

the meeting, there is slight probability of a successful meeting being held in this locality.

FRIVOLOUS ENTERTAINMENTS PROHIBITED.

As a rule the best meetings are held in villages or small towns. In the larger towns the audience consists not only of those who attend for the purpose of obtaining practical information, but also of those who attend for mere amusement. In order to draw a crowd at these evening meetings some institutes have been in the habit of allowing such talent as the "Kickapoo Indians," or other companies of similar character, to give entertainments. This is in direct opposition to clause 32 of the Rules and Regulations which reads as follows:

"No subject shall be presented at an Institute meeting, or discussion allowed, of a political or sectarian nature; nor shall any speaker be allowed in his lecture, essay or speech, or in any discussion, to advertise wares, or schemes in which he has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest. The delegates and officers of the Institute shall see that the exercises are not subordinated to any low or frivolous entertainment or to the aggrandizement of any individual, party or sect."

Last year some of the delegates quite properly took the stand of absolutely refusing to speak at meetings at which any of these troupes were present. Such performers are there for the purpose of advertising their wares, something which every Institute is especially expected to guard against. Hereafter when Institutes adopt the course complained of, the speakers sent to them by this department will immediately withdraw from the meetings and will abstain from taking further part in them.

DELEGATES NOT ALLOWED TO ADVERTISE GOODS.

In one or two cases it has happened that delegates who have been appointed by this department in good faith have, immediately upon arriving at a place of meeting, begun to advertise merchandise in which they were personally interested. These men should have instantly been dismissed by the chairman of the delegation of which they formed a part. The duty of a chairman of a delegation is quite plain from the reading of clause 32, above quoted.

If the chairman of a delegation where this clause is contravened is remiss in his duty in the matter, the officers of the Institute visited are at liberty, and indeed, are expected, to take the matter in their own hands. It has sometimes happened, also, that Institutes have on their own account engaged speakers to attend their meetings who they knew would attend for the express purpose of advertising their wares. Many complaints in regard to this matter have been made to the

superintendent. Institutes are, hereafter, expected to comply with clause 32 to the letter.

In other cases it has happened that persons have attached themselves to delegations and followed them from one place of meeting to another, and have been allowed to deliver addresses at the various meetings, the officers believing that these persons were in attendance at the request of the superintendent. Officers and others will please note that no person is sent to address meetings by the superintendent unless his or her name is advertised in the official bulletin. This rule is absolutely adhered to except in cases of unavoidable absences of delegates so advertised. In such cases of unavoidable absence special notices are always sent to the officers of every Institute affected, and also to the chairman of the delegation concerned. Every chairman, therefore, is instructed not to allow hangers-on to impose themselves upon the officers of Institutes, and thereby use the meetings for their own self-aggrandizement. When it happens that parties insist on following a delegation in this manner, the chairman of the delegation is instructed at the opening of each meeting to announce that these parties are not members of the delegation, and are present without the knowledge of the superintendent, and are acting entirely in their own interest.

EXPENDITURE OF INSTITUTE FUNDS.

Clause 70 of the Rules and Regulations reads as follows: "All money received, whether as members' fees, legislative grant from the county councils or from municipalities, or otherwise, shall be spent within the district in which the Institute operates, (1) to defray actual expenses of meetings such as are heretofore described; (2) to employ suitable persons to address said meetings; (3) to assist in circulating agricultural, horticultural, live stock and dairy literature or periodicals among the members, or to establish a circulating agricultural library for the use of members; (4) to remunerate the secretary and others for services rendered; (5) to make an annual grant (not exceeding ten dollars) to the Women's Institute in the district."

Some Institutes have heretofore been in the habit of giving a grant to the Agricultural Societies. This does not come within the meaning of clause 70, and it is not expected that any of the funds of the Institute be used for this purpose. The Agricultural Associations each receive grants from the Department of Agriculture, and are under separate management.

LOCAL INSTITUTES.

The Rules and Regulations governing Farmers' Institutes are the Constitution and By-laws for all local Institutes. Under these Rules and Regulations each local Institute has power to carry on any local work it may consider

for the best interests of its members, providing such work is not contrary to the Rules and Regulations. The Institute in every district will be just what it is made by its members and officers and directors. Local Institutes were not organized and are not conducted for the sole purpose of holding a few meetings to which special delegates are sent by the Department of Agriculture to deliver addresses, although this is the idea of their existence that some Institutes seem to entertain. Each Institute is expected to develop its own character and its own work in its own district. Some Institutes at the present time hold meetings regularly during the winter at which none but local talent is present. Each institute is entirely independent of every other, and should work out its own development in its own way. All that is necessary in order that it may branch out on any line of work that it chooses is for the officers to determine what work they wish to do and then to go ahead and do it.

CHANGES IN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Several changes have recently been made in the Rules and Regulations, the principal one being in regard to the holding of the annual meetings. Clause 14 provides that the annual meeting be held on some date to be selected between the 1st and 20th of June. Clauses 16, 17, 18 and 19 read as follows:

"16. Each year a meeting of the directors shall be called by the secretary to meet some time before the 1st of March. The special business of this meeting shall be to arrange for holding the annual meeting.

"17. If it is thought desirable by the directors present at this meeting that a delegate or speaker be in attendance at the annual meeting, the same may be arranged for through the superintendent, in which case the local Institute shall pay the actual travelling expenses of the delegate or speaker from the time he or she leaves home until he or she returns thereto.

"18. If it is decided that a request be sent to the superintendent for a speaker to attend the annual meeting, the directors shall, in addition, select the place for holding above meeting, the date being selected by the superintendent, as in the case of winter meetings. If, however, it is decided not to ask for a speaker through the superintendent, the directors shall select both date and place for holding annual meeting, conforming with clause 14.

"19. A full report of this directors' meeting shall be forwarded by the secretary to the superintendent on or before the 1st of March."

About one-third of the Institutes availed themselves of the opportunity of having a delegation attend their annual meeting of 1899. As announced last year the only time at which the