

MANUAL TRAINING AND AGRICULTURE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Part of Prof. Mason's Address at Meeting of the Mutual Rural Improvement Institute.

The 17th of December, 1909, was a stormy day. But in spite of it a number of farmers and business men of Cooperstown heard Prof. Mason's address on this timely subject, Manual Training and Agriculture in Our Schools. The professor said he had not chosen this subject because he wanted to tell the farmers how to raise wheat but to bring before them a question of pressing importance. Then making a short review of our educational system and pointing out its development step by step, he proceeded to show that a different system is required at different times. A couple of fads were referred to, namely, that of spelling and the writing fad; that the English spelling was criticised and educators went to extremes in meeting such criticism. So also the spencerian system of penmanship was criticised and to meet this, the vertical system was resorted to. These extremes are now being met by the "Golden Middle Way." Two different cases were pictured by the professor, the one representing a boy on a grocery box making a litter with that new jack-knife; the other, a boy of the same age being directed with his tool in hand making something useful or ornamental. A number of samples from the manual training class in the city of Cooperstown were presented



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before the audience for examination and they were certainly surprisingly well made. The little hands are very clever when properly directed but full of mischief if left to roam at will. Of what advantage the addition of Agriculture to our present school curriculum might be was clearly shown by a short history of "wheat rust," which Mr. Mason gave as it might be given through such a course of study. This little story was alone worth the driving of 20 miles to hear, in spite of the storm.

In the near future it is hoped that Prof. Mason will give more on the subject of Agriculture in our Schools.

The two numbers rendered by the glee club were received with applause and a unanimous vote of thanks.

—Reporter Pro Tem.

Dr. F. W. Rose, resident dentist. Office in Syverson's new block, Cooperstown, N. D.

FOR STATE SENATOR.

At the solicitation of friends I have decided to announce myself as a candidate for Senator for the 16th Legislative District on the republican ticket. I shall appreciate the support of the voters of this district at the primary election June 30th, 1910.

I. W. STANDLEY.