THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY

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VOL. I.

CROOKSTON, MINN., JUNE AND JULY, 1917

No. 7 & 8

EXPERIMENT STATION VISITING DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1917

ALL INTERESTED IN SEEING THE EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS, AND NOTING THE RESULTS OBTAINED, ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SPEND THE DAY AT THE NORTH-WEST EXPERIMENT STATION, CROOKSTON, ON JULY 24.

PROF. ANDREW BOSS, DR. F. J. ALWAY, PROF. H. H. KILDEE, AND OTHERS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, ST. PAUL, WILL BE PRESENT. THE LOCAL STATION STAFF WILL LEAD INSPECTION TRIPS. MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE FURNISHED.

FARMERS' CLUBS ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND IN A BODY OR TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES.

VISITING THE EXPERIMENT STATION.

group of prominent Thief River Falls farmers made the trip. Superintendent Selvig extends a hearty invitation to all to come During the growing season the various crops, varieties of grasses, methods of tillage, weed control work, drainage plans, vegetable and fruit areas, cattle, sheep, hogs, and chickens—all carry useful information. Members of the station staff are on hand to show the visitors the work and to explain each project. Come at any

EXPERIMENT STATION NOTES.

Horticulture.

The present season has not been very favorable for the growth of horticultural crops. The late spring and early summer frosts proved disastrous to the apple, crab and plum crops of the complete shelter of the windbreak, the plum trees there set a good crop. applied. The gooseberry, strawberry, and currant varieties are yielding good crops in spite of adverse weather conditions.

Great varieties have been noted in the growth of garden crops due both to the cool weather and the lack of moisture. The early planted crops such as straw on the succeeding crop.
onions, peas, radishes and lettuce were In the weed eradication project, hemp slow in starting but germinated per-fectly while the root crops planted lat-

seems to be but little disease, however, en at this time. This plot is to be potato beetles are unusually abundant. plowed as soon as the rye is mature

especially true of the varietal tests of all crops. After tests covering five years, several varieties of wheat, oats, barley and corn have proved themselves outstanding in yield and quality. These will be rapidly increased in the fathers and will be distributed as a set of the control of t future, and will be distributed as widely as possible throughout the territory

to which they are adapted.

Several new projects have been started. Manure applied at rates varystarted. Manure applied at rates vary-four year rotations have not shown ing from none to 32 tons per acre in a gains sufficient to cover cost. four year rotation of wheat, clover, oats and corn will, after a period of years, furnish valuable data for the

been established. Amounts ranging from none to two tons per acre are applied each year in a corn and wheat all the orchard trees except those in and in a potato and wheat rotation. In the swine this year are being used for addition the ash alone from two tons is

Another straw utilization test con-

and, second, the manurial value of the straw on the succeeding crop.

In the weed eradication project, hemp has shown good results in holding quack grass in check. On a portion of which has been in session since June ratin of June eleventh.

Potatoes to date look more promising than perhaps any of the other farm crops. Potatoes are making an excel-

lent growth. At the present time there September, appears the best of the sev-During the month of June many farmers visited the experiment farm at Crookston. Taken in connection with the report of the experimental work which was published early in the year, a personal visit adds greatly to the benefit received. Last week a conclusions can be drawn. This is

> only produce more crop, but at less cost and in addition keep weeds in check.

Commercial fertilizers in three and

Livestock.

The livestock work at the station has been carried along similar lines as gnidance of the future livestock farm-er of the Red River Valley. has made the work more profitable For the grain farmer, a test to ascer-than previously. Enough has been pro-For the grain farmer, a test to ascerthan previously. Enough has been protain the value of applying straw has duced so that about two cars of stock were sold. The flock of sheep has been very closely called out, only two bearing ewes are being kept over. Most of experimental purposes and valuable data are being obtained.

The Red River Valley is gradually

sists of applying varying amounts to awakening to the necessity and value winter wheat after the ground freezes, of livestock on the farm. These many Two effects are noted, first, the protecillustrations in this region show the tion afforded the crop of winter wheat high quality of livestock that can be

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THE Northwest Monthly

Issued Monthly by THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

C. G. SELVIG, Superintendent

OFFICE

Northwest Experiment Station, Crookston, Minnesota

A monthly publication in the interest of agricultural education and home training for Northwestern Minnesota.

addition there is added a strong spirit of patriotism. This is partly reflected in the titles of addresses given at the daily general assembly exercises. ery speaker has made his subject bear on the great world crisis, and has made an urgent appeal to everyone to do their bit. Space permits only a bare mention of the following very excellent schedule of lectures.

June 19, President Wilson's War Message, C. G. Selvig; 20th, F. K. Lane's Address, J. H. Hay; 21st, Red Cross, Mass Meeting; 22nd, History of the Flag, J. H. Hay; 23rd, Patriotic ley will be in the front rank reading—The Harvest of the Night, nation's most patriotic workers. Mrs. Haig; 25th, How to Study, Grace more music, Superintendent C. Mrs. Haig; 25th, How to Study, Grace B. Sherwood; 26th, Boys' and Girls' vig was called upon. He was imbued vig was called upon. He was called upon. He was imbued vig was called upon. He was Mrs. T. R. Sewall; July 3rd, Recreation prominently on the platform. Followas a War Time Problem, F. H. Koos; 5th, The Spirit of the Fourth, J. Hay; Care of the Fourth, J. H. Hay; Care of the Teeth, Dr. Paul Hagen; July 7th, Tree Planting, T. M. McCall; 9th, Noon Lunch and Table Manners, Mrs. T. R. Sewall; 10th, Reading, Mary R. Slifer; 11th, The Recitation, J. P. Bengtson; 12th, The Red Cross Mrs. F. A. Mille: 15th Red Cross, Mrs. E. A. Mills; 15th, Musical Program, Miss Coe; 14th, Field Crops, F. L. Kennard; 16th, Rural School Teachers, E. M. Mitchell; 18th, School Laws, N. A. Thorson, and 19th, Patriotism and the Teacher, R. E. Denfeld, Duluth; 20th, Model School Program, Katherine McCormack.

The call of the Red Cross met a very generous response from the faculty and student body. \$262.50 were subscribed before evening on the first day of the campaign.

Miss Katherine McCormack of Minne apolis is in charge of the model school and primary methods work, the position formerly held by Cora L. Bigelow, of Preston, who, on account of illness, was obliged to give up her position for the summer. Miss Mary R. Slifer, of Winona Normal, has charge of the work in Reading and Child Literature. The rest of the faculty is as announced in last number of Northwest Monthly

MARSHALL COUNTY FEDERATION OF FARMERS' CLUBS PICNIC.

One of the most notable gatherings of farmers ever held in the Red River bers living in the vicinity of Crookston Valley occured on June 16th. Over were called together for a meeting three thousand people gathered at the This meeting was held in the court First Annual Picnic of the Marshall house in Crookston. The number pres- Madelia, Minnesota, and comes well

miles east of Argyle. The event was is manifested by the young people in notable because of the spirit which was their summer work. in evidence on all sides, the size of the gathering, and the number of clubs represented there. It is estimated there were present members of at least twenty-five different clubs from the adjoining counties of Kittson, Roseau, Pennington, Red Lake and Polk, as well as Marshall County.

happy, and the spirit of good will and and girls are interested in growing a optimism which permeated the as-pig. Some timely suggestions were ofsemblage left permanent impressions that will benefit all the communities.

Following a picnic lunch, President M. L. Warner, of the Marshall County Federation of Farm Clubs, opened the program. Mrs. T. R. Sewall, head of the Home Economics Department of the Northwest School of Agriculture, was the first speaker. She emphasized the need of conservation in the home in order that the women of America may do their full part in the present war. She was followed by Superintendent A. D. Wilson of the Extension Division, who spoke on the problems which confront America at the present time urging the farmers to do their part cheerfully that the Red River Valley will be in the front rank of the After more music, Superintendent C. G. Selvig was called upon. He was imbued feature of the club work. with the patriotic spirit of the day, ing this a baseball game was played.

The officers of the Marshall County Federation of Farm Clubs deserve great credit for the success of the undertaking, which would not have been possible but for the willingness been possible but for the willingness. There will be very few changes in of the member clubs to take part and the faculty of the Northwest School of to help make the occasion a success. Agriculture and in the staff of the All the speakers commented on the working value of farmers clubs together.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.

All the various lines of Boys' and Girls' Club work is well represented in Polk county this year. Through the ef-forts of County Superintendent N. A. Thorson and the assistance of the Northwest School of Agriculture this work is being pushed.

President Wilson's appeal to farmers for increased efforts in food production was also an appeal to the boys and girls of the northwest to lend their helping hand in this national call. Early in the spring many young people enlisted in club work, who otherwise would not have been interested, but for this call sent out by President Wilson; the cow, potato, pig, gardening and canning club projects are well represented. The aim has been to get a boy or girl interested in some one or two of these club projects.

On Saturday, June 2nd, all club mem-

County Federation of Farm Clubs three ent showed that considerable interest

This meeting was called for the purpose of giving the boys and girls some helpful hints for their summer work. O. M. Kiser, of the Northwest School of Agriculture, told how the potato and corn plots should be handled for best results, the reasons for cultivation, and something as to the nature and habits The day was beautiful, the crowd of plant growth. Several of the boys pig. Some timely suggestions were offered for feeding and care of pigs. County Superintendent N. A. Thorson spoke in reference to gardening and canning. Government and state literature on the various club projects was given to the boys and girls.

One feature of the work that is being emphasized and is quite necessary in successful club work is the follow up feature of this work, that is, a personal visit to the homes of all of those enrolled in some one of the various pro-lects. This is essential in order to give the young people any necessary help and encouragement. If a club member knows that his work is to be inspected, he is bound to do better work so that a good appearance will be made. These visits also tend to hold the young people to their work. The Northwest ple to their work. The Northwest School is helping in this home visiting

Club work aims to provide manly and womanly jobs for boys and girls. It carries with it a feeling of responsibility in having an ownership in something on the farm. It provides an outlet for the creative energy that all young people possess. Furthermore it provides for the feature, by adding to the ranks of rural recruits and giving a wholesome desire for farm life.

FACULTY OF THE NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

Northewst Experiment Staiton during the next year. Prof. A. M. Foker has been appointed assistant professor of Farm Engineering. He will have charge of that department, taking the place of Mr. T. R. Sewall who is leaving to engage in private business at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Miss Hazel Rockwood has been ap-

pointed instructor in Home Economics to take the position made vacant by Mrs. T. R. Sewall. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sewall expect to leave the Northwest School about the first of August. Their many friends greatly regret their departure, but as Mr. Sewall has accepted a very advantageous position at Stevens Point, they have decided to leave the teaching field permanently. Mr. Foker is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and has had successful experience as head of the manual training department of Alexandria. He is the author of a book on Mechanical Drawing, and has proved himself a skillful teacher as well as a person fully familiar with the needs of a Farm Engineering Department.

Miss Hazel Rockwood is a graduate of the Minnesota Agricultural College, Division of Home Economics. She has had successful teaching experience at prepared to take up her duties here.

Mr. A. H. Larson has accepted a position for the entire year to act in the capacity of Registrar as well as instructor and assistant preceptor charge of Senior Hall.

The school considers itself fortunate in being able to retain the services of the splendid corps of teachers and experiment station workers who are at present located at Crookston. Professor Kennard has received several favorable offers elsewhere which is also true of Professors McCall and Kiser. They consider their work at Crookston of such importance and interest, however, that they will continue their work there.

The experiment station work has made definite progress during the past A new series of experimental soil fertility tests have been organized under the direction of Professor Kennard. Large signs indicating the nature of each experiment have been located in conspicuous places, and will serve as guides for visitors. It is hoped in the near future also to place signs along the railway right-of-way to inform travelers that they are passing through a state experiment station on which is located a state agricultural school. While there still remains a great deal to be done, the earnestness and energy shown by the persons in charge of the different projects augurs well for the successful completion of the projects.

ALUMNI NOTES.

Letters from former graduates indicate that they are enlisting actively in campaign for increased production.

Conrad Clementson, '15, with characteristic enthusiasm writes that he is only doing his utmost, and is so busy that he does not have time to say much about it. He sends his greetings to his comrades with hopes that everything possible may be done to help this nation realize its highest ambi-

tions in the war.

That Thomas Holden, '14, is still an optimist is evident from the tone of his letter to the editor of the Northwest He was married to Miss Ivy Monthly. farm well stocked with horses, cattle, hogs, and poultry. Thomas closes with a boost for diversified farming and a

"Better Northwest."

Alfred Hvidsten, '14, recently sent a picture of his fine four-horse team of gray percheron horses. He is farming a 160 acre farm of his own and 80 acres besides that he is renting. His farm is only a mile and a half from his parental home. He is making plans his farmstead with orchard and windbreaks, and his inquiry for alfalfa for boys also begins on that date. seed indicates that he is building up a model farm.

This reminds us. Alumni, when will you have that picture for us with which to feature "Alumni Success?"

Do your bit, and do it now.

A letter from T. H. Hagen of Kennedy may be of interest to alumni. He is looking for a competent person to manage his farm. Anyone interested Selvig for further particulars.

The following graduates and former students are employed at the Northwest Experiment Station during the summer:

Harold Grandy, '15; Thorval Tun-heim, '16; Edwin Hammer, '16; Wal-ter Sheridan, '17; Swan Pearson, '19; and Hannah Lindberg, '19.

THE NEW YEAR IN SCHOOL 1917-18.

The new school catalog with complete announcements for the year 1917-18 has just arrived and will be distributed in a few days. A new feature of the bulletin is a complete summary of farm enterprises. the practical exercises in connection with the theoretical instruction along agricultural lines. This section of the bulletin will be published as a separate booklet under the title of Practical Farm and Home Exercises.

A certain degree of efficiency in farm operations is required of every young student's and the theoretical instruction of the class room. Every farm reared boy through experience in fundamental operations on the farm has a working knowledge of such things as harnessing horses, milking cows, plowing, planting, and harvesting, but does not always know the best way of doing them. Practice in such fundamentals is to give a fund of "helpful hints" to make the work easier and better. Farm practice, which con-stitutes an essential part of the agricultural course, includes two distinct phases, first, practice during the school course—work in laboratory, field, and barn; second, vacation work on home farms—summer practicum.

Anyone who is interested in this work will find this section of the new bulletin very interesting and instruc-

tive.

The following dates selected from the new school calendar will be of immediate interest to students, both present and prospective.

Tuesday, September 11.

The first term of the nine months course will begin on that date. This course, which was begun last year Holm, of Battle Lake, in September, course, which was begun last year 1915. They are operating a 280 acre and found popular, will continue along the same lines. Four years of nine months each made of strong courses in English, Mathematics, History, and Science besides a strong practical course in Home Economics, will prepare for college entrance or for teaching in consolidated and other rural schools on a first grade certificate. There are opportunities for an excellent musical education in connection.

The first term of the teachers' training course and the advanced course

Tuesday, October 23.

The first term of the regular courses for boys and girls will begin on that

Prospects are good for a successful year in athletics. A large number of both foot-ball and basket-ball veterans

are planning to return.

Prof. A. M. Foker, the new man on the faculty, has had long experience as will do well to write to Mr. Hagen, a foot-ball and basket-ball coach with work are published with the rank se-Flour Exchange, Minneapolis, or Supt. a record of winning teams. This means cured by each student. The student is a boost for the N. W. S. A.

SUMMER PRACTICUMS.

The purpose of the summer practicnms work is to have the students of the Northwest School of Agriculture continue some line of agricultural study on their home farms during the vacation period. Summer practicums work carries with it the idea of home study and investigation in the most practical way. The regular reports that are required by each student taking summer practicums, necessarily develop the powers of observation. They further give the student a desire to study the best methods of all the

The successful farmer today must from the very nature of things be a student; therefore the summer practicum should form correct habits of farm study. For the best success in farming operations some form of crop records should be kept. Such yearly records can, in many instances, be used as a man before graduation. Farm practice guide for succeeding crops. Summer is, therefore, a definite part of the practicum records will form such a course, and is so planned as to supple-habit of keeping crop records. One of ment the previous experience of the the practicums is the keeping of a complete set of accounts of the yearly business on the student's home farm. The keeping of farm accounts is something that the average farmer is very slow to put into practice. Farmers must place themselves more on a business basis as far as the business management of the farm is concerned if they expect to be in a position to know what is a reasonable profit for any farm product. A student keeping a farm account record as a summer practicum, soon sees the value of such business records for the future success of the farm.

O. M. Kiser of our extension service submits the following list of subjects which are being worked out by the students as summer practicums this year: Ear to Row Test with Corn, Acre Plot of Corn. Wheat, Oats, Barley, Alfalfa, Field Peas, Potato, Dairy Records, Farm Accounts, Weed Survey, Weed Eradication, Bees, Cement Work, Poultry, Entomology, and Swine. The work consists of practical work on the home farm in following up studies taken at the school during the winter. Regular reports of the projects of the summer work are required, and someone connected with the school and experiment station inspects the work at least once during the summer. Suggestions regarding the work are given, and the progress made is noted. Students will receive credit for this work if satisfactorily done to apply as credits for graduation.

Field Work at School.

Those students, who are unable to carry on summer practicum work at home during the two summers intervening between their freshman, junior and senior years, are expected to do extra work in some department of the Northwest Experiment Station to supplement their class work.

Carries Credit.

From one to three hours of credit will be given for work satisfactorily completed each summer, depending on the nature of the project and the manner in which it is carried out. ports of the best summer practicum required to keep accurate and detailed

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records on every project. For every labor report must show the machine used, the date, the number of man hours and horse hours of labor, and the cost of plowing, discing, harrowing, manuring, treating seed, cultivating, spraying, harvesting, seeding. ding, raking and storing. A description of the field must include its size. the kind of top soil to six inches, kind of sub-soil to twenty-four inches, contour, direction of slope, and how drained. A crop history must indicate the previous rotation of crops five years. The financial statement must vears. show the receipts in bushels per acre, and value of pasture, and straw or fodder or hay value. It must show the expenses of seed, labor, machinery charge, rent of land, manure charges, and other miscellaneous cash expense The profit or loss must be determined per bushel or per tou.

Scholarship for Home Work.

In addition to this technical home work for vacation, a number of students will be carrying on an investigation of flax and hemp fibre culture for which a scholarship is offered by the Crookston Water Works, Power Light Company of Crookston.

RED RIVER VALLEY DEVELOP-MENT ASSOCIATION MEETING AT RED LAKE FALLS.

Following the Live Stock Breeders' sessions which were held on the fore-noon and afternoon of Wednesday, June 27th, came the first evening program which was held jointly under the auspices of the Red River Valley Development Association and the Jefferson Highway Association. The subject for the evening was significantly named "International Comity." Present on the platform were members of the Canadian government including Premier Norris of Manitoba; Commissioner of Public Works of Manitoba, Mr Johnson, and members representing Minnesota, including Col. C. W. Ames of the Public Safety Commission and others prominent in the Red River Valley. Dr. N. M. Watson of Red Lake Falls presided. Col. C. W. Ames in a forceful address on "America and Her Allies" stated in unmistakable language, the position that all Americans must take in the world-wide conflict. Premier Norris gave the other main address in which he outlined the work and the state of feeling in Canada. He congratulated the United States on the splendid spirit he had observed throughout the state of Minnesota and to the Gulf and upon the preparation that were being made which would make America a decisive factor in this world war.

On the second day of the meeting the delegates were assembled in a large tent provided by the Red Lake Falls Commercial Club. At the fore-noon session representatives of Federation of Farm Clubs gave addresses. C. L. McNelly, of McIntosh, secretary of the Federation of Polk County Farm Clubs, outlined the aims and purpose of this organization. He spoke at length of the larger results that would

tions only could solve, and it was their crop project, for example, a detailed duty to study problems and to agree on some definite line of action and to stand together until the necessary changes have been accomplished. H. E. Stevenson, of Glyndon, secretary of the Clay County Federation of Farm Clubs, gave a very interesting account of the work done by that organization, The Clay county organization has been in existence for some time, and has already to its credit a list of accomplishments of which any organization might be proud.

> Mr. M. L. Warner, president of the Marshall County Federation of Farm Clubs, spoke feelingly of the present war situation and termed as "slackers' those who living in America are enjoying privileges without doing their part. He also criticised the speculators who are trying to reap exorbitant benefits ple during this crisis. He wanted the motto "Live and Help Others to Live" to be observed by all.

Mr. W. V. Longley spoke for the Kittson County Federation of Farm Clubs and told what had been accomplished there. Mr. R. J. Bell of Roseau addressed the convention on the advancement made by the Roseau County Federation of Farm Clubs. The fore noon session was very interesting. The addresses gave a comprehensive idea of the activities of these organizations. Without question there will be similar organizations in all the counties of the Red River Valley, followed by a federation of these county organizations into a Northwestern Minnesota group.

The Development Association will be glad to foster such an organization and to do anything in its power to promote the things that these organizations seek to accomplish.

In the afternoon there dresses by Miss Weigley on "Food Con-servation;" Mrs. Russel on "The Work of Women in Conserving Food;" and by Superintendent C. G. Selvig on the "Work of the Red River Valley Crop and Public Welfare Association;" W. W. Prichard, Sr., on "Increasing the 1917 Acreage in the Red River Valley: and W. V. Longley on "Schools and Churches" in the food production campaign. Martin O'Brien gave a concise statement as to what will be done in assisting in the mobilizing of labor in the Red River Valley during the coming harvest.

S. M. Sivertson was elected president, Mike Holm of Roseau, first vice president, and F. A. Green of Stephen, second vice president, W. W. Prichard. Sr., of Thief River Falls, treasurer. after Leslie Welter, president, and C. G. Selvig, vice president, who have held these offices since the or-ganization was made, had definitely informed the committee they would not accept re-election. A rising vote of thanks was tendered these persons for their services. They, with J. S. Hilleboe, the retiring tresaurer, were elected honorary directors-at-large. The terms of five of the directors having expired, the present incumbents were re-elected.

farmers and business men from all of the counties of the district indicating a wide interest in the work of the association and the willingness to get together for common purposes which is characteristic of the people of this part of the state.

The summer meeting of the Red River Valley Livestock Breeders' Association was held at Red Lake Falls, June 27th. The principal speakers of the day were Prof. Geo. P. Grout of the Jean DuLuth Farm; Prof. W. H. Peters, of the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo, and H. J. Hughes, editor of the Farm, Stock and Home.

Prof. Grout gave a very valuable talk on the breeding of dairy cattle which was followed by a demonstration on cattle judging from the dairy standfrom the government and from the peo-point. He brought out most clearly and forcefully how valuable cattle are the results of careful and painstaking work through many years. They do not come by accident, but are carefully bred up which must also be backed by proper feeding and care. Considering that one generation of cattle is about three years and that it takes at least five generations of good individuals, one can readily see the value from a financial standpoint of a well fed and high producing individual. Judging is a valuable part of the work in any line of live stock production, but the best and final test of a good cow is her performance at the pail.

Prof. Peters dwelt on the value of a good horse and pointed out clearly that the man who breeds good specimens and especially of the draft type need have no fear of the market value of his animals. The superior light horse also has a good place on the market. But the inferior kinds of both heavy and light horses should not be bred or produced. Considering that "like begets like" one must create the kind in breeding operations he wishes to produce.

Prof. Peters also gave a demonstration on horse judging. He pointed out the various points of a horse so that the audience could appreciate most fully what it takes to make a horse and how to obtain it.

Mr. Hughes gave a most valuable discussion on the national problem of food production and conservation. He discussed the possible influence of transportation facilities on the price of farm products and advised the storage of potatoes next fall.

Short talks were also given by Mr. Kiser and Mr. Dietrich of the Northwest School and Station on calf clubs and the "Future of the Swine Industry," respectively.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Northwest School of Agriculture has the pleasure of announcing that the Scandia American Bank of Crooks-"General Progress" scholarship will be offered again during 1917-1918. Newell Lee and Emil Hallgren won this scholarship during 1916-1917. be achieved when the farmers work to-gether. There were some problems he stated that the farmers' organiza-a large gathering of representative spectively. Other scholarships for 1917-1918 will be announced later.