PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ELEVENTH ANNUAL

Closing Farmers' Institute

HELD AT

APPLETON, WIS., MARCH 9-10-11, 1897.

C. H. EVERETT in the Chair. Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Plant.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

P. R. Thom, Mayor of Appleton, Wis.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—In extending to you the freedom of this city the municipal authorities and citizens unite in offering you a hearty welcome. All are deeply interested in those that supply us with that by which we maintain our energy and existence. Nature and the aid of the farmer supplies the existence of all energy, great and small, from the single horse power to the harnessing of Niagara. When we consider the primitive power of energy and how it can be multiplied it is wonderful. Coal under ground is of no use or little value, until the energy of man is applied. When the coal is brought to the surface its value and energy are quickly multiplied in connection with the modern mechanism of today, and still all in connection with the product of the soil, by the aid of the farmer by planting and harvesting, thus taking advantage of what nature in her wisdom has supplied to us for our use.

And then consider how little of the product of the soil it takes to give energy to our commercial pursuits, such as our railroads and steamship lines. In the first place we have to supply our locomotive engines with fuel which comes from the mines. A miner can mine from four to six tons

per day. The amount of food he consumes in proportion to amount of coal mined is small, still it is the primitive energy. A locomotive engine, pulling a passenger train from Appleton to Chicago, will consume about twelve to fourteen tons of coal, but the amount of food needed by the engineer and fireman is comparatively nothing compared to the consumption of fuel, but still all the primitive energy is supplied by the farmer. Cut off the supply of primitive power and everything is at a stand still. All of this taken into consideration, it is needful and necessary for the farmer to take under serious consideration the best means of getting the greatest results from what nature in her greatness has given us.

Hence you have associated yourselves for the purpose of meeting together at stated times and comparing ideas as to how the most satisfactory results can be obtained from the different crops and the various ways that progress can be made in the numerous stages of routine work on the farm. All such information has been productive of great good not to the farmers alone, but to all. The past history of your Institutes has also made it possible for men who have not followed farming, to get information that enables them to carry on farming with some degree of success, where without such information failure would in many cases surely be the result.

The result of your deliberations are also productive of much good to the experienced farmer; he is able to make very close comparisons in all the products of the farm, from different soils, change of fertilizers, change of seeds, rotation of crops, and the most minute details of the farm have been reduced to practical demonstration. No one man lives long enough to make all of these experiments within himself. The interest that you have taken in the past goes to show that you have long since learned to appreciate the usefulness and value of the Institute as relative to success on the farm.

It has been said that the farmer makes life on the farm a drudgery; this assertion belongs more to the remote past than to the present or future, as with all the modern improvements in agricultural machinery, a farmer can accomplish his work in much shorter time and more satisfactorily.

We hope that the success of this meeting will more than meet your highest anticipations, and I hope you will be so impressed with the hospitality of our people that you will always consider that you have a warm welcome.

RESPONSE TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Supt. Geo. McKerrow.

As the representative of the farmers here assembled from the different sections of Wisconsin I heartily thank you for your warm words of welcome. Also on behalf of the Farmers' Institute I thank you for the words of encouragement contained in your address, for that work. It is not my purpose to reply here at any length to this magnificent welcome given us by the representative of your city, but simply to say that we shall endeavor in the sessions that we hold here and the discussions that we take part in here to earn this welcome that you have so cordially granted us.

We have a very full program this forenoon, and we will therefore immediately proceed to business.