

fitable crop Clover is plowed under also for manure, and the fertility of the land, I was told, has increased within the last ten or fifteen years, under this system. A good farm here, with ordinary buildings, is valued at nearly or quite a hundred dollars an acre, and though prices in a few years past have been depressed, any quickening of the agricultural demand would, I am told, soon bring back the hundred-dollar mark.

Fruit does well, apparently, though there is not much systematic attention paid to it. Oscar Bumgarner (whose wife is a daughter of Joshua L. Mills) brought to the meeting house grounds, during the committee meetings, some fine specimens of his grapes, of several different varieties, with wild plums, etc. He remarked that it was not necessary to go to the Far West in order to raise fruit,—the allusion here being to the fact that exhibits of grapes, plums, pears, and apples had been sent from irrigated lands in the Idaho valleys, and also grapes, etc., from New Mexico, to be shown to those who attended the committee meetings and the Yearly Meeting.

Our friend Oliver Wilson, who is the Clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting, is prominently connected with the agricultural interests of the State of Illinois. He was for several years Lecturer of the State Grange, and is now Master. He has also been elected, recently, to a new place under the State law, that of superintendent of the farmers' institutes. His duties under this latter appointment will require his presence at Springfield, the State capital, for several days in each week. His acquaintance with the agriculture of the State is intelligent and minute, and no doubt he will do good service in his new place.

There is no movement here in the direction of macadamizing the roads. Material would have to be brought from a distance, and it is questioned by many farmers whether it would be economically an advantage. The roads are now

good for most of the year, though they get very deep when the frosts break up in the spring, and in time of heavy rain. The horses are only occasionally shod; most of the time they go "barefoot." Bicycles cut no figure; we saw them hardly at all in this part of the country, and the use of the horse and appreciation of his value seem to have yielded little to the furore over the "silent steed" which has prevailed in some parts of the country. "Good roads" would be valued here, no doubt, but it does seem to me a question whether the conditions of the prairie country do not suggest conclusions as to the subject very different from those commonly insisted upon in the East.

A very serviceable adjunct of social communication exists among the Clear Creek Friends, in the shape of a complete telephone service connecting their homes with one another, and also connecting them all with the railroad station and the outside world. This has been established some time, and is certainly very useful and convenient. Those who use it are organized as a "company not for profit," under the general State law, and by the payment of small charges annually the service is maintained without becoming burdensome to any one. I do not see why such telephone lines should not be generally established in rural communities, adding greatly to the convenience and pleasure of their social intercourse.

Clear Creek's nearest railroad station is Lostant, on the Illinois Central road, some eight miles east of the meeting-house. Varna, on the Chicago and Alton road, is about nine miles south of the meeting-house. To go or come to Clear Creek via Lostant, a transfer must be made either north or south of that point, from a road to Chicago. Our party from the East, on the 7th instant, went from Chicago, over the Alton road, to Wenona, (two stations east of Varna), transferred there to the Illinois Central, and went six miles