

GRANGE VISITOR

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

VOL. XX. NO. 11.

CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN, JUNE 6, 1895.

WHOLE NO. 467.

Tenant or Yeoman.

Will the American Farmer of the Future be an Owner or a Renter?

A paper read at Ingham county Pomona Grange by E. A. Holden, master of Capitol Grange.

Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

This oft repeated statement from the cultured tramp, Goldsmith, is as true today as it was when written several generations ago. It is generally admitted to be true and needs no arguments to sustain it in this audience. Admitting its truth, efforts have been and are being made to ascertain facts regarding ownership of property in this country. The census department has been authorized to collect data concerning the ownership of homes and much other important data other than a mere count of persons male and female, colored and white, children and adults, native and foreign.

Until quite recently our census statistics have been barren of information concerning the social and industrial conditions of our people. As a consequence, writers and speakers upon these subjects have had to draw their conclusions from a limited area of vision, and a more or less limited experience of their own. The pessimist could let his imagination loose within his calloused brain and see but dire confusion or abject slavery staring the American people in the face. The agitator with jealousy warring with fear in his brain could see need of immediate and summary action against the monster capitalist. Or the optimist with "his hopes triumphant o'er his fears" would see in this country a veritable paradise for coming generations and the oppressed of other lands. It is to be regretted that we have so few statistics concerning the portion of our people who own their homes and those who rent; concerning those who till their own soil, and those who cultivate another's acres.

CENSUS FIGURES.

The tenth census just hinted at certain existing conditions of things, and by order of congress the census enumerators for the eleventh census were authorized to take as complete data as possible in this respect. Though this census was taken in 1890, it is almost impossible at this time, five years later, to obtain its results. Perhaps before the time for the twelfth census comes around, the results of the eleventh will be compiled and published. This census shows what has been known for some time—that the percentage of persons living in the city who own their own homes is much smaller than the percentage of those who live in rented houses. It has also been established that the larger the city, the smaller the percentage of inhabitants who live in their own homes. Thus it was demonstrated that tenantry was on the increase in the cities.

But it was not so easy to ascertain the condition of affairs in the rural districts.

STATISTICS.

In continuing, it will be necessary to give some statistics, and recognizing the fact that statistics are dry and uninteresting things save to the few who are especially interested in the subject under investigation, the writer will use exact figures sparingly and hold the exact data in readiness for him who may come at him with that Yankee weapon, questions.

According to the eleventh census there are 12,700,000 families in the United States. Of these 6,600,000 or 52 per cent rent their homes. In the city of New York 7 per cent only of the families own their own homes. In cities of 8,000 or over inhabitants 70 per cent rent, and in all cities, villages, and small towns 62½ per cent.

These figures make a good setting for the data about to be given concerning farm owners. Of the nearly 5,000,000 families living on farms but 34 per cent rent and 66 per cent own the farms. This is a remarkable showing for the thrift and practical independence of the American farmer. The average farm comprises about 70 acres and is worth over \$3,000.

These figures are still more gratifying when we examine separately the statistics for different sections of the United States. The percentage of rented farms to those tilled by the owners is comparatively small in the New England, middle, and north central states, while in the

southern states a much larger per cent of the tillers of the soil rent their farms. This is a natural consequence of the emancipation of the slaves. A little over 30 years ago several millions of negroes were started in the competition for worldly goods and happiness without homes and without money. There was nothing for them to do but to labor directly for others or rent some land. By degrees these negroes became owners of farms and already over one-fifth of them own the farms they work. The old plantations are being divided up into smaller farms, thus affording homes for more families. Several generations will come and go before the old English idea of larger estates will be wholly done away with in the south.

There are 177,952 farms in Michigan, an increase of over 20,000 in the last decade. Of these, 84 per cent are worked by the owners. In 1890, 86 per cent were worked by the owners, and in 1884, 88 per cent. These figures show a gradual increase of rentals at the rate of 2 per cent for each five years.

CAUSES.

This is not only true in Michigan, but in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and nearly all the northern states. This may be attributed to several causes, among which are the prevailing tendency for urban life, loss by mortgage, by the owning of two or more farms by one farmer, and the tendency among the professional men and others to own a farm as a possible asylum or resort in case of failure or overwork. Other causes may suggest themselves to the minds of different persons. The first of these causes is probably responsible in most parts for this condition. The rapid development of manufactures and commerce, together with the better social and educational advantages offered by cities and towns, have attracted many of the well-to-do farmers as well as others to these centres of business. They leave their farms to offer the children better educational advantages, or because a wife is not strong enough to perform the work necessary on a well regulated farm. Others are past the prime of life, and having accumulated a moderate amount of this world's goods, wish to retire from the arduous duties of the farm life.

There is still another class,—ambitious young men who have either bought or fallen heir to a piece of land, but finding employment to their tastes otherwhere, do not make it their home. These people do not find it necessary to sell; many of them could not be induced to part with the old home. These farms are leased out for money, rent, or a portion of the crop, thus adding to the number of rented farms.

The loss of farms upon mortgage is not so large as many seem to think. Most of the farms which are mortgaged, or have been taken on mortgage, were mortgaged for purchase price and are being paid for off from them. But the money lender does not want the farm. He has no time or disposition to look after it. He wants to get his money back or interest on it and sells at the first opportunity. Occasionally he will have to rent until a buyer is found. The farmer who owns more than one farm will likely keep tenants on all save one; but he will soon tire of looking after so much and parcel out his lands among his children for whom he has been saving them.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

There is nothing in these conditions that need to raise the cry of a creation of landlord and tenant and peasant classes. To be sure if the increase in tenantry should continue at the same rate of 2 per cent for every five years, all of our farms would be worked by tenants 200 years hence. But this condition cannot continue much longer. The cities are becoming overcrowded. The debts which have been incurred for public improvements are soon coming due, and taxes already high will necessarily increase. Improved means of transportation are bringing the rural people within reach of the advantages of the city while they still retain the advantages of country life. Add to a country life some of the advantages of city life, such as daily mail delivery, means of getting to church, school, etc., and there is no question but that the country is preferable to

the city. The time is close at hand when the tide will set back into the country. Men of means will invest in a farm and fix it up for a home and gradually withdraw their capital from the city to save taxes. Retiring business men will seek the country to spend their declining years, and we will hear less of the retired farmer in the city.

It is generally conceded by farmers and owners of farms that it does not pay to rent, and is to be resorted to as an expedient and not as a business transaction. It is true that rentals have been on the increase and may continue to be for some years to come. But the time will come, and that not far distant, when the pendulum will reach the limit and swing back. Several vibrations may take place before it will find its equilibrium.

CAPITALISTS.

But some one asks if capitalists are not getting control of the farming land and becoming landed proprietors. The answer is found in the fact that the farms are continually decreasing in size. Sometimes a prosperous farmer will buy out his less successful neighbors and get himself quite a large estate, only to be divided up among his children.

Some one else wants to know if it is true that the American farmer is buried under mortgages. Again on this subject the eleventh census gives data that should for a time silence the calamity howler who is passing up and down the land trying to make the farmers think that their lot is hard and that they are being ground down by the iron heel of the moneyed power. A little over ¼ of all the farms occupied by owners are mortgaged. And those mortgaged are mortgaged for a little over ¼ of their value, making an average mortgage of 10 per cent on all farms occupied by the owners. Of this, over 80 per cent is mortgaged for purchase money or permanent improvements, leaving less than 2 per cent of the value of farm property mortgaged for running expenses or luxuries. This is a better showing than made by owners of city homes.

A Test Case.

The State Grange and the expressed sentiment of the membership throughout the state is strongly in favor of trade arrangements with first dealers and manufacturers for the many articles used on our farms, whereby agents' fees and commissions will be eliminated. Such arrangements are just and practical and are being made as fast as time will permit and the preparatory details can be put in business form. The first part of the copy for our new trade pamphlet goes to the printer today. Whether this project shall prove a success or otherwise depends upon our power of concentration and ability to withstand the opposition and tempting baits that will from time to time come before us. Remember that "In Union there is strength" and that "United we stand, divided we fall." These truisms should be borne in mind by every Patron in all the works and undertakings of the Grange.

BINDER TWINE.

A contract has been made for binder twine and the terms and conditions of the deal have been mailed out to every Subordinate Grange in the state.

The white sisal twine is made by the same mills that furnished us last year and which gave such universal satisfaction. The other grades of twine that have been added to the purchase for this year are of the best standard make. These twines are all fully guaranteed and warranted to give satisfaction, and if any member gets twine through this source that is not satisfactory it can be immediately returned to the contract firm, with freight charges both ways following, and the purchase price refunded. Every Grange in Michigan is under obligations to bring this matter up before the regular meetings, and every Grange member is equally under obligations to help make a success of the undertaking by placing his order for twine with the Grange secretary.

Conditions have been working for several years past which have come to a climax this year in the twine field. Certain manufacturers have in years past pledged their out put of twine as collateral security for

loans of money with which to operate their mills. These mills have kept running year by year notwithstanding the surplus of twine that was continually increasing. Many of these large accumulations of twine have been taken in by the banks that loaned the money so that there appeared on the general market since the last harvest immense quantities of what has been termed the "bankers twine." Arrangements have been made to put it on the market for this harvest, and close it out at whatever sacrifice was necessary. In process of this plan farmers every where have been flooded with circular letters soliciting them to act as agents on commission, and many of these "manufacturers' agents," "twine brokers," etc., who represent this old twine stock, have solicited personal orders from farmers over all the wheat states. These conditions have had a depressing influence upon the market, and all twine, even the best new made, is very low. The manufacturers of new twine seem determined to hold the market and through the powerful influence of presenting an opportunity for a manufacturer to furnish the State Grange of Michigan extremely low rates have been given us. So low are these prices that I have not yet seen a quotation from the dealers in the old stock to equal our rates for the same grades. In making our contract it was calculated that our people would at least use four times as much as last year. Now Patrons, as stated, this is a test case through which we may show whether or not manufacturing firms can have such confidence in us, as will warrant giving us the terms and prices we ask through state contracts.

GEO. B. HORTON.

Comments.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR: After a long day spent in communing with nature, having three horses and a plow for company this forenoon, same team and a disk harrow this afternoon; at sundown after feeding and bedding the team and doing the other chores, I came to the house to find the mail had brought the ever welcome VISITOR. And I have read it through. I think the VISITOR is very much improved, or perhaps my being a revived Granger makes me more capable of appreciating it. Our Grange sent a request to our senator to vote for all the bills advocated by the last VISITOR and we received a very courteous letter in return, in which he said he was glad to learn the wishes of his constituents, etc. I am satisfied that if every Granger in the United States would write his M. C. urging free mail delivery to the farm, we would have it. Our law makers think that a thing not worth asking for is not worth our having. And the farmers think the law makers would pay no attention to their requests. I wish the VISITOR was taken as generally as the Detroit papers are. We can rely on what is in the VISITOR, but on precious little that we read elsewhere.

I am very much pleased with the prospect of an institute next winter. Last winter, in order to keep moving with the times, we helped organize a farmers' club, and the seventh meeting we had 98 members. We have a program committee whose duty it is to provide a literary menu; and the papers are discussed by the whole club. Each meeting is well attended and the interest does not flag, even in this hurrying season. As tomorrow is close at hand and I will have to sleep a little in order to continue that communing, I will close.

FARMER.

August Picnics.

Several applications have been recorded for Brother J. H. Brigham, Master of the National Grange, during his tour of the state, commencing August 20, but the time is not yet all taken. County Granges and assembly associations should apply early for the time is now getting short in which to detail the route and give notice to applicants of the dates each will have. As said oftentimes before there is no work which will tend to popularize the Grange more and give all farmers an opportunity to hear Grange sentiment expressed than to plan for and have a rousing August picnic. I hope to hear very soon from enough localities to fill the time completely.

GEO. B. HORTON.

Field and Stock.

Spraying vs. the Birds.

PROF. WALTER B. BARROWS.

An article with the above title appeared in the *Visitor* not long ago, and the question which it naturally raised was: Is it a fact that the use of insecticides for spraying is killing our insectivorous birds? From all the evidence obtainable it seems to me very improbable that any birds are thus killed, although it is possible that some few species may have left their accustomed nesting places from scarcity of insect food resulting from such spraying. The writer of the article referred to assumes as an indisputable fact that the birds do not hesitate to eat the poisoned insects. This strikes me as entirely unwarranted. Certainly no proof of the fact is brought forward, and in spite of ample opportunities for information I have never known of a single case in which a bird ate such insects. While birds often seem careless about their food, they nevertheless scan every mouthful carefully before it is swallowed, and this is doubly true of food intended for their young.

Again: Have birds been found dead in or near orchards sprayed with poisonous insecticides? If so, I have failed to see any record of the fact, and if such occurrences were at all common it seems likely that some one instance at least would have come to my notice. On the other hand, instances are by no means rare in which insectivorous birds have nested and reared healthy young in the immediate vicinity of poisoned foliage, sometimes actually among its masses. The explanation is simple: Birds dislike sickly worms and shun unhealthy insects of any kind. To our eyes the wriggling angleworms which cover the walks after a heavy rain appear as sound and healthy as any of their kindred, yet to the best of my knowledge and belief neither the robin nor any other bird will touch them, and investigation shows that these worms actually are diseased and have come out upon the surface simply to die. Some caterpillars eat a considerable amount of poisoned foliage before symptoms of sickness become apparent to us, yet ultimately even our dull eyes note the difference, and the poisoned insect soon after drops off or curls up and dies. If birds were to eat such dying insects in large numbers they might die in consequence, yet even that is doubtful. Who shall say that birds do not know when certain food disagrees with them, or that under such circumstances they may refrain from eating and recover? Of course if there be none but poisoned insects obtainable, birds must either eat or starve or go elsewhere; but as a matter of fact only a very small fraction of our trees and shrubbery ever is poisoned, and it seems doubtful if birds would ever be prevented from rearing young in any neighborhood not absolutely given up to a single kind of fruit.

As to the decrease of insectivorous birds there may be little question; but just here it should be hinted that most other birds (except English sparrows) are less plentiful now than formerly. Strictly ground feeding species, like bobolinks, meadow-larks, blackbirds, and doves are less abundant in many sections than a dozen years ago, yet no claim is made that these birds have been affected at all by insecticides. Man undoubtedly is mainly responsible for the diminution in numbers of these and many other birds, but not through the use of poison. The axe, the mowing machine, the brush fire, the shot gun, the English sparrow, and the deadly cat are some of the influences which are annually combining to lessen bird life all over our country. Let us see to it that every farm has at least a few safe places for our ever useful friends, the birds.

Agricultural College.

Colic in Horses.

JOHN. F. BUTTON.

I have noticed in my few years' experience as a farmer that the diseases of farm stock are but little understood by the common run of farmers. Having had many years' experience in the treatment of the diseases of domestic animals, perhaps I can make some suggestions that will enable the farmer or stock owner to diagnose and treat successfully many of the ailments with which his stock may be afflicted. Perhaps the worst ailment among horses is colic; and I shall confine myself in this article to this particular disease.

Colic is usually caused by indigestion. There are two kinds of colic, flatulent and spasmodic. Spasmodic colic is distinguished from flatulent by the absence of bloating and intermissions of pain; in flatulence there is always an accumulation of gas in the abdomen. Perhaps all are acquainted with the symptoms of colic. The horse paws, looks around at his flanks, rolls, often lying for some time quiet on his back, ears and legs warm. In spasmodic colic there will be times when the horse will be free from pain, will get up, shake himself, and go to eating, then another spasm of pain will come on and he will

back up, commence to paw, look around, and lie down.

In a case of flatulent colic I would give a pint of raw linseed oil, then give two tablespoonfuls of soda in a bottle of water; if there is no relief in half an hour, repeat the dose; sometimes several doses are necessary to effect a cure. Injections of warm soap suds are of much benefit. In spasmodic colic the pain and spasm must be relieved soon, and I know of nothing better than laudanum and tincture of ginger; two ounces of each for one dose. Give once in half an hour to an hour until relief comes. Another good remedy is sulphuric ether and laudanum, each one and a half ounces, and tincture of nuxvomica one dram, this for one dose. Repeat in half an hour to an hour if necessary. If colic is not cured in a few hours, it will probably terminate in inflammation of the bowels, which is a very dangerous complaint and requires the skill of the best veterinarian.

In case the disease runs into inflammation, it can be distinguished by the following symptoms: pain constant, ears and legs cold, eyes glassy. If a horse is taken with colic on the road, or anywhere where the above remedies could not be obtained, I would give plentifully of strong ginger tea; bind hot, wet cloths on the abdomen. Hot sage tea is good. A pint of raw linseed oil will help to remove the cause of the trouble. Many horses cannot eat straw long at a time without having the colic. Such horses should have hay. Give one pint of linseed oil to remove the straw. In fact, feed to the horse that which he likes best and which agrees with him.

Olds.

Roads.

Portion of a paper read by Mr. Geo. E. Steele at the Farmers' Institute at Traverse City.

If there ever was a time when the farmers of the United States, in view of the low prices received for their produce, the cost in time, wear and tear and extra teams kept to do their work, should rally to the standard bearer of good roads, it is now. The other day I bought some wood, brought about six miles on a sled, and there were four cords of 18 inch wood on the load. A perfect sleigh road made the difference to that farmer between one trip and two trips over that road.

The bad road is a highway robber and should be dealt with according to law. He is constantly taking private funds for public use, which is not constitutional, unless by due process of law. Stop thief!

The county road law maintains the township system except as to roads which may be laid out or adopted as county roads over which the county commissioners have charge. It will be seen by reference to that act that the board of supervisors of each county must take the first move in submitting the adoption of the law in their respective counties, and as it is not likely that any board of supervisors will act without they feel that they have the support of the towns they represent or of the county at large, it becomes important that a proper public sentiment in favor of good roads should be first aroused, to petition the board or to elect supervisors with the avowed purpose of bringing the matter up.

In furtherance of this work the subject should be thoroughly discussed at all farmers' institutes, and our Agricultural College should by those who are especially fitted be required to incorporate it in every institute held by the state, so that the voters may know its importance to them, especially in the farming communities. I say farming communities because it has been demonstrated in our own county that those the most remote, and those who really need good roads the most voted against the adoption. Yes, and largely those who said the most against it were those who paid only a small tax. It is too common an idea that money paid for roads is a tax, so then is a wagon and a harness and a horse. But if by good roads these all can be made to last much longer, is the farmer not repaid? If by good roads time is saved in hauling to nearest market is not this an advantage? Why is it that a drayman in town can haul an enormous load for a small charge? Because he has a short distance and a first class road. Both time savers, hence money earners. But there is still another point. It has been the experience in New Jersey that on the completion of their fine new roads the reality was actually advanced in value from five to twenty-five per cent. In other words the farm was brought so near by the fine roads that it partook of the enhanced value of town property.

There is raised the objection that after adopting the county road law we shall not have any improvement. The money will be wasted or politics will overawe it and we shall not see results. If the election of five of the best men in the county for the position and whose duty it is to give their special attention to the location and construction of the roads designated county roads under the restrictions of the law will not bring out some good results, then we might charge that the supervisors elected would not attend to their duties or would

connive together against the public interests. Or we might as well assume on the start that the present outrageous, wasteful methods are the best we can ever expect. There is no fear of jumping into deeper water than we are now in. The annual patching up of roads is like mending an old garment with new cloth—and "the rent is made worse."

In the matter of perfect roads we must not expect to achieve our ideal at first. The county roads, if the county system is adopted, should be main thoroughfares, with easy grades, well drained roadsides, and the track brought to grade and line being composed of the materials best adapted to the purpose and not too far away. A portion could be built every year, and a force kept at work who were well acquainted with the work to be done. We already have in this county an illustration of what may be done when all get their shoulder to the wheel and lift. Formerly a very bad, sandy road crooked about on the plains between Traverse City and Acme. Now it is as good as can be found anywhere.

When will people learn that the very best thing for their property, themselves, and their children's children is to bring that property into quick and easy reach of their marketing towns. This will save in many ways and give them the advantages of the large places for many social gatherings which are now prevented by tedious means of communication. Isolation of farmers is in many respects a very great evil. They should do all in their power to bring about a better day, but it is certain that as long as we have a large class opposed for one reason or another, or without reason to having anything done on the road only by the present wasteful methods, we shall have nothing done and farmers will haul heavy loads over steep hills and through muddy sloughs at greater expense than all the cost under the new system; but they will be doing just as their fathers did and that is the only comforting thought.

My opinion is that the county road system as now combined with the township system and the selection of five good men to have charge of it, under the limitations of the law, is the best by far we have ever had. We have nothing to lose, as the boy thought when he snapped off the pewter knife.

Why Farmers Should Organize.

We make a few extracts from an article which appeared last winter in *The Northwestern Farmer* of Minnesota. The article was written by Mr. J. H. Schneider. Our comment on the same appears elsewhere.

Farmers should organize because all other industries are organized, and thereby protect and benefit themselves, and that often to the detriment of farmers. If well organized, the farmers would be the strongest class in the country and could rule this nation as they should, for the whole country is dependent on them for subsistence.

Now they should organize after a new plan. The old plan has proved unsatisfactory to the generality of farmers—a little expensive in time and money, and besides not being open to all for membership. A farmers' organization should be based on broad, open principles; there need be no secrecy about it, nor any of the other nonsensical attachments we so often see. It should be planned after our district school or township organization, and each district should embrace all the territory surrounding a market town; and their headquarters and place of transacting their business should be in that town or village; every farmer living in such district should be a member, and that without paying anything for membership; he may attend them or not, vote or not, he is a member just the same, and entitled to all benefits.

WHAT THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH UNDER SUCH AN ORGANIZATION.

They can successfully oppose and restrict all other organizations and make them keep within their proper bounds of what is right and just toward all men; they can secure the esteem and respect which their position in life entitles them to, and which they have not got now; they can reach the highest level in society and trade, as they should.

To secure these ends, it will be necessary and of greatest importance after becoming organized under the above mentioned plan to establish and maintain

A MARKET AND HOME

of their own in their market town or village. This should consist of sufficient ground for the purpose and need not be in the center of the town, but should be convenient to railroad and water if possible. This ground should be well enclosed with a close board fence, and sheds should be built along part of this fence for shelter for teams or other stock, or for putting under loads of produce in bad weather, or when forced to stay over night. They should also build a long and well inclosed stable, where farmers can put in their teams in severe weather; in one end of this stable a large room should be partitioned off for a club room, where farmers

may congregate and be sheltered. Here also should be the weigh-master's office, who would also be the manager, or superintendent of the Market and Home. In front of the weigh-master's office there should have their own scales for the use of which they would pay the usual price, and they would be sure of getting their true and correct weight. The directors of the society should obtain for the weigh-master a large book, in which every page would be a printed form of market reports (one page for each day), whereon the weigh-master would record each day's sales, giving the highest and lowest prices paid. This should be kept in the weigh-master's office and for the inspection of farmers, so they can fix their prices accordingly, and need not be guided by market prices as quoted to them by buyers.

The directors should also get true and correct samples, and that from the market that controls and makes the prices; for instance if the Liverpool market regulates the prices of our wheat then they should obtain true samples of wheat from that market so that farmers can regulate their grades accordingly, and not be compelled, as now, to give a better grade, nor be obliged to accept such grades as dealers choose to give them.

On such Market and Home should also be erected an elevator or warehouse convenient to railroad, from which farmers and dealers can ship grain, etc., also for storage purposes.

There should also be erected on these grounds stores, shops, offices, etc., as required or needed. Over one of these stores should be a ladies' waiting room, with lunch booths adjoining; also adjoining this room should be a large assembly hall.

All these buildings, grounds, and improvements should be and could be owned and controlled by the farmers' society of the district surrounding such market town or village.

HOW IT CAN BE DONE AND THAT WITHOUT EXPENSE TO THE FARMERS.

First of all there should be the following laws enacted by the different legislatures this winter: That the states may be laid out in districts, as most suitable for this purpose. That the farmers living in such district may organize after a plan somewhat similar to our district school or township organizations. That the State Agricultural Society shall be the head of the district societies in each state, and such state society shall be managed by a board of directors elected by delegates from the district societies. The different state societies should send delegates to the national capital annually, where they should meet at the department of agriculture and transact such business as may come before them, and the secretary of the department of agriculture should be the national executive or head of these state associations.

Also enact a law enabling such district society to issue bonds (not to be sold under par) with which to raise the funds to make the necessary improvements and also with which to acquire the site of a Market and Home. The issue of bonds should not be made unless carried by a majority vote of the farmers having a vote in such a society in favor of such issue. These bonds should be guaranteed by the state; and if not paid when due to levy tax against the delinquent district.

This plan will admit of much greater and closer competition than the present; for all a merchant and tradesman will need to begin business with will be his stock and tools, and if he fails to make a success he will not have his capital tied up in real estate where he can no longer make use of it; besides the capital required for a site and necessary buildings can be put into stock, thus enabling many to begin business for themselves who cannot do so under the present state of affairs.

The rents obtained ought to pay the interest and also create a sufficient fund within a reasonable time with which to redeem the bonds; and the farmers should in the meantime enjoy the benefits of their share of the improvements entirely free from all expense.

There are several other ways by which all this could be accomplished without legislative aid, and without expense to the farmers, but this seems to be the best and most practical plan, and one that would bring all the district societies under one form of government, and centralize them into a strong state and national organization.

There is so much to be gained by such an organization and by such a Market and Home for farmers that they should make an effort at once to secure such a happy result, by which they can escape or emerge from practical subjection to a successful and blissful independence.

Not Too Often.

Lee County, Iowa, 4-26-95.

Mr. O. W. INGERSOLL,
Dear Sir: I have used your paints when our Grange was in working order, (1867) and they are on the house yet, Having rebuilt I would like to paint again, and I think it not too often, once in 18 years?

Yours fraternally,

Wm. KUDEBEH.
See adv. Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paints.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Two Meetings.

It has been our good fortune lately to attend two different Granges. Both meetings were excellent. Each master began promptly on time. The regular work was gone through with dispatch, and was conducted strictly "according to law". Nothing in either meeting was omitted that was laid down in the ritual, yet there was such a difference in the character of the meetings that we felt that one was a decided success, and the other only partially so.

In the first meeting the men ranged themselves on one side of the hall and the women on the other, and each seemed so fixed in his respective place that it seemed they had occupied the same chairs ever since they first crossed the threshold as Patrons. All was quiet and orderly, as it should be, there was not a laugh, not a joke, but they worked so hard at the work that we thought surely when recess comes this working spirit will be lost in one of genuine sociability. *But there was no recess!* They worked hard until time for closing, and then almost as silently as a Quaker meeting, and without the hand shaking, they went home. They were attentive, thoughtful, and seemed to feel they had done their duty as good Patrons. The whole Grange was composed entirely of adults, not a young person inside the gates, no new members joining, and none leaving, only as the Great Master called the tired workers to Himself.

At that other meeting I heard the happy greetings, the joyous laughter, the hum of glad cheer, before we reached the door. As I sat looking at the assemblage there was such a beautiful, glad spirit over all that it was really soul stirring and elevating. When the master's gavel called to order they seated themselves as one family, and proceeded with the order of business. To my surprise the master ordered a recess of half an hour. And again was the thorough social spirit abroad. There were many projects on foot, and during this recess you would see little groups all over the hall discussing ways and means. The woman who could not speak in meeting now had her chance. The brother who had just joined could voice his opinion in this informal way, so that when they again assembled it was surprising how much was accomplished. Promptly at the time for closing they closed, but it seemed to the weary traveller that they would never go home, they had so much visiting to do, so many things of mutual interest to talk over. The janitor said he stood it as long as he could, and then could only drive them out by putting out the lights. There was hardly a young person in the community who did not belong to the Grange.

Ours is distinctly a social organization, and those Granges are most successful who realize this truth.

CHILDREN'S DAY.

Very soon you will see proclaimed by our State Master his annual announcement of Children's Day. It is none too soon to begin preparations for the same. The children in many localities have been looking forward to that day with much expectancy, and it is usually the merriest of all Grange days in the year.

In preparing for the event let no children in the whole community be omitted; place those outside the organization on the same plane as are those whose children belong. Remember that it is Children's Day, and let there be no long discussions or dry addresses, but devote the day to the entertainment of the children and young people. Especially is this in the line of work for the various committees on woman's work.

MARY A. MAYO.

The Child.

FLORA C. BUELL.

There, those nasturtiums are at last out in the ground! Their new home may seem strange to them at first, but they have been carefully prepared for it since the seed was planted in the box, April 15. Their highest function is to blossom freely. To do this they must be vigorous, well-developed plants. Strength needed for flowers must not be expended in leaves, so the earth selected for them was mellow, but not too rich. Plenty of water and sunshine was given them early, even before they appeared above the ground. Later the weeds were kept out, and the soil loosened, leaving the tiny rootlets free to stretch out and gather all the food the plant could use. That they might be accustomed to the out-of-door life to come, the box was placed in an open window and out in gentle rains. Transplanting required care not to injure the delicate shoots, to take plenty of the earth with the roots, and to arrange gently but firmly in their new abiding place. Diligence must not now cease, as there may be insects and dry weather, but it may be lessened. Why this attention? For a few blossoms.

May we not wisely ask, is the human plant, the child of God, as tenderly nur-

tured? Does he receive as much study and thought proportionately to his creation as do the trees in our gardens, or the animals at our barns? Is he surrounded by the conditions for complete life? Is the home where he is placed conducive to the best growth of the body, mind, and soul? Does he receive food adapted to his natural and spiritual needs? Are the waters of truth and the sunshine of love freely showered upon him? Are the weeds of evil eradicated and all avenues to good opened?

Great characters are born, nevertheless training has much to do with it. Every child has a right to all the good he can hold. All training should tend to repress the lower nature, and to arouse the higher. The object of an education is the realization of a holy life, and Drummond defines it as the "drawing out of all our powers."

When Count Cavour wished to strengthen Sardinia that it might rule all Italy, he began by developing its resources. It must possess internal power to be able to command externals. Development in nature is seen in successive steps; the same in the human mind, everything blossoms in its own time.

The objects to be sought are quickened observation, habits of attention and perseverance, brightness of mind, command of speech, strengthened health, and gentle conduct.

Ann Arbor.

Notes for the Flower Garden.

MRS. J. D. W. FISKE

These warm, bright mornings one realizes that Nature is fairly awake. The average woman will pause in her round of duties to admire the hand painted landscape with which Nature is wont to decorate the earth each returning spring, and she cannot help wishing that the field and the orchard might always be as beautiful as at present. And she resolves to set about putting her flower beds in order immediately. It is better to wait until buds on the roses, and most other shrubs, have swollen a little before trimming, as they can then be cut with less danger of dying back. The peonies are now beginning to show their tips, and they as well as the roses should be dug around, have the grass pulled out, and then be well mulched.

Just now the English violet is in its prime, and its fragrance reminds one of the cup that "cheers but not inebriates," and we wish that every weary woman in the land had a clump, yes, many clumps of them. It makes a fine border for the flower beds, is quite hardy, and is very little care, except to keep from encroaching upon the bed itself. This can best be done by taking a spade and cutting down through the center of the border and lifting out the side next the bed, thus leaving the border as narrow as is desirable. The trimming and resetting should be done either as early as the frost is out of the ground or immediately after they go out of bloom. Having the bed in readiness, select a cool, cloudy day, make a light furrow with the trowel where the border is to be, and unless a shower has lately fallen, wet the furrow well, divide the roots, saving only those that are new and bright, cover the runners, putting the plants from four to six inches apart. When once established they are not only no trouble, but a joy forever.

If one has a partially shaded spot, with the soil well drained yet moist, that is the place for the pansy bed. Make the bed rich,—rich enough and then a little richer. The same rule applies to pulverizing the soil. Make it fine, finer, and then a little finer. Weed out the weak plants, leaving the strong ones about eight inches apart. Keep the early flower buds picked off if you wish fine, large blossoms.

The seed may be sown early in the house, in pans, or later, in the open border for fall blossoming, or in August or September for spring flowering. Unless one has a sunny window and plenty of time to transplant once or twice, it is better to sow most seeds in the bed where they are to remain. As they come up one can pull out the weak plants, leaving the strong to cover the ground.

Sweet peas may be sown as early as one can work the soil, but for most things the ground should be warm, and there is nothing gained by being in a hurry. Do not sow the seeds too deep. Cover to depth of diameter of the seed is a good general rule. *Coldwater, May 2.*

Peaches on the Brain.

(Concluded.)

There are drawbacks in peach culture as well as in everything else. The peach has enemies dreadful and dire, and the greatest vigilance is required to guard against them. If the yellows appear the trees must be cut out immediately. The curculio must be caught, the leaf blight and rot must be looked after. Then half the trees never mature for lack of care; they are apt to be killed by the drouths of summer and the frosts of winter. The outlook just now is rather discouraging, and if this blizzard continues much longer the brain is perhaps the only place peaches

will exist.

But after all obstacles are overcome and the rich fruit hangs in all its beauty and fragrance from the trees, painted in colors as only the hand of the Master can paint; with all this richness of the orchard the peach is its crowning glory. Carleton calls it the "rich alto of the orchard's tune." It is a pleasure to pluck the beautiful fruit and pack it for market; it is clean work, and a change from the routine of business. Here is a chance for the ladies to make a little money. It would be a good idea for every farmer's wife present to demand her third of the land now, and set it out to peaches. It would be a change from washing dishes three times a day, three hundred and sixty-five days or one thousand ninety-five times in the year. It would also give her the out door exercise she requires to keep her from the insane asylum. And while picking the luscious fruit and packing it for market she would be so excited over the delightful task that her mind would be carried away from the family "jars" and distracting thoughts of what remains to be done in the kitchen.

Don't think for a moment that I advocate woman's earning her own spending money by such means. Never! She does her share of the work and it is right that she should share the profits. You have training schools for boys and girls; let us have training schools for women also, so that when the strong right arm shall fail she will be ready to face the world. Woman might better have peaches on the brain part of the time than kitchen on the brain all of the time.

We live in one of the finest counties in the state for peach culture. On our high hills the frosts are not so apt to do damage. We could raise good varieties and induce buyers to come to us, providing enough could be raised to make it an object.

To illustrate that peach culture can be made a success, I will tell you a little story of a man who had "peaches on the brain" in a most violent form.

Many years ago a young lad left his native land to seek a home in this great western world. He had left a little cot at the foot of the heather crowned hills. Before it lay the ever changing sea in all its beauty and grandeur. The blue lakes, dark, solitary glens, and fair, winding rivers dashing over their rocky beds,—all these he left for a home in the Michigan wildwood. The wave of the ocean and the scream of the sea bird were exchanged for the howl of the wolf; the highland glades for deep forests of whispering pines, where the sound of the Sabbath bell did not strike on the ear.

In this vast wilderness, with strong arms and a brave and undaunted heart, this Scotch laddie, whose name was Malcolm, went to work to hew out a home. He toiled early and late, the giants of the forest fell before his sturdy blows, and a clearing was soon made. He had built a little log hut in a romantic situation, and obeying the mandate that it is not good for man to be alone, he found and married a pretty, blue eyed Yankee girl whose name was Esther. With Malcolm's Scotch thrift and Esther's Yankee ingenuity, they worked charmingly together. The cottage was always neat and clean, and the meals as palatable as could be made in those days. Life for those two flowed on like a placid stream. Bye and bye little ones came to gladden the home, dark eyed and blue eyed, bonnie lads and lassies. The little cottage grew too small, and a stately mansion rose in its stead, and their worldly possessions increased from year to year. Fertile fields stretched away to the woodland, where the lowing of the kine and the tinkling of the sheep bell could be heard. Bountiful orchards crowned the rising grounds, adding their rich coloring to this beautiful home picture.

Time rolled on and a change came over the once happy Malcolm; his cheery whistle rang out loud and clear no longer, and a look of dissatisfaction crept into his dark eyes. Esther was very much alarmed and would often watch him as he wandered away by himself to the highest hillock on his farm and look about aimlessly, as she supposed.

She wondered what the trouble was, And where he had the pain. 'Twas just the fever he had caught Of "peaches on the brain."

The result of these rambles and deep meditations was the preparing of acre after acre of rich ground on the highest hills on the farm and setting the whole out to peach trees. The neighbors laughed and said the man had something awful on his brain. Malcolm paid no attention, but kept strict watch over those peach trees. The first year the young trees got a splendid growth; the second year they had a few peaches on them; the third year enough for home use, and the fourth year a crop which brought him hundreds of dollars. The neighbors forgot to laugh when they saw the racks filled with tier on tier of baskets filled with luscious peaches going to the cars for shipment. They said Malcolm had something on his brain after all.

By that one move Malcolm made for

himself a splendid reputation; his beautiful farm rose in value, and several offered to buy it. But he had "peaches on the brain" worse than ever, and he ordered several hundred more trees. He talked about those peaches wherever he went! He was a good Granger, and was often on the program occasions like these, and no matter what his subject was, he would run it into "peaches" before he got through. The home was made more beautiful, and the "peach" money furnished Esther's parlors elegantly. A beautiful upright piano occupies the most conspicuous place, and with other adornments the home is complete. They have ample means to go and come when and where they please, and a snug bank account for a rainy day. The dark locks of this happy couple are sprinkled with gray and age is stealing slowly on, but hand in hand they are going down the hill of life together lovingly and trustingly and all the result of "peaches on the brain."

The Juveniles

The Coming Man.

A pair of very chubby legs,
Encased in scarlet hose;
A pair of little chubby boots,
With rather doubtful toes;
A little kilt, a little coat,
Cut as a mother can—
And lo! before us stands in state
The future's coming man.

His eyes, perchance, will read the stars,
And search their unknown ways;
Perchance the human heart and soul
Will open to their gaze;
Perchance their keen and flashing glance
Will be a nation's light—
Those eyes that now are wistful bent
On some big fellow's kite.

Those hands—those busy little hands—
So sticky, small, and brown;
Those hands whose only mission seems
To pull all order down—
Who knows what hidden strength may be
Hidden within their clasp,
Though now 'tis but a taffy stick
In sturdy hold they grasp.

Ah, blessings on those little hands,
Whose work is yet undone!
And blessings on those little feet
Whose race is yet unrun!
And blessings on the little brain
That has not learned to plan,
Whate'er the future holds in store,
God bless the coming man!

Ex.

A Pair of Deer.

In a beautiful woodland not far from a farm house in New Hampshire there lived a pair of deer. They were gentle and very timid, for the hunters' dogs had several times been on their trail and driven them in fright down to the farm yard. Here, though they would look terribly scared, they were perfectly safe, for no one dared to shoot them in the farm yard.

The farmer was a very kind man, and said the deer did him no harm, and he liked to have them near. So it happened that the deer became quite tame and would come in sight of the farm nearly every day.

Last spring nothing was seen of them for several weeks, and the farmer feared some one had shot them or frightened them away. But one day he was riding home from the village in his farm wagon. As he was driving past a little clearing in the forest he thought he could see something moving in the bushes. Then there appeared both deer, looking timidly at the farmer, who stopped his team for a moment or two.

"There they are, sure enough," said the farmer to himself. And then he saw first one and then another timid little young deer by their side. They had long ears and were ready to follow the old ones at any instant into the forest. But they did not seem afraid, and as the farmer drove on, the old ones went to feeding among the bushes and the young began to frolic about.

The young deer are spotted with white and are very cunning. The farmer was very glad to see them and hoped the sportsmen would not shoot them, and we hope so too.—*Ex*

Puzzles.

All readers of the GRANGE VISITOR are invited to contribute and send solutions to this department. Address all communications to Thos. A. Millar, 500, 12th street, Detroit, Mich.

55—Behadments.

Behad not distant and leave part of the body. Behad canisteo, N. Y.

MATEON.

56—Numerical.

1, 5, 3, 7, is a young woman. 8, 6, 2, 4, is an affliction. 7, 5, 6, is a falsehood. WHOLE was president of the U. S. Carleton.

EDITH.

57—Enigma.

In Zebra my first is found.
My second in a name of great renown.
My third is a word that is dear to all.
My fourth a letter in ball.
In the beginning of end my fifth you see.
My sixth star is a monster from whom all should flee.
My seventh a pronoun, according to Hoyle.
My whole is a river on African soil.
Union City.

Z. E. D.

PRIZES FOR SOLVING.

To the person who solves the most puzzles commencing March 21 and ending with the issue of May 16 we will give "A Rogue's Life," for the next best list we will give a novel of equal value. Solutions must reach us by June 3. Open to all.

THE MAIL BAG.

This is the last time that "prizes for solving" will appear. The contest closes June 3. Solutions can be sent all at once. Prize winners will appear June 20. Now be sure and all compete for prizes.

THE GRANGE VISITOR

CHARLOTTE, MICH.

The Official Organ of the Michigan State Grange.

Published on the First and Third Thursdays of Each Month

EDITOR:

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD, LANSING, MICH.

To whom all exchanges and all articles for publication should be sent.

MANAGERS AND PRINTERS:

PERRY & McGRATH, CHARLOTTE, MICH.

To whom all subscriptions and advertising should be sent.

TERMS 50 Cents a Year, 25 Cents for Six Months, in Clubs of 20 more 40 Cents per Year each.

Subscriptions payable in advance, and discontinued at expiration, unless renewed.

Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order or Draft. Do not send stamps.

To insure insertion all notices should be mailed no later than the Saturday preceding issue.

Entered at the Postoffice at Charlotte, Mich., as Second Class matter.

NEXT ISSUE JUNE 20.

OUR WORK.

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

OUR OBJECT

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

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

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

The legislature has adjourned. Do you remember when the Michigan State Grange ever before had as much influence in legislation as it has had this winter?

Are you arranging for an August picnic? The master of the National Grange will be in the state two weeks. You should arrange to give him a welcome that will assure him that the Grange of Michigan is very much alive.

Ex-President Clute of the Michigan Agricultural College, now president of the Florida Agricultural College, contributes a very interesting article in this issue to our series of articles on agriculture in various parts of the world. His theme is "Agriculture in Florida," and none of our readers can afford to miss reading it. It is both instructive and entertaining. We trust that these articles by eminent agriculturists are appreciated by VISITOR patrons.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

We have been asked for our opinion of the scheme presented in the article quoted on page two on the topic "Why farmers should organize."

In the first place, the fewer farm organizations, the better, in our judgment. If any existing organization will do the business, why form an additional one?

In the second place the Grange is the only existing organization of national character and of solid success. No one can point to any other farmers' organization of like attainments or permanency.

Again, the Grange "does the business," wherever its precepts are closely followed, and whenever its principles are practically applied. The scheme of Mr. Schneider is pure theory. The Grange has a quarter of a century of grand achievement back of it.

Try the Grange. Learn its principles. Apply them rigidly. Live up to its mandates. Unite in one grand body. Push all lines of Grange work. This is our advice to all farmers, in every state in the Union. Try it.

PURE FOOD.

The dairy and food commissioner bill passed the House the last day of the session. A strong part of it had been cut out in the Senate, allowing the commissioner to enter places of business and inspect goods. The law however gives the commissioner two clerks and a chemist and \$9,400 a year. The new law is far from satisfactory, but it is a distinct advance over the present law, and places the respon-

sibility for the enforcement of our pure food laws largely on the administration, where it belongs.

THE BUSINESS END.

Worthy Master Horton states the case, in another column, that confronts the Grange of Michigan with regard to the business end of the Grange. Patrons all over the state have been calling for just such contracts as Brother Horton has concluded with the binding twine people. Now it remains to be seen whether the Grange will stand unitedly together in making their purchases of this article. As Brother Horton suggests, it is a test case, and to a considerable extent the future of practical co-operative work in Michigan Granges depends on the unanimity with which the Grange takes hold of this twine contract.

THE UNIVERSITY APPROPRIATION.

Governor Rich has vetoed the bill appropriating \$25,000 for an electric light plant. We approve of this action heartily. President Angell, on page 21 of his report to the board of regents for 1893, after mentioning the one-sixth mill tax, goes on to say: "It is, of course, understood that the appropriation of this sum will obviate the necessity of our going to the legislature at each session for a number of specific appropriations." And yet they asked originally of this legislature for an amount about equal to the whole sixth mill tax. We believe in the university, but we believe also in common honesty on the part of state institutions in their dealings with the people.

The managers of the VISITOR are so well pleased with the little contests so far had that we propose at least one more. Our "Love" contest brought some nice lists of subscribers, an account of which was given in the issue of May 2d. Our "Justice" contestants are not so numerous, but show good work. Governor Luce's Grange came very near taking first honors as Worthy Master Horton's did in the first contest. The following is the result of the second contest, giving those only who had as many as ten names: R. E. Guilford, Portland, 43; D. E. Weage, East Gilead, 35; C. W. Farnsworth, Medina, 20; Thos. D. Smith, Ravenna, 20; Fred Somers, Ionia, 15; Clarence Hammond, Brouard, 14; D. O. Cheney; Palo, 14; R. K. Divine, Holly, 10, Mabel Chubb, Portage, 10.

How can we get up special interest for the closing summer contest? Suppose our watchword be "Our VISITOR." It is your paper. Your editor and your business managers are only your hired workers. Every Patron should feel that it is his individual duty to lend it support. This is a busy month, but get up a social and invest the proceeds in the VISITOR for thinking farmers in your neighborhood. Let us all hustle. That means ALL. Perhaps the editor will join in the June contest. The business managers will try and give it a little time and in order to stimulate the Patrons everywhere we are going to make this offer: To every person who by personal effort gets more subscriptions than the undersigned for the VISITOR and sends same to us so that the report can be made in the issue of July 4 we will send a present worth 25 cents to each name on such lists. Do you understand? Nothing for the labor—that is for the good of the paper, but if we get 20 names and you get 40, each name of your 40 will get a 25 cent prize free. Thus you work unselfishly for others. If you do your duty we ought to have a boom on this offer.

PERRY & McGRATH.

A BURDENED COURT.

Ex-Senator Turnbull, of Alpena, presented a petition to the legislature in regard to the supreme court, of which the following is a portion.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan:

Your petitioner, J. D. Turnbull, would most respectfully represent that he has been a member of each of your honorable bodies, and has been a practicing attorney in the various courts of this state for 20 years and upwards, and most earnestly petitions for the enactment of some legislation covering the following matters:

First, For the relief of our honorable supreme court, so that said court shall have due time and opportunity to examine all matters presented; Second, Requiring said supreme court to pass specially upon all assignments of error contained in the record of criminal cases, and to make it an impeachable offense for said court

not to do so;

Third, Prohibiting a change of venue in all criminal cases, except upon the request of the accused.

As to first, your honorable bodies will remember that two years ago we attempted to give this relief to said supreme court by enacting a law requiring the judges of said court to reside at Lansing, and raising their salaries \$2,000 per year. The basis of this action was that it would give the judges of said court sufficient time and opportunity to examine and deliberate upon all matters presented to said court.

This law, at most, has only partially accomplished the end sought. There are at least at the present time 1,500 different matters presented to said court per year for its decision, making an average of five decisions for said court to deliberate upon and decide each day the year around. It is therefore self-evident that said court can not do all its work, and give it the attention and deliberation it ought to secure.

This is a matter of great importance to the people of this state; something should be done to relieve the court.

We have not tried to ascertain whether it is true that our supreme court is unable to do its work. At first thought it would seem impossible that such could be the case. For was not the salary of each judge raised \$2,000 per year two years ago? Think what an incentive to activity \$2,000 a year is! Then they have told us that, whereas two years ago the court was six months in arrears in its work, it was soon enabled by its salary increase to overtake its burdens. But here is a complaint from a lawyer that the court is again behind.

We are loath to believe the complaint a just one, for it is but a few fleeting months since we were assured that "they have caught up." But if it is true that the court is again behind in its work, it is a pity that the fact was not known in time to introduce a bill for the relief of the justices. The remedy is simple enough. For, reasoning from past events, all that is necessary is to raise the salaries again, and with renewed energy, even to burning midnight oil, the court will again "catch up." It is very unfortunate that the state must labor along another two years with a delayed supreme court docket—doubly unfortunate because the trouble might have been so easily remedied. We wonder that the honorable justices did not, in solemn conclave, call in the members of the legislature and explain to them that the court grist was a little short for lack of speed in the court machinery, but that a salary of about \$10,000 a year each would grease the wheels in good shape. What a pity 'twasn't done!

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES FOR GRANGES.

Mrs. Mary C. Spencer, the state librarian, has made special arrangements to send travelling libraries to Granges. Travelling libraries, be it known, are sets of books, 50 or 100 in number, on subjects of general interest, which, under certain conditions, will be loaned to a community. Mrs. Spencer, with rare appreciation of the value of the Grange, has issued special blanks for Granges. We append the rules governing these libraries, and urge Granges to send for circulars on the subject. Lists of various libraries are printed, and you can choose which one you will try first. Already two Granges, North Star and Lexington, have applied for libraries. We hope that at least 100 Granges will make use of these libraries this coming fall and winter. Instruct your secretary or librarian to write at once to "State Librarian, Lansing, Michigan," for circulars of information. This is an important movement. Great good will result from it, we are sure. But we want to see the Grange take hold of it as it should. The fact that special arrangements are made for Granges makes it a matter of pride and reputation that the Granges should avail themselves of the opportunity. Not only will they get great good from it, but they will thus show their appreciation of the movement.

Try one of the libraries, and see how you like the plan.

RULES FOR TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

On a satisfactory guarantee that all rules will be complied with, a Michigan travelling library may be lent to the following associations:

1. Associate libraries.
2. Communities of twenty-five resident taxpayers.
3. Reading clubs and circles.
4. Grange libraries.

Rules.

1. The applicants shall name a responsible owner of real estate to act as trustee of said library, and he must become personally responsible for any loss or injury beyond reasonable wear. Said trustee shall designate a suitable person to be librarian.
2. An annual fee of five dollars shall be paid in advance, which money shall be applied towards the expense of preparing the libraries and for transportation of the same.

3. Such precautions shall be taken as to guard effectively against injury in transportation.

4. Notes, corrections of the press, or marks of any kind on books belonging to the library are unconditionally forbidden. Borrowing trustees will be held responsible for all losses or injuries beyond reasonable wear, however caused.

5. The travelling library shall be kept not longer than six months after its reception, except by special permission. It may be exchanged for another at or before the end of three months on the same terms, and these exchanges may continue so long as the state library rules are observed.

6. The librarian shall care for the books while under his control and circulate them in accordance with the rules prescribed by the library committee, and shall make such reports respecting their use as the committee may require.

7. For willful violation of any state library rule the state librarian may suspend the privilege of state loans, but the parties interested may appeal to the governor and superintendent of public instruction who shall act as arbiters in the matter.

OWNERS OR RENTERS.

A topic worthy the best thought of statesman as well as farmers themselves, is that of the ownership of the land, and more especially of farm land, of the country. It is a matter of immense importance to the future of this country whether the farmers shall own the farms they work, or rent them; and whether the owners shall be small land holders or wealthy landlords with numerous dependent tenants. It is a generally recognized fact that the entire social structure of the nation will be vitally affected by the final status of the farmer with respect to this classification—owners, renters, landlords, tenants.

Mr. E. A. Holden, in another column, dwells somewhat upon the available statistics of this problem. We shall here merely make a few generalizations with regard to the subject.

First, what is the tendency? The national census figures would seem to indicate a rapid increase in percentage of rented farms. Our own state census indicates no perceptible change during the last decade. It must be conceded, however, that none of the figures given can be relied upon entirely, as this phase of the census has not been given careful attention, and no statistics on this subject can be safely used to prove or disprove a theory. Two men may easily reach opposite conclusions from the census figures. We hope that in the future both the national and state census will be as accurate and complete in this line as the latest ones seem to be. The results of a somewhat meagre amount of questioning of farmers in various portions of the state, would indicate the existence of a belief in the minds of the people that there is a gradual tendency in southern Michigan toward both larger farms and more renters of farms. We have not pursued the inquiry far enough to be able to say that this tendency prevails, but so far as we have gone, the testimony is all one way. It will be well for farmers to study this tendency in their own localities, seeking both for causes and results.

Those who study this subject as pessimists must admit into the problem certain factors that will exert a powerful influence toward preserving the farms to the ownership of the families residing on them. Better schools, better roads, free mail delivery, farmers' institutes, farm papers—all these are, or will be, of immense influence in making farm life more tolerable and more successful. And fair material, success, coupled with an active and pleasant social life, are the real factors in determining whether our farmers are to be landlords or tenants, owners or renters. Then the Grange must not be left out of account in the problem. It helps farmers to better material prosperity; it makes far more bearable the loneliness of farm life that many complain of; it increases the mental and political power of the farmers. It has done a great work in these lines; it is destined to play an even more important part among the factors of our national life.

We believe that the character of the soil and the demands of the market will necessarily determine the outcome of the tendency toward large and small farms. In the vicinity of large cities, or in localities easy of access to large cities, truck farming, with the intensive culture of small areas, will prevail. In fruit sections, farms of medium size are likely to become the rule. In all prairie states large estates will doubtless absorb the lesser farms. On the rougher lands of the eastern and middle states the probabilities are that farms of

say 200 acres will be most prevalent. This conditions assumes an era of moderate prosperity for farmers in general. And in any event, we think such condition must necessarily prevail in time. The factors we have spoken of are not likely to affect the size of farms materially. Their work will lie rather in preserving the ownership of the farms to the residents upon them, and in increasing the efficiency of the agricultural class in general.

THE LEGISLATURE.

On all sides are heard expressions of relief that the legislature has adjourned. These expressions are usually coupled with forcible explanations indicating that the session has not been one wholly satisfactory to the people. We do not propose to join in this indiscriminate condemnation. We have no particular patience with that spirit which permits inferior men to come to the legislature, and then indulges in wholesale denunciation of their acts. Nor have we any sympathy with people who take no pains and make no effort to tell their legislators what is wanted, but who, as soon as the session is ended, begin finding fault with all that has been done or that has not been done.

Nevertheless, as men and affairs go, it is to be expected that each legislature will be subjected to criticism. This is right and proper, and often results in good. Therefore we shall give our impressions of the legislature of 1895.

In the first place this legislature was unfortunate in the respect of being required to elect two United States senators. There can be no question but many of the members came here almost solely for that purpose. That accomplished, it was not surprising if legislation should have proved a minor consideration.

This legislature was also unfortunate in having no minority except the conscientious Donovan. There was no check on partisan legislation. Thus party expediency and unity as motives were not forced to the front as they might have been had an effective minority existed to continually remind the party in power of their duty.

It is probably true that the landslide of last fall carried many men to the legislature whom the people that nominated them never expected to see there. Thus the usual number of inferior men was perhaps increased. At any rate it appears that while there were a score or more of really able men, there seemed to be an unusually large number of inferior men. The senate had no leader at all, while in the house the leaders apparently had no strong personal following. So much for the personnel of the legislature.

But the acts of the legislature form the criterion of the people's judgment. "Corporation influence" and "boodles" are frequently used to explain certain actions of this session. While we are not innocent enough to assume that no member will receive any material benefit for any vote of his, we do think the "boodle" cry is overdone. It is unfair as well as absurd to suppose that the majority of members are purchasable with money. As to corporation influence, it is not unlikely that certain political considerations and debts to a certain capitalist-politician decided the fate of several important bills. It has been asserted, in fact, that Senator McMillan used his political prowess to defeat legislation that was distasteful to private corporations in which he was personally interested. The continued presence at Lansing of his political henchmen would seem to lend color to the charge. At any rate, anti-corporation legislation has not been abundant. Of course there is no virtue in laws against corporations merely because they are against corporations. But when measures of such apparent justice as the Michigan Central railroad charter bill and the bill to tax sleeping cars, fail, it looks as if the legislators were favoring the corporations at the expense of the people.

The work of the lobby is another count against this legislature. And it is a just count. We believe lobbying, to an extent, is entirely justifiable. We do not even censure corporations for looking after their own interests. But there is a line beyond which lobbying is reprehensible, and the lobby, this winter, crossed the line many times.

It will probably be charged that the appropriations made this session are extravagant. As regards state institutions we think this is not true. The main item of appropriation is that for the "general fund." This fund was unusually large this year, and we are disposed to think that the affairs at the capitol can be so administered as to reduce this amount. But no strenuous attempt was made to do this.

The chief fault of this legislature, in our judgment, was its weakness. It will be found, on careful examination, that many

good laws were enacted, and many vicious bills killed. But if you take a list of the subjects that are of most interest and importance to the people, it will appear that no great question was taken up and settled. No noteworthy progress was made in solving the many vexing problems of our state life. The fundamental question of suffrage is where it was before the session. The evils of the caucus and the primary have not been satisfactorily remedied. Local government worth mentioning, but got a black eye in the shape of the Detroit health bill. The purity of elections is enhanced by permits to use the voting machine, but the anti-fusion bill we look upon as a backward step. Civil service for the state was mentioned, but nothing was done about it. The study of economy in state expenditures was not systematically carried on. Taxation is no nearer settlement than before, except in the creation of a tax statistician. Corporations are but little more under the regulation of the state than before. The temperance sentiment was expended in defeating the liquor men, rather than in making any advance in liquor control. Educational questions received pretty fair treatment. Transportation by wagon road and railroad was scarcely touched, as a problem concerning which the people have vital material interests. Perhaps it is too much to expect that a legislature will attempt the solution of these problems, especially as long as the members are selected on a national platform, without regard to state issues.

Though we have been critical rather than commendatory, it is but fair to say that this legislature contained able men, and did much good work. It was perhaps, an average legislature.

There is one phase of legislation that we would like to call to the attention of our readers, and that is legislation asked for by the State Grange. We have not room in this issue for our opinions on this interesting theme, but will endeavor to present them quite fully next issue.

The Discontent Among Farmers.

The following is a portion of an article written for the *Spekulum*, the paper published by the students of the Michigan Agricultural College, by Mr. J. S. Mitchell, of the senior class.

The widespread discontent which has prevailed among the farmers of this country for the past few years is not due to any one cause, but to a number of causes. Of the many causes which have each contributed their portion to swell the general discontent, a few are just reasons for complaint. The remainder—a much larger part—are but fancied grievances.

Let us glance at a few of those causes due largely to legislation.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT.

First, the abnormal development during and after the civil war. In the period from 1850 to 1860 the country was making a steady but natural growth. The low tariff of 20 or 25 per cent was but a small restriction upon the foreign trade. The war of the rebellion coming on in 1861, the duties were raised upon nearly all articles on which a tax could be collected. Money was needed to carry on the war; thus the people submitted to those heavy duties with but little complaint. The discrimination against foreign products tended to raise the price of those articles produced at home. This, together with the withdrawal of two millions of men from the industries of the country to carry on the war, and the inflations of the currency, created abnormally high prices. Since the close of the war prices have been gradually readjusting themselves to their normal level. We have a class of farmers who are continually looking back and sighing for the good old times when wheat was worth \$2 per bushel, wool 90 cents per pound, and beef \$12 or \$15 per hundred-weight. But when we consider the fact that the products of the farmer to-day will buy him more of the necessities or luxuries of life than ever before, even in those good old times, his grievance cannot be allowed.

CONTRACTION.

Second, arising out of the previous high prices came the contraction of heavy debts. Farmers who were at that time realizing high prices for their products ran in debt for more land, for buildings, or for farm machinery. The man who did this practiced economy in living, was industrious and usually paid off his indebtedness in a few years; but the man who lived luxuriously on the money which should have gone to pay his debts, thinking at the time that he would be able to straighten it all out in the near future, soon found that this was more easily said than done. Prices which were high on account of the inflation of the currency began to fall as contraction took place. The more they fell the harder it became to pay off the indebtedness. Thus we have a class who are buried beneath a load of debt, a legacy of the inflation. Of this class it may be justly said they were wronged, but it was the wrong which the whole nation suffered. It may be said against them that the govern-

ment, seeing the wrong, contracted the inflation slowly, thus giving them a chance to save themselves, of which, through lack of business insight or other reasons, they did not take advantage.

PROTECTION.

Third, is the so-called protection to the farmers. To some this topic may seem threadbare, but so long as a wrong exists this question never should, nor never will, become a dead topic. The foundation principle of protection is to shut out the competition of foreign producers, or, in other words, to raise the price of the protected product in the protected country. If the prices are not raised, which is true in some cases, there is no protection. Now, through the workings of this system, the prices of the protected articles which the farmer buys are raised, while the farmer is obliged to compete with his great staples, wheat, cotton, and live stock, with other nations in the markets of the world. He is forced to buy in a protected market and sell in an unprotected market; to buy in a high market and sell in a low market, while he must produce his great staples for export as well as for home consumption. Now, when an article is produced partly for home consumption and partly for export, the price of the part exported fixes the price of the part consumed at home, and since the great staples are largely exported, the prices which the farmer receives are fixed by the export price—the price in the free market of the world. Thus, being obliged to purchase his labor and necessities in a highly protected market, while selling in a low market, the farmer is grossly wronged. But here again a large class of the farmers wrong themselves through their ignorance of the workings of the system. They are crying for protection which does not protect; they ask for bread and are given a stone.

SHIFTING OF TAXES.

Fourth, is the shifting of taxes. Under our present system of taxation the burden of taxes is borne by the class who obtain their products from mother earth. In this country the farmers make up the greater part of this class. With our present system of import taxes it is said that the consumer pays the tax. But does the consumer always pay the tax in the end? If the consumer be a farmer he must pay the tax since he can shift it to no one else. The farmer goes to the market with a load of produce—it may be either wheat, corn, or cabbages—and someone else fixes the price which he shall receive for his produce. He goes to a merchant to buy the necessities of life, and again someone else fixes the price which he must pay. On the other hand, if the consumer be of the stipend class—a teacher, doctor, or lawyer—the tax on the article consumed will raise the cost of living, and they in turn will receive a larger sum for their services. The farmer employing their services will thus help to pay their tax.

If it be a merchant who consumes the article, his cost of living will be increased; if he employs the services of the stipend class he will be compelled to contribute to their tax. This will also be added to and further increase the merchant's cost of living. The farmer buying goods from this merchant will pay for the goods, the tax on the goods, and a large part of the tax of the merchant, as well as a part of the tax of the stipend class shifted on the goods through the merchant. So it is with the manufacturer and all other classes of producers, the prices of whose products and services are not fixed by some one else at both ends of the transaction.

You may ask why it is that the stipend and manufacturing classes are able to raise the prices of their services and products? It is through the immobility of both labor and capital to change from one form of services or production to another when they once become committed to a certain line of services or productions. For instance, the miners of the upper peninsula a year ago would rather go half starved, supported by charity, than work for a fair wage in the lumbering camps. A number of box factories and wooden ware manufacturing factories continued running during the past year at a loss to the owners, while hundreds of others were closed down, being committed to a certain line of production, and the demand for their products ceasing.

ASSESSMENT OF TAXES.

Again, in the assessment of the general property tax, the farmer pays more than his just share. His property consists of real estate and personal property that cannot be hidden from the view of the assessor, while the holders of stocks, bonds, and mortgages can easily keep from the view of the assessor much of the evidence of wealth, and thus escape their just share of the tax.

Further, the high rents or city taxes of merchants are largely added to the prices of the goods which they handle.

Thus we see that the farmer has just cause of complaint in the lavish expenditures of both state and federal governments, since the burden of taxes through the shifting of taxation falls upon him.

Grange News.

An inexcusable error was made by your correspondent in your last issue. It was Mrs. C. C. McDermid instead of Mrs. C. C. Poorman who so clearly demonstrated the cutting of seed potatoes at the last meeting of Calhoun county Grange.

Wadsworth Grange is still to the fore. Though not so large in numbers it can still boast of good working members alive to the interest of the Grange and farmers. The sisters treated the brothers to a supper on the 11th of May. We meet every week; have only missed two nights this last year. S. A. KAY, Cor.

Tallmadge Grange held a fourth degree meeting last Saturday afternoon, closing with a five o'clock tea. This is one of several such meetings we have enjoyed this spring. It was voted at said meeting that we purchase a twenty-five dollar addition to our library. Several of our members will attend the session of Western Pomona to be held at Olive Center.

Montcalm Grange is rapidly coming to the front. It now numbers nearly ninety members, a gain of nearly twenty since the beginning of the year. At our last meeting we voted to have a bulletin board placed on our walls; also the question "Shall we send through the Grange for our binder twine," which seemed very favorable, and we will decide at our next meeting. We also have some applications in for membership. Mrs. C. H. THOMPSON.

Vermontville Grange No. 625, recently reorganized, is in flourishing condition with a membership of forty-one. The second and third degrees were given to one new member Saturday evening, May 18. A short literary program was given with the question: "What product of the farm, with the present outlook, should have first place?" A rather lively discussion followed. The sentiment of the members seemed to be that the garden and corn crop should have the preference.

Davisburgh Grange had a very unusual treat at its last meeting in the presence of A. J. Crosby, present lecturer of Oakland Pomona. A motion that we suspend the regular exercises and give the time to Brother Crosby was carried unanimously, and in return we were favored with one of the most interesting and able addresses upon the tariff and currency questions to which we have ever listened.

A steady downpour of rain prevented some of our members from being present, which was much to be regretted. Brother Crosby's address is worthy of a large audience, and we have no doubt a small one is the exception and not the rule.

Oakland Pomona meets with us on the fourth Saturday in June, and the Olive Branch farmers' Club will join with us in helping to make it interesting and enjoyable. It is to be held at the home of Brother and Sister R. K. Divine, and we are anticipating a most delightful meeting. Mrs. TAYLOR.

Fraternity Grange held an open "May day" meeting Tuesday afternoon, May 28. The hall was decorated with evergreens which have been growing in our Grange yard since April 1878. Then each member of the Grange planted one tree in the yard. Today we are reaping the reward of our labor. The sisters brought flowers and plants from gardens, windows, and woods. Flora presided. The music was fine. Sister Alma Stumpfenhusen came first with an excellent essay on "The language of flowers." There were talks on "Uses and beauty of botany as a study for the farmer." "Is it necessary for the successful operation of a creamery or cheese factory to require the manager to run it seven days in a week?" "How to raise sweet peas," also papers on "Plain cooking, how to make it attractive and palatable to the family;" "History of our Grange yard," two very enjoyable original "May day poems," several select readings. At our regular meeting May 14, Bro. Thomas Moore of Adrian visited us and took part in the discussion "Our Agricultural College, is it filling the object for which it was desired? What is it doing for the benefit of farmers?" We welcomed Brother Moore as a Patron and as a loved friend of our departed brother, J. Webster Childs. M. E. B.

Under your late offer for subscribers I started out to do a little canvassing. As a result I enclose a list of seven names. Most of them have been readers of the VISITOR who failed to renew when their subscription expired. Owing to poor health our lecturer has not been able to attend our Grange meetings but a few times this year. I will try to answer in part at least your questions. 1. Fairly well. 2. More than one half are young people. 3. All look on favorably, and admit that it is all right. 4. We have not got the right material among the farmers in our neighborhood to make live Patrons out of to increase our membership. 5. Our hope for the future is in the young people. 6. We want more literary talent and those that are willing to work. 7. Partly by learning how business is done and paying cash for what we buy and keeping clear of the credit system. 8. The financial item helps us quite a little by buying binder twine and other goods from the manufacturers as cheap as possible. During the fall and winter season we meet every two weeks, and in the summer sometimes only once a month.

At our meetings short essays are read by some of the young folks. We sometimes have a query box and at times discussions relative to farmers. We consider the VISITOR of vital importance to our welfare as a Grange by learning what other Granges are doing, and of late we think it excels the past by informing its readers where our money goes that we pay as state tax. As a Grange we are very much pleased with its present management. Mrs. A. MONTGOMERY.

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Write for prices on gold pins, badges, working tools, staff mounts, seals, ballot boxes and any other Grange supplies. Address **MISS JENNIE BUELL,** Ann Arbor, Mich.

Farming in Florida.
O. CLUTE.

The southern latitude of this state and its location between the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico on the west, and the still warmer Gulf Stream of the Atlantic on the east, give to it a climate which enables it to produce crops which can be profitably grown only in limited portions of the United States. The climate of the state, to one who has been accustomed to the severities of the northern states, is attractive in the extreme. Throughout the winter months the days are bright and genial. As a rule garden truck grows, and is ready for the table, nearly all winter long. A year ago we had fresh vegetables for the table in January and February. This last winter has been more severe, and the luxuriant growth of vegetables has been cut down by the severe freezes;—one, the last of December, and another, about as severe, the first part of February. But in spite of the freezes we have had lettuce and radishes nearly every day of the winter; by April 15 the green peas and young turnips appeared upon our table here in north Florida; the new Irish potatoes are now nearly ready for market in central Florida, and began to go from south Florida some days ago.

EARLY CROPS.

With such a climate as this the possibilities in the line of agriculture are boundless. Farming operations can go forward the whole year. Sometimes three crops per year are taken from the same soil; not unfrequently two crops per year are gathered from the same field. And these are crops that are readily sold in the markets, and bring to the growers profitable returns. From south Florida green peas were sent March 15 to the northern markets, and brought to the growers excellent returns. April 15 the peas began to be shipped from the immediate neighborhood of Lake City, and returns have been received varying from \$3.25 to \$6.00 per bushel-crate.

TRUCK FARMING.

This truck farming has been in the past one of the great industries, and an important source of revenue in nearly all parts of Florida. Much attention is turned in this direction today, and the development of this industry in the future to still larger and still more profitable proportions is as certain as that the sun shines. In central and south Florida there are almost never any freezes to interfere with this winter-gardening. The peas, the Irish potatoes, the tomatoes, the egg plants planted in the fall, grow throughout the winter days, and are ready for market in January, February, and March. Sent to the northern markets at this season of the year, they bring to the growers returns that are most encouraging. I see reports in different Florida papers almost every week, showing returns of \$500 to \$1500 per season, for tomatoes grown by one man with the help given by his own family. In not a few cases men with some capital and business energy go into this winter-gardening to a somewhat large extent, and get returns according.

STRAWBERRIES.

The strawberry is a fruit which has been much cultivated in some sections of Florida, and to which increased attention is being given. In ordinary seasons the fruit is ready for shipment the last of January, and the main body of the crop is ready to be shipped during February and March. Sent, at this time, to the markets of Washington, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, the returns have been usually satisfactory to the growers. The climate is such here that strawberries planted in September and October yield the first and greatest crop in the following March and April. By judicious planting and cultivating the length of the strawberry season can be greatly extended. Instead of having a season of only a few days or two or three weeks in length, it may be extended to a period of not less than three months, some say four months. This length of the season is a great advantage to the canners, and they are inquiring now as to suitable places in Florida for the establishment of canning factories. When such

factories have been built they will give an additional impetus to the strawberry industry, as they will buy from the growers at such times as the fruit cannot be sent to the northern centers.

THE STAPLES.

The main, general farm crops of Florida include the sweet-potato, cabbage, Irish potato, sugar cane, corn, and cotton. The mere mention of these great staples is sufficient to show the extent and great value of our agricultural possibilities. The Irish potato is grown in the spring for the purpose of being sent north to compete in the markets with the early crop from Bermuda. It is not inferior to the Bermuda in quality, and it reaches market almost as early. The great importance of the sweet potato crop is hardly yet appreciated even by the southern people. As food for both men and beasts it has no superior. It can be grown throughout the southern states in very great quantities at a moderate expense. Indeed, it is now grown in very great quantities; still, as the south develops, the production of this crop will very rapidly increase. It will be much more widely used than now as a food for all kinds of farm stock.

SUGAR CANE.

In the days before the war sugar-cane was one of the great staples of the state. Large plantations in the northern parts produced great quantities of sugar. Since the war the conditions of labor, of course, have been very different, and this has made a change in the growth of sugar-cane. Moreover the development of the beet sugar industry in Europe and America has made the production of sugar in the south less profitable, and as a result, the growth of sugar-cane in Florida is much less than it was in former years. But in some sections of the state there are now not a few plantations of cane, and the production of sugar is a profitable branch of industry. Much attention is being turned in this direction, and the probability is that improved varieties of cane, improved methods of cultivation and of the manufacture of syrup and sugar, will bring this industry within a few years to much greater proportions.

TOBACCO.

Those who indulge in and enjoy the fumes of the seductive weed yield themselves with especial pleasure to tobacco that is grown in Cuba and other parts of the West Indian islands. It is not generally known that Florida grows tobacco not less excellent than that grown in the sunny island of Cuba. A good deal of that tobacco which is sold in northern markets as "Havana wrapper" and "Havana filler" is a product of the fields of Florida. It has been bought up by speculators, cured by them in their sweating houses, and either sold as Cuban tobacco or manufactured in cigar factories into "genuine" Havana cigars. Much attention is given in northern Florida to the production of tobacco. The press, especially the agricultural press, contains many articles describing the merits of the different varieties, different methods of cultivation, and improved methods of curing and sweating.

COTTON.

In times when a very fine article of upland cotton can be bought for four cents a pound there is not much enthusiasm in the growth of cotton. Throughout northern Florida the cotton grown has been "long staple" cotton, or so-called "sea-island" cotton, which brings a much higher price. While the acreage of cotton will be very greatly reduced the present year, yet a large amount of cotton will be grown. The growers of the long staple or sea-island will realize profitable returns.

Apple Tree Lice.

This little insect has appeared in such numbers in our apple orchards as to attract the attention of fruit growers from all over the state. In fact, inquiries were received during the winter concerning the eggs which were found in unusual abundance on the branches. Since the warm weather began these inquiries

have become so numerous that it seems best to publish a brief account of the insect and means of combating it.

The little, shiny, black eggs, mentioned above, are deposited by the female louse on the twigs and smaller branches of the apple trees in the autumn. About the time the buds begin to expand in the spring these eggs hatch into very small, light green lice, which immediately insert their tiny beaks into the young and tender leaves and commence sucking their juices. The broods hatched at this time are all females, which mature sufficiently in ten or twelve days to enable them to begin the process of reproduction, which, contrary to the general rule, they are able to do without the presence of the male, and the slow process of egg-laying is avoided, as the young which are produced during the summer are hatched within the mother. The process of throwing off these summer broods continues until fall, when a brood of true males and females is produced, from which comes the stock of eggs for the next season's supply.

REMEDIES.

The many inquiries received concerning this insect have developed the fact that people are not generally acquainted with the manner in which it takes its food. Like all members of this family, instead of having well developed jaws for biting and chewing, its mouth parts are developed into a beak, which is adapted for sucking. It will be seen, therefore, that the arsenites will have but little value in fighting this pest, as it takes its food from the inner tissues of the plant. It will therefore be necessary to apply some substance which kills by contact, and the kerosene emulsion is as effective as any substance which can be used. This is made by dissolving one half pound of hard soap in one gallon of hot water, after which add one gallon of kerosene or coal oil and mix thoroughly by forcing the mixture back into the same vessel by means of a spraying pump until it becomes a thick, creamy mass. Dilute this with ten times its bulk of water before applying it to the trees.

These insects also have their natural enemies which aid very materially in their destruction. Among these are the several species of Lady-bird beetles, which are unusually plentiful this season. They should not be destroyed, as they are among the horticulturists' best friends.

Soil Selection for Flax.

As has been stated over and over again in the reports of this department, success in flax culture for fibre depends upon thoroughness and attention to the lesser details of practice. Three things are essential: a most careful selection of the soil, with a thorough soil preparation and fertilizing; the use of the best seed that can be purchased, and, lastly, careful and intelligent handling and manipulation of the crop from the time the flax is pulled until the straw is ready for the operation of cleaning or scutching. Only the first two considerations interest the farmer, the third consideration belonging properly to the manufacturing side of the industry, although some foreign flax farmers do pull and ret their crops.

The Belgian flax farmer selects a deep and well cultivated soil that is not too heavy, experience proving that in a dry, calcareous soil the stalk remains short, while in a heavy, clayey soil it gives greater length, though at the expense of fine fiber. In Ireland any clean land in good state of fertility that will produce a good crop of wheat, oats, or barley is considered suitable for flax. On heavy soils the Dutch seed is thought to give the best results, while Riga seed is sown upon the light or medium soils. Recent experiments in our own country have demonstrated that the heavier soils, well drained and of proper fertility, are preferable to the lighter soils, known as sandy loams. But more depends upon the soil preparation than upon soil selection, where reasonable care has been exercised.

Among the favorable soils mentioned in the reports of the department experiments are "dark, rich, loamy clays," "heavy clay loam well drained" and "soils varying from sandy loam to the heavier al-

luvial of the timber lands." In general terms, a moist, deep, strong loam on upland will give best results. Barley lands in the middle states and new prairie lands or old turf in the western states are frequently chosen. Some former New York flax growers inclined to a heavy clay for the production of fiber and seed, though the choice of a wet soil will be fatal to success. A soil full of the seeds of weeds is to be avoided above all things, and the American farmer who is not over-nice in regard to clean land had better let flax culture alone. Not only does a weed ridden soil add greatly to the labor of making the crop, but the fiber itself will be injured. Clean land, then, is one of the first requisites to success.—*Bulletin U. S. Dept. Ag.*

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Chronicles of Break A Day.
Published by the Arena Co., Boston; paper, 50 cents.
This story was written by an Ingham county young man, E. Everett Howe. It is a series of chronicles rather than a story, and contains many good character sketches, though perhaps somewhat overdrawn. There are several exciting scenes of the days when horse thieving was in vogue in Michigan. It will be of especial interest to residents of Ingham, Jackson, Livingston, and Washtenaw counties, as the scene is laid in southeastern Ingham county.

Progress of the World.
In his department of "The Progress of the World" for May the editor of the *Review of Reviews* sums up the significant events of the month preceding. Prominent topics thus treated are the income tax decision, the Chicago election and the triumph of civil service reform, the Cuban revolt, the Venezuelan boundary issue, and the British claim in Nicaragua. The editor makes some interesting comments on recent progress in the South, notably illustrated by railroad and other industrial development in Florida, the improvement of various southern harbors, the enforcement of the South Carolina liquor law, and other encouraging signs. At the same time the low prices of sugar and cotton are discussed in their relation to the prevailing feeling of unrest among the agriculturists of the Gulf states.

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A STUDY IN SCARLET.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

PART TWO.

[The Country of the Saints.]

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Part I is a reprint of the reminiscences of John H. Watson, M. D., of the medical department of the British army. CHAPTER I—Dr. Watson returns to London on leave of absence. He is introduced to Sherlock Holmes, a consulting detective, and they take lodging apartments together. II, III, and IV—Sherlock Holmes makes some interesting statements as to the marvels of observation. He is consulted concerning a mysterious murder in an empty house at the Lauriston Gardens. A wedding ring is found by the body of the dead man, but the motive for the crime cannot be learned. V—Sherlock Holmes advertises the ring as one found near the place. It brought a reply and a claimant for the ring in the person of an old woman, who said it belonged to her daughter, Holmes follows, and she proves to be a man in disguise who gives him the slip. VI and VII—Holmes a cabman named Jefferson Hope is arrested for both crimes. Meantime the Scotland Yard detectives have been working on fruitless clues. The doctor's reminiscences cease in Part 2, and Chapter I takes the reader to Utah, and among the Mormons and introduces him to John Ferrier, his adopted daughter, and Jefferson Hope. This is many years prior to the events narrated in Part I.

CHAPTER I.

In the central portion of the great North American continent there lies an arid and repulsive desert, which for many a long year served as a barrier against the advance of civilization. From the Sierra Nevada to Nebraska and from the Yellowstone river in the north to the Colorado upon the south is a region of desolation and silence. Nor is nature always in one mood throughout this grim district. It comprises snow capped and lofty mountains and dark and gloomy valleys. There are swift flowing rivers which dash through jagged canyons, and there are enormous plains which in winter are white with snow and in summer are gray with the saline alkali dust. They all preserve, however, the common characteristics of barrenness, inhospitability and misery.

There are no inhabitants of this land of despair. A band of Pawnees or of Blackfeet may occasionally traverse it in order to reach other hunting grounds, but the hardiest of the braves are glad to lose sight of those awesome plains and to find themselves once more upon their prairies. The coyote skulks among the scrub, the buzzard flaps heavily through the air, and the clumsy grizzly bear lumbers through the dark ravines and picks up such sustenance as it can among the rocks. These are the sole dwellers in the wilderness.

In the whole world there can be no more dreary view than that from the northern slope of the Sierra Blanco. As far as the eye can reach stretches the great flat plain land, all dusted over with patches of alkali and intersected by clumps of the dwarfish chaparral bushes. On the extreme verge of the horizon lie a long chain of mountain peaks, with their rugged summits flecked with snow. In this great stretch of country there is no sign of life nor of anything appertaining to life. There is no bird in the steel blue heaven, no movement upon the dull, gray earth. Above all, there is absolute silence. Listen as one may, there is no shadow of a sound in all that mighty wilderness. Nothing but silence—complete and heart subduing silence.

It has been said there is nothing appertaining to life upon the broad plain. That is hardly true. Looking down from the Sierra Blanco one sees a pathway traced out across the desert, which winds away and is lost in the extreme distance. It is rutted with wheels and trodden down by the feet of many adventurers. Here and there are scattered white objects which glisten in the sun and stand out against the dull deposit of alkali. Approach and examine them! They are bones. Some large and coarse, others smaller and more delicate. The former have belonged to oxen and the latter to men. For 1,500 miles one may trace this ghastly caravan route by the scattered remains of those who had fallen by the wayside.

Looking down on this very scene, there stood upon the 4th of May, 1847, a solitary traveler. His appearance was such that he might have been the very genius or demon of the region. An observer would have found it difficult to say whether he was nearer to 40 or 60. His face was lean and haggard, and the brown, parchmentlike skin was drawn tightly over the projecting bones; his long, brown hair and beard were all flecked and dashed with white; his eyes were sunken in his head and burned with an unnatural luster, while the hand which grasped his rifle was hardly more fleshy than that of a skeleton. As he stood, he leaned upon his weapon for support, and yet his tall figure and the massive framework of his bones suggested a wiry and vigorous constitution. His gaunt face, however, and his clothes, which hung so baggily over his shriveled limbs, proclaimed what it was that

gave him that senile and decrepit appearance. The man was dying—dying from hunger and from thirst.

He had toiled painfully down the ravine and on to this little elevation in the vain hope of seeing some signs of water. Now the great salt plain stretched before his eyes, and the distant belt of savage mountains, without a sign anywhere of plant or tree, which might indicate the presence of moisture. In all that broad landscape there was no gleam of hope. North and east and west he looked with wild, questioning eyes, and then he realized that his wanderings had come to an end, and that there, on that barren crag, he was about to die. "Why not here as well as in a feather bed 20 years hence?" he muttered as he seated himself in the shelter of a boulder.

Before sitting down he had deposited upon the ground his useless rifle, and also a large bundle tied up in a gray shawl, which he had carried slung over his right shoulder. It appeared to be somewhat too heavy for his strength, for, in lowering it, it came down on the ground with some little violence. Instantly there broke from the gray parcel a little moaning cry, and from it there protruded a small, scared face, with very bright brown eyes, and two speckled dimpled fists.

"You've hurt me!" said a childish voice reproachfully.

"Have I, though?" the man answered penitently. "I didn't go for to do it." As he spoke he unwrapped the gray shawl and extricated a pretty little girl of about 5 years of age, whose dainty shoes and smart pink frock, with its little linen apron, all bespoke a mother's care. The child was pale and wan, but her healthy arms and legs showed that she had suffered less than her companion.

"How is it now?" he answered anxiously, for she was still rubbing the towsey golden curls which covered the back of her head.

"Kiss it and make it well," she said, with perfect gravity, showing the injured part up to him. "That's what mother used to do. Where's mother?"

"Mother's gone. I guess you'll see her before long."

"Gone, eh?" said the little girl. "Funny she didn't say goodby. She's most always did if she was just going over to auntie's for tea, and now she's been away for three days. Say, it's awful dry, ain't it? Ain't there no water nor nothin' to eat?"

"No, there ain't nothing, dearie. You'll just need to be patient awhile, and then you'll be all right. Put your hand up agin me like that, and then you'll feel better. It ain't easy to talk when your lips is like leather, but I guess I'd best let you know how the cards lie. What's that you've got?"

"Pretty things! Fine things!" cried the little girl enthusiastically, holding up two glittering fragments of mica.

"When we goes back to home, I'll give them to Brother Bob."

"You'll see prettier things than them soon," said the man confidently. "You just wait a bit. I was goin to tell you, though—you remember when we left the river?"

"Oh, yes."

"Well, we reckoned we'd strike another river soon, d'ye see? But there was somethin' wrong, compasses or map or somethin', and it didn't turn up. Water ran out, just except a little drop for the likes of you, and—and—"

"And you couldn't wash yourself," interrupted his companion gravely, staring up at his grimy visage.

"No, nor drink. And Mr. Bender, he was the first to go, and then Indian Pete, and then Mrs. McGregor, and then Johnny Hones, and then, dearie, your mother."

"Then mother's a deader, too," cried the little girl, dropping her face in her pinafore and sobbing bitterly.

"Yes, they all went except you and me. Then I thought there was some chance of water in this direction, so I heaved you over my shoulder, and we tramped it together. It don't seem as though we've improved matters. There's an almighty small chance for us now!"

"Do you mean that we are goin to die, too?" asked the child, checking her sobs and raising her tear stained face.

"I guess that's about the size of it."

"Why didn't you say so before?" she said, laughing gleefully. "You gave me such a fright. Why, of course, now as long as we die we'll be with mother again."

"Yes, you will, dearie."

"And you too. I'll tell her how awful good you've been. I'll bet she meets us at the door of heaven with a big pitcher of water and a lot of buckwheat cakes, hot and toasted on both sides, like Bob and me was fond of. How long will it be first?"

"I don't know—not very long." The man's eyes were fixed upon the northern horizon. In the blue vault of the heaven there appeared three little specks, which

increased in size every moment, so rapidly did they approach. They speedily resolved themselves into three large brown birds, which circled over the heads of the two wanderers and then settled upon some rocks which overlooked them. They were buzzards, the vultures of the west, whose coming is the forerunner of death.

"Cocks and hens," cried the little girl gleefully, pointing at their ill omened forms and clapping her hands to make them rise. "Say, did God make this country?"

"In course he did," said the companion, rather startled by this unexpected question.

"He made the country down in Illinois, an he made the Missouri," the little girl continued. "I guess somebody else made the country in these parts. It's not nearly so well done. They forgot the water and the trees."

"What would ye think of offering up prayer?" the man asked diffidently.

"It ain't night yet," she answered. "It don't matter. It ain't quite regular, but he won't mind that, you bet. You say over them ones that you used to say every night in the wagon when we was on the plains."

"Why don't you say some yourself?" the child asked, with wondering eye.

"I disremember them," he answered. "I hain't said none since I was half the height o' that gun. I guess it's never too late. You say them out, and I'll stand by and come in on the choruses."

"Then you'll need to kneel down, and me, too," she said, laying the shawl out for that purpose. "You've got to put your hands up like this. It makes you feel kind of good."

It was a strange sight, had there been anything but the buzzards to see it. Side by side on the narrow shawl knelt the two wanderers, the little prattling child and the reckless, hardened adventurer. Her chubby face and his haggard, angular visage were both turned up to the cloudless heaven in heartfelt entreaty to that dread being with whom they were face to face, while the two voices—the one thin and clear, the other deep and harsh—united in the entreaty for mercy and forgiveness. The prayer finished, they resumed their seat in the shadow of the boulder, until the child fell asleep, nestling upon the broad breast of her protector. He watched over her slumber for some time, but nature proved to be too strong for him. For three days and three nights he had allowed himself neither rest nor repose. Slowly the eyelids drooped over the tired eyes, and the head sunk lower and lower upon the breast until the man's grizzled beard was mixed with the golden tresses of his companion, and both slept the same deep and dreamless slumber.

Had the wanderer remained awake for another half hour a strange sight would have met his eyes. Far away on the extreme verge of the alkali plain there rose up a little spray of dust, very slight at first and hardly to be distinguished from the mists of the distance, but gradually growing higher and broader until it formed a solid, well defined cloud. This cloud continued to increase in size until it became evident that it could only be raised by a great multitude of moving creatures. In more fertile spots the observer would have come to the conclusion that one of those great herds of bisons which graze upon the prairie land was approaching him. This was obviously impossible in these arid wilds. As the whirl of dust drew nearer to the solitary bluff upon which the two castaways were reposing the canvas covered tilts of wagons and the figures of armed horsemen began to show up through the haze, and the apparition revealed itself as being a great caravan upon its journey for the west. But what a caravan! When the head of it had reached the base of the mountains, the rear was not yet visible on the horizon. Right across the enormous plain stretched the straggling array, wagons and carts, men on horseback and men on foot, innumerable women who staggered along under burdens and children who toddled beside the wagons or peeped out from under the white coverings. This was evidently no ordinary party of immigrants, but rather some nomad people who had been compelled from stress of circumstances to seek themselves a new country. There rose through the clear air a confused clattering and rumbling from this great mass of humanity, with the creaking of wheels and the neighing horses. Loud as it was, it was not sufficient to rouse the two tired wayfarers above them.

At the head of the column there rode a score or more of grave, iron faced men, clad in somber, homespun garments and armed with rifles. On reaching the base of the bluff they halted and held a short council among themselves. "The wells are to the right, my brothers," said one, a hard lipped, clean shaven man with grizzly hair. "To the right of the Sierra Blanco, so we shall reach the Rio Grande," said

another. "Fear not for water!" cried a third. "He who could draw it from the rocks will not now abandon his own chosen people."

"Amen, amen!" responded the whole party. They were about to resume their journey when one of the youngest and keenest eyed uttered an exclamation and pointed up at the rugged crag above them. From its summit there fluttered a little wisp of pink, showing up hard and bright against the gray rocks behind. At the sight there was a general reining up of horses and unslinging of guns, while fresh horsemen came galloping up to re-enforce the vanguard. The word "redskins" was on every lip.

"There can't be any number of Injuns here," said the elderly man, who appeared to be in command. "We have passed the Pawnees, and there are no other tribes until we cross the great mountains."

"Shall I go forward and see, Brother Stangerson?" asked one of the band.

"And I?" "And I?" cried a dozen voices.

"Leave your horses below, and we will wait you here," the elder answered. In a moment the young fellows had dismounted, fastened their horses and were ascending the precipitous slope which led up to the object which had excited their curiosity. They advanced rapidly and noiselessly, with the confidence and dexterity of practiced scouts. The watchers from the plain below could see them fit from rock to rock until their figures stood out against the sky line. The young man who had first given the alarm was leading them. Suddenly his followers saw him throw up his hands, as though overcome with astonishment, and on joining him they were affected in the same way by the sight which met their eyes.

On the little plateau which crowned the barren hill there stood a single giant boulder, and against this boulder there lay a tall man, long bearded and hard featured, but of an excessive thinness. His placid face and regular breathing showed that he was fast asleep. Beside him lay a little child, with her round white arms encircling his brown, sinewy neck and her golden haired head resting upon the breast of his velvet tunic. Her rosy lips were parted, showing the regular line of snow white teeth within, and a playful smile played over her infantile features. Her plump little white legs, terminating in white socks and neat shoes, with shining buckles, offered a strange contrast to the long, shriveled members of her companion. On the ledge of rock above this strange couple there stood three solemn buzzards, who at the sight of the newcomers uttered raucous screams of disappointment and flapped sullenly away.

The cries of the foul birds awoke the two sleepers, who stared about them in bewilderment. The man staggered to his feet and looked down upon the plain which had been so desolate when sleep had overtaken him and which was now traversed by this enormous body of men and of beasts. His face assumed an expression of incredulity as he gazed, and he passed his bony hand over his eyes. "This is what they call delirium, I guess," he muttered. The child stood beside him, holding on to the skirt of his coat, and said nothing, but looked all around her with the wondering, questioning gaze of childhood.

The rescuing party were speedily able to convince the two castaways that their appearance was no delusion. One of them seized the little girl and hoisted her upon his shoulder, while two others supported her gaunt companion and assisted him toward the wagons.

"My name is John Ferrier," the wanderer explained. "Me and that little un are all that's left o' 21 people. The rest is all dead o' thirst and hunger 'way down in the south."

"Is she your child?" asked some one.

"I guess she is now!" the other cried defiantly; "she's mine 'cause I saved her. No man will take her away from me. She's Lucy Ferrier from this day on. Who are you, though?" he continued, glancing with curiosity at his stalwart, unburned rescuers. "There seems to be a powerful lot o' ye."

"Nigh upon 10,000," said one of the young men. "We are the persecuted children of God, the chosen of the angel Merona."

"I never heard tell on him," said the wanderer. "He appears to have chosen a fair crowd o' ye."

"Do not jest at that which is sacred," said the other sternly. "We are of those who believe in those sacred writings drawn in Egyptian letters on plates of beaten gold, which were handed unto the holy Joseph Smith at Palmyra. We have come from Nauvoo, in the state of Illinois, where we had founded our temple. We have come to seek a refuge from the violent man and from the godless, even though it be the heart of the desert."

The name of Nauvoo evidently re-

called recollections to John Ferrier. "I see," he said. "Ye are the Mormons."

"We are the Mormons," answered his companions with one voice.

"And where are ye going?"

"We do not know. The hand of God is leading us under the person of our prophet. You must come before him. He shall say what is to be done with you."

They had reached the base of the hill by this time and were surrounded by crowds of the pilgrims, pale faced, meek looking women, strong, laughing children and anxious, earnest eyed men. Many were the cries of astonishment and of commiseration which arose from them when they perceived the youth of one of the strangers and the destitution of the other. Their escort did not halt, however, but pushed on, followed by a great crowd of Mormons, until they reached a wagon, which was conspicuous for its great size and for the gaudiness and smartness of its appearance. Six horses were yoked to it, whereas the others were furnished with two or at most four apiece.

Beside the driver there sat a man who could not have been more than 30 years of age, but whose massive head and resolute expression marked him as a leader. He was reading a brown backed volume, but as the crowd approached he laid it aside and listened attentively to an account of the episode. Then he turned to the two castaways.

"If we take you with us," he said in solemn words, "it can only be as believers in our own creed. We shall have no wolves in our fold. Better far that your bones should bleach in this wilderness than that you should prove to be that little speck of decay which in time corrupts the whole fruit. Will you come with us on these terms?"

"Guess I'll come with ye on any terms," said Ferrier, with such emphasis that the grave elders could not restrain a smile. The leader alone retained his stern, impressive expression.

"Take him, Brother Stangerson," he said. "Give him food and drink, and the child likewise. Let it be your task also to teach him our holy creed. We have delayed long enough. Forward! On, on to Zion!"

"On, on to Zion!" cried the crowd of Mormons, and the words rippled down the long caravan, passing from mouth to mouth until they died away in a dull murmur in the far distance. With a cracking of whips and a creaking of wheels the great wagon got into motion, and soon the whole caravan was winding along once more. The elder to whose care the two waifs had been committed led them to his wagon, where a meal was already awaiting them.

"You shall remain here," he said. "In a few days you shall have recovered from your fatigues. In the meantime remember that now and forever you are of our religion. Brigham Young has said it, and he has spoken with the voice of Joseph Smith, which is the voice of God."

(To be continued.)

Alleged Jokes.

Billy, the goat—That manuscript I just ate has given me an awful pain.

Nanny—Yes, dearest; that is called writer's cramp.

The Principal Difference—I've heard your preacher half a dozen times," said the boy who was whitening a stick. "You people pay him \$3,000 a year. He ain't a bit better'n our preacher, and all we pay our'n is \$900."

"Yes, but our preacher says eyether and nyether, and your'n don't," replied the boy who was sharpening his knife on his shoe.—*Chicago Tribune.*

"The Outlook" says an American who was recently travelling in Europe visited the Vatican and asked to see the cattle pens. The attendant was very much surprised and said, "Cattle pens? Why, we have nothing of the sort, signor." The response was: "Where in the world do you keep the Papal bulls?"

He Loved April—"There's nothing more beautiful than the month of April," she sighed tenderly. "I wish that it could last forever."

"So do I," he answered fervently.

"You, too, are fond of Nature, then."

"Yes, indeed. Besides, I have a note coming due on the 1st of May."—*Washington Star.*

Notices of Meetings.

The next meeting of the Huron county Pomona Grange will be held with Hope Grange on June 13. All interested in a Grange picnic should try to be present. A good program is expected.
MRS. R. NUGENT, Sec.

ST. CLAIR POMONA.

Open at 10 a. m. Music by Fremont Center choir. Address of welcome by M. F. Carleton of Grove Grange. Response by W. M. of Pomona Grange. Music by choir. Dinner. Open at 1 p. m. Music, report of subordinate Granges. "What is true hospitality?" Sister McClure, Brother Hewitt, and Sister S. E. Martin. Paper, by M. F. Carleton, Music, "Has woman's work in the Grange been a success or a failure?" Sister Aaron Gardner, Sr., and Sister Stoffer. "How to subdue the Canada thistle." Brother Hewitt, Music. "Is it profitable to raise roots." Brother Kerr. Select reading by Sister Hewitt. "Buckwheat as a money crop." Brothers Hewitt and Maynard. Essay by Sister Lepien. Question box. Music.
W. B. CAMPBELL, Sec.
[Bro. Campbell sent no date. ED]

Grange News.

Capitol Grange No. 540 on the evening of May 25, entertained Delta Grange, recently reorganized, and also a few members of M. A. C. Grange, the new Grange at the College. About 100 were present. A musical program was rendered and ice cream and cake followed.

Capitol Grange meets once in two weeks, and is in good working order.

Corey Grange, No. 291, holds a reunion of all charter members, June 8. Corey Grange is among the hoary headed, being No. 291, organized away back in the 70's. They are a live grange although few in number. The regular time of meeting is on second and fourth Saturdays of the month. We will perhaps order at least one ton of binding twine.

OLIVE BRANCH CLUB

The capacity of the spacious home of Mr. Harrison Walters was put to the test and stood it on May 25, when the Olive Branch Farmer's Club and invited guests met for their regular monthly meeting. The appreciation of the visitors was shown at the close, when nine of them joined, after learning the value of the discussions and the pleasure derived from the musical and literary program rendered. The question in regard to our present methods of legislation, their defects and the remedy was introduced by an able speech by E. J. Bigelow. Among a great many more good things he said that he looked at the statement from the standpoint of a plain farmer and claimed the right to an opinion and the privilege of expressing it. He objected to our methods because too much time was consumed. Dedicating trips home and time spent looking after private affairs, there remained only about three days in each week for real work. He favored paying them by the session instead of as at present. If they were served by their hired help as they served the state they would soon discharge them. The "junketing" trips made were a needless expense, and were demoralizing to our youth when they learned how our solons conducted themselves and the character of the "refreshments" carried along. If the number of legislators was reduced one half better work would be done, more of it, and in less time. The large army of pages, etc., would also be reduced. Much of our legislation is needless, indeed positively harmful through the influence of the lobbyist who should be given the cold shoulder. Mr. Bigelow's speech was well received and provoked an animated discussion, many taking part therein.

R. K. Devine said our legislators were chosen to represent their constituents, not trusts, monopolies, and railroad companies. Men were perjurers who failed to keep their oath on taking office. The remedy is in the ballot in the hands of intelligent and loyal citizens.

Mr. Walters said he had been studying the subject and learned much, and said that the reason so many who went to Lansing or Washington with good resolutions and failed to keep them was the fear of being considered odd.

Mr. Jones was far from being satisfied with our present methods of legislation and thought the citizens should do more than vote. Their duty was to attend the caucus and see honorable men nominated and then work for their election.

Mr. Phillips thought we were legislated to death. Two thirds of our laws ought to be repealed; then perhaps the supreme court could tell when a law was constitutional.

Mrs. Devine thought that if women were given the franchise things might be improved. The latter statement was heartily applauded.

Space and your patience, Mr. Editor, forbid a full report of what was said and well said. One thought that if fewer lawyers and more farmers and mechanics were sent to our halls of legislation it would be better for the country. Too many men were seeking office instead of the office seeking them. Such should be elected to stay at home.

Take it all in all the session was an interesting and profitable one.

Mr. Walters and his family proved themselves adepts as hosts, not only on receiving the large company, but when after enjoying the feast of reason and flow of soul they were invited to the dining room where the needs of the animal nature were provided for. The

Davisburgh Grange and the Club entertain the Pomona Grange at the next regular meeting of the Club the fourth Saturday in June (22) at R. K. Devine's.
D. B. MILLER.

The 5000 Best Books.

When a woman sends her subscription to The Ladies' Home Journal special privileges seem to go with it, besides getting her full money's worth in the magazine. She can take the fullest advantage of a perfect educational plan by which she can educate her daughters or sons at the best colleges in the country free of charge, and now the Journal has arranged it so that she can buy her books—even a single book at a time—at prices heretofore obtained only by large buyers. There comes to us from this magazine a very artistically gotten up illustrated booklet of over 250 pages, called "5000 Books," which serves as an easy guide to the best books in any department of reading. This guide is very well done. The best literary experts of New York, Boston and Philadelphia were engaged by the Journal to select the five thousand books which it presents as the most desirable for a home library, and their work has been admirably carried out. Very clear, explanatory comments are given by these men of books, and besides there are given not less than 100 portraits of leading authors. No book will, perhaps, do so much to extend good reading as this guide, so carefully gotten up, so beautifully printed, and so generously offered, free of any charge, by the publishers of The Ladies' Home Journal. "5000 Books" is unquestionably the best and easiest guide to a wise selection of books that has been issued for a long time.

Examination for Cadetship.

I have been requested to name a person to fill a vacancy which will soon exist in the United States Military Academy at West Point, for this, the 4th congressional district of Michigan. The selection will be made by competitive examination, and all applicants are requested to present themselves for such examination at Niles, Michigan, Wednesday, June 12, 1895. The candidates must be actual residents of the 4th congressional district, between the ages of seventeen and twenty-two years. They must be well versed in reading, writing, orthography, arithmetic, grammar, descriptive geography and history of the United States. There will also be selected at the same time an alternate.

HENRY F. THOMAS.

All newspapers of the district are respectfully requested to insert this notice.

Farming in Florida.

(Continued from page 6.)

ORANGES.

For many years the principal agricultural industry in Florida has been the growth of oranges. The orange groves are found even in the northern tier of counties, though here the growth of oranges has always been a side issue. But a little further south, and throughout the great central portion of the state, the orange industry has been the chief employment of the people. The orange groves are found on every hand, and were extensive and beautiful. The returns which they gave to the growers were satisfactory. The trees gave profitable returns when 5 or 6 years old, and when 10 to 15 years old the yield has been very large and the returns to the growers have been most gratifying. Last year was a good one for oranges. As the fall and winter came on the groves on every side were beautiful with their fruit, which showed everywhere its gleaming gold among the rich green of the leaves. The trees were burdened with ripe fruits which the growers were expecting soon to gather and to market. But on the night of December 28 there came an unprecedented drop in the thermometer. On that fatal night, in northern Florida the mercury fell to 14 degrees; in central Florida it was down to 20 and 25, and even as far south as the Caloosahatchie river it fell below the freezing point. The groves were very badly injured by this freeze throughout the great orange belt, yet still the trees themselves were, in the main, not killed. But again, on the night of the eighth of February, there came another freeze almost as severe. In most cases the trees had begun to recover from the first freeze, and were sending out a new growth. This second freeze was too much for them. The first freeze had destroyed all the fruit, and had defoliated the trees. This second freeze destroyed the trees themselves. Throughout a part of the orange belt the trees were killed to the ground, and throughout another part, somewhat further south, the smaller branches were all killed, leaving only the trunk and larger branches living. No such calamity has ever before visited the orange industry of Florida. But with a courage worthy

of all admiration the growers are at work this spring, doing all in their power to renovate their groves. The trees killed to the ground are being cut off at the surface of the ground, and grafts are being put in. Those of which the trunk and larger branches are living are having the dead wood cut off. It is predicted by those most familiar with this industry that two years hence the state will again show a profitable crop of oranges, and within four or five years an observer could hardly tell that the great calamity visited us.

OTHER FRUITS.

Florida is a big state. From the northern boundary to Key West is a distance of 460 miles. A freezing temperature has never been known at Key West, and for 200 miles north of that island city frosts only come at rare intervals, and in very light degree. The great freezes of the present winter touched the region immediately south of the Caloosahatchie river but lightly, and the very large area of the country further south was unvisited by the frost. The orange, lemon, lime, and grape fruit trees in that section have given abundant bloom this spring, and will give a rich harvest of fruit next winter. In this section, also, lie the many plantations of pineapples that have sprung up in the last few years. While the frosts of the present winter injured the pineapples in this section somewhat, yet the greater part were not killed, and will give a fair crop the coming fall, and a year from the coming fall will give a good crop. The pine is not a difficult crop to grow; it seems well adapted to the soil and climate of the immense portion lying south of the Caloosahatchie river; it yields very good returns to an intelligent and successful grower. As railroads open up that southern portion of the state, the pineapple industry will assume immense proportions.

Other tropical fruits are grown with success in this section of Florida. The cocoonut thrives luxuriantly. Large groves of cocoonut trees are now in bearing in many places on the east coast of Florida. Their growth is rapidly extending into the interior, and also to the west coast. The trees grow in luxuriance, and drop their ripe nuts almost every day in the year. The mango is also grown with success throughout this area; the alligator (or Avocado) pear yields abundant crops; the sour sop, the sappodilla, the tamarind, the custard apple, and not a few other fruits which are unfamiliar to our northern eyes, are cultivated with success in this section of tropical Florida.

Lake City, Florida.

The Mesquite Tree.

Bulletin Arizona Station.

1. The mesquite tree affords small sizes of handsome, hard, durable wood.
2. The fuel afforded by the wood and roots is of high value, being fully equal, cord for cord, to hickory or white oak.
3. Mesquite gum is a product of medicinal and industrial value. It is important, if possible, to find a method by which the yield can be increased.

4. Mesquite beans are a valuable forage, being very palatable to animals, and equal or superior in food contents to the common varieties of hays and fodders. The grinding of the beans would add very materially to their value by rendering the hard, but nutritious kernels more digestible.

5. The flowers of the mesquite are an important source of honey.

6. The entire body of the tree contains tannic acid. If a cheap means of reducing the wood to sawdust were devised, it is possible that the tannic acid could be extracted and utilized in leather making.

7. The mesquite is possibly of value in forestry. It will grow in arid situations and with less attention than most trees. In view of the influence of forests upon climate, and in causing and retaining rainfall, it may possibly prove worth while to plant this tree in the arid regions of the southwest. For the same reasons the destruction of existing mesquite forests is inadvisable.

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(Mention this paper.)

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Year by year our plans for co-operative buying have been perfected until the humblest member of any Subordinate Grange can get any article, from a paper of pins to a traction engine, by using the means provided. It is to be regretted that the real advantages of this trade system are not better understood and more freely used. We do not seek to overturn business principles or cripple business industry, but we do claim the right to buy or sell in the best market. Our merchant and dealer will not pay the home grower a cent more for potatoes or corn than he can import them for from a distant state. Co-operative buying is but the application of their principles to our business.—T. R. Smith, Ohio.

A Chance to Make Money.

The times are hard, but there always seem to be opportunities for those who are willing to work. In the past six months I have made \$175 above all expenses selling Climax Dish Washers, and have attended to my regular business besides. I never saw anything that gave as general satisfaction. One should not complain where they can make over \$6 a day right at home. I have not canvassed any, so anxious are people for Climax dish washers that they send after them; any lady or gentleman can do as well as I am doing, for anyone can sell what everyone wants to buy. I think we should inform each other through the newspapers of opportunities like this, as there are many willing to work if they only knew of an opening. For full particulars address the Climax Mfg. Co., Columbus, Ohio. After you have tried the business a week publish the results for the benefit of others.

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