

# THE Grange Visitor

ISSUED

MONTHLY

BY THE **EXECUTIVE**  
Michigan State



**COMMITTEE** OF THE  
Grange, P. of H.

Vol. 1.

SCHOOLCRAFT, DECEMBER, 1875.

No. 9.

**Officers Michigan State Grange.**

M.--J. J. WOODMAN,	- - -	Paw Paw.
O.--P. W. ADAMS,	- - -	Tecumseh.
L.--C. L. WHITNEY,	- - -	Muskegon.
S.--H. FLEMING,	- - -	Pontiac.
A. S.--W. H. MATTISON,	- - -	Ionia.
C.--A. M. FITCH,	- - -	Albion.
SEC.--J. T. COBB,	- - -	Schoolcraft.
T.--S. F. BROWN,	- - -	" "
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POMONA.--MRS. W. T. ADAMS,	- - -	Grand Rapids.
FLORA.--MRS. J. J. WOODMAN,	- - -	Paw Paw.
L. A. S.--Mrs. W. H. MATTISON,	- - -	Ionia.

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SAMUEL LANGDON,	- - -	Bowen Station.
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J. J. WOODMAN, J. T. COBB,	- - -	Ex. Officio.

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THOS. MARRS,	for Berrien Co.,	P. O. Berrien Cr.
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THE VISITOR is issued monthly by order of the Executive Committee, under the supervision of the Master and Secretary of the State Grange. It is sent to the Master and Secretary of each Grange, and it should be read in open Grange at the first meeting after it is received, for the information of members. The subscription price of the VISITOR is 40 cents per annum.

We shall adhere to Grange principles, and require the money with the order.

The last page will be devoted to advertisements, of interest to Patrons, at the following rates:

One column 1 month,	.....	\$12.00
Half " " "	.....	7.00
Quarter " " "	.....	4.00
One-eighth " " "	.....	2.50

On advertisements ordered for three months, a discount of ten per cent. will be made.

On advertisements ordered for six months, a discount of twenty per cent. will be made.

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Send money in registered letter, by postoffice money order, or draft, and direct all communications to J. T. Cobb, Schoolcraft, Mich.

THE Kalamazoo Business College is crowded with students. Call and see this hive of business knowledge.

**MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.**

**Annual Address of the Master-Secretary's Report, etc.**

REPRESENTATIVE HALL,  
Lansing, Dec. 14th, 1875.

At 2 p. m., the appointed hour, the State Grange was called to order by Worthy Master Woodman.

The roll of members elect was called by the Secretary and a quorum found present.

A Committee on Credentials having been appointed and made their report, the Worthy Master delivered his annual address, as follows:

**MASTER'S ADDRESS.**

*Members of Michigan State Grange,  
Patrons of Husbandry:*

As the chosen Representatives of the Subordinate Granges of Michigan, we have met to-day to consider grave and important questions relating to the interests of the agriculturists of our State and Country; and to devise means for a closer, stronger, and more perfect organization; and encourage a more general and systematic co-operation among farmers. The propitious year just drawing to a close, laden with its fruits and its blessings, should remind us of the goodness and condescensions of the Great Giver of all good; and fill our hearts with deep gratitude for the blessings bestowed. Then let us acknowledge our obligations to Him, and invoke His aid and guidance in all our deliberations.

As I cast my eyes upon these familiar walls and objects, I am reminded that we have assembled in the Legislative Hall of our State, where the representatives of the people have for a long number of years been accustomed to meet, and enact the laws which have helped to develop our State, and "make the wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose."

Although we do not meet as legislators, to enact laws for the State, yet no legislative body ever assembled in these halls, with duties more closely connected with the interests and welfare of the people, than those devolving upon us.

It is the aim of our organization to make the daily lives of men and women better, nobler, truer, holier and happier, to encourage education, social culture, and a better development of the noble faculties of our natures, to provide for ourselves and our children comfortable homes, unincumbered farms, and a fair remuneration for the products of our labor; to beautify

our homes and increase their attraction for our children, and their love for them and our profession, and thereby encourage the boys to stay upon the farms, to prevent family jars, dissensions and separations, to lessen neighborhood strife and disagreements, and prevent litigation among farmers, to increase the income of our farms by better cultivation, greater diversity of crops, closer study of the market, and increased knowledge of the laws of trade; to diffuse among the members of the Order a better knowledge of business, and the theory of practicing economy in all things, discarding the "credit system, the mortgage system, and every other system that leads to prodigality and bankruptcy; and thus by increasing the profits of labor, and systematizing our business, bridge over the chasm between labor and its results, with joys and blessings which make labor pleasant, healthful and honorable, and the laborer contented and happy; to encourage home manufactures, and every branch of productive industry, to bring the producer and consumer into the closest and most intimate relations, to encourage the building of railroads and canals, and the improvement of our rivers and harbors, and thereby secure cheaper transportation for our surplus produce to market; and to demonstrate to the world that farming is a profession, and all who are engaged in it are closely allied in sympathies and interests, and can cooperate in an organization for their own mutual benefit and protection, as well as persons engaged in the other avocations of life.

These are among the principles which underlie our Order, and will indicate something of the nature of the work before us.

This State Grange was organized April 15th, 1873, with but nineteen subordinate granges, they now number 611. The excitement and novelty attending the organization of Granges, has in a measure passed away, and we are now dealing with stern facts and principles, that will demonstrate the strength or weakness of the organization. Then we were teaching a theory, now we are practicing that theory. Then we were inspired with the anticipation of realizing some real benefit from the organization, now we are encouraged and strengthened by what we have accomplished, or discouraged by failing to realize all that we anticipated.

The great problem of "successful

co-operation among farmers," has been practically solved by hundreds of Granges in our own State, and by thousands in other States; and I have failed to learn of a single instance, where a Grange has put forth a reasonable effort to secure to its members the benefits of the Order, either social, educational or financial, that has not received a full measure of rewards; and in every instance where the members of a Grange have failed to be benefited, the fault has been with the Grange. These facts should inspire us with renewed confidence in the teachings of the Order, and stimulate us to greater and more determined effort, to put them in practice.— "That which costs nothing is worth nothing," and "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," are maxims that should be emblazoned upon the walls of every Grange hall, and instilled into the mind of every member.

#### NATIONAL GRANGE.

At the last meeting of the State Grange the following resolutions were adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That our representatives to the National Grange be requested to use their efforts in getting a revision of our Ritual at the next session of the National Grange, so as to conform to the copy reported by Bro. T. A. Thompson, of the National Grange.

*Resolved*, That the representatives of this Grange to the National Grange be instructed to use their best endeavors to have the Constitution of the National Grange so amended that the National Grange shall consist of two representatives from each State Grange, who shall be elected annually.

*Resolved*, That they be instructed to use their influence to have the surplus money now in the treasury of the National Grange distributed pro rata among the several State Granges, except so much as may be needed for the necessary expenses of the same.

These resolutions were presented to the National Grange, and your representatives labored to secure the required changes in the Ritual and Constitution of the Order.

The Ritual as revised has been adopted, and will be published as soon as a new edition is required.

Other State Granges not asking for the change indicated in the second resolution, it was not made.

The discussion of the principles embodied in the third resolution opened up the whole subject of the financial condition and workings of the National Grange, the Executive Committee asking and demanding a thorough and complete investigation of every business transaction entrusted to their hands, and explained every act that was questioned, to the satisfaction of all, that honesty and integrity had characterized every business transaction of the National Grange.

The history of the organization shows that the receipts during the first five years of its existence were not sufficient to cover the actual and necessary expenses, and many of the officers labored without pay, as the following resolution passed at the sixth annual meeting will indicate:

*Resolved*, That whenever a surplus of \$1,000 shall be in the treasury of the National Grange not otherwise appropriated, the Master of the National Grange shall issue a draft, countersigned by the Secretary, upon the Treasurer, in favor of Wm. Saunders, D. C., for that amount.

This resolution was passed by a standing vote, and the amount appropriated as a testimonial for the years of valuable labor given to the Order by that able and worthy officer. Du-

ring the years 1873 and '74, the Order grew rapidly and the receipts were large; but the expenses necessary to furnish the new Granges with blanks, Rituals, song-books, instructions, samples of regalia, and to pay for postage, drayage, and express charges, as well as for labor, clerk-hire, and the expenses of Organizing Deputies, were correspondingly large. Yet, on the 1st day of January, 1875, there was in the treasury \$92,353.95. From this sum the National Grange authorized a loan to the several State Granges, without interest, in proportion to the amount paid in, of \$54,825, at the same time reducing the amount of annual dues required of members from ten to five cents, that being the whole amount required of members to support the National Grange. By reacceptance of the National Grange, this loan has been made a donation to the State Granges, and our State Grange will receive \$1,377.50, with interest at six per cent. per annum from the first day of the present month until drawn. The expenses of every department of the National Grange have been reduced.— The salary of the Master has been reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,200 per annum, the Secretary's from \$2,500 to \$2,000, the Treasurer's from \$1,000 to \$600, and the Executive Committee and Lecturer receive five dollars per day each, when engaged in business for the Order. Under the present arrangement it is expected that the receipts will be sufficient to cover all expenses, but no large amount can accumulate in the treasury. No fears need be entertained for the safety of surplus funds in the treasury of the National Grange, for they are invested in government bonds drawing six per cent. interest and as safe as the government itself.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The following amendments to the Constitution of our Order were proposed by the National Grange at its ninth annual session, held in Louisville, Ky., November, 1875, which I submit for your careful consideration. Each amendment must be considered and voted upon separately, and if ratified by three-fourths of all the State Granges, will be incorporated into the Constitution:

1. Amend the preamble, under the head of "STATE GRANGE," by substituting the following for section 1:

"Section 1. *Fifth Degree*, Pomona (Hope). Composed of the Masters and Past Masters of Subordinate Granges, and their wives who are matrons; provided that Past Masters and their wives who are matrons shall be honorary members, eligible to office, but not entitled to vote; and provided that when the number of Subordinate Granges in any State becomes so great as to render it necessary, the State Grange may, in such manner as it may determine, reduce its representatives by providing for the election of a certain proportion of those entitled to membership in the State Grange from each county, and the members so chosen shall constitute the voting members of the State Grange."

2. Amend the preamble, under the head of "STATE GRANGE," by adding the following: "The wives of the delegates elected to the State Grange as provided for in the preceding section, if matrons, shall be voting members of that body."

3. Amend the constitution, under the head of "ORGANIZATION OF STATE GRANGES, in the 4th line of page 4, by

striking out the words "not to exceed three."

4. Amend the preamble to the Constitution, under the head "NATIONAL GRANGE," by inserting between the words "Master" and "of," where they occur in the second line of said paragraph, the words "Past Masters and their wives," and also by adding at the close of said paragraph the words following, to wit: "Provided, that only those members of the National Grange who are Masters of State Granges, and their wives who are matrons, shall be entitled to vote therein; and provided further, that Past Masters and their wives who have taken the Degree of Pomona, and all former members of the National Grange, shall be honorary members of the National Grange and eligible to office therein, but shall not be entitled to vote."

5. Amend article 1, section 1, of the constitution by inserting the word "District" between the words "State" and "or," where they occur in the second line of said section.

7. Amend article 1, section 2, of the constitution by inserting between the words "practicable" and "in," where they occur in the fourth line of said section, the words following, to wit: "In the District Grange annually at such time as each District Grange may determine."

7. Amend article 1, section 2, of the constitution by striking out the word "three," where it occurs in the sixth line of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two."

8. Amend article 2, section 2, of the constitution by inserting between the words "annually" and "at," where they occur in the first line of said section, the words "or biennially," and by striking out the words "from year to year," where they occur in the second line of said section.

9. Amend article 6 of the constitution by substituting the following therefor: "Each State Grange shall fix the fee for membership in its own jurisdiction."

10. Amend article 5, by adding the following after the word "refunded," in the seventh line of said article: "And no petition shall be received from a rejected applicant until six months shall have elapsed after such rejection."

11. Amend article 7, section 1, of the constitution by substituting therefor the following: "Each member shall pay into the treasury of the Subordinate Grange to which he belongs a monthly due, to be determined by the State Grange to which it is attached."

12. Amend article 7, section 2, of the constitution by substituting therefor the following: "The Secretary of each Subordinate Grange shall report quarterly to the Secretary of his State Grange the number of persons initiated since his last report, and also the number who, by death, expulsion, removal, or otherwise, have ceased to be members within the same time; and shall pay to the Secretary of the State Grange such an amount of dues on each member and fees for each person initiated during the quarter as the State Grange may determine; provided that any State Grange may require such reports and payments to be made through the Secretaries of the County Granges."

13. Amend article 7, section 3, of the constitution by striking out the word "ten," where it occurs in the third line of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

14. Amend article 8, section 7, of the constitution by striking out the word "one," where it occurs in the first line of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two."

The first amendment restores Past Masters and their wives who are matrons, to honorary membership in the State Grange, making them eligible to office, but not entitled to vote, and defining who are voting members of the State Grange.

The second amendment defines the



meaning of the first, making the wives of all delegates elected to the State Grange voting members, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of elected delegates.

The third will make all fourth degree members, in good standing, eligible to membership in the Pomona Grange, and entitled to receive the lessons of the Fifth Degree.

The fourth amends the preamble under the head of "National Grange," by restoring Past Masters and their wives to honorary membership, and defining who are voting members of the National Grange.

The fifth corrects an omission in section one of the Constitution.

The sixth requires that officers shall be elected annually in district or county Granges.

The seventh will limit the term of office, in the National Grange, to two years, instead of three, as provided in the present Constitution.

The eighth will allow State Granges to hold biennial sessions only, if they so desire.

The ninth will give each State Grange power to fix the fee for membership within its jurisdiction.

The tenth defines the time that must elapse before a rejected candidate can renew his application for membership.

The eleventh makes it the duty of the State Grange to fix the amount of dues to be paid to it, by subordinate Granges.

The twelfth prescribes the duties of Secretaries in making their quarterly reports.

The thirteenth extends the time, from ten to thirty days, that Secretaries of State Granges are required to pay over to the Treasurer all moneys in their hands.

The fourteenth will allow subordinate Granges to confer two degrees on the same candidate, at the same meeting.

As most the State Granges hold their annual meetings within the next two months, these amendments will be voted upon, and, if ratified, will be so announced by proclamation of the Master of the National Grange, and will take effect at the date of such proclamation.

Any legislation that is deemed necessary to secure to the Order the benefits of these amendments, should be made to take effect, when the amendments are ratified.

#### FEEES AND DUES.

In determining the amount of membership fees and quarterly dues to be paid by members, much discretion and forethought should be exercised. A Grange with a strong treasury will live and prosper, while one with its treasury empty or bankrupt, will languish and die.

#### BUSINESS CO-OPERATION.

One of the most important questions that will demand your attention, is that of business co-operation. This important interest of the Order should be encouraged; and a system, simple, safe, and practical in its operations adopted, so as to bring the business of co-operation within the reach of every member of the Order.

The Executive Committee of the

State Grange have labored faithfully and well, to develop a system for business, and have succeeded as well as could be expected. A large amount has been saved to members of the Order through the business operations of the State and Local Agents; and no losses have been sustained, that have come to my knowledge. Much credit is due to the committee, for their untiring zeal, and wise discretion; yet the system and plans devised by them, could only be experimental in their operations, and their success, demonstrated, only by practical test.

Much valuable information upon this important subject, can be gathered from the experience of our State and Local agents, that will aid in perfecting a system.

The Executive Committee of the National Grange, composed of men of large business experience, have devoted much time and labor, in preparing a system for co-operative stores, and business, which seems to be simple and practical, requiring but a small capital to commence business with; and may be adopted and successfully operated by a single grange, or a number of granges associating together. This is substantially the Rochedale plan, which has been put into practical operation in England, with results entirely satisfactory, and is acknowledged to be the most successful plan for business co-operation that has ever been devised. This system was considered, and recommended by the National Grange; a copy of which is herewith submitted for your consideration.

I am inclined to the opinion, that however perfect and well devised may be this system, many of the subordinate Granges will continue to mass their orders, and deal directly with the manufacturers. Hence State and Local Agents will be needed, and should be provided for. The following will indicate my views of the duties of a State Agent.

1st. To make contracts with manufacturers and wholesale dealers, for the benefit of subordinate granges, and co-operative associations.

2d. To fill the orders for Local Agents when accompanied with cash, at cost.

3d. To employ reliable business men, in some of the commercial cities, to sell farm produce at reasonable rates, taking ample security for fair dealing and prompt remittances.

4th. To secure the lowest and best rates for freight, on farm produce and all articles, shipped or ordered by authorized agents of the Order: for the benefit of members of the Order.

5th. To co-operate with the agents of other States, by exchanging price lists, filling each others orders, purchasing together, selling together, and uniting their influence and efforts, to secure desirable purchases, low freights, and uniformity in business operations.

6th. To do no retail business.

The experience of the past has demonstrated that manufacturers and wholesale dealers will sell at lower rates, when goods are bought in quantities, and paid for in cash; hence the agent should be supplied with funds, to enable him to take advantage of the market and buy at the lowest possible rates. For this purpose funds could

be supplied from the treasury of the State Grange, taking ample security for the same. The agent should receive a reasonable compensation for his services, which might also be paid by the State Grange.

Local Agents should be appointed by the subordinate Granges associating together, in convenient business centers, and to be paid for their services in such manner as the Granges employing them may determine. Examples worthy of imitation for our agents and subordinate Granges, may be found, in the experience and practice of our most successful business men. They commenced business with small capital, doing a limited but safe business at first, studying diligently to establish a reputation for honesty, and promptness in all business matters, and to obtain a thorough knowledge of business, and the laws of trade,—increasing their business with the accumulated means and knowledge, and thus mastered their profession. So our agents, subordinate granges, and co-operative associations, should commence buying and selling upon a safe cash basis, studying carefully the laws of trade, state and fluctuation of the market, and value of all commodities,—increasing their business as their accumulated means, wants, and knowledge may justify.

#### POMONA GRANGES.

The Pomona Grange should have a general supervision of the work of the Order within the district, and should "encourage, strengthen, and aid the subordinate granges." If the third amendment proposed to the constitution is ratified, these Granges will be open to every fourth degree member in good standing, and will constitute large and strong organizations, with ample means and influence to accomplish a valuable work, in systematizing business, preserving harmony, aiding the weak, encouraging the disheartened, and infusing life and interest into all the subordinate Granges within their jurisdiction. They should hear and adjust all matters of difference between contiguous Granges, assist in establishing jurisdiction; and should provide for public meetings and discussions, at such times and places as the good of the Order may require. It should be made the duty of the Lecturer of the Pomona Grange, to visit every subordinate Grange within the limits of its jurisdiction, at least once in each year, and oftener if necessary, and give instructions in the unwritten work and deliver addresses upon subjects relating to the interests and welfare of the Order.

I am of the opinion that much good could be accomplished, and the interests of the Order promoted, by requiring subordinate Granges to make quarterly reports to the county or Pomona Granges. Blanks could be furnished for this purpose by the State Grange, and filled by the Secretary at the last meeting in each quarter; and forwarded to the Secretary of the Pomona Grange to be read to that body, and placed on file or recorded in a book to be provided for that purpose. These reports should give the number of members received during the quarter, the number suspended or expelled, and the whole number of members in good standing.

Also the receipts and expenditures during the quarter, and amount in the treasury, condition of the library and number of volumes added thereto, amount of sales and purchases through the grange agencies, and amount saved, also mode of co-operation in business, successes and failures, and general remarks.

I am also of the opinion that a system of crop reports, can be inaugurated, that will cost but a trifle, and yet be of great value to members of the Order. Blanks for this purpose could be furnished with the blanks for general reports, and filled at the same meeting. These reports should give the condition of the growing crops, within the jurisdiction of the Grange, yield, when harvested, amount raised, surplus for market, &c., &c. This information could be compiled by the Secretary of the Pomona Grange, and sent to the Secretary of the State Grange, and published in the VISITOR.

In my judgment, no other system of crop reports can be devised, that will furnish this valuable information so accurate, at small expense, and tend so much to develop thought among the members of the Order upon this important subject. I submit it for your consideration.

Ten Pomona Granges have been organized and are in successful working order, and other applications are in. I have placed the work of organization in the hands of the Worthy State Deputy, for detailed account of which, I refer you to his report. A form of By-Laws should be provided for Pomona and subordinate Granges, and published with the By-Laws of the State Grange.

#### THE GRANGE VISITOR.

On entering upon the duties of the Master's office, I was early impressed with the absolute necessity of a regular and more direct medium of communication between the State Grange, and Subordinate Granges, in order to furnish the subordinate Granges with the information and instructions which they asked, and were entitled to receive. All communication between the State and subordinate Granges, up to that time, had been carried on by written correspondence, and circulars issued by the Executive Committee at irregular periods, and considerable expense to the State Grange. The correspondence of the Master's office had become almost overwhelming. Worthy Master S. F. Brown, realizing the situation, in his communication to the last State Grange, recommended, that this want, be supplied by establishing a State organ, which the State Grange refused to do. I called the attention of the Executive Committee to this subject, and they decided to issue a Circular monthly, to take the place of all other circulars, except such as might be necessary to communicate matters, which the good of the Order require to be strictly confidential. The Executive Committee had no intention of publishing a newspaper, but an Executive Circular, containing official information, and matter relating directly to the interests of the Order. As the word "Circular" was construed to imply a trancient sheet, it became necessary to change the name in order to secure lower rates of postage. This

whole subject is submitted for your consideration, and the accompanying documents will explain more fully the action of the Executive Committee, and other matters relating to the subject.

#### TRIALS AND APPEALS.

No well defined system for trials and appeals have been provided for the Order. I recommend that a sufficient number of blank forms, to give system and uniformity of action in all cases, be provided and published with the By-Laws.

#### STATE LECTURER AND GENERAL DEPUTY.

These two offices have been combined in one, and the duties of that officer have been arduous, with pay not commensurate with the labor performed. It is a principle in our noble Order, that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." The body must have "food and raiment," and the wife and children a home and the comforts of life. I would not recommend, high salaries, but a reasonable compensation, for honest and faithful labor should be provided.

#### THE DEGREES.

Some worthy members of our Order are asking that all the higher degrees be abolished, thinking that they confer special privileges, upon those who receive them, and thus create an aristocracy in the Order. This is an illusion. The degrees are only honorary and intended in a small degree to encourage and develop the noble God-given principle in the human mind, described by the word EXCELSIOR, the exercise of which has removed man from the brute creation, and nations from barbarism to the highest degree of civilization. The beautiful and instructive lessons of the degrees, are well calculated to inspire and elevate. Every fourth degree member can attend all the business sessions of the Pomona, State and National Granges; and by the action of the National Grange, at its recent session, it is intended to make all the degrees accessible to every member of the Order, as rewards for faithful labor.

In conclusion let me congratulate you upon the unequalled prosperity of our Order, not only in this State, but throughout our whole country. The work of organization in most of the States is nearly completed, and the Order is settling down to practical, earnest work. The social and educational benefits, realized by members of the Order, cannot be estimated by dollars and cents; and the amount saved through the operations of the business agencies, amounting in the aggregate to \$25,000,000 annually, will indicate something of the pecuniary benefits received by them. The outlook is most cheering, and should inspire us with renewed confidence, in the ultimate triumph of our noble cause. In our Order all power is in the Subordinate Granges, and whatever they demand must be granted. We, as their chosen representatives, must labor for their interests. If we fail to do this, we shall be unworthy the confidence reposed in us. I am aware there are worthy members in our Order who ask for radical changes in our organic law. That there are errors and imperfections, cannot be doubted, but time and experience will correct them. No

changes should be made without due consideration; and in recommending changes, the utmost caution should be exercised. The bridge that has carried us safely over, can be trusted, and he who would destroy it, should measure well the chasm, before he attempts to leap it.

J. J. WOODMAN,  
Master.

#### Secretary's Report.

##### Worthy Master and Patrons:

To you, the Patrons of the State, I present for the third time my annual report of the business with which you have entrusted me.

A by-law of the State Grange requires me to act under the direction of the Master and Executive Committee. It therefore seems in order to refer to some of the duties with which I have been charged by the Committee.

At its second meeting in February last, at Lansing, preliminary steps were taken to have the State Grange incorporated. By direction of the Executive Committee, Judge Howell: of Adrian, was employed to draft an Act for the Incorporation of the State, County and Subordinate Granges, which, when done, was examined by the Executive Committee, received its approval, and, in due time, by legislative enactment on the 8th of April, became a law. Judge Howell also drafted Articles of Association for the State, County, and subordinate Granges, and as soon as practicable, the State Grange was incorporated, in compliance with the law.

I prepared and had printed blank Articles of Association for subordinate Granges, with a copy of Charter granted by the National Grange attached, for the incorporation of subordinate Granges, and have furnished such blanks on application.

To what extent such incorporation has been perfected under the law I am not able to determine. And I would recommend that subordinate Granges be required to send a certified statement of the fact and date of incorporation to the Secretary of the State Grange, and that the Secretary be required to file and preserve such certificate.

As the Act of Incorporation makes it necessary that a copy of the Charter issued by the National Grange be attached to the Articles of Association, and as Charters of Pomona Granges under the authority of the National Grange, must issue from the State Grange, it was found that, under the Act of Incorporation as we find it, Pomona Granges could not become incorporated.

This is unfortunate, as it is expected that Pomona Granges will take the place of County Councils in the business department of the Order, and it is very desirable that they have a recognized legal existence.

By order of the Executive Committee, your Secretary was required, in conjunction with the Master of the State Grange, to issue a monthly circular, and mail a copy to each Master and Secretary of the Granges in the State, which requirement has been complied with, the first number having been issued in April last: It was first offered to subscribers at 50 cents,



and afterwards at 40 cents per annum. We have made no effort to secure subscribers, and of the 540 names on our books the time of one-half will expire with the December number.

The make up, management, and distribution of the sheet having been mainly committed to me, it seems necessary and proper that I make a statement of its financial relation to the State Grange Treasury—all the more necessary as apprehensions were expressed State Treasury, not yet plethoric, was about to be depleted by the agents of the Executive Committee, in direct violation of the expressed wishes of the State Grange. In answer to this I would simply refer to the report made to the Executive Committee, as found in the August number of the VISITOR. We have excluded from the VISITOR every thing not directly relating to subjects of interest to the Order, and beyond this it has been in no sense a newspaper. Eight numbers have been issued, of 2000 copies each. Over 1350 copies (with postage paid) of each issue have been sent to Masters and Secretaries of subordinate Granges, Masters and Secretaries of State Granges, and to exchanges, without any cash return whatever.

We have received from advertisers .....	\$201 38
And from subscribers .....	155 73
<b>Total receipts .....</b>	<b>\$357 11</b>
Have paid for printing .....	\$248 00
Postage .....	30 08
Wrapping paper .....	3 00
Extra help, folding, mailing, &c .....	5 25
My actual expenses .....	20 25
<b>Total expenditures .....</b>	<b>\$306 58</b>
Leaving a balance over expenditures .....	\$50 53

As the Worthy Master has given this subject all the attention it deserves, we shall only add, that in what we have done we know of no motive or act to which we do not invite the closest scrutiny of every good Patron; and though the monthly publication and distribution of this sheet, small as it is, added very much to our labor, yet, without one word of complaint, we shall cheerfully acquiesce in whatever disposition the State Grange may make of this whole subject.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee, at Battle Creek, I was directed to prepare blank orders for Plaster, and send to all Grange Secretaries and ask them to canvass their several Granges, procure orders, and return the same to me. Orders have been so returned prior to the 1st inst., amounting to 5571 tons. I have made a short record of the same, and forwarded, from time to time, the orders to Brother Weston. With the orders came very many letters of assurance that Bro. Weston will be sustained, no matter how much the Plaster Association may cut down the price.

We have just been notified by Bro. Weston that he will be prepared to fill orders by the 15th of January next.

The Committee ordered balances due the Masters of Granges No. 13, 19, 31, and 139, for attendance at the State Grange session of 1874, to be paid, and orders to the amount of \$34.24 were drawn on the State Treasurer for that purpose.

We were also directed to draw or-

ders on the Treasurers of the several subordinate Granges whose Masters and their wives were in attendance at the last session of the State Grange, in payment of the per diem and mileage of such members. The total amount of these orders issued is \$531.60, and there has been returned in payment of fees and dues to the amount of \$254.20. Of the outstanding orders for \$287.40 the fees and dues of three, and in some instances four quarters, have been endorsed. And we are of the opinion that the fees and dues of the current quarter will cancel nearly all these orders.

We would respectfully recommend that the State Grange authorize the payment by orders on the State Treasurer, of whatever balances may be due on the Master's orders after the payment of the fees and dues of this quarter have been endorsed thereon. Such payment to be made only when Secretaries' reports have been made in full for the year 1875.

As required by the State Grange at its last session, I have collected from the administrator of the estate of D. B. Hull, first Treasurer of the State Grange, the balance in his hands at the time of his death, amounting to \$1,160, and paid the same over to the State Treasurer.

We have also received from J. J. Robison, second Treasurer of the State Grange, and paid to State Treasurer Brown, \$151.58, the balance in his hands on settlement.

The expense account of my office has been, since, Jan. 1st:

For postage .....	\$250 71
" blank books .....	15 90
" printing, blanks and stationery .....	211 85
" office furniture .....	61 68
" " rent .....	23 00
" clerk hire .....	76 20
" miscellaneous expense account .....	135 55
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$783 90</b>

The last item includes telegraphing, traveling, and all my expense attending the incorporation of the State Grange and the publication of the VISITOR.

My account with the State Grange shows since Jan. 1st an indebtedness:

To fees and dues received to Dec. 1st .....	\$6289 14
" fees of special deputies .....	50 00
" amt received of estate of D. B. Hull .....	1190 00
" " " J. J. Robison .....	151 58
" " " E. R. Shankland .....	200 00
" " " J. S. Thomas .....	25 00
" " " Advertisers in the VISITOR .....	201 38
" " " Subscribers to the VISITOR .....	155 73
" balance received from supply acct. .....	274 78
" fees from Pomona Granges .....	30 00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$8537 61</b>

<b>CREDIT:</b>	
By Ledger Balance .....	\$6 80
" amt on settlement with A. Sessions .....	32 60
" cash returned to Palo Grange .....	8 02
" amount of Treasurer's receipts .....	\$8490 19
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$8537 61</b>

An itemized statement of account, with vouchers for all expenditures, and the books of our office, have been submitted to the Executive Committee for examination.

It will be remembered that an appeal for aid was made a year ago by Patrons of Kansas and Nebraska, and that in answer to that appeal Worthy Master Brown issued a circular to the Patrons of Michigan, asking them to forward their contributions directly to the Masters of those State Granges or to me, as the donors might prefer. In response to that circular, between the 23d of December, 1874, and the 17th day of May, 1875, I received

\$1157.73. Of this amount, \$307.50 was sent to Wm. B. Porter, Master of the State Grange of Nebraska, and the remainder, by direction of the Executive Committee, was sent to John G. Otis, State agent of Kansas—vouchers for which amounts I hold.

As soon as rules and regulations for their organization had been adopted, we prepared and had printed the necessary blanks for the organization of Pomona Granges, together with quarterly reports of Secretaries, and such certificates of election, credentials, and other blank forms as seemed necessary for the successful working of the machinery of that organization. These blanks have been furnished on application, without charge.

The Executive Committee authorized the printing of 10,000 copies of By-Laws of the last session. We had 2,300 printed, and as the demand has been very light, this supply has been ample.

While subordinate Grange Secretaries have not all attended to their duties as well as we could wish, yet in making reports there has been a marked improvement within the last six weeks.

As the winter, with its comparative leisure for farmers, is before us, I anticipate more frequent meetings and a better attendance, will stimulate the officers and members, and that a few months hence a much better showing might be made than the one we now offer.

Of the 611 Granges in this jurisdiction that have received dispensations from the National Grange, we find, on the first inst., 443 were fully reported; 82 were delinquent in reports for one quarter, 32 for two quarters, 18 for three quarters, 7 for four quarters, 2 for five quarters, 5 for six quarters. Nos. 216 and 451 have never reported, and No. 258 has formally surrendered its charter. From the remaining 13 lately organized no reports are yet due. Those delinquent for one and two quarters will, without doubt, nearly all report before the 1st of January.

The membership of the order in the State, as near as we can determine from reports received, was, on the 30th of Sept., 34,275.

We have given the business committed to us, our undivided attention during the past year, and though the circulation of the VISITOR has somewhat diminished our correspondence, yet new questions are constantly arising, and new lines of labor seem to open up before us.

In many things we are called on to do, we are without precedent to follow, or the light of experience to guide us, and do not expect to show as complete work as under more favorable circumstances. We are more and more impressed with the important truth that the enterprise in which we are engaged is of vast proportions, and that its development will require a period of time that the many have failed yet to understand. In the business department of the Order we see that a community of men and women are really but grown up children, and can no more, on the presentation of a theory that seems both simple and sound, appropriate it, and immediately

give it practical application in all its completeness, than children can acquire a thorough education in a few short weeks.

The farmers of our country have presented to them a plan or system by which, through organization, immense social, educational and material benefits are promised, but to realize these good results will require time and persistent effort, and involve experiment and failure before these several objects are accomplished facts.

In conclusion, permit me to say that the courteous and friendly character of the extensive correspondence with subordinate Granges of our own State, and Patrons elsewhere, is to me a token of good will and kindly regard, for which I feel truly grateful—affords cheering proof of the fraternal feeling which prevails in our Order, and encourages me in the discharge of those official duties which devolve upon me.

J. T. COBB, *Secretary.*

—Mr. E. V. Neale, of London, one of the pioneers of co-operation in England, in his remarks at a meeting in St. Louis, gave a detailed account of the Rochdale system, explaining it fully as he proceeded. He said one great advantage the Rochdale system of co-operation possessed over the system of buying at wholesale and distributing to customers at cost, was, that it provided for the steady and constant increase of capital and did not interfere with the existing system of doing business, and therefore created no antagonism. Another advantage was, it constituted a sort of savings bank in which the profits of the business in connection with the interest allowed on each share would go to increase its value and thus become a permanent investment for the benefit of the younger members of the family.

How NOT TO DO IT.—A gentleman interested in the manufacture of one of the machines most in demand by the farmers at the present day, informed us that *it cost the company more to sell the goods than it did to make them.* In other words, farmers were paying nearly twice as much for their machinery as they need to do if the "Territorial Agency" system was abolished; and yet how many who read this article have this present season bought their goods of these very "Territorials," instead of our State Grange Agents. This is what we may very properly call "How not to do it."  
—*Wis. State Grange Bulletin.*

—Money is difficult to get at nine per cent on farm mortgages, whilst the farm itself only pays about three per cent. The number of loan societies, building societies, banks, etc., and the dividends they declare, is a fair indication of the profits of money lending. This state of things should arouse our Patrons to grapple with the financial difficulties, and ask themselves the question, how long it will be before they are all bankrupt, and their land in the hands of large monopolies?—*Canada Cor. Patrons' Helper.*

#### State Grange Revenues.

BY WORTHY MASTER A. B. SMEDLEY.

The revenues of the state grange are derived as stated in a former article, from the fee of one dollar for each male, and fifty cents for each female initiated and passed to higher degrees, and the annual due of twenty-four cents for each member, paid by the subordinate grange out of its revenues as fixed by the constitution.—From the money derived from this source the state grange must pay, first the dues to the National Grange; second, the expenses of the state grange annual session (which, until quite recently, owing to the very large number of representatives, has been very heavy,) the salaries of those officers who devote their whole time to the work, the large printing and postage account which this amount of business necessitates, rents, fuel, clerk hire and the expense incurred in the co-operative and business arm of the work. This latter expense, in many states, has been very large, from the fact that at first the whole business relations of the members of the Order had to be in a measure changed, and second, because it was found necessary to pay the expense of this work from the state treasury, for the purpose of gaining the confidence of the patrons and to induce them to take hold of the work with that unity of action which could alone insure success.

Some states undertook, in the beginning, to make their business agencies self-sustaining by charging a commission on sales and purchases. As a rule, however, this plan has failed to meet the approval of the Order.—We are so prone to be suspicious, that it was only by guarding, with the most vigilant care, every possible chance where anything might transpire to create a less of confidence, that it was possible to succeed.

Hence, while in Iowa, and in some other states, this branch of the work has been expensive to the state grange, yet no money has ever been expended in the Order which has brought such satisfactory returns.

Some few State granges, singularly enough, refused to reduce their representation, even when the whole income of the state grange was insufficient to pay the expenses of the annual session. Nearly all, however, have now so changed their constitutions that the masters of subordinate granges select certain of their number to represent them in the state grange, thus relieving the treasury of a large and heavy burden. While new members were rapidly joining, the income derived from this source was ample for the needs of the state grange. But when nearly the whole farming population had become patrons, and the supply from this source was as a consequence materially diminished, it became a serious question how the state grange was to accomplish the work expected of it with the revenue derived from dues alone. It has only been by the most careful economy (at times almost approaching parsimony,) that the work has been carried forward to that degree of success which it has attained. A prominent banker in this state, after com-

plimenting the officers on the promptness of all their business transactions, remarked, "I wish you gentlemen would *show me* how to accomplish the amount of business and carry forward so great a work with so meagre an income." How an organization of the magnitude of the Iowa State Grange, with all its different departments, reaching out into every county in the state, and attaining such grand results as it has, has been carried forward in all its ramifications, paid the expenses of its annual session and its dues to the National Grange, on a yearly contribution of twenty-four cents from each member only, might well puzzle the sharpest financier. But it has been done, and will no doubt be done in the future. The annual dues to the National Grange, and the fact that under a more judicious management, and more harmonious relations with manufacturers, the business agencies are becoming in some degree self-supporting, tends to encouragement.

Our brothers on the Pacific Coast have a quicker way of tiding over any financial difficulty than any we have ever adopted. While in the beginning they made the dues much larger than ours, both to state and subordinate granges, yet when it becomes necessary to carry forward any measure for the general good, (measures which have placed them in the front rank of this reform movement,) each individual at the call of the executive committee quietly and cheerfully furnishes his proportion of the amount needed.

But our brothers and sisters of the coast are, by habits of business and custom, different from us. We are conservative and cautious. Perhaps if we could be stimulated by a little of their zeal, and they receive a little of our conservatism, we might both be nearer the golden mean. Nevertheless, their zeal and enterprise have carried the work forward there to the wonder and admiration of the whole world.

No people recognize more fully and clearly than our brothers in California and Oregon, that to make money, save money, or to reach great results, affecting the general good, money must be used, while we of the north and west are rather apt to be more ready to reap and share benefits than we are to use the means by which, alone, these benefits can be secured. We can but conclude, on looking over the whole subject, that the constitutional contributions of each member, to both subordinate and especially the State Grange, are very small when compared with the results expected to be accomplished, and the wonder is how much has been done with so little money. We have never heard a word of complaint from individual members or others of the masonic fraternity, and yet, while their grand lodge simply aims to provide for the executive and clerical department, yet their income derived from each individual member and each subordinate organization, is several times greater than is that of the state grange; but the state grange must in addition, look after and provide for a much wider range of interests.

In conversation with a gentleman,



prominent as an officer in the Illinois State Farmers' Clubs, I asked why it is that with so many organizations as you have, and formerly had, you have never been able to produce more wide spread and manifest results? His reply was promptly made, "Simply because we had no financial system and no money. In this utilitarian age moral power and money are both needed to achieve great and good results," and, he added, "you grangers have made a long step in advance of us in this direction; but you will ultimately find that even you have too narrow and penurious a financial system, and as small as it is, some of your people, even now, think it burdensome."

Experience, however, has demonstrated that a vast work can be done with a limited amount of means if only wisely, faithfully, and generously administered. That this has been the case with the funds of the state grange, the good done, the work accomplished, speaks abundantly.

Every patron should carefully, each year, look over the reports of the different officers, the reports of the several committees to whom these matters are referred, the quarterly statements of the executive committee, and if he finds anything worthy of commendation, let him not be too chary of a word of encouragement to those who serve us faithfully, and if he finds an evidence of bad judgment, let him not hesitate, in a fraternal way, to give his views and point out the error. We should never forget that the Order is a family, and in all our relations to it and with it, act in accordance with this fact.

#### What Real Co-operation did for those who Practiced it.

In November of last year, at the opening of the pork packing season, the packers at Cincinnati combined and determined to put the market price of hogs at the lowest possible figures, and, after 40,000 head of hogs had been delivered in the pens of Covington and Cincinnati, the packers would make no offers nor buy a hog, but intimated that they might give \$5 per hundred pounds. Had the "feeler" been "jumped at," those who put it out would probably have withdrawn it and made a still lower bid. The farmers, however, knew their hogs to be worth at least two cents more than that, and, under the leadership of S. W. Hudson, president of the district council, representing granges in portions of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, they determined to take nothing less than \$7.50 per hundred. If they could not get that they would pack their own hogs. The money ring stood very firm, but the farmers were made of a different sort of stuff from some we know of, who desert their brethren just when success is about to crown their efforts. They had gone in for co-operation—working and sticking together—and they were determined to hold to their first intentions, let it lead to profit or loss. Such glorious co-operation was bound to win. The packers held out a week, by which time they began to think that the farmers really had a "corner" on the hog market, and that if they did not

give \$7.50 they would have to shut up their pork-packing establishments.—So in one evening they bought the whole stock of 40,000 head at \$7.50 per hundred pounds. The farmers thus made a clean gain of \$2.50 per hundred pounds on about 12,000,000 pounds, or the enormous total gain of \$300,600. This gain would have been to the other side had the farmers been less true to their bargains with each other. One farmer could have spoiled the whole matter by offering to sell his hogs at less than the highest price asked. He could have justified himself, as the whiners generally do, by saying that he was afraid that they would not get \$7.50, and he thought it would be better to take less rather than hold out longer on expense. We are afraid that some of our Arkansas patrons would have been sure to act in this way. Already we are all reaping many advantages from the Order, and could reap much more if we would earnestly co-operate, and already we find so-called patrons ready to abandon the Order and return to the old unprotected style of farming. Our system is not perfect, nor can it be made so without real co-operation among patrons, but we can point out vast benefits which every farmer has gained by it. The one article of cotton ties is an item of great saving effected by our organization. Nearly one-half has the price been reduced. Let the Order die out and the former high rate would probably be resumed. It will not suffice for us to have our names on the books; that is not union of strength, it is merely union of names. We want union of heads, hands, hearts and work; names will do nothing for us. Brethren, we must learn to stick together through "thick and thin."—We must do this, or else we will lose the respect of those who deal with us, and we will gain nothing by our organization. If we establish stores we must deal with them, and not with those who are temporarily under-selling our houses merely to break them down, when prices will immediately rise again. Concentrate your means on the house of your own building; do not fritter them away for the benefit of your enemies. Take pattern after your brethren at Cincinnati, and be real, consistent, true co-operators.—*Arkansas Weekly Grange.*

#### Communications.

SALEM, Oct. 29th, 1875.

Please publish these resolutions in THE GRANGE VISITOR:

WORTHY MASTER:—Your committee would respectfully ask leave to report the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, It has pleased God in His wisdom to call from her earthly relations and labors, our much respected and beloved Sister, M. E. Knapp. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That we the officers and members of Salem Grange, unite in expressing the following sentiments relating to the deceased:

1. That our departed Sister has endured her protracted illness and suffering with much patience, christian fortitude and resignation, thereby

evinced her firm trust in God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. That in the death of our Sister, a devoted member of this Grange, we are painfully conscious of having sustained a very great loss.

3. That we will endeavor to remember and emulate the virtues of her life, and accept her death as an admonition to a more serious consideration of our own frailty, and also as an incentive to cherish and perpetuate a growing social friendship, a more vital christian affection, and a stronger bond of fraternal union among ourselves.

4. That we deeply sympathize with our dear Brother, the companion of the deceased, and his family, in their bereavement, sorrow and loneliness.

5. That a copy of these resolutions be placed in the hands of our afflicted Brother, M. E. Knapp.

Respectfully submitted by

H. G. WARREN,  
Rev. JAMES WELLS,  
R. M. SIMMONS,

D. D. COOK, Sec'y, Committee.  
Salem Grange, No. 476.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Allegan County Convention:

*Resolved*, That it is the desire of this Convention to instruct its delegates to use their vote and influence for the purpose of—

1st. To have all degrees above the fourth abolished.

2d. To have delegates to the State and National Granges elected by and from among the people, and not by virtue of office.

3d. To so alter our Constitution as to make the minimum initiation fee for males \$3.00, and for females \$2.00, also the amount of quarterly dues be reduced to 25 cents per quarter.

G. W. GRIGSBY, Secy.

A Baltimore servant girl the other morning tried that good old time-honored plan of lighting the kitchen fire with kerosene. Nothing has benzine of her since.

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# Supplement to Visitor, December, 1875.

## Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN, - - - PAW PAW.

The following was omitted in the Master's address to the State Grange, as printed in this number.

CENTENNIAL, 1876.

It is proposed to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of our nation's birthday at Philadelphia, in a becoming manner; and all the States of the Union, and nations of the earth, have been invited to unite in a grand International Exhibition. As representatives of the agricultural interests of Michigan, it seems proper that we should give such countenance, aid and support to the enterprise, as the importance of the occasion may demand.

"Michigan will be seen, examined and judged there with her sister states of the union, and forty years of her history as a state, read by the world. The products of her soil, mines, forests, factories and waters, her primary schools, colleges, asylums, reformatories, public works and commercial advantages, will all be judged by the samples exhibited, and statistical information furnished. I am aware that there is but little inducement to stimulate farmers to exhibit the products of their farms, except state and national pride and interest; and that should be the most inspiring of any inducement, that could be offered to an American citizen. Another such an opportunity will never be presented, to show the quality, value and yield of our products, or greatness of our state and nation.

STATE GRANGE.

The State Grange has appointed Hon. Alonzo Sessions, of Ionia; Hon. Henry Chamberlain, of Berrien, and Hon. C. K. Carpenter, of Oakland, a committee on Centennial Interests. These well known gentlemen will visit Philadelphia at an early day, with the view of making arrangements with R. R. companies for carrying members of the Order to and from the Exhibition; and for accommodations for members while there.

The National Grange at its recent session, submitted an amendment to the Constitution, giving each State Grange full power to fix all fees and dues within its jurisdiction; and the State Grange has passed a resolution to reduce the same in this state,—in anticipation of the ratification of this amendment by three-fourths of all the State Granges,—as follows:

"The fees for membership in a Subordinate Grange shall be \$3.00 for males and \$1.00 for females. The dues to the State Grange shall be five cents per quarter for each member of the Subordinate Grange."

This reduction in fees and dues will not be operative, until the Master of the National Grange, by proclamation, announces that the above amendment has been ratified.

The Masters of all Subordinate Granges that were entitled to representation in the convention that elected delegates to the State Grange, or have since paid up their back dues, are entitled to receive the Annual

Word; and can obtain it, from their delegate to State Grange. This word is for the new year, and should not be given to the members of the Grange until the first meeting in January.

## Secretary's Department.

J. T. COBB, - - - - SCHOOLCRAFT.

Officers and members of Subordinate Granges in corresponding with this office, will please always give the *Number* of their Grange.

As we promised in the October number of the VISITOR to give some reports of the Proceedings of the State Grange, held at Lansing, we find it necessary to add a supplement to our regular issue.

The arrangement is not just what we would have had, but a lock-up of a large amount of type in the office of publication, made it necessary to print matter already set up, and distribute the type before the Proceedings had all been received at the office.

By reference to the report of the Standing Committee on Publication of the State Grange, it will be seen that the GRANGE VISITOR has received a formal recognition by the State Grange, and its *continuance* ordered; to be as heretofore under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The endorsement by the State Grange, of the course pursued by the Executive Committee in this matter, meets our expectations. From our acquaintance with the men composing that committee, we feel justified in saying that they were only solicitous to do what they believed would develop and strengthen the Order in this State. The almost unanimous adoption of the report of the Committee on Publication, with its recommendations, affords us the most satisfactory evidence that our efforts to promote the good of the Order in this work, have not been in vain.

The new Executive Committee have not yet considered the recommendations of the Committee on Publication, but will act in this matter at a meeting to be held at the Hurd House, in Jackson, on the second Monday in January.

As the matter now stands, we feel not only at liberty, but deem it our duty to ask the Patrons of the State to come forward and subscribe for the VISITOR. If continued on the same plan as heretofore, and it receives a liberal support, the price may perhaps be reduced. Until action is taken by the Executive Committee, we can only promise that it will be continued.

We hope Masters and Secretaries, who have heretofore received it free, will not only feel that they can, with the expiration of their official year, afford to become paying subscribers, but that they will be active among the members of their Granges in procuring the names of other Patrons. The Granges in this State should take on an average, not less than 20 copies each.

We can only assure you that the price will be put as near *actual cost* as can be determined. In the mean time, forward the present subscription price, 40 cents per annum.

We had an extra 1000 copies of the December number with Supplement printed, and while the edition lasts, all subscribers for 1876 will receive that number free.

The proceedings of the late sessions of the State and National Granges will appear in future Nos. of the VISITOR.

SECRETARY'S BLANK REPORTS.—Secretary's who need blanks for their Quarterly Reports for the current quarter, will please notify me by postal card or otherwise, and we will supply the demand by return mail. As we sent a year's supply in March last, we do not expect that many will be required.

The amendments to the Constitution, proposed by the National Grange, if adopted by the requisite number of States, will make it necessary to have a new form of blanks for Secretary's use. The proposed amendments will probably be made, and we do not wish to furnish the blanks we now have only as needed for the next report. *Reports for this quarter should not be made until after January 1st, 1876.*

BY-LAWS.—As soon as we have time to compile the By-Laws of the State Grange as amended, we shall have them printed, and fill all orders sent us. Some of the changes are important, and every Grange should order a dozen or more copies.

THE election of three members of the Executive Committee was made a special order for 10 A. M. Friday the 17th inst. The outgoing members were N. Chilson, of Battle Creek, Abouzo Sessions, of Ionia, and Samuel Langdon, of Bowen Station, Kent Co. The ballot resulted in the election of C. G. Luce, of Gilead, Branch Co.; S. E. Jeffers, of Okemos, Ingham Co., and Samuel Langdon, re elected.

## Supplies.

We have just received a lot of Blank Books for Records, just what Secretaries of Pomona Granges need, and any other officer or member who needs a good Record Book. Office price, 75 cents; by mail or express, charges pre-paid, \$1.00. Members are requested to examine List of Supplies kept for sale in our office. See last page of VISITOR.

For the information of the representatives to the State Grange who were authorized to communicate the Annual Word, we shall, in the Jan. No. give a list of Granges that from delinquency in reports, or payment of dues, are not entitled to receive it.

—The *American Patron*, in noticing a grand picnic of Patrons at Ottawa, Ohio, says; "It was one of those pleasant affairs that forces observers to admit that the social features of the Order are a success. Or, as a learned doctor remarked that day, 'There is true sociability for you. I would rather have the friendship of people like those we met to-day at the picnic, than to be the leading light of the most aristocratic society in the world. One cannot help feeling that here the welcome is genuine.'"

## PROCEEDINGS.

### Michigan State Grange in Annual Session.

[The reports of Committees are here printed as adopted by the State Grange.]

#### Report of the Executive Committee.

To the Master and Members of the State Grange:

Your Executive Committee would respectfully submit the following report: At the first meeting, held at the Morton House, in Grand Rapids, after the close of the State Grange in Jan. last, N. Chilson of Battle Creek, was chosen as chairman, and was also appointed State Agent for the ensuing year.

The duties of the Agent, though not clearly defined, were understood to cover any arrangement that he might be able to make in relation to transportation, as well as purchases and sales for individual Patrons, subordinate Granges, and County Councils.

The bonds of the Secretary and Treasurer were fixed at \$6,000 each, which were in due time executed to the satisfaction of the Committee, and lodged with the Worthy Master for safe keeping.

A Committee, consisting of Alonzo Sessions and N. Chilson, were appointed to examine the books and vouchers of the Secretary, and report to the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting. The Agent was also instructed to confer with and make as favorable arrangements with the different transportation companies in the State as he could, for the shipment of produce, lumber, salt, &c., in car load lots.

On the 24th of Feb., a meeting was called at Lausling, in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the State Grange at its session in Kalamazoo, in Jan. 1874, for the purpose of securing the passage by the legislature of an act for the incorporation of State and Subordinate Granges.

The Sec'y was directed to secure the services of some competent attorney, and take all necessary steps for the incorporation of the State Grange, and to provide for the incorporation of County and Subordinate Granges. The Secretary's report will give you all the facts which relate to the completion of this work.

In the absence of any action by the State Grange to determine the per diem and mileage to which members were entitled, for attendance at the last session of the State Grange, the Secretary was directed to issue orders to members on the Treasurers of Subordinate Granges, the amount of such order to be determined by the data in his possession and such other information as he could obtain. The Committee also instructed the Secretary to ask Mr. Shankland of the Ex. Committee of the Iowa State Grange to return certain moneys placed in his hands, for sample agricultural implements. We learn from the Sec'y that the money has been returned and paid to the State Treasurer.

The manufacturers of the Climax mowers and reapers offered to furnish

their machines to Patrons at rates that seemed reasonable, and from the reputation which these machines had acquired, and the large orders that were being made by Patrons of other States, your Committee were induced to authorize the State Purchasing Agent to make such arrangements as might seem proper, for introducing them into this State for the benefit of Patrons. Every facility was offered by the manufacturers, to enable the Patrons to test the machine, and samples were sent to agents and members of the order for that purpose. The reports that came to your Committee agree that the mower is not excelled by any other machine. The reaper with dropper attachment is equal to any other machine of that class, and the improved self-rake has proved satisfactory.

At this meeting the question of adopting the plan pursued by the Executive Committee of several other States, viz: of issuing a Monthly Circular, to be distributed to the Granges in the State and furnished to subscribers at a reasonable price, was discussed at length, and adopted. As the action of the committee in this matter has been severely criticised in some quarters, we would say, that all the members were present at the meeting except Br. Woodward, and they were unanimously of the opinion that "such a publication would be for the good of the Order." The Master and Secretary were directed to act as a committee of publication, and pursuant to such instruction, a Monthly Circular was issued regularly until the August meeting of the Committee.

At that time the Master and Secretary made a report of what they had done, which report is herewith submitted. The committee were unanimous in the opinion that the "Circular" then called "VISITOR," should be continued and so ordered. The committee believed that when its action was fully understood, all objections would be removed, and desirous of being so entirely right that its action would receive the sanction of the great mass of the brotherhood, determined to make an effort to conciliate the editor of the *Eru and Granger*, by a showing of the facts in the case, and for that purpose they appointed a committee consisting of Bros. Childs and Cobb, who were instructed to visit Owosso and confer with Bro. Wood upon the matter of difference between them. Our committee of conciliation subsequently made a report, which is herewith submitted. [See Aug. No. of VISITOR.] The course since pursued by Mr. Wood, shows conclusively, that he was not entitled to the consideration he received from us.

As no provision had been made by the State Grange for the payment of our Worthy Lecturer for services, your committee, by resolution, fixed the same at \$3.00 per diem and actual expenses, for the time spent, for which he received no compensation from the Granges or Counties that it became necessary to visit, in the discharge of his duty.

By the action of the National Grange in February last, County or Pomona Granges were authorized, under such rules and regulations as

the State Grange might adopt. As some counties expressed a desire for such organization, it became necessary to provide for their wants. Accordingly Brothers Woodman, Cobb and Whitney were designated as a committee to prepare rules and regulations for this purpose. The result of their labors was submitted to the other members of the committee, by them approved, and appeared in the May number of the Circular.

Sec 1, Art 3, By-Laws of Michigan State Grange makes it incumbent on the Executive Committee to determine the manner of electing the representatives to the State Grange.

A meeting of the committee was called for this purpose, at Battle Creek on the 6th of August. After discussing the matter at considerable length, the following plan was agreed upon:

That a convention should be held at the County seat of each Co, or such other place as a majority of the Masters of the Granges might agree upon. Such convention to be held on the 26th day of October, and to be composed of the Masters of the Subordinate Granges and their wives, who were patrons, and two fourth degree members from each Grange, to be elected by ballot, by the grange.

The committee made the further provision that where one-fifth of the granges represented in the convention demand it, the convention should proceed to district the county, before an election was held.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### DIFFICULTIES MET WITH.

Your committee have not yet been able to accomplish all that they desire, and will avow that they have failed to meet your expectations in the matter of business arrangements and results. We have had to travel in untried paths, and our limited means and the prudence manifested in the action of the State Grange, has impelled us to be prudent and cautious. When we consider the means at our disposal, and the adverse circumstances that have surrounded us, it is perhaps a matter of surprise that we have accomplished so much.

Our rivals in business are men who have made it the study of their lives, and who can command unlimited means; and the experience of the last two years has taught us that we cannot compete with them, with entire success, with our agent working without pay, without money, and without any knowledge of the amount of patronage or support he will secure from the members of our Order.

It would be pleasant to be able to report a better condition of trade prospects, and a greater degree of success, but, when we consider that the work of the last two years has been a work of organization, that the material composing the grange is not remarkable for pliability, that it is at this time, far from being a complete and perfect organization, that it is not a compact, solid body, subject to the control of either officers or members, that the methods, customs and habits, that have grown with our growth and strengthened with our strength, are not easily changed, we submit whether it is not a matter of encouragement



and congratulation that so much has been accomplished.

Since August the State Purchasing Agent has been permitted to use the sum of \$500 belonging to the State Grange. Owing to the action of the State Grange at its meeting at Grand Rapids, some doubt arose in the minds of the committee, as to the propriety of this act, but the necessity of the case, coupled with the fact that the money was in the Treasury and not in need for immediate use, seemed to justify it.

**RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Your committee respectfully recommend that some action be taken at your present meeting, to provide means to pay the State Purchasing Agent for his services, and also to enable him to purchase in bulk, at wholesale prices, such articles as are in constant demand, for the use of Patrons; and, we suggest that the money due from the National Grange, and the balances that accumulate in the treasury of the State Grange, over and above what is needed for current expenses, might be used for that purpose, always requiring ample security for the moneys placed in his hands.

We also recommend that Patrons throughout the State, bear constantly in mind the necessity of concert of action and co-operation, that they be careful to select good and efficient officers, and then give them their cordial confidence and support; remembering always that some present inconvenience or trifling sacrifice may be necessary to produce future grand results.

N. CHILSON.

Chairman Ex. Com.

**Report of Finance Committee.**

To the Master and Members of Michigan State Grange:

The Committee on Finance have examined the books, papers, accounts and vouchers in the offices of the Secretary and Treasurer of the State Grange, as fully as the limited time will permit, and we find them all in a highly satisfactory condition.

The Secretary has received up to the first day of December, 1875:

Cr.	
Of the estate of D. B. Hull, late Treasurer,.....	\$1,160 00
Of J. J. Robinson, 2d Treas. ....	286 88
For fees and dues,.....	6,369 14
For VISITOR subscription and advertising,.....	357 19
From E. R. Shankland, (re-refunded,).....	200 00
From J. S. Thomas, (refun'd) .....	25 00
For Supplies sold Subordinate Granges,.....	886 89
	\$9,285 01

He has paid as follows:

Dr.	
Paid Ledger Balance,.....	\$ 47 31
Paid State Treasurer,.....	8,490 19
" J. J. Robinson for services and " for supplies,.....	135 30
	612 21
	\$9,285 01

The State Treasurer has received as follows:

Cr.	
From J. J. Robinson, State Treasurer,.....	\$2,500 00
From J. T. Cobb, State Sec'y .....	8,490 19
	\$10,990 19

He has paid orders as follows:

Dr.	
For expenses of State Grange Session of Jan. 1875, and prior bills,.....	\$ 922 26
For Printing, including printing Visitor, Blanks, &c.,.....	678 95

For State Lecturer,.....	237 61
" Balance due P. M., S. F. Brown, .....	451 80
" Postage and Stationery,.....	378 55
" Secretary's Salary, three quarters, .....	750 00
" " office rent,.....	39 00
" " Furniture and Blank Books,.....	67 08
" Legal Services employed,.....	50 00
" Kansas Relief,.....	23 30
" Expenses of State Agent,.....	182 70
" Bake and Patterns,.....	29 10
" Dues to National Grange,.....	1,290 27
" Loan to State Agent,.....	500 00
" Expenses of Executive Com. 1875, .....	337 08
Balance in the Treasury,.....	5,052 49

Total,..... \$10,990 19  
The \$500.00 in the hands of State Agt. Chilson also belongs to the State Grange, making the real balance, .. \$5,552 49

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred so much of the report of the Executive Committee as referred to placing a fund in the hands of the State Agent, report that they have had the subject under consideration and do recommend that a sum not exceeding \$2,500 be placed in the hands of the State Agent in the discretion of the Executive Committee, out of any money that may be in the hands of the Treasurer of the State Grange.

Before placing any such money in the hands of the State Agent, the Executive Committee shall require him to execute a bond, with good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Ex. Committee, for the payment of any and all sums that may be placed in his hands.

Your Committee were also instructed to report the amount of compensation the Worthy Master shall receive for his services the past year, and they would respectfully report the following resolution, and recommend its adoption:

*Resolved*, That the Worthy Master of the State Grange be paid for his able and faithful services in behalf of the Granges of this State, the sum of \$500 for the past year.

Your Committee also report the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Worthy Treasurer be paid for his services the past year, the sum of \$600.

Your Committee, to whom was referred so much of the report of the Secretary of the State Grange, as refers to the subject of settling balances due for attendance at the January session of 1875, report the following and recommend its adoption:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to pay all balances due Masters for such services when proper reports have been made from his Subordinate Grange, where the fees and dues accruing from such Grange for the year 1875, have not been sufficient to pay such service.

The Committee on Finance to whom has been referred sundry petitions and resolutions in favor of a reduction of membership fees, respectfully report that they have given the subject careful consideration, and unanimously report the following and recommend its adoption:

*Resolved*, That after notice of the pending amendment to the Constitution of the National Grange permitting the reduction of fees for membership, that the minimum fee for membership in all Subordinate Granges in the State of Michigan shall be: for men, three dollars; for women, one dollar, for the four degrees.

*Resolved further*, That the quarterly dues to the State Grange shall be FIVE CENTS per quarter for each member after notice of the adoption of the above amendment to the Constitution of the National Grange.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. G. LUCE,  
J. W. BAKER,  
E. T. LOVELL,  
THOS. MARS,  
M. B. HINE,  
Committee.

**Report of Committee on Publication.**

To the Master and Members of Michigan State Grange:

The Committee on Publication have the honor to report that the part submitted to them of the Master's Address, relating to the organ known as the GRANGE VISITOR, which was published in violation of a vote of the last State Grange, relative to a State organ, has been thoroughly examined by your Committee, and they are satisfied that, because of the multiplicity of business, that the action of the Worthy Master and Executive Committee was necessary and justifiable, in establishing the Monthly Circular or GRANGE VISITOR.

And your Committee would recommend the continuance of its publication in connection with the Secretary's office, and that it be enlarged sufficiently to meet the necessities of the Order, but always under the control of the Executive Committee.

And your Committee would further recommend that it be issued semi-monthly, if the Executive Committee should deem it expedient.

Your Committee to whom was referred resolutions from different Granges in the State, charging the publication known as *The Era and Northern Granger*, a journal wishing and claiming to be an organ of our Order, with publishing from time to time, articles of a nature calculated to create uneasiness and discontent, advising the subordinate Granges to sever all connection with the present State and National Granges, and assume the position of Independent Granges; have, after much effort and patient investigation, become satisfied that these charges are fully sustained, and that this journal, while pretending friendship, has assumed a position which would, if sustained, entirely subvert our organization.

That he, the editor of this journal, has proposed the establishment of independent Granges, with new rituals and new works, to be printed and furnished by him.

Your Committee in view of this, would recommend to this State Grange to recommend to all subordinate Granges and members thereof, to discountenance this journal in its course, believing that such course can have but one effect, which is to distrust and destroy the entire system of our Order.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. K. CARPENTER,  
J. D. WILLIAMS,  
WM. F. LEWIS,  
MOSES LOCKE,  
W. N. BUCKBEE,  
Committee.

**Report of Committee on Co-operation and Transportation.**

To the Master and Members of Michigan State Grange:

Your Committee on Co-operation and Transportation, to whom was referred a certain resolution on mutual insurance, beg leave to present the following, after having duly considered the same:

That, as the plan of Mutual Insurance among farmers, is in harmony with the objects of our Order, and, under judicious management,

will result in a great saving to our people, keeping at home a large amount of money that otherwise would help fill the overflowing treasuries of stock companies, and becoming a dangerous power in our land.

We therefore recommend—

That the Patrons of Husbandry of this State insure their buildings, &c, in Farmers' Mutual Insurance Companies, where they exist, and aid and encourage their organization wherever they are wanting.

#### CO-OPERATION.

To secure the benefits of a system of co-operation in buying and selling, we need to organize into associations large enough to buy at wholesale, and make it an object for manufacturers to seek our trade and enable us to purchase in unbroken packages, direct from manufacturers, producers or importers.

Your committee would, therefore, recommend:

1st. The organization by counties, or where a membership is large enough, with two central or convenient localities for market purposes, have two: or, where these are lacking, two or more counties or parts of counties may join in forming co-operative associations, and where isolated Granges exist, they can do the same by themselves, and can order or purchase through neighboring or State Agents. These associations to choose their own name and officers, and make their own laws and rules, recommending, however, that the officers consist of a President or presiding officer, Secretary, Treasurer, a Business Agent, and a Board of Directors, under whose direction the business shall be conducted; and where the association is not too large, said board to consist of one member from each subordinate Grange belonging to said association, to be elected annually by the Grange they are to represent.

The presiding officer and Secretary of the association to be directors *ex officio*.

2nd. As a capital is needed for the purpose of doing business, we recommend that the amount thereof be fixed by each association, according to their several needs. Said capital to be raised by shares taken by the members of said association, fixing the value of each share for themselves together with the rate of interest thereon. Said shares of stock not to be transferable to parties not members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

3rd. That such a percentage be added to the cost of goods as will cover all expenses, including interest on capital. The same to be regulated from time to time by the stockholders. A quarterly report to be made, by the board of directors, to the stockholders and members of the association, showing a complete state of the affairs of said association. All business transactions to be strictly and exclusively on the cash basis.

4th. All officers entrusted with funds belonging to the association, shall give ample security, by bonds, approved by the board of directors, and held responsible for the acts of their employees.

5th. Farm implements should be

obtained as near home as practicable, thereby saving freight, and supporting home industries. Where this cannot be done at satisfactory prices, secure them at the best point within your reach, and to the best advantage, either through your own agent, or by him, through any agent or association. The same of lumber, shingles, salt, lime, plaster, seeds, etc.

6th. That a list of the names and post office address of the agents of business associations of our Order in this State, be published in the GRANGE VISITOR.

7th. The agents of the different associations in this State, together with the State Agent, should confer with each other, and, if deemed best, meet once or twice a year, giving each other the benefits of their experience, and CO-OPERATE for the good of our whole State and country.

8th. There are but few things that can be obtained to advantage through a State Agent, except, perhaps, the making of contracts with manufacturers, and railroad companies, and to co-operate with agents of other States, and impart all such contracts and arrangements, and other information obtained by him, to the Secretaries of subordinate Granges, and to district agents. Agricultural implements being manufactured at so many different points in our own and adjoining States, (so with lumber, lime, etc.) that there is little or no advantage over county or district agents.

9th. When we come to general merchandise, *here*, in our judgment, it would be to great advantage to our Order, to have a man of ability and experience, for the purpose of selecting goods, filling orders of general merchandise, but not in retail quantities, for agents of associations, and finding a market for such surplus products as the Patrons have to sell, say wheat, flour, pork, butter, wool, fruit, etc., etc.

That said State Agent be elected annually, by the Executive Committee of this State Grange, and that the Committee also fix the salary of the agent.

In regard to transportation, your committee is not prepared, neither would they deem it wise to burden you with a lengthy report. Only recommending for the benefit of our Order, that State and District Agents make contracts with transportation companies for special uniform rates of freight for specified time, which must necessarily be confidential.

ALBERT STEGEMAN,  
E. H. RISING,  
G. W. VANAIKEN,  
THOMAS WILDE,  
SAMPSON PARKER,  
Committee.

#### Communications.

##### Shall We Have a State Organ.

At the recent session of the State Grange, the committee on publication, after consideration of that portion of the Worthy Master's address relating to the GRANGE VISITOR, recommended that its publication be continued, and that it be made a semi-monthly, and that it be enlarged as circumstances

should require, should the Executive Committee deem it expedient. This recommendation was almost unanimously concurred in by vote of the State Grange.

This action was not only proper and important, to ensure the united action of an Order of the vast proportions which the Patrons of Michigan now assumes; but seems a necessity, and that it can soon be made a weekly journal, if the Patrons of Michigan give it merited support, by subscription and contribution to its columns, seems to me almost certain.

The Patrons of the State cannot expect to get authentic and reliable information in regard to the Order only through such an organ. Those attending the recent State Grange, no doubt have noticed the misstatements in the Detroit dailies, in regard to its doings: for instance, one paper stated the amount of money in the hands of the Treasurer to be \$53,000, instead of \$5,052. The same paper, in publishing the resolutions submitted by the Committee on Resolutions, and passed by the Grange, so changed them, by leaving out and substituting portions and words, that they could hardly be recognized. One of them gave the membership in the State at 3,400, instead of 34,000; another gave a garbled report of the plaster question. All of these are calculated to injure or bring discredit on our Order; they may have all been mistakes, but it is singular how they all seemed to be in the same direction.

To secure accuracy of statement, where our interests are involved, we need an organ in entire sympathy with us, and one large enough and coming to our homes often enough, to take the place of a family newspaper, in which all the topics of the farm can be discussed, as well as Grange interests protected and Grange news disseminated.

If the Masters or Secretaries of each Grange receiving the VISITOR will take it in hand and lay the matter before their Granges, and solicit individual subscriptions for the VISITOR, no one who visited the recent State Grange and observed the status of that body, can doubt that the Patrons of Michigan would soon build up an organ of which they could well be proud. It is hoped that one more year will see the consummation of this desired object.

ORION, MICH., Dec. 19, 1876.

C.

—Mr. Mortimer Whitehead, Master of the State Grange of New Jersey, in a public letter, highly commends the plan for the patron's centennial encampment at Philadelphia, and urges patrons to subscribe for the stock. He also makes the important announcement that any patron attending this encampment next season, can pay his bills with the stock if he desires.

—Lend money first to your Brethren in the Grange who need it. Because a man is a Brother Patron, it does not follow that you should take great risks to accommodate him, but, if you can lend him on ordinary security what he needs, it is fair and right to accommodate him.

—Examine the VISITOR, and if it meets your approval, subscribe for it.