Kent News.

SATURDAY.....FEB. 1, 1890

GALENA LOCALS.

As the cold weather of last week has passed away and again we are having some spring-like weather, persons who have ice houses are rather dubious about getting them filled this season. But they need not despair, as we have had colder weather this month than we had the corresponding month last year, as the thermometer was down to 20 on the 22nd inst.; but February, 1889, gave us some old time winter weather, the thermometer running down to 6, and on the 24th of that month giving us ice of good quality and plenty of it.

I think the prevailing disease, la grippe, is pretty well through our town, as I don't hear of many suffering from it just now. When you meet a friend on the street his first salutation is, "I suppose you have gotten over the grippe!"

Mr. Fosnocht is holding a protracted meeting in the M. E. Chapel with good attendance nightly. Rev. Mr. Pittman, of the Presbyterian Church at Georgetown preached at the chapel on Wednesday evening to a large audience. Mr. Fosnocht is untiring in his zeal to get the people of Galena converted.

Mr. Wm. A. Hyland, after a severe spell of the grippe, is about again.

Mrs. Annie Gooding (wife of T. O. Gooding) died here week before last after a tedious illness, aged about 48 years.

Mrs. Annie E. Jacoby, wife of Geo. W. Jacoby, died on the 17th inst, aged about 51 years. She took the la grippe which developed into pneumonia and proved fatal in three or four days. She had been an invalid for the last 25 years, at times not able to leave her bed for weeks at a time. She was buried at Shrewsbury on the 21st inst. Mr. Jacoby has the sympathy of the community in his loneliness.

The Rev. Dr. Duncan, of St. Stephens', preached in the Episcopal Church at this place on Sunday afternoon last to a good audience. He gave his hearers an able and instructive sermon. Rev. Mr. Ware will preach at St. Andrew's P. E. Church on Sunday evening at 7 o'clock P. M.

Joseph Richardson, a white boy on the farm of Capt. Wilson on Turkey Point, had his shoulder blade broken a few days ago. He was attended by Dr. Taylor and is doing as well as could be expected.

A nephew of Capt. Wilson, Wm. Rutter, who was bitten by a mad dog in Cecil some time ago and was taken to Paris to undergo treatment under Pasteur, has arrived in Paris, but his friends do not know yet what the outcome will be, but hope for the best. Every thing that was bitten by the dog went mad; a mule, pig and a dog it went mad on the 19th day.

Our mails must be very irregular, as we mailed a letter to Chestertown last week on Thursday, but I see you did not get it until Friday. P.

Something About Milling.

EDITORS KENT NEWS:—I noticed some time ago a meeting held by a Farmers' Club in one of our cities for the purpose of discussing the question, "Why cannot the farmer get his grinding done for one-tenth, the legal rate, as formerly?"

This has become a very perplexing question, and as I know we are in the midst of a people who have the same opinion, I cannot resist the temptation in answer thereto. After an experience of a number of years in this particular branch of business, I am able to say with the utmost sincerity that it cannot be done any more and give satisfaction to both the farmer and miller, because the farmer now demands just as good flour as the millionaire, and that cannot be made on the one-tenth toll system or common custom grinding with one millstone, one smutter and one bolt; neither can the yield of flour be obtained in this way of grinding as the more improved mills are giving in exchange, even on very choice wheat. But how much of such wheat is raised now? Every intelligent farmer admits that it is impossible to raise as good a quality of wheat now as he could when farms were in full fertility, especially through parts of the west where no phosphate is used. This fact has been found out years ago by millers and grain dealers, and they have been compelled, not by the farmer, but by a natural cause, to test the wheat in order to determine the exact value. This year's crop is extremely irregular in grade. Consequently the tester is an indispensable necessity. Considering these natural drawbacks, how can the farmer expect the same yield from poor wheat as formerly from a No. 1. There are innumerable mills and millers in this State alone who would be glad could they do the farmer's grinding in the old way, when they got the eighth or tenth for grinding. But now the wheat is taken miles to a more improved mill, to be what? To be "done up" on every side? Not much, but to be exchanged for flour their wives can use. So the good old-fashioned custom miller is compelled to mortgage his mill and remodel it, and then give it up to the farmers who hold the mortgage. This is not imagination but facts of almost daily occurrence. If the farmer can substantiate their assertions by similar facts, viz., that the farmer is "done up" on every side, and that there are combinations among millers for this purpose, they would be entitled to honor by the public, but if not they are deserving the extreme contrary. I am neither a mill owner nor a farmer, but occupy a place between the two, as a miller in charge of a mill, whose duty it is to see that both are served alike. This is something the farmer never thinks of. If an operative miller should undertake to love master and hate the other, it would soon be found out and off comes the the miller's head, neck and all, and no mill owner can afford to lose one single customer through the crookedness of his miller; neither can he afford his miller to allow one single pound of flour more per bushel than the wheat will produce. While the miller who is brought into business relations with the farmer may have harbored up some hard feelings against agriculturists as a class he ought never to forget that the farmer has been a benefaction to the craft, in that he has frequently come forward and purchased the mill, when by stress of competition the miller was no longer able to extract a living from it. Next to running a newspaper, nothing looks quite so easy as running such a mill as the farmer is brought in contact with. Compared to the hard life of the farmer it seems to the outsider one perpetual holiday; and as for profit, why that is simply a matter of arithmetic. Of course there are plenty of good business men among farmers. Many we know have made a success; but the net results show that farmers are not phenomenally successful as millers, and enforces the old proverb which says that the shoemaker must stick to his last. The great trouble with many farmers is that they do not realize that the shrinkage which has been going on in late years has extended to any other form of industry except that of polite gambling and stealing. They imagine that theirs is the only industry where the rewards have declined and the expenditures increased. Whenever such a farmer, acting on this belief, buys a mill, the time of his disenchantment draws nigh. He finds that the miller has no easier time than the farmer, and if he proceeds to get into some other business, he finds that everywhere the same rule holds good; that eternal hustling is the price of keeping one's head above the water of modern life. Let the skeptic figure on both sides; he will soon be convinced that successful milling as well as any other business, is governed by the golden rule "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." There are a few things which should be distinctly understood by the miller's best friend—the farmer. What would the farmer do without the miller or vice versa? You see we are compelled to work together, consequently we must live together and we do not want any row in the home. Cleanliness is the first thing to be observed in the household (understand me). Well, then, if you take dirty grain to mill you must suffer the consequences; if your grain is poor you cannot help it, but if it is dirty you are to blame—so never allow the boys to put the screenings with the wheat, after you have cleaned it. Never allow them to put the grain into torn bags, and spill it along the road and then complain of incorrect scales. Now, my friends, if you will kindly observe these things and give them an impartial consideration, we can live in peace and have money as long as we eat bread and be the happiest people on earth. But on the other hand we shall be in turmoil sufficient to torment the life out of one another, and never be any wiser.

"MICKY."

MORTGAGE TAXATION.

MESSRS. EDITORS KENT NEWS:

Arriving late at the meeting of farmers in Chestertown on Tuesday last, I did not hear the first of the proceedings, but when I went in Mr. Robert S. Griffith, of Sassafras, was discussing the question of "tax on mortgages" and on request from the chairman J. A. Pearce, Esq., gave some views on the subject, both gentlemen arguing that a "tax on mortgages" would be detrimental to the interests of the farmer, and that if such a law passed the farmer would have to pay the excess of taxes or the mortgages would be foreclosed. A resolution against mortgage taxation was passed. It now goes out to our legislators and the world that the farmers of Kent are opposed to a law being passed by our legislature taxing mortgages.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I do not believe that the majority of our farmers are opposed to it. I believe had the resolution come squarely before the meeting that not over one-third of the farmers would have voted for it. The question was sprung upon the farmers so suddenly that they had no time for thought and reflection, and there was no one present who championed the cause of taxing mortgages. The speakers opposed to taxation acknowledge that it is just and right to tax mortgages. Then why not do it? If it is just and right, here is the strongest possible argument that the bill should be passed, for *right* must and will prevail.

But they say if this bill passes, the farmers will have to pay the taxes on the mortgages. Who pays the taxes on mortgages now? Why the farmer. Yes, but they say mortgages are not taxed now. I believe I can prove they are. Suppose a man buys a farm agreeing to give $20,000, pays $10,000 cash and gives a mortgage for $10,000; now who virtually owns that farm? Why the mortgager and mortgagee own it in partnership, only the mortgagee is a very silent partner until the taxes on that farm and the interest on that mortgage are not paid; then he soon makes himself known as a partner and soon forecloses the mortgage and makes himself owner and proprietor. Therefore does not the mortgagor pay taxes on that mortgage or the half of the farm owned by the silent partner? Now suppose this bill is passed to tax this mortgage, how will it make this mortgager's burdens any heavier than they are now? Does he not pay taxes on the $20,000 farm now? But they say he will have to pay in addition all tax on the $10,000 mortgage, making a tax on $30,000 instead of $20,000. Now we all know, Messrs. Editors, that the State and county tax are based on the assessed value of property; if the value is very high the rate per hundred will be low, or if the value is low the rate per hundred will be high to produce a given amount, or in other words instead of paying 80 cts. per hundred on $20,000, he pays 53⅓ cts. on $30,000. Is he any poorer if he has to pay it? Now the other great opposition to the bill is that the mortgagee will foreclose his mortgage and sell the poor farmer out and the money loaners will withdraw their money from Kent, and then what will the poor farmers do? Why, Messrs. Editors, it is too good to contemplate! With no mortgages—no money loaners—no trust—no credit—Kent county, Maryland, would be then indeed *God's country—a garden of Eden*—only we would have briars and thistles.

I am in favor of taxing mortgages and taxing all kinds of property by whatsoever name called and taxing every man, whether he be white or black, rich or poor, his just and right proportion, so that the burden will fall on all alike according to their income and resources. The trouble with the farmers of to-day is that they lack unity and back bone to stand together and fight for their rights. If it is right to tax mortgages, which all concede, let us stand up like men and advise, request, instruct, and, if need be, *compel* our *legislature* to pass a bill to tax mortgages.

FARMER.

STILL POND, Jan. 30.

At the Matrimonial Altar.

BOWERS—HEPBRON.

MR. ELLSWORTH C. BOWERS and MISS IDA M. HEPBRON, were married in Lynch's Church on Wednesday evening, 22d ult., at 8 P. M., by the pastor, Rev. S. B. Tredway, in the presence of a large concourse of friends who had assembled to witness the happy event. The announcement in the NEWS only confirmed what the birds had been whispering in the ears of the friends of the contracting parties for some time past. At the appointed hour the happy couple entered the church, escorted by the ushers and approached the altar, Miss Hollingsworth, one of Queen Anne's fair daughters, played the wedding march. While the congregation stood in hushed silence the pastor, who met them at the altar, united them in holy matrimony according to the beautiful ceremony of the Methodist Protestant Church. After the nuptials were celebrated the bride and groom with many invited guests repaired to their new home in the village, and the remaining hours of the evening were spent in social converse, partaking of refreshments and admiring the many presents, which were numerous and elaborate, from friends in and out of the community. After mutual and tender greetings the guests bade adieu to the young couple who had set their sails for a successful voyage over life's tempestuous sea.

Miss Mary Hepbron presented with her compliments a set of teaspoons and a pair of towels; tea and dinner set by the Miss Bowers; table-cloth, Mrs. Wm. Hepbron; barrel of flour, Geo. L. Bowers; silver butter-knife and sugar-spoon, Wm. Hepbron; family bible, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bowers; table napkins, Harry H. Hepbron; willow rocking chair, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowers; pair of pictures, half dozen tumblers and sugar-sifter, Frank Hepbron; decorated chamber set, Archer Bowers; toilet set, Miss Lizzie Hepbron; silver butter-dish, Misses R. and G. Parrott; silver butter-dish, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hossinger; glass rolling-pin, Mrs. H. Carrow; fruit dish and pitchers, Mr. and Mrs. James Birch; large lamp, Miss Sadie Hollingsworth; fruit dish, Miss Maggie Harper; beaded pin-cushion, Vickers Hollingsworth; fruit and dessert dishes, Miss Annie Roeder; hall and hanging lamps, A. N. Stavely; chamber set, Mr. and Mrs. Rodenhizer; glass water set, Miss Amy Rodenhiser; large lamp, Miss Mollie Clements; French china tea set, E. L. Covington; castors, Miss Mina Lusby; silver knives and forks, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen; silver tablespoons Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Willis; silver napkin rings, Mrs. Lusby; table-cloth, Mrs. and Mr. Mann; glass set, Mrs. E. Plummer; table napkins, the Miss Mann; bed quilt, Mrs. Wm. Hague; plush pin-cushion, Miss Laura Hague; whisk and holder, Miss Lida Hague; bed spread, table napkins and cover, Wm. P. Norris and Cacy Brothers; ornamented butter, Miss Carrie Sutton; embroidered handkerchief, Miss Annie Young; pair of towels, Miss Mamie Norris; table cover, Mrs. J. R. Crowding; foot mat, Harry Stavely; handsome clock, unknown friend in New York; dishpan, Lucy Bennet, col'd; broom, Sam. Mann, col'd.

"Not for herself was woman first create,
Nor yet to be man's idol, but his mate."

A. FRIEND.

FARMERS' COUNCIL!

A Large Meeting on Tuesday in Chestertown—Grave Questions Earnestly Considered—Interesting Discussion—Some Action Taken.

The farmers of Kent came from nearly every section on Tuesday in response to the call of Col. W. J. Vannort. The grand jury room of the court-house was secured for the meeting, and shortly after ten A. M., this room was well filled. Among those present were the following:

J. H. Baker, I. R. Leaverton, Bartus Trew, S. Vannort, John P. Hendrickson, Jesse Cooper, J. W. Corey, W. J. Vannort, J. A. Pearce, J. H. Gale, L. C. Justis, Jr., H. W. Vickers, W. F. Melvin, J. W. Boggs, Dr. S. Beck, Wm. Carter, E. J. Watson, J. W. Copper, T. J. Willis, W. S. Walker, Biddle Hossinger, John Hurlock, Comegys Brown, Wm. Thomas, of William, W. T. Maslin, P. G. Wilmer, Charles McCleary, Bedford Roe, W. T. Redmile, I. F. Walbert, Stewart Matthews, J. Harper Gale, J. T. Jones, Jas. Brice, John Bell, Jos. Trew, J. M. J. Byron, Jos. Price, B. Morris, Geo. A. Jessup, Josias Ringgold, J. R. Bennett, Henry Bramble, J. C. Loud, B. F. H. Caulk, Harry Hill, John Stokes, J. T. Blackiston, Henry Brown, Thos. W. Toulson, John P. Nicholson, Geo. H. Watts, J. W. Skirven, H. J. Gray, Jos. Rasin, R. C. Smyth, A. R. Parks, John Brice, Purnell Jefferson, H. P. Smith, J. R. Usilton. The room became crowded; others filled the doorway, and finally the proceedings were interrupted by a loud call from the outside—"What are you doing in there? Is this to be a private meeting? Let us all in!" &c. The doors were pressed open, the crowd surged in and the meeting adjourned to Stam's Hall.

The Proceedings.

The meeting was called to order by Col. W. J. Vannort, who stated that he had, by virtue of his office as vice-president for Kent county of the State Farmers' Association, taken the liberty of inviting the farmers of the county to come together for consultation upon matters of the gravest import to them all, and now it was for the meeting to take such action as might be proper. As a preliminary step he would entertain a motion looking to organization.

Mr. Bartus Trew proposed that Col. Vannort be the president of the meeting, and the proposition was unanimously adopted. Mr. Comegys Brown was chosen secretary.

The chairman again stated the object of the meeting, and hoped that those present would freely exchange views and discuss propositions looking to the amelioration of the farmer's condition. Serious questions confront us—the price of farm labor, farm productions, buying and selling, &c.

L. C. Justis, Jr., followed Col. Vannort in presenting the embarrassed condition of the agricultural community; something, he said, must be done, and that pretty quick, or bankruptcy would be the result.

J. W. Corey said the subject confronting us was not only serious but it was also difficult. Wheat and corn can no longer be raised in Kent at a profit. Even the large grower—the man who raises 10,000 bushels—will find himself poorer at the end of the year than at the beginning. If our only hope is in the reduction of the price of labor, I never expect to live long enough to see an improved condition of affairs. Labor, even now, pays better in the North and West than in this section and many of our best laborers are emigrating in consequence. I do not expect to hire labor much cheaper than at present. I have no difficulty at this season, of hiring a man in my neighborhood for a bushel of corn per day. We pay too much for what we have to buy—for everything that supplies the needs of the farmer. There is too wide a gap between the farmer and the manufacturer. There are too many agents to fill this gap. We have to buy everything from agents. If we had sense enough and business tact enough to get together and decide what kind of plow or machine we wanted, and then go direct to the maker of that implement we could buy it for one-half we now pay. The Grange is the very thing we need—organization. It is a school—nothing but a school, in which we learn to work together. We are the last people in the world to take in this knowledge—that is the great advantage of co-operation, working together. We have been in the old ruts so long I don't know that we'll ever get out. We can't pay labor out of wheat and corn, but there are many minor industries in which we may engage. A man with two hundred hens can make more money than with that many acres of grain, and so with numerous "little things," as we have heretofore termed these secondary matters in the farmers field of operation.

Mr. Justis admitted that the grange was a good school, but we havn't time to go to school now.

The chairman proceeded to call upon different farmers for their views.

James Brice said the importance of agriculture in this land was yet to be appreciated. It is the main wheel of the great machine that operates the industries of the nation. Its embarrassments affected everything else. He believed in combination—in association—in granges. But the trouble is the farmer himself stands in the way of advantages from such movements. He is such a treacherous mortal—he will make and break his contracts with his fellow farmers. How then, if we thus act toward each other, can we ever expect beneficial results from our so-called combinations? Let us first be honest with each other and stand by our pledges when we make them.

Mr. Henry Bramble was not favorably impressed with the grange. He joined it and found it not an organization of farmers. He was disgusted and drew out.

Thos. J. Willis thought if some practical action was not taken the farmer would not long be able to hold his head above water. We have nothing to bind us together. Why should there not be a price stipulated by the farmer for his products? Mechanics can fix prices for their labor, professional men for their services and the merchant for goods. Why not the farmer for his products? He paid from $8 to $10 per month for hands and the highest priced were not always the best. Some of the best hands were going up North.

James H. Baker heartily endorsed the proposition for a county organization. Our farmers need it, badly need it, and ought to have it. They ought by this time to see their dangers and take sufficient interest in this business to adopt saving methods. Many things demand their attention. Not merely the price of labor, but the character of our crops. Some of us are too speculative and visionary. A failure another year will be disastrous. We cannot compete with the West. When that vast area raises corn or wheat for market we must raise something else. We cannot get our labor down or our land up to the condition of profitable competition. We must seek other crops. He moved that a committee be appointed to draft resolutions looking to a permanent organization.

At this point the interruption occurred by reason of the crowd and the discussion was resumed in Stam's Hall.

A vote of the meeting decided in favor of a permanent organization of the farmers of the county, and the following committee was appointed to formulate a plan and draft suitable resolutions: James H. Baker, Philip G. Wilmer, L. C. Justis, Jr., B. F. H. Caulk, I. R. Leaverton.

P. G. Wilmer thought it would be better first to get the views of farmers upon the labor question. He did not find any scarcity of hands in his section, but he could not get them as cheap as some here appeared to do. It would seem right for the laborer to meet the employer in some fair proposition for mutual benefit. While everything else is produced at a loss should not labor get less? Is it not proper—is it not absolutely essential—that we should set forth some plan, and agree upon a schedule of prices?

Rev. Dr. Bates said he hardly knew where to place himself—whether he was preacher or farmer. If the proposed organization wanted a chaplain he might do for that. Two matters now before the National Legislature might properly be considered by this meeting—the irrigation of certain Western lands to bring them into cultivation and cereal growing to further compete with us, and the gambling in grain. Both of these things are against us, and our representatives should use their best efforts to stop them.

Bevins Morris said he had been a farmer from boyhood; it is time now to act, to be practical. It has been said that farmers would not stick to their contract. He was ready to act and would stand by what he promised.

John Z. Clark advocated another meeting. It is our own fault if we do not organize, and if decided results for good do not flow from this meeting.

I. R. Leaverton thought there were some phases of the subject that had not yet been touched. We should attend to our own business better than we do. Stop trying to attend to everybody else's business. Stop riding about so much and do more work ourselves. Then our laborers would be worth more to us—the money we pay them would be better invested. Neglect along these lines will account for some of the embarrassments under which we labor.

Robt. S. Griffith introduced the question of mortgage taxation. He thought it was right that this body of farmers should consider this subject. It was one that affected so many of us that it was eminently proper that we should speak out. He offered a resolution that the question be considered, and it was carried. Thereupon Mr. Griffith pulled off his overcoat and waded into the subject, speaking with his usual zeal and force. He really did not know what would be best—whether to tax or not tax mortgages. He feared that a law to lay such a tax would only add to the burden of the already over-burdened farmer. He would have to pay the additional tax. If there is any way to make the mortgage holder pay the tax he would like to know what that way is. There is grave danger. He knows what human nature is; he did not profess to be better than other people; if he was a money lender he would likely do as that individual does. The law should say, if it does lay the tax, exactly the same to both mortgagor and mortgagee—pay your own tax; no more, no less; and if there are penalties to be found strong enough to enforce it they should be enacted. But then, he can sell me out. So he can. And maybe he will. The love of Mammon more than the love of God, exists today as in the days of Adam. But if there is a way to tax mortgages, not at the expense of the mortgagor, then in the name of God let's tax them! The sooner the better. We must look after our own business; no one else will for us. All of our interests seem to be on the down grade. The lawyers' fees are not lessening; physicians understand the business of charging as well as ever; mechanics and merchants, and even the oystermen are still up in prices. The only helpless individual seems to be the poor farmer.

Mr. Justis reopened the subject of farm labor, and offered a motion that it be the duty of farmers to strive to secure an equalization of farm labor with that of farm productions. He said it was the high priced day labor he was after. It is to the interest of the laborer as well as the employer that a fair and sound system should be adopted. He was opposed to taxing mortgages for the same reason given by Mr. Griffith—he was afraid the mortgagor would have to pay it.

J. F. Wheatley favored mortgage taxation but declined to discuss the subject. He thought there were brains enough in the Maryland Legislature to formulate a law which would hold all taxpayers to their duty.

J. A. Pearce, in response to call, referred to his action as a member of the tax commission in uniting with the majority of that body in opposing mortgage taxation. He did not believe it to be a practical thing at this time. The money lender would either force the borrower to pay his tax or he would withdraw his money; it would be difficult to draft a law to prevent the first, and the "Old Adam" in us all would still be found sufficiently dominant in the lender to take advantage of the second whenever his interest prompted. Mr. Pearce thought the field for profitable investment in the West would lead to the withdrawal of the money now invested in mortgages here.

A. L. Corey said we seem to be nearer the realization of mortgage taxation now than for years. The State had been agitated for a long time over it. Why not give taxation a trial. Let's see if it can't be made to work even to the advantage of all. If it fails then we can repeal it.

B. F. H. Caulk offered a resolution, which after amendment read as follows—

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that under existing circumstances it would be unwise for the legislature to advocate taxing mortgages.

The chairman put the motion and decided the resolution carried, though the vote was very weak.

The meeting then adjourned to convene again on Tuesday morning next in Stam's Hall, to hear the report of the committee on permanent organization.

A CALL for a temperance meeting to be held in Stam's Hall Feb. 11, will be found in another column.

EX-SENATOR H. H. RIDDLEBERGER died at his residence in Woodstock, Va., on Friday morning of last week.

The Local Market.

Local corn buyers yesterday quoted—

Yellow corn, No. 1	39c.	bushel.
" " Steamer	38c.	"
" " No. 3	25c.	"
" " on the cob	30@32c.	"
White corn, No. 1	32c.	"
" " Steamer	30c.	"
" " No. 3	27c.	"

Little corn is offered dry enough to grade as No. 1.

For country produce the stores here were dealing yesterday as follows for

Dressed turkey hens	16c.	per lb.
" " gobblers	14c.	"
" ducks and chickens	10@12c.	"
" geese	10c.	"
Country sausage	10c.	"
Country butter	20c.	"
Eggs	12c.	a doz.

BALTIMORE MARKET.—The Baltimore papers of yesterday quote as follows:

WHEAT—Longberry, good to prime, 73@82.
CORN—white and yellow, 34@42.
OATS—29@31½.

Peninsula Horticultural Society.

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING IN CHESTERTOWN.

Interesting Reports and Discussions!

The third annual meeting of the Peninsula Horticultural Society was held in Stam's Hall, Chestertown, this week beginning Tuesday, at 2 P. M. The following members of the society responded to the roll call:

Dr. J. J. Black, New Castle, Del.
Col. E. L. Martin, Seaford, Del.
J. W. Kerr, Denton, Md.
Wesley Webb, Dover, Del.
Dr. Ridgeley, Dover, Del.
J. G. Bowen, Wyoming, Del.
A. W. Slaymaker, Wyoming, Del.
S. H. Messick, Bridgeville, Del.
Geo. W. McMath, Olney, Va.
J. L. Banning, Easton, Md.
A. J. Wilson, Easton, Md.
Geo. Biddle, Cecilton, Md.
James S. Harris, Kent, Md.
Norris Barnard, " "
Robt. G. Nicholson, Kent, Md.
James H. Baker, " "
Dr. W. S. Maxwell, " "
Wm. D. Pennington, " "
Jos. S. Clark, " "
Josias Ringgold, " "

Among the distinguished visitors were: Prof. B. T. Galloway, chief of Vegetable Pathology, Washington; Professor W. H. Bishop, Maryland Experimental Station; Dr. Arthur T. Neale, director Del. Experimental Station. The hall was well filled with agriculturalists of this county during the whole afternoon.

FIRST DAY.

The meeting was called to order by J. W. Kerr, with Wesley Webb, Esq., secretary. Following the preliminary business of roll-call and the enrollment of new members, came the address of welcome by James A. Pearce, Esq. Mr. Pearce's address was concise, eloquent and interesting throughout, and touched in a very felicitious manner upon various subjects of importance to every department of agriculture alike. Mr. Pearce said: "Every gathering of intelligent and progressive agriculturists for the discussion and promotion of their calling must challenge the interest and good-will of every lover of his country, and it is therefore with sincere pleasure that I greet you to-day in the name of the people of Kent county, and bid you welcome to their fair inheritance.

"The special department of agriculture to which your association directs its attention may be designated as the aristocracy or the poetry of the profession. 'Oh, happy farmers, if they but knew their own blessings.' The truth thus sung had sunk deep into the hearts of our ancestors when they crossed the ocean to found a new world. The altar of home rose in the forest and on the hillside wherever the foot of the white man trod, and throughout the past history of our country the toilers of the field have been cheered and solaced by the keen and wholesome air of independence which they breathed, and the race has been strengthened and ennobled by the domestic virtues which grew and flourished in the home of the family, however humble or poor.

"The farmer has been the bone and sinew of his country, the type of sturdy independence and of genuine content and happiness. But to-day, in the midst of wonderful development. * * * * The farmer alone, among his brethren, has no part or lot in the material prosperity which the development of our natural resources, and the discoveries and the inventions of the age, have brought, in greater or less degree, to every other class in the land."

Mr. Pearce, in referring to the wonderful developments made in every department of commerce and trade, said: "All these industries and energies depend for their ultimate success upon the farmer. They all sell their wares to him or employ their capital and increase in the preparation and transportation of his products, or of the exchanges which he requires. Their career has been ever onward and upward, until manufacturing princes, railroad and mining kings are as familiar to our republican people as hereditary kings and princes, dukes and nobles are to the monarchies of the old world. But the fortunes of the farmers for the past ten years have tended downwards only, and if some remedy is not found our lands will be absorbed by some gigantic modern trust or combine which will spring into being, and not only the individual landlord element so conservative in its influence, but the substantial tenantry which supplements the system will soon be extinguished, and our lands will be held by consolidated capital and will be tilled by serfs in fact if not in name. * * * * Until quite recently the farmers represented from one-half to two-thirds of the wealth of the country and one-half the population. From 1860 to 1880 they added to their possessions four billions and a half, but during the same time the other half of the population added to theirs twenty-three billions. * * * We of this Peninsula have a goodly land in which to dwell, we have a soil that responds generously to fair treatment and a climate which for physical health and comfort, for safety to the life of man and beast and for security to growing and garnered crops, cannot be excelled; we have proximity to the great markets of the cities of the coast, water carriage of unequalled advantages and railroad facilities which could be better (though they have been worse.) But we cannot fail to recognize the financial difficulties which confront and threaten us so seriously. * * * * The complaint of the farmers, I think, is a just complaint at the unequal manner in which the money in this country is distributed by our financial policy, and that with little or no regard to the rise or fall of value. A land owner whose sole taxable basis is a farm worth $10,000 will often pay a larger tax than a capitalist having in his safe securities aggregating $100,000 and yielding sure and handsome dividends. If you ask what is the remedy for this inequality and injustice I answer, a tax upon personal incomes and a tax upon the franchises and gross receipts of all corporations not sheltered by irrepealable charter or contract privileges. * * * Last, but not least, I believe the present high protective tariff, that iniquity of iniquities in class legislation, to be among the prime causes of the present situation. It is a system which for years enriched one part of the country at the expense of the other. One man there was in this country high in station, great in opportunity, strong in mental power, clear in perception and unswerving in devotion to principle, as he saw it, who had the courage to present that issue to the American people in its true light."

Following Mr. Pearce, J. W. Kerr, president of the society delivered the annual address, a most interesting and enjoyable address, which but for want of space we would be glad to print in full. Mr. Kerr said: "From the very depth of my heart springs a joyous recognition of the Free Mason spirit that binds horticulturists together as brethren of a common cause and rifts the sullen shades of business cares, exposing to the soul the invigorating sun light of genial companionship, the nobler, the social side of our existence, promoting in our hearts that well-spring of humanity that should characterize the conduct of man to man. If such a thing was within the domain of possibility, and from horticulture and pomology were obliterated every trace of the labors, and their far-reaching influence and effect upon the country at large of Downing, Wilder and Warder, to picture the sad contrast between what our condition is to-day—horticulturally, and what it would have been had our country never known the lives of that trio of self sacrificing benefactors of our race, is incalculably beyond the compass of the most fertile imagination. Changes that effect horticulture favorably or unfavorably are continually multiplying. The occupations, or by way of abridgment, the business of every type and kind throughout the length and breadth of the county is in a state of evolution. Conditions upon which success depends in almost any calling are rapidly becoming more complicated. A million and a half a year now means two millions a year within the next decade. Such additions to the already large number of human beings in our great republic battling for a livelihood means that the number of industrial avenues must not only be increased but at the same time improved. Horticulture pays enormous tribute to the threatening "craze" for a multiplication of millionaires and railroad kings, that hydra-headed insatiable foe to the liberty, happiness and prosperity of the masses; goaded by the austerity of unsatisfied avarice and arbitrary greed, imperfectly masked under bogus enterprises, but leaving in its trail the cloven foot-prints of its real self—*a moneyed aristocracy*. In referring to events more intimately related to the events of last year, the see-saw tendency of all horticultural operations strike me as noteworthy. By way of illustration, one season our strawberries yield an encouraging revenue; immediately we rise and begin to expand, but the subsequent season brings with it changed conditions, increasing the avoirdupois on our end of the plank sufficiently to start us down where contraction rules. Again we begin a peach season with the most auspicious and alluring anticipations, and prospects, and how *jealously* the rise of our end of the business plank, but in the exhilaration begotten of success, perhaps a badly controlled locomotive or other unforeseen adverse power shoves the plank too far to our side, our descent is so sudden that a full stop is only made when we reach the very subsoil of business, such has been the nature of business relating to fruits of all kinds produced on our peninsula during 1889. Taking the peach crop as a whole showers of blessing have descended upon our people, for which we have very great reason to be profoundly thankful. It so inflated horticultural interests as to leave at a satisfactory elevation their end of the see-saw plank, resulting in renewed stimulation in the planting of new orchards; the acreage thus appropriated last fall and during the open winter is of colossal proportions. The planters are rapidly educating themselves in the line of their interests. The selection of sites, trees and varieties; the practical operations of planting and culture, as well as the selection and application of fertilizers. All, must unmistakably indicate that the Peninsula peach-grower of to-day is of a distinctive type compared with the growers of but a decade in the past.

"So apparent will these facts soon become by the improvement in results they must unavoidably produce, that as iron sharpeneth iron, so will they sharpen and enlarge the energies of our entire agricultural community. Meditating upon the progress of horticultural education among our people lends strength (if possible) to the stubborn and inflexible faith that never forsakes me, that peach-growing, *the* great industrial interest of our good people has promises of a long life of great usefulness which will unfold and expand like the petals of the fragrant rose, to gladden the hearts and dispense happiness to *our* homes and to those of our children. No other fruit like the blushing peach holds locked in its embrace so much of our business welfare, our financial destiny, even our domestic peace, quiet and happiness—the *peach* in the broadest sense is the goose that lays the golden egg for our Peninsula."

Dr. W. S. Maxwell, chairman of general committee on fruits, submitted his report. Speaking of peaches he said: "The peach is the first fruit in importance grown on the peninsula, and if a little wisdom is displayed it will continue to be our moneyed crop. The removal of diseased trees as fast as they make their appearance is absolutely necessary for the success of the fruit. In the propagation of peach trees the seed should be selected from the strongest growing varieties known to be healthy. The Tennessee natural seed should be discarded, for we have been credibly informed that most of the these seed come from Northern canning houses. The only known remedy for 'yellows' is the removal of the tree. To accomplish this in all orchards is a necessity, and half-way measures will not do. The law must be radical. If we could get the Michigan law, providing for the destruction of all trees affected with the yellows, enacted for the whole peninsula, we believe our peach-growers would have plain sailing. Western Maryland is moving in this matter. What do the peninsula growers intend to do? The peach rot fungus has caused the loss of thousands of dollars' worth of fruit in recent years. This can be remedied to a great extent by picking all the fruit as it ripens and destroying all that is rotten."

SECOND DAY—WEDNESDAY.

The morning session was not largely attended. A number of ladies were present. Prof. W. H. Bishop, of the Maryland Experimental Station, delivered an interesting address on "Tomatoes, Their Study and Improvement." A discussion followed in which Messrs. Martin, Brown, Banning and Prof. Galloway took part—the principal subject of the discussion was the insectiverous birds, in which the crow figured. Mr. Banning made a plea for hawks; their virtue was in the destruction of ground mice. He had lost 700 trees in one season from this pest. Mr. Kerr said the snake was a destructive "bird" to ground mice. This gentleman made some pointed hits upon the proneness of people to encourage swindling. Barnum's head was level when he said that Americans loved to be humbugged. Fancy seeds and plants were a fruitful source of humbuggery.

Mr. W. S. Messick submitted his report on peaches, giving general instructions for planting and cultivating the fruit, and some information about the soil best adapted to it and some of the most desirable varieties. He says: "The profits of the business have heretofore have been the most interesting and gratifying part of it, and in order that this condition may continue to exist when the extent of the business is multiplied growers will be obliged to adopt more business-like methods than they have heretofore had in the marketing of their fruit. They must co-operate not only in teaching one another how to produce the fruit, but also in securing the best possible transportation facilities and in dealing as directly as possible with as many of the customers as they can. At many of the shipping places our middlemen control most of the shipping business to their advantage and our disadvantage. For this there is a remedy, and when farmers are organized and have sufficient confidence in themselves they will find it.

The editorial columns of two farmers' papers recently contained gloomy pictures of the future of the peach on the peninsula. The reports are misleading and dangerous. There never was a time when so many peach trees received thorough culture as at present. The nursery capacity of the peninsula is enormous, nevertheless it would be difficult at this time to have an order for a thousand trees filled with a general assortment. Such is the extent of the peach culture that it becomes a serious question whether or not the business is developing into dangerous proportions. Less favored sections that are induced by misleading reports to engage in fruit-growing will not live to see the time when they will not have a formidable rival in this peninsula in the production of this prince of fruit."

Dr. J. J. Black, chairman of the committee on pears, submitted his report.

Mr. N. Barnard repudiated the idea that nurserymen were responsible for the spread of peach yellows. He went on to show that seed procured from three different sections of the country had alike developed the disease. The disease is in the air. It can be stamped out. It is being stamped out. It is rapidly decreasing with him.

Dr. Arthur T. Neale, director of the Delaware experiment station, made an address advocating the State control and inspection of fertilizers, comparative tests of the methods of different races of milch cows, and a comparative trial of sugar beet seed from different growers. He also urged the society to develop a registration of plants on the place of the herd books, which have accomplished so much for dealers and financiers of thoroughbred horses and cattle. Dr. Neale's suggestions were received with approbation, and a committee was appointed to consider the best methods of carrying them out.

Prof. B. T. Galloway, chief of the section of plant pathology of the Department of Agriculture, made an address on "Fungus Diseases of Fruits and Their Treatment." Much that he said was devoted to grape-rot and mildew and disease of the pear and apple. Speaking of the grape he said: "The whole secret of treating the black-rot centres upon the question of excluding the spores or preventing them sending their slender germ tudes with the fruit. This may be successfully accomplished by covering the berries with something that will destroy the spores or prevent them from germinating. The formula giving the best results contains six pounds of copper and four pounds of lime to twenty-two gallons of water.

Norris Barnard submitted the report of the committee on apples. "Owing to the fact that this peninsula has proved especially adapted to the cultivation of the peach," he said, "the apple has taken a back seat, and to-day finds us without such a list of varieties adapted to our soil and climate as should make this industry especially profitable here. The Northern varieties, such as have proved profitable winter varieties elsewhere, when grown here are sure to ripen and shed their fruit in the fall when apples are a drug on the market. We have also experiment with Southern fruit, but that has proved even more disastrous." He concludes that what is needed on the peninsula is a native winter seedling of merit adapted to this region, if such can be found. Winter apples will then be successful in this locality, otherwise more favored localities must be looked to for the apple supply.

A. W. Slaymaker, for the committee on small fruits, reported that the past season was a very bad one for all small fruits. The cause of the failure was due to the exceptional wet weather, while bad picking and careless handling have ruined a large proportion of the berries. Nature does not often repeat herself, and a bad season is usually followed by a good one, and we have every reason for encourag