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NO. 20



WINTER SCENE ON THE CAMPUS.

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The MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
East Lansing, Michigan

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THE M. A. C. RECORD

VOL. XIX.

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1914.

NO. 20.

THE STATE BOARD MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the State Board of Agriculture was held at the College last Wednesday, Feb. 18. Considerable interest was manifested in the doings of the Board, owing to an article relative to the administration of J. L. Snyder which recently appeared in *The Detroit Free Press*. The article stated, upon the authority of board members so it said, that the majority of the Board was dissatisfied with President Snyder's administration of affairs, and that his resignation was to be accepted at an early date.

The article was thoroughly discussed by the Board, and a story afterwards appeared in the *Detroit Tribune*, stating that the members were well satisfied with the administration, and there was no thought of releasing Mr. Snyder.

Among other things which came up in the meeting, aside from routine matters, was the motion directing the secretary and architect to proceed with the plans for remodeling Howard Terrace. Some time ago the subfaculty members who have occupied the west end of the building were notified that they would be forced to move at the end of the year.

The plans now in hand contemplate the addition of another story to the building, and the establishment of a dining room in the basement. The entire building will then be used as a women's dormitory.

A motion was also passed permitting the horticultural department to proceed with plans for a new group of greenhouses to replace the old ones, which have become quite inadequate for handling the growing work of the department.

Alfred R. Locke, '91a, is just finishing his first term as prosecuting attorney of Ionia county, Michigan. Mr. Locke has made a fine record, and has been particularly successful in enforcing the local option laws in his county.

HINTS FROM THE ALUMNI MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Dr. Beal, always on the lookout for something which will be of advantage to the M. A. C. Association, has kindly sent us some observations from the alumni meeting of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, which was held in Boston early this month.

"Harold M. Gore, '13, laid stress on the cultivation of fraternal relations between the alumni, appealing for a close and permanent bond between alumni and students of all years and conditions.

"William H. Bowker, '71, a trustee, presented a plan for a revolutionary scheme of college instruction, whereby as much work can be done in three years as is now covered in four. He proposed to have students work during the summer months, when farm work is in the best condition for studies. One reason why Germany leads the United States is that students work much harder than they do here, spending more time on their studies. Mr. Bowker has spared no pains in working out a plan in detail, dividing the year into three terms, and believes that there need be no reduction in the amount of work now requiring four years.

"The writer further believes that the health of the students will not be affected under the above scheme, provided a thorough system of exercise be carried out from which no student is to be excepted."

Don't overlook the editorial page.

DETROITERS—ATTENTION!

On Tuesday, March 3, the M. A. C. team will finish their season with a game against Detroit "Y," at Detroit. The college team lost to the Detroiters in a close game two weeks ago, and hope to even up the series at this time. This is a good time to get together and root for the boys.

THE M. A. C. RECORD

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GEORGE C. SHEFFIELD - - - Managing Editor.

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TRUE TO FORM.

True to its customary form, the *Detroit Free Press* has again showed consistency by being on the wrong side of a question. This time it was a matter of importance to every person having the best interests of M. A. C. at heart. The attack made on President J. L. Snyder, under cover of the names of members of the Board of Agriculture, turned out to be groundless.

The importance of the matter lies not in the thrust at President Snyder, which was unjust, but rather in the effect it must have had on the supporters of the college. Confidence in an institution is bound to be shaken when charges of dissatisfaction are directed toward its administration, and it appears that a great and influential newspaper might devote itself to better purposes than those evidenced in an attempt to provoke discord in an important state body.

* * *

IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE.

Whether the members of the Association vote to hold reunions according to the Dix plan or according to some other plan, the fact remains that such gatherings should, and must, become annual affairs. Any attempt to keep alive the interest of members if meetings are held but once in three years will absolutely fail. It has been hoped, through discussion, to arrive at some plan, satisfactory to the majority, whereby annual meetings might be assured. Some very

good suggestions have been offered, and we are still open to others. If you have an idea, let's hear from you.

* * *

WE LET THEM DOWN EASY.

Comparison of the M. A. C. Association with similar associations in other colleges tends to the belief that the members of this Association are let off rather easily. It sometimes seems that the things a person gets without much effort are not as thoroughly appreciated as they would be if he had to do something for them.

Our point is this: We cannot call to mind a single association of alumni where annual dues are not required. In most cases the amount is three dollars, while in some it is as high as five dollars per year. The membership is much larger, comparatively, than our own, and the members collectively appear to take a much keener interest in what is going on.

Without doubt it will be necessary to institute some such plan in this Association, if lasting results are to be obtained. The payment of dues should be made obligatory, with the RECORD subscription thrown in for good measure to all who pay.

* * *

We feel quite safe in saying that if the Los Angeles alumni will go ahead with their organization they will be assured of a representative on the Board. The clause criticised by Mr. Davis is badly worded, but the spirit of the Association is one of good-fellowship and a warm welcome to all, wherever they come from.

* * *

It has been decided to hold up the reprinting of the By-laws for another week. The plan has been further changed, and the complete constitutional matter will not appear. The By-laws, with a ballot, will appear in the issue for March third. Watch for it.

* * *

All Detroit alumni are earnestly urged to turn out and root for the M. A. C. basketball team when it appears in their city March third. This is one way, and a very easy way, to show your loyalty to the representatives of the college. You will meet some of the other old boys there, too. Don't forget the date.

* * *

The RECORD is in receipt of a copy of the *Pahasapa*, of the South Dakota School of Mines, containing an interesting article on Engineering Pedagogics, by J. Herbert Steele, '96.

ALUMNI REUNIONS.

The proposed plan of alumni reunions, shown on page 7 of the RECORD of January 20, does not accomplish all that is desired in our reunions and renewals of friendships. The classes of '84, '85, '86, and '87 are scheduled for a reunion in 1914, but '83, as close a friend of '84 as is '85, is not to meet them as a class until 1919; and '82, almost as near, is deprived of the privilege, as per this schedule, until 1924.

Three years is a long time between reunions, and many of the older alumni will have scant opportunity to meet the friends of college days if reunions separate the classes for periods of from five to fifteen years.

I respectfully suggest a modification of the proposed plan, by which all the older alumni may have the opportunity of meeting in triennial reunion with groups of the younger alumni that occur at the same time. (The modification will be explained below.) By this plan, all alumni who were graduated twenty years or more previous to the triennial reunion will be included in one group, while all the younger alumni will be grouped as per diagram.

However, this grand triennial reunion of all classes is my preference.

OREL L. HERSHISER, '84.

Mr. Hershiser's modification is as follows: Beginning at '91, at the left hand side of the Dix plan as presented in the RECORD of January 20, a diagonal line is constructed across the diagram at such an angle that it moves up one vertical space each year. Thus, in 1914 the class of '94, graduating just twenty years ago, is directly beneath the diagonal. In 1916, the time for the next regular triennial, the diagonal has moved upward so that '96 is directly beneath the line.

The idea is, that the classes below the diagonal, spoken of as the older classes, will meet only at the triennials, while the group system would be applied to those above the diagonal line as now proposed.

Mr. Hershiser might have gone further and said that '88 and '89 are almost as close to '87 as is '86. This situation would be true of any group of classes which might be chosen, for it is characteristic of the democratic spirit peculiar to M. A. C., that nearly every man or woman has enjoyed a wide acquaintance among all classes in school at the same period. The idea in grouping is simply one way of solving a problem sure to be vexing even in its best light.

It is more than likely that, once the peo-

ple become accustomed to the annual reunion plan, it will be more favorably received. It is natural to hesitate to deviate from the custom of years, but in this instance a sincere effort to make the annual plan a success will result with benefit to all concerned.

BY-LAWS DISCUSSION.

The Editor M. A. C. RECORD:

I have read the proposed By-laws carefully, and discussed them with others. In general we believe them good. Mr. Bolte's criticism of clauses 7 and 11 has been read with interest, and I am heartily in accord with him regarding modifying these clauses so that there can be no opportunity for less than a majority of the executive board to conduct the affairs of the Association.

I would like to go one step further and suggest a modification, or amplification, of clause 5, as it seems to be restrictive and exclusive in limiting the executive board to those representatives invited by the board. This clause should be made broad enough so that there would be no question of representation when an active local association organizes. As the clause is worded it permits a few to control the board, and excludes all other representatives of local associations. Probably the intent of the clause is good, but the wording is faulty.

We have here in Los Angeles and vicinity probably a score of M. A. C. graduates, all vitally interested in the progress and success of the college and the Association. The matter of a local association has often been discussed, and if we were sure of representation on the board it would be an added incentive to organize. We are too far from Michigan to do much boosting for the college, but we have a mission in extending the glad hand and aiding the tourist graduate while spending a season with us, or comes here to make his home. Many alumni would look us up when here if they knew how and where to find us. A local association would assist them in doing so.

Few of us rush into print to express our views, but there is a live interest here in all subjects presented, and we expect to vote, and vote intelligently when the time comes. I believe we will find the same true of the matriculates, wherever they are, if given a chance to take an active interest in the affairs of the associations.

Very truly yours,

GAGER C. DAVIS, '89,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Don't overlook the editorial page.

CORRESPONDENCE

My Dear Editor:

I want to speak a word of commendation for the make-up and spirit of the M. A. C. RECORD. It comes to my desk regularly, and I always take time to look it through. Success to your enterprises.

Cordially yours,

CHARLES MCKENNY, '81.

Dear Sir:

I very much appreciate the new form of the RECORD, and am always glad to receive a copy and to hear the news about various persons whom I knew while in college. Was especially interested in the meeting held in Rochester, N. Y., recently, and should be glad to see a meeting of that kind held in New York for the benefit of the eastern alumni. Wishing you all manner of success, I remain,

Yours truly,

THEO. A. STANLEY, '86,
New Britain, Conn.

Dear Sir:

* * * Regarding the proposition to publish a monthly and be more literary, and emulate the "high-brow" class, I vote "No." I do not take the RECORD for any literary pabulum I might receive, but for the local news of the college, and when it comes weekly I can keep track of it. In waiting a month we forget the little things that are of interest. Dr. Beal is the most interesting contributor to the RECORD, and if the paper goes in for literature and keeps up to the Beal standard, it will be a winner.

Very truly,

D. H. KEDZIE, '76.

Mr. Kedzie is located at Lordsburg, New Mexico, down where the climate is fine, but where M. A. C. people are scarce as icicles.

Newport, Ore.

Dear Editor:

I read the M. A. C. RECORD each week with a great deal of pleasure, especially when I see the name of some of the old crowd who used to live in Williams Hall in 1894-5. I roomed in No. 40, Williams, commonly called at that time "Bedbug Alley," and I often think of the legend told of M. G. Kains, to the effect that he was such an inveterate enemy of the bedbugs that he could get up in the middle of the night and pin a bedbug to the wall or ceiling without a light.

I have been in Oregon eight years, the most of that time at Newport, and in that time have never met any of the M. A. C. boys, but should like to hear from any of the old boys and get in touch with those in Oregon. I am in the real estate business here, and was elected president of the Commercial Club this year. I have a young L. C., Jr., growing up, who may get back to M. A. C. some day.

Very truly yours,

L. C. SMITH, with '97 and '99.

C. Frank Wells, of Grand Ledge, says: "I had never given a thought regarding the subscription list to the RECORD, but supposed it was many times larger. I cannot understand how old students and 'grads' can get along without it."

The first sacred concert was given Sunday by the College band in the Armory, and was enjoyed by a crowded house. Many friends from Lansing availed themselves of the opportunity to hear the band. Supt. C. E. Holmes, M. A. C. '93, delivered a short address on the traits of Washington.

The RECORD wishes to correct a statement made in connection with the name of A. L. Waters, '90a, made some time ago. Mr. Waters is president of the Board of Regents of Arizona, instead of New Mexico, as was given.

The annual student election, at which time all the elective officers for the ensuing year will be filled, is to be held February 28. Members of the student council and editors of the *Holcad* are elected at this time, as well as managers and assistants for the various athletic teams.

Clare H. Parker, '00a, is at the head of a prosperous dairy company in Saginaw. From some of Mr. Parker's literature one may judge that his company is interested in furnishing the trade with a first-class, honest product, in accord with the principles taught at M. A. C.

'10e.

Vernon N. Tagget is now superintendent of highways of Whiteside Co., Illinois, having entered the duties of that office January first. His headquarters are at Morrison, Ill. He writes that he doesn't see many M. A. C. people there, but the Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin alumni all doff their hats to our football team.

What's Doing This Month

This department in the RECORD is designed to assist alumni who plan to visit the college in so timing their visits that they may attend the functions most interesting to them. We believe this will be of interest to former members of the various societies. The list of social functions for February is given below:

- Feb. 27—Dramatic Club Party, Armory.
- " 28—Themian Party, Armory.
- " 28—Eunomian Party, Ag. Bldg.

M. A. C. VICTORS OVER WEST VIRGINIA WESLEYAN IN LAST HOME GAME.

Following their defeat at the hands of Detroit "Y," Gauthier's men came back strong last Thursday night, and defeated the five from West Virginia Wesleyan by a score of 38 to 20. Contrary to expectations, the game was fast and close most of the time, the visitors exhibiting some real knowledge of the game, and also displaying a familiarity with a walled court. During the first half the game was nip and tuck, the score at the end of the session being 15 to 8, M. A. C. up. In the last part of the fray, Macklin sent in a number of fresh players, and the score piled up rapidly.

Gauthier and Hewitt Miller led in the scoring for M. A. C., with able support from the other members of the team. Neale, of the visitors, was a real star, being the leader in their scoring, and playing a brilliant game at guard. Had he tossed even a part of the free throws he missed during the first half, the score would have been much closer.

Don't overlook the editorial page.

FRESHMEN APPEAR TO HAVE TITLE.

By defeating the juniors in a fast preliminary last Thursday night, the freshman team appears to have the inter-class title safely tucked away. The score was 19 to 9, and at no time did the juniors have a chance to win. One game remains for the first year men to play, that with the seniors, but as they have already defeated the "high-brows" in an easy game, no fears as to the outcome are felt. This is the first time a freshman team has won the title in several years.

HORT. CLUB.

Floyd M. Barden, '08a, of South Haven, Mich., addressed the club last week. Barden is a successful peach grower and it was on this topic that he spoke. Briefly tracing the history of the work in Michigan, he gave the members some idea of the obstacles which confront the man who would make a success of raising peaches for market. Cultural methods and soil differences as related to the production of good fruit were taken up in some detail.

Among other things, Mr. Barden recommends trees with an open head, so that the fruit will grow on the branches near the ground. He is also an advocate of a cover crop, especially on sloping land, and favors the use of those which will increase the amount of nitrogen in the soil. He believes in thorough spraying whenever necessary, and has good success with lead arsenate in controlling curculio.

Fully as important as any other detail in making a successful business is the method of marketing. Too much care in sorting and packing cannot be given, and the results are always worth the extra effort. In his opinion, the prime requisite for success is a love for the business. J. A. P. '14.

FARMERS' CLUB.

H. H. Musselman spoke on "Housing and Care of Farm Machinery." He advocated the use of business-like methods in all transactions, including the care of machinery. Experience has shown that from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. is saved on the investment by providing proper housing for farm implements. A 160-acre farm should have machine storage space of about 1,500 square feet, such a building costing about \$450. Tools should be kept in the shed when not in use, and when a machine is put away for the season a tag showing the repairs needed should be attached. Where breakage is anticipated, it is well to provide an extra supply of the parts likely to need replacing. J. W. N., '15.

The M. A. C. fire department has "some reputation." Last Monday a blaze was discovered on the roof of the Bemis home, on the Delta. When the fire heard that the College smoke-eaters were on the way, it immediately "curled up its flames and quit."

Among the week-end visitors to the College were E. W. Brandes, C. H. Hall, and F. J. Walsh, all of '13.

EARLY DAYS AT THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The following reminiscences of nearly 60 years ago have been furnished the RECORD by George G. Torrey, of Detroit, one of the first students to enroll at M. A. C. He came as far as St. Johns on the railroad, drove the twenty miles across country in a stage, and walked out to the College from Lansing.

The campus then contained but three buildings, College Hall, Saints' Rest, and the brick barn. "There were stumps galore," says Mr. Torrey. The buildings had only just been completed, and the boys all turned in and cleaned out what the carpenters had left. By 10 a. m. on May 12th, 1857, they were ready to take the examinations for enrollment. Sixty-one of the boys were chosen as the first class in the new agricultural school.

Next day the class was gathered in College Hall to listen to the dedication exercises and the address of President Joseph R. Williams. Then began the pioneer work of that stout-hearted group, which laid a firm foundation and transformed a wilderness into a grand institution known the country over.

Obstacles and hardships were numerous, and but for the loving companionship of the teachers, Tracy, Fisk, and Abbott, there would scarce have been a corporal's guard left at the end of the first term. "Today," says Mr. Torrey, "after fifty-seven years, I can account for but seven of that first set of boys still living."

At the opening of college, all the boys roomed and boarded in Saints' Rest. Each room contained two beds, and was occupied by four students. One of the requirements of the course at that time was the performance of an amount of manual labor, three hours a day, for which the boys received pay varying from five to ten cents per hour.

Board was furnished by a Mr. Shearer, who was to buy all provisions, pay all necessary help, including his own salary and that of his wife, with the expenses to be divided equally among the students. To some of the boys, who had come from homes of comparative

luxury and refinement, conditions undoubtedly seemed crude and vulgar, and at times there was a strong disposition to rebel.

At this time the workings of certain politicians opposed to the College made themselves felt. These men opposed the founding of the institution, and, being beaten in that, just as stubbornly opposed any appropriations for its support. At last a bill was introduced into the legislature proposing to sell the College at auction.

Mr. Torrey was present at the session which was to hear the arguments and vote on the measure, having absented himself from the College without leave. The Hon. R. E. Trowbridge, of Oakland county, then a member of the senate and a staunch friend of the College held the floor of the chamber, and not only fought the bill but proposed one for an additional appropriation. His argument won the day, and the College was saved. But more was yet to come.

The strong opposition about the state, and the unrest of the students, resulted in a meeting of the boys being arranged. They gathered in the chapel, in College Hall, and each student was to be allowed to express his opinions freely. At the end of two hours a vote was to be taken, which all had promised to abide by, to decide whether all should leave the College in a body or remain and take what came.

The vote cast showed a small majority in favor of remaining.

"I am now free to say, and I

verily believe," concludes Mr. Torrey, "that had this vote been different, and the students walked out, that Old M. A. C. would have been doomed, for I doubt if another set of students could have been induced to enter. In the succeeding years, I have never feared for its success, and can now say 'All hail to the grand and noble M. A. C.'"

Waldo Rohnert, '89a, is a prominent seed-grower at Gilroy, Calif. He has been in the business for himself for the past eighteen years, and now has 2,000 acres devoted exclusively to seed culture.

H. J. Mastenbrook, '06c, a former athlete at M. A. C., is now Master Mechanic in the harvester department of the John Deere Plow Co. His address is East Moline, Ill.

E. Carl Bank, '84a, has, since 1911 been a manufacturers' agent in San Francisco. His office is 977 Monadnock Bldg., while his residence is 1047 Sierra St., Berkeley, Calif.

Prof. Gunson attended the banquet of the Washington Alumni Association last week.

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