FARMERS OF KENT MEET

Agriculturalists From All Parts Of The County Gathered In Court House Last Wednesday

(By County Agent Derrick)

The Court House at Chestertown on Wednesday, Feb. 18, was the scene of a most beneficial meeting of the Agricultural interests of Kent county. Farmers and canners were present and together with the officers of the Peninsular Tomato Growers' Association, discussed fully, fairly and squarely the interests of the farmer, canner and consumer. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Arthur L. Harris, Vice President of the Kent County Association, at 1.45 p. m. The County Agent acted as secretary. The minutes of the meeting last winter were read. Mr. Harris first called upon County Agent Derrick, who had arranged for the meeting, to open the meeting by stating why the meeting was called and the purpose for which it was called. Mr. Derrick stated why the meeting was called and that the purpose of the meeting was to have Kent County farmers, brokers, canners and all others directly interested in agriculture, hear from the officers of the Peninsular Tomato Growers' Association as to the accomplishments of the association and their plans for 1920. It was further stated that the purpose of the meeting was also to discuss cost of production, the tomato situation and to familiarize those present with the organization of County Farmers' Exchanges.

Mr. J. B. Wright, one of the directors, began the discussion by relating the conditions in Dorchester County as they were. How an organization was formed and the advantages of this organization to both the tomato growers and canners. Mr. Wright spoke of the great value of the organization and said that it was not to beat the canner, but to help the farmer. Mr. Wright said that in Dorchester county the farmers had received much larger prices by growing for the open market.

Mr. T. W. Webster, president of the East New Market Farmers' Produce Exchange, spoke on the value of their organization to the farmers in selling tomatoes especially.

Mr. Isaac O. Taylor, organizer for the Peninsular Tomato Growers' Association, was the next speaker. Mr. Taylor said that in the farmers' business, as it is today, we must have co-operation and organization such as the business houses, schools, churches, etc., have. Farmers are the last large class to take up organization. Mr. Taylor stated that at the meetings of the Peninsular Tomato Growers' Association and the local County Associations connected with it, that not only are farmers wanted, but canners, brokers and all interested in agriculture as well. The Association should benefit all classes. The organizations are principally for the protection of farmers.

Mr. Taylor, in showing the need of such an organization, stated that last summer and fall the farmers in Dorchester county sold canteloupes at 60 cents per crate of 45 to the crate and on the Western Shore canteloupes had to be bought at 20 cents each, which would make a crate of 45 retail for $9. Mr. Taylor further stated that last summer while tomato growers of Kent county, who contracted, received very little for tomatoes, and those who had sold on the market got from 60 cents to 85 cents per basket, the members of the Association down the Shore received from 85 cents to $1.05 per basket for their tomatoes. Mr. Taylor said that the Association has almost the full co-operation of all the canners down the shore and that the Association did not set the price of $1 per basket, but this price was set by the canners. This, he explained, was due to the proper grading of tomatoes by members of the Association. The point was that when the canners received grade A tomatoes they could afford and were willing to pay the price.

Mr. Taylor presented a chart showing the cost of production of tomatoes per acre for general conditions in the lower counties of the Eastern Shore. This calculation showed that it cost $118.50 per acre to grow tomatoes. Mr. Taylor said the figuring was put as low as possible and in going over the chart before the meeting it was considered by practically all present that the cost of production per acre would be considerably more than $118.50 for Kent county.

The next speaker was J. E. Patten, president of the Peninsular Tomato Growers' Association, who read correspondence from several states regarding the production of tomatoes, practically all of which urged a National Organization. Mr. Patten said there are fifty local organizations on the Eastern Shore and in Delaware that make up the Peninsular Tomato Growers Association and urged the producers of Kent County to organize so that the Association can be of greater benefit to Kent County and that Kent Co. can be of greater help to the organization.

The next speaker was a Kent canner, Mrs. A. L. Harris, who spoke on the canners' side of the tomato question. Mrs. Harris stated that the real object, she thought, of the organization and the tomato canning question is to get the consumers' money and not the canners' money. By this Mrs. Harris meant that it should be the purpose of the organization to give to the final consumers a first class product so that they would be willing to pay a good price for a can of tomatoes. The average consumption of canned tomatoes per family in the United States is only four quarts a year, continued Mrs. Harris, and that the organization should work to increase the family consumption of tomatoes. Mrs. Harris stated that this could be accomplished by following the principles of the Peninsular Tomato Growers' Association, which called for the proper grading of tomatoes. Mrs. Harris said that a canner could pay $1.00 per basket for tomatoes and make money, sometimes, and yet lose money on tomatoes at 25 cents per basket, depending upon the grading or condition of the tomatoes. Mrs. Harris advocated advertising farm crops; maximum production with minimum cost is what the canners as well as farmers want. Mrs. Harris spoke of the probability of their being an inspector in nearly all canning factories this year and all tomatoes which pass the inspection will bear the inspector's stamp on every can, thus enabling the consumer to know that the can contains tomatoes which have passed inspection. Mrs. Harris made the plea for farmers to plant better seed and also to plant early and late varieties so as not to glut the market during any one time.

Mr. John N. Bennett, a member of the Kent County Tomato Growers' Executive Committee, was the final speaker. Mr. Bennett stated that the purposes for which the meeting had been called had been fully accomplished and that with the consent of Mr. E. A. Corey, president of the Kent Co. Association, there would be another meeting in the near future for the sole purpose of effecting a strong Farmers' Produce Association to co-operate fully with the Peninsular Tomato Growers' Association.

President E. A. Corey and the Executive Committee of the Kent County Association, together with County Agent Derrick, are planning for a much larger meeting during the first week in March. Every tomato grower, canner, broker and farmer in Kent county is urged to attend this meeting. To join this organization does not take away any privilege to either contract or sell on the open market. It only means that before doing so you will consult the local ogranization and they will tell you whether or not they can secure a better price for you than you are expecting to sell for.

CHURCH NOTES

Other Church Notes on page 6

Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

The services for the M. E. Church tomorrow have been arranged with reference to maintaining the growing interest in the church. At 10.30 a. m., the pastor will deliver a sermon on "Whose Dollar am I Spending?" and the entire membership of the church, as well as the public, is invited to be present. In the afternoon at 2.15 the Sunday School session will be held. The Epworth League will conduct a devotional service at 7 o'clock. The subject to be discussed will be "Necessity and Value of Christian Education." In the public preaching service at 7.30 Dr. Alderson will deliver a sermon on "The Universal Call which None Should Decline." There will be special music.

Christ M. P. Church, Rev. J. L. Ward pastor. Sunday services: Morning worship, "Stewardship and the World Emergency," 10.30 a. m.; S. S., Fred G. Usilton, Supt., 2.30 p. m.; Christian Endeavor, "Christian Principles In Industry," Mrs. J. W. Russell, leader, 6.45 p. m.; evening worship, "Sweet Adversity," 7.30 p. m. Prayer Meeting Thursday 7.30 p. m. Intermediates on Friday 7.00 p. m. Everybody welcome.

A meeting of the clergymen and laymen interested in the Interchurch World Movement covering Kent Co. will be held Monday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. in Christ M. P. Church, Chestertown.

Don't forget that now is the time to place your order for a Dodge Bros. or a Velie Biltwel Six, or Auburn Beauty Six pleasure car for spring delivery. [illegible] will be scarce in the [illegible]

—In this issue The National Life Insurance Company of Vermont has a very creditable statement. This is one of the life insurance companies represented by Mr. R. Goldey Warren. He also has the agency for The United Life and Accident Insurance Co. of Concord, N. H.

—The unsightly buildings in the rear of the Third National Bank and Mr. Frank A. Hurlock's store were torn down last week, thereby adding much to the appearance of the section. Mr. Hurlock will erect a building in the rear of his store in a more substantial manner in the future.

—Shad will be scarce and high this year, the fishermen think. They sold for $2 last year and will likely go to $3 this year.

—Mr. P. M. Brooks will build a big addition to his mill in the near future. Messrs. Duyer Brothers will do the work.

ONE MAN CULTIVATES TWO ROWS AT A TIME *with the*

One man cultivates 12 to 20 acres in 10 hours

One man plows 7 to 9 acres in 10 hours

One man lists 12 to 20 acres in 10 hours

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Equipped with rear carrying truck for odd jobs

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The Moline-Universal Tractor straddles the corn row—it has more clearance than the ordinary cultivator—so corn can be cultivated in all stages. The tractor is attached to the cultivator and forms one complete unit—the tractor the front wheels, and the cultivator the rear wheels. The operator sits on the cultivator in line with the right drive wheel of the tractor, where he has a clear and unobstructed view of the rows ahead. This is of the utmost importance for good work.

All the operator has to do is to keep the right wheel of the Moline-Universal a certain distance from the outside row and the whole outfit will go properly. For dodging individual hills the cultivator gangs are shifted by the operator's feet.

The automatic electric governor allows the tractor to be slowed down to a "snail's pace".

But cultivating is only one of all the farm operations the Moline-Universal Tractor can do. It is light, yet does as much work with two 14-inch plow bottoms as the ordinary three-plow tractor, on account of its higher speed, 3½ miles an hour. Being coupled to the various farm implements with which it is used, it enables one man to perform every farm operation better than two men can do the same work with the ordinary tractor. In addition it has plenty of power for belt work, easily handling a 24-inch grain separator.

Mechanically, the Moline-Universal contains refinements and improvements that stamp it as the foremost tractor. Perfected overhead-valve four-cylinder engine, complete enclosure of all working parts, including the final drive gears, electric starting and lighting system, 15 Hyatt heavy duty roller bearings and five high grade ball thrust bearings, differential lock, and electrical engine governor are a few of the many features that place the Moline-Universal ahead of all the rest.

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All colors. **$3.98** Many sizes and widths

Shoes for women, growing girls and children. Sold for cash and no shoes returnable.

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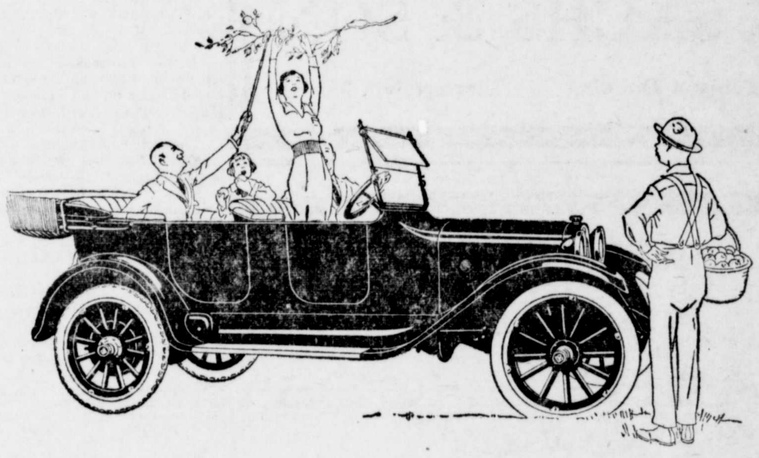

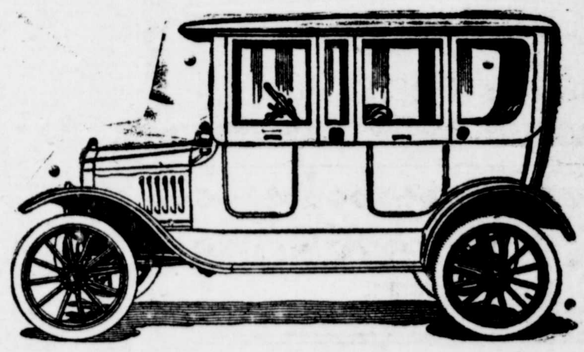

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And, a Detroit Weatherproof Top solves the problem of your driving comfort in all kinds of weather.

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