

# N. D. FARMERS' INSTITUTE

Year Just Closed Has Been Very Successful in Regard to Institutes and Is Encouraging.

During the year just closed the North Dakota Farmers' Institutes have held 94 institutes of 231 sessions. The attendance was 37,049.

A Farmers' Institute train was also run by the Northern Pacific railroad. This made half-day stops at 41 towns and was visited by 53,650 people. 25,000 copies of the Farmers' Institute annual was also distributed.

A year ago such a report was not anticipated as the Farmers' Institute treasury was empty. The appropriation failed to materialize. Personal instruction such as the Farmers' Institute brings was needed. The institute board figured out that a two day meeting could be held for \$100 and a one day institute for \$75. The towns responded and soon there was enough money guaranteed to start out. The agricultural college helped by sending speakers. The railroads furnished free transportation. The Northern Pacific and the Soo each gave one thousand dollars in cash, while the Great Northern furnished a speaker most of the time and two part of the time.

There was no money to print an institute annual so an implement firm printed 25,000 copies of a book of over 400 pages and donated it to the state. The copy was furnished by the Farmers' Institute.

When the Northern Pacific offered to run a train the institute management had to go to the Agricultural college and the towns again. The Agricultural college equipped the train and furnished the lecturers (41 in all—an average of 25 all the time.) This train contained nine exhibition cars, which was furnished by nine departments of the agricultural college as follows: Live Stock, poultry, soils, crops, chemistry, veterinary science, dairying, horticulture, home economics.

The live stock consisted of types of draft horses, beef and dairy cattle, lard and bacon hogs, and sheep. These animals were housed in a box car and taken out onto a flat car for demonstration lectures. The poultry exhibit consisted of a complete poultry plant on a flat car. The other exhibits consisted of material to illustrate some of the main facts worked out by the different departments. The towns each put up \$50. This made possible the running of the train and the splendid success mentioned above.

One of the new features in the institute work was a series of follow-up meetings. Ten towns were selected for this. The regular institute corps held the first meeting. This was followed up in two weeks by a special meeting, at which clover and alfalfa were made the main topic. Two weeks later again a dairy institute was held, while the fourth one was on stock. The attendance at the dairy meeting was as good as any of them, which may be a little surprising to some who think there is not much interest in dairying in this state. It is also interesting to know that at these institutes there has been more questions asked on the silo than on any other subject. There have been few questions on grain raising—the interest having centered mostly about corn growing, stock raising, dairying, soil culture and tree growing — in short, diversified farming.

Supt. Hoverstad is well pleased with the splendid support that he has received from the Agricultural college the railroads and the people of the state. The question as to the value of Farmers' Institutes has been most emphatically answered. This attendance of 90,699 certainly shows an interest on the part of the people as well as the fact that they raised enough money of their own free will to make this the biggest year in the history of Farmers' Institutes in North Dakota.