

## BETTER RURAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT GREATER TAXATION

### A SQUARE DEAL FOR THE FARM BOY

Commissioner Graves Says  
is Only Solution of Rural  
Educational Problem

Unless Americans generally can be roused to the unfairness and inequality of the situation which has raised artificial barriers between those who live in cities and those who live in the country, we are likely to be divided into two peoples, said Dr. Frank P. Graves, president of the University of the State and State Commissioner of Education, in an address before the New York Press Association on the evening of July 11th at Alexandria Bay.

The misunderstanding, aversion and even hatred which has been growing up between the rural and urban folk has been caused, he said, by the growth of centers of population and the comparative isolation of those people still remaining in the country. The consciousness of the city man must be awakened to his duty to share his larger opportunities with his country brother, he declared, and the consciousness of the rural man must be awakened to his plight and lack of equal advantages.

In many ways, the Commissioner explained, the country people are awakening and securing their rights. Good roads, automobiles, telephones and radios bring them into touch with the city and enable them to obtain many of the comforts and opportunities of urban life. In one respect, however, he pointed out, progress has been exceedingly slow. That, he said, is in the demand for and the establishment of good schools.

"Much has been accomplished in this direction during the past quarter of a century," he said, "since our eyes have been opened to the iniquity and un-American plan of affording one type of school for the city and quite a different and very inferior one for the country, but far more remains to be done. Our educational slogan must continue to be 'a square deal for the farm boy' until he is given practically as good school opportunities as the lad reared in the city."

"At present this is still far from being the case in New York. As yet, about one-fourth of the total rural school enrollment and one-half of the rural teaching corps are housed in the crudest and poorest buildings in the state. More than one-half of these buildings were constructed at least 50 years ago, despite the fact that school architecture and equipment has been advancing by leaps and bounds during that time. Four-fifths of them have no provision for heating and ventilation, except the old unjacketed stove and the windows, respectively, and nine-tenths of the buildings are not properly lighted. In at least 90 per cent. the seating is poor and unadjustable, and often where the seats could be arranged to suit the pupils, this has never been given consideration. Where in the cities some four-fifths of the teachers have had at least the minimum amount of standard training, that is two years beyond the high school, in the country less than one-twentieth have so qualified; and the annual turnover in rural teachers each year is considerably more than 50 per cent. As a whole, but rarely can the country districts secure any except the youngest, most immature, and least experienced young women for their schools. The better class of teachers, attracted by improved living conditions, assured tenure, larger salaries, professional companionship and opportunities for growth and promotion are largely drained off into the cities. As a natural result, scholastic progress in the rural schools is greatly handicapped, and on the average, children of the same age are at least a year or two behind those in the cities. Moreover, in innumerable instances it is all but impossible for the farm children, however bright, to secure a high school training, for there is nothing of the sort anywhere in their neighborhood and no facilities are available for board or transportation."

The fundamental difficulty in this sad state of affairs was declared by the Commissioner to be the need of a larger unit of taxation and administration, for under the present system each little district is a separate unit in levying school taxes, public utilities are taxed according to their location, and each district has the benefit of an assessed valuation in keeping with the amount of cor-

### MAKE SEIZURES IN RAIDS AT HORNELL

Alleged Whiskey and Wine  
Taken During Visits to  
Two Places.

Hornell, July 11.—Federal officers armed with search and seizure warrants swooped down on Hornell unexpectedly today and carried out two successful raids. The Imperial Hotel and at 132 Loder street, run by Frank Myers was raided first. The federal officers, J. Salvatore Amandola and J. Hayes seized a quantity of alleged whiskey, sixteen bottles of wine and other liquor.

T. L. Myers, the proprietor, was arraigned before United States Commissioner Collin McLennan and held under \$2,000 bail and his bartender, E. Chas. Myers, was also arraigned and held under \$1,000.

From the hotel the raiders went to the home of Chas. Downey, at No. 109 South street, where they seized fifty gallons of alleged wine. There was no one home at the time but the officers entered the house thru the back door. No arrests were made in this case.

### Hallsport Cheese Factory is Burned To the Ground

Hallsport suffered a serious loss late Friday afternoon when the cheese factory at that place burned to the ground, destroying all the machinery and equipment together with eleven days make of cheese.

The fire originated in the living rooms occupied by the maker, William Costello and family, and despite the active efforts of nearby neighbors, but little could be saved and the building was quickly destroyed.

At a meeting of the patrons, temporary arrangements were made to care for the patrons' milk by sending part of it to the condensory at Genesee, Pa., and a portion to the Fords Brook cheese factory.

It is probably that a new factory, modern and fire proof, will be built at Hallsport, as cheese has proved very profitable to the farmers in that vicinity.

porate property within its boundaries. This leads, he pointed out, to great inequalities and an unfair distribution of the burden of school support for it often happens that one district pays twenty times as much as another located along side of it for the same school facilities.

The unit of taxation and administration must be greatly enlarged, he said, if the available resources and the education conditions in the country are to approach those in our best schools. In addition, he declared, there must be generous state aid for the rural districts.

The Commissioner made it clear, however, that he was not advocating the closing of all one-room schools. "I realize, as you do," he said, "that there are many one-room schools so remote from the centers of population that they cannot be closed. There is no reason, however, why such schools should continue in separate tax units any more than that each school in a city should be in a tax unit by itself. Rural boys and girls are entitled to as many schools as they need for their convenience and education, but those schools should be located in units of taxation and administration strong enough to provide proper facilities. The people can decide how many schools they need within a tax unit, if given the opportunity to do so. Under the present system, taxation instead of proper school facilities decides such questions."

"We are a liberal minded and generous people here in New York," Commissioner Graves continued. "We are furnishing in our public schools a charge an efficient training from the kindergarten thru the college, and improvements are still to be made here. These facilities are provided for the children of the foreign born—the Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, Russians and Jews. We deny even an effective elementary and high school course to our native born—the children of this state? Assuredly, if we continue our present attitude in rural education for another generation, we may find our native land dominated by the foreign-born and our native stock in the rural regions reduced to a form of peasantry. I refuse to believe that the press of this great Empire State will tolerate so unpatriotic a possibility."

### Democratic Nominees For President Vice President



A united democracy has arisen from the turbulent convention which was finally brot to a successful close, Wednesday night, July 9, after being in session over two weeks, and being deadlocked for a choice of a candidate for President over a week.

All of the leading candidates have come forth voluntarily and announced that they are heartily for Davis and Bryan. Smith and W. J. Bryan have offered to take the field and speak in the interest of the ticket.

The choice of John W. Davis of West Virginia, as the democratic nominee for President has a particular interest to Andover people in the fact that he is a partner in the practice of law with our Attorney William C. Cannon. Mr. Cannon is very enthusiastic regarding his partner's chance of election, and says he is presidential timber in every way and well fitted for the position.

The choice of Governor Charles W. Bryan, of Nebraska, brother of W. J. Bryan, was most diplomatic and has caused all factions in the party to unite in a most vigorous campaign for the election of Davis and Bryan.

### Descriptive of a Trip To the Thousand Island

In company with Editor R. E. Peirson of the Belmont Dispatch, the News scribe made a trip to Alexandria Bay, Thursday, returning home Sunday, a distance of 120 miles, to attend a meeting of the New York Press Association.

The trip was made in Mr. Peirson's Ford sedan; and she is a "bird"—meaning not only that she can fly, especially when under the expert guidance of Editor Peirson's manipulation, but she is a beautiful, easy-rider, with lady-like manners and many accomplishments, even if she is a Ford.

We left Belmont at 4:40 A. M., taking the dirt road to Angelica, six miles, and arrived there at 5 A. M., long before Angelicans ceased to hit the pillow. Not a soul was in sight. Even their night cop failed to make his appearance.

From Angelica we took that new macadam road to Canaseraga, passing thru Birdsall. This is a fine road and very pleasing to take, especially in the early hours of the morning. We drove thru Canaseraga's main street at 5:40 having made 26 miles the first hour.

Just about two miles east of Canaseraga, "Lizzie" refused to go on down toward Arkport and Hornell, but took a short cut over a fine dirt road of about a mile and struck the Hornell-Dansville state highway cutting off at least ten miles. Then just before we reached the village of Dansville, Editor Peirson chopped off another mile by turning to the right and intersecting the Wayland-Dansville state highway about a mile out of Dansville.

We reached Wayland at 6 o'clock and we were another 24 miles on our journey and fifty miles from Belmont. At Wayland we made another short cut, taking the dirt road which was in good condition, straight to North Cohocton, a distance of only seven and a half miles instead of some fifteen around by Cohocton. From North Cohocton to Naples is eleven miles, all fine macadam.

Here we struck the grape country and if things continue favorable, we are sure of a fine crop of grapes. Whether they can be purchased

### THIRD PRIZE ESSAY IN THE NEWS CONTEST

The Obligation of the Village Newspaper to the Community, and Its Obligation to the Newspaper.

(By MISS ALICE SMITH)

The village newspaper is a factor of primary importance in everyday community life. If it expects the support of the community, the paper must diligently and faithfully execute the many duties that compose its life in the locality and in return the populace of the community should do all possible to further the interests of the paper and they should also willingly give assistance and patronage as well as heartily encouraging the work and efforts of the paper.

In order that it might serve the people well, the paper should give complete, concise, and argumentative facts concerning community problems and affairs. The paper should have a staff of reporters sufficient to cover all prominent affairs that are vital interest and importance to the locality. In the average village one or two would be able to secure the required information or necessary articles.

In case of a question arising in regard to some community problem the local paper should be ready and willing to publish all available details and data for the convenience of the public. It also should present argumentative facts either for or against both in regard to the question involved. Of course the nature of the facts must be governed by the views and beliefs of the editor.

Above all other things the village newspaper should be progressive. No newspaper can expect to thrive, live and be sustained in any locality unless it is progressive. The degree of conservatism and progress should, partially, at least, be governed by the attitude of the people. If the community is progressive to an extreme extent, then the periodical should be so too, but if the community is only moderately modern then so should the paper be.

The paper may suggest improvements that are apparently necessary or advisable, but have as yet failed to be noticed by the officials. In this way, perhaps, the affairs may be brot before the proper authorities, and some action would be taken. This would be a great service to a community and would be sincerely appreciated by the majority of both the officials and people.

The community periodical should have a good advertising section for the aid of both merchant and purchaser. Advertisements are of great benefit in the transaction of business and therefore, this department should be efficient and up to date.

In connection with the advertising section there should be a classified "want ad" section. This is for the benefit of either the private citizen or the large business firm desiring to transact a small amount of business, and not caring to go to the expense of a larger advertisement. These columns are of great convenience both to the man looking for employment, and the employer who needs more laborers.

The "want ad" columns in a small locality take the place of the employment bureau in city, for it brings the employer and the employee in touch with each other. This section of the periodical is of great benefit to the real estate business, and also

to the party wishing to buy real estate, or to the party desiring to rent a home or other commodity.

If the village newspaper is a daily one it would be possible to devote a good share of it to news of the entire world, but usually the small village periodical is a weekly paper. There was a time when a weekly paper could be up to date in universal news, or at least news of our native country. But the daily papers have made the village periodical a so-called back number as far as news outside of its immediate vicinity is concerned; and there is scarcely any home that does not receive a daily paper. So for this reason, it seems that it would be well for a village newspaper to overlook world-wide affairs and deal only with community affairs, since they cannot publish real news.

Of course the ladies of the village expect the personal column to be complete as well as the social column. The editor should do this much to please them; I am sure. Then, too, he should see that such affairs as movies and entertainments, clubs, card parties, and dances receive proper attention at the hands of a reporter. He should have a space for the news notes of the local educational institution for the parents and other citizens enjoy reading about the happenings of school days.

In return for all these duties, it has to perform, it is no more than fair and just that the newspapers should expect some return from the community. Foremost among the things that a paper may rightfully anticipate of its community, is support. No paper can remain in existence unless the populace are willing to contribute to its sustenance, and it seems to me that a community should be willing to do this much for the periodical that has so many duties and tasks to perform for the community.

A citizen who knows of some topic or matter that would be of interest to the community should present it to the editor, and I am sure that no editor would resent this but would rather appreciate it. There are always citizens in a locality whose opinions are greatly respected. I think that it would help the editor along greatly and also interest citizens, if those people would occasionally hand in an editorial on a subject or question, that is holding the attention of the people.

The community should accept the periodical as it is published and not continually criticize the editor for the stand he has taken in regard to some vital matter. Everyone has a right to his own opinion and those who wish may publish it for the benefit of others. That is all the editor does so don't unjustly criticize him for it because he is doing it to help his community and therefore is a real citizen.

So if you are a good editor, and your paper is a good periodical you must fulfill the duties and demands as I have mentioned them, and if you would be a good citizen and a patriotic one, you will try to help your local editor with his paper in the ways I have suggested above.

### Closing Notice

Our blacksmith shops will close hereafter at noon Saturday.  
Mortimer Driscoll,  
J. A. O'Leary.

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MRS. C. W. WILLIAMS

(Continued on Page Two)