

The Cooperstown Courier.

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THE COURIER.

By Percy R. Grubb

The Fargo Forum is to be congratulated. It has a \$10,000 suit on its hands. The major better come back, sit on McDonald, and—squash the suit.

President Roosevelt will be in North Dakota next Tuesday and we venture the prediction that no state will extend a more cordial reception to the chief executive than will North Dakota.

It is said that Alex. McKenzie is coming back to Bismarck to help the people of the capital city elect city officers. Keep your eye on McGaban for a while and see him spread on the red paint.

Another paper is to be started at Harvay shortly. One paper is enough in a town of that size and the field is very ably covered by the Herald. Bro. Price will undoubtedly keep the even tenor of his way and the new aspirant for public favor will simply make more business. They say competition is the life life of trade, you know.

For a man who is supposed to be out of politics, Grover Cleveland is a pretty lively political corpse. The way his friends have been boosting him to the front lately has given the Bryanites spasms. The man once reviled by his fellow democrats is once more a favorite and his revilers are down on their knees worshipping at his shrine. Great is Grover. Great is democracy.

President Castro, of Venezuela, resigned a few days ago, but his congress prevailed upon him to withdraw his resignation—which he was very glad to do. The bluff worked down there all right because there are not very many who want that job. Had our president resigned it would be different. There are too many willing to accept the honors. That's the difference between countries.

There is no need for North Dakota farmers to flock to Canada for lands. North Dakota has room for thousands of settlers yet and the land offered for settlement is as good as can be found anywhere. A crop in North Dakota is far surer year after year than it is in the Canadian northwest. The homeseeker needn't get from under the shadow and protection of the stars and stripes if he wants a good home for years to come. North Dakota offers every inducement for the man who is willing to carve his way to prosperity. Come to North Dakota and prosper.

Under the heading "A new dispensation," the LaMoure County Chronicle remarks:

"The greatest menace to the republican bosses and their satellites in this state, and the chief source of hope for deliverance from their malevolent domination is found in the rapidly growing spirit of independence of the republican press. Distinctive party organs, ready at all times to swallow machine-made platforms at one gulp, however nauseous; ready at all times to endorse anything labeled republican, however spurious; ready at all times to applaud, or at least to condone, every act of the leaders, however villainous, have been growing beautifully less in number in North Dakota until they can today be counted on the fingers of one hand. If

the Chronicle is not mightily mistaken, the political leaders who have heretofore made moukeys of the newspapers when there were chestnuts to be pulled out of the fire, and then given them the derisive ha-ha when called upon to deal justly by the press, are going to sustain a severe jolt one of these days when it is least expected and most unwell come. Stigmatized as a set of grafters by the biggest boss in the bunch; legislative measures in their behalf of absolute justice spat upon and trodden under foot; given the short end of campaign funds; sacrificing honor and self respect in a thankless effort to boost chronic office seekers into fat jobs and undeserved prominence, the republican newspapers of North Dakota have come to the conclusion that a change of program is in order. They are beginning to realize that they are not the creatures of the bosses, but their masters, and with this appreciation of their power has come a determination to wield it in the interest of cleaner politics and better morals."

Within the past decade, the colleges of the country have been aroused to a new sense of the influence which they exert upon the literature, science, and art of the times, and as a result hardly any college exists which does not number among its features publications designed as an outlet for the literary and artistic ability which may be confined within its walls. Says the "Bookman Annuals,"—heavy books with many illustrations and statistics of the college year, and usually literary matter also—are published at almost every college, sometimes by editors chosen by the senior class, sometimes by societies, but more often by editors selected by the Junior Class." This, in a nutshell, explains what the Junior class of the North Dakota State University will undertake this spring. Heretofore, the University has been deemed too small for such a publication, but with the phenomenal increase in attendance during the past few years has come a development along all lines, resulting in a new awakening in class spirit. This year for the first time, a Junior class of the University will issue an Annual. This book, besides its artistic and literary offerings, will contain pictures and sketches of all who are intimately connected with the University, and a complete history of its growth, accompanied by profuse illustrations of buildings and grounds. As the souvenir of an institution, to which every citizen of the state points with pride, it should be in the hands of everyone interested or engaged in the educational development of North Dakota. As affording an insight into what the students of the University are doing; its possession will prove a source of pleasure. A letter to the Business Manager of the Dacotah, University, N. D., will bring a prompt reply to any inquiries in regard to the forthcoming publication.

Directors Meeting.

On Friday March 27 occurred the second annual meeting of the Griggs county school directors at the court house of this city. There were representatives present from Sverdrup, Helena, Clearfield, Cooperstown, Dover, Barley, Greenfield, Washburn, Bald Hill, Romness, Wazieza, Greenwood, Rosendal, Mable and the village of Cooperstown.

The effort that members of the board, other than the president made in order to be present is especially commendable.

The tendency of the age is toward organization. No less is this time of educational matters. Meetings for the purpose of discussion are held for teachers, directors and superintendents from the town and county to the state and national units. These meetings make their participants familiar with the newest ideas in their department of work, afford opportunity for the discussion of effects and results that have come within the observation of its members and create a spirit of responsibility for the faithful and intelligent discharge of duty.

This organization of educational forces in our state has been very beneficial and the outlook is for a still closer organization in the immediate future. Thus will the suggestions coming from our state department be easily disseminated and with willing and instant cooperation all along the line, be made most productive of results.

Hon. W. L. Stockwell, Superintendent of public instruction for North Dakota and President McFarland of the Valley City Normal School were present and addressed the meeting. Mr. Stockwell in a very able manner explained the workings of the school laws recently passed which take effect July 1, 1903.

Pres. McFarland ably handled "The Functions of the School Board." The gist of his remarks was that a good school board could do much to bring about proper conditions in the schools. It is not enough that they furnish the necessary apparatus, but teachers of good character must be hired, who have the necessary tact and ability to impart knowledge, and heart power enough to win the confidence and respect of children. Pres. McFarland also spoke for the increase of teachers' wages. The wages in other professions have increased. This has had a tendency to take some of our best teachers out of the ranks and as a result we have a scarcity of them at present. The expert accountant, the clerk, and even the day laborer is better paid than those who are daily moulding human souls in our rural schools. It is during the plastic stage of childhood that impressions are most easily received and retained. How necessary then that these should be elevating and good such as will result in correct habits of thought, conduct and study.

The remainder of the discussions were of an informal nature. The topics of school text books, supplementary reading, the transportation of pupils without the consolidation feature were brought up. Directors were warned against buying text books from agents who are canvassing the country as it will destroy our text book uniformity and will be a great hindrance to both pupils and teachers.


It was agreed that the next annual meeting should be held about the second Saturday in February, 1904. State Supt. Stockwell expressed his willingness to be present at that meeting as well as at our next teachers institute.

Under the new law all members of the board together with the clerk will be notified to attend the meeting. This plan is allowed in counties having the township system. Let all members of the different boards and the clerks and friends of education bear this matter in mind. This meeting together of school officers is a factor which has come to stay.

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