SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association

ADDRESS OF VICE PRESIDENT.

H. A. MAIN, PT. ATKINSON, JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Members of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Association and friends: A few days ago I received notice that our beloved president, Mr. Stone, was still unable to act as president at this our 8th annual meeting and that it would be necessary for me to prepare the usual President's address. Other duties have kept me from giving this as much thought as it should have, but I wish to call a few things to your attention this morning which are of great importance to our state and our Association.

The first thing and one of the most important is in regard to the Bill No. 54, S., introduced in the Senate by Senator Thomas which provides for carrying on demonstration experiments and conducting traveling schools by the College of Agriculture and making an appropriation therefor. The value of such work is unquestioned and has already proven valuable to the agricultural interests. The demonstrations of tuberculosis at our State and County Fairs and the corn contests for boys and girls at our County Fairs are along this line. It is proposed with money appropriated to hold short terms of practical work in grain growing and judging, in animal husbandry, in horticulture, dairy work, soils, etc., at many places in the state. In other words take a short course in agriculture to the farmer. It is also proposed to carry on experiments to ascertain the best and cheapest methods of converting our cut-over lands of northern Wisconsin to tillable fields. This experiment alone is worth to the state more than the appropriation of
$30,000 called for in the bill and then we have all the other good things thrown in for "good measure," so good that it is "running over."

Another bill before the legislature is to compel seed dealers to mark all seeds with the kind of seeds and foreign matter which they contain. As it now stands, he is required to give the percentage of purity and percentage of foreign matter, but is not compelled to tell what the foreign matter consists of. For instance, clover seed 80% pure and 20% foreign matter only means that 80% is pure and 20% impure. That 20% may be timothy or it may be something the farmer does not want and would not have if he knew what it was.

Your committee on resolutions have prepared resolutions on both these bills and I hope they will receive your hearty support.

This leads to the thought of how much this association, through its members could effect in legislation favorable to our interests if we only keep posted on matters at our Capitol and let our representatives there know what we would like.

Every member of this association should stand firm by every plan to improve our highways. It is on the highway that we, as farmers, do most of our traveling and why then should they not be as good as possible especially in a rich state like Wisconsin.

And, when we speak of good roads let us not forget to have good roadsides—clean roadsides free from weeds, brush and if we must have road fences let them be well kept and indicative of a well kept farm lying over the fence. Let us clean our roads of that "louse of the country"—gypsies or horse traders—as they usually call themselves. Two years ago a resolution was adopted in our association convention supporting a bill in the legislature in regard to camping on the roadsides. I am informed that the bill now provides that the owner of a farm or a road overseer can compel these traveling camps to move on and that by verbal order only, and to move immediately. Formerly they had to be given a written notice to move and could stay twelve hours after receiving such notice. If the farmers of the state will do what the law allows we can make life so hard for these "movers" by "moving them so often and keep them moving "that they will get tired of moving and decide that it is easier to settle down and earn a living than to pick it up on the road by begging and using the roads for pastures and the fences for places to hitch.

President Stone in his address last year urged the members to be careful that they send out only high-class seeds. If we
do not, we will begin to decay and our usefulness as a pure
bred seed state will diminish. Any member of this association
who makes a practice of sending out seed that is not what it is
represented to be, should be denied the privilege of membership
in our association.

I often wonder if it would not mean a great deal to our
state if premiums were offered at our State Fair for the best
kept and best managed farms in our state. The honor of hav-
ing the best kept and best managed farm in the state of Wis-
consin means a thousand times more than to have the best ten
ears of corn in the state. I just throw this out for your con-
sideration because I think at some future time more definite
steps should be taken along this line.

There is still another way that our members can be useful
to our state and that is by trying to help build up our County
Fairs. We should try to improve the exhibits at our re-
spective fairs and, do our best even if that is little, to clean
them of sideshows and other things that detract from the real
object of our fairs. The present condition of some of our fairs
is a blur on our counties.

In closing let me urge you as fellow members of such a
great organization to be always for progress and never stand
still, for when we cease to make progress we are likely to
retrograde.

REPORT OF SECRETARY—1909.

R. A. MOORE, MADISON, DANE CO.

The past year has brought its many rewards to the members
of the Wisconsin Experiment Association. Our paid-up mem-
bership has advanced from 900 in 1907 to 1,100 in 1908, and
we have every reason to feel grateful for the advancement made
along all lines.

Our total membership is considerable above the figures given
as we have many who let their fees get in arrears and are not
counted or listed in the report as members until all fees are
paid.

The marked influence upon the general farm conditions of
having so large a membership carry on tests with pure bred
seed grains and general experiments where the average farmer