

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

VOL. XXI. NO. 2.

CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN, JANUARY 16, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 482.

Report of Executive Committee. State Grange, 1895.

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

No intelligent person who considers the subject can expect a revival of industries under such conditions.

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

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

We regret that we are unable to report to you a change for the better in these conditions. The price of farm products has fallen and is still falling. The ratio of failures in business to new firms entering into business has increased and is increasing.

About the only business that is flourishing under the present financial policy of the government is the banking business. If we take as a sample of the profits of this business the report of Lyman J. Gage, president of the First National Bank of Chicago, made to the stockholders of the bank in August last, we ought not to be surprised at the efforts the bankers are now making to continue indefinitely the present financial policy of the government. In that report president Gage stated that the net earnings of the First National Bank of Chicago during the last thirteen years had been more than twenty-two per cent annually, and that the directors had just saved

to the corporation fifteen thousand dollars annually in taxes, by charging up to the profit and loss account one million represented by slow or doubtful securities held by the bank, and offsetting it by crediting to that account one million from the surplus fund.

CAUSES OF PRESENT CONDITION.

We are not of those who attribute the present depressed condition of agriculture solely to the demonetizing of silver in 1873; or to the present tariff; or to unwise legislation; or to bad financial management of the administration. All of these in our judgment are potent causes, but added to these are other natural causes like the opening and settling of vast grain, wool, cotton and meat growing regions in foreign countries and the introduction therein of the most improved labor saving machinery which has so reduced the cost of production and so increased the supply, that the foreign markets for long distance, transportable farm products are supplied at a cost so low that it is ruinous to any American farm product that depends upon foreign demand for its market price.

So far as the present condition is the production of natural causes it can be overcome only by intelligent application of the forces of nature at our command. But so far as it has been caused by adverse or unwise legislation and by a mistaken financial policy, legislative action and a change of financial policy is the proper and only remedy.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The demonetization of silver by this and other commercial nations in 1873, is undoubtedly the most potent factor in the present world-wide depression of business. So far as its disastrous effects upon this country is concerned we believe it can be remedied by the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold production of American mines on the ratio now existing. It would add seventy million dollars to our legal debt paying money the first year, and an increase annually, as the stimulus thus given to its production would develop new mines and increase the output of those now in operation.

We therefore urge upon congress the passage of the following bill drafted by our chairman, and now in the hands of our junior senator in Congress:

A BILL to provide for the unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of sixteen of silver to one of gold, and to impose an import duty upon foreign silver equal to the difference between its bullion value and its coinage value.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled,* That any person may at any time during business hours bring to any United States mint, silver or Gold bullion or silver or gold coins, not less than one hundred dollars in coinage value at any one time, and have the same, when of sufficient purity for mintage, coined free of charge, the gold in accordance with existing laws, and the silver into dollars nine-tenths fine of the weight each of four hundred and twelve and one-half grains.

SEC. 2. That the person so depositing silver or gold for coinage, shall at his option, be entitled to receive the coinage value of such deposit in kind, or in lieu thereof, United States treasury notes in denominations of five dollars, or multiples of five dollars which notes shall be payable on demand in gold or silver coin at the option of the treasurer, and that said coins and treasury notes shall be a legal tender for all debts, public or private.

SEC. 3. An import duty is hereby imposed upon all foreign silver bullion and foreign silver coin, and on all foreign gold bullion and foreign gold coin equal to the difference in value between the bullion value of imported metal as quoted in the London (England) market and its coinage value at the United States mint at the date of its importation, whenever the bullion value shall be quoted less than its coinage value.

SEC. 4. All acts or parts of acts contravening the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

OBJECTIONS ANSWERED.

First, "A 41½ grain silver dollar is a

fifty cent dollar and therefor a dishonest dollar." We frankly admit that a fifty cent dollar would be a dishonest dollar, but as a mathematical certainty it would be only one-half as dishonest as a twohundred cent dollar and if we must have one or the other as the basis of business the one that is least dishonest is the one that we prefer;

Second, It would place this country on a silver basis.

This alarming "bugaboo" is used by the bankers to frighten the uninformed. We are now and have been for the last three years upon a single gold basis, and during this time the average price of products, and especially farm products, have been constantly declining and the purchasing power of gold constantly increasing. As gold appreciates, all debts appreciate in the same ratio and must continue to do so as long as we are on a gold basis. Farm products are constantly falling in value, while debts, taxes, salaries, professional services and transportation charges remain the same. Matters could hardly be worse for the farmer upon a silver basis than they are now upon the gold basis. Upon a silver basis we would have the satisfaction of knowing that we were on a stable foundation. Our base would not leave us at the rate of five millions a week as our gold base is leaving us now, but would broaden and strengthen as our mines developed. We are bimetalists and believe in a parity of treatment of silver and gold, and with parity treatment we believe there would be no necessity of ruinous gold purchases by the government to keep up a parity of value.

BOND ISSUES.

Reiterate what we have said in our reports that so long as every American citizen who has anything to sell is ready and willing to take legal tender treasury notes at their face value in exchange, and every salaried officer in the service of the government, every contractor on the public works and every pensioner upon the pension roll are willing and prefer to be paid in treasury notes, we are emphatically opposed to the issuing of interest-bearing bonds to obtain money to defray the ordinary expenses of the government. Congress should at once provide for contingencies like the present by empowering the secretary of the treasury to issue non-interest bearing legal tender treasury notes to meet any deficiency in the public revenue resulting from miscalculation of expected receipts from revenue laws.

GREENBACKS.

We are opposed to the funding and cancelling of the greenbacks as recommended by the president. As a means of breaking that endless chain which the president complains is now drawing the gold from the treasury for exportation, we recommend the immediate passage of a law by Congress, making it the duty of the United States treasurer to pay all coin obligations of the government in silver when the gold reserve in the treasury is less than one hundred million dollars.

THE BANKS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

At the meeting of the United States Bankers' Association, held at Atlanta in October last, the association demanded that the government should retire and cancel all its legal tender notes and go out of the banking business, and leave it to them to furnish the people with money in the form of bank notes, with which to carry on the business of the country. The president recommends that their demands be granted. What do the bankers mean when they say the "Government must go out of the banking business?" In what respect is the government in the banking business? The power to "Coin money and regulate the value thereof" is given by the constitution to the federal government. The supreme court has decided more than once that the sole power to coin money and regulate its value included the power to stamp money and regulate the value thereof. Mr. Jevons in his "Money and Mechanism of Exchange," says, "We ought to talk of coining notes, for, though the design is impressed on paper instead of metal the function of the notes is exactly the same." When the government is stamp-

ing greenbacks and silver and gold eagles, it is discharging a constitutional duty, which belongs solely to the government, and cannot be, and ought not to be, conferred upon private corporations. So far, however, as the government acts as guarantor for the payment of national bank notes, and as gold broker to furnish importers of foreign merchandise with gold to meet their foreign bills, the government is in the banking business, and we join the bankers in demanding that it should quit the business. And, while we insist that the government shall go out of the banking business, we also demand that the banks shall go out of the government business. That they shall cease to be controllers of the treasury and directors of the mints. That they shall cease to dictate to congress and to the president, the financial policy of the government.

It is not that the government is in the banking business, but that the banks are in the government business, that is raising the mischief with private business and public affairs. That is giving the banking business a net profit of 22 per cent annually, and farming and nearly all other business, a net loss of about the same amount.

J. G. RAMSDELL,
WALLACE E. WRIGHT,
CYRUS G. LUCE,
H. D. PLATT,
R. H. TAYLOR.

We regard the adoption of the foregoing report as unwise and against the best interest of the Grange. F. W. REDFERN,
PERRY MAYO.

The report was adopted.

We Say, Argued

MR. EDITOR: May I make a suggestion or two?

I think if every Grange would elect a correspondent to the GRANGE VISITOR we would have more reports from Subordinate Granges and our paper would be made better and more interesting. I am sure we all like to hear from our sister Granges.

Another suggestion. Would it not be a good plan to appoint someone in your Grange to solicit subscriptions for the VISITOR? Just think of it, fellow Patrons. For only 50 cents you can get the VISITOR a whole year. And where can a paper be found for so small a sum that has a larger amount of good clean reading than our own GRANGE VISITOR? Yet we hear each year that the VISITOR does not pay expenses. Whose fault is it? The VISITOR ought to be in every Grange home and we hope every Grange in Michigan will see to it that the paper this year will be made to pay its way, for it certainly can and will if we, to whom the paper belongs, only do our part. Yours Fraternaly,
MRS. C. L. PEARCE.

For The Schools.

I have been asked by some of your readers to suggest some plan or plans to improve our country schools. We have recently put in practice a plan whereby the schools of a township are set to work on a plan of improvement. Each township has a teachers' reading course, a teachers', pupils' and Patrons' lecture course, a graded course of reading selected by the commissioner and endorsed by the teachers, a township literary society.

We have already demonstrated the great help that these measures will bring to a township by putting them in successful operation in Elbridge township, Oceana county. The objects we seek to accomplish are: 1. To cultivate a better educational sentiment among all the forces of education. 2. To bring teachers and Patrons together in educational effort. 3. To cultivate sociability, power to speak and think, and a true literary taste.

Now, we must remember that the great question for us to settle in country school education is the improvement of teachers, and greater than this, the improvement of the power that hires teachers.

We shall be glad to answer our friends more fully if this does not suffice.

D. E. McCLURE.

The VISITOR is your paper. Work for it.

Field and Stock.

The Care of Hens.

A. K. CLARK.

In this paper I will endeavor to give my experience and observation on the care of chickens. In the first place they want a warm and comfortable house where they can be shut up and kept warm. It is not necessary to be too warm, but just warm enough to keep their combs from freezing and so that the cold wind will not blow on them. It is not necessary to have a large house. One 12x24 will accommodate 75 hens. I have four such houses that are good and convenient, 8 feet in front and 4 in the rear with one roof, and facing the south. It is boarded up and down and covered outside of the boards with tarred paper. The entire building, roof and all, outside of paper, is shingled, siding with cheap shingles being cheaper than boards. The front slants back 1½ feet so to have the sun strike square on them. There are three windows in each in front with 18 lights 8x10 glass. They are divided into three departments with poultry wire netting. There is a platform 4 feet wide on the back side, the entire length of the house. This is to catch the droppings, with roosts one foot above that, three in number in each department. Nest boxes in front of the platform 6 feet long 12 inches wide divided into five departments, entering the nests under the platform and a lid on top for gathering the eggs.

This I think a model cheap house and very convenient, and warm enough without artificial heat and will accommodate 75 hens in winter. The houses cost about 40 dollars each. One can put more money in them and make them larger and higher, but it makes them harder to keep clean and are not so warm. Make them as low as you can and have them convenient. It makes them warmer in winter.

FEED.

And now for feed. In short give them as near as possible the same variety they would get in summer. For winter laying I will give you a bill of fare. I use in the morning boiled potatoes, hot, mashed, and mixed with middlings coarse or fine. At noon oats, at night corn. Just before going to roost twice a week I use as a substitute for potatoes meat cracklins procured from the butcher. I boil them and mix with middlings the same as I use potatoes. I also feed wheat and buckwheat. I keep before them fresh granulated bone and oyster shell. I feed occasionally pepper, cayenne, and Excelsior condition powders. Keep clean water before them and give them clover hay or straw or any kind of hay cut fine, and refuse cabbage. They will consume quite a quantity of such food. With this treatment you may have winter layers. I clean the platform twice per week and when the houses get filthy I take a layer of dirt off of the bottom of the houses. I keep about three hundred hens in the winter. You will say this is a great care and a great deal of work. I keep two cows and one horse and I can take care of the chickens as easily as I can do my other chores, including milking and making the butter. In one year I made sixty-four dollars clear off of two cows. That same year I cleared one hundred and eighty-three dollars off of 300 hens. My cows are first-class—would have brought 75 dollars, and my chickens were worth 70 dollars.

FOR SUMMER TREATMENT.

I keep through the summer 100 to 150 and raise chickens for the next winter. I have two parks of about ¼ acre each, built of poultry wire netting where I can shut them up when desired. The parks cost about 20 dollars. Each one hundred hens will lay eggs enough through the summer to pay their keeping and raise five hundred chickens and have some to spare. I give about the same rations in summer as in winter, omitting the green food and vegetables and meat, for they get that for themselves running at large. One thing I omitted in their treatment, they must have plenty of gravel, for that is their gristmill to grind their food, otherwise they can't be healthy. I have to get gravel for them for there is not enough in the soil here to supply such a large flock. The gravel is not lime substance, so I have to supply other lime substances. Any one will learn in a short time the wants of the hen. When they have been without gravel for some time see them pitch into it when they get a fresh supply! They eat it as they would corn when I turn them out after being confined for some time. It is astonishing to see the amount of grass, corn fodder, and straw and hay they will eat. One man said "they won't eat straw and corn fodder." I said yes, I feed my 300 hens in winter from three to four bushel baskets of cut straw per day and they will eat it all or use it all up. Clover or hay is better if you have it. I never allow my hens to run out in cold freezing weather, or wet sloppy weather, then they get chilled, but when it is clear and not too cold I let them run. Some say to me, why don't my hens lay as yours do? I often find the

cause of their not laying is that they are fed in the morning and then the doors are thrown open and they run out and in at will in cold, stormy weather. They get chilled till they are driven in by suffering, and so off goes a day or two of eggs till the weather moderates. I have tested this to my own satisfaction. It will not do to let hens run in cold weather. When my hens are laying, the cold weather has no effect on them. Some ask about artificial heat. I do not think it best, for we would be apt to get it too warm in the day and at night get so much cooler that they would be in danger of taking cold that will produce roup and perhaps death. One of the houses I have described will keep 75 hens comfortably and warm. The colder the weather the closer they will get together. In my next I will treat on the variety of hens.

Lakeside.

Feeding Dairy Cows.

ED. R. AUSTIN.

While the majority of farmers probably feed nearly the same ration, still, owing to circumstances, we are often compelled to vary it and the result is not always satisfactory. Being a strong advocate of a balanced ration, we still think it advisable to feed for the product that we are selling; for instance if we are selling milk feed for as large a milk flow as possible, and if for butter a ration that contains a large percentage of fat. For our regular herd ration we are feeding four quarts bran, four quarts cob meal, one quart cottonseed meal and fifty pounds ensilage daily.

We have found it absolutely necessary to keep the weight of each cow's milk in order to feed judiciously. As soon as we notice a slight falling off in quantity of milk we increase that cow's ration, and if she responds at the pail to the increased feed we continue it as long as it is profitable. The only time we put a cow on a small ration is when we are drying her up. When dry we increase to the regular ration until about one week before calving, when we quit feeding corn meal and cottonseed meal and increase the bran to 12 quarts daily. As soon as the cow has calved we give her a hot bran mash, continue feeding bran until the fourth day, when we add a little corn meal, gradually increasing until at the end of thirty days we have her eating all she can assimilate.

The Babcock test is another valuable assistant in feeding. We have found that our herd average 5.8 per cent butter fat, and by making a test weekly we are able to feed so that they will keep close to these figures throughout the year, and so regulate their grain ration that in changing from hay or ensilage to pasture you can still maintain the richness and get quite an increase in quantity of milk. As silos are not in general use in this part of the state, we will give a little of our experience. The first of October, 1894, we commenced feeding silage, and as the cows seemed to prefer it to hay we quit feeding hay. January 15, with only another month's feeding of ensilage we changed to clover hay with the result that our cows fell off four pounds each of milk daily. After feeding hay one month we again fed ensilage and regained nearly all in milk that we had lost, proving that ensilage is important to profitable dairying.

Florence.

Report of Overseer.

The following is report of Worthy Overseer Cole at State Grange, 1895:

Worthy Master and Patrons:

What are we here for? If our first parents had spent a few thoughts on this question perhaps we might now all be dwelling in paradise. They took it for granted that they were merely placed there to have a good time and do about as they pleased. Only a few days elapsed before they were in disgrace for disobedience of orders with no chance for trying again. It was too bad, but then they had learned a lesson that none of us should forget. I have in mind several Granges that many years ago started forth with flying colors. They met together for the purpose of having a good time with the least possible labor. Their numbers increased rapidly and as it was too much bother and worry to initiate in regular form, candidates were slid in like grease. It seemed so much nicer and easier than the right way. After a few months of pleasure and riotous living without labor, the Lord closed them out and they knew how to sympathize with poor Adam and Eve. Did I say the Lord closed them out? Well, that's a mistake. They closed themselves out just as easy as sliding down hill. They had simply forgotten, or neglected to ask themselves the question, "What are we here for?" Neglect of duty always has its reward. In most instances the reward is far from being valuable. We may charge father and mother Adam and Eve for being the source of all our woes and sorrows, but there have been thousands of bushels of forbidden fruit eaten since their time. We have Grange Constitutions and By-Laws

and they mean just what they say, "even that and nothing more," nor less.

It used to be the rule for ministers and magistrates when performing the marriage ceremony to require the bride to promise to love and obey her husband. Oh, for the good old times of peace and prosperity when this method was in vogue. Now we hear of nothing but hard times, drouths, wars and rumors of war and divorcees. There are many marriages where there is no serious thought of all the sacred requirements. A happy home is so much more to be desired than a home where strife and discontent seem to be the prevailing rule. People are married, or should be, to begin anew their life work. To assist, not only each other in smoothing out the rough places, but to help in guiding others in ways of pleasantness and truth. Children are born to love and obey their parents—to grow to useful man and womanhood. We are to lead—they to follow. It is important that we select properly. Home, if it is all that it should be, our memories all through life will love to linger again within her pleasant portals.

If we are to be farmers there should be no half way work about it. Thought and whole-souled work are necessary elements today for securing success in agricultural pursuits. Farming is business and it will not run itself any more with twelve or fourteen dry months annually.

Two gentlemen of our town, one a tenant, the other a proprietor, engaged in milk dairying last spring with eighteen cows. As the cows were mostly new in milk the other dairymen of the community were obliged for a few weeks to lift their hats to the new dairymen. As the weeks and months of parched weather rolled mournfully along, the cans of the successful milk wagon decreased not only in size but in number until a five gallon can was all that was necessary, and that not more than half filled, to hold the flow of that once prosperous herd. Of course the weather was partially responsible for the serious result, but those parties did not know "what they were here for." Already they have nearly turned themselves out of the garden of Eden. Of course they knew it would not pay to buy products at high prices to carry their cows through. When a Grange is organized it should be organized to stay. When we join the Grange it should be for life, with a purpose to assist in perfecting the organization. A night away now and then is not what you joined for. It will not only leave holes all the way but will tend in a short time to stand you just outside the outer gate. Thousands will testify to this. Granges will not run themselves any more. Hard and vigilant labor is required. There are times when members must unite and carry their Grange over swelling streams and through drouthy seasons. Yearly plant the standard of your Grange higher and firmer. Broaden the foundation so that it will stand to guide future generations in better paths of usefulness and economy.

M. T. COLE.

A Succinct Statement.

The loss of time endured by farmers in consequence of impassable roads is a serious drawback to their prosperity. Country roads in their natural condition are only passable in the season when the farmer's time is most valuable, that is the season he should be planting, cultivating, or harvesting his crops. Unless he attends to these in season, his volume of production is largely reduced and hence the cost of the same is increased; he is under a general expense for men employed by the month, the maintenance of same, his family expenses, cost of keeping animals, taxes, and so forth. All these items accumulate against him whether employed or idle.

All these reduce or lessen his profits, and the wonder is that he has done so well under such adverse circumstances. Change these for the better by good roads and his prosperity takes at once a long step forward, enlarge or increase his powers by giving him the opportunity to make full time, and he will not let the opportunity pass unimproved. Well built roads involve complete drainage of the country, largely improving its sanitary condition, reducing loss and cost from sickness; and the more the subject is analyzed the more will appear resulting benefits which will continue to multiply themselves.

The next class that will be substantially benefited are residents of the towns and cities engaged in commercial pursuits; to these will flow an increased and more steady volume of business, for which reason it can be more economically transacted. Cheapness of production on both sides will largely increase the consumptive demand for each party. The soundness of this doctrine has so many illustrations that no argument need be made in proof thereof.

—Prairie Farmer.

Farm Papers and the Farmer.

The work that is being accomplished by farm papers in uplifting the agriculture of the country can never be told in words. It

cannot be computed by numbers. The hidden silver veins in Idaho and the gold in the mines and streams of California are not sufficient to represent its value. Silently their teaching falls into the soil and we behold the harvest in the better returns that are reaped in the fields and gathered in the stalls. And so mighty is the influence of this teaching that it is gradually uplifting defective practice from the realm of submergence. It is enabling the farmer to place the formations of his methods on the bed rock of correct principles. It is shedding a new light and a new interest around his work which too frequently in the past was looked upon as cheerless drudgery. It is transferring the burden of back-breaking labor to the horse and the machine or implement which he draws. And it is bringing to him greater gains than he could possibly have secured without the influence of such teaching.

The benefits are great, but the price paid for them is small. Fellow farmers, we complain of depression and low prices for our produce. We murmur if we get no profit on our products. But do we ever stop to reflect that the publisher of the agricultural paper seldom gets any profit from the subscription revenues of his paper? It usually costs him more than the subscription price. His profits come rather from the advertising pages than from the subscription lists. Let us think of these things as we enjoy the luxury of the farm paper that comes to us from week to week or from month to month as the case may be. As we think of them let us try and do something to help the men who are giving us goods below cost.

Take an ordinary issue of an average farm paper. Look over its pages and what do we find? We see there information on its every page that would have rejoiced the hearts of the readers of a hundred years ago. We are almost sure to find in it something bearing upon our life work that is worth far more than the subscription price of the paper for a year. It keeps us so informed as to agricultural discovery that in our work we can keep abreast of the times. It summarizes knowledge in many instances and thereby saves an immense amount of labor on our part to get at the conclusions reached. And in a single article it frequently gives us the cream of the results of the labors of a lifetime spent in some special work. And all this we get for the sum of fifty cents or one dollar per year. Farmers, are we not under some obligation to the agricultural press? Have we no duty to perform by way of helping on the good work other than that of remitting the subscription price at stated times?

And the help brought by the agricultural press is not confined to those who live solely upon revenues obtained from the farm. Farm papers have probably helped none so much as the teachers of agriculture. The agricultural teaching of today is not based upon knowledge obtained from standard works. These as a rule are yet to be written. It is rather based, first, upon the experiences gleaned on the old farm at home; second, upon the experiences of men eminently successful in their respective lines of work; and third, upon information gleaned from the agricultural press, and the last mentioned is the most prolific source of such information. At least it has proved so to the writer. Go on, then, publishers of farm papers. Weary not in the good work. You are "building better than you know."

Take away all agricultural papers from the progressive farmer and where would he be. He would so feel the deprivation that he would appear like one dazed and lost. In thought he would wander about in dry places seeking some precious thing that had been taken away. His agricultural firmament would be overcast with thick clouds. He would no more hear the rumble of the wheels of agricultural discovery and progress which in former time brought gladness to his heart. And in spite of heroic efforts he would be left in the race.

Fellow farmers, it is a fact that perhaps nine out of every ten farmers in the land do not take an agricultural paper at all. They do not take it because they do not know its value. Think of the great disadvantages under which they labor. Is there no duty that we owe to these our brethren? Have we ever tried to persuade them to take an agricultural paper? The sable Africans could sing "Let us pity the white man who came and sat under our tree. He has no mother to bring him milk, no wife to grind his corn." They could sing thus about a man who belonged to another country. Shall we have less regard for those our countrymen who pursue the same calling, and yet they are groping in the darkness where the light of a farm paper never comes. Shall we not sympathize with them and use our influence to bring them to a better frame of mind?

The old year is dead and gone and a new year has arisen from its ashes. And as we step across its portals we are doubtless resolving to be more true to life, that is to be more helpful to our fellows than we have ever been. And in carrying out these good resolves, let us remember our duty to

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WOMAN'S WORK.

Woman's Work.

Supplementary Report of Woman's Work Committee, State Grange 1895.

To the Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

The dial, like the weaver's shuttle, slowly but persistently has woven in and out the seasons, until the appointed time of the annual meeting of our State Grange. Before submitting my supplementary report as member of the woman's work committee, I desire to say, not only in words, but in the spirit of love for each one of you, my brothers and sisters of the Grange, how fully I feel the failure on my part to accomplish all I planned and desired to do, when one year ago I was honored with this appointment. The progress I have made along the lines I have labored, will not, I fear, meet your expectation. It certainly does not mine. The appeal I made one year ago and the ambition I had for each member of this representative body was to stimulate the work of the subordinate committees of woman's work in visiting the schools throughout this jurisdiction. This woman's work committee, while of recent birth, seems to fill a needed want. As (pardon the allusion) Adam of old, though having the whole world at his command, felt alone, so God created Eve. A committee of the sisters was needed to assist and respond to such duties of charity, etc., which are beyond the power of the brothers, for you know, woman's quick perceptions and sympathetic heart have always enabled her, in the house of grief and affliction, to carry the balm of healing and affection, to carry the balm of healing and affection, to carry the balm of healing and affection. "The widow's mite was more commendable in the sight of the Lord than the rich man's gift into the treasury." My health has been such that I have not been able to do all that I desired when the school work was again assigned to me. I took it up with a firm resolve to do all I could to further it, and by so doing become better fitted to accomplish the great work, so much needed, and I am sure the time you have given in the past twelve months, or will give in the year to come, will bear fruit of great good. Sister Mayo has been the rock upon which I leaned and by her good counsel and ever ready help, I have received inspiration when almost discouraged.

I have received reports from the following schools which have been visited by members of woman's work committees: Elm Hall, Old Mission, Cannonsburg, Graton Center, Grattan, Bellaire, Alden, Van Buren, DeWitt, Pentecost, Adrian, Cranston, Shelby, Portland, Flower Creek, Cambridge, Brooklyn, Shelby, Old Mission, Berrien Center, Springville, Township of Clay Banks, Alden, Olmsted, DeWitt, Danby, Traverse City, Ada, Hudsonville, Orange. There are thirty in all. They all report having good wood, and the schools warm at nine o'clock. Five report poor blackboards, all the others good, with supply of crayons and erasers. Two report having no dictionary, thirteen having no globes, and four have no maps. The pupils are supplied with books with two exceptions, and the teachers are in the school room early to begin promptly on time. All report the school property well cared for. The out-houses are not in good condition; a large percentage of them bad. The schools are well governed and nearly all move by signals. Harmony seems to prevail and the teachers to be doing thorough work. Opening exercises are conducted in all but four of the schools, and nearly all the teachers have programs of studies, which are posted in conspicuous places. The pupils are taught to use their own words in reciting, and primary classes are taught writing from the blackboard. Language is taught in connection with reading. Only a few report the use of supplementary reading in advanced classes. With two exceptions all report that the primary pupils are taught the combination of numbers by means of objects. All are taught to read and write numbers rapidly, and advanced pupils to give reasons in their own language. All are supplied with writing materials and are given a writing lesson each day. Four schools do not have written work, while the others do in nearly all the branches, although the spelling is not always correct. Local geography is taught and map drawing is made a part of geography lessons. Physiology and hygiene is taught by all, and useful lessons given concerning the body. Classification register is used by teachers, which contains a complete record of each pupil's work. Not many report the number of grades; nineteen report having eighth grades which number 118 pupils. The parents of the scholars have visited seventeen schools, and the school board thirteen. Some schools report no visits from board and some only on business. All report shade trees in the school yard, all use monthly report cards. Not many children are granted half holidays for regular attendance. Kindergarten material is furnished by some teachers, but nearly all the schools are supplied with the kindergarten work.

You will see by this report some reforms can be made, for instance the number of visits of the patrons and especially the school board or directors. As a whole, however, the reports I have received have been good.

PATRIOTIC TEACHING.

It seems to me a great work is before us as mothers and citizens in the broad field of teaching patriotism. Abraham Lincoln said that without the help of woman the rebellion would never have been put down nor the country saved. But in spite of this profound appreciation of women, in face of her wonderful example of endurance and patriotism, and the service she has rendered the country, the constitution was framed without recognizing her. The late war resulted in adding to that constitution the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, all of which still fail to recognize women in any way. But don't let us feel bad about that, but rather let us remember that love of country is one of the highest and most ennobling sentiments which can animate the human heart, and we can cultivate it. Today she stands at the front of all social and moral reforms, and how has she gained these privileges? Only by hard study and improvement on the noble gifts already given to women by inheritance. We are taught that faith and honor are two cardinal virtues only as we illustrate them in our lives.

Much is being done and much can be done by women in the various patriotic organizations of women to teach the love of country, and I know of no better place than in our homes and by the Woman's Work Committees of the Grange. But there is a still wider field for women. True patriotism consists in doing one's whole duty as a citizen in time of peace as well as war. It is better to live for one's country than to die for it, and what we need today are good citizens, whether voters or not, intelligent and conscientious citizens, and citizens who are familiar with those great bulwarks of American liberty—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Michigan has already made it a law that over every schoolhouse shall float the flag. She also practically requires patriotic teaching, as her text books include the science of government. Not so with some of our rather near neighbor states. Being officially connected with a national organization striving to do work along this line, much correspondence falls in my hands. From that I gather that in some districts where the patrons, pupils and school officers are of recent accretion, to our citizenship they do not even permit patriotic teaching or honors to be shown our flag.

The American people are roused as never before to the fact that the children of our foreign population must be educated in our public schools to become loyal citizens of the republic and to reverence the flag—that proud ensign of this nation. Patriotic teaching should begin with the children. There is no question about the patriotic sentiments of the grown people of our country, but we have hundreds of foreigners constantly coming to our shores, who are entire strangers to the purposes of our government, and the children must be made familiar with those purposes in order that they may grow up imbued with the fidelity and patriotism which has always characterized the American people. One of the greatest problems of American patriotism is to Americanize the different races of people who come to our shores. Let patriotism be taught in the home, the school, the college, in the pulpit, and on the platform, and may we all feel with Webster, "Let our object be our country, our whole country and nothing but our country." In looking back over the list of true patriots, we can find none greater than Washington, the father of his country, and Lincoln, the savior of his country, each under trials and abuses that would have made any but undaunted and liberty loving souls falter and fail.

Under your care as mothers and teachers grow the elements to build up a patriotic spirit. By teaching the children national airs, patriotic songs, you tell the story of that sturdy band of patriots who planted the seeds of American civilization, and upon Plymouth's sacred rock laid the corner stone of the nation. You tell them of the supreme patriot who was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. You will teach them love for the stars and stripes as the emblem of liberty. Everyone of the thirteen million children in the school rooms should be taught the origin of the flag, what trials it has encountered, and what blessings procured and they should honor the flag and learn to love it.

The flag salute was begun in the free kindergartens in New York city with the children of seven or eight foreign nations represented, as something which could assimilate them and make them American citizens. It was originated by a Union soldier, Col. Balch, who worked so hard for it that he really gave his life for the cause. He devised a plan by which the

American flag was placed in the free kindergartens of that city and today every little child stands before the flag and says

Continued to page 5.

Beautiful the Country Homes.

Each man's chimney is his golden milestone, is the central point from which he measures every distance
Through the gateways of the world around him; in his furthest wanderings still he sees it; hears the talking flame, the answering night wind,
As he heard them when he sat with those who were, but are not."
—Longfellow.

There are many reasons why every home should be made as attractive as possible, and no class of homes can be made so beautiful for so small an outlay as country homes. The vista of sky and landscape are there already in unrestricted charm, and it only remains to adorn the foreground harmoniously. A little thought, a little money and economy in the use of the spare moments, are all that are necessary to bring about results of attractiveness whose educational and moral value can hardly be estimated.

To make the country home attractive is to dignify the farmer's calling and make his sons and daughters happy. Can you expect your children to have pride in their home if its appearance is shiftless and untidy? If the front yard is overrun with weeds, the gates of their hinges, the fences broken and the pig pen is the most conspicuous adornment (don't be too hard on your boys if they seek their fortunes in a meager clerkship in the city, or on your girls, if the fascinations of town life lure them away from you. Untidy and thriftless surroundings react unfavorably upon character, while on the other hand, neatness, order and beauty, are important educational forces which no home-maker can afford to ignore.

Perhaps Robert and Lucy are planning to make for themselves a little home nest in the spring and just now all their dreams and plans are centering upon it. If the house is to be built, by all means make it architecturally beautiful, no matter how small. There seems no excuse now-a-days for fashioning a dwelling after a drygoods box or a barn. Let it please the eye and be an ornament to the landscape. If there is a house already on the premises, and it is ugly and inartistic, look it over carefully and see where a bay window can be fitted in without appearing to be an excrescence, while there will surely be chances to put on sheltering porches and roomy verandas. Then make the whole picturesque with climbing vines and graceful shrubbery. The American ivy, also styled the Virginia creeper, is perhaps the best perennial climber. It is beautiful in summer and glorious in autumn when it puts on the gorgeous hues of the sunset. The wild clematis, with its thick green foliage and feathery white blossoms, is also very beautiful, and is hardy. The cultivated Chinese clematis, with its large purple or lavender blossoms, is perhaps unequalled in splendor as a climber, unless a few rare roses are excepted.

During late winter or early spring, is an excellent time to prepare for lawn decorations. The ingenious farmer's boy can make substantial trellises for the climbing vines and prepare plant stands and window boxes. Or, one of the girls may have a taste for mechanics, for it does not hurt a girl to know how to drive a nail, saw a board and make a joint. Every country home should have a comfortable outfit of carpenter's tools, with a bench fitted up in woodhouse or barn for facility in their use. It will save a good many dollars in timely repairs, and also be the means of making many trifles in the way of home decorations and household conveniences. Moreover, it will furnish a form of rainy day employment much better than going to town to gossip at the corner grocery.

A footpower scroll saw can be procured at small outlay, and a multitude of nick-nacks for interior uses and decorative purposes can be made with it, and thus furnish work so like play that the ingenious boy or girl will never tire of it.

An evenly graded grass plot in front of the house is always in perfect taste and there is no reason why it should not be kept as smoothly shaven and neat as the lawn of a fine city mansion. Here beneath the trees—a treeless place is desolate and bare indeed—hang one or two hammocks and place a few rustic chairs, and encourage every member of the household to seek the pure outside air for their resting spells. A swing may be put up for the little ones beneath some broad spreading tree.

A few flowering and other ornamental shrubs may well have a place amid the trees in the front yard, but the back or side garden is the best place for annual and perennial plants. There they can have unrestricted sunshine, and well tilled soil, and hence will thrive finely. Cut freely and arrange the blossoms into bouquets for the table and living rooms. The sweet flower-faces will take the sense of drudgery out of your daily routine and preach sermons of love and trust. Did not one of old say, "Consider the lilies, how they grow?"

Teach your children to get near to nature's heart in sky, trees, grass, and flowers. It will be a refining and restraining influence which shall follow them so long as life shall last. Life is a gift too precious and too sweet, to spend it wholly in drudgery and in scrimping and saving, until the beauty is all sapped out of it, and only dry, empty husks remain.

HELEN. L. MANNING.

Owosso.

The Juveniles.

Winnie's Fancy.

"Mamma," said tiny Winnie Corning
"I know something sweet,
I have watched them all the morning,
And the birdies feet."

"And the birdies breasts bring summer
To my dear lilac tree;
The snow melts off where they sit, mamma,
And the brown bark I see."

"If they would only sit still, mamma,
And warm my little tree,
My little tree would think 'twas summer,
And leaf and blow for me."

—Er.

The Snow Flakes.

The way Jack Frost does things is very curious. In the fall he nips the flowers and kills the beautiful leaves. Then he covers the ponds and streams with crystal ice, so the boys and girls can have nice times skating. Then away up in the sky when the tiny rain drops have got ready to fall upon the earth, he catches them on the way and freezes them into beautiful snow-flakes, so that they float in the air like a lot of downy feathers.

The air is full of tiny drops of water. Sometimes we may see the fog that is nothing but vapor. When the drops are large enough, it begins to rain and we can see the water as it comes pattering down to the earth. When it is cold the heat is driven out of the fog and the tiny drops of water, and Jack Frost just makes them into beautiful snow-flakes. He makes them all in the same way, and if you could see it while it was being done you would see that one particle after another of the water gathered about a certain point so as to make six-sided figures or crystals. Because it has six sides, each crystal is called a hexagon, and this is just what this big word means, six-sided.

Now if the snow-flakes only had one crystal in each, every snow-flake that we see would be just alike. But when you catch some of them as they float through the air you will find there are hardly any two that are alike, for there seems to be a great many kinds. When two or more crystals come together they make a new snow-flake, a sort of compound crystal.

The curious thing about it is that Jack Frost puts them all together on the same plan. Take a lot of these snow-flakes on a piece of dark cloth in a cold room and you will find that all the angles or corners made in the crystals are the same size. In the picture you will see how some of these things appear, but you can go out most any snowy day and get some crystals that are just as beautiful as these are.

If you want to see some of Jack Frost's work in making crystals, take a pail of water and set in a place where it is cold enough to freeze. When it is just right, the crystals will begin to form in the water or on its surface at first, just the same as the snow crystals form up in the sky. As it grows colder the pail will be filled with these crystals until at last Jack Frost locks them all together and solid ice is formed.

Watch the next snow-flakes and see how many kinds you can find.—Our Little People.

Farm Papers and the Farmer.

Continued from page 2.

our fellow farmers who take no agricultural paper. Tell your neighbor the worth of such a paper, for he does not know its value and persuade him to take it. You do him a greater kindness than if you gave him gold. This article has been penned in the hope that many farmers will thus be aided by those who can render such assistance. Farmers, will you not give such aid? One new name added by every subscriber. See what it would mean to the publishers, and think of what it would mean to farmers and farming.

THOMAS SHAW.

University Experiment Farm, St. Anthony Park, Minnesota.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is catarrh. Hall's catarrh cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's catarrh cure is taken internally, acting upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.

Sold by druggists, 75c.

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OUR WORK.

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

OUR OBJECT

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

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

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

GOV. RICH'S TRIBUTE TO THE GRANGE.

In a recent issue of the GRANGE VISITOR we published an interesting statement regarding the condition of the state treasury as given by Gov. Rich before the meeting of the last State Grange. This explanation was timely, and probably has been eagerly read by Patrons who take the VISITOR. It has occurred to us that the most significant aspect of this address, and the most pleasing to every loyal Patron, is the implied recognition of the worthy services and influence of the Grange. Gov. Rich appeared before the State Grange at his own request, and in the opening sentences of his address, paid a splendid tribute to the Grange.

We surmise that the work of the Grange in the last state legislature has brought to the attention of the party leaders of Michigan the fact that the Grange is sufficiently organized, and has a sufficient membership, to enable it to become a factor in securing desirable legislation. Never before in the history of Michigan was the name "Grange" pronounced so many times in our legislature, we believe. Never before have so many members of the legislature been impressed with the idea that the farmers in Michigan are organized.

This condition of things is most encouraging, but let us not stop with what we already attained. What has been done once may be repeated; indeed during the coming years we ought, as a Grange, to do better work in the legislature than we did last winter. We ought to be better organized, to have the questions that we are considering more fully discussed in Subordinate Granges, and to present a more united front when the legislature convenes. Let us take hold of these legislative topics with vigor; let us remember that this phase of the work is one of the most important; let us not weary in well doing along this line. We must not lose what has already been gained.

BEAUTIFYING SCHOOL YARDS.

In these dreary winter days it may seem somewhat out of place to suggest that school yards should be beautified, but there is nothing like "taking time by the forelock," and the time to discuss a question like this is in time to prepare for the work. The average school yard in the country is an abomination. No attempt is made to make it a pleasant or an attractive place for the children. We are just coming to realize what a power early impressions have on the future of the child. We heard of an instance not long ago that is to the point. One of the most successful and

best known landscape gardeners in the United States, whose special line of work has not been excelled, says that in a great many of his best designs in landscape effects he is merely carrying out the impressions formed when he was a boy, and wandered over his father's farm, drinking in the beauties of the scenery down by the little lake fringed with trees and shrubs. This instance merely serves to show how strong are early impressions. Love of flowers, love of trees, love of the beautiful, are no discredit to a man, and generally help him to be a better man. Beautiful surroundings in the school yard will prove of great value in character building, which is really the final aim of all education.

Then there is not much question but the use of flowers and trees in the schoolroom and in the school yard would be very helpful to the teacher in imparting the elements of science. This of itself commends the plan. If children can only be taught that there is room for the deepest culture and the best use of brains right on the farm, we believe they will be more apt to remain there from choice.

We have sometimes wondered if there could not be some plan adopted by which teachers could be supplied with flower seeds each spring which they could utilize during the early summer for the purpose of school yard or schoolroom adornment, and also why the teachers and pupils should not make it a practice of occasionally setting out trees and shrubs, which would be cared for by the pupils themselves, thus adding a little each year to the beauty of the school grounds, and teaching each child something practical, and also teaching the child to love trees, shrubs, and flowers.

We are informed that the horticultural department of the Agricultural College proposes to inaugurate a plan whereby teachers may be furnished with flower seeds, accompanied by instructions for their use. We most heartily commend this effort, and if it is carried out, we shall have more to say of it hereafter.

WOMAN'S WORK IN THE GRANGE.

In the last VISITOR and in this issue, we have presented the report of the woman's work committee of the State Grange, made at the last meeting. We hope that all Patrons will carefully read the reports of Sisters Mayo and Hinds.

Without disparaging in the least the reports made by the first committee, this year Patrons will be astonished to discover how the woman's work has grown. At first no one knew what woman's work is. The work was unorganized, and the reports could not possibly show specific things accomplished. But notice that the very opposite is true of these latter reports. Take for example the charity work. Nearly 200 persons were provided for last summer through this woman's work committee. This work places the Grange on a level of the very best philanthropic bodies of the state. Take the school work, and in that there is something definite that has been accomplished. We can not speak in terms sufficiently strong of these reports of Sisters Mayo and Hinds. It seems to us that the woman's work has been placed in a condition that is a valuable lesson in all departments of Grange endeavor. The work is organized, it is being pushed, something is being done. We doubt if there is a state in the Union that can show the same character and quality of woman's work in the Grange as can be shown by Michigan, and we commend to other states the work of this woman's work committee, for we believe that they will find, as the Michigan Grange has, it not only does the Grange good by furnishing definite work for the women, but it advertises it and elevates it in the estimation of all classes of people. Not only that, but it places the Grange in an attitude of a doer of good in a very direct way. This work is so well established in Michigan that there is no question of its future success, and there is no question of its propriety.

We trust that masters of Granges where there is no active woman's work committee, will at once see that steps are taken to provide such a committee. There are 224 active Granges in Michigan, and there ought to be 225 active woman's work committees, and Mrs. Mayo ought to have the

names of the chairman of every one of them. Masters will neglect their duty if they do not see that this woman's work is taken hold of vigorously. You need have no fear that there will be nothing for such committee to do if the chairman at once gets into correspondence with Sister Mayo or Hinds. It is not only a duty, but it is a privilege. The testimony of all who have done this work is that the Grange is greatly benefited as a Grange, and that the individual members who do the work are also greatly helped.

We wish we had the words to add a still greater tribute to the work of the woman's work committee of the Michigan State Grange, because it seems to us to be of rare merit and to have been managed with rare skill.

THE ROUND-UP.

This phrase is borrowed from the Texas plains, but for present purposes will be applied in an entirely different manner. There is only one round-up in Michigan, and that is the round-up of the farmers' institutes. This particular round-up is to be the great farmers' institute of the year, and will be held in Grand Rapids, February 11, 12, 13, and 14. The following circular has been issued by the superintendent of institutes, and while you may see it in some of your county papers, we will nevertheless insert it here. Further announcements will be made later. We hope that every Grange in the state will endeavor to have some member present at this round-up. We expect the rates will be so low that you can afford it, and we would like to have every Grange and farmers' club and other farmers' organizations represented at that meeting. Please talk this over in your Grange, and see if you can not make arrangements for some of your members to attend as sort of delegates from your Grange.

Every farmer in Michigan knows what a farmer's institute is. Sixty-eight counties in the state have held them this winter. Some of them have been very largely attended, and all have been very successful. But we expect to have the biggest one of the year at Grand Rapids, February 11, 12, 13 and 14. It will be called a "Round-up," and the list of speakers will include noted professors from the Agricultural College, and some of the most successful and best known farmers and fruit growers of the state. The feast will be opened by Gov. Rich on Tuesday evening, February 11, and will continue for three days and four evenings until Friday evening, when it will be closed by Ex-Governor Luce. There will be three sessions a day of the main institute. Wednesday will be a fruit day, Thursday will be stock and dairy day, and Friday will be fertilizer and general crop day. The evening sessions will be occupied with talks of a more general nature, but all of great interest and moment to farmers. Three afternoons, in a room separate from the main institute, will be held a woman's section under the charge of Mrs. Mary A. Mayo, of Battle Creek. It is expected that on two of these afternoons demonstration lessons in cooking will be given by Miss Margaret M. Sill of Detroit. Still another separate section, called the mechanics' section, will be held two evenings for those who are interested in mechanical lines.

WHAT WE WANT.

We want 2,000 of the most progressive farmers from all sections of Michigan to attend this meeting. We expect reduced rates on the railroads. We have been assured of reduced rates at hotels at from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day for good accommodations. We want to make this the biggest meeting of the kind ever held in Michigan. We want to make it a model institute in conduct as well as in attendance. The papers and discussions will be the best that can be procured in Michigan, and we want people to come to hear them. We expect every farmer in Kent county, and we would like to have every other county send large delegations. Further announcements, giving program and other arrangements more in detail, will be made later. Do not forget the dates, February 11, 12, 13 and 14; and remember to come and stay as long as you can. You never will regret it.

Ask, if you Would Receive.

In last issue we made a personal appeal for all who love the GRANGE VISITOR to put in a little work for it. Go to the merchant you trade with, to the lawyer you boom for office, to the intelligent farmer neighbor who is not a subscriber, and ask (the Bible says you shall receive) for a years subscription to the one paper that, more than any other stands steadfast for the organization, and consequent prosperity, of the class which stands next to nature and feeds the world—the agriculturists. A very easy job for You. If you, kind reader, will do this at once, the growth of the VISITOR for two weeks coming will be phenomenal. It is your paper. Will you do this for it?

In our next issue we will print the names of those who respond to this second invitation. We all talk a great deal about loyalty to the Grange and its interests, now let us see who will come to the front and act. Just a little effort, a few words fitly spoken. Let us hear from you.

PERRY & McGRATH, Managers.

The Supervisor's Side.

WORTHY EDITOR: A little talk with you if you have no objections. It is about that article in the last VISITOR, taken from the *Detroit Journal*. Don't you think it censured the township supervisor a good deal? By the tone of the article we should infer that about all irregularities found by Col. DeLand came from the township supervisor. Now that looks too one-sided to believe, yet we say let the blows fall where they belong, in city or country. It is surely the duty of every supervisor to comply with the law as near as possible, and be gentlemanly in making his reports and all that. But I tell you it made me not a little indignant to see how our large cities try to shoulder the blame onto the country as they do. Surely it is real estate that is paying the bulk of our taxes. Consequently the farmer pays the largest tax according to his valuation. There is not much hid from the supervisor of the country. He can see for himself, and if by good fortune a farmer has a few spare dollars laid by, the supervisor requests the amount and he is assessed according to law, providing each does as required by the law. Here is where the big trouble lies. Many evade the law, and it is generally done by those holding personal property, rather than on real estate. If all property were honestly assessed, the people would not now be complaining of high taxes. SUPERVISOR'S WIFE.

To the Farmers of the Country.

While we are proud of what the Grange has accomplished in former years, and are encouraged, because of its high standing and influence at the present time, our chief interest centers in the work of the future which has before it the possibilities of a record of usefulness for the Order which will far surpass any of the achievements of the past. To this end we appeal to farmers in all parts of the country to rally to the standard of the Grange and use this grand farmer's organization to develop the latent social, intellectual, moral and political power of the rural population and make it a mighty, resistless force in dispelling ignorance, eradicating evil, and by the proper use of the ballot, securing for farmers and their interests a just recognition by the law making powers of the land.

Farmers, the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry offers you a carefully matured and tried plan of organization, the best that many years of ripened thought and experience has been able to devise. It is already a mighty factor in the affairs of today.

On its banners are inscribed many well earned victories. It has never recognized defeat; when temporarily checked, the lines have been reformed and the assault renewed. In its ranks are many of the bravest men and fairest women who live in the farm homes of the nation—a grand fraternal band.

Our Order is non-partisan; we do not ask you to abandon your political affiliations, nor does our Order attempt to control your political action. It only suggests that no farmer should support men for legislative, judicial or executive positions, who are unmindful of the great foundation interest of our country. Brother farmers, we need your help and we ask you to join hands with us. You will be heartily welcomed by all the members of our Order; you shall share in the victories and honors which we have won, and you shall be joint-heirs with us of all that has been gained in the struggle for a just recognition of the interests of agriculture. And when, with your help, public burdens have been equalized, when the cost of the administration of the laws shall have been reduced to reasonable proportions, when the righteous solution of the economic questions which now distract and impoverish our country shall have been secured, then will there be an assurance of real prosperity which is so much desired by all classes in this country.—Alpha Messer.

Northern Michigan.

We continue in this issue reports from the northern counties of the state.

Charlevoix County.

BY M. M. BURNHAM.

In speaking of Charlevoix county let us first consider that portion on the main land, within which lie Pine Lake, South Arm, Bear Lake, a portion of the intermediate lakes and portions of four rivers. All of these lakes are navigated by small steamers, and Pine and South Arm by the large lake steamers and sailing craft. They have a coast line of about 120 miles.

The soil runs from light sand to heavy clay. In the main it is a clay loam of the sort usually found in connection with a heavy growth of hardwood timber, and abundantly watered by spring brooks, rivers, and lakes.

The climate is invigorating and healthful. The number of fair days per annum is surpassed in very few if in any localities. Besides the modification of the climate afforded by the water we have that effected by a "trade wind," which for over 250 days of the year rises just before, and a little to the south of the sun and precedes it in its apparent course. It usually increases in force till about 2 p. m., and then decreases till five or six o'clock when it dies out. Frosts usually hold off very late in the fall and do not occur in summer. From about January 1 to April 1 the ground is covered with a deep body of snow, which keeps the ground moist and free from frost, and as soon as it is gone the land is green with pasturage and ready for the plow.

Land is very low. Quite well improved farms of fair quality can be bought for from \$12.50 to \$15 per acre, some as low as \$10. Land from which the timber has been taken can be bought for from one to twelve dollars per acre.

The wood's products still lead all others in value, many ship's cargoes leaving our docks every week during the season of lake navigation, and many car loads the year round.

However, there has been considerable agricultural and horticultural development. Several townships are thickly settled, well cleared, and have good roads, buildings, farms, stock and thrifty bearing orchards. Melons, tomatoes and corn are sure crops, and all the grains and grasses grown elsewhere in this state. Vast quantities of potatoes are raised for shipment. Many thousands of bushels of peas and beans are raised every year for seed for seedsmen. Celery and mint, both of which flourish here, are coming to be much cultivated experimentally.

The sure foundation of the county's progress lies in the fact that it is a good grass country. Dairying has received considerable attention and is having a rapid growth. Better fruit than is raised here is not grown, as I am assured by men who have travelled "far and wide." We never have an August drouth, and dairying and fruit raising seem destined to become the leading industries.

Our best market now is the home market, which consumes all our dairy products, our honey, garden stuffs, grains and swine; the large summer resorts scattered over the county requiring very much.

Good schools abound; good local papers, and churches of most sorts in all our thriving villages. The group of islands in Lake Michigan known generally as "The Beavers," was added to this county by the last legislature and consists of Beaver, Garden, Hog, Hat, Whiskey, Trout, High and Squaw islands, in the aggregate about 100 square miles, mostly covered with good hardwood timber, but containing many good farms under a high state of cultivation, and some large and very promising orchards. They are divided into three townships. St. James Harbor on the Beaver is a good one. There is a large Catholic church there. There are about 1,000 people residing on these islands.

The county is but very little in debt. The entire population is about 12,000, and Charlevoix—the beautiful—is the county seat.

For the man with small means or no means there is no better dwelling place than Charlevoix county if he is willing and able to work.

East Jordan.

Emmet County.

BY JOHN SWIFT.

Emmet, being the northwest county of the lower peninsula of Michigan, is likely to be taken for a cold, unfruitful region, fit only for the habitation of Norwegians or Laplanders; and, having only about 8,000 inhabitants, half of which dwell in the two principal villages, Petoskey and Harbor Springs, this opinion is no doubt strengthened. But, being told that this was an Indian reservation until 1875; then first opened up to white homesteaders, most of whom were very poor and unable to help each other, will soon explain the newness of our surroundings. And when also told that we have almost no winter until after the holidays and very little ice in

the bay or lake, by which we are surrounded, until the fore part of February, and that our winter temperature averages higher than at Detroit or more southern points, you may well be surprised at the error of your frigid opinions and wonder not that the potato, tomato and other tender vines were green and thriving up to the 6th day of November of last year and show but little signs of frost at this writing, October 10, 1895. When the writer first landed here in June, 1879, nothing surprised him more than to see "volunteer" self-seeded potatoes coming up in every patch where they had been grown the year before, this being a thing of common occurrence. Indeed, the Indian, and even the white farmers, have little fear of leaving their potatoes in the hill over winter, and are almost sure to find them nice and fresh in the spring. It is a very rare thing to find frozen ground at any season of the year except on exposed hillsides where the snow is blown away. Further than this, potatoes planted any time from April 1st to July 15th will produce good crops of fine quality, thousands of bushels being annually shipped abroad to supply the calls of the thousands of summer residents who each year come up here to enjoy our potatoes, delightful climate, beautiful scenery and health giving, sparkling waters.

Want of space will not permit me to detail all of our peculiar advantages but, from close observation, I can truly say that very few people have any desire to leave this earthly paradise, and nine out of every ten of the few who do leave because of hard times that did not exist previous to '75, when many came here from outside soon find that times "have changed since Hannah died," even where they came from and so they get back to Emmet county, saying, "we are content to let well enough alone hereafter," while most of the remaining write they would come back if they could get back without the sacrifice of too much property. These things speak volumes while the fact that the editor of the GRANGE VISITOR writes that "he is stuck on our northern home and intends to purchase here when he gets rich," clinches the whole matter.

A BIT OF HISTORY.

We raise good crops of early and medium and early varieties of corn, there not being enough real hot weather to ripen the larger kinds of dent, every year. Oats, barley, timothy, spring and winter wheat, buckwheat, millet, etc., bring as good returns as like care and manure will bring in Wayne or Ingham counties. Wild apples and berries of all kinds, including the largest wintergreen and June berries I ever saw, grow in unlimited quantities among the second growth trees of new slashings or old "Indian gardens." Many of the latter were cleared farms in the days of good old Father Marquette and his associates. This and adjoining counties being his chosen mission field and chosen final resting place, toward which he was hastening when approaching death overtook him at South Haven. The remains were brought up here the following spring by an escort of thirty canoes, in line. Here too, Henry was set at liberty as the only man to escape the massacre of old fort Mackinac, through the rivalry of one of our two tribes of Indians who were not invited to the performance by the other. Hundreds of implements of savage warfare are yearly turned up by the white man's plow at the present time, that give ample evidence that not only the present inhabitants are satisfied but that even red men engaged in deadly strife over this water-washed, northern "fruit belt." For such it truly is; of which I must proceed to inform you, leaving history as written, to tell of the past, until some more convenient time when I may perhaps tell you more of the things that have been found during the past 20 years that remind us of the centuries going by.

To return to our products. Two or even three bushels of low-bush huckleberries can easily be picked in a day among the pines in the northern part of this county—the bunches and berries often being as large as those of the Delaware grape further south. Grapes and peaches do not ripen well, but most apples and pears, and crab apples and plums of all kinds yield immense crops of the finest, most perfect quality almost entirely free from insects, scabs or worms. A few years hence will see large quantities of the fruit shipped to Chicago and other points easy of access by boat and rail. Some of the finest boats on Lake Michigan make their first stop out from Chicago at Harbor Springs, the finest harbor in the Union. As for vegetables—we beat the best in all varieties, including celery that discounts Kalamazoo, and pansies and asters that put Vick in the shade. As for fine fish, including whitefish that melt in one's mouth, several varieties of lake and brook trout, pike, perch, herring, suckers and other "cheap fish," we have them in shipping quantities, winter and summer, upon which resorters feast and grow fat of body and brain.

Our timber consists mostly of hard maple, black and yellow birch, beech,

white ash, basswood, gray elm, with a fair quantity of pine in northern part are of fine quality and command from \$6 to \$10 per thousand feet at the numerous mills, from which the lumber is shipped by rail or boat to all parts of the United States. Much of the hard wood is worked up here into flooring; one contract from Buffalo this fall being 400,000 feet dressed and oiled; while most of the elm which is grown on the upland is made into hoops; over two million feet being worked up and shipped from Harbor Springs alone since last spring. The quality being of the best, the demand cannot be met fast enough, while factories in other places are idle. Many things more might be said in praise of our beautiful surroundings, which only need to be seen and enjoyed to captivate and capture the visitors; hundreds of whom are yearly purchasing homes in our county of late. As to bad storms; we always find that they were much worse outside, being entirely free from the tempests that are common east, west, and south of us. Good wild lands can be had for \$10 or less per acre, and partly cleared farms at proportional rates. Schools and churches are numerous and society as good as can be found in Michigan. Outsiders always welcome, and letters answered for a stamp. Markets as good as the best, and roads better than in many old counties, soil being gravel loam.

Harbor Springs.

Benzie County.

BY R. B. REYNOLDS.

This is comparatively a new county, being located on Lake Michigan shore 100 miles north of Grand Haven, having a shore line west and north of about 28 miles. Joining Leelanau county on the north for 12 miles, Grand Traverse county on the east for 18 miles and Manistee county on the south for 20 miles.

WATER.

Belsie and Platte rivers cross the county from the east and are joined by many spring streams as well as outlets from the many lakes with which the county is dotted.

FISHING.

The streams are stocked with trout and the lake with bass, pickerel and perch.

SURFACE.

This is generally rolling, some parts being quite hilly while others are comparatively level.

SOIL.

It is diversified, varying from heavy clay to sand, and from dry to wet.

CLIMATE.

This is much effected by lake influence. Summers are warm enough and falls are more exempt from frost than counties lying back from the lake hundreds of miles south. Winters are more uniform in temperature and not subject to such extremes of cold as more southern sections. Usually snow lies the greater part of the winter, and really winter's mud is unknown.

RAILROADS.

The county is crossed by the C. & W. M., T. A. A. & N. M., and M. & N. E. railroads, with car ferry across Lake Michigan connecting Frankfort with Keweenaw on the west side of the lake.

POPULATION.

In 1894 it was 8,060 and shows a gain of nearly 54 per cent since 1890, eighty per cent of which are American born.

RESOURCES.

Much of the county is still covered by the original forests, embracing some as fine maple, elm, basswood, birch, hemlock and cedar timber as the state affords. Many fine farms are to be seen which attest the value of the agricultural interest, and our fruit industry is in its infancy.

FARM CROPS.

Notwithstanding the severity of this summer's drouth the county has a heavy crop of corn, and potatoes as well. Our average yields and the quality of the product makes potato raising an important industry, and is receiving special attention. Hay, wheat and beans also do well on their respective varieties of soil.

FRUIT.

There are thousands of acres of as fine fruit lands for apple, pear, peach, plum, and cherry raising in this county that are unimproved, as can be found in the state of Michigan. In spite of the cold snap in May, 1895, we could show orchards of all these varieties of fruit that were actually loaded down. No county in the state can offer better inducements to people wanting fruit lands than Benzie. She has the climate, location and transportation; all that is lacking is the intelligent grower with means sufficient to get his orchards started.

PRICE OF LANDS.

Good fruit and farming lands can be bought at from ten to twenty dollars per acre, and often less than that price. Lands

can be bought with timber on, or stump lands, or even already cleared. We have had no frost at this date to kill vegetation except in some low lands.

Frankfort.

Wanted.

The names of the Master, Secretary and Lecturer of every Subordinate Grange, with their postoffice address, wanted by return mail, whether re-elected or newly elected. Whether it is your duty to report these facts or not, will you not assist in making up this most essential list by complying with this request?

JENNIE BUELL, Secretary State Grange. Ann Arbor, Jan. 14, 1896.

Notice.

Will those Granges that sent orders under the State Grange contract to Nordyke & Marmon Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, please correspond with me as to their purchases and date of purchase, at once?

JENNIE BUELL, Secretary State Grange. Ann Arbor, Jan. 14, 1896.

Woman's Work.

Continued from page 3.

"I give my head and my heart to God and my country." They are taught in very simple terms the principles of the Declaration of Independence. Thus grew the American flag salute and the teaching of patriotism in the public schools.

Somewhere I have read that the Bible and Shakespeare were a complete library for any woman, but whether you have a copy of Shakespeare or not, be sure you have a copy of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution at hand to read and study, and see to it that it is taught in every school. Mr. Dallas says that the constitution, in its language, is plain and intelligible and is meant for the home bred understanding. I would suggest that its study is no more fatiguing than to put together a crazy quilt, and not half as trying to the nerves of which women seem to be so largely composed. Why not in your Grange for literary work these long winter evenings, form clubs for the study of the Constitution. Do not feel, my sisters, that you are excused from the duties of good citizenship because you are not voters. In your visits to the schools ascertain what text books are used. General Harrison in his paper, "This Country of Ours," written for the Ladies' Home Journal says: "The old-time Fourth of July celebration, with its simple parades and musters, the reading the Declaration of Independence went out of fashion. It is coming back and we ought to aid in reinstating it. The old declaration has a pulse in it, and a ring to it that does the soul good. Has your boy ever read it—all of it? The fathers ought not to be too busy to give some lessons in patriotism; but, if they are, let the mothers (who are more busy) see that a love of country is cultivated and that the children are very early made acquainted with the wise, unselfish and heroic characters in our history. In the home and before the school days begin, the feelings should be kindled and the sentiment awakened. Do not be ashamed to love your flag or confess your love for it. Make much of it; tell its history; sing of it. It now floats over our schoolhouses and it ought to hang from the windows of our homes on all public days."

Finally, my sisters, I would recommend the forming of Patriotic Leagues in the community in which you live, and encourage the practice of the flag salute in our schools. Can I better express the many lines of Woman's Work than to quote from Will Carleton's poem, Editor's Guests? "Know all and do all and be all with cheerfulness, courage and vim, and be sure you know how much to know, and know how to not know too much."

Respectfully Submitted, MARY SHERWOOD HINDS.

Especially is it true in the rural districts that change of teachers, change of superintendents and other officers work the greatest hindrance to the progress and success of the great educational work throughout the country.—E. E. Teagarden.

An After Christmas Tale.

Out of doors, upon the ice, Grandpa's little men make merry; Christmas skates and sledges nice— But where is little Peter Perry?

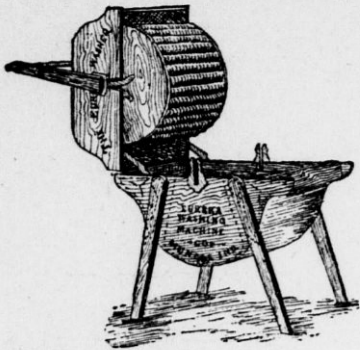
On the bed, within the house, May be found poor Peter Perry; All about he does "ca-touse," Pale and dull his cheeks of cherry.

What's the matter with the lad; Shall I tell, little Peter Perry? O, the tale is very sad, Sad and shameful, very, very!

He did cram on Christmas Day, Stole a glass of grandpa's sherry; Coaxed Tom's oranges away,— And now he aches, poor Peter Perry. —Fanny Parker, in Wide Wake.

The Eureka Washer

WITH LID COMPLETE.



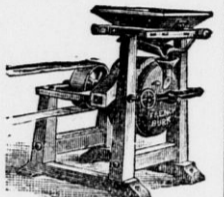
May be ordered with or without the lid. Simple in construction and easy to operate.

Eureka Washing Machine Co., MUNCIE, IND.

Advertisement for 100 rods of Individual Tension fence for \$35.00.

FRENCH BUHR MILLS

The Best Mills for Farmers and those doing a Custom Meal and Feed Grinding Business.



BECAUSE they grind more with same power, don't wear out or break down.

Roller or Buhr Systems. Estimates furnished on application.

Advertisement for At 1/2 Price watches, jewelry, and other goods.

Sewing Machines, Accordions, Organs, Pianos, and other household items.

Webster's International Dictionary

Advertisement for Webster's International Dictionary, highlighting its utility in schools and homes.

Revised List of Grange Supplies

Table listing various supplies for the Michigan State Grange, such as porcelain ballots, stationery, and books.

College and Station

Cherries. Bulletin Ithaca, N. Y., Station.

Cherry growing is one of the neglected industries of western New York. There are practically no bearing orchards of sweet cherries.

The product is sold both in the open market and to canneries. In general, the factories afford the better market.

Cherries are pruned after the manner of pruning plums and pears. Sweet cherries should be pruned to three to five main arms.

The curculio is the worst enemy to sweet cherries, and it is sometimes serious upon the sour kinds.

Cherries for the general market should be carefully hand-picked, with the stems on.

Of sweet cherries, the following are recommended for market: Windsor, Napoleon, Black Tartarian, Black Eagle, Mezel, Robert's Red Heart.

Food Investigations.

The dietaries of the farmers' families thus far studied were out of balance. The food contained relatively too little of the protein compounds.

The best farmers in the state are carefully considering the kinds and amounts of plant foods in their soils and fertilizers.

The products of the farm are for the use of man. A large part are directly or indirectly for his food.

ings, and the thousand and one things which are needed for their daily welfare; but their food, the cost of which makes up the large share of the cost of living.

Alfalfa, or Lucern. The following is extracted from Farmers' Bulletin No. 31, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Alfalfa has been grown with more or less success in every state and territory in the Union, from Maine to Washington, and from California to Florida.

Alfalfa, or lucern, has been cultivated as a forage plant for more than twenty centuries. It is a native of the valleys of the central district of western Asia.

Lucern was introduced into the state of New York at least as early as 1820, or more than thirty years before it was brought to California.

Alfalfa, or lucern, is an upright, branching, smooth perennial, 1 foot to 3 feet high.

Alfalfa will grow in favorable soil anywhere from about sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The limit of altitude is attained in the foothills and mountain valleys of California and Colorado.

Besides the cultivated form there are two others which by some are considered as simply forms or varieties of alfalfa.

crop on soils lacking this fertilizer. The prime condition for success is that the land be well drained.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL. A clean piece of ground should be selected, and it should be thoroughly plowed and subsoiled.

HABITS OF GROWTH. Alfalfa is a deep feeder. The taproots descend to great depths wherever the soil is loose and permeable.

SOILS AND CONDITIONS OF GROWTH. Alfalfa will grow in favorable soil anywhere from about sea level to 7,000 feet elevation.

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Advertisement for Page Woven Wire Fence Co., featuring the slogan 'Tis Love that makes the world go round'.

Page Woven Wire Fence Co., Adrian, Mich.

Notices of Meetings.

HILLSDALE POMONA. The February meeting of Hillsdale Pomona will be held at South Jefferson Grange hall...

CLINTON POMONA.

Clinton county Pomona Grange will meet with Bengal Grange, Wednesday, January 23, 1896...

ALLEGAN POMONA.

The Allegan county Pomona Grange will hold its next session at Wayland on January 23, 1896...

Grange News.

W. S. Fuller of Grattan Grange passed away January 6. He was one of our oldest members...

The following officers were elected at the regular meeting of DeWitt Grange Saturday evening, December 25, 1895...

Grattan Grange No. 170, met in regular session, January 2, for installing officers. This year we are trying a new plan...

Fraternity Grange No. 52, installed officers January 14th. The dinner was a success, for Fraternity profits by the teaching of the ritual...

January 28 is application day. The question for discussion is "Ought there to be a more vital connection between the rural schools of the state and the Agricultural College?"

Ronald Grange No. 192, held a public installation of officers Saturday p. m., January 4. Brother J. J. Woodman, Secretary of the executive committee of the National Grange...

Brother Woodman met with us again in the evening and by request of W. M. Chas. Harter, he exemplified the unwritten work of the Grange...

Father—"What do you mean, sir, by hugging my daughter?" Jack Ford—"I was merely obeying the biblical injunction to 'hold fast that which is good.'"

She—"The man I marry must be 'only a little lower than the angels.' He (suddenly flopping)—Here I am on my knees a little lower than one of them.

Chemistry as the handmaiden of agriculture has achieved a wonderful success. Fertilizing the fields has not only become a well understood business...

The following is somewhat technical, but may be of interest to others besides sportsmen. "Double Barrel" writes: "In your usually accurate columns I notice that you fall into the common mistake of speaking of a 'covey' of pheasants...

"I'll see about it," he said, as he handed the bill to the collector. "It's only \$5 and"— "I'll see about it, I told you."

"Yes, but when?" "Look here," said the debtor, as he rose up. "Do you mean to insult me?" "No, sir. I mean to go down to the newspaper offices and get them to put in a notice that you will soon depart for India. Good day, sir."

One of the Russian torpedo boats has the above consonantal name. To pronounce it you inhale red pepper and stand on your head.

Railroad Kidney—How to Avoid It. Railroad Kidney is one of the latest additions to the list of special diseases, and it is said that to be wholly due to the dust and grime that filters into the system...

In one night twenty feet long! That was a miracle! But Salzer's Sand Vetch, the coming hay plant, grew 10 inches in seven days on fine, dry soil, without a drop of moisture.

The Horticulturists Rule Book. In 1889 there was published an edition of the book with the above title, the editor being Prof. L. H. Bailey of Cornell University. A second edition was published in 1892, and recently a third edition, revised and extended, has been published by McMillan & Co., New York...

other chapters devoted to information that is worth while having at your hand. To those who do not know this book, and do not possess it, we would like to say that this book is of great value to any fruit grower.

A Very Desirable Calendar.

Calendars of all kinds and sizes herald the coming year. Many are to be had for the asking—many without asking—but to them as to other things the rule might be applied that what costs nothing is worth about what it costs. The calendar we always welcome has just reached us. We refer to the one published by N. W. Ayer & Son, Newspaper Advertising Agents, Philadelphia...

Special Offer. Send us fifty cents and we will forward to you at once, a beautiful, genuine Japanese fan. This fan retails in the large stores at 50 cents each. It is of fine parchment and highly decorated. We do not care so much about your money or about selling the fan, as we do to introduce you to the beautiful, illustrated American Home Journal.

DO YOU KEEP SHEEP? Read the AMERICAN SHEEP BREEDER. Established 14 years. Thirty-six pages, devoted to Sheep, Mutton and Wool. Edited by highest authorities. Elegantly illustrated. Veterinary Dept. worth ten times subscription price. Send stamp for sample copy and terms to new subscribers.

FOR SALE. At reasonable prices, a choice selection of April and May Poland China pigs. Can furnish pairs. Pedigree with sale. O. P. C. R. Correspondence solicited and communications promptly answered.

FOR PARTICULARS regarding the prices of the famous fruit lands, general farms, and city property, write to E. H. ALLYN, Real Estate Agency, Frederick Block, Traverse City, Mich.

THE Atlantic Monthly FOR 1896

Will contain no long serial story, but in its place will appear several short stories running through three or more issues, as well as single-number stories by Henry James, Miss Jewett, Mrs. Wiggan, Mrs. Graham, and others.

Important Features of 1896 will be: papers on the most important race contributions to American Characteristics—the German, the Irish, the Scandinavian, etc.—contributing to an analysis of American national life, and its tendency. Several important papers on American Cities, showing to what extent we are developing a beautiful and well-ordered urban life, and the tendencies of urban development.

Important Political Studies in which the issues, and some of the personalities, of the approaching presidential campaign will be discussed from an independent point of view. Papers which shall show the best work done in every grade of education in the Practical Teaching of English, the object of this series being an effort to formulate a programme for the better teaching of the mother tongue.

The Status Teaching as a Profession will be treated in a practical article or two based on an original and fresh investigation of the payment and standing of the profession in different parts of the country. Suggestions will be made by acknowledged authorities as to what may be done to elevate the profession and to give our school system a further and better development. Interesting contributions to Sociological study will include two papers by Mr. J. M. Ludlow, one on Trade Unions, and one on The Christian Socialist Movement of the Middle of the Century. Mrs. Lillie B. Chase Wyman will furnish some studies of Girls in a Valley. Write for particulars of our Special Offer of Tennyson's Poetical Works.

Potatoes, Tomatoes, Melons, Cabbage, Turnips, Lettuce, Peas, Beets, Onions, and all Vegetables, remove large quantities of Potash from the soil. Supply Potash

in liberal quantities by the use of fertilizers containing not less than 10% actual Potash. Better and more profitable yields are sure to follow.

GERMAN KALI WORKS, 23 Nassau St., New York.

WONDERFUL PROGRESS. In one hour by the use of our LETTERED FINGERBOARD and SIMPLIFIED INSTRUCTION. Latest Musical Invention, which can only be had with the "PREMIUM" GUITARS, MANDOLINS, BANJOS, VIOLINS.

HARNESS! Our stock of Leather that we bought before the advance will soon be exhausted and then we will have to advance our prices about 25 per cent. Any person in need of HAND MADE HARNESS can save money by purchasing at once.

Is a book containing illustrations, prices and descriptions of 30,000 articles in common use, a book that will show you at a glance if you are paying too much for the goods you are now buying,

WORTH ANYTHING TO YOU? Is it worth the 15 CENTS in stamps required to pay postage or express charges on a copy? THE BUYERS GUIDE AND CATALOGUE (issued every March and September) is the book we are talking about; you are not safe without a copy of the latest edition in the house.

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO., 111 to 116 Michigan Ave., Chicago

THE HAMILTON GROCERY COMPANY, No. 238, 240 and 242—East Pearl St. CINCINNATI, OHIO.

BIG PROFITS. FRUITS and VEGETABLES providing you use the right kinds of trees and seeds.

We furnish the very best Michigan Grown TREES and SEEDS at the RIVER RAISIN VALEY NURSERIES of Monroe, Mich. Besides our famous specialties, the WINTER BANANA APPLE, the NEW PROLIFIC PEACH and the NEW CONRATH BLACK RASPBERRY...

DOES QUALITY COUNT? If you are particular about what kind of NURSERY STOCK you set—if you are anxious to get started right—if you want to feel easy knowing that what you buy will prove to be HEALTHY and TRUE TO NAME, write us to-day, or call on the SECRETARY of YOUR GRANGE and learn about us.

We have a large line of choice. Apple, Pear, Peach, Plum, Cherry, small fruit plants, and shrubs. Our low prices may surprise you.

WEST MICHIGAN NURSERIES, Benton Harbor, Mich. R. MORRILL, Pres't. O. E. FIFEHEAD, Sec'y and Treas. P. S.—See Confidential Trade Circular, p 40.

YOU CAN MAKE MONEY. By buying our STRAWBERRY RASPBERRY and BLACKBERRY plants direct from grower. Warfield, Crescent, Mitchell's Early, and Lovett's Early, at \$2 per Mich. Others according. Catalogue free. R. J. STAHELIN, Bridgman, Mich.

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