

HOUSE No. 69.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, COMMONWEALTH BUILDING,
BOSTON, Feb. 14, 1887.

Hon. CHARLES I. NOYES, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

SIR:— On the third of the present month, it being the legal annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, the Examining Committee of the Agricultural College presented their report, which was accepted and adopted as the report of the Board of Agriculture to the Legislature, and it is herewith respectfully transmitted.

JOHN E. RUSSELL,

Sec. of the Board of Agriculture.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

To the State Board of Agriculture.

Your committee appointed to examine and visit the Massachusetts Agricultural College having attended to that duty desire to submit the following report :—

The powers and duties of the Board of Overseers of the College (which by law consists of the State Board of Agriculture) having been defined during the last year by the Governor and Council, under an act of the Legislature passed in 1866, there can be no longer any uncertainty as to the importance of the position which we occupy towards the College. It will be seen that the duties of the Overseers or Visitors do not conflict at all with those of the Trustees. The duties of the Trustees are defined by law, and they are, in short, the executive officers of all the immediate affairs of the College.

The Overseers, by their committee, if they please, are to visit the College ; inspect the property ; observe the methods, extent and character of the instruction given ; attend the commencement exercises and examinations (so far as they deem it expedient), and report their doings and observations, with their views and recommendations, to the Legislature. Their duties have been defined as follows :—

1. To visit the College as often as they may deem essential for the proper performance of their duties, but at least once in each year.

2. To inspect the property of the College, including the land and buildings, especially with reference to the adaptability and sufficiency thereof for accomplishing the objects of the institution.

3. To observe the methods, extent and character of the instruction which it gives.

4. To attend the commencement exercises and examinations, and, so far as they deem it expedient, participate therein.

5. To make report of their doings and observations, with their views, suggestions and recommendations, concerning the institution and its work, annually, to the Legislature.

6. Power is given to perform the foregoing duties by and through a sub-committee, of not less than five members of the Board, to be selected annually, and at such times as the Board may elect.

7. To have and perform such other powers and duties as may be from time to time defined by the Governor and Council.

The Committee of the Board of Agriculture were present at the last annual Commencement.

The exercises proper began with the baccalaureate sermon by President Greenough, on Sunday, the 20th of June, at 10.45 A.M. At 8 P.M. the same day, the address before the College Christian Union was delivered by Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D., of Boston.

On Monday, the 21st, the examination in agriculture for the Grinnell prizes began at 1.30 P.M. It was managed by the Committee of the State Board according to the recommendations of last year, and was an oral and written examination in theoretical and practical agriculture.

This examination reflected credit upon the class, and was quite satisfactory in general to the Committee. The first prize was awarded to G. S. Stone, \$40; the second to C. W. Clapp, \$25.

A meeting of the Trustees occurred in the afternoon of the 21st, and also the military drill and rhetorical exercises for the Farnsworth prizes. All the exercises were open to the public and were well attended.

The graduating exercises were held in the new chapel, and Governor Robinson, in behalf of the State and as president of the Corporation, presented the graduates of the College with their diplomas, conferring the degree of Bachelor of Science. In his remarks the Governor spoke of the abundant success of the College for several years past.

COLLEGE FACULTY.

At the meeting of the Trustees important changes were made in the Faculty. Professor H. H. Goodell, who had been connected with the College from the early part of its history, and has been eminently successful, was elected President in place of President J. C. Greenough, who came there in 1883, and Henry E. Alvord (formerly Professor of Military Science at the College, but later connected with the Houghton Farm at Montville, N. Y.) was elected Professor of Agriculture.

Rev. Chas. I. Walker was elected College Pastor, and is to occupy the Chair of Mental Science and Political Economy.

Charles H. Fernald, from the Agricultural College in Maine, was elected to the Chair of Zoölogy and Instruction in Veterinary Science. The other members of the Faculty are the same as last year.

COURSE OF STUDY.

Agriculture is taught in every term, and is given the importance it ought to have in an agricultural college. Practical work as a means of instruction is required; to what extent, we are not informed.

Horticulture and *Botany* have been placed in those terms where they can be taught to more advantage than formerly.

Chemistry has been made a consecutive course without intervening gaps. A course of lectures on the application of chemistry to the manufacturing industries has been added.

Mineralogy and *Geology*, so far as they relate to soils and the formation of the earth's crust, have been joined to the chair.

Natural History.—This chair, so important, has been once more filled and grouped with Anatomy, Physics, Zoölogy, Entomology, Comparative Anatomy of Domestic Animals and Veterinary Science. Instruction in the above four chairs is supplemented by lectures by specialists on different topics, such as fruits, flowers, vegetables, forestry, different breeds of cattle, the dairy, cheese-making, evolution, veterinary science, etc.

The English course has been strengthened and extended. A full course in Mental Science, Political Economy and Constitutional History (American) is laid out for the Senior year, while Rhetoric and English Literature come in the Junior year.

BUILDINGS OF THE COLLEGE.

Botany Department.—The Museum contains recitation rooms and appliances for teaching botany; viz., microscopes, Denslow collection of 10,000 pressed specimens, fruit models, charts, etc.

Durfee plant house, propagating house, Professor Maynard's residence and house for assistant.

Agricultural Department.—Barn, capacity for 60 odd head of cattle. Farm-house, occupied by foreman, and also the residence of Professor of Agriculture.

Chapel and Library Building.—New building of Pelham granite, costing \$31,000, completed and occupied; seating capacity of chapel 500; shelf capacity of library 20,000 vols. Number of vols. now in the library 5,500. (A thousand dollars ought to be expended at once in procuring latest books for the several departments.)

Agricultural Hall and New South Dormitory, replacing the building destroyed by fire, February, 1885, is completed and occupied. Cost, \$37,000. Dormitory part has rooms for 40 students. Agricultural Hall has five recitation and lecture rooms and one room used for natural history museum.

North Dormitory building has rooms for 44 students.

Laboratory building, containing laboratory and lecture-rooms for the departments of chemistry, physics and mathematics.

The Boarding-house and residence of the Professor of Mental and Political Science completes the list of the buildings.

STOCK.

There have been some changes in the stock. Farm committee have decided to keep, in addition to Ayrshires: Holsteins, Guernseys, Jerseys and Shorthorns. Stock consists of—

- 5 Holsteins: 1 bull (yearling) and 4 heifers (imported).
- 6 Guernseys: 1 bull (2 years), 1 bull calf, 1 heifer, 1 cow, 2 grades.
- 2 Jerseys: 1 bull (4 years), 1 heifer.
- 16 Ayrshires and grades.
- 15 grades.
- 1 pair oxen.
- 15 Southdown sheep.
- 23 pigs, Berkshire and Yorkshire.
- 4 horses.

IMPROVEMENT ON BUILDINGS.

The stable floor has been relaid entirely, with new drops, ties and stanchions of latest and most improved patterns, and the roof of the farm-house has been reshingled.

An ice-house, capacity of 100 tons, has been erected.

A corn-crib, capacity of 2,800 bushels corn ears, has been built.

IMPROVEMENTS ON THE LAND.

Thirty-five acres of swamp land in the west lot have been cleared of bushes, stumps and trees, and converted into pasturage.

Fifteen hundred feet of main drain and 1,200 feet laterals have been laid; 1,600 feet of old tile, belonging to the same system, have been repaired and put in running order.

On the lots east of new chapel building, 1,200 feet of tile and tile and stone drains have been laid.

Thirty acres to be devoted to hoed crops have been plowed and fenced.

The above are permanent and solid improvements and will add much to the producing capacity of the farm.

CROPS.

Corn, 23 acres, — 1,320 bushels (shelled) and 40 tons corn stover.

Oats, 6 acres, — 240 bushels.

Rye, 5 acres, — 70 bushels and 12 tons of straw.

Potatoes, 1 acre, — 275 bushels.

Fodder corn, about 8 tons.

Grass was cut from 41 acres, equalling 90 tons of well-cured hay and 15 tons of rowen. There will be about 80 acres of grass to be cut next season.

SAMUEL B. BIRD,
J. HENRY GODDARD,
WM. R. SESSIONS,
A. C. VARNUM,

Examining Committee of the Agricultural College.

