Kent News.

Terms: $1 Per Annum in Advance.

CHESTERTOWN, - MAY 2, 1891.

Meeting of County Executive Committee.

THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will meet at the Court House in Chestertown, on TUESDAY, May 5, 1891, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of fixing upon a day for making nominations, and other necessary business.

WM. S. WALKER,
Chairman County Executive Committee.

THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE is composed of the following gentlemen from the several districts:

First District—J. Fletcher Wilson, C. O. Cacy, Isaac Gibbs, Thos. E. Roe, Noble E. Pennington.

Second—Dennis J. Nowland, C. W. Spry, Wm. J. Hurlock, George O. Roeder, Wm. Fletcher Melvin.

Third—R. C. Smyth, W. R. Gale, W. W. Rasin, Geo. W. Rodenhizer, J. W. Ivens.

Fourth—Wm. S. Walker, H. H. Barroll, J. M. J. Byron, C. F. Stam, J. W. Loud.

Fifth—E. R. Strong, E. H. Strong, Geo. E. Leary, H. S. Francis, W. M. Miller.

EDITORIAL ADDRESS.

We ask the attention of the readers of the NEWS to the address below issued by the Democratic editorial association of Maryland, adopted at the meeting in Baltimore last Monday. The original draft was by C. H. Vanderford, Esq., of the Westminster *Advocate*. Nearly every Democratic editor in the State took part in the discussion which culminated in perfect unanimity in the adoption of this address:

TO DEMOCRATIC VOTERS.

"The importance of the campaign upon which we shall soon enter calls for greater vigilance and activity on our part than any for years past. This is not a State campaign merely. It has a national importance, and the outcome will be closely watched throughout the country. In addition to the election of general State and local officers, a Legislature is to be chosen that will be charged with the duty of electing two United States Senators. These prizes will be hotly contested for by the republican party, and the national committee of that party will doubtless lend a strong hand to the local organization. The waning power of that party in the Senate will prompt it to seize every opportunity to strengthen itself. The democracy of the Union will await with deep concern the result of the contest, for it hopes to gain control of the Senate in 1893, in order that the legislative branch of the government as well as the executive shall be in democratic hands, so that there shall be no barriers to the work of reforming the public service, abolishing useless offices, lessening appropriations, keeping taxation within constitutional limits, and restoring the government to that simplicity designed by its founders and uniformly practiced before the rise of the republican party.

NATIONAL ISSUES.

"The democrats of Maryland cannot afford by apathy, factional differences or dissensions to lose the election. The loss of the Legislature means more than the loss of two United States Senators. It means the election of a republican State treasurer and a republican police commissioner for Baltimore city. It would give the republicans opportunity to prolong party ascendency through registration and election laws and make its dislodgement difficult.

"Republican success this year would be far-reaching in its influence. It would make the upper house of Congress safely republican for a decade more, if not longer. Defeat is demoralizing and disorganizing, and if we lose the next election, which is preliminary to the great quadrennial contest of 1892, our party would be at a great disadvantage, and the moral effect of a democratic defeat in this heretofore reliably democratic State would be deeply depressing upon the party everywhere. It would be heralded by the republican press as an indorsement of the high-handed acts of the late Congress, of its profligacy and wastefulness, of its subsidy shipping bill and other raids upon the treasury, and as a rebuke to a Maryland Senator for his masterly and matchless leadership against the force bill.

"The importance of the contest connot be too highly regarded by the party. The republican party has a solid vote of forty thousand unwavering negroes to cast against us, and it will be liberally supplied with means and captivating orators should there appear any chance of success. Maryland is democratic, but in order to preserve democratic ascendency the party must have closed ranks and poll its full vote.

STATE AFFAIRS.

"The chief matters of State concern are a primary election law, new assessment law, the perfection and excention of the new ballot law, the preservation of the oyster interests and the proposed constitutional amendments. A new assessment law is needed, for great inequalities have grown up since the last general valuation. Farming lands have depreciated in earning capacity and selling value, and not only is a new assessment needed, but new sources of revenue should be discovered and a true valuation of personal property of all kinds be made. In this connection we should not fall into the error of supposing that agriculture can be wholly relieved by State legislation. It is not State and local taxation that has reduced agriculture to the verge of bankruptcy, but the republican policy of protection, enforced by the federal government. That policy not only restricts the markets for the products of agriculture, but it places the agriculturist at the mercy of monopolies and trusts, which are daily eating out this substance.

"Here, again, the national importance of the approaching campaign is apparent. Maryland ought to send tariff reformers to the United States Senate to aid in the struggle for tax reduction in the interest of agriculture, the mainstay of the country, the basis of all wealth. Most of the ills that afflict the farmer can be abated by economy in public expenditures and a lessening of taxation, with consequent freer trade and widening of the markets for the products of the farm.

"The condition of the valuable oyster beds of the State calls for prompt action. It is unnecessary to discuss the cause of the decline of this important interest. We must recognize its condition and deal efficiently with the question. An intelligent comprehension of the subject will result in the restoration of the beds, a revival of the oyster interest in all its ramifications, and at the same time add greatly to the revenues of the State. The recent discussion of the question has aroused public interest, and we have no doubt that the next Legislature will be able to deal with the matter satisfactorily. The democratic State convention should take this subject in hand and appoint a committee to draft a law for submission to the next Legislature, and the same should be done with reference to a new assessment law.

"Upon these matters there are no serious differences among democrats, and it only remains for the party to place capable and popular candidates in the field to insure a sweeping victory. Attend the primaries. Select representative men to local and State conventions—men who value party success above personal ambitions, and who will come together to consult for the promotion of the general welfare. After the nomination bow to the will of the majority, be vigilant and active and lend your best energies to the success of the State and local tickets."

Mr. Brown' Luncheon.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon the editors gathered around the long tables spread in the lower hall at Hazazer's. Republican, mugwump, Farmers' Alliance and prohibition editors affiliated with their democratic brethern and all were heartily welcomed by Mr. Frank Brown, the host. Mr. Brown welcomed his guests in a speech in which he outlined the industrial position held by Maryland and thanked the press for the substantial aid given him in making successful the exhibition held at Pimlico in 1889. He was warmly applauded.—After the address, speeches were made by Messrs. F. I. Duncan, Paul Winchester, G. E. Haddaway, W. Scott Roberts, W. J. O'Brien, W. L. Seabrook, J. E. Hill, Peter A. Witmer and others.

Chester Alliance Meeting.

THURSDAY, April 30th, 1891.

At a meeting of Chester Alliance at the home of Mr. Josiah Massey to-day, a majority of the members present decided by vote that it was best not to place candidates in the field for the fall election.

The next meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. Bevins Morris on Morgan Creek road, Thursday, May 7th, at which all members are expected to be present.

SECRETARY.

To be Held in Still Pond.

The third quarterly meeting of the county W. C. T. U. met in the vestry of the Methodist Episcopal Church last Tuesday. Delegates were present from the "Ys" of Kennedyville, Fairlee, Pomona, Still Pond, Worton and Chestertown. Quite a discussion arose as to the place of holding the county convention. It was finally decided to hold it at Still Pond on Wednesday, July 15th, 1891. The committee on credentials consists of Mrs. Tilghman Shafer, Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Mrs. C. M. Lucas. The following are among those on the program committee: Misses Anna Stewart, Ida Crew, Annie Roeder, Mrs. Jno. Corey and others. On entertainment committee the following were appointed: Mrs. B. F. Legg, Mrs. Jno. Corey, Mrs. Charles Hurlock, Mrs. W. G. Skirven, Mrs. Wm. J. Vannort and Mrs. James S. Harris.

TEMPERANCE DELEGATES.

The 18th annual convention of the Maryland State Temperance Alliance will be held in Baltimore May 5, 6 and 7 in the old first M. E. Church, corner Charles and Fayette streets. The M. E. Sunday school of Chestertown elected Mrs. Mary Brown, and Mr. C. S. York as delegates to the convention. The church elected Messrs. John Bordley and Joseph Downey. The Chestertown W. C. T. U. elected Mrs. Wm. Stewart, as their delegate.

COLLEGE BRIEFS.—Steady work is being done in the preparation of the dramatic entertainment, and everything is pointing to success. Let everybody keep it in mind and be ready to attend.

A dance was given by the students in the chapel last night, which was largely attended.

Jacob Todd, D. D., of Trinity M. E. Church, Philadelphia, late of Christ Church, Wilmington, will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon this year on the Sunday morning before commencement.

Rev. Wm. Munford, who was rector at St. Paul's, in this county, will preach before the Young Men's Christian Association of the college, on the evening of the same day.

Our town commissioners are especially invited to take a walk on the board walk and see for themselves the bad condition it is in. It is dangerous to walk on it, and the roadway at the late L. K. Stam residence should be raised. We do not like to complain and feel quite sure our commissioners will help us.

FARMERS AND KNIGHTS.

Kent County Alliances Send Delegates—Resolutions Adopted—Opposed to the Sale or Leasing of Oyster Beds.

The reform conference of delegates, representing the Farmers' Alliance, Knights of Labor, trades, unions and Reform organizasions, in pursuance of the call of District Assembly No. 41 of the Knights of Labor, met Wednesday morning at Industrial Hall, No. 316 West Lombaad street Baltimore. There were about one hundred delegates present, including a respectable representation from the Farmers' Alliance, especially from Eastern Shore counties. The conference met at 10.30 A. M. and adjourned a 7 P. M., taking a recess for dinner. The session was quiet and unexciting. One female delegate, Mrs. Nothen, from the Nationalist Club, was present.

Kent county Farmers' Alliances were well represented. From Still Pond, Messrs. Wm. D. Pennington, G. W. Davis, H. Kruzen and H. Davis were present. Messrs. John C. Jones and Edward W. Hepbron were present from Lynch's Alliance. Mr. J. G. Schoufarber was made permanent president, and Mr. Henry Kruzen, of Still Pond Alliance, vice-president.

The declarations of principle as adopted are as follows: Believing that it is difficult to get reform or proper representation at present, we consider it of first importance to perfect our election system so that more capable representatives may be selected to serve us. To this end we suggest the following changes in the election law: First, annual registration for the City of Baltimore; second voting by certificate; third, registration officers to act as judges of the election; fourth, that each regularly nominated officer, where only one is to be voted for, or each party which may in the legal manner nominate candidates for office, shall have the power to select one watcher, whose right it shall be to remain in the voting place during such election for which he may be appointed.

Believing that each community is the best judge of its own needs, we would suggest that local self-government be demanded, thus doing away with much jobbery in our legislative halls. We believe that a new assessment law is necessary, and favor the passage of the proposed alteration in the Bill of Rights, giving the legislature the right to make certain changes in the kinds of property which may be assessed, and the assessment of all mining lands at their full market value instead of at farm value, as at present, and the seperate assessment of lands and improvements, and also all corporations' property.

We oppose the selling or leasing of the oyster lands.

We suggest the passage of a proper measure for the protection of the miners of our state.

We suggest a law prohibiting with penalties the employment of children under fourteen years of age at any employment.

We suggest a weekly pay-bill compelling the payment of all employes with lawful money of the land and in no other manner.

We suggest that all natural monopolies, such as railroads, street cars, public roads, gas works, electric light plants, &c., shall be controlled by the city or state.

A resolution was passed that the above resolutions be referred to each of the local organizations represented in the conference for its approval.

WASHINGTON'S WILL.—Commissioner T. J. Shallcross has a copy of George Washinton's will, which is certainly a very interesting document to read. It was written by the general himself and he states that no professional character was consulted and especially requests that no disputes arise over it. If dispute arises he asks that three men declare the sense of the testator's intention; and such decision to be as binding as if given in the Supreme Court of the United States. The will states the amount of property to be worth $530,000. He owned live stock valued at $15,653 and land in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucdy, Alexandria, Charles and Montgomery counties and Washington city, besides bank stock.

THE wheat crop is very promising. Mr. Wm. Hendricks, of Queen Anne's, has sent to the NEWS a sample of his wheat which measures three feet. We are quite sure that Kent can beat it, so let us hear from our big wheat owners. Mr. S. J. Taylor, on Mr. Thoms S. Wickes' farm, says his wheat all over the field is knee high.

A GENERAL inspection of the two steamers and thirteen sailing vessels comprising the fleet of the State oyster navy has been ordered to take place at Oxford, Talbot county, May 9.

SPORTING EVENTS.

The Biggest Game of the Season Played by the "Youngsters"—Other Games.

The base ball season opened with a series of games in Chestertown this week. The lovers of the game were out in force and gave vent to their enthusiasm—the yelling being plainly heard in Chestertown. The Chestertown club of amateurs called the Alerts crossed bats with the Washington College team Wednesday and the way the runs were piled up it is a wonder if some of them were not sore the next morning. Both pitchers, Reed and Leaverton, were batted hard and the fielders were kept busy in a hot chase after the fleeing leather. The score is as follows:

College.	runs.	Chestertown.	runs.
Leaverton, p	6	Wickes, c	4
Clarke, 1 b	4	Reed, p	3
Duer, 2 b	5	C. Perkins, 1 b	2
Porter, c	4	Barnett, 2 b	0
Brice, c f	6	H. Perkins, 3 b	1
Prettyman, 3 b	2	McFeely, c f	2
Harper, r f	2	Reynolds, r f	1
Hurtt, 1 f	3	Massey, 1 f	4
Williams, s s	3	Beck, s s	1
Total	38	Total	18

SCORE BY INNINGS.

CLUBS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T'l
Washington College	9	0	4	3	7	2	3	3	7	38
Chestertown	4	0	2	0	3	2	3	4	0	18

Umpire, Wm. B. Usilton, Jr.

The smart Locust Grove team which gave the college boys such a hard tussle last year came down Thursday and were beaten. The Grove nine had not played before this season and during the first of the game threw to bases very wild.

The college boys made seven runs the first inning, batting Mulford all over the field, two base hits being as thick as blackberries. He soon got down to business however and kept the college boys somewhat within bounds. Prettyman rivaled Stephens in his splendid delivery striking out fifteen men. It certainly was awful to see such big fellows as Mulford striking the air such heavy blows. The playing of Hurtt Bros., Minner, Atwell and B. Wilson was first-class and the batting of Hayes was at times good. The whole team worked in better shape after the third inning. Prettyman was somewhat rattled in the fourth inning and the seventh he was a little off, but with a strong outfield the visitors were kept down to nine runs. Porter played an excellent game behind the bat, as did the college boys generally. They are in good shape now for Still Pond, who are expected to-day and it is quite likely we will hear from "Kicker Caulk." Play ball and don't fuss. The score of Thursday follows:

Locust Grove	runs.	College.	runs.
W. Atwell, 1 f	2	Leaverton, r f	2
C. Hayes, 2 b	1	Clarke, 1 b	1
C. Scotten, r f	0	Duer, 2 b	2
C. Hurtt, s s	0	Brice, c f	3
H. Hurtt, 3 b	0	Porter, c	3
B. Wilson, 1 b	1	Reed, 3 b	3
J. Mulford, p	2	Williams, s s	5
P. Farrar, c f	2	Perkins, 1 f	3
H. Minner, c	2	Prettyman, p	3
Total	9	Total	25

SCORE BY INNINGS.

CLUBS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T'l
College	7	0	6	2	5	5	0	25
Grove	0	0	0	6	0	0	3	9

Chrisfield and Thomas, umpires.

The "Boss" Game.

The "boss" game of the season was arranged for yesterday morning between the "Court Street Nine," Capt. James A. Shaw, and the "Court House Nine," Capt. Sam'l Beck, to be played at 2½ P. M. Capt. Shaw's nine consisted of the following: James A. Shaw, short stop; L. W. Wickes, first base; W. H. McFeely, catcher; C. C. Hopper, third base; Thos. D. France, pitcher; John F. Howard, centre field; T. S. Dodd, left field; Jno. Aldridge, 2d base; H. Boyd, right field. Capt. Beck's nine is as follows: Dr. Beck, short stop; Richard D. Hynson, first base; Eben F. Perkins, Jr., catcher; R. H. Collins, 3rd base; Dr. C. W. Whaland, pitcher; H. M. Brown, left field; C. S. York, centre field; D. A. Bacchus, right field; P. B. Hollis, second base. The game was called at 3 o'clock with Justice Thomas as umpire. The base ball was made by Mr. John F. Howard especially suitable to the players. A pretty bouquet was on exhibition to be presented to the winner. The fine points of the game were the fielding of Beck, Shaw, York, Howard and Brown. At the end of the 5th inning the score was 11 to 11 and the excitement run high. The game ended in victory for Capt. Beck by a score of 25 to 24.

A Reception to Students.

On Saturday night last the chapel of East College presented an appearance, which it is safe to say, it never did before. It was on the occasion of Dr. and Mrs. Reid's reception to the students. Hanging lamps, flowers, evergreens and flags, gave the old hall such a dress as it had never donned before. Heavy portiers swung in graceful folds at the large double door entrance, while curtains of rich material adorned the usually bare windows. Across the entire northern side of the room tastefully arranged curtains of lace and darker stuffs alternated, giving that end the appearance of large windows, between which darkly colored prepared walls intervened. From every corner of the room immense branches of apple and dogwood trees in full bloom, set up in water jars, made the room look like a grand conservatory. A bust of the "Father of His Country," looked down benignantly from an elevated bracket, upon the scene, and one could imagine a smile upon its lifeless face equal to that which must have spread over the face of the immortal "George" when he christened old Washington College. President Smith, of by-gone years, from an ancient gilt frame around which some evergreen had been tastefully twined, gazed silently upon the crowd, and seemed content. About 9 o'clock the invited guests begun to arrive and were received by Dr. and Mrs. Reid, assisted by Mrs. Williams (Mrs. Reid's sister) and Mrs. Clements. Vocal and instrumental music helped to enliven the occasion. The former furnished by Misses Hallie and Mary Beck and Messrs. Chapman, Beck and Clarke, with Miss Hurtt, organist. The latter by a quintet from the boy band. About 10.15 P. M. all were invited down to Prof. Watt's recitation room, where refreshments were served on tables, around the edge of which had been arranged apple blossoms. At 11 P. M. the company left for their homes with delightful memories of the pleasant evening. Besides the students, among those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hubbard, Misses Hubbard, Kennard, Ireland, Emory, Ford, Brice, Wickes, Roberts, Stewart, Bell, Crow, Wilkins, Profs. Micou, Proctor, Watts and Clarke, Messrs. C. Perkins, Brown, of Centreville; Hopper, Collins, and others.

Death of John B. Camp.

After a long and painful illness the death of Mr. John B. Camp took place at the residence of his son-in-law, Samuel M. Callaway, in Clinton, Missouri, Saturday, April 11, 1891. The deceased has been in failing health from lung troubles for several years. He went to Clinton two years ago, since which time he has made his home with his son-in-law and daughter.

Mr. Camp was born in Chestertown, Kent county, Maryland, December, 1, 1825. He came to Missouri in 1844, locating in Weston, Platte county, where he resided many years and where he married. He then went to Lafayette county, purchasing a farm 12 miles southwest from Lexington. Since 1877 he has made his home, excepting two years, with his son-in-law, Samuel Callaway, who was on farms in Cass and Henry counties until his removal to Clinton three and a half years ago.

Deceased leaves three grown children—one daughter in Montana and a son in Washington.

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

WHEAT—Longberry good to prime, $1.16@$1.23.
CORN—White and Yellow, 80@81c.
OATS—58@60c.

FROM ROCK HALL.

Farms and Homes—Peaches Hurt—Odd-Fellows Lodge—Spelling Bee—Leary & Son—Oysters, &c.

May is an important time of the year, for by the labors of the farmer, in this month particularly, all classes are sustained. There is a time to sow and plant, which, if neglected, there can be no harvest, though the early and late rains descend and the summer sun may glow. Our farmers are now busy plowing and harrowing their fields, preparatory to sowing their grain, and planting their corn and roots, so that all who look up to them may in the coming season be fed.

The flower and kitchen gardens all along the line of travel receives the close attention of their owners, now that the oyster season has closed; the oystermen, their wives, daughters and sons look with interest on this cherished spot, which is laid out with much care. Its walks are fringed with beauteous shrubs, plants and flowers. There seems an ever present disposition to vie with each other as to who shall do their best toward improvements about their home.

Merchants and druggists, too, are very energetic with a commendable ambition for beautifying home surroundings, in fact everybody has donned the garb of activity, except the M. D., thanks to an allwise Father, however brother, we'll see that you are supplied with plenty of work in keeping apace with dust and flies. The busiest man we know is friend John, with the attention required for a sick wife, and the daily breaking of a balky horse, together with the compulsion of entertaining every one that may pass his field of operation. He is always hard at work. Such is the life of a politician. Henry, While awaiting Ben's melon harvest has concluded to become a cow boy, not of the Colorado style however, but of the more civilized Kent county style; he attracts considerable attention as he rides through the village in his cumbersome dog cart.

Well, reports say that peaches will be non est this year after all the fair prospects and buoyant hopes of the growers. Hayward, an *extensive* grawer, with orchards adjacent to the village, has made a thorough examination and reports the peach crop an entire failure for the present year. Recent frosts and much rain during the winter and early spring is the cause.

On Tuesday morning, after the arrival of the steamer from Centreville, the Pythian bell began a vigorous and a continuous ringing, causing the inquiry from many persons, "What is the bell ringing for?" The reply was, "The *goat* is dead."

Messrs. J. R. Ryan, J. T. Stevens, J. W. Boyer, G. A. Scoone and Abraham Casey left here on Thursday for Baltimore, to become initiated into the mysteries of Odd Fellowship preparatory to the instituting of a lodge here.

Miss Hettie Hadaway, the efficient teacher of Swan creek school, held an interesting spelling bee on Thursday of last week, and much interest was manifested by the scholars. Miss Mary Jewell, of the sixth grade, received the honor of standing last, and Miss Ethel Francis, of the third grade, standing next the last.

The body of Capt. Jack Elburn, who was drowned several weeks ago, was found near Jackson's creek early in the week, and brought home and buried in Piney Neck.

The wide-awake firm of Messrs. Leary & Son, of Greys Inn, have sold their steamboat, recently purchased by them, to parties of Steelton, at a handsome advance on their investment, so it is rumored.

The Oysterman's Association, realizing the wide-spread demand of the people of the State that the oyster industry should be self-sustaining, adopted resolutions at their meeting last Wednesday evening which places them in a position of willingness to meet and comply with any reasonable compromise looking to the relief of the State of any unnecessary burden. The association realizing that the where-with-all to keep body and soul together is of more importance than party politics, are growing quite strong.

The patrons of the Rock Hall postoffice are a unit in asking the postoffice department to place an iron letter-box in the village for the convenience of the public, which, it is hoped will be granted. R.

MARRIED.

At the M. E. Parsonage, Still Pond, Md., April 23, 1891, by Rev. Jno. D. Kemp, ROBERT S. CREW and Miss MATTIE MOFFETT, both of this county.

At Pittsburg, Pa., April 22, 1891, by Father F. L. Tobin, SAMUEL A. COPPER and Miss LIZZIE M. GARDNER.

DIED.

At her home in Middletown, Del., April 26, 1891, Mrs. ELIZA ANDERSON, aged 56 years.

Near Chestertown, in Queen Anne's county, Thursday, April 23, 1891, CHARLES L. TUCKER, aged 26 years, of typho pneumonia.

In Clinton, Missouri, April 1, 1891, JOHN B. CAMP, aged 66 years.

50,000 BUYERS

supplied their wants during the past year in our Great Store. The vast host of patrons is all evidence of our ability to please your views at the prices you wish to pay, but we can just as easily clothe 100,000 members of male mankind as half that number, and shall leave no stone unturned to retain our old friends and constantly add new ones; when you buy from us you need have no concern about quality or prices, both are always right—our guarantee and well earned reputation for reliability assure that.

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and Overcoats bright and beautiful, fresh from the work room, for all sizes and all shapes, Gems at $8, $10, $12 and $15.

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Underwear and Headwear in richest abundance; charming designs in Kilts and Vestee Suits, braided and embroidered at $3, $5 and $7.50. A superb collection of stylish Youths' attire at $8, $10 and $12 per suit.

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the wearer's looks; in latest mode, shapes and colors. If you care to save from 50 cents to $1.50 on your own or your Boys' Head Dress, you must come to us.

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COLLARS AND TIES

that don't worry the wearers, are our forte. Our patrons invariably profit from 10 to 25 per cent. by purchasing their Furnishings from us.

SAMPLES AND SELF-MEASUREMENTS sent on application.

OEHM'S ACME HALL,

Truthfully Baltimore's Largest

Clothiers, Furnishers and Hatters,

5 and 7 WEST BALTO., STREET.

CHEAPER SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Full Report of the Committee Appointed by the Still Pond Farmers' Club.

In submitting this report your committee beg leave to state that they have no wish to question the integrity and efficiency of any one connected with the administration under the present system of the public schools of this county, and if we advocate a differedt system it is simply because we are convinced that it is a more economical and effective one. Recognizing the fact that the right of the State to compel and control the education of her children springs from the right and puty of self-preservation, we feel that we are not stepping beyond the lines of our privilege when we call in qustion the effectiveness of our system, or the economy of its administration.

Your committee regrets that owing to the pressure of private business it is compelled to give but a partial report. At this time much information has come to hand that we have not had time to examine, and many letters we have written have not yet been answered; therefore, we are compelled to ask your further indulgence and we will complete the report at our next meeting. At present we merely give a general review and such statistics as we have had time to properly collate. We were under the impression that our county possessed the best common school system in the Union; but the most unexpected revelation of these statistics is the great increase in the amount of schooling which the town system has given to the State without any additional taxation. The superintendent of public institutions of New Hampshire says the average length of the schools in weeks covered by his report was 23 55-100; this multiplied by the number of schools in the State gives 54,212 10-100. Under the district system it was but 45,924 90-100—the difference is 8,287 20-100—the number of additional weeks of schooling given to the children of the State by the town system without any increase in taxation. This is the logic of facts and is unanswerable.

Our present system is a unit—is working without friction and is a great success. The school directors' report of Piermont, same State, says: How does the cost of schooling by the town system as now applied compare with the cost of an equal number of weeks under the old system? A careful estimate of the cost of maintaining the schools in the separate five districts shows a saving as follows:

Lowell	$ 72 00
Division 7	61 00
" 2	31 00
" 9	80 00
" 11	107 30
Saving 28 visits by superintendent	28 00
	$379 30
Deduct extra pay of school board	35 00
	$344 30

We thus place before you some of the figures showing the relative cost of the town and of the district system. In addition to these statistics we find the town system has the indorsement of hundreds of the most practical educators of the country. We hope to be able to explain this system more fully further on. At present we wish to confine ourselves to the book question.

After much patient investigation we have come to the conclusion that as a matter of economy free text books is far in advance of any other method of supply the pupils of our public school with the necessary means of procuring an education. In support of this position we submit the following opinions and statistics. F. C. Goodard, Salisbury, Conn., says:

"The free text book system as a system is found to work well and give increasing satisfaction to teachers, scholars and school officers. Putting aside for a moment the question of expense, the principal arguments advanced by its opponents are first, that it fosters a careless use of the books; second, that it shuts out of the home the school books which are valuable as a library of reference in after years. To the first we reply, not proven; it is quite as possible to make a pupil take care of public property over which we have control as to induce the same pupil to take care of his private property over which we have no control. As to the second objection we reply that it is obviated by stimulating pupils to buy their books of the town, the board is prepared to dispose of books at any time for this purpose, and at cost prices."

He further says:

"It is one of the most progressive steps the State has taken for the education of her youth; it opens her schools to every child within her boarders whatever may be his social position in life, and makes them for him not only in name, but in every essential quality truly and absolutely free public schools. In regard to the cost of the system, inquiry reveals the fact that we are proceeding on a lower expenditure than any town within our knowledge, the cost per pupil the first year being 57c., the second 59c. and third year 35c."

The board of school directors of New London, New Hampshire say, with free text books the work should begin on the first day of the term without the old time delay, and the classification work will be greatly aided. The great economy of this method of furnishing books, compared with what it has cost parents in years past, is evident by comparison of figures of cities and towns that have furnished supplies for five and ten years, it is found the average expense per pupil varies from 64c. to $1.00 per annum. Newport, same State, reports as follow:

"The free text book law which went into effect the first of January, last, making the schools of the State free in fact as well as in name, although largely increasing the labors of the school boards and teachers, we believe it to be a wise act and one that will result in much good. It has formerly been quite a heavy tax on many parents to supply their children with school books. Since books and supplies purchased by the town can be bought at a discount of from 18 to 50 per cent as is proven by the first purchase made. The change must also result in that uniformity in text books so much to be desired. We bglieve it will be for the advantage of the town to have all text books and school supplies purchased by one party, as the larger the amount purchased at one time the lower the prices obtained."

The school board of Newton, same State, says:

"One example in the matter of school books having been followed by a State law compelling all towns in the State to adopt our system, we feel a sense of pride of having been the pioneers in this movement, the wisdom of which is undisputed."

North Hampton, same State, says:

"It is to the credit of our town that we adopted three years ago the free text book system, not waiting until compelled to by the State law that has now come into effect. We have found the cost of the system to be only 76c. per scholar."

Rollingsford said:

"Another consideration of no small importance is that the books at wholesale, as purchased by the town, cost not more than two-thirds as much as they have in the past."

The superintendent of public schools, Albany, N. Y., says:

"It is a generally accepted doctrine that the State has the right and is bound to sustain a free public school system on the ground of self-perpetuation, that in no way can the institutions of any particular country be preserved intact, and the ideals of citizenship maintained, this is a wholly sound position. But there is another point of view to look at a public school system, and that is as a great co-operative enterprise. The people have come to understand that it is far more economical for them to unite together and maintain a system of schools than to support an immense number of small institutions. At any rate, acting upon this principle of co-operation, a number of States and a very large number of committees have made their schools absolutely free as far as any direct expenditure on the part of the parents is concerned, by furnishing all the text books and needed school supplies at the general expense. There are several reason why it would be well for all communities to adopt this plan. First: The saving in expenditure by buying in large quantities and at first hands is shown by the experience in the State of Massachusetts to be fully 25 per cent. Second: Every pupil can under this plan be provided with all the text books and material needed on the first day that school opens, which will result in an enormous saving of school time. Third: If all pupils are supplied at common expense, all distinctions which now exist between those who furnish them and those who are furnished their books on the plea of indigence would be obliterated and the school become in every sense common to all."

The school commissioner, S. W. Maxson, of Jefferson county, N. J., says:

The people of the rural communites feel that our legislature greatly benefited them by the school laws enacted last winter. The good work should be continued by passing some law which will relieve the poorer classes from the heavy burden imposed by the exhorbitant prices charged for school books, and the frequent changes therein. This condition of affairs is not only a burden to the patrons of the schools, but is an element of weakness in the schools themselves."

The State superintendent of Maine, says:

"Books are bought from publishers at first hands and so profits are not paid to middle men and local dealers. Then, too, all waste save that coming from actual wear and tear of books in use is saved, for when one pupil is done with a book another takes it and the wear is less than under any plan of private ownership because the parent must pay for damage or loss of books. Experience has proven that the average useable age of all primary books under this plan is five years. At the average price at which they can be bought by townships, all the books required by one pupil to complete all the branches of study prescribed by law, will cost but $8.00. But the books that the one scholar will need will be used by at least three others when he is does with them, and thus the cost per year per pupil is reduced to about 25 cents."

He further says, (and we would call your especial attention to this point):

"Many a child every year, probably thousands of them throughout the State, has been kept out of the schools because of a poverty that made the purchase of needed books a burden beyond bearing. Many every year, fail to get beyond the primary or grammar grades for like reason, and our high schools have been in a measure class schools, whose privileges have been enjoyed by the well-to-do and wealthy. The child of the man whose toil is required to procure food and clothing has been shut out by poverty's effects from all higher instructions as sure as if poverty itself was a bar to such instruction."

S. R. Morse, superintendent of Atlantic county, N. J., says:

"It costs very much less to buy the books in bulk, it saves a great deal of time and trouble for the teachers, and any district that once furnishes its own books never goes back to the old time method of each pupil for himself."

In the opinion of your committee the next most economical plan for the State, if possible, or at least the county, to purchase the books at wholesale, which, as we have seen, can be done at a discount of 18 to 50 per cent. on retail prices and furnish them to the patrons at cost. The true inwardness of this plan can be seen from the following remarks by Rev. Everett Johnson, Plainsville, Conn.:

"It is certainly a great advantage to the working of the school that scholars be furnished very promply at the beginning of every term with their text books. To obtain this end there was instituted the present system by which the books are purchased by the principal at the town and sold to the scholars as needed. If these sales could be established on the cash basis the system would be without a fault, but if we should so establish the system it benefits would be lost as only a portion of the scholars would be promptly furnished with books, and much time would be wasted as classes entered upon new studies. Under the existing order credit sales are absolutely necessary, and a large proportion of these must be reckoned as bad debts. It is very plain that an injustice is here done to those who do pay for their books, since these not only pay for theirs but are in addition taxed to pay for those of other people. Many people of good financial standing refuse to pay for text books because of this injustice necessarily connected with the system."

It is evident to your committee, however, that this plan, conducted on a cash basis, would be more satisfactory than the present plan, as the reduction in the price would no doubt enable parents to procure more books and be an inducement to furnish them more promptly as they would not be put to the trouble of sending or going to the dealers themselves in order to procure them. Your committee is not unmindful of the fact that it is the duty of the school trustees to furnish at the expense of the county proper text books for those children whose parents are too poor to purchase them. But our observation teaches us that this duty is seldom performed, the doors of our free schools are virtually closed to those who have no books and the children suffer the deprivation of privileges to which their birth or presence in a Christian land entitles them to. Many parents naturally shrink from making a personal application that looks like asking public charity, and prefer to let their children remain in ignorance, rather than submit to what many deem a humiliation. Thus the sins of the parents are visited upon the children. If the county should not see fit to adopt the plan of free books, it is hoped that teachers and trustees will see and make very sure that no child is kept out of school through lack of the necessary text books.

We hope in our further report to be able to give the average cost of books per pupil, and the probable cost if the books were bought by the county at wholesale and sold to the patrons at cost. We also wish to show the amount of money raised by the county for school purposes, how it is expended and compare the result with results obtained under the town system by a like amount of taxation. Respectfully submitted,

N. BARNARD,
HENRY KRUSEN,
W. D. PENNINGTON.

TEACHERS IN SESSION.

Profitable Discussion—Resolutions of Respect—An Interesting Address.

The public school association of Kent county, met in the school-room, Chestertown, on Friday last, and was called to order by the president, Eben F. Perkins. Prayer was offered by Rev. R. Irving Watkins. The roll was called, and it was found that 55 of the 59 teachers were present.

After the reading of the proceedings of the last meeting, the literary committee submitted the following questions to be discussed at the next regular meeting, which on motion by Mr. Long, were adopted:

1st. Shall a subject be taught with a view of making the student a master of it, and thus enable him to gain a utility from it, or shall it be taught with the purpose of producing the greatest effect upon the mind and culture of the pupil?

2d. How much is included in "Good Behavior," which the law requires us to teach?

Under the head of unfinished business, it was decided by a vote of 24 to 3 that district libraries are desirable, but under the existing circumstances they are not practicable.

The first regular question, Are our annual examinations, as heretofore conducted, conducive to the greatest good?—provoked a somewhat animated, yet highly interesting discussion. There were many strong advocates for the long-tried plan; but after viewing the question from every possible standpoint, the association decided to make a slight departure from the practice of the past by having the president appoint a committee of five—one from each election district—to select the questions for the next examination.

Prof. Proctor, of Washington College, addressed the association, taking for his subject "Science in the Public Schools." The professor dealt in ideas sublime. He spoke eloquently of the immeasurably remote heavenly bodies, and told how science has traced them through space, analyzed them and even found their weight to the fraction of an ounce. He spoke of what a marvel the world has in the subtle, almost indefinable fluid, which people call electricity, and predicted still greater wonders for it in the near future. He closed his address by giving some very interesting experiments in chemistry.

The first thing after the assembling for the afternoon session, Mr. Thos. B. Long, in very becoming language, offered to the association, as a tribute of respect to the association's late recording secretary, Mr. William G. Fallowfield, the following resolutions, which on motion, Mr. T. H. Topping, and seconded by Mr. I. R. Starkey, were unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

WHEREAS, Death has stricken from the roll of this association the name of Wm. G. Fallowfield, and has taken from us one to whom we had become much attached, through long service in a common cause, and

WHEREAS, It is proper that we should give some expression to our sorrow for the loss which we have sustained in this bereavement, and give some testimony of our appreciation of a life so well spent, anda duty so well done; therefore, be it

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Fallowfield, we feel that one has left us whom we could not well spare; and we now bear willing tribute to the exemplary character, exalted worth, and efficient labors of our steady friend and faithful fellow-teacher; he needs no other rosary, whose thread of life is strung with beads of charity and love; to his widow and children, we offer our sincere sympathy and condolence, and commend them to the provident care of Him who feeds the raven and clothes