

and peculiarly, and as the long winter evenings have commenced, permit me to call your attention to the following extracts, principally from the *Country Gentleman*, written by farmers, that they may be read at your first meeting, and perhaps serve to instruct you on some important points which I have not touched.

"But there is one beneficial operation of Clubs and Societies among farmers, which, if I should judge from my own feelings and those of a few with whom I have conversed upon the subject, I should place foremost and chief among their advantages. I refer to their tendency to induce the members to read and study records of facts, opinions, and experiences, and to observe what is passing around them with greater care. They induce some, also, to put the opinions or theories advanced by themselves or others, to the test of experiment. This stimulating and sharpening influence upon the observing, reasoning and active powers of the mind, I am disposed to rank as the chief among the several benefits which the discussions and interchanges of thought and experience among the members of these associations have a tendency to produce. Pride, or a dread of appearing to disadvantage, will induce some to observe, to experiment, to read, and to reflect; while others will be influenced to the same course from more disguised and generous motives. In these and other ways the mind is roused to activity, and this increased mental activity leads certainly to improvement, both within and without, both of the power to think and judge, and plan judiciously, and of the mode of carrying on the various operations of the farm."

"Wherever 'Farmers' Clubs' have been formed in prudence and energetically sustained, grand results have followed. Their history has been a brilliant one in many a rural district.

Why then are they not more universally established? Not because they lack in utility, for their benefits develop themselves clearly. Not because farmers are not capable of getting up and sustaining them. There is intelligence enough in every farmers' neighborhood to start them with interest, and the longer they exist, the more interest and talent will be elicited, for they lead to close thought, diligent study and fixed observation. Positive indifference and lack of energy must be the causes of their failure.

Men of all other professions associate and meet for the advancement of their calling, and why shall not the farmers, who should stand first of all, inasmuch as it was the first employment assigned to man, and inasmuch as it feeds and clothes all?

Why do they not assume their position, unite and regulate their plans accordingly?"

However a club is constituted, it should be as simple in its organization as possible. The meetings should be as free from parliamentary restraint as possible. The punctilious palaver of a debating society is ridiculous when we want to get a man's practical notions, and think less of his grammar or rhetoric than of what he means. The chief duties of the president are, to prevent two people from speaking at once, to lead back discussion to the topic under consideration, and to call out the backward, that there may be no waiting for somebody to speak, which distracts attention and makes any meeting stiff and disagreeable.

Farmers, when they thus meet should have a free and easy, pleasant talk on agricultural matters, and when this is over, a chat about the weather, or the latest news, over a cup of tea or a plate of walnuts and apples."

REPORT.

The undersigned members of the Joint Committee, appointed to visit the College Farm and examine into the condition of affairs connected with the Institution, and estimate the cost of a suitable building, have performed that duty and respectfully submit the following report:

We visited the Farm on the 27th of January, and found the

LOCATION

As follows: On a direct line twenty-nine miles due north of the City of Des Moines, in Story county; nine miles west of Nevada, the county seat; and on the direct public road leading from Nevada to Boonsboro. The Farm lies two and one-fourth miles west of Skunk River, the centre of the Farm, near where the buildings are erected, being a little more than three miles from the nearest point on Skunk River. The west line of the Farm is two and one-half miles east of the Boone county line. The Cedar Rapids & Missouri Railroad is now being built directly through the Farm, coming into it on the east side, about ninety rods north of the south line, and running diagonally through it, bearing north-west, and leaving it on the north line within about thirty rods of the north-west corner—dividing the Farm so as to leave about 160 acres on the north and about 488 acres on the south side of the Railroad. The Farm is well supplied with

WATER AND TIMBER.

Squaw Creek, a fine stream, comes into the Farm on the north; meanders through near the east line, the whole length affording an inexhaustible supply of pure water for stock. The banks of the stream are low, and densely covered with heavy timber on both sides. The timber is principally black walnut, oak, elm, white maple, linn, cottonwood, ash, hickory and numerous other valuable

varieties. We were informed by the Trustees that upon a careful examination they have found upwards of *fifty* different varieties of timber, bushes and shrubbery growing on the Farm, and from the examination we were able to make, we are satisfied that their estimate is not too high. There is another fine stream of pure water called "Clear Creek," running through the north-west corner of the Farm, the banks of which are high and broken bluffs, covered with a large and magnificent growth of white oak, black walnut, red oak, white walnut and sugar maple timber. From the best information we could obtain from our own estimates and other reliable sources, we are satisfied that there is on the College Farm not less than one hundred and fifty acres of valuable heavy timber, embracing nearly every variety growing natural in the State. Near the centre of the Farm and about twenty rods east of the barn yard, are several fine springs, affording a good supply of stock water, which we were informed by old settlers in the vicinity, never froze over. Near the south-west corner of the Farm is a fine pond of water, which affords a good supply ten months out of the twelve in the driest seasons.

After a careful examination, we are enabled to present to the General Assembly the following

DESCRIPTION OF THE FARM.

The farm contains six hundred and forty-eight acres lying in a body, being about 400 rods long from east to west and about 259 rods wide from north to south. After deducting the one hundred and fifty acres of timber above described, there remain 498 acres of prairie land suitable for grass and grain. There is probably not far from 180 acres of low bottom land, about one hundred of which is covered with timber; the remainder is about equally divided between wet and dry bottom.

The low land in the timber is a rich, deep black sandy loam, with clay subsoil, but not inclined to hold water on the surface. Next west adjoining the timber is a fine, smooth, level tract of low land, remarkably well adapted for grass, but could by a judicious system of drainage be converted into the most productive corn land, not excelled in the West. Beyond this to the north-west is a large tract known in this State as second bottom land, being level,

dry and very rich and remarkably productive for almost every crop grown in this latitude. The soil is a mixture of black sand, fine gravel and rich black alluvial and prairie soil proper; comprising perhaps the most desirable soil known to the agriculturalist. A part of this land was sowed with wheat last season and produced, as we are informed, about 20 bushels to the acre of *first quality*, as we ascertained by examination. West of this is a large tract of level prairie, the soil being dry, slightly intermixed with fine gravel in places, with clay subsoil, being a fair representative of the prevailing prairie soil in the State. On the north-west corner of the farm is a tract of perhaps 40 acres of clay soil, most of which is covered with a heavy growth of oak, walnut and hickory timber. Though called clay soil, this land is a fair specimen of what is known in this State as "barrens" and "timber land." The soil is a mixture of prairie and clay, with heavy clay subsoil, and is considered the best wheat and fruit land in the western States. On the south side of the farm is about 90 acres of high rolling prairie, intermixed with gravel, and well adapted for almost any grain crop raised in the West, being warm and dry, the ravines which intersect it carrying off all surplus water in the wettest seasons. The gravel contained in the soil is mostly on the surface, and is turned under by the first plowing—nearly disappearing after cultivation. We found fine sand and gravel banks on the farm, furnishing an inexhaustible supply for building purposes and for grading roads, walks and yards.

There is also on the farm good clay for brick making, convenient to where the College will probably be erected.

THE IMPROVEMENTS

Consist of a good, substantial brick farm house, with a basement of stone, making a cellar under the whole building. The house is nearly completed, the mortar being mixed ready for plastering the inside walls and partitions, in the Spring; and when finished will cost about three thousand dollars. The bricks were manufactured on the farm. There is also a good barn on the place, well finished and painted, of good height and is 42 feet by 60 in size, capable of providing storage room for the grain, and shelter for the necessary teams and stock connected with the farm. There is a good stone

basement under the barn, and a large yard inclosed by a substantial fence.

A great portion of the material and work used in the erection of these buildings, was furnished in payment of voluntary subscriptions, by citizens in the vicinity.

There is about 220 acres of the farm inclosed by a substantial fence, a part of which is built of boards and posts, five boards high, and the remainder of rails, staked and ridged, eight rails high. The fences are built of good material, and are put up in a very substantial manner. Of the land inclosed about 148 acres are under cultivation, and had crops on, the past season.

There is a fine young orchard of about 400 thrifty trees, near the house, inclosed by a good fence, which has protected it from damage by cattle; and this little experiment has satisfied the people in the vicinity that the prevalent opinion that fruit cannot be raised upon our *open prairies* is entirely erroneous. They witnessed fine apples growing upon many of these trees which had been planted out but *three years* before, on the *level, open prairie*. They see that to be successful only requires ordinary care; such as they would bestow upon a corn crop, and they are profiting by this demonstration placed before their eyes, as we observed that nearly every farmer in the vicinity has begun to plant an orchard. These trees on the farm were donated to the Trustees by Mr. Smith, the well known nurseryman of Des Moines.

A well has been dug near the house, affording a good supply of pure water, at a depth of about 30 feet.

About 75 grape vines have been planted near the orchard, of several different varieties, among which are the Concord, Clinton, Isabella and Catawba. They appeared to flourish well, making a fine growth and producing some fruit.

BUILDING MATERIAL

for the erection of a College can be found in abundance on the farm and in the immediate vicinity. All of the necessary timber for frame-work can be taken from the farm without injury to the place. The necessary wood to burn the brick can be procured from down timber which is fast going to waste, and the best kind of clay and sand for the manufacture of the brick, are found in abundance on the farm. Stone for the basement can be had within

three and one-half miles, and lime within six miles of the place. Pine lumber and shingles can be obtained by means of the railroad, which is being now built directly through the farm.

There are several saw-mills in the immediate vicinity of the timber lands, both steam and water mills, capable of supplying any reasonable demand for lumber.

THE LANDS DONATED IN STORY COUNTY

lie on an average within two miles of the College Farm, and within one and one-half miles of the railroad. They consist of two 80-acre tracts, five of 40 acres, and four of 20 acres each, of good prairie land; three 10-acre lots of timber, and one lot of 32 acres of timber; making 440 acres of prairie and 62 acres of timber. There are also 200 acres of land in Boone county, consisting of five lots, varying in size from 20 to 80 acres each, and lying on an average, within two and one-half miles of the line of railroad, and within about seven miles of the farm. The lands thus donated to the college amount to 640 acres of prairie, estimated to be worth \$4.00 per acre, making \$2,560. The timber lands, 620 acres, are estimated to be worth \$14.00 per acre, making \$868.00—total, \$3,428.00. There is also one acre of land, donated to the farm, and within one mile of it, containing a good stone quarry, besides about 20 lots in New Philadelphia, a new town on the line of the railroad, and about two miles from the farm, which will probably be the nearest railroad station.

Sections 9 and 10 of the organic act providing for the purchase of the College Farm, require that the trustees shall purchase suitable lands, not less than 640 acres, for the use of the College and Experimental Farm; and that they shall take into consideration the price, location, *quality* and *variety* of soil, advantages of water, timber, stone, &c.

Your committee, after a thorough examination, are of the opinion that it would have been difficult for the trustees to have made a selection more fully complying with the requirements of the law, than the one purchased. It has upon it at least six different varieties of soil, representing the prevailing kinds in the State; it has more than 50 varieties of timber, bushes and shrubs, and running water, spring and well water in abundance; a plenty of gravel, sand, stone, and material for brick; high dry land, level dry land,

rolling clay, second bottom, sloughs, flat wet bottom, and timber bottom, besides the genuine prairie land.

We know of no other farm of the size in the State combining so many leading characteristics of Iowa land, and though we went to the farm with some feelings of prejudice against the location, we came away fully impressed with the belief that it answers the requirements of the law, as completely as any selection that could have been made. We are satisfied that the main object had in view by the framers of the organic law was, that the experimental farm should combine as many leading characteristics of the lands of our State as possible to be found in one farm, that all of the different varieties might be thoroughly tested, with the various grains and grasses, vegetables and fruits, and the final results might add to the experimental knowledge of the cultivators of the soil. We deem it our duty to make a brief review of the

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE AND FARM,

and of what has been done by the Legislature and Trustees to carry into effect the requirements of the organic law.

At the session of the Legislature of 1858 an act was passed, providing for the establishment of a State Agricultural College and Farm, with a Board of Trustees, which shall be connected with the *entire* agricultural interests of the State."

Section 2 of the act provides that the College and Farm shall be under the management of a Board of eleven Trustees, and the Governor and President of the State Agricultural Society shall be ex-officio members. It also provides that one trustee shall be chosen from each judicial district in the State from persons nominated by the county agricultural societies, thus securing men for this high position who are identified with the great interest they are to represent, and wisely guarding against the danger of allowing this important institution, intended for the benefit of the industrial interests of the State, from being diverted from its noble purpose to build up some favored city or village, and convert what was designed for the benefit of the great agricultural and mechanical interests of the entire State, into a mere *local* school for the benefit of only those who are fortunate enough to live in the immediate vicinity.

The trustees, wisely foreseeing that an institution of this kind to

be successful in carrying out fully the intention of the Legislature must be located in the country, away from the attractions, vices and contaminations of a city, purchased what is known as the "College Farm," in Story county, a central position, which will soon be accessible from all parts of the State. The farm, which we have fully described in another part of this report, was purchased at a cost of \$5,379 12. In consideration of having the college located at that place, the citizens of Story and Boone counties made liberal donations of lands and money, labor and material, to the amount of about \$7,000, to assist in improving the farm and erecting the necessary farm buildings.

The county of Story issued bonds to the amount of \$10,000, for the benefit of the college, bearing interest at 7 per cent. There is also appropriated the proceeds of the sales of five sections of land (heretofore granted to the State for the erection of capital buildings in Jasper county) for the use and benefit of the college. Congress has, by an act since passed, diverted this grant of lands to the college, and a portion of them have been sold by the trustees. The estimated value of these lands is about \$14,000.

Soon after the passage of the organic law providing for an Agricultural College the great financial crash came, suspending almost all improvements, ruining thousands of the business men in the country, and reducing the State revenue so much as to render it necessary to make a large loan for the purpose of meeting the ordinary expenses of the State government. In view of this state of affairs, while other public institutions of the State were demanding and receiving large appropriations, the friends of the college waited patiently for better times, before calling upon the State for the necessary means for the erection of a college building. Before the country had fully recovered from the effects of the financial difficulties the great rebellion broke out, engrossing the entire attention of the loyal States, and requiring heavy and extraordinary appropriations from our State to place our quota of volunteers in the field.

During all this time the friends of the Agricultural College had not been idle. Knowing that in order to carry out faithfully the purpose in view, of providing an institution in which the sons of the working men could acquire a thorough practical education suited to the profession they were to follow through life, at so small

an expense that the poorest would not be excluded for want of means, the friends of the college acting with others in different States, made earnest, and finally successful efforts, to influence Congress to make a grant of lands for the future endowment of these institutions. The lands thus granted to our State amounted to 240,000 acres; nearly all of which have been selected in the north-western part of the State. This grant was made upon the express condition that the States accepting it should within five years from the approval of the act, "provide at least one college, where the *leading object* shall be, (without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics,) *to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.*"

Section *second* of the act of Congress expressly provides that no portion of the fund arising from the sale of these lands, or the interest thereon, shall be applied directly or indirectly to the purchase, erection or repair of any building or buildings. Thus it will be observed that the entire fund shall be invested and used for no other purpose than for the future endowment of the college, excepting that ten per cent. of the proceeds may be expended in procuring a suitable farm to carry on the manual labor department.

This land is mostly prairie, destitute of timber, far from market, and could only be sold at the present time at a very low price and at a great sacrifice. Good policy and the future interests of the college require that no more of the land should be now offered for sale, than is absolutely required to meet the necessary expenses of the institution, which can not be otherwise provided for.

It now remains for the State to decide by the action of the present Legislature whether we shall carry out, in good faith to the citizens of our own State, and the general government that made this most munificent grant, the noble and worthy purpose contemplated by the law.

If with a full sense of the great obligation resting upon them, and a realization of the important trust committed to their care, this Legislature shall, honestly and faithfully perform their duty, they will be entitled to the lasting gratitude of the sons of the working-men of the State for all time to come.

Your Committee have found it very difficult to arrive at any definite conclusion in regard to the cost of a suitable building for a college. We find that an estimate has been made by an experi-

enced Architect employed by the Trustees. The plan proposed is to erect a building that will accommodate one hundred students, the President and professors, with lecture and recitation rooms, laboratory, kitchen, dining and all other rooms necessary for a college and house for all connected with the institution. The building to be three stories high, and 42 feet by 150 feet; the basement to be built of stone, and the superstructure of brick. The estimated cost of such a building, fully completed ready for occupation, is \$50,000.

The Trustees estimate that they have in money, lands donated, and bonds, an amount sufficient to furnish the college, provide the necessary apparatus, stock the farm with improved breeds of animals, the out-buildings, farming utensils, machinery, &c., suitable to make a satisfactory commencement.

It is thought that \$30,000 would erect the out walls of the building and inclose it, and if the Legislature should not think best to provide a sufficient appropriation, at this session for its completion, the above mentioned amount could be used to advantage, in carrying on the work; and the friends of the institution believe the next Legislature would furnish the sum necessary to complete and put the college in operation within the time required by the Act of Congress making the grant.

The proposition has been made by the friends of the State University, to take charge of the Agricultural College, and attach a department to the University, in which shall be taught such branches as relate to agriculture and the mechanic arts, provided a large portion of the land grant be diverted to the use and benefit of the University. We regard this proposition as so manifestly unjust and dangerous, that we feel it our duty to refer to some of the difficulties in the way of such an attempted union of the two institutions. The University is intended to be a higher grade school than any other in the State, in which students from the various seminaries, academies, and colleges may enter, and complete an education in the highest branches taught, affording facilities and advantages that no other educational institution in the State possesses. The object is a noble one, worthy of our great State, and we trust that the purpose will be fully carried out, without endangering its success by "any entangling alliances." The State and General Government have dealt most liberally with it,

affording it support and aid, in lands, buildings and money, to the amount of more than \$330,000.

The Agricultural College was projected for a very different purpose, and is intended to be conducted on an entirely different plan. The want of a high school or college for the sons of working men, where they could, at a trifling expense, acquire a thorough practical education, adapted to the industrial pursuits they desire to follow through life, has been long felt and earnestly desired. It is evident to every one who has examined the subject that this institution, to be successful, must be entirely independent of ordinary colleges and universities where theories are taught, without practical illustrations. The organic act provides that all students admitted into the college "shall labor not less than *two hours per day* in winter and *three hours* in the summer season." The object of this provision is, no doubt, to place all students on a perfect equality as far as manual labor is concerned, that there may be no distinction between the sons of rich or poor—that the student who may be compelled to labor to pay his way may not feel that he is submitting to a work of drudgery, but is only complying with the rules of the college, wisely provided for the benefit of all, in giving them the advantage of every day practice to test the truth or error of the new theories they are learning. Does any reflecting person believe that these most important provisions of the system of agricultural education can be connected with the State University, located in the heart of a populous city, where no experimental farm can be connected with it, with no suitable boarding house where young boys can be under the care and control of a suitable person who would look to their welfare? They would be turned loose after school hours, to all of the enticements, vices and corrupting influences of a city. They must find boarding places among the inhabitants of the town, where their labor cannot be employed to defray expenses; a department thus conducted can derive none of the benefits contemplated by the friends of the Agricultural College, in providing an industrial school in accordance with the act of our own Legislature, and the law of Congress making the munificent land grant, to enable the plans of the college to be faithfully and honestly carried out.

We are satisfied that any such attempt at consolidation would result in endless strife, quarrels, jealousy and confusion, and would

go far towards destroying the usefulness of both. We believe it to be the duty of the Legislature to encourage and sustain both of these valuable institutions by judicious and liberal assistance, while both are left free to stand or fall on their own merits.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

[Signed]

B. F. GUE,
JOHN RUSSELL,
CHARLES PAULK.