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FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Prof. Massey, a Former Kent Countian, and Others Give Fine Talks—The Paper of Mr. R. G. Nicholson.

The Farmers' Institute was held in the Court House, Chestertown, last Wednesday and Thursday. The sessions were fairly attended and all the talks were most interesting and instructive. Prof. Wm. T. Amoss, director of Farmers' Institutes, presided at the sessions and kept things moving in a very satisfactory manner. Many questions were asked and answered, and these institutes are helping to make more and happier homes by showing how to get the most and best results out of mother earth and at the same time make the work a pleasure to engage in.

One of the most interesting events of the session was the paper read by Mr. R. G. Nicholson, of near Chestertown. In this paper Mr. Nicholson gave an account of his visit, with other representatives of Eastern Shore counties, to the farm of Rev. J. D. Detrich, who feeds and beds 30 head of stock on 11 acres of cultivated land, without commercial fertilizers. [The News will print the paper in full next week.]

Prof. Amoss is collecting an exhibit of non-perishable products for the St. Louis Exposition. Mr. Jas. Bell brought three lots of corn to enter in the exhibit and 28 others sent in their names saying they would send exhibits later.

The following advisory committee for Kent county was appointed: E. Thos. Massey, Edw. T. Hepbron, James S. Harris, Wm. E. Jarrell, Allie C. Load, Purnell Jump and Bartus Trew.

The presence of Mr. Wilbur F. Massey, of Raleigh, N. C., was a source of much pleasure, as he lived in Chestertown for many years. Prof. Massey was greeted by many old friends during his short stay in Chestertown. Time has somewhat silvered his hair and the strong frame has felt the touch of his fingers, which was quite noticeable after an absence of many years; but the strong and vigorous intellect has rather broadened with the added weight of years. We found him the same genial Massey of old, ready to discuss topics of every nature, ranging from politics to subjects upon agricultural pursuits, with a tendeney toward the latter. While in Chestertown he was a guest at the hospitable home of Dr. W. Frank Hines, on Water street.

He attended Washington College and was for years secretary, treasurer, examiner and president of the county school board. He was for ten years deputy clerk of the Kent circuit court under Jesse K. Hines, and later moved to Baltimore county, where he became known as one of the leading horticulturists of the county. He is now editor of the Practical Farmer and is one of the best known and well informed writers on agriculture of the present day. He is a very pleasant talker and his answers to questions showed that he was well versed in all agricultural subjects. Some one asked him if Kent county could grow peaches; he replied that they were returning to peach culture in New Castle county, Del., and in New Jersey, and if he were living in Kent to-day he would certainly plant a peach orchard.

Mr. Massey made an address upon small vegetables on Thursday and advised the Kent farmers to go into the raising of lettuce, tomat es, etc., upon a large scale. He advised their growth under glass and said they were a paying crop

Mr. Massey is especially an expert on cow peas. In fact, Mr. Massey's hobby is the cow pea, and he has been nicknamed the "Apostle of the Cow Pea." He said:

"My first experiences with cow peas was in Maryland. When I went to the Virginia mountain country and had a large farm to improve I found nothing that helped me more in that improvement than the cow pea, for a large part of the land was too much worn to make good clover, and I had the task of bringing it back to clover, and nothing helped to do this more than the cow pea. When I went to North Carolina I found that the farmers here and there grew cow peas in a desultory way. There seemed to be no general notion of the great value of the crop to the Southern farmer. This was over fourteen years ago, and from that time I have waged a crusade for the cow pea, and to-day I am safe in saying there are twenty or more times the area devoted to cow peas in North Carolina than there was when I began to write and talk peas to the farmers.

"I am proud, therefore, of the fact that I have been instrumental in getting the farmers to realize the great value of the pea in their soil improvement. More than this, the constant reiteration of the cow pea topic caused farmers northward to look into the matter, and in some seasons through the dealers in Raliegh I have sent to various parts of the North six car loads or more of peas for seed. Years ago I was laughed at for saying the cow pea would thrive in Southern Pennsylvania. To day on sandy soils they are grown in Wisconsin and Michigan, and in Central and Southern Illinois have become a standard legume crop. In the clay soils of North-Ohio they have not done well the editor of the Ohio Farmer says, but in the Southern part of the state they have been found of great value. Even in sections where they have not the value for hay which they have in warmer sections they have been found of great value as pasture for tiding over a summer drouth, and with the introduction of sorts that ripen seed in sixty days of warm weather they have attained a value for hog feed in many northern sections.

"When grown as a soil improver only they have warranted the cost and I know of no crop that has a more mellowing effect on a heavy clay than the cow pea. But the pea will not gather the nitrogen from the air to a great extent on a very fertile soil. It gets lazy and taxes what it finds in the soil. It is the poor land crop, the crop of all others that will enable the farmer to get his land into condition for the growing of red clover. It differs from other legumes in the fact that it grows well on an acid soil. In fact, lime is a detriment to its growth, while there is nothing that clover likes better than lime. But with the peas the lime should follow and never precede the crop."

Mr. John Gould spoke upon "The Dairy Herd and Dairy Methods. He is a native of Aurora, Ohio, and has been an active farmer all his life. He advised that one variety of cows be used and not a mixed herd. In speaking of the stables he said, as a rule, they were too well ventilated. He said the stable should be erected air tight, so as to control the air by well equipped ventilators. There should be plenty of light and the sun should shine on the cows He said he was a believer in silo and ensilage feeding.

W. L. Spoon, a Government expert in the Bureau of Road Inquiry, Washingington, spoke on "Maintenance of Dirt Roads" He said the dirt road should be located as far as possible with regard to its drainage. The crowns, he said, should not be too great and the grades should be heavier than on macadam roads.

W. L. Amos, Director of Institutes, urged upon those present to speak with their representatives at Annapolis in the interest of securing a good appropriation for the exhibit of Maryland at the St. Louis Fair.

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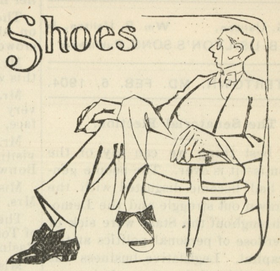

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Queenstown, Md., April 30, 1903.
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