FOURTH ANNUAL INDUSTRIAL CONVENTION.

Held at Oshkosh, March, 1877.

The sessions each day and evening were very interesting. The attendance was large and all seemed well entertained.

These conventions are becoming more and more important, and probably do more actual good than the fall meetings or fairs. It is hoped that hereafter all persons engaged in the active business of life, in any of the industrial pursuits, will be present and take part in the exercises.

The following are the papers read before the convention of 1877.

FARMING IN GERMANY COMPARED WITH FARMING IN AMERICA.

BY P. Weyerhorst, OF BLACK WOLF.

My extensive travels in Europe, from the shore of the Baltic to the southern dominion of Russia, on the Black Sea, through those wonderful productive countries, Hungary, Germany, Belgium and the Lombardy, all of these wheat growing countries for centuries, gave me opportunity to see and enquire of the modus operandi going on in producing such fine qualities and large quantities of this important serial, and keep up the soil in so high a state of cultivation.

The farmers of these countries are divided into three distinct classes—the aristocratic, the gentleman farmer, and the common. The common farmers live in villages, surrounded by gardens and orchards, which are fenced in with live hedges. Their plow land
ays outside this in pieces ranging from a quarter of an acre to three and four acres. A farmer who owns twenty acres of land has to hunt them up in fifteen to sixteen pieces all around the village. Very seldom does he own as much in one lot. If a farmer has from ten to twelve acres under cultivation, they work it with one ox; even in many instances I saw a span of fine cows hitched to the plow or drag, which makes a splendid team, besides furnishing milk and butter. They are harnessed nearly like horses, with a little wooden yoke against the forehead, close to the horns. On both sides of the yoke are iron hooks, where the tucks are fastened to. If they possess twenty acres or more, they use horses.

Those small common farmers live very economical, mostly on milk, potatoes, vegetables, and cheese made of skimmed milk. Meat is not an every day food for them. They raise considerable flax, which the women folks spin in winter and manufacture into cloth, which is used for domestic purposes. They raise enough oil seed for light and culinary use.

In luxuries he seldom indulges; he is industrious, and a good farmer; but he cannot keep stock enough to bring his land to the highest. This class of poor farmers are assisted in their labor by their wives and daughters, as in those pictures that we usually see relating to farmers' life in Germany, can only be traced to this class. The common farmer who is better off, and owns from forty to a hundred acres, is an independent man, makes money, lives well, and takes it very easy; he is in better circumstances than the most farmers in this country who own three hundred acres.

The gentlemen farmers own from one hundred to four hundred acres all in one piece, the farm buildings on it as it is in this country.

Here begins a different kind of farming; all is systematically regulated.

The most of these farmers are highly educated. They have a good judgment, possess great energy, have been through colleges and universities. They studied the laws of nature, and have some knowledge of the chemical processes that go on in the soil in relation to growth. They have listened with the greatest attention to Prof. Liebig's lectures to benefit by them in the future. And they did so, as is shown by the luxurious crops. Indeed it seems as though the spirit of life was floating over the waving grain on their
farms. His fine herd of cattle and the large woolly flock is guar-
antity that his pile of manure is enough for all emergencies.

Step into his barnyard and there is a large reservoir in which
flows all the liquid of the yard and stables. A large sprinkler on
wheels stands near to receive the valuable fertilizer for distribution
over grass and clover fields.

On entering his cow stables, how clean, roomy and comfortable,
with the best of ventilation. This department is exclusively under
the control of women, who do the milking and feeding. They feel
exceeding proud of the sleek appearance and great yield of milk
from their darling kine. Through the winter they get two warm
meals a day, consisting of clover, hay chaff, carrots, beets and meal,
all steamed together, which make excellent fodder.

The department of swine is very important to those farmers, not
on account of fattening, but on raising young ones till they are
three or four months old. They must have that age in March or
April, then the drovers come around and buy them up. In these
months they hold fairs all over the country where they are sold.
The common farmers seldom raise pigs, they buy them from the
droves and fatten them.

Corn is not raised in Germany because the summers are not
warm enough. For fattening, they sow large fields of peas and
house beans together. The latter has a sturdy stalk which sup-
ports the vine of the peas, and both kinds ground together make
an excellent fodder for fattening; and for working horses it is bet-
ter than corn. The cultivation is as follows: During the winter
they haul the manure on the field and spread it. As early as pos-
sible in the spring, they sow beans and peas together broadcast
over the manured land and plow them under five or six inches.

After the crop is taken off, the land is plowed, and then it is
in the best condition for winter wheat.

Besides barnyard manure, they make large composition heaps
from turf, forest leaves, lime, mould, ashes, and a quantity of salt,
all mixed together. After it is worked over twice, in six months it
is ready for use. Heavy clay soil is plowed from twelve to fifteen
inches deep, with three horses, for mangle wortzel, carrots and
sugar-beets. They have an extra plow drawn by two yoke of oxen
which deepens the furrows to eighteen inches. They say horses
could not stand, for a long time, such heavy work.
Sufficient under draining, care of manure, plenty of clover, and rotation in crops, keep the soil in such condition that they rely on from thirty to forty bushels of wheat per acre. Near the Rhine, West Phalian on Belgium, they go immediately after harvest over the stubble field with a heavy drag, and rake the stubble in heaps and burn them. This destroys the harbinger of so many insects destructive to the wheat crop. In reference to deep plowing, they have the opinion that wheat poorly filled, and even the blight, is partly the result of shallow plowing.

The root of the plant ought to have a chance to go down where is always moisture for sustenance. But all this farming requires a great deal of labor. Happy for the farmer, and unhappy for the laborer, that workingmen are abundant. In those counties, with low wages and poor board, the laborer toils on, year after year, without saving a dollar for himself, to keep up a paradise for the rich owner of the soil. Now let us bring in account the high price of grain, the monstrous prices of cattle, hogs and horses, even butter, cheese and eggs are twice as high as here. No wonder if you come in his mansion, and see the luxury and refinement. The neatest paintings adorn his parlor walls, alabaster statues his mantelpiece, and his library a true treasury of volumes, containing our classics and philosophers. The aristocratic class of farmers, particularly in the northern part of Germany, Roumania and Mecklenberg, own large tracts of land, and even whole villages. These estates are under the control of directors and overseers. The owner lives in a palatial house, on the farm or in the city. Their overseers manage the business with zeal and promptness. They raise very good crops on account of keeping large flocks of fine merino sheep. They are very careful in sheltering and attending them. I latter years they found a kind of herb, with sweet scented flowers (the Lupineen), which, made into hay, is the best food for sheep through the winter.

How different is carried on the most farming in this country! We go over a large piece of land with the least labor possible; our new soil brought abundant crops without great effort. We have hardly thought of rotation. Wheat after wheat crops for twenty years in succession, no drainage, and very little manure, on account of burning the straw; blessed is the farmer who has a creek near his barnyard, into which the superfluid nuisance is drained. Is it not a pity that this state of doings cannot go on forever?
In the spring of 1848, I had a piece of land that was roughly plowed in the fall previous, dotted with stumps and stones. I made me a heavy, three-cornered drag with eleven teeth; besides the plow, these were all the farm implements in my possession. Took my yoke of oxen and began operation, smoothing the rough ground down a little, then sowed one bushel and a half of wheat to the acre, dragged and cross-dragged it. The next fall it brought thirty-eight bushels per acre, and so on for fourteen years in succession. It never brought less than thirty bushels, and the only farm implement was still that heavy three-cornered drag. This shows how easy and cheap it was to raise wheat in that time; even labor was easy to get, and at reasonable terms. But how different it is now to raise a profitable crop of wheat! Our soil partly exhausted, needs heavy manuring for corn, and afterward put in wheat. We then can expect reasonably a good crop. But to get manure enough we must keep stock; to keep stock we must have plenty of fodder; and the recourses are large clover fields and fodder corn. Another item is to keep the land clean from weeds, which can partly be done by shallow plowing right after harvest. The hot sun in August and September benefits the soil after it is plowed, and destroys the foul germs that would grow up between the stubbles, and later in the fall it makes the deep plowing easier.

To compete successfully with European farming can hardly be done on account of climate, cheap labor, and high prices of grain. They sow early in March, and harvest the last days of August. This makes the season two months longer in that mild climate for the growing crops, quite a difference compared with our hot summers.

HOW SHALL WE MAKE BEAUTIFUL HOMES CHEAP?

BY MRS. C. H. ROOT, RIPON.

The greater part of our population are waiting till they can afford to have pleasant homes, forgetting that they can at no time afford to have any other. We take the color of our daily surroundings, and are happier, more amiable, stronger to labor and firmer to endure, when those surroundings are pleasing and in good taste. To