

GRANGE VISITOR

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"THE FARMER IS OF MORE CONSEQUENCE THAN THE FARM, AND SHOULD BE FIRST IMPROVED."

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WHOLE NO. 456.

MASTER'S ADDRESS.

To the representatives of the subordinate Granges of Michigan, in annual session assembled, to deliberate upon matters pertaining to the interests of agriculture and its devotees, I extend a hearty greeting.

Year by year, during the past decade, the delegates from the local organizations of the order of the Patrons of Husbandry have come together to consider questions that affect our general good as farmers, members of society, and citizens of a progressive country, with the ultimate object of such thorough discussion of these questions as will aid in arriving at practically unanimous conclusions, so we may with single and defined purpose press forward in our work. That our meeting will be profitable and impart a new inspiration to all present and that, through the delegates, quickened respiration and new life blood will be transmitted to all the membership throughout the state, I have no doubt.

This is to be an important meeting in the history of our organization. Matters of vital importance to the order are pressing upon us for careful thought and wise conclusions. Unusual conditions pertaining to the economics of public affairs exist. Agriculture is in an unprofitable, depressed condition, and it looks from the revolution that has been going on during the past few years in the methods of crop production and the utilizing of such vast quantities of the fertile soil of lands before unworked, that we would not soon return to our old-time prosperity, but that we must take a new inventory and start comparatively new, devoting more of our attention to bringing expenses of government and home down to a harmonizing degree with our ability to pay. These conditions are before us in an embarrassing degree, and we must do our part to analyze the situation and create an influence which shall lead to a favorable solution. Our order has performed many good deeds and created sentiment that has crystallized and found form in such changed conditions as have greatly benefited our people. These achievements are with the past, and our work is for the future. We cannot live upon what has been done. The world moves and with it new situations appear. That which called for the consideration and action of the Grange twenty years ago has in a great degree passed away. We must now awake to things that are, to preserve our well earned and proud title, that of being the only state and national organized representative of the agricultural interests of our country. Your best thought and energies are called for. It is but natural in the light of the past that all farmers look to our organization to blaze the way, to suggest and lead out in lines of work calculated to result in benefit to the tillers of the soil, and in consequence to all our people, no matter what their calling. Verily a great responsibility rests upon our order, and never so great as now.

ORGANIZATION THE WATCHWORD.

The events of each year, as they become a part of the history of our country and its people, demonstrate more clearly the power, and if we desire to attain the highest degree of development in all particulars, we may add absolute necessity, of organization. If there were men and women who thirty years ago thought that there was no necessity of bringing together those engaged in each of the various pursuits of life, for improvement in methods of business and a higher development socially, morally and financially, they certainly would be convinced of their error now. Not for improvement alone has organization become necessary but for protection against the aggression of other organized interests. In some sense it has come to pass that a contest between interests exists in our country. What then is to become of the straggler who insists upon paddling his own canoe, or that class of people who neglect or refuse to come under the protecting wing of organization. The politician and the sentimentalist may cry peace, and deprecate what they love to call effort to create discord between the classes, but the conditions that exist today say to those would be peacemakers, that their exhortations are too late. The thing is already done, and the various interests of our country are seeking opportunities to gain advantages in all their business affairs. Individual effort is too weak, and strong combinations and associations are formed. The contest is not in the main one of blood and carnage, but in cases as the last year has demonstrated, violence has been resorted to and the strong hand of the government interfered. In all this the farmers have not been the aggressors, and even to this day they are slow to see what they must do to prevent gradual but forced drainage from their legitimate values and profits occasioned by corporations and strong combines seeking to secure larger profits and more remunerative advantages. Legitimate and sometimes questionable methods are resorted to. Legislatures, the congress and the courts are lobbied and influenced to favor pet schemes. Even the nomination and election of the men who are to form these honorable representative and judicial bodies are frequently controlled by some organized interest to gain selfish ends. The organization of the business classes and those engaged in like pursuits is but an outgrowth and a natural result incident to our high state of progress and development, and shows that individual effort had reached the height of its ability and resources.

Thus it seems, from a close study of the conditions of our time, that organization has become a matter of necessity, and all classes and interests are being driven to the adoption of its helpful and protective use. It is a condition that no interest or class of people can afford to oppose. We must fall into line. In years to come the best influence of conservative people and the wise counsels of statesmen will be necessary to direct in proper channels, to enact laws to hold in check and prevent the more aggressive, as said, is not alone recognized by those who seek financial gain, but in all the walks of life and undertakings of man its potent power is utilized to gain greater and advanced results. The individual school teacher had brought into use the last new method. His genius would respond no longer, but as soon as he became a regular attendant of the township or county teachers' association new rays of light shone in upon him. That which had been burdensome and without interest in his routine of work now becomes light and interesting. He had gleaned new methods and a new inspiration from his association with others engaged in the same work. He had become better satisfied with himself and was more useful to others. So it is with all social and moral reform work. As has been said, farmers are the last to fall into line, and why this should be true with all of the positive proofs and illustrations now before us, whichever way we look, seems like one of the puzzles of the age. I can see that on account of great numbers and isolated living that organization and concentration is not an easy task, but it is very much simplified by the experiences and results of the work along that line during the past twenty-five years. Various organizations have been formed, and as many different methods of action employed. The Grange, more careful and conservative than others, has succeeded in living and prospering through the trying ordeal of educating farmers of different political beliefs to work together for general welfare. True, the history of the Grange is not made up wholly of successes. That could not be. With repeated trials it took hundreds of years to successfully plant colonies on the eastern shores of this now developed country. The Grange has demonstrated its ability to live, and now from the experience of the past, it may go on and on to perform in a much greater degree than ever before the work intended by its founders. It is today the oldest, the most influential and the best equipped in power of concentration and financial strength of any known farmers' organization. We are proud of the Grange and its work in Michigan; we are proud of the Grange and its work in the nation. Great good

has even come from its failures. We should rally around its standard as we never did before.

COUNTY DEPUTY WORK OF THE YEAR.

Believing that farmers were more than usually ready to acknowledge and feel the necessity of organization, and consequently would respond more readily to solicitations, a general systematic plan for Grange extension was prepared early in the year. A circular letter was formulated and sent to each county deputy requesting that their respective counties be canvassed for favorable localities where Granges might be organized, and that from around each of these selected points there be gathered the names, with postoffice address, of from 20 to 40 farmers. This resulted in collecting about 3,000 names to each of whom was sent, in four different mailings, at intervals of one week, a carefully prepared series of leaflets concisely answering all of the questions that might be asked concerning the Grange, its proposed work and cost of membership, with such other matter as would go to make up a good necessary circular. In this way Grange principles were sown broadcast in new localities over the State. Much inquiry was the result. All county deputies were again notified that due preparation had been made for them in the fields selected, but alas, by this time the spring season had come and farm labors demanded the time of all Grange workers. Reluctantly the work thus commenced was compelled to be laid by for a time. However, the seeds were scattered, and I believe many have fallen in favorable places and will take root and grow even to a satisfactory harvest. Too much cannot be said commending the earnest self-sacrificing work of local deputies. Where their home cares will permit they are now looking after the work in their respective counties. One new Grange has been organized in each of the counties of Huron, Jackson, and Berrien. Word also comes as I write that three new Granges have been planted in Charlevoix county, also a charter is desired for a new Pomona Grange in Antrim county. Urgent inquiries come from Iosco, Oscoda, and even far off Chippewa county, in the upper peninsula. I feel sure that a good organizer, who could take the field to stay, can add many new Granges to our list during the coming winter and spring months. The ambitious young man who possesses the right kind of organizing skill, and can give his whole time and attention to the work should make himself known and no doubt satisfactory terms can be arranged, for his services are needed now. Effort was made to get a general system of lecture work done by counties during the fall months, but the political canvass of the parties seemed to absorb the attention of most people so that the matter was not pressed.

THE LECTURE FIELD.

So distinctly separate is the work of Deputies and Lecturers that it is thought best to make separate reports of each. The Deputy acts as local agent for the State Grange, and answers all communications from the State Grange, and makes appointments and plans for lectures under the county system, does missionary work, and keeps a close watch for opportunities to assist all existing Granges, to revive the dormant and to organize new ones. The Lecturer goes upon call to any part of the State, delivering public addresses upon all Grange occasions. To say that Michigan is especially favored with an able and willing corps of these teachers and defenders of Grange doctrines is but telling the truth, and their eloquent appeals are in demand from other states. We say to them, God speed. It is our pride to see them develop and grow into broader fields and greater usefulness. Feeling assured in the early part of the year that Grange funds would be drawn upon more heavily than usual on account of the publication of the Visitor and some special work authorized, such as securing trade contracts and canvassing for Grange extension, it seemed necessary in giving due care and protection to our treasury that but little money be used for lecture work, and consequently less than the usual amount has been done. Special calls have been answered but as near as possible on a self-sustaining basis. Lecturers have gone to the assistance of Deputies when needed and have upheld the Grange banner wherever occasion gave them the opportunity.

AUGUST PICNICS AND ASSEMBLIES.

As stated one year ago, I believe that county Granges can do no work which will popularize and advertise the Grange and its principles more than to establish or assist other county Granges in permanently locating picnic and assembly grounds, where annually can be called together large audiences of farmers, with their families and people of other pursuits, to listen to able and well-rendered Grange speeches and programs. To assist in this work Hon. Alpha Messer, lecturer of the National Grange, was called to Michigan in August, and at six different appointments in the Statespoke to large audiences. The Worthy National Lecturer reported to me at the close of the series that his Michigan meetings were the largest in attendance of any he had witnessed in any State. We cannot succeed best by hiding our light under a bushel, but instead we must get out among the people and there add fuel to the flame, to the extent of electrifying with Grange principles all the farmers who may be in hearing. I sincerely hope that no time will be lost in selecting favorable locations for these out-of-door colleges, and from possibly small commencements cultivate their growth until they are a power in the land.

POMONA GRANGES.

The time has now come, if it has not been upon us from the first inception of the Grange, when it is essentially necessary in every county where Granges are located to support a strong, active Pomona Grange. If a single county has not the required four Granges to make application for a charter, then existing Granges should unite their efforts in securing the required number, and if such effort fails then join with some near by county and organize a District Pomona Grange. In our system of work they are indispensable, and I can see in the future when there will be a Pomona Grange in every county, in which all of the most active members will unite in devising plans to assist and encourage all Subordinate Granges in their hours of depression, planning systematic lecture work for the county, forming and constantly working a plan for the reorganization of the dormant Granges of their county and creating sentiment in all favorable localities where new Granges may be established, planting and permanently supporting an August picnic and assembly, giving support and financial aid to the county deputy, and leading in the discussion of questions that are in line with Grange principles, so that through a concentration of thought there may be increased power and influence brought to bear in whatever direction reforms are sought. I urge upon the delegates present the importance of this work, and when they go back to their respective counties that they do not slacken their efforts until a County or District Pomona Grange is established. You can serve the order in no better or more helpful way.

CO-OPERATION.

So much has been written and spoken on the general subject of co-operation, and how it enters into the formation of the foundation of the main walls, the protecting roof, and all of the main-stays and supports of our Grange temple, that it seems almost unnecessary for me to say more. With its almost infinite and creative power this temple may be made as lasting as the hills, its foundation permanent, its walls secure, and its roof to exclude

all storms that assail. It will furnish the fuel to warm its spacious halls, and will shed rays of light in at its windows. It will embellish its walls and ceilings in rich and exquisite designs of art; it will furnish in richest tapestry its rooms. It will dispel all discord and cement in brotherly love all who mingle as the occupants of this temple. It will make the bread of its feasts sweet and full of nourishment. Yea, co-operation is the bottom, the center and the top of all Grange work. Use it but little and the Grange is dormant, discard it entirely and the Grange is dead. It permeates every part of Grange work, and the Grange is strong or weak in proportion to the attention given to each and every department. Let us each and all work untiringly to keep this principle thoroughly instilled in all Grange work. We want no cliques nor clans in the Grange, but, unitedly as one, work for the good of all. This is true co-operation.

TRADE CONTRACTS.

As important as is cooperative work along the lines of education, social improvement, exerting general reform influence, and better methods in farming, it is none the less important that we take advantage of the best opportunities offered for financial gain to the end that we may be more successful generally, act more useful parts in society, and better care for our rights of citizenship. Conditions have so changed since the early years of the Grange that we do not need to put our money into stocks of goods, or place our men behind the counters to sell them out. The demand made years ago by the Grange to bring manufacturers and users nearer together took root, and farmers are now actually solicited to deal with manufacturers and first dealers direct. We have now but to put ourselves in business attitude to get wholesale rates on very many of the articles of common use on and about the farm. This subject was well considered at our session one year ago, and the Grange directed the executive committee to make needed arrangements to secure trade contracts. Brothers Mars, Mayo and Crosby were selected as a special committee to take the work in hand. Suitable letter heads were prepared, and the work was commenced. But it was soon found that uniformity of method should prevail in all the details of the work, and that it would be expensive to call the sub-committee together as often as it seemed necessary for the success of the work, so the whole matter was, after conference, turned over into the care of the Master of the State Grange. Being enthusiastic in behalf of this feature of Grange cooperation, the Master immediately commenced investigations by correspondence. Letters were in all cases courteously answered, and, in nearly all cases the firms addressed were favorable to the proposition, if details could be arranged. Investigations and inquiries covered articles such as commercial fertilizers, nursery stock, field and garden seeds, wagons, harness, wire fencing, etc. Correspondence was followed with some twenty different firms, representing nearly as many different lines of goods, and several of them were brought very near an understanding in accordance with a plan previously mapped out. About that time (partly in Michigan) was reported that an effort was to be made to pool several of the western states, centered at Chicago for trade purposes. Experience up to that time made it plain that if such pool could be perfected on a business basis, it would give great advantages over a single state. A conference was called to meet at Chicago, and the Michigan State Grange was asked to send a delegate. Brother Thomas Mars was appointed to attend. The closing of a contract for binder twine made it possible for the Master of the State Grange to be in Chicago at the same time. Various plans were talked over and an agreement reached whereby the State Granges of the northwest, including Michigan and Ohio, were requested, at their annual sessions in December, to approve of the movement, and make provisions to send a delegate to a second meeting to be held in Chicago, early in January, 1895, where plans are to be agreed upon and work commenced. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion at the conference meeting that a competent person should devote his whole time to the making and remaking of contracts, and keeping all the subordinate Granges in the states belonging to the pool informed. The pooling plan looked so feasible that work on contracts for Michigan alone came to a standstill awaiting developments. This State Grange should take some action by leaving the matter with the executive committee or otherwise, so that Michigan may be represented at the coming January meeting at Chicago, and with full power to act. I have faith in the pooling movement to make many valuable contracts, but it possibly may not be able to answer all local demands, and may still leave some work for each state to do. Previous to the call for the Chicago conference the detailed work of putting all the subordinate Granges in Michigan in form to be dealt with, had been accomplished, and all of those uniform and systematic rules now adopted by each subordinate Grange of the State will hold good for all future business, whether through the contracts furnished by the state or the Chicago pool.

A contract for binder twine was closed with H. R. Eagle & Co., of Chicago, and all Granges notified. The price was very low and made on the basis of a 2% rebate on gross sales, to be paid back to the secretary of our State Grange. Of the exact result of the deal I am not informed, but so far as reported perfect satisfaction was given, and a saving of from two to four cents per pound guaranteed. The binder twine deal is but an illustration of how this kind of trading is done. I am confident that it will be greatly to the benefit of the order in Michigan when we shall have closed contracts for very many or all of the staple articles used on our farms. I believe the State Grange should instruct its executive committee to push the work as fast as possible.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

This title is very familiar in Masters' addresses before the State Grange, and rightly so because of the great importance thereby conveyed. This paper, published first in half sheet form by the executive committee of the State Grange, primarily to answer in a general way for the benefit of the then young and inquisitive organization the many questions relative to Grange government and work that found their way to the Master's and Secretary's offices, had the full patronage of the members throughout the state, and it not only paid its full cost of publication, but was at one time a source of revenue. In very few years the Order became settled in its discipline and interpretation of Grange law and the mission of the Visitor so far as that work is concerned was practically fulfilled, but its broadest, grandest and most important work was yet to be entered upon,—the all important work of education that was to lead that great audience along such lines as would accomplish the reforms and objects contemplated by our Declaration of Principles, that grand document which for plain, concise utterances, for justice, equality, and true patriotism is second only to the Declaration of Independence as drawn by Jefferson. When we stop here and think of the personnel of that crude organization made up of men belonging to different political persuasions and that their whole life's education along those lines had been calculated to divide rather than unite the influence of farmers, and that in many cases such bitterness had been engendered as to disturb the social equilibrium of neighborhoods, you can well understand the difficulties that must be met and overcome by the Visitor in its true mission of education, to the end that the members of the Order, as devotees to the greatest and most important productive industry of our country, would use their best influence in each of their political associations, and when occasion required assert such degree of independence as would gain the end sought. Intense partisan feeling and the education of a lifetime cannot well be laid aside in a day. Parties are essential to our form

of government and there will always be those with us who are personally interested in party success. With these conditions for us to consider in connection with our work thus far, we can easily see why it has been impossible for any manager or editor of the *Visitor* to do and say those things which at all times would meet the wishes of all its subscribers. In this case, as in others connected with newspaper publication and subscription, men have been offended and have dropped the paper. Then, too, during the past few years, there has been a wonderful revolution in newspaper publication, and reduction in rates has been the result, until now one can get enough reading matter to occupy his attention for a whole week for a nominal fee, as is shown by the voluminous weekly and daily papers sent out from our large cities. Then, again, with true newspaper enterprise, each publisher tries to supply all the demands of all classes of readers. Home and foreign news, domestic, household, farm, garden, fashion, and various other departments are found in each. While our people are readers and desire to gratify their wants in all directions, the close times for money make it compulsory to concentrate and get as much as possible in one. All these conditions have operated against the success of the *Visitor*. It is indispensable to the best interests of the Order that we have such a means of communication between members and Granges as the *Visitor* affords. We must have an advocate and champion of our principles to keep our membership along the same lines of thought, duty and action. For the support of our subordinate Granges in the every day routine of work we must give opportunity to glean from others. Without such means our strongest ties would be severed. I have thus reasoned with the situation that you may more clearly see the absolute necessity of some action in the matter, to the end that the *Visitor* be made self-supporting, by bringing its receipts up to its cost, or reducing its cost to its present receipts, or by making such change as will insure to the membership throughout the state the advantages now given by the *Visitor* and the State Grange be relieved of the care and expense of publication. I leave the matter with you in your legislative capacity to do that which seems best.

THE ORDER AT LARGE.

Bro. John Trimble, Secretary of the National Grange, reports 94 new Granges organized during the past year and 55 dormant ones revived, a considerable increase over the year previous. He further says that since the Order was founded 27,000 Granges have been organized, with a membership of over 2,000,000, and while there have been depressions the Order is now increasing. In the New England, Eastern, and Middle States the Order is growing rapidly in numbers, influence, and good works. They have used the Grange to bring about many changes and reforms in local and State affairs and have kept it well to the front in the higher order of education. They cooperate in buying and seem to have solved the problem of how to make the Grange useful to the members all along the line. Many of their Granges contain from one to five hundred members. So great has been the influence of the Grange in Pennsylvania for a readjustment of property for taxation purposes that the railroads, mining, banking, and shipping interests have agreed to go into a conference with representatives of the farming interests, through the Grange, to agree upon a tax bill, to be presented to the next legislature, and the passage of which all interests will unite in asking. In some of the Western and Southern States the Order is weak. In the early history of the Grange in the west great things were accomplished in the line of cheaper transportation, bringing manufacturers and users into nearer relations and correcting many evils that oppressed them. But various other farmers' organizations sprang into existence and promised a cross-lots cut to accomplish the things the Grange advocated. These new reformers (many of whom were not appreciated in the Grange) said the Grange was too slow a coach and that life was too short to wait its motion. The farmers seemed to believe them, and with true western "get there" spirit they flocked into the various alliances and left the Grange practically alone. They see their mistake now, and the Grange, like a fond parent, forgives them for their traitor raid, and stands with open doors to receive the prodigals back. From now on the Grange in the west will have a steady growth, if the signs mistake not. What is true of the west is true of the south in general principle. As a whole the Order is stronger in faith and deeper rooted in principle and in a clear understanding of its duties and work than ever before. Truly, the Grange has come to stay and its influence for good in neighborhoods, states, and the nation will be felt more in the future than in the past. We should be thankful to live in a day when membership in such an organization is possible. Let us unite in praises for the gift of the Grange.

In accordance with the urgent suggestion of the State Grange at its session of 1892, a bill was introduced in our state legislature providing for the appointment of a State Dairy and Food Commissioner. The bill became a law and Hon. Chas. E. Storrs was appointed to act in that capacity. Inasmuch as the first year or two must be consumed in preparing for the work by becoming familiar with exact conditions, and other detail matters, but a small appropriation was made for the work of this new department of our state government. The investigations of the commissioner since he has filled the office suggest to him several necessary additions to the present law to make it serve the purpose for which it was intended. Increased appropriation is also needed to supply necessary equipment and to bear the expense of analyses and prosecutions. So many of the articles of food which are the direct product of the farm are found on the market adulterated and fraudulently sold, thereby cutting off competition and demand for honest products that it becomes a matter of great importance to farmers. It is also justice to the purchaser and consumer that a guarantee be made by the payment of the purchase price that the article bought is as represented. Statistics might be given in this connection to show the great frauds perpetrated upon the innocent purchaser and the amounts of honest foods that are displaced by bogus and fraudulent articles of a cheap nature, yet sold dear, but these figures and statistics are easily obtainable and time will not permit their repetition here. Simple justice demands that correction be made. In the line of consistency this Grange should favor the strengthening of the present pure food laws and that adequate appropriation be made to execute the work of the Dairy and Pure Food Department.

IN CONFLICT WITH INTERSTATE COMMERCE DECISION.

In this connection it may be well to note the fact that to a considerable degree the pure food laws of states have been inoperative on account of their conflict with decisions relative to interstate commerce laws which permit sales in original packages. Effort was made in the last congress to overcome this difficulty and by national enactment make all articles of food subject to the laws of the state in which they seek market and sale. To this end a bill was introduced in the senate of the United States at its last session by Senator Hill, and a similar one was introduced in the house by Representative Grout. How far these bills were considered I cannot say, but understand that they are on file to be called up at the coming session. The dairymen of the country are making strong effort to have one of these bills become a law, and to give force to the movement a National Dairy Union was formed at Chicago, June last. The union is active in the work of raising funds and getting endorsements from various farmers and other organizations, and will do their utmost in favor of the Hill and Grout bills. If this State Grange pass strong resolutions in favor of the enactment of this proposed general law and forward the same to Senator Hill or Representative Grout it would aid in securing their passage.

MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE.

This matter received so much favor at the last State Grange that the Executive Committee was directed to investigate existing state laws relative to such organizations and report to this body. Bro. Thomas Mars was appointed as a special committee for the purpose named, and will make full report. I believe, that in many counties of our state, under the auspices of a County Grange, mutual fire insurance companies can succeed. It may be necessary to pool two or three counties, but that can easily be done. From investigation in the eastern states where these Grange mutuals are so successful, I glean that it is decidedly for the best that all risks taken should be confined to the membership of the Grange, and that the member must keep his standing good with his Grange to retain his policy. I believe it practical for districts and counties to try this means of protection.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Grange has always stood faithfully by this practical Agricultural and Mechanical School. It furnishes the best opportunities of any school in the state for a general, useful and every day education, and as we are a practical and every day people, this institution should be liberally cared for by the state, and well patronized by all young people who desire to obtain a useful education, no matter whether they come from the farm or the city. It is not a pleasing thought to a large majority of the people of Michigan, that the last legislature should have fixed a positive and permanent tax upon the property of the state to royally support one of its institutions of learning, while our Agricultural and Mechanical School must take

its chances with each succeeding legislature to secure the means for meagre support. This fact is the more aggravating when we consider that the people who pay the largest proportion of the state's tax are most interested in the Agricultural and Mechanical School, and that the professions, such as are educated at the University, pay but a very small proportion of the state's tax. It is not so much that we desire to make the University less, as to make our Agricultural and Mechanical School more. It should be brought up to that eminent position, proportionate with the number of people of our state who are most benefited by its course of instruction. Agricultural education as taught at the College is not confined, as many suppose, to actual operations on the farm, in the orchard and gardens, but in its course, botany, chemistry, physiology, entomology, political economy, veterinary science, mechanical drafting and surveying and other studies equally practical to all of our industrial people, are taught. The industrial people of the state should see that this school is kept up to that prominence among our state institutions of learning that its importance demands.

RITUALISTIC WORK.

I wish to emphasize what was said one year ago regarding the importance of correct and impressive ritualistic work. Every Grange in the State can, by having this work perfect and with a studied effort to make it impressive, add to their membership, secure better regular attendance at meetings, and do a good work that will go a long way toward making a successful, enthusiastic Grange.

INSTITUTES.

Next to importance to our common schools and the Grange to give the people of country communities the advantages of education and broader discussion and understanding of the many questions that interest and concern them, is the County Farmers' Institute. It is an outgrowth from the Agricultural College and is one means employed to take the College and its methods and findings to the people. These gatherings are always profitable, and no county should let a winter pass without a week's institute. County Granges and County Agricultural Societies should lead in this work. So important is the work considered by many States that appropriations are made from State funds to assist in making these institutes a greater success. Our State has made small allowances for that use, but there comes a demand from all sections of the State that the aid be increased for the coming years. This Grange should take some action regarding the matter so that the incoming legislature may know the wishes of so representative a body of farmers.

AGRICULTURE.

The importance of this chief productive interest of our State and nation and its present depressed condition demands more than a passing notice from this body. When we consider that in a country like ours, where the prosperity of all other interests, productive and otherwise, so largely depend upon the healthy condition of agriculture for their success, it is cause for profound wonder why our government, through its legislators, does not give more direct thought and attention to such assisting legislation as will keep its agriculture well to the front in prosperity. I have listened to and read many of the speeches delivered by the leaders of the different parties during the campaign just closed and have also read all of the party platforms. It was noticeable that much was said of the necessities of manufacturing and other interests, but agriculture, in its broad sense—the corner stone and foundation upon which all other interests are built—received little or no consideration, except to catch at here and there an item which, through circumstances, had become a bone of contention between parties.

It seems to prove that we have more politicians who work for mere party success and accompanying spoils, than we have statesmen who can rise above party and the shams and pretenses so frequently paraded before the people, and with unbiased patriotism work for the success and prosperity of the nation. That agriculture has been discriminated against and has not received that measure and proportion of benefits from the adopted policies of the government during the past decade as have other interests, results now clearly show. Staple products with farm lands, practically as a whole have ruinously declined. The average farmer who now takes an inventory finds that he is worth in dollars and cents just about one-half that he was ten years ago, and is now closely pressed to get money sufficient to pay the taxes put upon him in more prosperous times and his economical store bills. While for the same period of time manufactures and other interests have multiplied and flourished, and not until late in the year could not buy of their own, have they come to a partial standstill. With the decline of agriculture it is but natural that other interests should be crippled in due time, but other interests do not suffer so great a loss. Stocks of goods and manufactured wares are of that merchantable and quick sold nature that with declines in value, purchase prices and generally profits are realized, while the farmer's investment is of that permanent and fixed nature that he must suffer the whole loss. The principal staple agricultural products of our country have been for some years, and are now articles of export. We raise a surplus. That surplus must be sold on the markets of the world in competition with the cheap labor and fertile soil of other countries and the prices that exporters can pay for our wheat, pork, lard, beef, butter, cheese, rice, tobacco, cotton, and other products of our farms, and of which we have a surplus fixes the price of practically all we sell of the same commodities on our great home market; and thus the farmers of our country have practically been thrown into competition with cheap lands and cheap labor of other countries, with the largest bulk of our productions, while at the same time manufactures and most other interests have been able to reap the full benefit of the government aid tendered them; and farmers while selling cheap have been compelled to pay the prices the manufacturers asked for their wares. Agriculture is sadly depressed and no system of whitewash will change the facts. True, farmers can live, but they have a right to demand of government an equal chance to accumulate property and reap the full rewards of labor as are given to other interests. The situation is provoked by extravagant state and county expenses, and too high rates of interest. Too many salaries and too high for the service rendered. Farmers have to pay with wheat, and it would take 14,000 bushels to pay the salary of our supreme judge. Whoever will take the time to compute the bushels of wheat necessary to pay all the salaries and expenses of state will arrive at a practical exposition of the situation, so far as expenses and the ability of our pay are concerned. From the last U. S. census we glean that fifty per cent of the farm owning families of Michigan own subject to incumbrance, equal on an average of one-third of their value, and upon which an average interest is paid of 7.10 per cent, making the annual interest charge of \$63 to each family. Since this census was taken the farms of Michigan have depreciated in value very much and we might say have gone out of market, so that it would be a very fair estimate to say, that at the present time the mortgages upon the one-half of the farms of Michigan would be equal to one-half their value. This would equal a mortgage indebtedness upon all the farms of the state of one-fourth their value and the amount of annual interest placed upon every man who owns a Michigan farm of \$31.50. This means that 63 bushels of wheat must be taken from every farm in Michigan to pay the annual interest on the mortgage indebtedness.

Interest is too high. No farmer can pay six or seven per cent with fifty cent wheat. If the mortgage be one-half to two-thirds the value of the farm he will wear out the best days of his life and make no headway, except to pay his banker interest, who is now getting from fifteen to twenty per cent net annually on his capital stock. The sooner the farmer so hampered gives up the farm and starts anew, the better for him and his family. So far as the economic policies of the government are concerned, the Grange stands upon this broad and justice giving platform: An equal measure of benefit from such economic policies as the government may adopt. It is not for the Grange as an organization to dictate these policies. Political parties do that. We as a farmers' organization, representing in our membership all political parties, unite in demanding equal chances and benefits for farmers that are accorded to manufacturing and other interests, and which the legislation of the past few years has not given us.

TAX REFORM.

We boast of the high standard of our civilization and our progress in the art of government, but it seems that the question of meeting the public expense equitably and fairly, so that the burden will fall proportionately upon the people in accordance with their ability and means to pay, is not much nearer settlement than it was when the world began. Men are not philanthropists in this particular and rush to the tax collector anxious to pay more than their share, but instead, human nature seems to show a perfect willingness to let the other fellow pay as much as he will, and to evade the payment of as much as possible himself. Concerning the payment of taxes men's consciences seem to be of a very elastic nature. I hardly know of a man who would voluntarily give to the assessor information of such portion of his taxable property as the assessor seems likely to miss. Laws and their enforcement are essential, and on account of changed conditions and the new ways people will find for evasion, revision of

our tax laws frequently seem necessary. Mr. E. J. Wright of the tax department of the Auditor General's office and an impartial investigator and writer on taxation, says: "The tendency to secretiveness regarding possessions is not half so dangerous a factor in solving the problem of the listing of property for taxation as is the desire of assessors to complete their roll with the least work and to the satisfaction of a sufficient number of taxpayers who will reward neglect of duty." The same writer in another article says: "The assessment rolls include but a small part of the taxable property and that the requirement of assessment at true cash value is almost universally ignored. One hundred and thirty-two good men and true place upon the statute books a tax law which if honestly and competently administered should materially reduce the rate of taxation, and over 1,500 assessors deliberately ignore its most important provisions." No doubt there is much truth in the assertions of the above quoted writer. It is true that present laws would furnish relief along the lines of equity if fearlessly administered. That they are not is not wholly the fault of assessors. Loop holes are left through which those inclined may escape. Optional features give assessors license to be easy. The law intends that assessors demand a sworn-to list of taxable property, but as it is not mandatory the officer does not ask it. While reform is needed in the matter of taking assessments, greater reforms are needed in revised laws to carry out the spirit of equality and equity as set forth in the constitution, which says that all assessments shall be on property at its cash value, and the spirit of the constitution seems to plainly indicate that all property shall be assessed, except legalized exemptions and property paying specific taxes. The facts are that a large proportion of taxable property escapes entirely and much is assessed far below cash value. Farmers in my part of the state pay tax on land assessed at sixty to one hundred dollars per acre that would not sell for over forty to sixty dollars per acre respectively. While at the same time money at interest very largely escapes the tax rolls. A comparison of the earning values of farm lands and money at interest would indicate in justice that every dollar of money drawing legal interest should pay at least three times the tax rate that is placed upon land. No class of property possesses such tireless earning powers as does money at interest, and there is not the chance for the principal to shrink by thirds and halves as there is with land. The constitution provides for a state board of equalization every five years and its next session will be in 1896. Farmers should be prepared to present such facts before the board as will secure equity in the adjustment.

The rate fixed by statute for the collection of taxes from all incorporated property such as the constitution of the state admits in the specific list, is much too low to answer the requirements of justice and equity, upon which principle taxation for public purposes is supposed to be established, and just why corporations should be allowed to pay a specific tax based upon their earnings while all other real estate and personal property except legal exemptions are held to the basis of cash value regardless of earning powers, is more than common people can comprehend. What amount of tax would the farms of Michigan pay during the year 1894 if calculated upon their net earnings? The principle seems wrong because it grants special privileges which could not be generally applied, and support the state. As long as specific taxes are granted by our constitution the rate should be so fixed as to give corporations the privilege of paying their just share of the public expense. I do not believe in double taxation, but so long as men who hold possession of farms in which they have but little money invested, yet are compelled directly or indirectly to pay tax upon the whole, mortgage indebtedness included, it would be no more than right for banks to pay tax on deposits so great a portion of which is continuously loaned on short or long time and becomes thereby a remunerative source of revenue. These deposits are subject to call, and so is the farm upon which they hold the mortgage. Both are used at the will of the holder for money earning purposes, with the bank deposits greatly in the lead for good profits.

The unprofitable condition of agriculture and the large proportion of taxes that falls to the lot of the farmers of our state to pay, makes it an imperative duty to enforce the most rigid economy in salaries, and to use our best influence to gain such equitable distribution and lessening of taxes as will secure justice for all.

It has been found almost impossible to get statistics of exact situations upon which to base the consideration of this question. Supervisors' reports are very misleading, and do not give conditions as they really are. From all sources I get an agreement that the tax burden of the state as now distributed and collected is sadly lacking in that fairness which should characterize the collection of funds to pay the public expense of county and state.

I believe it to be the duty of this body to take such initiatory steps as will result in getting the whole subject of taxation before the legislature in the near future, and so fortified with facts and figures relative to all the varied interests of the state that justice will be easily obtainable. To this end I invite this body to consider the advisability of petitioning the incoming legislature to authorize the appointment by the Governor of the state of a non-partisan tax statistics commission, consisting of at least three persons, and as representative as possible of the interests of agriculture, corporate property and the general interests of the state, whose duty it shall be to collect statistics and facts touching all the interests of the state relative to taxation matters. The relative proportion of taxable property that escapes taxation, and that which is taxed below value, the relative value of taxable real estate and personal property and the proportion of tax paid by each, the proportion of tax paid by corporations as compared with other property interests based upon relative value, and all such other matters as would let in the light upon this whole question, and to make report to the Governor of the state previous to the session of the legislature for 1897. From this report a tax bill correcting all of the inequalities of which we now complain could be formulated and enacted into law.

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

The appointment of this committee was authorized by the last State Grange, and Bros. J. K. Campbell, Geo. McDougal and H. D. Platt, all of Washtenaw county, were selected. They have had under their advisement during the year, such matters of needed legislation as should come before the State Grange for endorsement, preparatory to presentation in proper form to the legislature. The committee will make report at this session.

OTHER SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

The committees on Woman's Work and Education, authorized by the last State Grange, and the appointment of which, with names of Sisters and Brothers so selected, appearing in the printed proceedings of last year, will each make reports to this body of their work during the year, with recommendations for the future.

THE DEPARTED.

We have noted with sorrow from time to time during the past year, the record of death as published in the *Visitor*. Death invades all ranks, and makes its choice of persons and time of their taking. We sympathize with our Sisters and Brothers throughout the state, who have been called to mourn the loss of loved ones. We trust that the good works of the departed may live after them, and that they may hear the words of the Master when he shall say: "Well done, good and faithful servants, receive your reward."

Since last we met one whose face has been familiar to all who have attended State Grange meetings has been called home. After long weeks and months of great suffering which was borne with true Christian patience, Sister H. H. Woodman, the beloved wife of our most Worthy Past Master J. J. Woodman, departed this life. All who have had the privilege of meeting and forming her acquaintance at State Grange sessions, in her own home, and in all parts of her life's work, can but unite in saying she was a noble type of womanhood, complete in all the attainments of the true, the beautiful and the good. Her influence upon those with whom she mingled was to refine and elevate. Her life was a most beautiful exemplification of the laws of nature as taught in our ritual. Her childhood was like the spring of song and flowers; her womanhood like the effulgent light and brightness of summer; her matured age as satisfactory and complete as the perfect grain and fruit of autumn. Then like the leaves and roses of summer that had performed an important mission, she with them at the call of the frosts of autumn falls to earth.

"So soon may we, follow, when friendships decay,
And from loves shining circle the gems drop away.
When true hearts lie perished, and loved ones have flown
O, who would inhabit this bleak world alone."

She will be remembered for her many virtues and the good work she has done for this Order.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

It is very encouraging to note that the teachings and influence of the Grange in years past to encourage independence in voting has taken deep root with the masses. The ballot is the means by which the people express approval or dissatisfaction with political parties and public servants. Party is not the sacred thing in the minds of the people it once was. The closing words of Worthy Master Brigham in his annual address before the recent session of the

National Grange are so appropriate that I quote therefrom. He says:

"In recent years the political pendulum has been taking a wide range. The people express disapproval of one party at one election and of the other at the next. * * * Never before in the history of our country was every act, utterance, and vote of public officials scrutinized as they are today. Every election will be a call to judgment. Promises must be kept, mistakes will not be overlooked. The people demand sincerity, courage, statesmanship and patriotism, all of which comes in part from the quiet, yet potent influence of the Grange. * * * Defeat will follow defeat until public men and political parties learn to keep faith with the voters. Shams and shadows will not be accepted for the real substance of reform. The defeated will now have time to search for the causes if they are in doubt. The victors will do well not to mistake the marked disapproval of the one for the endorsement and approval of the other. The people have thoroughly demonstrated their ability and their purpose to chastise those who are unmindful of their demands."

TO CONCLUDE.

In closing I urge you to keep in remembrance the principles and the broad yet comprehensive work of the Grange. Never be discouraged and always persevere. Our progress may be slow at times but remember that we have, during the existence of the Order, accomplished great things and that fruitful opportunities are before us. All of the reforms and good works demanded by a great and progressive industrial interest cannot be performed in a day. Men who have become impatient and joined other organizations that promised to give all kinds of assistance and to revolutionize almost everything in a single season have been disappointed. We have every reason to be satisfied with the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry.

Our earnest efforts should be to make every Grange home in the state a place noted for good works, and then every member of the Order act as a committee of one to induce those farmers not members of the Order to join with us. So let us unitedly and devotedly work for the success of the year now to come.

With this session is closed my term of office. I shall ever hold in kind remembrance the kind words and earnest support given me by members of the Order from all parts of the state. And especially am I grateful to the Order and more experienced members, some of whom have been honored by the State Grange with high position. These have always been ready and willing to aid me with their counsel and encouragement. I can only regret that the Order has not made more progress during the two years that I have labored in my weak way for its advancement.

I ask for my successor the same degree of good will and support you have given me. My highest ambition is with the rank and file to work faithfully in bringing back our old-time membership, which with the experience of all these years would make the Grange a still greater power for good influence and deeds. I most earnestly urge upon each and all the importance of your coming together and the many questions of vital importance to the Order and its good name, which you are to consider. May your investigations be earnest and your conclusions wise.

Fraternally submitted,

GEO. B. HORTON.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL FINANCES.

At our last annual meeting we reviewed the financial and economic conditions of the country and commented at some length upon the disastrous policy of the government, and the inefficiency of its financial administration. During the past year there has been no improvement in this respect; matters have grown worse and worse with every month. The value of farm property and farm products, and all other products of labor, have been constantly falling, while the value of credit property and legal tender money has been constantly increasing. Debts incurred a year ago, and previous to that time, require 20 per cent more of the average farm products to pay the principle now than it would a year ago, and so with the average products of all other labor, while salaries of public officers and all incomes fixed by law remain the same, or have been increased. The government by this false and destructive financial policy of making gold, which is constantly increasing in value, the sole measure of credit values has embarrassed itself, and now comes forward as a borrower in competition with the debtors whom its financial policy has distressed. Having made it more profitable to hoard legal tender money than to invest it in any productive enterprise, it now comes in as a borrower for the sole purpose of hoarding a hundred millions more.

No intelligent person who considers the subject can expect a revival of industries under such conditions. With a full knowledge of these conditions, the controller of the currency and other treasury officers report all this hoarded legal tender money as in circulation, and thus reckon the circulation per capita as higher than a year ago. Those who have advocated this method of financial management, and are urging its continuance, point to these reports, and to the plethoric condition of the banks as evidence that there is now too much legal tender money in circulation. We might as well point to the fact that Lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie were overflowing with water all summer to prove that there was no drought or want of water in Michigan the past season, but too much, and point to the streams flowing into these lakes as evidences of a flood.

A financial policy that makes idle money more profitable than money invested in productive industry must necessarily cripple enterprise and diminish circulation. Thousands of manufacturing plants are lying idle, and millions of willing workmen are out of employment because the money required to buy materials to stock the plants and manufacture the finished product will buy more than the value of the output when finished.

It is acknowledged that the world's stock of gold is insufficient to form a safe and stable basis for the world's exchange of products and national, municipal, corporate and individual credit. As a natural and inevitable consequence, all free gold is placed upon the auction block and bid for by the gold standard nations to hoard for self protection. Under this system of finance safe circulation of individual and corporate credit depends upon the amount of free gold in existence. The gathering up and hoarding of free gold by the gold standard nations diminishes the supply while at the same time the demand is increased. As a natural and inevitable consequence, the purchasing power, or comparative value of gold, and all credit based upon gold, is increased. This increase has amounted to an average of 20 per cent over all other products of industry during the past year, so that the debtor finds that while he is paying 8 per cent interest on the mortgage or note he owes, he is also paying 20 per cent in addition as a premium on the value of the gold represented in his debt.

These conditions being generally recognized, many remedies are being suggested, and among them are the following five:

1. The free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. This is the Populist's plan.
 2. The retirement of all legal tender paper, and the repeal of the tax on state bank issues. This is the Chicago platform plan.
 3. The endorsement by the government of the private paper of banking corporations, with permission to such corporations to issue \$75,000 of government indorsed bills for every \$100,000 of paid up capital stock, and the deposit of \$30,000 of legal tender government paper with the United States Treasurer to be held as a guaranty fund. This is the plan of the President and Secretary of the Treasury.
 4. The Baltimore plan, which in substance is that a requisite number of individuals having capital of the value of \$50,000 or more may, by paying to the Treasurer of the United States 5 per cent of the capital of such combination as a safety fund, and giving the government the first lien upon the assets of such combination, have power to issue government guaranteed notes to the whole amount of their capital.
 5. That the government shall own the material from which the money of the country is to be made, whether it be gold, silver, nickel, copper or paper; that from such material it should issue a sufficient amount of legal tender money to maintain a stable measure of value, so that the debtor would not be oppressed, nor the creditor wronged by the fluctuations in value of the money standard.
- The first we are opposed to for reasons which we expressed in our report for 1889, and which changed conditions have rendered far more potent now than then. The second we oppose because it would turn loose the "wild cats" and "red dogs" of 1837 and 1857 to prey upon a defenseless and helpless people. The third is the plan proposed by the President and Secretary of the Treasury. We are opposed to this for three reasons: First, the government has no moral right to cause the people of the United States to enter into a co-partnership with private parties or corporations without the expressed consent of each individual to be bound thereby; second, the hoarding in the public treasury of the legal tender money of the country would deprive the debtor class of legal tender money with

which to pay their debts, and compel them to submit to such extortionate discounts as their creditors might see fit to exact; third, it is a discrimination in favor of the wealthy and against the poor. Men of wealth may still own, control, and have the use and income of their property, and at the same time draw interest upon 75 per cent of its value on their promissory notes, while the poor are obliged to pay interest on theirs. The Baltimore plan we regard as in some respects better and in other respects far worse than the President's plan. It is better in this, that it hoards less of the legal tender money; it is worse in that it makes no adequate provision for the redemption of bills in times of panics. The objections to this plan are the same as to the President's plan, but apply with greater force. The fifth is that which we have advocated in each of our reports for the past four years, and still believe to be the only safe and just financial policy that can be pursued.

The advocates of the second, third and fourth claim for them a great superiority over the first and fifth on account of their greater elasticity. Elasticity implies the power to contract as well as the power to expand. The power of the second proposition to expand, even to bursting, was fully exemplified in 1837 and again in 1857. The power of contraction by hoarding legal tender money and restricting its issue is sufficiently exemplified by present conditions. Money is a manufactured article, and like all other manufactured articles, its exchangeable value is subject to economic laws of supply and demand. When the supply is increased by expansion, its purchasing power falls, or, in other words, the average price of other products rise; when the supply is contracted by withdrawal, then its purchasing power will rise, or, in other words, the average price of other products will fall. The first wrongs the creditor, for he is obliged to take his pay in money of less value than the money he loaned; the second wrongs the debtor because it compels him to pay in money more valuable than that which he borrowed. Under the Chicago plan, the President's plan, or the Baltimore plan, either one, the banking corporations of this country kindly propose to take charge of the financial affairs of the people, furnish them with money of their own manufacture, and extend their circulation for the benefit of the debtor class so long as they can obtain ample security, and then as kindly contract their circulation for the benefit of the creditor class, and compel their debtors to either sacrifice their securities or pay the debt in dearer money.

We are opposed to placing any such power in the hands of banking corporations. We believe that the currency of the people should be supplied by the people and for the people through the instrumentality of their own government, that it should be made a full legal tender, non-elastic as to contraction, but with sufficient power as to expansion to meet the requirements of a growing country, and prevent the falling in value of the average products of labor. Claiming as we do that inasmuch as money is a manufactured article, depending upon United States laws for its legal tender quality, and the government alone having the right to manufacture and issue it, the government should own the material from which it is made, so that if the stamp of coinage or imprint of press adds anything to the value of the metal coined or paper issued, then the people, the force of whose laws give it that added value, should have the benefit of the unearned increment.

If, however, the views we express do not meet with the views of a majority of congress, rather than have the present disastrous policy continue until the next congress shall assemble, or the baneful policy of either the Chicago, the President's or the Baltimore plan adopted, we would favor a modification of the first proposition by providing for the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver of United States production at the ratio of 16 to 1, and placing an import duty on all foreign silver coin and silver bullion equal to the difference between the gold value of silver bullion in Europe and its coined value here. While this would be a donation to the American silver mine owners, which with the present production would give them \$37,000,000 a year, and a greater donation as production under such a stimulus increased; yet it would cost the people no money, and would add to the legal tender circulation \$75,000,000 a year at once, and more as the output increased.

SALE OF BONDS AND REDEMPTION OF LEGAL TENDER NOTES.

We condemn the sale of interest bearing government bonds for the purpose of purchasing gold with which to redeem United States treasury notes, while there is an abundance of silver for that purpose, we favor the redemption in silver coin of all government obligations which on their face are not made redeemable in gold. The process of redeeming greenbacks in gold whenever presented, then paying them out to be immediately returned for redemption again, and continuing the process, making of the greenbacks a rotary pump to exhaust the reservoir of gold, and compelling bonds to replenish it on pretense that it is necessary to keep the reservoir full to a certain amount to save the credit of the government, we regard as a cunningly devised scheme to furnish gold for exportation, and also diminish the free gold for ultimate redemption, and thus continue the depreciation of gold and all credits based upon it, and the depreciation of silver and all other products. Better let the reservoir become exhausted, and let the exporter of gold do his own shipping, and stop the decline in prices and the forced increase of debts by appreciation.

As we said a year ago, so long as every citizen of the United States is ready and willing to take legal tender government notes for anything and everything he has to sell, and every salaried officer, every employe, every contractor on the public works, and every pensioner on the public bounty, each and all prefer to be paid in such notes, we can see no necessity for the President and Secretary to go begging of London bankers and Wall street brokers for gold to keep up the credit of our government. Therefore, as long as government notes shall circulate at par, and the expenses of the government continue to exceed its income, we recommend that the deficit be provided for by the printing of, and payment in legal tender notes. This would increase the circulation needed, and at the same time save the interest on government bonds.

J. G. RAMSDELL, Chairman.
WALLACE E. WRIGHT,
R. H. TAYLOR,
F. W. REDFERN,
H. D. PLATT,
THOS. MARS,
GEO. B. HORTON,
JENNIE BUELL.

REPORT OF OVERSEER.

"Whatever we attempt to do let us strive to do well."

During my occupancy of the Overseer's chair my thoughts have frequently strayed to the above subject. Very many Patrons give the salutation as though they knew but little of its meaning and cared even less than they knew. An officer or delegate who gives the salutation imperfectly at the State Grange casts reflections upon his subordinate Grange at home. The old adage about behaving better at home than any other place is very good doctrine to preach, but then the majority of us don't do business that way. The salutation should be given in a business like method and performed as though we meant business. If every detail of Grange work is done with precision we shall accomplish something at every meeting no matter how few the number present. The subordinate Grange is a school where we can always learn something if we try. No student can learn without study. We should study the Grange work if we expect to receive benefits. Too many Patrons seem to think that their part of the business is simply to look on and see what the rest are going to do about it. A gentleman apprenticed his son to a blacksmith: "Now," said the man to the blacksmith, "My son is not much used to work and it is hardly necessary for him to get his hands and clothes all blackened over, just let him look on and see how you do it and he can learn the trade just as well." The smith could well afford to do this way as he was to be well paid for imparting instruction to the apprentice. After one year the father built a shop and after furnishing it with the necessary tools and other apparatus informed his son that he could now commence business for himself. "The first son that he could now commence business for himself," said the thing I want you to make is an ax. Take your time for it," said the proud father, "and when it is finished I will come and inspect your work." The young blacksmith selected a large piece of iron and had after pounding at it all day and doing considerable sweating he had reduced the piece of iron to something the shape of an ax. The next morning he commenced the task of making the hole for the helve. After another hard day's work without any success, for axes are not made that way, he put it into the fire, and after heating it white hot sent for his father. As the father entered the shop the son took the ax from the fire and plunged it into a tub of water. A thunderous sizzling and cloud of steam was the result. "Father," said the son, "I cannot make an ax, but just see what a beautiful racket I can make in that tub of water." I am almost afraid that some of our Patrons learn the Grange trade in that way, without even energy enough to furnish the racket. Very many, however, have received valuable benefits from their work and associations with the Grange. The injunction: "Whatever we attempt to do let us strive to do well," does not simply refer to our life and work in the

Grange order, but to every branch of home, farm and public life and work. A nice, tidy wife, with everything around the house in proper order, meals on time and well cooked, children's and husband's clothes just as they should be, neat and clean with no missing buttons, are all worthy of admiration, but it's love, smiles and courtesy that rounds out the perfect home. While the good housewife is nearly always expected to set these glorious examples, the husband and children should bear equally with her the burdens that are to be borne—assist her in smoothing over the little ruffles that will sometimes occur, that they may be better fitted to share with her the full luxuries of a happy home.

Husband, do you always before entering the house observe whether your boots or shoes are in proper condition? Do you always on entering the kitchen cast your eye around to see if the wood box is filled with suitable wood? Or if there are any slop pails that should be carried out? If you find any of these things that require attention, with strong and willing arm do you attend to it without waiting to be told? Do you attend to it at all? Do you treat your wife just as courteously and assist her in and out of the carriage just as nicely and willingly as you did before marriage? Please do not all speak at once, but remember that you are required to do all things well—that is, as well as you know how. Of course we can very much easier see defects in others than in ourselves—it's human to be that way. Some of these points that I have mentioned may seem trivial and of but little importance, but I tell you that it is the little grains of sand that form the solid earth on which we live, and it is these seemingly small, incidental matters that form the very foundation principles of a happy home and well spent lives. They often, if neglected, wreck the home and hopes of thousands.

This same Grange injunction about doing things well applies also to the farm. It applies to the farm much more than to any other branches of business. Most branches of business must be conducted properly or in a very short time the proprietor will be bankrupt. Not so with the farm, it will sometimes carry a shiftless farmer through some way until the very end. With the very best care and attention our crops will sometimes be a partial failure, but if we do our work well the result will almost always prove satisfactory.

Please do not leave your farm tools lying out in the yard or in the field. It's the very worst kind of economy. There is no leak on the farm equal to it. Say nothing about the lasting qualities, they run enough easier and nicer to pay well for keeping them well housed. You will be a better natured man and of much more importance to yourself and family if your tools are in nice running order. The man who loves and respects his wife and family and heeds these small items that I have mentioned will look well after his farm stock. It's part of the Grange teachings to be kind and yet courteous to your animals. Animals, especially horses and cows, require courteous treatment. You can not afford to treat them any other way. It will not pay financially, and it will not pay socially—for say what you will, the careful farmer will associate more or less with the animals under his care. "In our dealings with our fellow-men we must be honest, just, and fear not." You cannot cheat a man in a horse trade and elevate him very much by preaching morality to him thereafter. You cannot do him very much good anyway without first setting the example. The good we do our fellowmen pays much better than any business transaction, for we not only greatly benefit ourselves here below, but at the same time are laying up rewards for the life beyond.

The Grange was organized for the purpose of elevating the character and interests of all connected with the order. By doing this we benefit all mankind. You are not taught either by the scriptures nor the Grange to keep all the good things to yourselves but to impart them to others. In fact, in living and doing for others we are always benefiting ourselves. Any work that we may do for our Grange order will not only help to promulgate the organic principles, but we will reap four-fold ourselves.

The little girl that was asked why it was that everybody seemed to love her replied, that she supposed it was because she loved everybody. "Whatever we sow that shall we also reap." It has been said that the bad pennies always return. There is surely a promise that bread cast upon the water will return after many days. It stands us well in hand to see just what kind of bread we are casting out, else we may be compelled to consume some very poor nourishment somewhere in the future.

This world is upon the whole a pretty good place to live in if we only lay hold of those things that are good and reject those that are bad. You may not be able to gather figs of thistles, but you can gather thistles of figs if you want to. Some people seem to be able to find a great many bad things in the Bible, and yet there are a great many good things there if we only search for them.

A good Patron places faith in God—nurtures hope, dispenses charity, and is noted for fidelity."

M. T. COLE,
Overseer.

REPORT OF STEWARD.

Since straws began to indicate the direction of the wind, object lessons have been growing in use and popularity.

The Savior of the world made frequent use of them while teaching upon earth. Later we read of one who saw an apple fall from its parent tree and the discovery of one of the most important laws of the universe was the result. Still later another saw the lid of a tea kettle rise by the force of the steam beneath, which resulted in that power becoming the chief motor of the world. Less than a hundred years ago very diminutive blackboards were introduced into a few of our common schools, for the use of a few of the more advanced pupils. Today we frequently see all the available wall space within reach, devoted to their use and pupils of all ages use them.

Globes, maps, charts and philosophical apparatus are used to aid the mind in comprehending lessons through the medium of the eye.

The irrepressible drummer is to be found in every village, and merchandise of all kinds is sold largely by sample. Even the fruit tree vender is anxious to show specimens or cuts of fruit, that is certain to grow from trees bought of him. And in moral and social matters we are enjoined to put our light on a candle stick and not under a bushel.

Garfield's advice to those who would succeed was, "Put yourself in line with the leading thought of the day."

Is the Grange school in line with the leading thought of other schools and of business?

Are we working with the zeal that is necessary in other schools or pushing our claims with the energy and persistency of a drummer? Let us introduce the blackboard with the decree that it must be used at every session. The average, percentage, sum and difference, of various things can be shown upon it in a much more impressive manner than when merely recited. Frequently the best demonstration of a proposition can be made with drawn figures, besides other uses that would soon make the board a necessity.

Again, suppose corn to be the subject under discussion. Request each brother to bring a few specimen ears, all the better if on the stalk. Compare the diameter of cob, length of kernel, length and weight of ear, and size of stalk, and in all cases use the object wherever practicable.

This method is being tried with gratifying results. At a recent meeting when fruit was the theme, the specimens were used in comparing different varieties, and the marked difference in the same variety in color, texture and quality, grown under different conditions as to fertility, cultivation, pruning, etc., was clearly shown, with many other characteristics which would not generally be remembered or clearly understood, if not seen.

Visiting schools is the imperative duty of every patron of a school, and if done by every "Patron of Husbandry" would furnish material for several sessions during the year, care being taken that nothing be said that would be detrimental to any teacher's success. Holding an occasional session on the farm of a member could hardly fail to be of great value. Many object lessons would present themselves, and perhaps the visited member would receive the greatest benefit by putting his farm in condition to receive company. But enough has been said to bring the subject before your minds and should any good results follow, our object will have been attained.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
A. P. GRAY,
Steward.

REPORT OF ASSISTANT STEWARD.

WORTHY MASTER, SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE—Again we meet to review the labors of Grange work of the year just closing, to devise ways and mature plans for more successful work, we trust, for the years to come. Very much of what that will be depends on our work here and on carrying out that work after returning to our different fields of labor. The year 1894 is enrolled and success and failure are before us, and it is for each

(Continued on page 7.)

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

Published on the first and third Thursdays of every month.

Kenyon L. Butterfield, Editor and Manager.
LANSING, MICH.

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NEXT ISSUE JANUARY 3.

OUR WORK.

The following has been approved by the State Grange as a fair statement of the objects the Grange of Michigan has in view, and the special lines along which it proposes to work. We hope every Grange in the state will work earnestly in all these departments, so that by a more united effort we shall rapidly increase our numbers, extend our influence, and attain more and more completely those ends which we seek.

OUR OBJECT

is the Organization of the Farmers for their own Improvement Financially, Socially, Mentally, Morally.

We believe that this improvement can in large measure be brought about:

1. (a.) By wider individual study and general discussion of the business side of farming and home keeping.
- (b.) By co-operation for financial advantage.
2. (a.) By frequent social gatherings, and the mingling together of farmers with farmers, and of farmers with people of other occupations.
- (b.) By striving for a purer manhood, a nobler womanhood, and a universal brotherhood.
3. (a.) By studying and promoting the improvement of our district schools.
- (b.) By patronizing and aiding the Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations in their legitimate work of scientific investigation, practical experiment, and education for rural pursuits.
- (c.) By maintaining and attending farmers' institutes; reading in the Reading Circle; establishing and using circulating libraries; buying more and better magazines and papers for the home.
4. (a.) By diffusing a knowledge of our civil institutions and teaching the high duties of citizenship.
- (b.) By demanding the enforcement of existing statutes, and by discussing, advocating, and trying to secure such other state and national laws as shall tend to the general justice, progress, and morality.

Patrons will read with pride the splendid reports that appear in this issue.

"It was the best State Grange ever held." This was a common expression heard from the lips of the "old timers."

THE STATE GRANGE.

The recent State Grange was a business session. The committee appointments were unusually strong and the reports were able and to the point, bearing marks of thought and care. There were few "crank" measures introduced and they were promptly squelched. Among the delegates were some of the strongest farmers in Michigan. It was a body to be proud of.

The best feature of the meeting was the evidence, on all sides, of better organization. We believe that the Grange of Michigan is prepared to enter upon the most enduring and substantial work in its history.

THE STATE GRANGE.

[Reported by B. E. Benedict.]

TUESDAY.

The Michigan State Grange met in annual session in representative hall, Lansing, Tuesday, Dec. 11, and was called to order by Worthy Master Horton at 10 a. m. with nearly all the delegates present, others arriving on later trains through the day. The desks in front of the lady officers were finely decorated with flowers from the Agricultural College, and fruit contributed by A. P. Gray, of Archie, Mrs. A. A. Leighton, of Old Mission, and R. H. Taylor of Shelby, the former bringing about three bushels of assorted varieties. Music of an excellent character and variety was furnished throughout the session by a choir of six voices from Fremont Center, Sanilac county.

After opening the session and appointing a committee on credentials Overseer Cole was called to the chair and the Master retired to make up his committees. Resolutions were rapidly introduced by the delegates and referred to proper committees.

At 11 o'clock the Grange went into open session, and Dr. Kedzie gave a talk on "Pure foods." He first showed some jelly made in Detroit of glucose, starch, and "tartarine," and then spoke of white winter wheat for which this locality is specially adapted and for which the state millers' association has requested him to select some new variety. J. Sterling Morton says quit raising wheat, but the only sterling quality he has is his name. We must raise wheat, stock, and babies, and the only way to make them pay is to raise the best varieties.

Among many varieties of wheat examined he spoke of four. The Currell, originated in Virginia, and is a red wheat with white flour. The Ruby has been raised with success in Michigan. Dawson's Golden Chaff originated in Ontario eight years ago, and has great promise. It has produced in open field culture thirty-five bushels per acre on an average for its originator. The Buda-Pesth from Austria, gives the highest priced flour in Europe, and the berry has gained in size in Michigan and

promises well. In the afternoon the Grange assembled at 2 o'clock and listened to an interesting discussion of "Weeds," by Dr. W. J. Beal. A fine collection of seeds, weeds, and appliances like sprays, etc., were on exhibition in the capitol postoffice room. Among them was a sample of the Russian thistle, which the doctor said was valuable as a stimulant. Following this short address came the long and excellent address of Master Horton.

Then Dairy and Food Commissioner Storrs was introduced in open session and gave a brief address, urging co-operation in making the work of his new department more efficient, as it is of great importance financially to farmers that unadulterated products only go on the market. Farmers are robbed of a moderate profit that unprincipled men may gain an enormous profit on products that have no more right to appear on the market than those of the counterfeiter. Fifteen thousand dollars would not be too much to make the work effective.

Committees were appointed to confer with the state board of agriculture in regard to the admission of ladies to the Agricultural College and to an increase in the number of farmers' institutes to be held annually.

Tuesday evening the lady officers of the State Grange and the woman's work committee gave a pleasant informal reception in the governor's parlors. Unfortunately the governor was absent, having accepted an invitation to go to Ann Arbor.

WEDNESDAY.

Wednesday morning saw the bulk of the resolutions introduced and placed in the hands of the proper committees. Lecturer Crosby, Ceres, Flora, and Pomona, gave interesting annual reports. Bro. Campbell, of the permanent committee on legislation, appointed last year, read an excellent report, urging a readjustment of taxation and some changes in legislation, and in salaries of certain state officials, raising some and lowering others, especially the free gift of \$2,000 annually made by the last legislature to each member of the supreme court. Wednesday afternoon was given over to the special order of election of officers, and Master Horton expedited business by introducing a second set of ballot counters. This was a practical application of the reform advocated in counting election returns and is worth a trial by the legislature.

At the evening session Mrs. Mayo and Mrs. Hinds reported from the woman's work committee in regard to fresh-air-outings for working girls, women, and children of the cities, and results of school visitation by women of the Grange. An interesting feature was the reading of extracts of letters from givers and receivers of the fresh-air-outings. Bro. Hutchins then read the report of the permanent committee on education, urging teaching of agriculture in the common schools as in Canada, extension of farmers' institutes, increase of special courses at the Agricultural College like the dairy course, admission of ladies thereto, and several other good things.

THURSDAY.

Thursday morning Chaplain Mayo, Overseer Cole, Secretary Buell, Treasurer Strong, Steward Gray, Assistant Steward Martin, and Gate-keeper Carlisle made excellent reports. The executive committee reported on national finances and after earnest discussion it was adopted. Mrs. Mary Spencer, state librarian, was then introduced in open session and gave a brief explanation of plans to increase the value of the state library by the introduction of the New York plan of circulating libraries of 50 or 100 volumes that are sent out on application and payment of an annual fee of \$3 or \$5 to pay transportation. It was voted to place the GRANGE VISITOR in the hands of Master Horton and Pastmaster Luce, who will consider several plans proposed for its publication.

Thursday afternoon impressive memorial exercises were held in honor of Sisters Harty H. Woodman and Julia Remington, and Bro. John H. Forster. The finance committee reported the books of the secretary and the treasurer as correct and in perfect condition. On their recommendation the salaries of the master and secretary were reduced \$100 each. The committee on dormant Granges reported in favor of more vigorous work in organization and reorganization, believing that now was an auspicious time for Grange work.

Thursday evening was given over to the giving of the fifth and sixth degrees, which were conferred on fourteen, and thirty-six persons respectively.

FRIDAY.

Friday morning opened the last and busiest day of the session. A short time was given to Secretary Slocum, of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, a mutual benefit organization recently organized under the new law and a committee was appointed to consider the plan of the company. D. G. McClure gave the report of the committee on education. The section advocating a new state normal school for the northern part of the state was rejected owing to the stringency of the times mainly.

The committee on agriculture reported and a committee of three was appointed to confer with the governor on the subject of increase of farmers' institutes; later they reported a favorable interview with him and the State Grange favors an appropriation of \$5,000 per annum instead of \$2,000 now used. A banner with the motto, "A farmers' institute in every county" was hung out over the speakers' chair amid great applause.

The committee on legislative action as usual had the greatest number of topics to consider; their report was well given and most of their recommendations were concurred in. The committee on Pomona Granges urged more earnest work on fifth degree members and holding of Pomona meetings, institutes and meetings in connection with school work with published programs and reports of the meetings. "Advertise, educate, and agitate."

The transportation committee reported in favor of the development of deep waterways and the strict enforcement of the laws governing railway passenger rates.

The committee on good of the Order also gave a good report, and other minor committees reported, closing that line of work. The topics introduced and considered by these committees were numerous and varied in character, covering a wide range of interests. Among the resolutions adopted we find the following subjects: appointment of a tax statistician to consider a readjustment of burdens; changing may to shall in law requiring assessors to swear those whom they are assessing.

At the close of the morning session Mrs. Mayo, on behalf of the members of the Grange, presented a gold locket and chain to Mertie Estella Gardner, the three months old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gardner, of the choir. Mr. Gardner responded to the surprise gift. In the afternoon Superintendent E. P. Church, of the school for the blind, was introduced and several children from different counties of the state gave a few interesting exercises illustrating their instruction.

Friday evening brought the final exercises. Bro. Thos. Mars, past master and retiring member of the executive committee, after eighteen years service, installed the officers elect, after which Bro. F. W. Redfern made a few remarks pertaining to the growth and progress of the Order, alluding to the baby of the morning session and calling on Bro. Mars, the old man of the evening, to stand by its side for contrast and comparison he gave him a beautiful gold headed cane suitably inscribed to which Bro. Mars responded happily.

During the sessions recitations were given by Sisters Allis, Ladd, and Leighton, and by Brothers Ladd and Heck, and a song by Misses Myrtle and Hazel Karr, after informal speeches by master, overseer, lecturer, chaplain, and Bro. Ramsdell the State Grange was closed in form and the beautiful Traverse county fruit was divided among those present.

The session has been one of very high excellence. A large amount of work has been done and was well directed into harmonious lines by the master, who was able and prompt in action. The work was well considered by the committees and the discussions were prompt, forcible, and well balanced. The speaking and singing that interspersed the exercises were all pleasing. The session is declared the best ever held by the State Grange.

May each year mark new progress and development of its work and attainments.

F. H. R. C.

Motto—"Begin; keep at it."

WHAT THEY THINK OF IT.

Several Readers in F. H. R. C., tell how they Regard the Course, and how they Work at it.

Not Reading Much.

I am interested in the success of the Farm Home Reading Circle, but am sorry to say I have had no time to give it any attention since I became a member.

I hope to have some time in the coming winter to give to that cause and will do what I can to interest others.

W. W. SPRAGUE.

Foppa.

From a College Reader.

I have been, and still am very much interested in the Farm Home Reading Circle. I am getting the books as I can, one at a time, and am reading them at every opportunity. My college work keeps me busy most of the time, but I have the books at hand, and whenever I have a half hour of leisure, I take up one of them and read.

I like best to take up a subject topically; e. g., just now I am studying dairying. I read the book "Dairyman's Manual," by Stewart, then in Curtis' "Cattle, Horses, Sheep and Swine," I study the history of the different breeds of dairy cattle. The history leads on to the breeding of dairy cattle, and Miles' "Stock breeding" comes to help me in this subject. From breeding, the next step is to "Feeding Animals" by Stewart. From the feeding of animals it

is but a step to the silo, soils and crops, talks on manures, etc.

Hoping that this idea may be of help to others as it has been to me, I remain

Yours sincerely,

WILLFORD J. MCGEE.

Agricultural College.

Will it Pay?

In entering upon the course of the Farm Home Reading Circle, as with any work of importance, the first question that a practical man will ask is, "Will it pay? Will the benefits be a satisfactory return for the time and money invested?" For it must be understood at the beginning that if the course is properly pursued it involves an outlay of many hours and several dollars.

The answer may be for one class of readers, no; for another, most decidedly, yes. If the course is taken up with the expectation that it will direct the reader how to make two dollars where he now makes one, without any extra effort on his part, he will be disappointed, and deservedly so. The course will be a failure, the money expended will be little better than thrown away, and the time wasted. But if one takes up the course with an eye to the benefits to come from a better understanding of his business, which will enable him to form better plans, use his brain more and consequently his hands to better advantage, then the returns will repay the outlay many fold, to say nothing of the satisfaction which comes from the broader views he will have obtained, and the excellent mental training afforded.

It will not be denied that the number of reading, thinking farmers is increasing. "Book farming" is no longer a reproach, while the successful man who does not take and carefully read from one to half a dozen agricultural papers is about as rare as a white crow. He may not always be willing to acknowledge that he derives any benefit from the papers, but if he is a progressive man his methods are constantly changing from year to year, and are affected more or less by what he has read. He does not farm in the same manner now that he did five or ten years ago, and will probably change as much more in the future.

The Reading Circle seems most of all adapted to the needs of the young farmer. The older men may consider that it teaches them little, but when they reflect that the books are made up from the practical experience of many farmers through several years, and consider how valuable this knowledge would have been to them could they have had it when they began, instead of learning from experience, they will understand its importance to the beginner.

The course is especially valuable to many young men in the cities and towns who would willingly turn their attention to the soil if they understood it better.

Lastly, but perhaps most important of all, is the interest awakened by such a course, which makes work something besides drudgery. It is the pleasure one finds in his work which distinguishes the artist from the mere laborer. The successful man likes his work and has an interest in it, while the man who fails is usually the one who has no interest in his work, but labors merely from necessity, which is the worst form of drudgery.

A READER.

DON'T YOU SEE?

AIR—"LITTLE BROWN JUG."

[The following song was written by Brother F. S. Karr of Lansing, and sung at a meeting of Capital Grange in September. By request it was sung at the recent meeting of the State Grange, and by a unanimous vote ordered printed in the proceedings of the Grange with the names of the two little singers, Myrtle and Hazel Karr.]

When I go out upon the farm,
John and I, go arm in arm.
We walk and talk, and laugh with glee,
Two jolly old Grangers, don't you see?

CHORUS.

Ha, ha, ha, it's you and me,
I love the Grange, and the Grange loves me;
Ha, ha, ha, don't you see,
John and I, and the Grange makes three.

And now since I have joined the Grange,
John has bought me a bran-new range;
He loves biscuit, I love tea,
Two jolly old Grangers, don't you see?

When John and I attend the Grange,
We talk all subjects there in range;
John shows the boys how to handle a rake,
And I tell the girls how to make light cake.

Says Mary Jones to Sister Brown,
You're the happiest woman in this town;
'Tis easily explained says Mrs. B.,
I love the Grange, and the Grange loves me.

Let every farmer now agree,
To join the Grange and happy be;
We'll laugh and sing and shout with glee,
I love the Grange, and the Grange loves me.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address,

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON WOMAN'S WORK.

WORTHY MASTER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS—We submit to you for your consideration the annual report of your committee on Woman's Work.

Early in the beginning of the year there came to us a letter saying that ill health, coupled with the necessity of complete rest, compelled the resignation of our earnest and efficient co-laborer Mary Sherwood Hinds. It was a matter of deep concern to your committee. Anxiety for her speedy recovery, coupled with a willingness to do all in our power for her, caused Sister Royce and myself with the consent of our master to assume the work, and do the best we could.

We felt Sister Hinds' loss especially in the line of school work and also by her inability to counsel with us in regard to other lines of labor. The school work through her efforts last year was well established, as was evidenced by the interest taken in it by patrons throughout the state.

The school circular blanks as sent out last year by the superintendent of public instruction were again used this past year. Committees were appointed for visiting schools, who in a careful, conscientious manner filled out the blanks. Some criticisms were made which brought the attention of school boards, teachers and parents to some existing evils of such a nature as to lower the standard of morality among the pupils. The kindly spirit of these criticisms can but result in more care and attention on the part of those in authority.

Many helpful words of encouragement and good will to teachers and pupils by these visiting committees have tended to stimulate to more thorough work on the part of both.

Our circulars have not been at all sufficient for the demand. In our extremity we wrote the Superintendent of Public Instruction who informed us the whole supply was exhausted. We recommend that circulars with a suitable list of questions be again issued to us from the proper authority, that they be used by competent committees in order that our common schools may advance in general usefulness.

We are pleased to state that our school circular blank and the work done through its agency this past year has received the hearty sanction of our National Lecturer, Bro. Messer, who expressed himself not only in sympathy with it but urged that it be carried on with such changes as advancement in the work suggested, as they are the bed rock of our civilization.

Under this head we feel that we must notice several criticisms that have been made by these school visiting committees as to the rhetorical exercises, as conducted in some of the schools, and the great need of a school speaker whose tendencies shall be elevating and refining. One reports that she visited a school of sixty pupils and listened for nearly half a day to recitations by the children, that in her judgment, we, of no literary or ethical value whatever; some of the dialogues being positively debasing; teaching neither good morals, good manners, or good English. We very much favor rhetorical exercises and fully realize the need of some good source from which refining, instructive and entertaining selections may be made.

We strongly recommend that women use the power of the franchise given them, by attending the annual school meetings, voting at the same, and working for the election of at least one good practical woman on the school board.

As soon in the year as practicable we urged through the columns of the Grange Visitor, that the Woman's Work Committee in Pomona and subordinate Granges should see that special work was prepared for special days, that Flora, Ceres and Pomona hold court, each in their respective seasons, and that Children's Day should be observed with suitable exercises.

Fairs, festivals, socials, concerts, lectures, all have been assumed by these committees on Woman's Work. Let me give you the reports of just three out of the many we have received.

"Through our committee a debt of \$45.00 was wiped out, beside the purchasing of some necessary articles for our hall." Another reports "\$37.00 in our committee's treasury, besides new curtains and new matting for our hall." Another, "our committee provided for four special meetings, and when our lecturer is not present we always take charge of the program."

As we compare the reports of last year, and those of this, one thing impresses us very forcibly that these committees are working in a much more systematic and consequently a much more satisfactory manner. Many have a secretary and treasurer, call meetings for work in their line, and lay plans for work throughout the year.

The Grange Visitor social for aiding in extending the subscription of that paper was inaugurated last spring through our committee.

Last year the State Grange adopted a resolution relative to giving poor children from the cities, working girls and mothers with babies, a two weeks' outing in the country during the summer. This work was assumed by your committee, and though it was a new departure, little understood by either patrons or people in the city, without a single dollar as a basis of operations, it has been much more successful than our fondest hopes.

We have tried our best to ascertain just how many have been cared for. This has not been possible for us to do, because some have not reported, but we are safe at placing it at more than one hundred.

One Grange reported twenty, another twelve, three reported eight, another seven, several reported six, four reported three, three reported four and many two.

As we said the work was not understood by the patrons. To illustrate: It was reported to me that the patrons of one of the best Granges in the state expected that a car load of children would be shipped to them and that they could come and get what they wanted. A sister wrote: I am not strong, have little spare room, and seem to have all to do that my strength will permit. Will I be obliged to aid the work? If I do not, must I withdraw from the order? Though the work was new we had more orders than we could fill. People in the city did not understand the work, and this troubled us very much.

It did seem such a pity that people never opened their hearts and homes, and there was no one to fill them.

In our extremity we were obliged to appeal to individual friends in the cities. Our appeal to Grand Rapids was placed at once in the hands of Miss Emma Field, secretary of the organized city charities. Through Miss Field's extended knowledge of this class of people in the city, many were furnished for the patrons.

Miss Field in a beautiful letter acknowledged the great benefit of the work, thanking us for the same and bidding it God speed.

In Jackson my sister, Anna Bryant Gillette, secretary of the Y. W. C. A., aided us, and would gladly have done more, but business and needed rest took her from the city just when the work was most needed.

In Detroit it was the same, Miss Silver, secretary of the Y. W. C. A. of that city upon whom we much depended, sent out just two working girls, and then she left the city for her vacation. At this time every week was bringing us orders for children from the Granges.

Again we had to appeal to personal friends, and they proved friends not only to ourselves but to the work. Mrs. General Orlando M. Poe, a lady whose heart and hands are ever ready to suffering, came to our aid. To Mrs. Poe and Mrs. Ledyard, wife of Superintendent Ledyard of the Michigan Central railroad, are the Granges of Michigan under great obligations. Mrs. Poe visited charity hospitals for convalescents, stores, shops and factories for working girls, explaining as best she could the plan of the work. People in the city could not understand it. Two weeks in the country free? The Grange. It was something they had never heard of, and as Mrs. Poe said it was like going out into the highways and byways and compelling them to go out. There was not a cent for transportation, no one to make them ready, take them to the trains, or receive them when they came back. Mrs. Ledyard out of the kindness of her heart furnished transportation by passes over the Michigan Central, and Superintendent Ledyard even solicited passes over other roads. Let us thank God for such stewards and such stewardship.

We felt that something must be done especially in Detroit in order to facilitate the work for another year. A few mistakes had been made, and we wanted them not to occur again. Worthy Master Horton kindly favored our going into the city. Mrs. Poe wrote, "You must come, our people must know more about this work than I am able to tell them. It must not stop, we have too many needing just such outings." We were surprised at the interest taken in the work. Physicians, hospital superintendents, clergymen, business men, the best of Detroit's citizens were enthusiastic over the work and began at once to formulate plans for work another year. Mrs. Poe opened her house at which an informal meeting was held. The work and its needs were canvassed and a formal meeting was called for the following week at the same place, to which every charitable organization in the city was invited to send a delegate. Twenty-two delegates were present, and a committee of three to be known as the Grange Fresh Air-Outing Committee, consisting of Mrs. Park, Mrs. Poe and Miss Mary Brady as secretary was appointed, who will have charge of the work in that city another year, and I am safe in saying that no orders will be sent there another year but that will be filled.

The efficiency of a work is best known by its results. In October

we sent a list of questions to the Grange Visitor relative to the work of this special committee in Pomona and Subordinate Granges. We also sent out twenty-five postal cards with a nearly similar list of questions to the chairmen of committees and ten personal letters to people that we knew had given outings to children and others this past summer.

To our surprise there came just forty replies. Not one favored the discontinuing of either the state or subordinate committees in this line of woman's work. A few said very frankly that they had done nothing, the fault being entirely their own, and not owing to any unfriendliness they had toward the work itself.

Out of the forty only two reported adversely to the Fresh Air Outing. One thought the work belonged to the churches, the Young Woman's Christian Association, King's Daughters and other kindred organizations. The other objected on account of the work the farmers' wives had to do. These two sisters are most earnest Grange workers, not only that, but we esteem them highly as personal friends. They only see things in a different light. Their hearts are all right, while their hands are full of good work for others. We love them and respect their opinions while we differ in thought.

In favor of the work let us quote from a few of the letters that spoke in favor of the work. "I thought my home small and poor and my children not very well clothed, but when those two children came and devoured with such a keen relish our plain fare, when the best they had was poorer than our poorest, when all out doors was a marvel and a delight, I said to myself I am glad I live in God's country and have enough and a little to spare. I shall take one or more another year."

Another: "How did I enjoy the children? Just splendidly. They had a lively time and we enjoyed it with them."

"I have been very ill and thought I could not possibly take any, but when I grew better and stronger we took to our home a poor homeless boy for a few weeks and now he is nicely situated in our daughter's family."

"We were well pleased with the children." "We enjoyed the children very much, they were very bright and exceedingly well behaved."

"We enjoyed those that came to us more than I can express. They were a real blessing to us, and we could hardly let them go from us. We have learned from experience that glorious truth, that it is more blessed to give than to receive."

"We enjoyed the children very much, we had two little girls, and I have only words of praise as to their behavior, and can say the same of all who were entertained. I want to have mine back again next year. Those that did not take want to another year. The children all seemed to have such a happy time. The little girls we had were so obedient and affectionate that we could not help loving them. Success to this work of love."

One woman not a member of the order took two little girls for more than three weeks. They were very destitute of clothing. With a little help from friends, she gave one twenty-two new garments, including hat, shoes and cloak. The other eighteen garments, including a new hat. The clothing was new and mostly for winter wear.

Another. A member of the order took a poor woman and a baby, with some help she furnished them with thirty-nine garments. I feel it has been a real pleasure to care for them. "It has benefited us quite as much as them, by taking the selfishness out of us."

Another sister after making some just criticisms in a very kindly spirit says, "Do not think I am finding fault, I only am anxious that the work shall meet those who most need it. We were all delighted with the girls and plan to have them again next year."

"Think it was a great benefit to Miss —; I am sure it was no burden to us. She slipped so quietly into our ways, was so quiet and ladylike we hardly knew she was about, she had passed through deep suffering."

"Did it pay us to take them? Yes, most emphatically. The dear little things won all hearts and although from eleven to fourteen sat down to every meal while they were with us, we did not once wish them away. I think if each member of the Grange in all our broad land could once witness the keen enjoyment that a taste of country life gives to the poor little ones from the city, they would not grudge the little that it takes to give them the pleasure. At the same time their hearts would be filled with a deeper love for all God's little ones, and thus a two fold blessing would follow. I trust the Grange will not drop this noble work."

"Personally I am a better woman because of the work. The two sweet girls who came to our home, one a seamstress in almost the last stages of consumption and who has since entered into rest, the other a time keeper in a large shoe factory, brought to our home such a beautiful spirit of love and loveliness, and left upon it a benediction. Listen to what the dying girl said to me, with her wasted arm about my neck, whispering for lack of breath. "The going to your home has made the waiting hours shorter and brighter. Every day that I was there is as vivid and distinct as though it were but yesterday. I live it all over and over again, as I lie here so weary, waiting anxiously, waiting for the summons to leave this poor worn out body. My everlasting love to you and yours. The other, a beautiful girl worn and weary with constant confinement in her factory office writes me: "I wish it was possible to tell you what my visit to your quiet country home meant to me. I enjoyed every moment, I feel like a different girl after my two weeks' rest and fun, and came back to my work with new courage, finding it easier to work the rest of the year."

A woman who found rest in one of the beautiful Grange homes of this state for herself and her two little ones said in the thankfulness of her heart, "I cannot understand why God has put it into somebody's heart to be so good to me and mine, I know too well how undeserving I am, by almost losing faith in God's goodness, thinking he had forsaken me."

To us, the very best feature of the whole work is the fact that four homeless children have found good, permanent homes. This alone has paid for every cent of money expended, every effort put forth for the work as well as for every anxious thought that has been given it.

Is it necessary that we urge the work for another year? They will only be sent as they are ordered, and then under seal of the Grange. They will be inspected by a competent physician that no contagious diseases may be brought to our homes. We pay no transportation, but take them when most convenient to us, giving to them shelter, food and the necessary care, with love and hearty good cheer.

MARY A. MAYO.

MARY SHERWOOD HINDS.

LECTURER'S REPORT.

TO THE WORTHY MASTER AND MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE—Again in annual session we meet today our official associates, with the presence of many others whom we have met here before, while we greet with great pleasure many whom we congratulate upon their having the honor bestowed upon them by their associates at home, which affords the opportunity of the pleasant relationship and participation with us, in this session, while we can assure many of them, that sight of their faces carries us in imagination and memory, away to their pleasant homes and the membership about them, where we have had the pleasure of being, and which form the bright pictures in the history of our Grange work.

As we come, tremblingly we look for whom we shall miss. At this time, with others it is she whose lifelong devotion to the interests of youth, and the elevation of the intellectual standing and opportunities of women; with her broad and comprehensive view of the aims and precepts of this—her chosen Order—has engraven the name of Sister Harty H. Woodman, upon the hearts and memory of the membership throughout the entire nation, where it will ever shine—brighter than if cast in letters of silver or pillars of brass, and more enduring than if chiseled in piles of granite.

Let us turn from mingling our sorrow with that of our Brother, draw nearer about him, and may the inspiration of our fraternal sympathy sustain and comfort his lonely waiting.

The mariner on distant seas takes bearings of planets, lights and headlands, and tracing their coincidence upon his chart finds his own exact position, and is enabled to quite accurately forecast the influences bearing good or evil effect upon his voyage.

Thus too, perhaps the farmer can take points upon the movement of current events, upon the tidal effect of the position of associating industries and their bearing upon his—be enabled upon the chart of past recorded experiences and results to find his true position, and the variation of his relationship to surrounding industries and professions, and as reasonably to note the influences which have made those variations in the results of the past, and forecast the course of his future progress with their influence upon his success or failure.

The mariner turns aside from marked obstructions without questioning the authority of cautionary signals, and the owners of the industry of which he is only an operating guide or director ever watchful of their interests and their servants' success, not only provide liberally for their assistance and protection to land safely, but whenever international intercourse shall restrict their privileges, or when persistent currents shall turn shifting sands into bars of

obstruction; how quickly they call upon the strong power and means of the government to clear the way, and furnish protection and support that individual enterprise shall be assured of success. While representatives of every other industry or profession express their harmony of relations, and chime the appeal and acquiesce in their demands, even suffering sacrifice that this neighbor may succeed.

Piled productions of foreign lands and cheap labor bar the doors of our agricultural storehouses, while increasing unmovable surplus, produced by inflated valuation of labor—strives to support with declining valuation of products—an unchanged rating of values of fees, salaries, charges, and margins of profits in every office, profession, or industry—the base of whose pivotal bearing must rest on agriculture—and whose continued progress of success or failure will ever turn sooner or later with the growth or depression of agriculture.

The strain of mind and intellectual ability of the farmer seems immovably bent in directing his faculties, strength and possessions to the increase of products, rather than the successful disposition of them, upon the fostering of profitable relations of other industries and professions, rather than the protection and maintenance of his own. Frequently he willingly associates his support and influence with those engaged in the others, unmindful of the opportunities thus made available by them in influencing legislation, judicial definition of rights and privileges, or the relations and practices of industrial and commercial intercourse, even jealous of the success of any association of his co-laborers, whose representatives ever plead too feebly his rights at the bar of the court of the world's industries.

The fascinating influence of apparent success of other callings, and the seeming ready opportunity to acquire it, constantly draws away a majority of the bright minds among the youth upon the farms. Thus leaving with the growth of population, a correspondingly smaller per cent of leading minds to the aggregate of the calling, making an increasing difficulty to keep the standing of intellectual ability of the agricultural population, while the increasing proportion of foreign element engaging in the calling makes harder the task of the representative ability of the industry to influence the mass.

Pursuant to these plans, many routes of campaign work were nearly outlined with clearly budding promises of success. Through our correspondence and system of deputy work, the awakening of a great interest showed plainly in localities where Grange work has never before been presented. However as the season advanced there seemed to come forebodings of the strained financial conditions, which were unexpectedly crippling the means of success, and thwarting the result of those plans however well undertaken. Therefore few routes were covered, and many appointments left open. And by the tone of our correspondence we are assured that while the minds of many of the people were favorably set for organization, their hands were unwillingly tied from completing the work.

The educational work of the Grange among the farmers is the broadest field and noblest work which any association can engage in. And step by step with each year's lessons, more and more yet has been added to the accumulations of success, while new fields and increasing opportunities for influence ever come pressing into view. Whatever shall make the most indelible impression upon the mind and character of a person, must be begun in youth and grow with a growing intellect.

To change the attractive influence of the social and dramatic character of Grange programs, to such as small include the greatest amount of institute discussion and instruction, with the harmonious mingling of those educational subjects which should bring the school work of youth, student, and teacher, into union with that of Grange and home, has been our most earnest and thoughtful study. By the assistance of woman's committees, the committee on Education, the Farm Home Reading Circle, with also the kind cooperation of school commissioners and teachers, a series of successful achievements have been recorded in various localities, and it is gratifying to accord the credit due to Subordinate and Pomona Grange Lecturers for their cheerful cooperation and able efforts to make "Lecturer's hour," and "Educational work of the Grange" a success.

After the session of a year ago, plans were sought and made by our Worthy Master, to push with more than usual vigor, every available means for the spread of organization and revival. And merited praise is due him for the untiring efforts and apparently complete system of carefully made arrangements, which were carried on until the opening of the spring work upon the farms. This work, to this time most entirely carried on by correspondence, the aid of deputies and assistants in unorganized counties, was, and still remains little known and less realized by those not in touch with it. These lessons of experience however, to our mind seem definitely to show the fact that the canvass of new territory, and the successful arrangement of appointments, cannot safely be left to the seemingly willing offered assistance in such localities without the presence and guide of the organizer.

Successful business men and associations count their money not wasted, which is spent in careful, thorough advertising. Likewise do we look upon the expense of spreading freely on the pages of the VISITOR before the eyes of intelligent farmers with its columns so full of material for their interest and study, as an investment deserving liberal support of the State Grange.

We are well aware that in times of great financial disturbance or depression, the mind and energies of the farmer are more than ever bent to the sole work of money getting and money saving, to the neglect of the works of association, as a thing to be set aside for a more convenient period. Brothers and Sisters let us not be unmindful of the fact that the achievements of the Grange in securing reformatory measures, of establishing and maintaining a nearer equality of rights and privileges of the farmers among the callings of the world, cannot stop but must go forward, or it will be pushed backward, and that when we slack work and watchfulness, others readily assume every advantage, in their strife to overcome the oppressing effect of the condition of the times, and encroach and crowd upon us from every side. Let us strive to school ourselves to this life duty, and to bring our neighbor to realize, that when the work is hardest to maintain, it is at the period of its greatest necessity, and its accomplishment will secure to us the surest benefit. When general conditions of times are easiest the competitions of callings slackens and demands are more easily secured. Do not forget that the work is ours, others will not take it up in our behalf however readily they may wish to assume it.

We feel to urge the admonitions of state and national Masters, to concentrate our demands for legislative action upon fewer of the most important subjects, formulate them with the greatest wisdom to represent most concisely our wishes, and by the aid of our excellent committee press them to a hearing. The sounding of preamble and resolution upon all sorts of subjects of general interest and nature, but never materialized, becomes monotonous and carries little weight. While propositions presented in definite form for action, readily engage the attention of the bodies, and secure decisions of approval or rejection as a result accomplished. Harmoniously agreed upon what we ask, let us courteously press it for direct answers—yes or no. The readiness and success of like work by other associations proves an example of this worthy of our emulation.

Further study and observation upon the subject of beneficiary plans by our State Grange confirms previous opinions, that the great competition in that line, has already placed offers and inducements below the actual cost if carried to that age which shall combine all the influences of average life and mortality; while the usual great outlay of expense to encourage and establish it, and the entangling influences coming with large financial schemes, crushing in one unguarded blow the glowing success of a growing enterprise, draws us to the conclusion, better leave the glory and hazard to others while we have plenty of work along safer lines.

While the most of our state is covered by an extensive system of mutual fire insurance companies, their number and competition for the business seems to prove that many of them can never attain a standing of uniform success—and are too easily fluctuated by a series of casualties, much beyond the cost where greater capital is massed under single managements. And at the same time the local expenses of each individual company duplicates many of those of the others unnecessarily and nearly equaling the entire cost of prudent management of the aggregate business of several in a single enterprise. While local and individual differences, and scheming practices for personal gain, have a disastrous effect upon small companies which do not gain strength to develop in the larger one.

These evidently appeared to the lobbying managers for the old line companies as they cunningly assisted to plan many of the straight jacket measures of legislation under which these companies were allowed to build. And we think that the success of the mutuals and their period of life has been much beyond the anticipation of our capitalized neighbors.

Without presenting here the specialties and detail of plan and arrangements to secure and manage it, suffice it to say: That investigation and study upon the subject leads to the conclusion, that a centralization of county companies which shall supervise and uniform the management, while it shall equalize loss rates on a

(Continued on page 8.)

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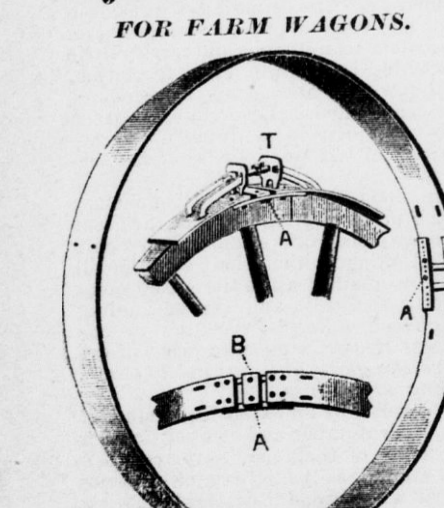
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RESULTS WITH POTASH ON POTATOES NORTH AND SOUTH.

Potash is cheapest when in the form of a chloride, but there are those who insist that for some crops the chloride or muriate is a bad form. It is doubtless true that the sulphate is better for tobacco and sugar beet, but we are far from being satisfied that the muriate of potash is not the best form for potatoes. Our own observation has led to the conclusion that muriate of potash is not only cheaper than sulphate but is better for the potato crop. The same appears to be true at the New Jersey station where the muriate gave better results on potatoes than the sulphate. Visiting among the market gardeners in Easton, N. C. we took special pains to see in what form they used potash for the potato crop. One of the largest growers there, who used annually 400 tons of commercial fertilizers, and whose crop of early potatoes covers 150 acres, and averaged over 200 bushels per acre, said that he invariably gets the best results from the use of the muriate and does not now use any other form. The Kentucky and the Massachusetts stations both find its use profitable. In Kentucky the application of \$4.80 worth of muriate of potash increased the value of the potato crop \$28.20. In Massachusetts its use gave an average increase of four and a half bushels per acre. At the Connecticut station "muriate of potash proved profitable with potatoes in nearly every case when not interfered with by bad weather or other interfering causes." At the Michigan station 240 pounds of sulphate of potash costing \$3.50 per acre "gave a gain of more than 75 bushels per acre over an adjoining unfertilized plot." The same amount of muriate of potash, 240 pounds nitrate of soda and 400 pounds ground bone gave nearly the same results at a much higher cost. It is to be regretted that no comparative experiment of muriate and sulphate alone seems to have been made. At the West Virginia station the application of 800 pounds of kainit per acre increased the yield 40 per cent or about 35 bushels per acre while nitrate of soda produced no material increase in the crop. At the Oregon station, 400 pounds of kainit nearly doubled the crop, that is the unfertilized land gave 81 1/2 bushels per acre and that treated with 400 pounds of kainit gave 145 1/2 bushels per acre, and a specially prepared high priced "potato fertilizer" 400 pounds per acre, gave 28 bushels per acre less than the simple kainit while costing much more. The Michigan station found that sulphate of potash gave equal results with muriate and cost less—and the bulletin further says, "That on fairly rich soil the addition of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia to bone and potash is done at a financial loss, if not at a reduction of yield." This is the point we wish particularly to call attention to as emphasizing the difference between growing potatoes north and south. It is evident from all experiments that additions of nitrogen north, do not have the same effect as in the south on land of the same quality. In the south potatoes are grown as an early crop during the season when nitrification in the soil is not very active, and additions of nitrogen are found profitable. In the north they grow things in season and in a soil full of vegetable matter, artificial additions of nitrogen are not needed. W. F. MASSEY.

TEMPERATURES AND FORESTS.

SOIL TEMPERATURES.

The general influence of the forest on soil temperatures is a cooling one, due to the shade and to the longer retention of moisture in the forest floor as well as in the air, which must be evaporated before the ground can be warmed. As a consequence the extremes of high and low temperature within the forest soil occur much later than in the open, and both extremes are

reduced, but the extreme summer temperatures much more than the winter temperatures.

The difference between evergreen and deciduous forests, which almost vanishes in the winter time, is in favor of the deciduous as a cooling element in summer and autumn, while during spring the soil is cooler under evergreens. The effect increases naturally with the age and height of the trees.

AIR TEMPERATURE IN GENERAL.

From the preceding generalizations it appears that the forest affects the temperature just as any collection of inorganic obstacles to sunshine and wind; but as an organic being the forest may be also an independent source of heat. Careful observations of the temperature within the trunk of the tree and of the leaves of the tree show that the tree temperature is affected somewhat by the fact that the rising sap brings up the temperature of the roots, while the return sap from the leaves brings their temperature down, and the tree temperature considered as the result of the complex adjustment is not appreciably affected by any heat that may be evolved by the chemical processes on which its growth depends. It is not yet clear as to whether the chemical changes that take place at the surface of the leaves should give out any heat; it is more likely that heat is absorbed, namely rendered latent, especially in the formation of the seed; the process of germination usually evolves this latent heat; the immense quantity of water transpired and evaporated by the forests tends to keep the leaves at the same temperature as that of the surface of water or moist soil.—B. E. Fernow

EXPENDITURES OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

When the present secretary of agriculture took charge of the department there were upon its pay rolls 2,497 employees. Today, however, there are on the pay rolls of the department of agriculture only 1,994, a reduction of 503 employees. In justice, however, there should be deducted from the present current expenses of the department the salaries of 11 clerks who have been, at its request, detailed to the U. S. civil service commission, and are still paid their salaries, amounting to the sum of \$16,200 per annum, out of the appropriation for the department of agriculture.

The strenuous endeavor has been, in view of a depleted public treasury and because of the imperative demands of the taxpayers of the United States for economy, in the administration of their government, to rationally reduce expenditures by the elimination from the pay rolls of all persons not needed for an efficient conduct of the affairs of the department. At the outset conditions of an unsatisfactory character, due largely to a system which permitted the grossest inequality in compensation to the employees of the department, were confronted. Cautiously and conscientiously the erasure from the pay rolls of the department of the names of all unnecessary employees and the increase of its usefulness have been undertaken with persistent purpose and not a passive vigor of will. There has also been an attempt, not by any means yet completed nor satisfactorily successful, to equalize compensation. The expenses of the department of agriculture during the first quarter of the present year aggregate but \$345,876.76, as against \$402,012.42 for the parallel period of the fiscal year 1893. And it is gratifying to observe that the saving up to this time is not less than 12 per cent per annum on current expenses. In verification of the intention to make at least this reduction permanent, the estimates for the next fiscal year, which have been submitted to congress, are less by \$369,656.94 than those for the current fiscal year, which will end June 30, 1894.—Report of Secretary of Agriculture, 1893.

THE VISITOR WEEKLY AND CO-OPERATION.

In the opinion of more than one the GRANGE VISITOR might do useful work as a weekly. In a suggestive way would it be out of place to hint that an alternate weekly edition start out in reduced size if not better, and be devoted largely to bargains and non-partisan politics? Under the head of bargains might be found notices for wholesale or club lots that our cousins in the retail trade would often gladly duplicate. We owe them kindly favors.

We have city and state laws to compel us to patronize the retail and other toll houses and to stop sales outside of them. It's not their fault. We could ask consumers their wants without bonafide orders as an entering wedge, and set apart days for buying and co-operating. Local agencies would naturally lead to co-operation, largely with our local merchants as such agents and the VISITOR directory become an indispensable auxiliary in trade. A newspaper must be helpful to be in general demand. A party paper can not do that outside of party lines, at least if it be one of the stronger party.

REFORMS.

A reformer is thought mean of today, he's weak; great tomorrow, he's strong; it's the weaker army that's always in the wrong. Might makes right. What is, is right; the ballot is victor and that is right as long as it is might and reform is wrong so long as it's weak. The reform of all reforms is to vote more for laws that make men and less for men to make laws, yet comparatively few dare advocate it.

The prison pen habit is the Andersonville prison of today. "Our Work" edition of the VISITOR is a progressive literary production. I have frequently paid fifty cents for a single number of some magazine for one or two articles it contained. Your work edition contained several as able articles as is usually found in the costly magazines. It seems to remind one of the French proverb "Everybody knows more than somebody," but at times need to be called out like the great magazine writers.

The power of the press is almost omnipotent. It reaches nearly all and moulds public sentiment (habit), either for the public good or for class privileges.

POLITICAL HABITS.

Political parties are bound together by the conservative, sugar-coated words of habit-bound editors, however isolated be its readers. Imitation is the logic of childhood and manhood alike. Nearly all of us are advanced beyond the monkey and parrot in this respect.

Habit in reading and voting is all the science of political logic in later days. The press is often powerless but as often cowardly, by virtue of its reliance in part upon the patronage of its advertising columns, the bane of honest convictions in newspaperdom. The GRANGE VISITOR is so conducted as to be able, if necessary, to survive without such patronage. It's not a private sheet run solely for private gain. It's a co-operative sheet of the people, by the people, and for the people. It cannot talk for any class or party for a bribe like a private sheet "run for the money there is in it."

Honest differences of opinion are healthy stimulants but opposed to the pecuniary interests of private partisan sheets. The private party press dare not propose nor recommend adequate remedies for existing evils for by so doing it would become a reform press, and that would often mean financial loss or ruin by being read out of the party and loss of patronage. No one will go wrong by aiding the GRANGE VISITOR.

CORD. S. CANNON. Battle Creek.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

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Kept in the office of Sec'y of the

Michigan State Grange

And sent out post-paid on receipt of Cash Order, over the Seal of a Subordinate Grange, and the signature of its Master or Secretary.

- Porcelain ballot marbles, per hundred, \$0.75. Secretary's ledger, 85. Secretary's record, bound, per hundred, 85. Treasurer's receipts for dues, per hundred, 35. Treasurer's receipts for dues, per hundred, 35. Applications for membership, per hundred, 50. Withdrawal cards, per dozen, 25. Duplicates, in envelopes, per dozen, 25. By-Laws of the State Grange, single copies, 10c; per dozen, 75. "Glad Echoes," with music, single copies, 25c; per dozen, 3.00. Grange Melodies, single copy, 40c; per dozen 4.00. Opening Song Card, 2c each; 75c per 50; 100, 1.35. Rituals, 7th edition (with combined degrees), 25c each; per dozen, 2.75. Rituals, 5th degree, set of nine, 1.50. Rituals, Juvenile, single copy, 15. Rituals, Juvenile, per set, 1.50. Notice to delinquent members, per 100, 40. American Manual of Parliamentary Law, 50. Digest of Laws and Rulings, 15. Roll books, 18. Sample package co-operative literature, 18. Kelley's History of the Grange, 75.

Write for prices on gold pins, badges, working tools, staff mountings, seals, ballot boxes and any other grange supplies. Address MISS JENNIE BUELL, ANN ARBOR, MICH.

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We want a few more General Agents, ladies or gentlemen, to travel and appoint agents on our new publications. Full particulars given on application. If you apply please send references, and state business experience, age, and send photograph. If you cannot travel, write us for forms to local canvassers. Address S. I. BELL & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

REPORT OF ASSISTANT STEWARD.

(Continued from page 3.)

one of us to look back and see what lessons we might have learned. We are afraid many of us are like some other scholars,—didn't know where the lesson was. Yes, passed through the year without knowing there was a lesson we might have been taught, but we were not studying, not even looking for the lesson. What are some of the lessons? We think one great lesson for us as a people is to return to the economy and sound prudence of our fathers, living according to our means instead of as fashion dictates, and in prosperity saving something against the adversity that may be our lot sooner or later. This principle holds good with the farmer as well as any other branch of business. Many a farmer is bankrupt and many an artisan is suffering for the necessities of life who has enjoyed just as good an income or just as good a chance to get ahead as others in the same business, who are today in comfortable circumstances; the one was extravagant, the other thrifty. And by thrift we do not mean miserliness or penuriousness, but that prudence, judgment and good common sense of living within one's means, which is essential to a sound character and to a substantial start in life. Ability to weather such financial storms as the present is mainly due to the individual. That the great majority of our farmers are so little affected by the times is the greatest evidence of their wisdom and prudence. It demonstrates anew their natural independence, their position as the nation's bulwarks, and above all, their right to at least equal consideration in all that affects the country's welfare.

Fraternally submitted,

J. H. MARTIN.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

WORTHY MASTER—When we took upon ourselves the obligations of this office, we were instructed as to our duties. The Bible—God's word to man—was placed in our hands, we were urged to search it for wisdom and instruction, and also urged to be faithful. For the holy position of an intercessor between this Grange and the great Master we have been most unworthy. Yet we are told that His ear is ever open to the least of his children: "When ye call I will answer; and 'Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that put their trust in him.'" With these assurances we have called. God has blessed us. His tender care has been over us. Our land has yielded her increase. No pestilence has come nigh our dwellings. Though in great centers there have been turmoil, unrest and riot, distress, poverty and crime, our rural homes have been wonderfully blessed with a quiet and peacefulness that has seemed like the shelter of a quiet harbor in time of storm. If prices for our commodities have been low, we know nothing of suffering, want or distress. While we have been so blessed we are not indifferent to the perilous conditions of our country. A feverish unrest has stirred to the very depths the financial world. The gravest of problems awaits an answer from those high in authority. Capital and labor are in battle array—and intemperance is still unchecked.

From our ardent love of humanity, right and justice, we are striving to pierce the clouds for the brightness that lies beyond (for it is there)—and we are so full of love to all humanity and have such an abiding faith in our heavenly Father that every night we have laid us down in peace and slept, knowing that in God's good time, all will be right, for what is, is best.

The present condition of our country is teaching us some wonderful lessons. It sometimes takes severe discipline to save us from ourselves and to develop the best there is in us. We are learning to live and work for others. The rich are giving of their abundance as they never gave before. The poor from their poverty are striving to aid others less favored than themselves. All seem anxious that burdens shall be lifted, hard lines be made easier, and that brighter days shall dawn.

We can remember in the days of '61 when there was a call "to arms." Our country was in need of men. It needs men today; men who will stand unflinchingly by what is right regardless of any personal feelings; men who will not falter in the discharge of any duty, let it be ever so difficult of performance, who will suffer personal loss and humiliation in order that out of all this trouble and turmoil, our country may stand safe, and prosperity again rejoice the hearts of the commonwealth.

During the late war a portion of our forces were posted to hold a certain point in Tennessee, which if lost greatly jeopardized the who's army.

The enemy were close at hand ready for an attack, while the night closed in and so intensely dark that not an object could be distinguished though ever so near.

The officer in command called his men together, explained the situation and said: "We must all do picket duty tonight." They went out into the darkness, each man standing so that he could touch the hand of the man on the right of him, and the hand of the man on the left of him. There they stood through the long weary night, each man strong in himself, and also strong in united strength and sympathy. And thus they accomplished what they could not otherwise have done.

We must each swear allegiance to our God and humanity. Each stand as a picket at his post of duty, touching not only hand but heart with his fellow—fighting manfully for God, Home and Native land.

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me—
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
For God's truth is marching on."

MARY A. MAYO.

REPORT OF SECRETARY.

WORTHY MEMBERS OF THE STATE GRANGE—Reports have been received from 221 subordinate Granges during the year ending Nov. 30, 1894. Of this number, 156 have reported for all the quarters ending Sept. 30, '94; 23 for all quarters ending June 30; 32 for all quarters ending March 31; and 10 for the quarter ending Dec. 31, '93.

Of the Granges that had been dormant, or had suspended sessions, four have been reorganized. Three new Granges have been organized, as follows: Hanover, No. 698, by J. Weston Hutchins, in Jackson Co.; Sand Beach, No. 699, in Huron Co. by R. A. Brown; Twelve Corners, No. 700, in Berrien Co., by R. V. Clark. One Juvenile Grange, Tallmadge, Ottawa Co., has been organized.

STATE GRANGE TRANSACTIONS.

The receipts for the year have been:	
Fees and dues from subordinate Granges	\$2,814 36
Fees from sixth degree members	36 00
Fees from fifth degree members	1 00
Supplies sold	176 51
Interest on invested funds	318 00
Advertising spaces sold	20 00
Receipts from Grange Visitor	1,344 92
Total receipts	\$4,710 79
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Expenses of session of 1893	\$1,068 03
Fees and dues to National Grange	505 05
Expenses of Executive Committee	144 93
Lecture field work	110 02
Salaries of officers	750 00
Supplies, express, postage, etc., on same	118 11
Printing	250 20
Stationery	33 95
Master's and secretary's postage	113 71
Miscellaneous expenses of officers (their postage, exchange, etc.)	71 82
Grange Visitor	2,319 82
Total disbursements	\$5,485 64

These statements do not show the active growth on the part of the Grange that the peculiar condition of agriculture would lead one to expect. What do these reports that you have heard here in these meetings mean, we may well ask. Are the causes that call for united effort done away with? Has the Grange performed the uses for which it was formed? We have often considered this question from the standpoint of the aid the Grange may be to the country classes in an educational and social way. Suppose we turn, for a moment, the material glass of cold statistics upon the situation.

Viewed in this way, we find that the total amount of mortgage indebtedness on Michigan farms, in 1887, was \$64,400,000, in round numbers. The interest alone on this sum was \$4,636,000. This was according to the fifth annual report of the Commissioner of Labor; but, large as this amount seems, it was later in the same year shown

by the statistician, Brother R. L. Hewitt, that it might well be raised to \$77,000,000, and still not overestimate the farmers' debt. And that this even was a low calculation, now appears from the statement of Bulletin No. 17, of the U. S. Census, sent out last June, which states that in 1890 the farms of our state were mortgaged, not for sixty-four, nor yet for seventy-seven million dollars, but for \$96,000,000. This enormous sum demands an annual interest of \$6,837,000 from products of the farm whose market values have proverbially decreased since the contraction of these debts.

Such facts are astonishing. The members of this body are here representing a business whose property bears a debt equal to more than one-third of its assessed value. It is stupendous enough, it would seem, to create a bond of universal sympathy and union. If this state of affairs has come about in whole or in part through discriminate legislation, farmers have desperate need to meet regularly in their own organizations to devise better laws for the debtor classes and warn off future partiality. The followers of no other business would so long stand aloof from thorough, systematic consultation and action, under like circumstances.

Let us look at but one other factor in the problem set before us; but let that be the significant one of the migration of the country population to the cities. According to the labor statistics there were 749 fewer farmers in Michigan in 1890 than in 1880, though the population has increased 457,000. From the July bulletin of our State census, now in process of compilation, we learn that of the total increase of population in the State in four years, more than 35 per cent has been in the two cities of Detroit and Grand Rapids.

In 1864 there were 19 incorporated cities in the State whose population comprised 16 per cent of the total population of the State. At present, thirty years later, there are 70 cities with 37 per cent of the total population within their limits. Again, the rate of increase in the population of the 49 cities in the State in 1884, has been about four times the rate of increase in the balance of the state.

Dr. Josiah Strong in his admirable handling of this subject in his book, "The New Era," cites the telling incident of the poor Irish woman who was found half starved in the lower part of New York City and was sent by some benevolent people into the country, where work was provided for her. In the course of a few weeks she was seen back in her old haunts. "Couldn't you find work enough?" she was asked. "Yes." "Didn't you have enough to eat and to wear, and weren't you comfortable?" "Yes, Yis." "Well, then, why did you come back here to starve rather than live there in comfort?" "Paples is more company than stumps," was the answer. Dr. Strong comments that in this is contained whole chapters of philosophy on the origin and growth of cities, and we might add that this very truth, that "paples is more company than stumps," is one of the chiefest foundation stones in the Grange; for without its social possibilities, the structure of our order would be frail indeed.

This same author farther says: "We must expect the steady deterioration of our rural population, unless effective preventive measures are devised. How to devise such measures is the problem of the country."

In the face of these two features of the case alone, have not the farmers of this state sufficient to bring them together, for legislation, for effort, for creation of public sentiment? Is the need of a strong State and national union not apparent to him who thinks at all on these things? Surely the Grange organizer, carrying the credentials of a society that costs its members but ten cents each a month, and is pledged to better these outward conditions, has a wide scope for aggressive enterprise in this day of small prices and few favors for the fruits of agriculture. We must deal with the present in all this Grange work to make it effective. Withered laurels will win neither new name nor converts. Well may we recall a homely phrase, thus put to a good use by an eminent divine, when he said, "Now is the nick of time. In matters of moment, now is always the nick of time. One man now is worth a hundred fifty years hence. One dollar now is worth a thousand then."

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIE BUELL.

GATE KEEPER'S REPORT.

WORTHY MASTER AND MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE:

Another year has passed into history; another year has been added to our lives, and another time we have met to recount our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows, and to sympathize with each other in our failures, to rejoice together in our triumphs.

To me, whose business it is to watch the gates, the closing year seems to have been one of strange contrasts. The peaceful and beloved president of Republican France, expiring at the hands of an assassin while the autocrat of all the Russias dies quietly on his couch. In our own land we have seen a party just fairly seated in power and apparently with a firm grip upon the reins of government given imperative notice to abandon its high and responsible position and go out with the ebb of the tide. We see great abundance in the hands of producers and at the same time want and distress throughout all the land.

To a watcher at the gate it is painful to see so much enforced idleness while so much is needed to be done, to see the metal which should be coined and in circulation clogged around the wheels of government at the nation's capitol; to see the farmer, who cannot sell his products at near their cost and the would-be consumer who cannot raise even the pittance necessary to sustain life, leads me to think there is great mismanagement somewhere. To learn from the hard times and experiences of the past year is the part of wisdom, and your gate keeper thinks he can do no better than to make some quotations from the report of Sis. H. A. Barnard of the Walkaska Pomona Grange, Nov. 20 and 21. "If a nation forgets God in her administration retribution will follow;" "that as a people we have been too extravagant;" "the benefit of laying up something for a wet day;" "that the people are a part of this government and must think for themselves;" "for their own protection, farmers should unite themselves as a body."

I further beg leave to report that the county which I represent (Kalkaska) located at the far north, contains four Granges, all in a fairly prosperous condition. We are teaching that "the farmer is of more value than the farm;" that "in unity there is strength," and while we esteem it a duty for each one to think for himself we find it beneficial to occasionally compare our thoughts.

Likewise that we endeavor to suppress all envious and jealous bickerings and feelings and send our best representative men and women to the State Grange.

Respectfully,

G. L. CARLISLE,

Gate Keeper.

REPORT OF FLORA.

WORTHY MASTER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS—Another year has closed and the record it leaves is the one we have made ourselves. Very many have had their gardens filled with flowers, while some have reaped a crop of regrets.

Let us see if flowers are of real practical use to us. It is generally admitted that ability to see things or power of observation is the basis of mental growth and development. Fathers and mothers in the home, teachers in the schoolroom can make great use of flowers. Every child loves them and once their curiosity is aroused there is an endless number of questions asked about them.

We urge the cultivation and development of plants not because of their flowers but because of themselves. While the eye is being gratified the mind, the soul, is fed flowers in all their forms. The common as well as the most rare are alike to us—teachers.

Especially does this branch of study train the mind to clear, precise observation. The mind sees only that it has power to see. No single consideration is more necessary to success in business than ability to perceive promptly and accurately.

There may be a wide diversity in judgment as to the best means to effect the end sought, viz., the training of the perceptive activity. The classics which have long served as efficient means for older pupils, the revolving blackboard and all the paraphernalia of our modern schools for the younger ones are good, but it seems to the writer that experience and observation teach that the study of flowers and plant phenomena can accomplish with children and youth in shorter time and greater economy all that can be claimed for the most elegant classic. The majority of parents and teachers do not appreciate the value of the study of flowers as an educational force.

The farmers and their wives before me today are well acquainted with the habits and life of the bean and hop vine, but who can tell why the bean vine twines in one direction around a pole and the hop vine in an opposite? Or who can tell why two plants apparently alike produce different colored blossoms? Do not these things teach us to think?

A higher education is a necessity, a more generous development of the thinking powers of the working man is demanded. An occasional hour among flowers leads the mind out in broader channels.

"There breathes for those who understand
A voice from every flower and tree
And in the work of nature's hand
Lies nature's best philosophy."

At this time of the year a window containing a few flowers nicely arranged is a pleasant picture in a home. It brightens and lifts the mind and helps us when the body is weary to have only smiles and kind words for those whose lives come in daily contact with our own.

The Floras of too many of our subordinate Granges seem to be used as ornaments. There is so much that is refining, beautifying and ennobling to our lives in the study and influence of plant life that the Grange cannot afford to have the Floras idle. Scatter flowers, talk about them, read about them, and write about them, give a floral entertainment and you will read the effects in the faces of your brothers and sisters of the Grange. Longfellow says,

"In all places, then, and in all seasons,
Flowers expand their light and soul like wings,
Teaching us, by most persuasive reasons,
How akin they are to human things."

Every day from early spring to autumn nature is doing her best to surround us with the beautiful and bright. As we tread to and fro there are hundreds of little flower faces smiling up into our own, which if we are not indifferent to our surroundings will cause our hearts to leap for joy and our lips to speak words of praise to the Giver of all.

Wondrous truths, and manifold as wondrous
God hath written in those stars above;
But not less in the bright flowers under us
Stands the revelation of his love.
Bright and glorious is that revelation,
Written all over this great world of ours,
Making evident our own creation
In these stars of earth, these golden flowers.

SARAH C. ST. CLAIR.

REPORT OF CERES.

WORTHY PATRONS—It has been said that the American farmer buys more land to raise more grain to grow more stock to buy more land. However true this may have been, it looks as though the chain would be broken, for the Michigan farmer at least, since the crop report for this year places oats below the average, the yield of corn was forty bushels of ears per acre, and wheat one year ago twenty-five to thirty per cent less than the average, and the seeding for the present year eighty-six per cent of the area seeded one year ago.

In months past one could scarcely open an agricultural paper without being confronted with the question: "Does it pay to feed wheat?" The farmer, although somewhat slow to set aside the thought of extravagance in feeding wheat, has put it to test and is solving the problem in a practical manner.

At rare intervals there occur years like the two we have just passed through, which cause us to realize the importance of our cereal products. But with all our misfortunes we have ample cause to believe our fair peninsular state has been greatly blessed, when we look at our less fortunate neighbors, and remember how the burning winds swept the vast corn lands of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa, leaving but a small margin to repay the tillers of the soil for their weary labor, causing many a discouraged farmer to abandon the home he was building up and seek employment elsewhere.

We have the assurance that while the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest shall not cease, but if we expect a bountiful harvest we must not sow sparingly.

Twenty-seven years ago a few progressive men and women founded an organization among the farmers. The seed that was sown then has sprung up and increased many fold until it has spread from Maine to Oregon, from the great lakes to the gulf.

A short time since I had the rare pleasure of listening to Dr. Boone, who, in the course of the evening related an incident which occurred while visiting the Corcoran Art Gallery in company with some friends. As they entered one of the alcoves they came upon what appeared to be an unfinished piece of work in marble, and wondered at its occupying that position, surrounded as it was by the finest works of art. They passed on, and after a time returning to the same department, he saw again the same piece of marble, but at a greater distance, and what before was without form, now appeared as the face of a lovely woman, the features were distinctly visible, the curve of the cheek, the droop of the eyelashes, the dimple in the chin, but veiled by a marble veil; all the beauty of workmanship was distinctly visible. The first view had been too close. All perspective was lost.

The work of the Grange as viewed in the light of twenty-seven years ago to many appeared crude and impracticable, but the features of the work were there, all that was needed was a few intervening years to pierce through the veil of suspicion and doubt. If it is true that the least sound, the vibration of a bird's wing through the air, the chirp of a cricket in the grass, sets in motion waves of sound which girdle the earth, and every thought that passes through our minds sets its mark there, and is always capable of growing up and bearing fruit, then who can measure the magnitude of the forces set in action by a movement whose object is to make brighter and better the lives of those who are brought within the range of its influence, for "to make one child laugh gleefully is, to the lover of his kind, better than winning a battle."

MARY C. ALLIS, Ceres.

POMONA'S REPORT.

As the time again draws near for us to meet in our State Grange, although it will consist mostly of new faces, we are sure of seeing many who have become very near to us.

How anxiously we look forward to this reunion, always glad to welcome the new faces who are with us.

No matter how cloudy the weather, how dry and parched the earth, there has been this bright light in the future to urge us on to do the best we could under the circumstances. I often ask myself, What are we doing to even partially repay the Grange for the advantages it has given us?

First, we should try to be regular in our attendance upon our own subordinate Grange. One member that can be relied upon, is worth untold numbers who may be there if everything is favorable, but the chances are against them.

Again, every member ought to be willing and ready to do whatever called upon by the Master or Lecturer, remembering that it benefits themselves more than any one else.

How many hopes and fears have come to us all since last December. Our locality was blessed with a pleasant, mild winter, followed by very warm weather early in the spring.

This made people interested in fruit tremble for the safety of the wee fruit buds, when the biting frosts should follow, as we were afraid they might; and as they did in a great many localities. But our little peninsula, situated between the two arms of Grand Traverse Bay, was highly favored and frosts did but little damage. When we heard of the fruit being killed in the north and south, I am afraid we were a little too exultant over our own good fortune. But later, when the cry of dry, dry was heard from every lip and our apples did not grow as we wanted them to, our spirits dropped accordingly, and we began to realize we must suffer with the rest. The late rains helped us a little. Our fruit was not an entire failure, as you can see by the exhibit before you.

Farmers are not discouraged; large quantities of fruit trees are being ordered for next year's setting.

We are realizing the meaning of hard times in our part of the state, more than ever before.

If we could only stop producing for a time, as the lumberman stops making lumber, and the factories their products, when it is not profitable, what a rest farmers and their wives might have.

Let Canada and the foreign countries ship in their goods. I think they would soon tire of it, as there would be little money to buy with if the farmer ceased producing very long.

But no, the farmer and family must keep plodding, that they may not suffer, or lose their homes, as taxes must be met. Taxes and death are sure to come.

Hoping the coming year may be a more prosperous one for the farmer, as well as our whole nation, let us, whatever our lot may be, do our best. "Angels can do no better."

Thanking the Grange for the high honor conferred upon me, feeling it has been a great privilege to meet with this honorable body at so many of its sessions, I cheerfully relinquish my chair to my successor.

Respectfully submitted,

ABBIE C. LEIGHTON,

Pomona.

LECTURER'S REPORT.

(Continued from page 5.) Greater extent of property at risk, leaving local management and local expenses as much as possible in the simplest form, as near as may be to the policy holders, will be a reform of great benefit, and one which can be successfully incorporated in the province of the State Grange, to the permanence of the Order and benefit of the membership.

States produce the sugar which is consumed by its population? by A. L. Scott. Report of delegates to State Grange. Recitation by Lou White. He cursed the ground for thy sake, by Mrs. Phebe Hall. What are the duties of a Grange in the community in which it is located? John Rosewarren. Humorous readings or recitations in response to roll call. All expected to respond. Construction of barns; are basements desirable? by J. M. Ma-cumber. Is the annexation of Canada to the United States desirable? by E. C. Herrington. Do the advantages of the creamery over private dairying, by W. C. Stuart. Which is best for the farmer, the proprietary or co-operative creamery? by S. V. Walker. The Bordeaux mixture; the formula and how mixed and time to be applied; cost per acre, by J. H. Haskins. Arbor day; all about shade trees, by David Houlding. Does immigration affect the farming interests of the country, and if so how? by W. C. Stuart. Why should so large a proportion of positions of trust, honor, and emolument be given to lawyers? by O. T. Blood. Woman now and thirty years ago, by Jennie Foster.

WM. W. CARTER, Lecturer.

ST. JOSEPH POMONA.

The next regular meeting of St. Joseph county Pomona Grange, No. 4, will be held at Centerville Grange hall the first Thursday in January, 1895. Fourth degree members invited.

MRS. HENRY COOK, Sec'y.

WHAT A WOMAN CAN DO!

I want my lady friends to know of the new field now open for them. In the past 6 months we have made a profit of \$907.02 after paying all expenses. All our sales have been made at home, not having canvassed any. My official duties calling me away most of the time, I left the Dish Washer business in my wife's control with the above results. The business is rapidly increasing, and will continue to grow until every family has a Climax Dish Washer. Not a day passes but what we sell one or two, and some days fifteen or twenty Dish Washers. It's easy selling what everybody wants to buy. You can wash and dry the dishes perfectly in two minutes. For full particulars address the Climax Mfg. Co., Columbus, Ohio. Get a sample washer and you can't help but make money. They only cost \$5. You may just as well be making \$5 a day as to be doing nothing.

Grange News.

Correspondents, and all Patrons indeed, are requested to send us postal cards giving some news jottings,—anything of interest to you. It will interest others. Please also send short answers to some or all of the following questions. Help us to make this the most valuable column in the VISITOR. 1. How is your Grange prospering? 2. Have you many young people? 3. What do outsiders think of your Grange and its work? 4. What difficulties do you meet? 5. What are your prospects? 6. What is most needed in Grange work in your vicinity? 7. In what way are your members most benefited by belonging to the Grange?

OBITUARY.

Died December 1, 1894, Sister Maria Howard, of Cheshire Grange, No. 520. The Grange passed appropriate resolutions. "We shall so sadly miss her loving presence and wise counsels in our gatherings. Yet we know what an infinitely greater loss it will be to those dear ones who have been wont to call her wife and mother."

Hanover Grange holds a supper or banquet prepared under the exclusive direction of the "men folks."

Boardman Valley Grange, No. 664, has sent three lists of VISITOR subscribers this year, the amount aggregating nearly \$30. Brother Palmer wants to hear from any Grange of thirty-five members that has done better.

Mt. Tabor Grange sent the VISITOR to a good list of persons outside of the gates for the purpose of interesting them in our work and Order. It has been urged that each Grange furnish to the local press items of interest to farmers for the purpose of creating a friendly feeling for the Grange and

thereby increase the membership. This is a good plan but it is surrounded by some difficulties which are not easily overcome. All farmers do not take a local paper, and certainly all will not take the same local paper hence the correspondent must furnish copy to all the papers or fail in the purpose of reaching all or nearly all the farmers. Now Mt. Tabor has determined to try another plan to accomplish this purpose. 1. We endeavor to make a judicious distribution of the VISITOR outside of the Grange. This secures the introduction of our paper freighted as it is with Grange work of general as well as local character, but unless Mt. Tabor shows her individual work through the VISITOR, those who receive it will not be particularly interested in Mt. Tabor, hence it is proposed to let them know what Mt. Tabor is talking about.

EDITOR VISITOR.—Another year of Grange work, with its joys, sorrows, and cares, is nearly gone. How many of us can say with true sincerity that we have done all we could to elevate the Grange as well as ourselves and conducted ourselves in such a way that the Grange is the better for our having joined it? The past is past. We can not recall it. But it is not too late for us to be up and doing, and try to make up in the future where we have been negligent in the past. Let us try to encourage the young people to join us. Let us do all we can to make the young men feel that the Grange cares for them and needs their help. Let us all try to make the Grange worthy of the credit a lady gave it, who said that she certainly considered the Grange was doing a far greater temperance work than the W. C. T. U. She meant no disrespect to the W. C. T. U., but she knew the Grange principles were for temperance, and she thought it could reach out and gather in those that the W. C. T. U. could not reach.

Just a few words about our Grange. De Witt Grange has taken in ten good substantial members this year; two by demit, and has reinstated one.

Nearly every family takes the VISITOR. I have sent in 12 names on the 10 cent subscription. Several outside the gates take the VISITOR.

We expect to have discussions this winter on various topics. We may take up the topics in the VISITOR. De Witt Grange entertained Pomona Nov. 16. The attendance was good, Dr. G. W. Topping of De Witt presented a fine paper on "Labor unions, socialism, and anarchy." The paper was discussed, and a vote taken to send it to the papers for publication. I. D. Richmond also read a paper on "The single tax." This was also well discussed.

The young people gave an entertainment in the evening, in which several outside the Order assisted. Among them were Rev. E. D. Way, pastor of the First Baptist church in De Witt, Miss Ida Sanford, Clinton Reynolds, also of De Witt, Mrs. Robinson of Port Huron, and others.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Dills were elected delegates to represent Pomona at the State Grange. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Bixby will represent the subordinator at State Grange. MRS. C. L. PEARCE.

HOW'S THIS.

EDITOR VISITOR.—Please find enclosed money order for \$3.00 donated by White Oak Grange, No. 241, to the GRANGE VISITOR.

G. H. PROCTOR.

A VISITOR SOCIAL.—\$4.00.

EDITOR VISITOR.—As a result of a VISITOR social held at Harmony Grange hall (which owing to bad roads was not a financial success) four dollars (\$4) were raised, for which please find inclosed a money order. The Grange has decided to use this in furnishing 32 copies of the GRANGE VISITOR for three months, and the committee have selected the inclosed list of named persons as such ones to receive it.

MISS. MERTIE L. PRESTON, Sec'y.

UNION GRANGE.

Union Grange is not dead, but is alive and well, and we are taking in new members at nearly every meeting. We have interesting meetings nearly every time. There are many young people, and our lecturer gives us a good program at every meeting, and those called on usually respond. Some of our young men are repainting the inside of our hall. The woman's work committee have just had an old-fashioned husking bee which was a grand success, the proceeds of which will be used towards furnishing and decorating our hall. The woman's work committee have also found homes for six fresh air people this summer; two were provided with a home for two weeks, and four were kept nearly four weeks each. I wish to say right here, that I have heard no complaints from any one who took them, but were very glad they were able to help those less fortunate than they, and altogether provided them with 77 articles of good warm clothing for winter, for which the fresh air people were very grateful. We had places for several more but could not get them at the time they were wanted. We hope to do better another year.

MRS. MARY B. KILBOURN, Chairman Woman's Work Committee.

KALKASKA'S REPORT.

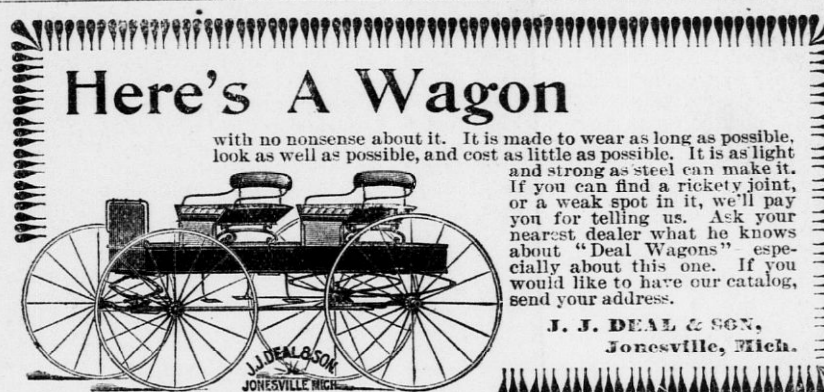
The following facts were obtained from the secretary's annual report of Kalkaska Pomona Grange No. 37. January 1, 1894, we had a membership of 35, consisting of 13 sisters and 22 brothers. November 20, 1894, we have a membership of 43, consisting of 16 sisters and 27 brothers.

We have held meetings with Boardman Valley Grange, No. 664, February 20 and 21; With Excelsior Grange, No. 692, May 15 and 16; with Clearwater Grange, No. 674, August 21 and 22; and a special meeting with Helena Grange, No. 676, at Alden, Antrim county, Oct. 11 and 12.

These meetings have all had nearly a full attendance of their members and a fair representation of fourth degree members. We have had full houses at all open sessions, and from reports of subordinate Granges, general interest manifest, from the deep interest taken in our lectures, and topics of discussion, and the intelli-

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PUZZLES.

[All readers of THE GRANGE VISITOR are invited to contribute and send solutions to this department. Address all communications relating to puzzles to Thomas A. Millar, 500 14th St., Detroit, Michigan.]

Solutions November 15, No. 16, Thomas A. Millar, No. 17, Slat, lace, acts, test. No. 18, L. top, lakes, pet, s.

SOLVERS FOR NOVEMBER.

COMPLETE LISTS.—Nellie Day, Mrs. L., Grace B., Lily May, Sarah E. Winda, and Dexter. INCOMPLETE.—Edith, Granger, Mrs. S. H. Tyrer, Nora, and George.

PRIZE WINNERS.

Nellie Day (50c book), Mrs. Ladd, Grace B. (each a 10c book).

22.—Crossword.

In zeal, not in help; In redman, not in scalp; In boy, not in man; In iron, not in pan; In steamer, also in barge; TOTAL is an animal large.

Grand Rapids, NELLIE DAY.

23.—Numerical.

1, 2, 3, is part of a year; 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, is bright. TOTAL is after dark.

Detroit, LILY MAY.

24.—Letter Rebus.

P DER GEORGE.

Gagetown, Answers must reach us by January 1.

PRIZES.

For the best and largest batch of new puzzles received on or before February 3, '95, we will give "Allan's Wife," by Rider Haggard.

THE MAIL BAG.

Edith (Carleton), thanks for solutions, always sign name and address as well as nom de plume in full to each communication; hope you will visit us often. Let all our friends compete for prize for best and largest batch of puzzles, see above, Oliver Omega, where are you?

NANCY LEE.

Notices of Meetings.

WESTERN POMONA.

The annual meeting of Western Pomona Grange will be held with Ottawa Grange at Herrington, on the fourth Thursday and Friday of January, 1895.

E. A. GILLETT.

NEWAYGO POMONA.

The annual meeting of Newaygo county Pomona Grange, No. 11, will be held at Ashland Grange hall on the second Wednesday and Thursday, January 9 and 10, 1895. The unresponded part of past three programs will be called.

NEW PROGRAM.

The best thing in life: Roll call, all members expected to respond. What course can the Grange most profitably pursue during the coming year? by E. R. Clark. The Grange, its origin; what it has done, and is now doing for the farmers of this country, by Louis Reinhold. Question Box in the Grange, by Mrs. Bell White. Our young people, by Mrs. R. W. Reddy. Can and should the United

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GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA R. R. Co. Schedule in effect Nov. 25, 1894.

Table with columns: Stations, No. 3, No. 5, No. 7. Rows include Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati, Richmond, Fort Wayne, Kalamazoo, Gd. Rapids, Reed City, Cadillac, Walton, Traverse City, Mancelona, Potoskey, Mackinaw City.

No. 3 has sleeping car, Grand Rapids to Mackinaw City. No. 5 has sleeping car (Cincinnati to Grand Rapids). Parlor car Grand Rapids to Mackinaw City. No. 7 has parlor car Grand Rapids to Traverse City.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns: Stations, No. 8, No. 6, No. 2. Rows include Mackinaw City, Potoskey, Mancelona, Traverse City, Walton, Cadillac, Reed City, Big Rapids, Howard City, Gd. Rapids, Kalamazoo, Fort Wayne, Richmond, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit.

No. 2 has sleeping car from Mackinaw City and Potoskey to Grand Rapids. No. 6 has parlor car Mackinaw City to Grand Rapids. Sleeping car Grand Rapids to Cincinnati. No. 8 has buffet parlor car Grand Rapids to Chicago via Kalamazoo, arriving in Chicago at 9 p. m., and chair car from Traverse City to Grand Rapids.

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