

GRANGE VISITOR

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

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WHOLE NO. 459.

Pure Food Report.

Extracts From The Report of the Michigan Dairy and Food Commissioner for 1894.

"At the beginning of the year's work it was my intention to prosecute in every case where proof could be made; but later and further consideration convinced me that more good could be accomplished by simply securing such evidence of the need of effective laws and adequate appropriations as would do most to help in that direction. As the work progressed I became more and more convinced that this, while less likely to produce present benefits, was, nevertheless, the best course. There were several reasons that determined me in adopting this plan, the first of which was the smallness of the amount available. The appropriation for clerical help and for the payment of the state analyst for the year was one thousand dollars. Then all could not be prosecuted. If only a small proportion of the guilty ones could be reached while all around them were those undoubtedly equally guilty that were entirely safe, as safe as though under the protection of the law, through the inadequacy of the appropriation, could they not with justice complain of its unequal workings?"

Michigan is today almost the 'last ditch' of the manufacturers of spurious food products. They are looking to us and using our markets for a dumping ground for their goods; and will not hesitate to use all the means they can make available to hold their ground here and to prevent legislation that is opposed to their interests. It is unwise to hope that they will not use every means available in opposition to the passage and enforcement of laws that will injure their business.

The importance of the work cannot be overestimated. According to the report of the United States secretary of agriculture, fifteen per cent of all the food consumed in this country is adulterated. Seven hundred million dollars are paid out every year for misnamed food. But something of practical value has also been attained without litigation. The shipment of certain classes of spurious goods into the state has been, if not entirely suppressed, yet largely reduced. Where sales have been made in many instances, payment has been refused and the goods returned. Firms hitherto active in pushing this class of trade in the state have declined to bill orders already taken. In one case a wholesale dealer who bought spurious jellies by the car load abandoned the trade entirely when he found their sale illegal.

Our present laws upon the subject have been passed at different sessions covering a period of more than twenty years, as the demand for their passage has arisen and been urged by different branches of the food producing industries of the state. They are without plan; are not uniform in restrictions or in penalties. But the time has come for the revision and consolidation into one systematic whole, that shall cover all the interests involved, with ample powers for searching out frauds and with penalties suitable for their punishment. These changes should be carefully made so as to cover all the points involved and not to exceed the constitutional provisions covering the police powers of the state. I believe the law as revised should contain the following provisions:

I. The sale of the following articles should be forbidden:

1. Generally, any article which has mixed with it any ingredient that is injurious, or which has abstracted from it any ingredient that if abstracted lowers the quality;
2. Any article made in imitation of, or sold under the name of another article, or falsely branded, or upon which art has been used to conceal inferiority, or in which there is fraud or deceit;
3. Diseased or tainted meats, or meats that are in any way unwholesome, or decayed or unwholesome vegetables;
4. Milk from diseased cows, or adulterated milk, milk from which any part of the cream or strippings have been taken, unless sold as skimmed milk and from cans or vessels marked "skimmed milk" on the top or the upper part of the cans or vessels, on two sides;

II. The following articles should be labeled;

1. Canned goods with quality, name, and address of maker, and marked "soaked," if so;
2. Maple syrup, with exact quality, name and address of maker;
3. Flour, with quality, name and address of maker;
4. Cheese, all full cream as "Michigan full cream," with name and address of maker, all other cheese to be as "Michigan skimmed."
5. All articles consisting of two or more ingredients, with name and exact percentage of each, and name and address of maker.

III. The following general provisions should be incorporated into the law as revised:

1. Such inspection as shall secure cleanliness in all places and processes of manufacture or preparation of foods and tend to prevent adulteration of the same;
2. The proper care of cows and the prevention of improper or unwholesome feeding of the same;
3. Oleomargarine or butterine not to be colored to resemble butter;
4. Vinegar to contain no drugs or acids injurious to health or foreign substances, and to be branded "cider," "malt," or "spirit," or with name of fruit, and to be uncolored;
5. Drugs to be kept up to the standards laid down in accepted medical works;
6. Liquors to be free from foreign substances, and of standard strength;
7. No imitation of fruit goods to be allowed;
8. Standards of purity to be adopted for all articles where possible;
9. The State Analyst's certificate to be *prima facie* evidence in all prosecutions;
10. Possession of unlawful goods by any dealer or agent, or sample of the same by the latter, to be *prima facie* evidence of intent to violate the law.
11. Guilty knowledge not required to convict;
12. Agents within the state of parties outside the state to be liable;
13. All labels to be plainly printed or written and placed where they may be readily seen;
14. Penalties for using false or imperfect or imitated labels, and for removing, altering or defacing labels, and forfeiture of all goods with labels in any of the above conditions;
15. Penalty for first offense to be adequate fine, for subsequent offenses fine, or imprisonment, or both, in the discretion of the court;
16. Provisions for the collection of statistics of dairy products.

IV. The following provisions, if incorporated in the law, would materially increase its effectiveness:

1. That the state pay the state analyst a stated salary and furnish a laboratory in which to do his work, and provide for the proper doing of the work in his absence or disability;
2. A deputy commissioner or a chief clerk with the powers of a deputy, as well as the necessary clerical help for the department, and inspectors in sufficient numbers to canvass the state thoroughly, with authority to take samples under proper restrictions;
3. The issuing from time to time of bulletins showing the results of the work and their circulation in the state;
4. Authorizing the commissioner to substitute additional counsel in place of the prosecuting attorney in cases in which, in his judgment, better results can be attained.

I recommend that the sum of \$15,000 annually be appropriated for the prosecution of this work. While at first thought this sum may seem to be more than is needed, a knowledge of the facts of the work done, and the opposition to be encountered and the benefits to be derived lead me to believe that that amount is none too large. * * * Every phase of the question pleads for the suppression of the traffic in impure foods and drugs, and for adequate means to accomplish the work. The example of other states and the actual benefits derived show conclusively that no better investment can be made and that the sum named is not be-

yond the needs of the work. If we compare the interests involved or the benefits to accrue with the other interests of which the state assumes supervision and for which it appropriates money and the amounts so appropriated, we shall find that the sum asked for is certainly not too large.

Undoubtedly the two interests most largely affected by adulterations and imitations are the dairy men and fruit growers. While there are no oleomargarine or butterine factories in the state, it is known that these articles, cheaply made and in appearance so closely resembling butter, enter largely and damagingly into competition with the legitimate product of the dairy. The cheesemakers also have to compete with an article from which the butter fats have been taken, and their places supplied by a cheap substitute. The decision of our supreme court gives the former a certain standing in our state, but I believe that laws can be framed so as to confine it to its proper place in our markets.

Beside the oleomargarine and butterine with which dairymen are forced to compete there is the fraudulent practice resorted to by certain parties of mixing a certain percentage of cheap fats with butter,—the specimens so far examined show about twenty per cent—and selling the mixture as pure dairy butter.

Fruit growing comes next to dairying in importance financially, as affected by adulterations and imitations. The markets of this state are flooded with imitation jellies that, from their cheapness, take the place of the genuine. Out of all the samples of this class of goods analyzed, not one contained a particle of fruit. Of vinegar, three samples proved to be cider vinegar.

The present law, while it imposes penalties for the adulteration of drugs and medicines and liquors, makes its enforcement the duty of no one in particular. I believe its enforcement should be put in the hands of the dairy and food commissioner. While it would add something to his work and to the cost of it, it would be less expensive in that way than under a separate system. The importance of the matter demands that it should be looked after by someone having ample authority for the correction of the evils known to exist. The importance of having pure medicines cannot be overestimated. Without them disease cannot be successfully treated.

The Value of Institutes.

HON. CHAS. W. GARFIELD.

For a great many years the state, district, and county fairs were the organizations through which the farmers were reached by improved methods of breeding and seeding. These societies accomplished a great deal in the dissemination of progressive ideas as applied to the cultivation of the soil and management of farms. But they have degenerated into mere places of amusement, and the one absorbing question with their managers is how to scheme so as to pay expenses and premiums and not run behind. The matter of educating in better methods of culture is often entirely neglected.

But a new system of education in farm affairs has rapidly come into vogue in these recent years; and in our own state we can see a wondrous change in many ways as a result of its growth. I refer to the efforts of farmers' clubs and farmers' institutes.

These organizations lack, in many ways, of accomplishing all they aim to do, but each year is making them better and this work more effective. The county papers in many places in our state make the regular farmers' club reports a feature of their columns, and the press is so thoroughly appreciating the value of our farmers' institutes this winter that the reports of their gatherings are given a great deal of prominence in the newspapers.

INSTITUTES THIS WINTER.

I am greatly delighted with the attendance upon the state institutes this winter. The interest and enthusiasm are greater than

ever before. The money expended by the state in furthering this institute work is expended with rigid economy, and the results speak loudly for an increase in the amount and range of effort in this direction. I have been opposed to large appropriations for this purpose until the machinery was in working order to economically use every penny of the appropriation directly in line of the purpose in view. It seems to me that now we are ready to utilize easily an appropriation of sufficient amount to place an institute in nearly every county in the state.

The people of rural communities are getting to realize that they can have just as good a time at a farmers' institute as at a county fair, and take home with them a much greater benefit. The programs for these gatherings are so arranged as to be attractive to young and old, and the recent interpolation of tuition in household science has created an interest among the women so that they feel there is some excuse for going beyond dancing attendance upon husbands and brothers.

THE OUTLOOK.

There is a great future for this plan of instruction upon rural subjects. Farm communities are entitled to the advantage which this scheme of farmers' institutes can bring them in lieu of the educational methods which belong exclusively to villages and cities. The dissemination of information concerning schools, roads, and farm and household economics which can be brought about in no way so thoroughly or attractively as at these institutes, is sufficient excuse for the small expenditure by the state.

While we are appropriating large sums for our university, normal school, and agricultural college, valuable institutions for those who can go to them, it is certainly logical that we should do some technical educational work for those who cannot go away to school or college. Our whole educational scheme has for its object the uplifting of the mass of the people.

To my mind there will be no bill before the present legislature appropriating money for any purpose more worthy than the one providing for farm institute work.

Michigan ought to do all she can to attract people to life in the country. She has great advantages and great possibilities in her agriculture. Her rural life should be her pride and certainly will be the source of her greatest prosperity. We must do what we can to stem the tide toward our cities. Country life is better, safer, wiser, and more promising.

I believe the Michigan legislature is wise enough to see this and, while practicing a wise economy, will take good care of our farmers' institutes.

Grand Rapids.

Salaries.

George McDougal presented the following supplementary report of the special Committee on Legislation, which was adopted by the State Grange:

WORTHY MASTER: In times of universal falling in values, the matter of fixed salaries becomes of great importance. The purchasing power of a fixed salary is 15 to 20 per cent more this year than it was last. Salaries that were high enough or too high ought to be lowered, and those that are too low, as some of them confessedly are, should be raised to a just compensation.

We therefore recommend a repeal of the law which raised the salaries of the justices of the supreme court from \$5,000 to \$7,000, and the general cutting down of salaries in all state institutions, including subordinates in the several state departments. We also recommend an amendment to the constitution to raise the salary of the attorney general to \$3,000 a year, believing that the interests of the state require as great learning and ability in the administration of that office as in the discharge of the duties of a justice of the supreme court.

J. K. CAMPBELL,
H. D. PLATT,
GEO. McDOUGAL.

Notice the date after your name, and see if your subscription expires with this issue.

Field and Stock.

The Dairy School.

H. E. VAN NORMAN.

Our dairy school opened with a somewhat smaller class than was anticipated, due to hard times and the anticipation that another winter we will have a dairy building, a much more complete equipment, and the addition of a thorough course of instruction in cheese making.

The practical work given the students is divided into three divisions; first, receiving the milk (from farmers and the College herd), weighing, sampling, and testing, similar to creamery work. Putting together and running belt and hand separators, handling and ripening the cream for churning. Second, the churning, working, and packing the butter ready to ship. Third, the care and operation of a boiler and engine, such as are used in a creamery. All of this work is done by the students under the direction of instructors, including the washing and care of all utensils, which is an important, though often neglected branch of the work.

THE DAILY WORK.

Each student devotes one half of the day to one of the three practical branches of the work, while the remainder is given to lectures on management of a creamery, including problems met with in every creamery, such as paying for milk by the Babcock test, apportioning of profits in the co-operative creamery, lectures on the composition of milk, selection, feeding, and breeding of the dairy herd. There have also been lectures by ex-Governor Hoard of Wisconsin on some topics connected with the dairy. A certain amount of reading and study is required in addition to the practical and class room work. Daily practice is given in judging butter for market.

Notwithstanding the fact that our course has not been advertised, we had sixty applications for instruction in butter making, to say nothing of numerous inquiries for instruction in cheese making. We could not possibly accommodate this number if they had come, as our equipment is inadequate. As we are now situated it requires the repetition of the practical work six times before each student has received his lesson in any one branch and the next lesson can be taken up. It requires every lecturer and instructor to go over his work twice each day, as the division of the class which has lectures in the morning has practical work in the afternoon, and vice versa.

With sufficient room and equipment a class of one hundred could be accommodated with little additional expense to the College. That the class would be forthcoming is evidenced by the number of applications received this year of hard times and without even so much as a newspaper article announcing the opening of the course.

BETTER EQUIPMENT NEEDED.

The interest manifested in cheese-making demands the attention of our legislators. It seems as though the time had come when Michigan should have a building and equipment that will enable her to instruct her butter and cheese makers in the best methods of work in their respective lines. It is in connection with the young women must not be neglected, for much of the poor butter produced in this state is made in small quantities by the farmers' wives and daughters. They need the instruction as well as the men. This winter, for the first time, they have taken advantage of our present course, which is open both to men and women, young and old. The ages in the present class range from 17 to 40.

Agricultural College.

Handling the Milk Product.

Portion of a paper read at the Farmers' Institute, Washington, Mich., by C. S. Bartlett, of Pontiac.

The most profitable way to handle the milk product depends largely upon the location with regard to the city consumer, the natural qualification of the dairyman and the fancy of the producer, and also the kind of cows of which the herd is composed. There are a few rules that must be observed in order to make a success of dairying in any of its branches.

A FEW RULES.

First, absolute cleanliness, as nearly as possible, in the stable, as well as for the product from the time the milk is drawn to the time it reaches the consumer in its original shape, or is made into fine mellow cheese, beautiful yellow butter, or delicious ice cream.

Second, thorough ventilation of stables, good, pure water and, in short, everything that will tend to make the cow more comfortable and contented.

Third, the selection of that breed of animals best suited to the particular line of dairying to be pursued. If I were selling milk to dealers in the city I should aim to secure the cow that would produce the most milk of the required quality from a given amount of food consumed; the cow

that will give a good flow of milk from nine to twelve months, and go dry not more than three months, and will not lay on flesh while producing milk in abundance. I never was a friend to the combined machine in any form and the cow in particular. I believe that if a cow is a good milk producer, the matter of beef ought not to be taken into consideration.

SOME FIGURES.

A few figures in regard to the comparative profit to be derived from different modes of disposing of the dairy product may not be uninteresting. I have taken some pains to secure from leading milk dealers and cheese makers figures that I believe can be relied upon, and will allow you to draw your own conclusions as to which is best suited to your locality and fancy. Mr. Fred Warner of Farmington, Oakland county, has received at his factory from one patron who keeps nine cows 50,000 pounds of milk which would net him about \$400, or a trifle over \$44 per cow. The calf and what butter he will make after the cheese making time is over is estimated to be worth \$9 more. This will make in all about \$53 per cow. He also says that the average returns from each cow after all expenses of making and selling have been deducted will be about \$39. So the first man quoted gets \$99 more from his herd of cows than the average, and about \$200 better than the poorest here. A strong argument in favor of good cows, good care and plenty of feed and water. The milk is all taken away from the house, which greatly relieves the housewife and gives her more time to read and attend farmers' institutes. The whey is returned to be fed to pigs or calves.

EFFECT ON THE FARM.

It is claimed by some that constant sale of milk will deprive the land of the elements necessary to produce it and bone must be returned to the soil, and they say in argument that cows on old dairy farms will eat every bone they can find. This claim comes principally from those having rough land pasture that is fed off continually and never plowed or manured. 50,000 pounds of milk sold at the prices paid by Detroit milk dealers would bring about \$500 or about \$100 more than would be realized at the cheese factory. Mr. Child, who buys extensively at Utica and Birmingham, tells me that he has one patron who has furnished from thirteen cows 65,417 pounds of milk, or an average of over \$50 per cow in a year.

SELLING MILK.

In selling milk one should have a cold water tank to set his milk in, or use an aerator and thus free the milk from all animal odors and tastes before shipping or selling. If I were retailing milk myself I should much prefer to handle it in bottles, as it is much more cleanly and gives better satisfaction. Be regular in milking. If you are retailing, always start out at the same hour each day, and when your customers can set their clocks correctly by your coming, if you are honest and courteous, your success is assured.

SELLING CREAM.

We are now selling our cream in Pontiac at 20 cents a quart, delivering twice a week, which can be done in cold weather if good care is taken, and the customer have sweet cream continually. We also supply cream and ice cream for parties and private use. The ice cream retails at 25 cents a quart and we get 80 cents per gallon at wholesale. We find this to be the most profitable way to dispose of the dairy product in our particular case. We also carry buttermilk and butter when we deliver cream, and, in fact, whatever is wanted that we have to sell.

THE BUTTER FACTORY.

But the question, how to handle the dairy product where one is not so fortunate as to be near a cheese factory, shipping station, or town where he can sell at retail, is a more difficult question to answer, and still I believe that if rightly managed, the dairy farm can be made very successful under these conditions. If there are enough good cows that can be reached conveniently, say 1000 within a three or four mile circle, I believe a butter factory can be made more profitable for the farmer than a cheese factory. The great trouble is that the dairy business needs greater and more constant care than the average Michigan farmers are willing to give it. Their early education has been different. They raised wheat and other grains and could take life easy in winter, and almost everybody goes to town on Saturday and gets home after the cows should have been fed and milked; and early formed habits are hard to cure. Out of 620 patrons of a leading creamery of Dickinson county, Kansas, one patron received last month \$1.52 per hundred for milk, one hundred and fifty-two received from \$1.00 to \$1.25, and the lowest price paid was 77¢ cents, which shows the necessity of care in the selection of cows, feeding, milking, etc. If the average at 97¢ cents is profitable, what shall we say of the man who received \$1.52 per hundred?

GET A SEPARATOR.

The milk intended to be made into butter should either be set in deep cans with ice or a steady flow of very cold water to force the cream to the surface, or a centrifugal separator should be used. I believe the separator is preferable as it takes no longer to skim. You have no setting cans to wash. You can get more cream and have the nice warm skimmed milk to feed to calves or pigs. The old way of setting milk in pans or crocks is worse than mowing with a scythe, for good hay can be made that way, and first class butter can not be made that way. Cream should be gathered every day and churned as soon as it can be ripened. It can be readily seen that this plan would save an immense amount of labor in drawing the milk to and from the factory and one team could do the work of five or six and just as good butter can be made. This plan will take the hard and monotonous labor of churning and working the butter out of the house.

HOME DAIRYING.

To the man who cannot have the advantage of the creamery near by I would say, get a few good cows, know how much butter each cow will produce, make only the best butter by using the most improved methods, and then sell it to consumers in your nearest city at not less than an average of twenty-five cents a pound. There is no trouble to get that price or more. The last year that I was connected with the Pontiac creamery our butter sold at retail, averaged about thirty cents per pound. Raise good Jersey or Guernsey calves from your best cows, and keep no cow that will not make one pound of butter per day in good feed. We have several half blood Jersey heifers that have made for us, according to the churn test, forty dollars worth of butter before they were thirty months old. With wheat at fifty cents per bushel, wool at eight cents per pound, horses at fifty dollars each, and hay at six to eight dollars per ton, what can a farmer do that will bring in the ready cash and still maintain the fertility of the soil equally with the dairy business?

Farm Fences.

A. T. STEVENS.

As springtime approaches many of our farmers, who are contemplating building fences, will begin to look about for a fence. The old rail fence, the most extravagant fence you ever had on your farm, is worn out. Your timber supply is becoming exhausted and you will split no more rails; indeed you would not had you the timber, for the fence occupies too much land to make it a profitable investment at any price. Farming lands in most parts of our state are of such value, and the returns from the land are such, that the intelligent farmer is going to occupy every foot of his land that is possible.

SLAT FENCES.

A few years ago, as the old fences disappeared, our farmers built much of the so called "slat and wire" fence. This, to make a fence at all desirable, required three cable wires or six wires, and then a slat every six inches. This brings a great weight on the wires; it catches much wind which keeps it almost constantly swaying back and forth, and in a short time the wires at the points of crossing are broken or very much weakened, which causes the fence to become loose and unsightly. Then too they are the worst fence I ever saw to bank snow. If you have taken long rides through the country in the winter, just after a severe snow storm, have you not noticed that wherever you saw "slat and wire" fences, you saw snow banks and blockaded roads? Saying nothing of these objections, the fence is not economical to build. If three more wires are added and five of every six slats are thrown out, I believe you will have a fence in every respect more satisfactory.

WIRE FENCES.

I believe wire fences have come to stay. By this I do not mean to say it is necessary for our farmers to purchase the patent wire fences which are being sold about the country for 75 cents and a dollar per rod. Not so. In the fall of 1893 the College commenced collecting, for trial, the various wire fences which we could find on the market, and could secure on our terms. By the last of June, 1894, we had not less than nine of the best then on the market. These were all put up carefully according to instructions. Among them we find some very valuable fences. To these we added one of our own construction, which has no patent on it, for you know experiment station men are not allowed to patent articles. So valuable and economical have we since considered this fence that we have put up over 270 rods beside the first 40 rods that were built.

THE COLLEGE FENCE.

When the College has what they believe to be a good thing it always gives it to the people, and I will describe the fence of which I have been speaking. You may

make it of as many wires as you choose, depending on circumstances. We have used nine wires for some and ten for some, but as there is so little difference in the cost, we believe it is better to use ten wires. The top, bottom, and middle wires are of No. 9 wire, the intermediate wires are No. 10 wire. These may be spaced to satisfy the purpose for which the fence is intended, and if it is intended to turn pigs in I would have the second wire from the bottom, of hog wire, that is, wire with short barbs. The spaces used by us satisfactorily are as follows: The first wire is 4 inches from the ground; the 2d and 3d are each 3 inches apart; the 4th and 5th are each 4 inches; the 6th is 5 inches; the 7th is 6 inches; the 8th is 7 inches; the 9th is 8 inches; and the 10th is 9 inches from the respective wires below them. This gives us a fence with the top wire 53 inches from the ground. The spaces are then, ground-4-3-3-4-4-5-6-7-8-9 inches.

HOW BUILT.

The stays we use are ¼ inch pine 2½ inches wide and long enough to have them extend an inch above and below the outside wires. These are put on five to the panel, the posts being 20 feet apart. They are fastened to the top and bottom wires by boring a hole through the stay about an inch from each end. Through this hole and astride the horizontal wire, a wire clasp is passed, the ends of which are brought back around the edges of the stay and wound firmly around the horizontal wire as close to the stay as possible. This clasp or loop is made of a piece of No. 14 or 16 wire about 8 inches long doubled together. These may be made at home on rainy days and thus time that might otherwise be lost will be utilized. The intermediate wires are fastened to the stays by staples made of No. 14 wire and just long enough to go through and clinch a little when driven down tightly.

The staples that hold the horizontal wires to the posts should be not less than 1½ inches long if cedar posts are used, and should never be driven so tightly that the wire cannot pass freely through them, for in a few months you will want to go to the hardware store and get some tighteners. Such as those used by the Homer fence company are good and will not cost more than a dollar for a set of ten. These will tighten a 90 rod strip and keep it in good condition.

CAUTIONS.

In building wire fence do not make the common mistake of getting small, short, end posts and setting them 2½ or 3 feet in the ground. Much caution needs to be used here. More strain comes on this part of the fence than anywhere else. Then get good oak, if you use wood posts, have them sawed 8x8 inches and cut them 8 or 8½ feet long so that they will go into the ground not less than 3½ feet; near the bottom spiked to the sides of the post, have some anchors made of 2x4s three feet long. Then see that the dirt is well stamped, at the bottom especially. It is also better, I think, if you can bore holes through the end posts for the wires to pass through. This will bring the strain of the fence on the center of the post and will not have that tendency to twist the post and loosen it which often occurs in loose sandy soils.

Fence of the kind above described, with cedar posts, need not cost more than thirty-five cents per rod besides the building, and this can be done by almost anyone. There is no work about it any farmer cannot do, for we had students do all the work in putting up that which we now have on the College farm, and it is good enough for any farm.

Agricultural College.

A New Aid to Education: Travelling Libraries.

We may say that 25,000 books have been read as a result of the travelling libraries. They have been good books and have left their mark on a multitude of minds. These libraries have everywhere promoted an interest in good reading, and have already led to the establishment of some important local libraries. They have been cordially received and are more in demand now than ever before. As a public investment they have fully vindicated the wisdom of their projectors and have proved worthy of the continued interest of the state. The system admits, too, of indefinite enlargement. Special-subject libraries may be multiplied as fast as they are wanted; and the addition of general libraries can keep pace with the publication of good books. The state of New York can well afford this offer of books to her citizens, which is at once generous and, in the highest sense, profitable; and the plan is confidently commended to the consideration of other states. — Wm. R. Eastman in *January Forum*.

"What is the meaning of all this talk about an elastic currency?" "I suppose it is some scheme to help a man stretch his income so as to make both ends meet." — Puck.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Songs of Seven.

Seven Times Three—Love.

I cleaned out of the window, I smelt the white clover,
Dark, dark was the garden, I saw not the gate;
Now, if there be footsteps, he comes, my one lover—
Hush, nightingale, hush! O, sweet nightingale, wait
Till I listen and hear
If a step draweth near,
For my love he is late!

The skies in the darkness stoop nearer and nearer,
A cluster of stars hangs like fruit in the tree,
The fall of the water comes sweeter, comes clearer:
To what art thou listening, and what dost thou see?
Let the stars cluster grow,
Let the sweet waters flow,
And cross quickly to me.

You night moths that hover where honey brims over
From sycamore blossoms, or settle or sleep;
You glowworms, shine out, and the pathway discover
To him that comes darkling along the rough steep.
Ah, my sailor, make haste,
For the time runs to waste,
And my love lieth deep—

Too deep for swift telling; and yet, my one lover,
I've conned thee an answer, it waits thee tonight.
By the sycamore passed he, and through the white clover,
Then all the sweet speech I had fashioned took flight;
But I'll love him more, more
Than e'er wife loved before,
Be the days dark or bright.
—JEAN INGELW.

Aims for Spare Moments.

BELLE SUTFIN MOORE.

Everybody should have aims in life—aims in work and aims in play, and aims also for the spare moments.

Would we only do as much thinking and planning for the spare time here and there, sandwiched between labors of the day, as we do for the regular day's work, how much we might accomplish! Mistake me not, please. I refer not to the doing of a greater amount of manual labor, not to the work belonging to house and field, but to the improvement of head and heart. I will say heart and head, for an educated head alone is not always fair to see, but an educated heart—what can be more beautiful?

When we stop to consider that one little hour out of each day, Sundays excluded, would in sixty years amount to one thousand, one hundred and seventy four working days of sixteen hours each, even the busiest laborer is led to exclaim, "My vague dreams shall be realized, my life-work shall be accomplished!"

When a child my mother gave me an incentive to the improvement of spare moments by relating an incident of her childhood. She often went with her father to the fields, following the cradle with a hand rake, helping rake the grain ready for binding. A book was her companion. Placing the book on a stump, (the country was new) she carefully read over a portion, then leaving her book, she went her "round," not only to rake grain, but also to digest what she had read. Each "round" this was repeated, reading during her rest moments, and digesting what she had read while working. At fourteen she began teaching.

This item of digesting what we read is important as regards spare moments. We do not then take more at a time than can be easily and healthily digested. Overloading,—filling up with "trash"—will soon cause mental dyspepsia. Leave "trash" alone. The Farm Home Reading Circle is composed of good books if new ones are desired. Reading of any good book tends to improvement.

Now, while you are utilizing spare moments for the cultivation of the head, do not, I pray you, neglect the heart. These spare moments may be great character builders. An arm to the weary, an open hand to the needy, a visit to the sick—these we expect to do; but the little things—the things of the leisure moments are the ones which tell most on the heart. Just a word, a look, the substituting a smile for a frown, the repression of an impatient word! Oh! how beautiful we might be if we would but rightly cultivate the heart.

The reading of nature, the sunset, the heavens, even the bare and leafless trees, and the earth with her frozen and pulseless breast wrapped in a snowy shroud—a silent lesson of death and resurrection—all, when rightly read, make purer, sweeter, nobler the heart of man.
Moscow.

Kindergarten.

The First Gift With its Accompanying Occupation.
HATTIE L. MOORE.

A great many times during the past five years of my study of kindergarten this question has been asked me, "What is kindergarten?" I answer, it is the study of nature and its laws. From a pedagogic standpoint it is an effort to present to the child the right objects at the right time, in the right sequence and in the right way.

1. The right objects at the right time. I think you will agree with me that the education of a child begins at the dawn of consciousness. The first object presented to a child must be a unit, because the child's simplicity must be met with simplicity, otherwise his mind would become confused. In all natural developments the idea of unity precedes the idea of variety. From the simple to the complex is a law universal.

2. In the proper sequence. The first object should be a complete whole. Why? Because division weakens impression; complexity overpowers simplicity.

3. In the right way. The first object must be one that will give the child pleasure, and through his pleasure stimulate his activities. The natural impulse of a child is to reach for an object presented, to investigate its properties, to search out its mysteries. If the object is not pleasurable, this impulse dies and our effort to stimulate is unsuccessful. Frederick Froebel, the father of kindergarten, observed that the ball was always given to the child in the nursery; that whether in a swinging or rolling motion, or clasped in the hand, it gave the child pleasure and stimulated his activities. So he gave us six soft, colored, worsted balls for our first object or gift. He defines the word gift as a plaything; soft because more pleasing to the touch of the little child; colored because things in nature are colored, hence the primary and secondary colors are used. He also chose it because of its simplest form, and the one from which all others may be derived; of its simplicity to the undeveloped mind, and its complexity to the developed mind, and of its completeness as a whole. With the proper presentation of this object the child is easily led from unity to variety, from simplicity to complexity, from oneness to manifoldness. The salient characteristic of this gift is form, the accidental one is color. 1st, as to form. If the child is far enough advanced to know that the ball is round he will promptly give you that answer to your first question. Then you will compare it to objects of similar form and then those of contrasting form. Johnnie, can you think of anything round like your ball? A marble, an apple, a cherry, my head, the sun, and many other objects. Then compare as to color, we will say the ball is red, the cherry and apple are red like my ball, that pretty geranium, Fannie's dress, the teacher's neck-tie; then look for contrasting colors. Thus from day to day this simple little ball increases the child's desire to study, and on his way home from kindergarten he will find something round like his ball, and the next morning will want to tell you about it before he thinks to say "Good morning." As kindergarten is the foundation of manual training, let us dwell for a few moments upon the occupations that are closely connected with the objects that we have just talked about. The work must be simple; a little child could not knit or crochet a ball that would be so complex, so we will first place before the child a dotted circle drawn upon a piece of bristol board, placing a pricking needle in the hand and the card upon a pricking pad, he takes the first lesson in perforating, which is considered the first link in the chain of occupation. The first object of this occupation is to give steadiness to the eye and hand. 2d, to train the eye to determine distances. 3d, to create harmonious figures in the way which requires least technical skill.

The next occupation would be sewing that circle with one of the primary colors, then to crayon it with the same color. I hope you do not think this is all done in one day; it would take some time for a little child to accomplish as much. They must not be kept at one occupation until they are tired. There are many other occupations connected with this gift, but I must take time to mention only one more. Clay modeling day is always a gala day with the little ones. We usually plan for this occupation once a week. With this we model the ball, bead, cherry, apple, etc., taking a step higher each time.

In this occupation, as well as in all others, the child finishes his work as the teacher directs, then he can act at his own pleasure in making what he likes out of the remaining material. This brings outward that which is hidden within the child. With the gift or object we gain knowledge, with the occupation we produce knowledge. The test of success in the work between gift and occupation is reproduction of impression received through the gift in the occupation.
Medina.

Paying the Price.

THE PHILOSOPHER.

Seeds germinate only when air, heat, and moisture, each in proper proportion, are present. Young animals thrive only when the elements of bone and muscle are given them in a digestible form. By no device nor machine can that which is called energy be increased; for man creates no forces, he merely utilizes the forces he discovers. Thus we do not go far into the realms of science before we learn that in order to accomplish a desired end we must fully obey certain inexorable laws—we must pay the price. There is good reason to believe that this tremendous fact, which stands guard at the portals of science, rules in every department of the great cathedral of truth; for into whatever recesses men have searched, they have inevitably reported that they heard there the same commands to obedience.

We have but to look around us to learn that most men pay the price of material prosperity. The majority of those who are in what are termed comfortable circum-

stances have attained this position by hard work and economy. On the other hand, many who are poor, and who, because of their poverty, rail continually at the rich, are poor because they are spendthrifts. They do not save their earnings, nor provide "against that day." It is true that there are fortunes amassed in dishonor and corruption, but I believe that in more cases than we think, wealth is the legitimate result of the right use of the brains God has given us. I believe that most men pay the price that fortune demands of those on whom she bestows her favors.

I remember that when I began the study of Latin, our instructor gave us a Latin proverb, which, being liberally translated, read, "No victory without toil." I suppose that this proverb was intended to serve both as warning and encouragement in the thorny path upon which we were entering. Certainly its truth was amply proved before my foray into the language of Caesar had ended. And I am persuaded that no man was ever victor over his ignorance unless he "toiled upward in the night," figuratively, if not literally. We are inclined to attribute the success of others to their "smartness," or to their "ability," or to their "genius," according to the measure of their achievement. Doubtless some are more liberally endowed than others with a good quality of brains, but every great thinker or close student will ascribe his success to hard work. Has not one of these masters even said that "Genius is but the capacity for hard work?" Any young man who "wants to be somebody," must pay the price—there is absolutely no other way. A fortune may be gained by speculation, but knowledge comes not at such a call.

I believe that the same law holds in the domain of morals, though perhaps the scope is not so well defined. People are coming to see more and more clearly that it is not by some marvel that men grow in grace, but rather by seeking proper moral and spiritual nourishment. We must heed this law or we shall come to a spiritual condition analogous to starvation. "I have meat to eat that ye know not of" is the statement of the law of growth in the spiritual world. We must earn the food and partake of it if we grow, and we need not be surprised if, some day, the truth flashes upon us that the law is just as rigorous here as it is in the realms of the material and the mental. Here, as elsewhere, if we wish the reward we must pay the price.

The Uses of Hot Water.

The best methods of using hot water are as follows: For sprains of the ankle and wrist or any joint the part should be thoroughly soaked for half an hour at a time, night and morning, in very hot water, writes A. Marcy, M. D., in a very valuable list of "Domestic Household Remedies" in the January Ladies' Home Journal. Anyone suffering from a severe sprain will not require more than the first soaking to convince them of the advantage of hot over cold water. A flannel bandage should be applied firmly after each treatment. For bruises very much the same method should be followed, although the application need not be continued for so long a time. For wounds and sores the best method is to drip or pour for a few minutes. For styes and inflamed eyelids, and even for sore eyes, use water as hot as can be borne by sipping. To stop bleeding, very hot water applied to the raw surface will be found efficacious. For many forms of dyspepsia and biliousness, particularly a catarrhal condition of stomach, a goblet of hot water, drunk after a night's fasting, will give relief. For continued application in the form of a poultice, as in catarrh of the breast, pleurisy, pneumonia, etc., a jacket of cotton batting wrung out in very hot water by means of a towel, and covered with oiled silk or waxed paper, should be used.

The Juveniles.

The Difficult Seed.

A little seed lay in the ground,
And soon began to sprout;
"Now which of all the flowers around,"
It mused, "shall I come out?"

The lily's face is fair and proud,
But just a trifle cold;
The rose, I think, is rather loud,
And then, its fashion's old.

The violet is very well,
But not a flower I'd choose;
Nor yet the Canterbury bell—
I never cared for blues.

Petunias are by far too bright,
And vulgar flowers beside;
The primrose only blooms at night,
And peonies spread too wide.

And so it criticized each flower,
This supercilious seed;
Until it woke one summer hour
And found itself a weed.
—MILDRED HOWELLS, in St. Nicholas.

Straws.

At the age of two or three years the instinct of investigation in a child begins to show itself. He tears to pieces his doll, smashes to pieces his toy bank, cuts holes in his aprons, and breaks his wooden sol-

diers. It is a critical period. This important instinct is the basis of mathematical and scientific research; without it man would have made but little real progress. It needs only to be led in the path of construction rather than destruction.

Instead of vainly trying to suppress this inborn power, guide it aright. Give him dolls he can dress and undress, wagons he can take apart and put together, toy horses to be harnessed and hitched to various vehicles, and blocks that may be used in many styles of architecture. The more he can invent and make that which is distinctly his own, the happier he is.

It is the divine right of each human being to construct and reconstruct in his own way when that way does not interfere with the rights or property of others. This desire to create is one of the best evidences that man is made in the image of his Creator.
F. C. B.

Fred and His Cousins.

Fred is a city boy. He never was in the country until last year. He spent the summer vacation at his Grandma Stone's farmhouse. The great out of doors was all new and very strange to him. He asked many queer questions. His country cousins thought many of them were foolish questions. He asked if the birch trees by the spring shed their skins every year; if a muskrat could climb as high as a squirrel; and he really did believe that cows gave skim milk, and that beans grew underground.

"A city boy does not know much," his cousins said to one another when Fred was not there to hear; but Grandma would say, "Wait and see."

Grandma wanted some skullcap herb one day. Skullcap tea she must have for a very sick neighbor. She sent the children into the meadows and woods to search for it. None of them knew the herb or where it grew. "A little blue flower with a peaked green leaf," was all Grandma could tell them of the herb.

Jack came home with a big bunch of lobelia, Lucy with water weeds, Jean, gentian flowers, the twins with an armful of snake grass; but Fred came with his hands full of skullcap herb.

"I found it down in the south swamp, Grandma," he said. "I had read of it in my botany, and I knew it the minute I saw it."

"He does know something," the cousins whispered, and Grandma said, "I told you to wait and see."

One evening Grandma took a lighted lamp and went into the shed chamber for another cheese hoop. Jack and Jean and Fred went with her. She stepped on a loose board. It tipped and the lamp flew from grandma's hand. The oil spilled and caught fire, and in a moment that end of the shed chamber was all ablaze. Grandma screamed for water and Grandpa and the boys ran for it to dash over the flames, but Fred shouted "don't, don't, don't!"

He caught a shovel from the floor, scooped it in a barrel of meal, and threw shovelful after shovelful of the damp stuff upon the flames. The fire was all out when the boys came puffing upstairs with pails of water.

"Don't! Don't throw water on oil flames, for it spreads the fire," Fred said. "Our teacher told us about it. Dash on flour, meal, salt, earth, dressing, woolen clothing, rugs, but never water."

"Fred saved our house this time, and no mistake," Grandpa said, looking at the scorched floor and wall in the open chamber. "The timbers and boards are as dry as tinder, and hung with everything that would easily catch fire. Water would have spread the flames and burned the house."

"City boys do know a whole lot," Jack whispered to Jean, sliding down the shed chamber stairs.—Our Little Men and Women.

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. Miller, 500, 12th Street, Detroit, Michigan.]

Solutions to puzzles January 3. No. 25, Dear. 26, The Juveniles. 27, O. Ore, Organ, Ear, N.

SOLVERS.

Granger, N. E. T., Lily May; all complete.

31—Pyramid.

FROM THE TOP—1, A letter. 2, A name. 3, To over-spread. 4, Watchful. 5, Transparency. CENTRALS DOWN.—A Sweetheart.

32—Crossword.

In duck, not in hen.
In women, not in men.
In aim, not in fire.
In wheel, not in tire,
WHOLE makes a splendid fire.

Pontiac, Mich. N. Y. T.

33—Numerical.

9, 2, 4, is a weight. 1, 6, 5, 8, 7, an ancient Israelite. 3, 6, 9, a covering for the head. TOTAL is an ancient Explorer.
Sand Beach, Mich. GRANGER.

PRIZES.

For prizes see last number.

THE MAIL BAG.

Subscribe! only fifty cents a year. Answers to puzzles in this number of GRANGE VISITOR must reach us not later than Feb. 19. N. E. T. (of Pontiac) and Granger (of Sand Beach) have sent us excellent batches of puzzles, thanks, do not let us get out of your puzzles. Edith, Lucinda S. Guyer, A. W. Carroll, Mrs. Fudge, Gertrude Brooks, Ann L. Cheney, Grace B., Oliver Omega, Fred Carter, Granite Poser, and every other reader please send us some puzzles, also solve. Remember we offer a prize (novel) for largest and best batch of puzzles, so let every person send us a batch.
NANCY LEE.

THE GRANGE VISITOR

CHARLOTTE, MICH.

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Pour in the Petitions.

In our last issue we urged Granges to pour in the petitions and resolutions favoring the farmers' institute bill. This bill will not unlikely be before the House next week, and it is very essential that action be had at once. We therefore urge you, Patrons, to take such action, if you have not already done so:

1. Pass a resolution favoring the bill, and send a copy to each of these three persons: Hon. A. T. Linderman, Lansing, your senator, and your representative, at Lansing;

2. Draw up a petition favoring the bill and get signers from leading farmers outside the Order, and send to your representative;

3. Be sure that your most influential members and farmers write personal letters to your representative favoring the passage of this bill.

Do not delay. This is your bill. All you need to do is to let your legislators know what you want.

Our forms close too early for a report of the State Association of Farmers' Clubs, which met in Lansing this week.

Grumbling $\frac{1}{2}$, work $\frac{3}{4}$: that's a good formula to express the facts in the case of several grumblers we happen to know.

It is very strange that men will come to Grange and refuse to take part in any exercises that they may be asked to join in. What is the Grange for if not to develop men?

As a rule the most successful farmers are those who carry on their work in a business-like way. Shiftlessness and carelessness are responsible for a great deal of failure in this world.

So many young men and women seem to have no idea of what they are living for. The Grange is not for these, unless it be to inspire high ambitions within their souls. The Grange is most useful to those who wish to make the most of life.

Three Queries.

Were you a delegate to State Grange last December?

Did you agree to write a personal letter to your representative urging the passage of the pure food bill?

Have you done it?

Agriculture in Scotland.

Mr. Alfred R. Locke contributes an interesting article to this issue of the VISITOR on "Agriculture in Scotland." Mr. Locke is a graduate of the Agricultural College, class of '91, and is deputy consul of the United States at Glasgow. Mr. Locke promises another article in the future, bearing on some phase of rural life in Scotland.

The Township Unit.

In another column we give a very brief outline of the proposed township unit school bill. It will be seen that one or two objectional features of former propositions are removed. Villages and the county districts vote separately; taxes are

apportioned according to appraised valuation of school property in each district; and township lines for school purposes will not cut existing fractional districts. Whether these provisions will do away with all objections is the meat of the subject for discussion.

Also What We Eat.

We publish in another column an abstract of the last report of the dairy and food commissioner. His recommendations are practically embodied in Mr. Redfern's bill which we mentioned in our last issue. It is for every Patron's interest to make himself familiar with this measure, for no more important bill will come before this body than the pure food bill. If we are going to have pure food, let us have it. Let us give our commissioner sufficient power and enough money to enforce the law. We hope Granges will discuss this matter very thoroughly.

The Visitor Justified.

Last October, in the face of the opinion of many able editors and political students, the VISITOR maintained that the proposed amendment to the constitution relative to the qualifications of electors would temporarily disfranchise a number of voters. Our position has been justified by the recent decision of the attorney general, who elaborates the brief opinion we expressed last fall. We do not mention this as a matter of supreme importance, but to illustrate the fact that the VISITOR does not speak unless it thinks it knows "where it is at."

Old Glory at the Polls.

In recent years a campaign has been carried on to secure the possession of a United States flag for every school house in the state. This is right. This emblem can be made a most useful ally in teaching the children patriotism.

But there are older people—voters, who need to learn more patriotism, more of the meaning of the flag. Why would it not be a valuable aid in such an education if the law provided that on each election day in Michigan the national flag should be kept flying over every voting place while the polls are open? Think it over.

A New Departure.

A paper for the masses must have something for everybody, and, acting on the idea that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," we shall introduce a serial story into the VISITOR. This change is in line with the enterprise of the new managers, who propose to push the VISITOR list. We propose to keep them by improving the VISITOR as a paper. The story is Dr. A. Conan Doyle's first and best detective story, and is entitled "A Study in Scarlet." In it is introduced Sherlock Holmes, the greatest detective character in all English fiction. This story, when first published, took England by storm and is one of the most absorbing detective stories ever written, yet it is not a piece of "dime novel" literature. Conan Doyle is gaining fame as one of the best living story writers. The opening chapters will appear in our next issue.

Tax Reform.

Every farmer believes that one of the most important questions is that of taxation. The Grange recognizes this belief, and always records itself in favor of tax reform whenever and wherever reform is possible.

One difficulty, however, meets every earnest and honest tax reformer. We may howl about unequal taxation, but we cannot lay our eyes on facts to prove our position. Of course we may reason from some little circumstance occurring in our own town, but that hardly forms a basis for a comprehensive and just tax law. It would seem therefore that the first step in genuine tax reform is to get at the facts in the case. What really is the situation? No one knows. Our readers will remember that a Patron sent several questions on taxation last fall. They were referred to the best authority we know, and yet they were only partially answered. The data are simply not at hand. The first thing to do is to know the truth. In another col-

umn we very briefly give the outline of a proposed measure which is designed to enable the state to ascertain all the facts regarding taxation. This measure is in the right line, and ought to pass.

A Decrepit City.

Detroit is writhing in the grasp of a despotic mayor—a mayor, however, chosen by a goodly majority of her citizens. Her people aver that their lives are endangered by reason of the unfitness of the health officer, who will not resign and whom the mayor will not supplant. It is therefore asked that the state take to itself the appointment, through the governor, of a health board for that city.

We believe this is a step in the wrong direction. Detroit's self interest demands the preservation of home rule. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred she would resent state interference. But now, having got herself into trouble, she is temporarily willing to give up her freedom of action. If her people are not now competent to govern the city, let them learn by experience.

Again, the principle of local government is a growing one. Nothing must be done, as a matter of principle, that shall retard its growth. This is a serious question, and we hope the legislature will not set any precedent, for temporary reasons, that shall retard progress in municipal government.

An Institute System.

Possibly the proposed farmers' institute bill may not suit every individual farmer, but we believe that it is the best that can be drawn short of actual experience with its working. Time will show needed amendments. The bill carries with it an appropriation for two years, and will have to be re-enacted at the next legislature. Thus defects may easily be remedied at that time.

This bill is really in the interest of economy. It reduces the institute work to a system. Thus much money can be saved by proper management of places, dates, routes, etc. This is the only economical way.

This bill is just to the whole state. Whereas now the College can furnish help to only a few counties, it will be compelled to furnish speakers to every county desiring them, without expense to that county.

No county in the state but will profit by an institute. The requests for institutes are more than double what the College can supply. Let us have this demand satisfied, and in doing it create a system that shall insure the greatest economy and efficiency. This bill will do it, we believe.

Beneath the Dome.

In this column we design to mention and discuss those measures introduced into the legislature that we believe will be of most importance and interest to our readers. If any of our readers desire to have the provisions of any bill that we do not mention and will let us know their wishes we will endeavor to get the information.

Delegates to the State Grange will remember the library that stood near the door of the house, and also the talk by Mrs. Spencer, state librarian. Mrs. Spencer's desire is to secure a small appropriation, of about \$2,500, for the purpose of inaugurating a system of traveling libraries. This is a worthy measure, and we shall treat it at greater length in the near future.

We group together the chief bills relating to education. All of these are favored by the office of public instruction. One bill provides an educational qualification for school examiners—at least a third grade certificate. Also a person cannot be elected county school commissioner who has not had at least 24 months teaching experience. Also the teachers in city schools shall be examined the same as are teachers in district schools. Teachers over 21 years old must be citizens.

Another bill is known as the compulsory free text-book bill. It merely provides that school districts shall provide all pupils with the necessary books without cost to the pupil.

There is also a bill providing that none but citizens of the United States can vote at school meetings.

The school out-house bill provides that district school boards shall build proper out-houses and keep them in proper condition. If this is not done, after proper notification by the county commissioner, the latter is empowered to build or repair the same, under certain limitations as to expense involved, and the cost will be assessed to the district.

Also a bill providing five months school

as the minimum number for any district.

The bill that will interest our readers the most of any educational bill is the township unit bill. It is an optional bill, giving any township in the state the privilege of organizing into a township school district. There are now 61 township districts in the state, but they have all had to get permission of the legislature.

This bill provides that the organized villages or cities and the rural districts shall vote separately upon the plan, the idea being to prevent a village or city saddling the system onto a township against the wishes of the rural districts. There are to be five members of the township school board, elected at a special election.

The territory of fractional districts is to go to the township which contains the school house of that district. Thus for school purposes the township lines will follow fractional district lines. A board of equalization is provided for, who shall appraise all school properties. All the property of a district shall be credited to it, and all debts debited to it, and school taxes shall be assessed to each district in similar proportion to the liabilities of the district.

Representative Wilder has noticed a bill to provide for the gathering, compiling, and reporting the statistics of taxation. It provides for the appointment of a tax statistician, who shall be well versed in the tax laws and a competent accountant, and makes it the duty of that officer to ascertain, as nearly as may be, the actual and the assessed value of the real and personal property which is subject to taxation under the general tax law; the character and value of property which is exempt from taxation and the reasons for such exemption; the value and character of the property of companies liable for the payment of specific taxes and the earnings of such companies; the amount of taxes assessed, the amount paid and the amount returned delinquent; the amount of delinquent taxes which are lost and the reasons for such loss; and such other facts relative to the sources and collection of the revenue of the state and its political subdivisions as are pertinent to the enquiry inaugurated by the measure. The statistician is to compile and record the statistics so as to be able to furnish information relative to taxation and the operation and results of the tax laws in the several political subdivisions of the state as well as the aggregate for the entire state, and is to ascertain and report whether the letter and spirit of the general and specific tax laws are enforced or wherein lies the failure to secure the full results introduced by the enactment of those laws. The bill makes it the duty of all officials to furnish from the records of their offices such information as is required by the statistician, who is charged with such investigation relative to taxable property and its value, as well, and determine the proportion assessed and the relative amount of taxes paid on various classes of property.

Something Must Be Done.

Those who attended the State Grange realized as never before that concentration is the great lever to success, and if we get any bill of importance through the legislature this session we must pull, and pull together. To be sure we have our worthy editor, as well as a legislative committee, to urge upon that honorable body our wants, but they can work with more vigor, be more persistent, can talk longer and louder, if they have eleven thousand Grange voices back of them. You know our editor and the legislative committee don't need to have their ears rubbed in order to fight savagely for Grange legislation. "They aren't built that way." They are only too willing to pitch in if we will make our wants known to them.

Last session your legislative committee wrote many a letter, sent many a bill, and asked subordinate Granges for petitions favoring the pure food bill, but received few responses.

The solons of the legislature are often ready to do the right, but they would say to us, If the Grange is so anxious for this law, why don't they send up their petitions? I know every Grange in the state two years ago was heartily in favor of better pure food laws, yet they allowed this measure to be once killed, but we resurrected and passed it after much difficulty, but the bill as passed was shorn of its best features. It gave to the dairy and food commissioner only limited power. As it now stands, it is only an entering wedge to something better, and this is the hour to strike that wedge. Let us all pound so hard that they will think we are genuine legislative rail splitters. Show them the vast interests these spurious foods effect. Show them how honest goods are driven out of our market and how Michigan has become the dumping ground for bogus merchandise, and how the present laws give a premium to rascality. Tell them how the worthy master, the special as well as the legislative committee, and the whole Grange ask as one voice for better pure food laws.

DARIUS D. BUELL.

Union City.

Business.

The Satisfaction that Follows When Business is Done in a Systematic Way.

The binding twine deal for the harvest of 1894 was the first work of the State Grange in the way of trade on the new basis. It being new to our people, and the notice being given to the Granges of the state after very many farmers had placed their orders, the volume of the business done was but a small proportion of what it should have been and what it will be the coming year. The first complaint is yet to be heard from those who used the twine or the dealer who filled the orders.

From a recent letter sent to close up the last details of the deal the contract firm says: "We will take this opportunity to compliment the Grange upon the business-like manner in which the transactions of this deal were carried through, and upon the satisfactory nature of the whole business. We have never had anything carried out so fully with a contract of such a nature as this was." A high compliment, indeed. This should encourage our members to acquiesce in stricter business forms when they are essential to success. As farmers these are some of the lessons we must learn before we can expect to reap the full benefit from trade contracts with business firms which will deal in no other way but systematically.

Of our two hundred twenty-five Granges in the state but about fifty availed themselves of the twine contract, ordering 53, 225 lbs. The largest order was sent in by the Ronald Grange, No. 192, of Ionia county for 2000 pounds. The coming season all members should place their orders with their Grange and use the contract the state Grange has secured for their benefit.

G. B. HORTON.

Co-operative Trade Union.

That the Patrons of Michigan may be informed of the progress of the work of forming closer trade arrangements with manufacturers and first dealers in many of the articles of daily use on and about our farms, I give this brief summary of the meeting of the representatives of ten of the northwestern states which convened in Chicago January 8, for the above named object.

A temporary organization was formed last May and the proposed work of the union was referred to the various state Granges for endorsement. At the January meeting just held it was found that all of the states favored the movement, and thereupon the temporary organization was made permanent. G. R. Keill of Waverly, Mo., was continued as president and George B. Horton of Michigan as secretary and treasurer. R. L. Holman of Ohio, Oliver Wilson of Illinois, and O. E. Hall of Nebraska were elected to constitute an auditing and advisory committee. G. R. Keill was elected to act as contract agent, and a moderate appropriation, to be borne equally by the various states, was placed at his disposal to defray the necessary expenses of investigations and executing the work. Some manufacturers and first dealers who had incidentally heard of the conference sought a hearing and seemed anxious to close terms for trade in their wares. Those in attendance were made enthusiastic by the prospects of success. It was the consensus of opinion, however, that due caution must be exercised to prevent unprofitable deals, and that for the first year a few favorable contracts for the purchase of such articles as our people would be most likely to patronize fairly well would be better for the future success of the work than it would to have a large number of deals poorly supported. As much as our people desire these contracts made it remains a fact that we must be educated up to the point of compliance with such rules and regulations along the lines of business system as are necessary to successfully handle the work. The proposed work of the union will gradually proceed from this time and all subordinate Granges will be duly notified as fast as contracts are closed. Members must not expect too much for the first year and whenever notice is received of deals made, remember success depends upon your patronage and support.

Our state will also on its own account be working for local deals and adding to the work so well commenced.

G. B. HORTON.

To Patrons.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR: There seems to be a misapprehension as to the intent of the proposed amendment to the constitution as sent down to the state Granges for their action by the National Grange in its twenty-eighth annual session. The proposed amendment is to strike out the word "annually" where it occurs in line four (4) of article 1, section 2 of the constitution, and insert "biennially." The amendment relates exclusively to the election in district Granges, as will be clearly seen by reference to the motion of Bro. Leonard Rhone of Pennsylvania, who introduced the amendment "to instruct the committee on constitution and by-laws to prepare a constitutional amendment providing for biennial election of officers in Pomona

Granges," which was adopted.—See page 203 of the proceedings of the twenty-eighth annual session. It appears that in some of the states the masters of the state Granges did not fully explain to the state Granges the limited (to district Granges) intent of the amendment, and hence the misapprehension on the subject.

Faithfully yours,
JOHN TRIMBLE.

Thoughts for Patrons.

Masters, have you appointed your committee on Woman's Work?

Brothers and sisters, what are you going to do for your paper, the GRANGE VISITOR? We made a friendly call the other day at the publishers' office and found them busily at work on the subscription list. They were carefully going over the columns and striking off those whose time had expired. There were so many familiar names; names that are dear to us. How anxious we were to see personally each delinquent—we could not feel that it was necessary to urge the merits of the paper, only just to remind them that their time had expired, when they would again cheerfully renew.

If each person taking this paper would secure one new yearly subscriber it would double our subscription list and make the paper a success financially. Will you not do it?

"Yes, I am satisfied. The walk was two miles, the day stormy, the roads muddy, but I secured my two new members to our Grange." This scrap from a letter of a very dear friend impresses me with the fact that it must be personal work that will add to our membership. If each member of the Grange would bring in one new member this year, what a grand Grange advance we would make!

A bright faced woman kindly took us by the hand the other day and said, "I never thought the Grange amounted to anything before, but I am going home and my husband and I will canvass these Grange questions and I think we will join the Order. I am so anxious that my children shall have the advantages of which we in our younger days were deprived and that in later years we have neglected. Our children need it." The people who are willing to canvass Grange principles are just the people that the Grange needs.

Are you planning for a Grange entertainment of some kind whereby you may increase the influence of the Order in spreading the best farmers' paper that we know of among those who need it?

A rare privilege was given Calhoun county Grange on the first day of the new year. It was privileged to assist in celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the marriage of our dear and venerable brother and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Elias C. Manchester. They are our Grange father and mother. Sixty Grange children came together under the paternal roof, bringing with them hearty good cheer, reverence, and love for this dear old couple who for sixty years have travelled life's pathway together. All the way they have sown the seeds of honesty, sobriety, charity, and love, and now their own children and their Grange children rise up and call them blessed. The quaint marriage certificate was read. It was written upon a part of a sheet of foolscap paper, was yellow with age and the ink faded by time. It was a marriage contract written in the plain speech of the Friends, signed by both contracting parties and twenty-five witnesses. All witnesses save one have finished earth's journey, only three out of the wedding company of twenty-eight are left. Two easy chairs were left by the Patrons in token of our love and esteem. At four score they are earnest, active Grange workers, always ready to do their share. We think they are the oldest active Grange couple in Michigan.

MARY A. MAYO.

A Farm School.

"We shall advance the cause of education among ourselves and for our children by all just means within our power."

In these emphatic words one of the most hopeful purposes of the Grange is set forth in our declaration of purposes. I say one of the most hopeful purposes of our Order, because in a broad and more practical education lies our hopes for the future of agriculture. Mindful of this noble purpose of our Order, an earnest effort has been made during the past year by Patrons in different parts of our state to formulate a plan with a view of bringing the practical knowledge of our experiment station and the agricultural college a little nearer the farm. These efforts took shape at the late meeting of the state Grange, and were formulated with a resolution to the effect that by a state system of farmers' institutes could this purpose be best fulfilled, and to develop this system of farm schools it was deemed best that they should be under the direction of the state board of agriculture, they uniting with local organizations as to program, assembly hall, and

other details, and the development of this plan at the late meeting of the State Grange won the earnest support of the representatives from every section of the state. Indeed, at no time during the four days' session was there such unbounded enthusiasm as when the special committee to confer with the governor and ask him to recommend to the legislature an appropriation for this purpose, reported that he "considered the purpose for which the appropriation was asked worthy, and the amount reasonable, and he would so recommend to the legislature," and the heartfelt thanks of thousands of farmers are due our worthy governor for the faithful performance of his promise. The question is now before the legislature substantially as formulated by the State Grange and recommended in the governor's message.

SUPPORT THE MEASURE.

And now Patrons, we come back to you to complete this good work so auspiciously begun and so well advanced; but the work is still unfinished and you alone can complete it, and we make this last appeal to you, members of subordinate and county Granges, members of farmers' clubs, institutes, and the Home Reading Circle, and, indeed, to every farmer in the state of Michigan, we appeal to you with all the earnestness of a heartfelt interest to use the power in your hands to complete this work begun in your behalf. Do you ask in what manner you can aid this work? I answer: 1. Let every subordinate and county Grange, farmers' club, and organization of every kind pass a resolution asking their members in the legislature to work and vote for the farmers' institute bill and for the pure food bill.

2. And then let individual members of these farmers' organizations and farmers everywhere, whether members or not, write to their members of the legislature and request them to vote for these two measures. You can complete this work without expense to yourself and in the most effectual manner. Let a shower of postal cards and letters drop down upon Lansing during the next two weeks. An average of one hundred in each county of the state would be such a voice as no legislature could resist, and yet five hundred farmers in Berrien county have promised me since I returned from the State Grange that they would ask our members of the legislature to vote for these two measures, and I believe they will keep their promise. Will Lenawee send five hundred of these all powerful agents to Lansing bearing this same message? Will Van Buren do the same? Will Ionia? Will Branch? Will Allegan? Will Kent? Will every agricultural county in the state send five hundred letters or postal cards each to their members in the legislature and ask them to vote for the farmers' institute bill and the pure food bill? If they will do this, these bills will pass and they will have "advanced the cause of education among themselves and for their children," and they will have advanced their business interests by driving out of our market the millions of dollars worth of adulterated and fraudulent stuff that is annually sold in competition with the honest products of the farm. Patrons and farmers of the state of Michigan, do you wish to test the question whether you have any influence in shaping legislative action? Then let your voice be heard by the members of the legislature upon these questions of so much importance to your financial and educational interests.

Fraternally,
W. L. KANE.

St. Joseph.

State Grange and Education.

The following is the report of the standing committee on education in the last state Grange as adopted by the Grange. D. E. McClure submitted the report.

TO THE WORTHY MASTER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE STATE GRANGE—YOUR committee on education beg to submit the following report:

We believe the most important interests that can employ our thoughtful attention and earnest solicitude, are the interests clustering around the country schools. For the country boys and girls, plodding their way to school through mud and snow, we wish to enter an earnest plea for a condition in our country schools which may develop all that is divine in their natures.

We believe that the pathway to a better citizenship lies through the country schools—the farmer's school. We believe the homes with their fathers and mothers and the schools with their teachers are the prime factors in our civilization.

We believe the unsolved problem in education is how to unite all the forces that make for better education in a life campaign against all the obstacles that bar the way toward a better citizenship.

Believing that the prosperity and progress of all the people of our beloved state are bound up in the progress of education in our schools, we submit the recommendations which follow:

1. We believe that our school houses should be better equipped with needful apparatus for the use of teachers and pupils. A small working library of books useful for reference in reading history and civil government; a globe, wall maps, diction-

ary, reading chart, looking glass, towel and comb, and other minor articles should be in each and every country school house in our state. The boys and girls of our farmers deserve as good facilities in this respect as the boys and girls of cities have long enjoyed. Our present law makes it the duty of the director to provide "necessary appendages" for the school house, but does not specify what are to be considered as "necessary appendages." Our law should be amended so as to leave no opportunity for controversy as to the duties and powers of the school officers in this respect.

2. We believe that patriotism and love of American institutions should be taught in our schools; and, to this end, no person who is not a citizen should be allowed to teach.

3. Statistics show that out of 667,000 children of school age in this state only about 455,000 attend school. We are in favor of a more rigid compulsory school law which shall provide a truant officer, with reasonable compensation, to enforce attendance at school.

4. We are in sympathy with the main features of the law which created the office of commissioner of schools and board of examiners and defined their duties, but believe that the law should be so changed that no person who has not been a teacher at least twenty-four months shall pass upon the qualifications of applicants for teachers' certificates, or dictate to teachers concerning their every-day work. We also believe that the term of office of commissioner should be increased so that his work may be removed as far as possible from political influences.

5. The Grange contemplates with shame the utter disregard many school officers have for the proper condition of school out-houses, and we will favor any action of the legislature that will compel school officers to provide respectable out-buildings, and, having provided respectable buildings, to keep them so.

6. We believe the minimum number of months that should be taught in any district during any school year should be raised from three to five in all districts, and that any district whose officers willfully employ any unqualified teachers for any portion of the school year should be punished by a forfeiture of the primary interest fund.

7. Teachers' institutes like farmers' institutes afford excellent opportunities for improvement, and the Grange heartily approves of all legitimate methods that may be devised for improvement of our rural teachers. We are in favor of a law that shall compel all teachers to attend the institute, but are opposed to that law which taxes the poorly paid country teachers to pay an institute fee.

8. We earnestly demand some law which shall very materially decrease the price of text books, and we urge our superintendent of public instruction, with the assistance of our State Grange committee on legislation, to formulate some measure to be submitted to the next legislature which shall bring about the desired result. We desire good books at reasonable prices; and while we prefer that the state shall publish text books, we would hail with delight any law that shall make books cheap, durable, and uniform.

9. We are in favor of an amendment to the constitution of the state which shall provide for the election of a superintendent of public instruction at the spring election, and allow him a reasonable salary for his services.

10. A symmetrical course of study should be introduced into our schools, which course should be so arranged that all the common branches shall be pursued and completed in the rural schools. We, therefore, favor the enactment of a law that shall require school boards to use the state manual and course of study in their schools. This course is published by the department of public instruction, and has been in use in many districts for three or four years with very gratifying results.

11. We desire to especially emphasize the importance of the Oceana Pupils' Reading Course recommended by the State Grange last year. This course is now in use in several counties in the state, and the results growing out of its use are most encouraging.

There is no greater good a father, mother, or teacher can do for pupils than to give them a taste for good reading. It is an education in itself, and we call upon the good Grangers to help the work along.

D. E. McCLURE,
AGNES D. LADD,
ELIZABETH H. POUND,
A. L. KIMBLE,
THOMAS H. WHITTALL,
SUSAN D. FULLER,
M. H. WALWORTH.

How's This?

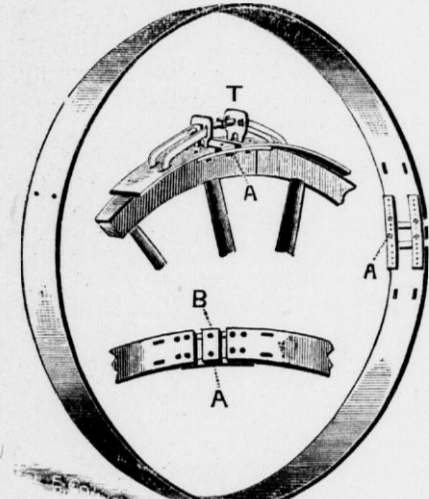
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 and best sow any
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**Some Observations on Farming
 in Western Scotland.**

ALFRED R. LOCKE.
 In recent years farming has been
 an uncertain industry in all the dis-
 tricts of Scotland. The conditions
 have been such that the Royal
 Commission of Agriculture have
 initiated inquiries as to the causes
 of the depression and are studying
 the means of relief. The depression
 is more particularly felt in the
 southwestern portion of the coun-
 try, embracing the counties of Ayr,
 Wigtown, Kirkcubright and
 Dumfries, which have the best
 farming lands in the country.
 In these counties dairying is ex-
 tensively followed. With the ex-
 ception of a few farms in this re-
 gion, all may be said to be dairy or
 hill-sheep farms, and very many of
 these farms are also devoted to the
 breeding of Ayrshire cattle, a
 breed very highly regarded for
 dairy farming. A few farms in
 the south are devoted to the breed-
 ing of the Galloway breed of polled
 black cattle. In the past the breed-
 ing of the famous Clydesdale horses
 has been extensive and profitable.
 The most valuable produce grown
 consists of hay, potatoes, carrots
 and turnips, which may either be
 fed upon or sold from the farm.
 On some farms one-half the area
 may be planted to potatoes, the
 most profitable selling of all vege-
 table farm products. Turnips and
 carrots are usually fed upon the
 farm, either to dairy cattle or to
 sheep fattening for mutton.

DIMINISHED PROFITS.
 In all the phases of farming
 profits have greatly diminished,
 most notably in the cereal crops.
 The evidences of the depression are
 the falling off of the demand for
 farm property, lower rents and the
 abandonment of long leases. The
 best managed estates have fallen
 off in their annual rental from 13
 to 18.4 per cent. Some farms
 have been abandoned by the ten-
 ants because of their inability to
 pay the rents. But with nearly
 equal depression in other industries
 there is still a demand for farm
 property, and new tenants are eas-
 ily secured. The worst condition
 for the tenants is that the rents,
 though reduced, are not reduced in
 proportion to the falling off of the
 profits from the farm.
 It is thought that the cause of
 the depression is due to the fall in
 prices caused by foreign competi-
 tion, but some claim that it is the
 monetary systems of the various
 food producing countries which
 have brought about present condi-
 tions, basing their conclusions on
 the facts that the reports of the
 world's produce do not show an
 over-production over former years,
 and that with the present demon-
 etization of silver, gold, the only
 standard measure of values, is dear.
 They would prove that it is not the
 depreciated value of farm products
 that exists, but rather the appreci-
 ation of the measure of values.

GOOD FARMING.
 Whenever the soil of Scotland
 permits, the rotation of crops is
 preserved, keeping at the same
 time the area of grass and pasture
 land large as compared with the
 American farms. The fields, with
 but few exceptions, are in good
 manured condition, and profession-
 al agriculturists claim that for the
 last thirty years the fertility of
 the soil has been in better condi-
 tion than at any previous date, and
 that only a few poorly managed es-
 tates appear to be deteriorating.
 The use of artificial manures is not
 increasing, but the consumption of
 home grown products has increased,
 and on some dairy farms more prod-
 ucts are consumed than are raised
 upon the farms. So with many
 farmers the fall in the price of
 grain is looked upon with satisfac-
 tion, for it becomes a cheap food
 product for cattle, increases the
 annual compost, and enables the
 farmer to supplant its production
 with grass and vegetable products.

THE TENANT SYSTEM.
 The conditions of the tenancy
 are not such as will arouse envy
 among the American farmers. Al-
 though the Scotch farmer is frugal
 and industrious, it is with difficulty
 in many cases that the annual rents
 are paid. Their farms are small,
 and the most intensive system of
 farming is followed. Farmers
 work hard themselves and their
 wives and families do not do less.
 Throughout the whole season girls

and women may be seen, as one
 journeys on a railway train, hoeing
 in a turnip field, working in the
 hay or following the cradle or
 reaper binding the grain. At
 morning and afternoon it is the
 women or girls who attend the cat-
 tle and do the milking. It is with
 great difficulty that hay and grain
 crops are harvested for the humid-
 ity of Scotland's atmosphere great-
 ly impedes its progress. With the
 small farmers advantages cannot
 be taken of improved machinery
 as is used in the United States, and
 so the cultivating and harvesting
 is accomplished at great expense of
 hand labor. The same condition
 as to farm labor exists here as in
 the United States. Many flock to
 the cities and towns where better
 attractions are offered, but where
 labor is already congested. The
 result is that often a sufficient
 number of laborers at the time of
 harvest cannot be secured. The
 Scotch farmer is seldom known to
 grumble and he is generally hope-
 ful for better products and better
 prices. His dwelling house and
 his stables are built of stone and
 are seldom constructed with a view
 to economy in labor.

THE OUTLOOK.
 It is now quite apparent that
 farming in Scotland must be con-
 fined in the future to dairy, vege-
 table, and sheep farming. Within
 these lines only, at present prices,
 can profits be made. Although
 large quantities of dairy products
 are imported, especially from Den-
 mark and the United States, the
 prices and quality of the home
 product are so favorable that com-
 petition does not seriously affect
 the farmer. Home made cheese
 and butter are always in good de-
 mand in the market and sell at a
 better price than foreign make.
 The fattening of sheep for mutton
 and of Irish cattle for beef is also
 a source of profit. At present
 American and Canadian cattle
 must be slaughtered within a few
 hours after landing, but when these
 restrictions shall have been re-
 moved it is expected that American
 cattle can be imported and fed for
 beef with profitable results.

LEASES.
 Nine-tenths of the farming land
 is held under leases of from fifteen
 to twenty years, and down to the
 year 1880 breaks in leases were
 seldom heard of, but since then
 these have become very common,
 and generally happen in from three
 to five years. A few tenants oc-
 cupy land on yearly contracts and
 appear to prosper as well as those
 serving under long leases. In a
 lease for a term of years the far-
 mer is generally restricted closely,
 and is bound down even to terms
 he cannot live up to, but under
 sensible factors who are the agents
 of the landowners for renting and
 collecting rents, the tenant is quite
 at liberty to evade the terms if it
 appears to be not to the detriment
 of the landlord.

Although the system of land-
 holdings has been greatly improved
 and made more beneficial to the
 tenant by recent acts of parliament,
 yet it is maintained by all except the
 classes who are land-holders and
 those in sympathy with them that
 more should yet be done, and that
 the nearer occupancy and owner-
 ship approach each other the bet-
 ter the land would be farmed. The
 ownership of the soil by the far-
 mer would necessitate important
 changes in existing laws and cus-
 toms. In time it is believed that
 such result will be obtained, but it
 will be of a gradual growth, like
 other rights and privileges that the
 common people have secured
 through generations of struggle.

Glasgow, Scotland.
**From Report of Executive Com-
 mittee of National Grange.**

A large amount of Grange liter-
 ature has also been prepared and
 distributed under the direction of
 the committee. Especially is the
 Order indebted to the Grange press
 for its timely and valuable services.
 It is to be regretted that we, as an
 organization and as Patrons, do not
 more fully appreciate and support
 our Grange papers. They ought to
 have a million and a half of sub-
 scribers, and would have if the
 officers of the Subordinate and
 Pomona Granges would make an
 organized effort to secure subscrib-
 ers; the subscription prices are cer-
 tainly reasonable, being at least 25
 per cent. below the prices of politi-

cal and other papers. But it is not
 an unusual occurrence to find on
 the farmer's table a half dozen or
 more political papers, while it
 would be much more to his advan-
 tage to dispense with at least one of
 these and take a Grange paper that
 is especially devoted to the interests
 of his calling, and we feel sure
 would do so if an organized effort
 of the Grange was made to bring
 it about.

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.
 We regret that through the in-
 difference and inefficiency of the
 secretary of agriculture at Wash-
 ington, many of the advantages
 gained for agriculture during the
 two preceding administrations of
 the department, have been lost.
 It is to be hoped the time is near
 at hand when an actual farmer and
 a capable man will be made secre-
 tary of agriculture and placed at
 the head of the department. As a
 matter of justice and common
 decency the department should be
 filled by appointments from the
 agricultural class, just as much so
 as the department of state should
 be filled by lawyers and diplomats.
 The Grange should renew its
 efforts for the extension of free
 mail delivery, at least to the more
 populous rural districts, as the
 experiments conducted in this
 direction have proven that the
 service can be made highly satisfac-
 tory without undue expenditure by
 the general government, or if this
 cannot be done practically, then the
 delivery offices could be extended to
 school districts at a nominal cost.

Owing to the depressed condi-
 tion of agriculture, your committee
 deems it its duty to call to the at-
 tention of the National Grange the
 gravity of the situation and urge
 upon it the importance of giving
 the adverse condition of agriculture
 its most serious and earnest con-
 sideration.

WHEAT AND COTTON.
 As to the low prices of wheat and
 cotton and their cost of production,
 it is not probable that there will be
 much improvement for years to
 come, as with the application of
 new machinery our foreign com-
 petitors on the eastern continent—
 Russia, India, Egypt—and on this
 continent, the South American
 states—will soon double their pro-
 ductions at a much less cost with
 their cheap labor than we can pro-
 duce them. In the opinion of your
 committee there are at least two
 ways open to a solution of the
 situation. The first is to diversify
 our crops and productions and as
 much as possible build up for them
 a home market in our manufactur-
 ing centers. The other is by the
 government paying an export
 bounty equal the cost of transport-
 ing so as to put our wheat and cot-
 ton on the foreign markets on equal
 footing with that of contiguous
 countries.

TARIFF AND MONEY.
 As to the production of horses,
 the electrical or trolley street rail-
 way system will probably perman-
 ently supersede the use of horses
 for public service, excepting for
 fancy carriage teams and farm use.
 As to the solution of the tariff
 and the monetary questions, we
 would urge upon the National
 Grange to take the initiatory step
 to invite the leading industries and
 moneyed institutions of our coun-
 try to join in two joint conferences,
 the one to consider the tariff ques-
 tion and prepare a bill that would
 be mutually satisfactory, and the
 other to consider the monetary
 question, and agree upon a basis
 that would be just to the whole
 people and to the best interests of
 our entire country. The number
 of delegates that should represent
 each interest would be an after con-
 sideration. Possibly three from
 each industry would be ample, only
 so that the number would not be so
 large that on account of the cost,
 any of the classes concerned would
 be deprived of representation.

Notes From National Lecturer.
 It amounts to nothing to say
 that "The Grange is a good thing,"
 or that "It is doing a good work
 among farmers." What the
 Grange needs today is not only
 good words but good works, ac-
 tual membership from those who
 are friendly to its objects.
 The objects and questions
 brought before the Grange are
 varied in their nature, and their

discussion calls for such a variety
 of talent that all find an oppor-
 tunity to become useful and to
 share in the general improvement
 resulting from earnest work. The
 more farmers see of the Grange
 as an educator the more they are
 inclined to give it support and
 make it one of the prominent in-
 stitutions of the land for polish-
 ing and developing the minds of
 its members and of moulding
 public character in the right di-
 rection.

Isolation tends to contract the
 mental horizon. If men see little
 of the world, they are inclined to
 think that their own orbit is the
 one in which the most of human
 ity ought to revolve. A good
 Grange will take this and similar
 erroneous opinions out of the min-
 of any farmer and make him a
 vastly better man.
 The Grange leaders are men of
 intelligence and large experience,
 and many of them are men of
 culture and learning. Such men
 are broad minded in their views
 upon social and political questions,
 and they can readily see the neces-
 sity of organization for the pro-
 tection of their rights and for
 proper legislation in their behalf.

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A Few Thoughts.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR: I have taken the VISITOR a great deal of the time since it was first issued. I am pleased with reading the opinions of different men relative to farmers' institutes and state appropriations. I can't help but agree with them, not only on account of their reasons given, but also as it will help circulate money.

Now, politicians may talk high tariff and low tariff; tariff for protection and tariff for revenue only, or free trade, and all this talk doesn't seem to relieve the wants of the middle and lower classes.

It is my opinion, and it would seem that it must be the opinion of every unbiased, intelligent citizen, that more money must be got in circulation in order to do the business of the country and pay individual, corporate, state and national indebtedness. The question is, how shall this condition of things be brought about? Our statesmen must see that they haven't made any laws to benefit the masses. (There may be a very few exceptions.)

Now it looks very evident to my mind that our law-makers should, in the first place, make all medium of exchange money; no currency, all a legal tender, and in sufficient quantities to do the business of the country without any credit system. Then, to get the money in circulation, set the people at work on internal improvements. Give every man and woman a chance to work and earn their living, and if there should be any who would refuse to work but would tramp from place to place, arrest them and set them at work. All we ask is an even chance in the race for life.

Now, it is not my intention on this occasion to present a lengthy article. I would like to call the attention of the readers of the VISITOR to matters of national importance. There has been much said relative to free mail delivery. I believe one citizen of the United States has as good rights to the benefits of the postal system as another. Some people are foolish enough to oppose it on the grounds of being expensive. Isn't it costly to pay the soldiers? Has it not only benefited the soldiers but put money into circulation? It would benefit the people in various ways. The postal department pretends to think that farmers don't want free delivery. We should let the department know that we claim equal rights as citizens of the United States.

Now I have intentionally been very brief. I may sometime in the future present my views more at length. I hope to hear from others.
F. E. SHOUBY.

Points on Weeds.

"A weed is any useless or troublesome plant."
"A plant out of place or growing where it is not wanted."
"Tobacco."

A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.—Emerson.

Weeds everywhere! their presence should cause alarm: they thrive in the cornfield, they choke wheat in the field, they annoy the gardener, they thrive in the meadow, they spring up by the roadside, they encroach on the swamp, they damage the fleeces of the sheep.

DISADVANTAGES OF WEEDS.

1. They rob cultivated plants of nutriment.
2. They injure crops by crowding and shading.
3. They make cleaning of seed difficult.
4. Most of them are of little value as food for domestic animals.
5. They interfere with a good rotation.

SOME SMALL BENEFITS.

1. They are of some use in the world to induce more frequent and thorough cultivation which benefits crops.
2. A new arrival of a weed of

the first rank stimulates watchfulness.

3. In occupying the soil after a crop has been removed, they prevent the loss of fertility by shading the ground.

WHAT ENABLES A PLANT TO BECOME A WEED?

1. Sometimes by producing an enormous number of seeds.
2. In other cases by the great vitality of their seeds.
3. Some are very succulent, and even when pulled ripen seeds.
4. Often by ripening and scattering seeds before the cultivated crop is mature.
5. Sometimes by ripening seeds at the time of harvesting a crop, when all are harvested together.
6. Some seeds are difficult to separate from the seeds of the crop cultivated.
7. Some seeds are very small and escape notice.
8. Some plants go to seed long before suspected, as no showy flowers announce the time of bloom.
9. In a few cases the plants break loose from the soil when mature and become tumble weeds.
10. Some seeds and seed like fruits are furnished each with a balloon or sail, or with grappling hooks.
11. Some have creeping root stocks or tubers.
12. Some weeds defend themselves with forks or bayonets.
13. Most of them are disagreeable in taste or odor, so that domestic animals leave them to occupy the ground and multiply.—Dr. Beal.

Alsike Clover.

Press bulletin No. 7, Michigan Experiment Station, January 15, 1895.

From present indications the amount of Alsike clover sown in Michigan the coming spring will be very large. This species is receiving attention mainly on account of the recent failures of red clover, owing to dry weather and the attacks of insects, particularly the imported clover root borer.

VALUE.

For most purposes Alsike is inferior to either early or mammoth clover and it has not become generally popular at the east and in England where it has long been known. It does not yield so much, either of hay or pasture, as those kinds, and will not stand drouth as well. It is, however, more hardy against cold than other clovers, and is especially adapted to low or heavy lands where red clover winter kills. When restricted to such locations it has given general satisfaction, but much disappointment has resulted in dry seasons from sowing it on sandy up-lands. Alsike serves well on low land to mix with timothy, and such a mixture is excellent for horses, since Alsike hay, if properly cured, is brighter and freer from dust than that of the ordinary clovers. On heavy or uneven soil a little Alsike seed may well be mixed with that of red clover to improve the stand. The seed being very small, not more than half the usual quantity is required per acre.

FOR SEED.

At present Alsike is a profitable crop to grow for seed. It yields more seed per acre than common red clover, and will generally produce a crop of seed when that of red clover fails on account of the root-borer. It is able to do this, not by reason of exemption from the attacks of the borer, but because of its seeding on the first crop, before the insects have had time to destroy the plants. Alsike shells very easily when ripe, and should be cut for seed as soon as a majority of the heads have begun to turn brown. In most cases sufficient seed will shell out to reseed the field spontaneously. Alsike straw, after the seed is threshed, makes good fodder.

Cynics and optimists alike whose imagination is not dead might give a few minutes' profitable reflection to the fact that 63,402 wedding rings were pawned in Paris during the past year.

A New Plan

For Seed Distribution by the Department of Agriculture.

For the present wasteful and extravagant distribution of seeds it is proposed to substitute a limited distribution of new and rare varieties through the agricultural experiment stations now in operation in all the states and territories. These stations are in charge of trained experts who are familiar with the needs of their respective localities. In co-operation with the U. S. department of agriculture the stations can easily ascertain what new and rare varieties are available and can select such kinds of seed as will be most likely to give good results in their respective localities. They will be able to engage the services of competent farmers, who will make full tests of the seed under directions given by the stations. The results of these tests will be distributed in the bulletins of the stations which are regularly issued to more than 500,000 persons directly connected with the agricultural industry, and which are largely quoted by thousands of agricultural and other papers. In this way, at a comparatively small expense, it will be practical to secure whatever useful results are possible through the distribution of seeds.

THE PLAN PROPOSED.

The proposed bill to regulate the distribution of seeds through the experiment stations takes into account the fact that the needs of different communities in this direction vary greatly. In many states, particularly in the north and east, it is comparatively easy for the farmers to obtain seeds even of varieties which are new and rare. In certain regions of the south and west, on the other hand, there is great need for the introduction of better varieties than are now used or for experimental tests to determine what kinds of plants will grow best in those regions. It is therefore left with the secretary of agriculture to determine, after consultation with the officers of the experiment stations, to what extent seeds shall be distributed in any particular locality.

It has sometimes been urged in behalf of the present method of seed distribution that while it is attended with great expense, nevertheless, in some cases the seeds distributed by the department have proved so valuable that the profits to the farmers resulting from the widespread distribution and use have more than paid for all the expense attending the government distribution.

But, even granting that this is true, the distribution through the stations is far more likely to secure these beneficial results and at far less expense, and the mass of our farmers will not be subjected to disappointment and loss as they have often been by using seeds sent out from the department which had not been previously tested to determine their adaptability to the regions to which they were sent.

REPORTS.

While under the present plan almost no reports of any value are received, the stations will be able to get many definite reports and, through the publication of results in their bulletins, will not only carry direct information regarding the seeds distributed to the farmers, but will also call their attention to the desirability of the diversification of crops in many regions, and thus aid in the development of our agriculture. Along with the results of the test, the stations will undoubtedly publish information regarding the proper culture and management of such plants, as tests have shown to be useful in their respective localities.

The system proposed will thus in every particular meet the real needs of our people regarding the introduction of new varieties of plants, and will be free from the abuses and inconsistencies which have characterized the old method

of distribution.—Secretary of Agriculture.

Wheat in English Markets.

The United Kingdom took in from foreign countries during the nine months ending September 30, 1894, nine million (9,000,000) bushels more wheat than during the same months in the year 1893; but the increased shipments into England of wheat were principally from Russia, the Argentine Republic, and Australasia. During that time the United States did not maintain its position as a wheat-seller in England. In those nine months there was a falling off in American wheat upon the English markets of thirteen and a half million (13,500,000) Winchester bushels. The decline in value was proportionately far greater, and amounted to eight million four hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars (\$8,433,000). A primary cause for the falling off of American wheat in English markets during the early part of this year is found in the fact that Argentine was a free seller, while our people maintained prices a little above the British market. On October 25, 1894, the market appears more inclined to higher figures. There is a distinct indication of activity and a better trade, with, however, only slightly improving prices. Appended hereto is a table showing the prices of American and British wheat, and English barley, and beef and potatoes, during each month in the year 1894 down to and including September 28.

Prices of Certain Food Products in Great Britain on the First Day of Each Month (or thereabouts) of the Year 1894.

Date.	Potatoes (per ton).	Beef, superior (per pound).	Beef, inferior (cask wholesale, per pound).	English barley (per bushel of 36 pounds).	English wheat (per Winchester bushel).	American red winter wheat (per Winchester bushel).
1894, January 5	\$11.60	14 1/2	7 1/2	80 1/2	76	77 1/2
February 2	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2
March 1	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2
April 1	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2
May 1	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2
June 1	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2
July 1	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2
August 3	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2
September 28	12 1/2	14 1/2	7 1/2	82 1/2	76	77 1/2

*New. These averages are official. In the original tables the figures for red winter wheat are expressed in sterling money per quarter of 48 pounds. These are translated into United States equivalents at the par value of the pound sterling (\$1.366). English barley, the quarter of 48 pounds; flour, the sack of 28 pounds; beef, the London stone of 35 pounds.

These tables are of value to the American farmer. They illustrate the fact that the price of wheat is now, and must always be, governed by the relation of the supply of wheat to the demand for wheat. Improved farming implements and machinery have reduced the cost of production. Wheat will, in all probability, remain at relatively low figures in all time to come, except when there are failures of the crop in large wheat-growing sections of the earth. The great competitors of the United States in the production and sale of wheat are the Argentine Republic, Australasia, and Russia. The capabilities of the last named country as a bread-producer are beyond computation. Already, American farm implements and machinery are finding enormous sale in that Empire, and permanently established agencies of the great reaping and other manufacturing concerns of the United States are solidly located at Odessa and other important entrepôts to the wheat-growing regions. Looking at cheap bread from the standpoint of the consumer, the world is fed better and oftener than it ever was before. The prof-

its of the producer are now divided, so that the consumer gets a large share thereof. But it matters very little to the producer of wheat in the United States what the price may be if he is permitted to buy in the markets where he is compelled to sell. In other words, if the price of the farmer's wheat is fixed in Europe, there is no good reason why the prices of the things he has to buy should not also be fixed in Europe. In selling, the farmer competes with all the world. To give him an equal chance he ought also to be allowed to buy where all the world competes. European and all other foreign markets for wheat indicate that the competition in that cereal is constantly increasing and intensifying. The Argentine Republic is capable already of placing thirty-five millions (35,000,000) of bushels of wheat a year on the European market, while it has only five millions (5,000,000) of population. The Argentine wheat fields average less than 100 miles from deep-water harbors. To reach shipping ports Argentine wheat pays no appreciable inland freight. But the wheat of the United States averages quite a heavy transportation charge in reaching the seaboard. In short, we have a long haul and the Argentine Republic a short haul before reaching the Atlantic. Russia, likewise, has the advantages of a short haul and speedy transportation.

There are many subsidiary crops to which the American farmer may profitably turn his attention. Wheat will not hereafter be our staple cereal product. Corn is constantly advancing in importance, because of an ever-growing demand for that cereal, which is evolved from the various new uses to which it is being constantly appropriated.—Report of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Order in Vermont.

The Order in Vermont is today in a prosperous condition. It was not an easy matter to turn the tide of adversity which nearly engulfed us a few years ago, to one of prosperity, and to popularize the Order which had become unpopular through the misconceptions of its mission, and its misfortunes in the formative period of its existence, but through the persistent, well-directed efforts of the officers and members of the Grange, all working in entire harmony, and with singleness of purpose, and with the upbuilding of the Order, the results have been most gratifying and show what can be accomplished by intelligent, united efforts. The policy adopted and carried out for rebuilding the Order in this state has been—first, to strengthen and make popular existing Granges, by adopting such a high standard of social and intellectual culture and development as to commend the Order to the most favorable consideration of the public; and second, to take advantage of the healthy public sentiment thus created to gain new members and carry the good work into newer fields of labor. The large increase in membership during the past four or five years has demonstrated the wisdom of this policy, and the books of the secretary will show that the gain in membership the past year has been larger than for any preceding year since the early days of the Order in this state.

One new Pomona Grange—Washington, No. 8—has been organized during the past year, and is doing good work. No new subordinate Granges have been organized during the year, but new fields have been worked, the seed has been sown, and a rich harvest of new and reorganized Granges seems assured in the near future. It will, however, require much labor and no little effort on the part of officers, deputies and members to accomplish the desired results, but I am confident that neither labor nor efforts will be spared in this direction. Vermont stands at the front as an agricultural New England state, and in order to hold her present proud position, our

farming population must keep pace with the rapid progress which is being made by the farmers of our sister New England states.

These states not only have boards of agriculture and dairymen's associations, which we have, but their proportion of Granges is much larger than in Vermont, and the educational work which they are doing is felt in nearly every town in some of these states.

Vermont farmers cannot afford to be behind the farmers of the other New England states. Progress is the watchword of the hour, and the Grange is one of the most important factors in helping the farmers to keep in line with the advancement which is made by other classes in society.

Notices of Meetings.

LENAWEE POMONA.

The next meeting of Lenawee county Pomona Grange will be held with Rollin Grange February 7, 1895. Installation of officers by Worthy Master G. B. Horton. Program in the afternoon. Let all be prepared to take part in the discussion of the question, "Is the drifting of the rural population to the cities and villages beneficial to farmers?" The fifth degree will be conferred in the evening.

P. H. DOWLING, Lecturer.

Calhoun county Grange will hold its next meeting with Home Grange February 14, 1895, at 10 o'clock a. m. Program: Subject, Farmers' Institute. 1. Financial report and suggestions, Wm. S. Simons; 2. Entertaining visitors from abroad, S. E. Woodworth, Mary A. Mayo; 3. To what extent can we afford to hire competent speakers? F. B. Garratt, Bessie Adams; 4. On what principles or plan should the program be arranged, (1) To start the institute vigorously, (2) To secure the most interest from the general public, and best instruct the farmers, (3) To accommodate speakers from abroad, or guests of the institute, and (4) To duly recognize and please each home worker? Loretta Poorman; 5. The reserved seat plan. How it worked and how it may be improved, Frank R. Mines, C. P. Chidester; 6. What class of subjects ought to be discussed at a farmers' institute, and what omitted? J. M. Wilson, Susan Brown, Mary Hicks; 7. What is the effect upon an institute of speakers failing to appear at their scheduled time and place? A. W. Lee, E. M. Brown; 8. "Is the play worth the candle?" Kate Woodworth, Bro. Talmage, Perry Mayo. Will any speaker or writer who cannot attend, please write and send in his part? A full program is greatly desired.

C. C. McDERMID, Lecturer.

BARRY POMONA.

The next session of Barry county Grange will be held at Johnstown Grange hall, Friday, February 15, commencing at 10:30 a. m. An evening session will be held if any wish to take the fifth degree.

COUNTY LECTURER.

Grange News.

Western Pomona Grange passed resolutions favoring the farmers' institute bill.

The Patrons and teachers of Oakland county held a very successful institute at Pontiac, Jan. 26. A resolution was passed condemning the sale of liquors at the county fair.

Tallmadge Grange Hall was the scene of a rousing little meeting Jan. 26. Owing to storm which was raging, only twenty faithful ones were present, several of whom after some sharp skirmishing with a huge snow drift and the free use of the shovel, succeeded in reaching the hall, while others were obliged to turn back on account of the drifted condition of the roads.

The contest booked for that date was postponed until a more propitious occasion. One brother thought he had posed before the glass too much to waste his "sweetness on the desert air." Those who attended Western Pomona at Herrington, reported a fine time.

OBITUARY.

Sister Annie Grant died January 14, 1895. She was a member of Charity Grange, No. 417, and held honorary positions in the Grange, and at the time of her death held the office of Flora. She was an earnest worker in the Grange and was respected by all who knew her. The loss of her kind, motherly care will long be felt.

Madison Grange has been sorely afflicted in the death of two charter members, Brother Edward Beal, who was in his seventieth year, and Sister Hattie Beal, both of whom were past masters. The latter was the daughter of our esteemed brother, Thomas F. Moore.

MARY C. ALLIS, Secretary.

We regret to chronicle the sad death of Geo. D. Pray of Windsor Grange, who died Jan. 19, from injuries received the day before. He was literally crushed to death by a Shorthorn bull which he was leading.

Mr. Pray was a charter member of Windsor Grange and of Eaton county Pomona Grange. He has

several times been delegate to State Grange, and was present as delegate at the last session. He was a quiet gentleman, unostentatious, thoroughly Christian, and beloved by all who knew him.

Windsor Grange has issued a memorial card, in memory of Geo. D. Pray, instead of the formal resolutions, usually passed on such occasions.

OLIVE BRANCH CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the Olive Branch Farmers' Club held at the home of Hon. R. K. Divine, Jan. 26, 1893, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—John L. Wilson. Vice President—Mrs. James Taylor. Secretary—Mrs. J. L. Wilson. Treasurer—Mrs. John Divine. Chaplain—Rev. L. Chandler. Crop Reporter—B. K. Diving. Corresponding Secretary—D. B. Millar.

GRATTAN GRANGE, NO. 170

Met January 10 at a regular meeting to install officers. We met early at the hall for a visit and dinner, after which the meeting was called to order by W. M. Elkins, when Brother Davis proceeded to install. He then gave a report of the State Grange. He said he had no idea that the State Grange possessed so much power and influence. Brother and Sister Davis were very enthusiastic over the Grange. We hope they may enthrone every Grange they are called on to visit. Fraternally yours,

AUNT KATE.

NEWAYGO POMONA.

Newaygo county Grange met with Ashland Grange, January 9. The weather was fine and the roads the best we have known for years. Large delegations came from all over the county. After a substantial dinner, Worthy Master S. V. Walker called the Grange to order. The unresponded parts of the last program were called for, after which the delegates to the state Grange gave their reports.

In the evening the fifth degree was conferred upon six candidates and the following officers were elected and installed:

Master, Charles Kimball; overseer, Hawley Crawford; lecturer, Mrs. Mary Robertson; steward, Arthur Christian; A. S. Leonard Clark; chaplain, Mrs. Phoebe Hall; treasurer, Neil McCallum; secretary, J. H. Macumber; gate keeper, Louis Reinoldt; Pomona, Mrs. Charles Hawkins; Flora, Miss Lottie Hinds; Ceres, Miss Laura Blood; L. A. S., Miss Mary Reinoldt.

Thursday morning the program was again taken up, the new Master presiding.

The paper read by M. W. Scott was one of the finest ever read in the county. The paper read by W. S. Merrill was full of interest and very pointed. These articles will both be printed in our county paper.

The balance of the morning was taken up with interesting discussions, among them the creamery against the dairy led by Wilkes Stuart.

Before closing, the Grange tendered the editor of the Democrat a vote of thanks for his kindness in providing us with neatly printed programs.

The Grange closed to meet with Fremont Grange the first Wednesday and Thursday in March. After a bountiful dinner we started for home, feeling that these two delightful days had not been idly spent, that the Grange is the best educator in the world for the farmer, that socially it is a success and is as enduring as the monuments of time.

MRS. MARY ROBERTSON, Lecturer.

MONTGOMERY GRANGE.

By special invitation we attended an oyster supper and banquet at Brother W. A. Montgomery's, in Burnside township, Lapeer county, December 19, it being the twentieth anniversary of the organization of Montgomery Grange No. 549. Brother Montgomery, for whom the Grange was named, (he being the chief mover in its organization), furnished the oysters, and the other members the balance of the menu. After the dishes were cleared away we all repaired to the spacious parlor where the Grange choir gave us some splendid music, and Brother Montgomery gave a history of the organization and life of their Grange about as follows:

Some time in October, 1874, Brother Montgomery met Brother C. L. Whitney at Burnside village, where the latter had been looking after the interest of Burnside Grange No. 1, and on being introduced to Brother Montgomery, asked if he could not organize a

Grange of Patrons of Husbandry in his locality, at the same time explaining some of the aims and objects of the Order. Brother M. said he didn't know, he would do what he could. Brother Whitney then asked if he could not make arrangements for a meeting that evening, and he said he would try, and though it was five miles he hustled home, thinking to give notice through the school, but he met some of the children going home, told them, and then went among his neighbors and succeeded in getting quite a number out to hear Brother Whitney that evening, who explained the aims and objects of the Order and got six persons to sign an application for a charter. That not being enough he made arrangements with Brother Montgomery to secure a sufficient number to organize and then report to him and he would come and organize them into a Grange.

After a good deal of work and talk he got the required number and Brother Whitney came on the 19th of December, 1874, and completed the organization, and from that time to the present it has had a continuous existence, never having become dormant and never but once has it been marked delinquent for dues and reports of the state secretary's office, and that owing to a newly elected secretary not fully understanding his duty. During their twenty years of existence as a Grange eighty persons have been identified with it, its present strength being about forty. Seven of the charter members were present at the banquet. Brother Montgomery has served as master of the Grange ten out of the twenty years of its existence and has attended every regular meeting of the Grange but three during that time.

This is a very brief sketch and written from memory, as I was too much interested to take note at the time, but is in the main correct. It is very extraordinary that a body of men and women from the farm, not knowing anything about such work, should be so prompt and exact in their report, but when you you know the push and energy of Brother M. you cease to wonder. Brother George Wilson, one of the charter members, gave us some good remarks on the history of their Grange after Brother Montgomery got through. Then Brothers Stover and Bradshaw, of North Branch Grange, Brothers Huntington and Fairbanks of their home Grange, gave short talks in a happy mood form of the good cheer of the evening. Sister Bradshaw being called made some pleasant remarks on the occasion. The meeting was enlivened throughout with music and song by the large choir of young people of the Grange and thus passed one of the most pleasant entertainments it has been our lot to attend in a long time. A vote of thanks to Sister and Brother Montgomery and we separated and went home feeling it was good to be a Patron of Husbandry. Long live Montgomery Grange! So say we all.

HARRISON BRADSHAW.

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