

# THE ANDOVER NEWS.

VOL. XXIV, NO. 2

FOR THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1910.

TERMS Five Cents a Week One Dollar a Year

## State Commissioner Whipple's Address

Given at the Annual Alumni Banquet Monday Evening at Odd Fellows' Hall---Everybody Pleased.

To determine whether the forests of the State are worth saving or not we must first know and consider their value to us in all respects and the offices they perform. After we are familiar with these facts we will be able to judge of the necessity for their preservation.

First: They are important to a people because to some extent they regulate the local rain fall. The clouds charged with moisture meet in contact with these cool wooded ridges and mountain tops; the moisture is condensed and the precipitation follows in local rain showers.

Second: To a very large degree they break and temper the force of the winds; protect the people, animals, and to some extent the crops from their full force.

Third: They control and regulate the even flow of the water in our streams. It must be remembered that the conditions in a state like ours differ materially from the conditions in a state like Kansas. Here, if there is nothing to prevent, as the water falls from the clouds it has opportunity to soak into the ground and remain there for many weeks, even months, to supply the necessary moisture for plant life. In a hilly country forests are absolutely necessary if there is to be water in the streams continuously. The reason for this is that where there are many large trees and large areas of forests, there is a natural reservoir. Nature has supplied in the forests and in conjunction with the forests, the best reservoir that we know. There are many elements entering into the construction of this nature reservoir. The leaf on the tree, the tree trunk all detain the falling drop of water and is part of the reservoir. The fallen leaves, the twigs, the old logs, all of the decaying vegetable matter on the forest floor are parts of it and detain the flow of water allowing it to soak into the ground. Between the trees and basins or hollows caused by the roots holding up the soil and these basins are part of it. They catch and hold large quantities of water and allow it to percolate down deep into the soil. The roots of all the trees, plants and shrubs are part of it as the water can readily follow them down into the earth below.

Underneath the decaying vegetable matter upon the ground and formed from that which has decayed for hundreds of years, is the humus, a substance that has greater power to hold water, in proportion to its bulk, than any known vegetable or animal substance. It is a great sponge upon the forest floor. It is part of this wonderful reservoir that catches and holds the water and lets it out gradually. From all these elements Nature's reservoir is constructed. This is nature's plan to hold back the water and feed the little springs upon the mountain top and side; the spring feeds the rivulet, the rivulet the creek, the creek the larger stream and that the great river, and so on down to the sea, keeping the water running gradually all season through. Therefore, as the tree growth conserves the water, they are important and useful to all plant and animal life.

Fourth: The trees have an important effect upon the temperature of a country. If one will take the temperature of a tree in July, when the temperature stands at an average of 85 or 90 degrees, it will be found that the temperature of the tree five feet above the ground is at least five degrees lower than that of the atmosphere about it. This is caused by the tree getting its life food the water through its multitudinous fibrous root growth from deep soil where it is cool; it circulates by capillary attraction and is largely evaporated from the top side of the leaves. Therefore, the tree is cooler than the atmosphere in the heated term of the year when millions stand close together upon great tracts of woods like the Adirondack forest.

They have a very marked effect in cooling and lowering the temperature of the air and making that section and all territory near it desirable for occupation and recreation.

Fifth: We must have the forests because we must have wood. The importance of wood for the thousand uses to which it is put can hardly be overestimated. If we look about us wherever we are we find that wood is or has been used. Our houses of some part of them are largely built of it; our furniture and many of the ornaments in our homes are built of it. It is used for more purposes than could be enumerated in an evening. Matches, lead pencils, shoe pegs, telegraph and telephone poles and railroad ties are made of it. Our school houses, churches and all the buildings that we use are at least in part made of it. The newspapers are made of wood, and they require annually two billion feet board measure. For all of these purposes and many more that I have not mentioned there is used in the United States annually at least fifty-five billion board feet measure--so large an amount that it is incomprehensible.

For all these purposes we are using the wood supply of the country so rapidly, always taking the best, that it is going at least five times faster than Nature's reproduction. The reproduction is usually of much poorer quality. At the same time there is very little reproduction in the valuable softwoods. The coniferous tree must come from seed; the hardwood may come from sprouts or seed. It is estimated by persons competent to judge and who have taken great pains to ascertain the facts, that the total wood supply in America will not last longer than from twenty-one to twenty-five years. That indicates how important it is to conserve the supply and to obtain more if possible, and how important the forests are.

If we keep this important property of ours for the benefit of this and future generations we must bestir ourselves. There are only two remedies that I can see in controlling the present situation and preparing for the future. They are simple and could be put into effect immediately if the people and the Legislature of the State were thoroughly awake to the importance of the situation.

The first of these is for the state to acquire at least one million acres of land in the Adirondacks that is now in imminent danger of being deforested by the lumbermen, and at least four hundred thousand in the same situation in the Catskills. Then the state could control that which would be sufficient for park purposes and would cover and control the waters that run from these two great upland plateaus.

Second: The state itself and each citizen owning land not especially good for agricultural purposes, should plant large numbers of commercial trees. Last year there were about two million planted. Until last year we had never planted more than one million and prior to two years ago, never more than five hundred thousand in one year. For all purposes, there are many more than two million trees taken off each year; therefore, the planting of two million is not sufficient to keep the timber good, to say nothing about the fact that those planted are only four years old and those taken off from thirty to one hundred years old. Switzerland, smaller than our State, plants from 2,000,000 trees annually, deeming that 1/4 of its area covered with a valuable forest. We should plant for many years 50,000,000 trees annually to safely provide for the not distant future. The most important work we have to do is the conservation of our forests and restoration of our denuded hilly land.

W. C. T. U. PICNIC. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union will hold their annual picnic in the Hardy grove, Friday, July 1st. Members will be notified as to further arrangements.

## NOW GAS GOES UP THREE CENTS

The Empire Gas and Fuel Company Issue the Cheering News to Their Consumers Monday Morning.

Patrons of the local gas company in this vicinity received from them the first thing this week, Monday morning, the following statement:

"From and after the regular monthly reading of meters in July, 1910, and until further notice, the price at which natural gas will be sold by this company for domestic service will be thirty-two (32) cents per one thousand [1000] cubic feet, subject to a discount of (2) cents per [1000] cubic feet if paid for at the usual time discounts have been allowed heretofore.

EMPIRE GAS & FUEL CO., Ltd."

In an interview over the telephone yesterday with the company's Superintendent, Mr. Harry Bradley, the News was told that the reason for the raise of gas was because of the increased cost of production. Everything has gone up along the line, and the expense connected with producing the gas has increased with everything else. Then there is a decrease in the production of the wells, so that it now takes a much greater number of wells to maintain the pressure than it ever did before, and the greater the number of wells the greater is the cost of caring for them, and the greater amount of capital tied up in them. Also that when new wells in this field are completed they do not produce as they used to when the field was first opened.

However, most Andover people feel that this is the straw that will break the camel's back. There is no question but that the gas company has the right to raise the selling price of their gas, but there is a question whether some of us can afford to burn 30 cent gas or not. The News feels that the raising of the price of gas is not so important to Andover people as is the maintaining of the gas pressure to correspond with the pressure at which the meters are set to register it, through which the gas is measured to us, and the quality of the gas given us.

The raise in the price of gas is not confined to Andover and vicinity, but is a concerted movement all along the line, Wellsville, Olean, Hornell and all over the entire field. It does not seem to most Andover people that we should be asked to pay the same price for gas here, where any old fellow, if he only had the price, can walk out in his back yard and drill a gas well at a cost less than a thousand dollars, as do those living in places where it costs thousands of dollars to pipe and pump gas to them, but we are made to pay the same price as are they.

There is no use to grumble or complain. If God says rain, rain is my choice. There is no use to grumble or complain. If Bradley says 30 cents for gas, 30 cents is the price.

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES 1910

Exercises of Andover High School this Week Very Interesting and Draw a Good Attendance.

Another school year has passed and gone, and the exercises of commencement week in Andover have been very interesting and profitable. They consisted of a splendid grade entertainment Thursday evening of last week, under the direction of the grade teachers, the Baccalaureate Sermon Sunday evening, by pastor Bacon, at the Presbyterian church, the Alumni Banquet Monday evening and the Commencement Exercises Tuesday evening.

The entertainment Thursday evening consisted of the presentation of the Operetta, "The Pixies Triumph." The chorus work and drill by the Fairies and Pixies was well done by the little ones, while the solos by the Misses Regina Raufenbarth, Helen Corey, Florence Baker and Messrs Loyd and Harland Robinson, Howard Richardson and Archie Bloss were well rendered.

After the Operetta, Principal Bartlett presented the grade pupils with their certificates earned during the year.

The Presbyterian church was filled Sunday evening and the audience were well repaid in the fine address by Rev. H. D. Bacon. The music was furnished by the Boy's choir of the church.

The banquet Monday evening was served in Odd Fellow Hall about 130 people being seated. The extreme heat of the evening detracted some what from the pleasure of the event and made it an effort for the musicians and speakers. Merriman's Orchestra of Hornell furnished excellent music throughout the serving.

At the close of the banquet Principal R. A. Bartlett introduced as the speaker of the evening, Hon. J. S. Whipple of Salamanca, Forest, Fish and Game Commissioner of New York State, who gave a most interesting talk along this line. In another column will be found a sketch of this excellent talk.

At a meeting of the Alumni Association earlier in the evening, officers for the coming year were elected. President, Mrs. Mille Calhoun, Vice President, John C. Lever, Secretary, Miss Marguerite Norris, Treasurer, B. B. Hann.

Tuesday evening was the High School Commencement. Invocation was offered by Rev. J. W. Wright. Dr. G. W. Mitchell rendered a solo in his usual fine voice and Cannon's Orchestra furnished the balance of the music. Rev. Jas. D. Herrick, pastor of the Universalist church of Whitesville gave an interesting address. At the close, Miss Jessie Bloss as graduate was presented her diploma with well chosen words by Principal R. A. Bartlett.

Friday, the pupils of the grades with their teachers enjoyed a picnic dinner in the grove and Saturday the High School Students drove to Alfred Station and picnicked in Rose Grove at that place.

## The Motor Vehicle and the Farmer.

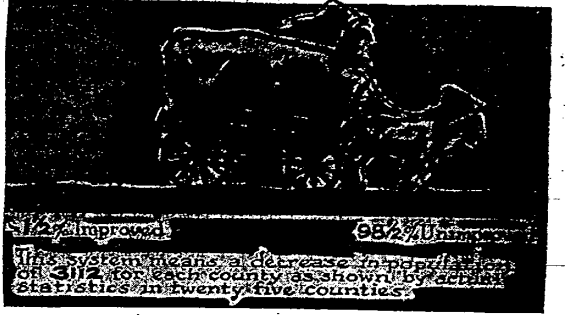
How Good Roads and the Automobile Will Make Farm Life More Attractive and Profitable.

(From the National Grange.)

This article deals from the viewpoint of the farmer with what after all is a farmer's question--the present high cost of food. It gives the farmer's ideas about the cause and cure of the evil described by Mr. Jas. J. Hill as: "An enlarged city life and a neglected country life, a crowded artisan population clamoring for food, and a foreign demand for the product of their wages limited to fields where the competition of all the world must be met and overcome." While the newspapers and magazines have lately been full of

general increase in values all over the world. It must be remembered that the wages of farm labor, and the price of practically everything that the farmer buys, have increased in the same proportion.

Take the typical case of wheat. The retail price of flour in 1893 was \$4.50 per barrel. Of the difference between former and present values the farmer gets about \$1.00. The remaining \$1.50, represents a change in conditions of distribution. It means city prices as compared with country prices, and includes the speculative

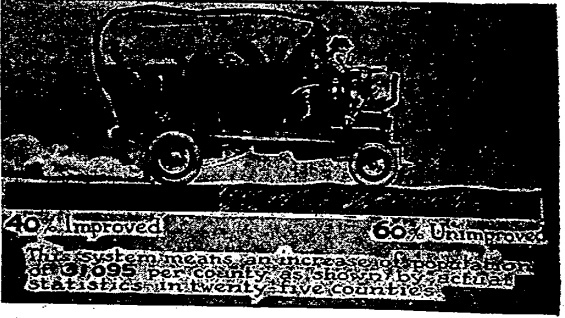


remedies for existing conditions, they have mainly been put forward in the interests of the cities. The side of the question which seems to have been neglected is how the whole matter affects the man who is being asked on all sides to come to the rescue, the man who lives on the soil and raises the nation's food supply, the farmer himself.

The first fact which should be brought out is that it is not the farmer who is responsible for the present high cost of living, and that it is not he who is principally benefitting by the present high price of wheat, beef, mutton, pork, corn or milk. It is true that he is receiving more for his produce than he did twenty years ago, but the increased reward of farming is only in line with the

profits of the middleman. The divorce between the food producer and the food consumer, due to the overcrowding of the cities and the relative depopulation of the country districts, has placed the control of the country's food supply in the hands of a class who are speculators first and distributors afterwards. It is in the facts that the population is becoming more remote from the sources of food supply rather than in the fact that food production is more costly than formerly that the real reason of the present high cost of living must be sought.

In 1804 only 4 per cent of the population of the United States lived in cities. At the present time the percentage is over 40. One interpretation of these figures--the one in-



40% Improved 60% Unimproved

## Andover Has 23 Remarkable Old Citizens, Whose Combined Ages are 1,921 Years

We give it as our belief that there isn't another town in Allegany County, nor another county in the state, where a better showing of longevity can be found than in this town of Andover, County of Allegany.

Assessor J. C. Green, while going over the town recently, making people feel poor, took pains to collect the ages of some twenty three of our older citizens with the result that we find the combined ages of the twenty three to be 1921 years, and the average of the twenty three patriarchs nearly 84 years. Here they are:

- Bryan Patten, ..... 80
- Chas. Hawkins, ..... 83
- James Guinn, ..... 85
- Clark Boyd, ..... 80
- Thomas O'Donnell, ..... 80
- Henry Bullard, ..... 90
- C. N. Robbins, ..... 83
- H. P. Benton, ..... 82
- Wm. Jones, ..... 82
- Edwin Everett, ..... 83
- Jeremiah Clark, ..... 85
- John Probst, ..... 82
- James Garvin, ..... 82
- L. N. Corwin, ..... 80
- A. O'Donnell, ..... 80
- Jason Hunt, ..... 80
- John Swain, ..... 83
- Chas. Crandall, ..... 83
- Myron Hollowell, ..... 85
- David Slocum, ..... 85

## OLIVES

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