done around them. Boys and girls are only little men and women. To fit them for the future duties of life the department wishes to bring them into touch with the daily affairs going on before them, these affairs being so liable to be lost sight of or misunderstood unless their attention is called to them. If their interest can be awakened it will grow with them to compete in well-doing and doing things right. So much of the future of Minnesota depends upon her farmers that the department is anxious to start the young people upon the right lines of thinking and working so that every boy and girl shall have an opportunity of knowing the right and wrong way of working, and rightly understanding the principles of agriculture. For these reasons the agricultural extension is carried to them, in the years when they are most susceptible of learning, under a method that will interest as well as educate them, viz: by the way of friendly rivalry. This branch of the extension work will be under the charge of Mr. Geo. F. Howard, late superintendent of schools of

Olmsted county, who is an enthusiastic friend of the young people, and enjoys their confidence and friendship wherever he has gone. The results of this work will be from time to time referred to in the University Press News, in the hope that its friends in the country will liberally copy from these columns and keep their readers informed of the results.

Complete details of these contests may be had by asking. Address Prof. Geo. F. Howard, Division of Agricultural Extension, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

The Department of Farmers' Institutes has been trying the feature of Women's Institutes in the past with such good results as to make the management feel that such institutes should become a regular feature of the work. The experiment was first tried in Houston county, where a meeting on one afternoon of each week, for four consecutive weeks, was held with the ladies. The attendance at each meeting was a surprise in enthusiasm, interest and numbers, averaging something like two hundred a day, and as each weekly meeting was held the interest continued to grow.

The Department has planned a course of four lectures and will soon begin the campaign of 1910. The sessions will not be confined to the ladies on the farm alone, but every woman or girl, in city, town or country is welcome and urged to attend. It is the policy of this department to so arrange these meetings as to be of as little inconvenience to those desiring to attend as possible, so they can attend and not materially neglect other duties, which might be otherwise if daily sessions were held for several successive days. Experience has shown that one meeting each week is eminently practicable, and accordingly dates have been set as follows:

Grandmeadow, Monday afternoon, January 10, and for each of the three succeeding Mondays, January 17, 24, and 31.

Spring Valley, Tuesday, afternoon, January 11, 18, 25, and February 1.

Stewartville, Wednesday afternoon, January 12, 19, 26, and February 2.

Leroy, Thursday afternoon, January 13, 20, 27, and February 3.

Austin, Friday afternoon, January 14, 21, 28, and February 4.

The Woman's Institutes will be conducted by Mrs. Margaret B. Baker, of Saint Anthony Park, whose long experience as a teacher and in the home magnificently equips her for the work so interesting and important to the housekeeper.

TEST YOUR SEED

NOW, NOT LATER

The Division of Botany and Plant Pathology of the Minnesota Experiment Station is now ready to make purity and germination tests, free of charge, of all seeds sown on the farm. This Division has a Seed Laboratory well equipped with apparatus similar to that used in the Seed Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C. Send all samples to Dr. E. M. Freeman, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

Address all correspondence on this subject to him.