

THE Grange Visitor

ISSUED

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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No. 5

THE GRANGE VISITOR,

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Invariably in Advance.

J. J. WOODMAN, } Publishing Committee.
J. T. COBB, }

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A Square is one inch in space, column width.

It is not the purpose of the Executive Committee in continuing the publication of the VISITOR, by direction of the State Grange, to deviate from the course first marked out in February last, which was to furnish the most direct, complete and cheapest medium of communication between the officers and members of the Order throughout the State.

We hope Masters and Secretaries will not fail to call the attention of members to every matter of general interest, which appears in the VISITOR.

Communications on any subject, calculated to promote the good of the Order, are solicited.

For Grange Supplies kept by the Secretary, see "LIST OF SUPPLIES" on seventh page.

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| | |
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The Abuse of the Order.

The Order of Patrons has been pretty heartily abused by those outsiders who either misunderstood the purpose for which it was founded, or else apprehended from it some injury to their private business. But the abuse of it has not been, and is not, confined to persons who are not members. Some Patrons, by failing to employ its arrangements, or by employing them too exclusively to their own advantage, have abused the Order quite as effectually. The injury that they have inflicted consists in having kept down the success of our organization and impeded its progress. The extent of this injury can not, indeed, be closely calculated, but it is not on that account any the less actual. We may not be able to say how much more successful the Order would have been, had every member been faithful to it; but, since it has increased rapidly in power and profitability, while some members were untrue to it, we may safely conclude that, if these had given it as hearty support as did other members, its growth would have been still more rapid.

The lukewarmness of its friends is more injurious to an organization than is open opposition. People make allowance for prejudice and extravagance in considering the words and conduct of an avowed enemy.—But they construe all back-sliding, indifference and disparagement on the part of a member strictly against his society. The noisy opposition to "the Granger movement," so common a few years ago, did not in the least interrupt our progress, nor keep us from making friends even among those who are not, and can not be, members of the Order. Neither has the failure of some members to comply with the teachings of the Order and to aid in carrying out its measures kept it from growing stronger and more popular. But their failure in these particulars has come nearer doing so than all the opposition of persons who are not Patrons. That unfaithful members have done the Order so little damage is attributable, not to the harmlessness of their conduct, but to the fact that they are comparatively few in number. The faithful and enthusiastic members are so largely in the majority that the Order has succeeded in spite of the indifferent and unfaithful. To become convinced that the result would have been far different, had the latter

class been more numerous, we need only examine its acts.

Indifferent members are undutiful most frequently in not buying and selling through the Order. They do not entirely refuse to use the business arrangements of the Granges, but they divide their patronage, and buy enough of middlemen to mislead some of the large establishments and make them think that the agency system must be kept up. The result is that the work of the Order is still an aggressive work; it is still a contest. No manufacturer of agricultural implements would insist on keeping up the expensive system of distribution through agents, if he were certain that none of his customers would receive goods from him in that way. Merchants who make no concessions to the Order, but who are patronized by members enough to feel warranted in competing with the supply-houses, would give over their attempts if they were not encouraged to continue by making an occasional sale to Patrons. In these contests with middle-men the Grange is always the victorious party; but it is easy to see that it would not be, if the number of Patrons who buy of middlemen were larger.

Another abuse of which these members are guilty, is that of not paying cash. Whether they buy through the Grange or of outside dealers, they will, if possible, avoid prompt payment. It is such members that order goods through their purchasing agent, assuring him that they will pay for the goods immediately on their delivery, and who, when they have gotten such articles as they ordered, so far forget their promise as to compel the agent to advance a large part of the purchase money.—It is granting a privilege contrary to the teachings and principles of the Order to such Patrons that has compelled some of the supply-houses to go in debt for their stock. And it is such Patrons that are discountenancing the credit system by giving their notes to Grange managers and agents, instead of to the country merchants. If all, or any considerable number of Patrons were like them, how much cheaper could the Grange buy than other customers; how much of a saving would the business arrangements of the Order effect? The question is not difficult to answer.

The worst kind of unfaithfulness of which Patrons have been guilty—fortunately it is also the rarest—is the

selfish and improper use of the business machinery of the Order. The usual form of this offense is for a member to ascertain at what price a firm dealing with a Grange will sell a particular article, and then, by a skillful use of his knowledge, secure from another dealer the same or better terms. We recently heard of an aggravated case of this kind. A member wished to buy, we will say, a hay-rake, of a peculiar manufacture. The firm making this rake had entered into a special arrangement with the Grange through a State agent.—The member learned from some fellow-member this firm's terms to Patrons. He then went to a firm manufacturing another style of rake, which had refused to give special rates to Patrons, and obtained from them, by disclosing the prices of the first house, the offer of a rake at a still lower price. Theirs, however, was not the rake he wanted, so he called on the first firm, and, by disclosing the offer of the second, and by representing that, if their machine was once introduced into his neighborhood, others would be wanted, he obtained a rake at a price below the offer of the second firm, and below what the first asked from other Patrons. As we should naturally expect, the purchaser expressed it as his opinion that the Order did not amount to much, since he could buy of manufacturers cheaper than a State agent could. The opinion would be only too well founded were there many such Patrons as he.

Fortunately the faithful, earnest members outnumber the other class. But it is not true, as some persons maintain, that since the undutiful Patrons are so few, we should say nothing of their misdemeanors. So far as they are concerned, the Order is being deeply injured. That is to say, their conduct is of an injurious kind and would be damaging if many members followed their example.—The fact that these members are few does not lessen their responsibility, or in the least relieve them from criticism. Their misdeeds should be brought to light, in order that they themselves may not repeat them, and in order that others may not go and do likewise. The Order must be composed of earnest, active Patrons,—Patrons who will work for their fellow-members as well as for themselves. That it may have such members, there must be no concealment, no hushing up of doubtful matters, and every one must be made to bear the burden of his own offenses.

The Patrons everywhere are arranging for picnics and reunions this summer, and chickens have predestined rings now maturing around their necks.

All Patrons who read the agricultural papers will be encouraged to learn of the great progress the Order is making. There is a move along the entire line.

Let no Grange fail to meet regularly during the summer season and discuss agricultural and kindred subjects, and thus elevate the intellectual growth of the community.

Master's Department.

J. J. WOODMAN,

PAW PAW.

Picnic and Centennial.

As the season for picnics and public meetings is upon us, I am obliged to spend most of my time away from home, in attending these most valuable and interesting meetings. My engagements to meet with the Patrons in different portions of the State, will consume my entire time up to and including the 30th inst., and I have made my arrangements to go to Philadelphia, to assist in the Michigan Department of the great Exhibition, in the month of September. I expect to leave home with my family, on the 7th of September, and shall be pleased to have the company of as many of our members from this State as can make it convenient to go at that time. I also hope to meet many of the Patrons of Michigan there, and shall take great pleasure in rendering them any aid that I may be able to, in order to make their visit agreeable and interesting.

I shall take rooms at the Grange Encampment, where ample accommodations are provided for all members of our Order, and their friends. From the most reliable information I can obtain, I am confident that the accommodations at the Encampment are good, and the wants and comforts of guests well provided for. I have been making an effort to obtain special rates of ticket fare for members of our Order and their friends, visiting Philadelphia in excursion parties, and have assurances, that as low rates will be given us, as have been given to any other Order, or excursion parties. For special rates for excursion parties, correspond with Frank E. Snow, General Ticket Ag't of the Canada Southern Railway, Detroit, or E. Reidy, Passenger Ag't of the Grand Trunk, Detroit. My address while at the Exhibition, will be, "Michigan Building, Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia, Pa." and all communications received, promptly answered. All letters directed to me at Paw Paw, will be forwarded to me at Philadelphia, and answered without delay. I expect to be at home during the month of October, prepared to work in the good cause. The National Grange meets in Chicago, November 15th, and the State Grange, December 1st, at Jackson or Lansing. I trust that as many of our members as can make it convenient to do so, will attend the sessions of these bodies.

Law and Usage.

I have received several communications relating to the manner of voting in Subordinate Granges, as defined by Rule 2d, page 8 of the Parliamentary Guide. This Rule was amended by the National Grange, as will be seen by referring to paragraph 6, page 2d. of Amendments to Parliamentary Guide, by striking out the words, "or not voting, shall be counted in the negative." With this amendment the Rule is authority.

The Grange in Missouri.

In speaking of the Grange organization in Missouri, State Master T. R. Allen says: By frequently meeting, they have got better acquainted with each other; acquaintance has ripened into friendship; each has discovered in the other good traits of character, that before they had no idea that they possessed; jealousy and prejudice have given way to a better state of feeling—that of mutual confidence—a sympathetic feeling and a realization of an identity of interest, in fact a feeling of fraternity. Now, they are not only neighbors, but good neighbors, useful and kind toward each other, so are their families.—Now, they can help each other, cooperate together for mutual benefit; they have no disposition to go to law with each other about trivial matters, but are willing to settle their differences when they do occur, by arbitration in the Grange. They still differ in opinion on many subjects, of course, but they hold that an honest difference of opinion is not crime. They discuss these differences, but not in bitterness of spirit, but coolly and dispassionately with a view of reconciling them by arriving at the truth, which probably lies somewhere between them. They are becoming more and more tolerant of each other's views and opinions on all subjects; they are encouraging and emulating each other to worthy efforts and deeds for the common welfare; to reading and to study for the acquisition of useful knowledge.

What a wonderful change is this? Can any one estimate its value to this neighborhood? No. It is not possible. But multiply this by two thousand for Missouri, and for the whole country by twenty-five thousand.—Then, who will undertake to estimate the good that has resulted from it already?

SOME one not long ago started the idea that sulphuric acid would totally destroy stumps. An augur hole was to be bored in the top, filled with sulphuric acid, and plugged. In a day or two the stump would be eaten up, even to the very roots. I tried the experiment and failed, only a small portion of the stump at the top being affected. The following method was sent me by my son in Nebraska, and I tried it, and found it to be a perfect success. In the Autumn bore a hole one or two inches in diameter, according to the girth of the stump vertically in the center of the latter, and about eighteen inches deep. Put into it one or two ounces of saltpeter, fill the hole with water, and plug up tight. In the ensuing spring take out the plug and pour in about one-half gill of kerosene oil, and ignite it. The stump will smoulder away without blazing, to the very extremity of the roots, leaving nothing but ashes.

W. M. TURNER.

Mattawmkeag, Me., March 26.

LAZY, indolent Granges, like careless Christians, put off doing for themselves, and then grumble because they cannot see any good that the Order has been to them.

"Tis the will of the sloth, I hear him complain,
You have waked me too soon, I must slumber again."

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.

In response to a call made by its Chairman, the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Grange, met at the Hurd House in the City of Jackson, on Wednesday, August 9th. W. A. Wales, of Disco, was the only member absent.

The State Business Agent, Bro. J. H. Gardner, attended the meeting and made a report of his doings which was entirely satisfactory to the Committee.

Besides making arrangements with Manufacturers, Wholesale Houses, and General Agents by which Patrons, Subordinate Granges, Pomona Granges, and County Councils, might and have procured goods at wholesale prices on their Orders under seal, Bro. Gardner has done quite a large business for Patrons and Granges who have sent their orders directly to him. Whatever Co-operative Stores may be doing, one thing is certain, those Patrons who have sent their orders to the State Agent can testify that it is a very simple and direct way to get what they may want at a very low figure, and those who propose to do business with the State Agt. will soon learn that he is a Granger in his business—when he talks money (soft or hard) he don't mean credit *short, or long*, but cash with the order or on delivery of the goods.

Some appeal cases came before the Committee for determination, for even Patrons will sometimes get crotchety and require a little help from the Brotherhood in authority to reconcile differences.

The Committee disposed of all this work in a manner apparently satisfactory to all concerned, and throughout the investigations that came before them proved that they were imbued with that fraternal spirit which declares "We shall constantly strive to secure entire harmony, good will, vital brotherhood among ourselves, and to make our Order perpetual."

My report to the Committee of my doings in connection with the plaster business showed that Patrons had paid with commendable promptness for plaster supplied to them on their orders.

By order of the Committee I am still charged with all business connected with the plaster supply, to Patrons in this State. I shall endeavor to have this matter put in such shape that there will be no delay, or occasion for complaint. Work at Grandville is being done at a season of the year when it can be done to advantage, and we are able to assure our Bro. farmers, that in this matter of Plaster, "the supply will be equal to the demand," wher wanted. All communications in relation to PLASTER should be directed to me.

A Committee of three was appointed to determine the place, and make

necessary arrangements for holding the State Grange in December next.

This matter will be determined and notice be given in the September No. of the VISITOR.

The arrangement of last year for electing delegates to the State Grange was adopted.

The day of meeting is earlier, the 4th day of October having been fixed upon, at 10 o'clock A. M., as the time of meeting and day of election.

Several minor matters came before the Committee which were disposed of, and the Committee after a very laborious and protracted session adjourned at noon on the 10th, inst.

It is not expected that another Committee meeting will be necessary before the annual meeting of the State Grange.

NEW ERA, Oceana County Mich., }
August 14th, 1876.

J. T. COBB, *Sir and Brother*:—I suppose our subscription to the VISITOR ran out with the July Number. Please find enclosed \$4.80 for 16 copies of the VISITOR for one year. Address Geo. C. Myers, New Era, Oceana Co., Michigan.

Fraternally,

GEO. C. MYERS,
Secretary, 393.

Brother Patrons,—this is a good business letter, and we commend it to the attention of all other Grange Secretaries in the State. Bro. Myers has done that thing once before, and will please accept thanks. For subscribers to the VISITOR, few or many, we are always thankful, as we believe its circulation must be of advantage to the Order of P. of H. Its publication was ordered by the Executive Committee, and is continued for that and for no other purpose, and if Masters and Secretaries who get copies *free*, took the interest in this matter which it seems to me they ought, our subscription list would soon require a larger edition.

We venture to say there are several thousand Patrons in Michigan, now, who don't know that such a sheet has ever been printed. Some officers to whom it is sent, seem to have forgotten that the Grange has any claim upon the VISITOR which they receive. Last year the VISITOR was furnished for 40 cents per annum, this year for 30.—Last year in September we offered to furnish the last three numbers of the year for 10 cents, and we got several hundred subscribers. We now propose to furnish it to all new subscribers the rest of the year, *four* months, for ten cents each, and ought to have 1000 names sent us by Masters and Secretaries before the next issue.

To them we must look mainly for help to extend the circulation of the VISITOR.

Will you attend to this, and attend to it at once? Like the Grange, or any thing else, it will not run itself.—Somebody must take some interest in it and do a little work "for the Good of the Order" without compensation.

Under "Communications" are several articles that were set up for the last No., and should have appeared, but by some oversight were left out, which I very much regreted, but mistakes happen sometimes even in printing offices.

WATKINS, August 14th, 1876.

MR. J. T. COBB:—*Worthy Brother*:—Inclosed you will find 30 cts. to pay for the VISITOR. Direct it to John S. Parmelee, Box 748, Grand Rapids, Mich.

I wish to inquire whether the State Lecturer is paid by the State Grange, or by those Granges to whom he lectures?

I would also state that Harmony Grange has completed its Articles of Association at last.

Harmony Grange has appointed a Committee to enforce the law found on Page 668, Chapter 68, Compiled Laws of 1871, relative to preventing the spread of Canada Thistles, and solicits other Granges to cooperate with them in enforcing this law throughout the State. This pest has been increasing until it is feared it will spread over our whole State. When once rooted in a rich and fertile soil, its extermination is difficult if not impossible.

Yours Fraternally,

E. M. BULLARD, Secy.,
Harmony Grange No. 33.

To Bro. Bullard and all others interested, I would say that by Order of the Executive Committee the services of the Lecturer of the State Grange, are under the direction of the Master of the State Grange, and when engaged in visiting weak and dormant Granges are paid for by the State Grange.

When *invited* by Granges to lecture to them, it is expected that the Grange or Granges inviting, and receiving the benefit of his services, will compensate the Lecturer for his labor, as well as pay his expenses. Brother Whitney is not able to do *Missionary* or field work without full compensation.

Several applications have been made to me lately from members of extinct and dormant Granges, for a certificate which will enable them to affiliate with other Granges. Under Rule No. 87, National Grange Decisions, I am authorized to issue such certificates. As the Rule is liable to different interpretations, I applied to the Worthy Master of the State Grange for a ruling which would be explanatory of No. 87, and give us direction in this line of work.

Master Woodman's Ruling is as follows:

The Secretary of the State Grange will issue Certificates of Limits, to members of Granges that have surrendered or forfeited their charters, on receipt of official notice from the Grange, or from the Master of the State Grange, and the receipt of the amount due the State Grange from such members at the time of making application, and twenty-five cents for the Dimit.

I called attention in one No. of the VISITOR, to the importance of having a *Record* in this office of all the Granges that are Incorporated. If the proceedings under the Act are *regular* in form, *complete* in detail, and duly recorded in the office of the Co. Clerk, the Grange becomes a legal body, and as such, responsible for its official acts.

A complete record of all Granges that are so Incorporated, should be found in this office, and yet I do not get more than one-fifth as many certificates showing Incorporation as I forward blanks for that purpose.

Wanted!

A return to this office, that the Grange may have credit therefor, of all Master's Orders still outstanding, issued by the Master and Secretary of the State Grange in payment for attendance of members at the January Session of the State Grange in 1875.

A Report of the fact from the Secretary of every Grange that has built or owns a Hall of its own.

A Report of the Name and Number of every Grange that has become Incorporated, with the date of Incorporation.

A Report from every Secretary who is delinquent, for the quarter ending June 30th, 1876.

And I also want to furnish *Blank Notices* (to be served by the Secretary) on members more than six months delinquent in the payment of dues.—Price, 40 cents per hundred.

T. A. Thompson, Past Lecturer of the National Grange, is devoting the most of his time to lecturing for the promotion of the interests of the Order of P. of H. He has a large experience in this field of usefulness, and has proved a faithful and efficient *Cultivator*. New York and Penn. are reaping the benefits of his labors this season.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKOGON.

Duties of Officers--Continued.

No officer in any organization has so many and so varied duties and great responsibilities as does the Secretary. On his faithful and efficient labors often depend the very existence or the body whose servant he is, not to say anything of its increased activity and usefulness resulting from the labor and energy of a conscientious and industrious Secretary.

Let not these words swell the importance of any Grange Secretary in his own mind, but may they impress upon every such officer the need of self inspection, to learn what they lack to become truly efficient and invaluable as they should be to the Order at home and at large.

What are their duties? Bro. Grosh in the *Mentor* recounts them as follows, and we do well to quote. "To keep a correct and sufficient record of the proceedings and business of the Grange meetings and of its correspondence through that office: to keep accurate accounts of all moneys received, and from whom, and, (if ordered paid) to whom and for what; to make out all quarterly and other returns of the Grange ordered by law, and notify the Secretary of the Superior Grange of all changes of officers in the Grange; to label properly, and file regularly all letters, circulars, and vouchers coming into his or her charge; to safely keep, and properly use the Seal of the Grange so that all legal documents issued may be duly accredited, and none others, and to perform such other duties as may properly be required of a Secretary by the Grange, or by superior officers."

Very much in a few words, but to exemplify a little: 1st. The *Grange Record*, the history of the Grange proceedings, its life notes to be read to verify its work. How shall they be kept? Truthfully of course, but in such a manner that there can be no question of any thing being omitted or substituted, that when such record is brought before a Court of Appeals, or a Superior Grange or officer, there can be no doubt from the reading of the minutes what was the action recorded. To have correct and full reports the Secretary should use a *blotter* to keep minutes upon as they transpire, and not attempt to write them in the Record Book. This blotter can easily be made by taking a quire or more of good cap paper and stitching the same together strongly. Use one side of the blotter to note down the items of each meeting that they may not be forgotten, then taking time when the meeting is closed to write out fully on the opposite page the minutes as you would present them to the Grange for their approval. At the next following regular meeting these minutes should be read, (if wrong, corrected) and approved, and then re-written into the Record Book, in a nice legible hand and be signed by both Secretary and Master, and receive the impress of the Seal in the Master's presence or upon his signature. This takes time says one, but does it not amply pay for all the time taken, and has not the Secretary a voucher for the truthfulness of his work in his blotter, attested by the Master's signature, certifying to the approval of the Grange.

What should the Secretary keep a record of? Of the work of the Grange, and in such a manner as it could be open to the inspection of any intelligent person even not a member of the Order. It may not be out of place to here give a sample of a Secretary's report. In the Record Book, each report of a Regular Meeting should begin a page,—I almost said a right hand page of the record, to be easily found, and to make a neat and not over crowded book. Three or four lines from the top, write the date showing place and time of meeting, in a plain hand, as

Regular Meeting, May 10th, 1876.
Grange Hall, Union Block, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Grange was opened in due form at 8 o'clock, P. M., by Worthy Master Smith. Officers all present except the Worthy Lecturer, whose place was temporarily filled by the appointment of Brother R. E. James.—The following visiting Brothers were present, W. Master and Ceres of Hyde Grange, and Brothers Hyde and Wing and Sister Yates of Fruit Grange.

The Minutes of the last Regular Meeting were read by the Secretary, and by unanimous consent approved. The Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 3rd, were also read by the Secretary, and with a verbal correction also approved.

The Committee to whom was referred the application of James E. Dennis, reported favorably. Report accepted by common consent, and Committee discharged. Committee

to whom the application of Henry Thomas was referred, reported favorably, but being doubtful of jurisdiction asked further time, and that the Secretary be instructed to correspond with Flora Grange in regard to jurisdiction. By unanimous consent the report was accepted and request of Committee Granted.

The Committee to whom was referred the application of Miss. Sarah Smith, reported unfavorable. No objection being made, the report was accepted and the Committee discharged.

The Committee upon the application of Mrs. Jane Thorne, reported favorably. Objection being made to the acceptance of the report, a vote was taken and the report duly accepted and the Committee discharged.

The Ballot was then ordered upon the candidates, and resulted as follows: That of James E. Dennis was declared fair, and he duly elected to membership. That of Miss Sarah Smith was also fair, and she decided elected. The ballot upon Mrs. Jane Thorne was declared unfair and the candidate rejected.

Applications were read from the following persons, which being duly recommended were referred to committees as follows: Henry Bacon, to Bros. James, Thomas and Terry, and Fidelia Wait, to Sisters Thomas, Howe, and Webb. The application of John Ford, not being properly recommended, was by a vote of the Grange, laid upon the table until the next meeting, or such time as the application shall be completed.

Reports of Standing Committees were received as follows:—The Executive Committee reported upon the matter of business referred to them. Report accepted and placed upon the General Order. The Com. on Finance reported back the bill of E. J. Smith, for sundries, with recommendations. Report accepted and placed on General Order. The Grievance Com. reported progress upon the case of Cyrus Wait, referred to them, and asked further time. Objection being made, a vote was taken, by which the report was accepted and the request granted.

Special Committees reported as follows:—The Special Com. on picnic reported that they had prepared a full programme, and asked to be discharged. No objection, report was accepted and made Special Order of the evening, and committee discharged.

The Special Com. on change in By-Laws reported in favor of said changes, and their report was accepted and placed on general order, and the committee discharged.

Bills were presented by James Stone for repairs on Hall, and the Secretary for Sundries, both were by consent of the Grange referred to the Committee on Finance.

The files of the Secretary showed two items of unfinished business from the special meeting. On motion of Brother Watkins the consideration of them was postponed until the next Regular meeting of the Grange.

New Business was presented as follows:

Communications were read by the Secretary as follows:—From Worthy

Bro. Childs accepting an invitation to address the Grange at the picnic—Ordered on file. From State Pur. Agt., Bro. Gardner, with price list.—Ordered placed in hands of Purchasing Committee. From Harmony Grange asking for jurisdiction in case of John Ball and others. On motion of the Worthy Treasurer, the request of Harmony Grange was granted.—From the Secretary of State Grange, as per quarterly reports. On motion of Sister Henderson, the Secretary was instructed to draw an Order for the amount upon the funds in the Treasury, and draw and forward the amount to Sec'y Cobb.

Circulars were also reported by the Secretary, received from Seedsmen, Dry Goods dealers and others, not recognized by the Order. Ordered placed on file. Circulars from Centennial managers reported received by the Secretary, and ordered read for the instruction of the Grange.

Resolutions and Motions being in order.—Bro. W. E. Brown offered a Resolution instructing the Secretary to correspond with the Grange where jurisdiction was thought to be invaded in the case of certain applications and to ask jurisdiction in the case.—Adopted. Bro. Abel Thomas moved that the Sec. be instructed to order one dozen new singing books for the use of the Grange, which was amended on motion of Sister Webb, so as to include two dozen By-Laws, in the order. Motion carried.

Bro. Ferry moved that a Band be employed for the picnic. On motion of the Overseer, the motion was referred to the Com. on music, to report at the next meeting.

The Special Order of the meeting being arrangements for a picnic to be held June 7th, was next taken up and the report of the Special Committee on the same read at length, and after due consideration and amendment, the Programme was adopted as per file, and the necessary committees appointed.

The subject of *Wool Marketing* being also upon the Special Order, was duly discussed by Bros. Smith, Ferry, and Overseer, and the matter referred to the Purchasing Com. with instructions to make inquiries at once and report upon the matter at the first meeting.

The Worthy Master declared a recess of 15 minutes. At the close of the recess the General Order was taken up by considering the report of the Executive Com. Their arrangements for Hall rent were adopted, and they instructed to rent for one year with the privilege of five years.

The Report of the Com. on Finance was next considered, and the Bill of E. J. Smith ordered paid by an Order on the Treasury for the amount claimed, \$15.45. The report of the Com. on Charity was duly considered, and on motion of the Steward, the amount of \$10 00 was ordered placed at the disposal of said committee, to be used as set forth in the report.

The report of Com. on By-Laws was then read, and on motion of Sister Howe, was made the Special Order of the next Regular Meeting.

The General Order being completed, Miscellaneous Business was in order.

On motion of acting Lecturer, it was agreed to hold a Special Meeting one week from this evening to complete arrangements for the picnic.

Upon invitation, excellent suggestions for the Good of the Order were made by the visiting Brothers, the Chaplin, and Master.

The Grange was then duly closed in the 4th, and opened in the 2nd degree to confer the same upon Bros. Lowe, and Pitt, and Sister Lown, which was done in due form, and with due solemnity. Grange was then duly closed in the 2nd, and opened in the 1st degree, to confer the same upon the candidates, James E. Dennis, and Miss Sarah Smith, in accordance with the Ritual of the Order.

Bro. James Johnson was reported quite ill, and the matter referred to the proper committee.

The Secretary reported the receipts of the evening as follows, to wit:—\$12.00 for fees with the following applications, and \$4.50 for dues from the following members,—Total, \$16.50 which I have just placed in the Treasurer's hands and taken his receipt therefor. The Grange then closed in due form from the 1st degree.

Signed, HENRY D. WAIT, Sec.
Approved May,—1876.

WM. B. SMITH, Master.

To keep all the items of such a report in order, and the files in shape for speedy reference, giving and taking receipts, and at the same time taking part in the business, requires no small amount of mental labor, and concentration of effort. But the Secretaries labors do not end with the close of the Meeting. The minutes should be properly written up, and the orders drawn, and correspondence attended to, without delay. The two books named are not the only ones the Secretary should keep. He should in the Account Book keep a Debit and Credit account with each member of the Grange, also with the Treasurer, so that at any time he can show the exact condition of the Grange financially. Supplementary to the Act. Book, the Sec. will find a sheet of Dues and Fees useful, ruled with one column for the names of members, and for fees if any, and for each quarter's dues, and one for the total dues of the year. Such a sheet each year would show just what member had paid, and who was in arrears, also show how much the Secretary had received, and can be examined by members without trouble, as it should be upon his table for examination.

The Register of members should be carefully kept by the Secretary.—A Letter Book in which copies of letters sent, would be useful and each Grange should provide it and a Visitor's Register, in which each visitor should be invited to register his or her name.

Letter files of some form should be used to keep all letters received, ready and handy, also similar ones for all reports of committees &c.

Thus armed and equipped, a Secretary should have every item of business in good shape for reference, and no excuse to delay the proceedings of a meeting by a fruitless search for papers among disordered rubbish.

Such a Secretary is entitled to hon-

or, even to pay for his labors. He should be at the Grange before opening, with his books and accounts ready to receive dues and give receipts and answer questions as desired. Much delinquency in payment of dues is chargeable to the slackness or absence of the Secretary at the meetings. If a Secretary must be absent, let him be sure to have some one there with the books and accounts, and instruction how to act.

The report given in this article may be varied, as few Granges have the amount of business here transacted, and some have even more. A careful reading of the minutes of the State and National Grange would be of service to any Secretary.

Worthy Bro. Secretary, don't despair, you have a great labor, but prepare for your task, and the future of the Grange will reward you, and remember, when tempted to be careless, or to neglect any duty that you have an obligation to keep, and further "*whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well.*"

August Meetings.

The Picnic at Hartford was a great success, 1,200 to 1,500 Patrons and their friends were present, and all seemed to enjoy the occasion. After the dinner was dispatched, music by the Bands called the people together to listen to addresses by C. L. Whitney, Worthy Lecturer of the State Grange, Bro. Stout and others from St. Johns.

On the 10th the Morenci Fair Ground was crowded to its utmost with Patrons from the South part of Lenawee Co., and the adjoining towns of Ohio. We were pleased to meet and shake hands with our Ohio Brothers and Sisters, just as if there had never been a Toledo war. Three Brass Bands enlivened the occasion, and excellent singing by the Chesterfield Grange, also by the Fayette Grange, both in Ohio, was a feature of the day long to be remembered.—We addressed the gathering of from two to three thousand people, and from the attention given, are impressed that the Grange movement is not yet dead as it has sometimes been predicted it would be. A large meeting of Patrons was held in the evening in Morenci Grange room.

OTHER MEETINGS.

On the 29th inst, Oakland Pomona Grange holds a Picnic on the Fair Grounds at Pontiac, at which time said Pomona Grange will dedicate the new Agricultural Hall upon said grounds. Patrons everywhere are invited. The State Lecturer will be present.

A meeting of Chesterfield and other Granges will be held near Chesterfield Macomb Co., on the 6th of September. On the 20th, of September a large Grange meeting will be held at Dewitt, Clinton Co. Another on the 21st, at Rockford Kent Co., at about which time Harmony Grange will dedicate its new Hall. It will thus be seen that the Deputy may be in Oakland about the 28th, in St. Clair and Macomb about September 6th, in Kent and Clinton about the 20th, of Sept. Other arrangements for addresses and visits may be made at or about that time, and should be arranged for at once.

The Groveland Grange No. 543, Oakland County, have just completed their Hall, and will dedicate it with appropriate service the last of the month.

Berrien Pomona Grange, No. 1, meets on the 29th and 30th, at Bainbridge, in the new Hall of said Grange No. 80, which Hall is to be dedicated by Deputy Whitney, State Lecturer, on the 30th, at 1 o'clock, p. m.

Aid Matters.

The name of Brighton Grange was omitted in the last number, from the list of Granges contributing seeds, and that of Mt. Hope, No. 87, Berrien Co., which contributed \$10.00. We are still lacking one receipt from Granges receiving aid; when that is received the whole matter will be closed up by the R. R. Companies as far as they will do anything, and the balances paid.

State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER, - - CENTREVILLE.

Timothy Seed is now on the decline in price, as the crop is large, and new seed is coming into market. I have arrangements by which I can ship either from here or Chicago, at market rates, to any part of the State, and all orders with money will be filled on the day of receipt with choice new seed. By an agreement with the manufacturers of the Champion Drill, I can order them sent direct for \$50.00 for 8 hoe Drills, with tube shifter, land measurer and grass seed sower. It is claimed that at the trial at the Centennial at Philadelphia, this Drill sowed with the least variation from the quantity at which it was set, of any Drill exhibited. I have still some of the Superior Drills on hand. Both of these are second to no other Drill made; and all should consider whether it is advisable to buy of agents local or traveling, when a large discount can be saved. It is desirable that all wanting wagons this fall would let me know soon, so that I can inform the manufacturers of the number, and have them ready. I have the offer either of the Niles or Buchanan Wagons, at the same price; and if I can take a number, can have them at a reduction from former prices. They are warranted for a year, and are equal in workmanship and material to any Wagon made in Michigan.—Can also furnish heavy Wagons for lumbering, of any size desired.

The Woolen Mills at South Bend, Ind., will sell their cloths to us of any description, and Yarn at jobbing prices, and will send samples when desired. These goods are superior for durability to those of eastern make.

The Howe Sewing Machine—a first class Family Machine, is now offered very low, and I advise all wanting machines to examine this before buying; but if other styles must be had, send your orders and money to me, as I can furnish any machine in the market for less than peddlers will, and send a new one at that, not an old one re-varnished.

Sugars have advanced a half cent and more, since the issue of the July VISITOR, in all the principal markets. I would recommend to buy only for present use, and wish all would send me their orders as soon as practicable, for I shall endeavor to buy in Louisiana (from producers,) as soon as the new crop is ready for market.

Shaw & Williams, of East Saginaw, will sell Salt at market rate by the car load of seventy-five barrels, when ordered by the Secretary under seal. Now is a suitable time to lay in a stock for winter use, as it usually advances in price later in the season. Two or three Granges should join together and purchase what they may need.

For Boots and Shoes I can have orders filled at jobbing prices by the case, of any style of work desired; and can break cases at a small advance.

E. Hayward, of Casinovia, Kent Co., will fill all orders for Lumber or Shingles at lowest prices, when ordered by the car, and guarantee satisfaction for quality.

If orders for a sufficient amount of Dry Goods and Groceries are received by the 20th of September, I will go to the best market to buy and attend to the selection.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Brains will Win.

Farmers should ever bear in mind that the best brains will win. It is so in the business world; it is so in the literary world; it is so in all human affairs. The best informed minds are the most successful ones. Those who understand their business best, who know what is most needed to insure success in their enterprises, will be the successful men.

In these hard times farmers must see the necessity of having active brains as well as active muscles, if they expect to make money. As in the profession of law there is always room for lawyers in the upper story, so there is abundant room for farmers to achieve success in the higher branches of the profession. The intelligent and thoughtful farmer plans his campaign beforehand with great care. He has certain objects to accomplish, a certain amount of money to make, to meet current expenses, or to pay certain indebtedness, or to use in purchasing stock or supplies, and the more wisely he lays his plans to attain that end, the more certainly he will succeed.

Professional men select with great care the best and largest libraries.—Every new book relating to their profession is purchased even if funds are scarce. Journals relating to their profession are subscribed for, and finally those who are most devoted to their profession, who understand it best, achieve the greater success.—Should not farmers bear these facts in mind and imitate the example set them by all successful men?—*Patron of Husbandry.*

Every State in the Union reports large numbers of Grange co-operative stores wherein the Patrons are learning the great benefits of union, and the strength of concentration.

A Good Hit.

A farmer who objects to subscribing for an agricultural paper on the ground that he knows as much as the editor, or more, about farming, manifests a maximum amount of ignorance in reference to the true objects for which agricultural journals are established. Suppose all the progressive, thinking farmers during the past fifty years had surlily refused to communicate any new improvements or discoveries that they had made to the public through the medium of the press—the inevitable result would have been that we would still be plowing with wooden mold-board plows and using wooden pins for harrow teeth.—*Colman's Rural World.*

—The business of the State Purchasing Agency has increased steadily from the first week it was established, until it is now averaging from \$1200 to \$1500 per day, often exceeding \$2,000. Arrangements for supplying the contract implements are such that they can be shipped very promptly, but it is always better for the Patrons to order as early as they can, as delays will sometimes occur in course of transportation by boats or railroad.—A. J. CHILD, *Mo. State Pur. Agent.*

LET every Patron remember he has the right to vote his sentiments just as other individuals in all State and National elections. The Granges, as such, have nothing to do with politics or political parties, but as citizens, the Patrons can think, vote, act and run for office, make laws and execute them as their views and experiences teach them is best for the great mass of workingmen and women.

New Granges are still being formed at the rate of over one hundred per month, and brother O. H. Kelley reports a good healthy outlook everywhere, as indicated from the correspondence with the National Grange Secretary's office.

No one man, be he ever so strong and ever so wise, out of his own brain and muscle can make and save a million dollars in a life-time; whence then comes the vast wealth of those who have amassed their tens and hundreds of millions! Is it from fraud and force?

BIRMINGHAM, June 29, 1876.

J. T. COBB: *Dear Sir.*—I was instructed by the Grange to write you an article for publication in the VISITOR, in regard to some lightning rod men that have been operating in this vicinity. They are pronounced swindlers of the worst kind. They will agree with a farmer to rod his buildings for a definite sum, say \$40.00, and get him to sign a contract for them to deliver an unlimited amount of rods, and then bring in a bill for from three to five hundred dollars. There are several suits now pending in this county but none have been decided yet. There are articles printed in most any paper you may see now days. I only write this to call your attention to the fact so that you may warn grangers to be on their guard.

I remain yours &c., &c.

A. BAYLEY,
Sec'y. Birmingham Grange, No. 323,
Birmingham, Mich.

Communications.

SANTLAC, August 12th, 1876.

In company with the Captain of the host of Amadore, and the Captain of the host of Hope, we got us up from our own City, and went into the South country to visit the land wherein we were promised an inheritance.

As we passed through the land we lifted up our eyes, and behold, the first ripe grain was already gathered into the Barns, and the latter grain already ripe for the Harvest.

The Bees made music to our ears, while the milch Cows roamed over a thousand Hills, gathering sustenance from the grasses of the fertile plains.

While traveling up the Mountain and rejoicing at the fertility of the soil, we beheld, and lo, a large company of the Inhabitants of the land were gathered together, on the fourth elevation of that hill country, and we drew near unto them, and behold they came out to meet us and bade us welcome, and they prepared a feast of the first fruits of the land, and invited us to partake in common with themselves, and we did according to their request, neither did we become dyspeptics and imagine ourselves as grasshoppers in their sight, or that we had ought to fear from them, although exalted to a high position in their goodly land, for we saw and beheld a goodly number of those who yet dwell in the plains, coming in and going out amongst them, and in nothing did they say aught against or fear any ill from those (so called) mighty dignitaries.

The feast being over, by invitation we repaired to a large upper room, neatly furnished, where they again bade us welcome, and clothed us with raiment suitable to that country, and exalted us to the highest position in their Republic.

No person being there of the dyspeptic persuasion from the land of grumble, all were invited to take part in the good work in which those mighty people are engaged, and so hearty was the response that we truly thought that for intellectual stature, they were of the Sons and Daughters of Anak, yet we received no harm, and when we rose to depart into our own country, to report all that had come to pass, they bade us tell our people to come up and sojourn with them, and they would come and dwell with us and be one people?

All of which we have faithfully reported, and our people with one accord cried out, let us go up and possess the land to its very highest Pinnacle.

And right here let me say that our people are in favor of paying for what they receive without any reduction or abatement, believing that what is not worth paying for is not worth having, and consequently not appreciated.

JAMES ANDERSON.

DOWAGIAC, Mich., June 25, 1876.

Secretary Michigan State Grange.

WORTHY BROTHER. Seeing a number of communications in the June number of the VISITOR from Granges, I thought perhaps some might wish to know what No. 176 is doing. We have built us a hall 45 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 20 feet high, Grange room above; have it completed so that we occupy it. We propose to incorporate this Grange at our next meeting. We built the hall by subscription among the members.— We have got some enterprising and working members, and whatever they undertake they make a success of. We number now about 53 members in this grange, and the most of them are receiving benefits from connection with this Order. Like other Granges we have some members whose interests are not with us, and who would like to pull down and destroy our Grange if they could.

Fraternally Yours,
GAYLORD COREY, Master,
Grange 176.

The Grange in Seneca County, New York.

WATERLOO, N. Y. Aug., 18, 1876.

MR. J. T. COBB, DEAR SIR:—I am not much acquainted with the GRANGE VISITOR, yet I have received a few copies of it through the kindness of a friend, and am very much pleased with the manner of compilation, and the tone of its articles.

I thought I would give, in a short article, to the many readers of your paper, an idea of the progress of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry in this part of New York.

Our small county is well organized with ten Granges. We of course have made many mistakes and done many things that have not benefited us much in any way. We have had a County Council which for a year or more was well attended, but we were not benefitted much financially, yet we had a good time socially, besides giving us some parliamentary practice and developing our talent of speech. Now our County Council 'is better organized, and we hope will prove more beneficial. Some of the Granges have made a great many purchases with good success. One of the Granges, for the first, purchased a half chest of tea, and a sack of coffee, of the Grange House in New York, and saved thereby nearly twenty dollars. This will stimulate them to do more in the same line.

Last week Thursday, a County Grange Picnic was held on the west bank of Cayuga Lake. It was the largest gathering of the kind ever held in this part of the State. The weather was very suitable for such an occasion. Our beautiful little lake was as calm and lovely as could have been desired. It being a basket picnic, it was a sight to marvel through the woods about noon and see the many groups doing good work at the basket part of the picnic.— The Most of the Officers of the State Grange were present. Guy Shaw, of Pen Yan, the State Lecturer, read a very able essay on the work and prosperity of the Order. He was followed by T. A. Thompson, of Minnesota, who spoke at some length on the object and development of the Order. Dancing and Boating were the principal amusements of the day. Much was done, perhaps, to drive away prejudice from the minds of those who have looked upon the Grange movement as something antagonistic to all other pursuits, or something to oppress the laboring class, or else as a political machine.

Hoping you may find a place for this in your paper, I am, Respectfully Yours,

JOHN R. YOST.

SOUTH CAMDEN, June 16, 1876.

J. T. COBB, Sec., Schoolcraft, Mich.—

Dear Sir and Brother:—Acme Grange No. 269, P. of H., at its regular meeting June 6th, '76, by vote located its site for building a Grange hall; at the same meeting, our Worthy Lecturer, who is one of our live members, made a motion to incorporate Acme Grange so our lease would safely run to the Grange.— The motion prevailed unanimously, and I was instructed to write to you for the necessary blanks and instructions.

Our Grange Hall is to be a two story building, 18 feet high, 24 feet wide, and 60 feet long. Hall on second floor.— The first floor we propose to keep for sample room if we can get any thing such as wagons, buggies, mowing machines, horse rakes, and any thing else that farmers use on their farms. By this arrangement we can keep them dry and in good condition.

Please send me the necessary blanks for Incorporation, and oblige.

I would add, that Acme Grange is a live Grange, located in a good, rich farming country. Yours Fraternaly,
GEO. MEAD, W. M.

TRENT, June 19, 1876.

BRO. COBB.—On the 3rd inst Trent Grange No. 372, P. of H., passed the following Preamble and Resolutions.

Whereas, The Gale Manufacturing Co., has gone back on the arrangement made with our State Business Agent, and refuses to sell agricultural implements according to the terms given in the circular sent to Granges by the State Agent; therefore be it

Resolved, By Trent Grange, P. of H., that they deem it advisable for all Patrons to refuse to purchase any implement whatever of said Company or their agents.

Resolved, That a copy of the Preamble and Resolutions as adopted be sent to the GRANGE VISITOR, with a request to publish the same.

ORRIN WHITNEY, Sec.

Preamble and Resolutions.

Adopted at a meeting of Galesburg Grange, No. 81, held Saturday, August 12th, 1876.

Whereas, We, Patrons of Husbandry, of Galesburg Grange No. 18, being fully convinced that the rate of interest allowed to be taken for the use of money, or its equivalent, is far in excess of the ability of any branch of industry to pay, and that all or nearly all branches of productive industry, and especially of the Agriculturist or tiller of the soil are at this time suffering from this cause alone to an extent nearly equal to one third of the capital invested, and

Whereas, It being an acknowledged duty for all good Patrons to help and sustain each other in any manner not conflicting with their moral or legal duties, and especially,

Whereas, Their material interests and prosperity are at stake, we have hereby faithfully and fraternally pledged ourselves and subscribed to the following Resolutions.

Resolved, That we deem the custom of petitioning our Legislature, especially after elections for abatement of our grievances as among the lost arts in this day of selfishness and corruption, we, therefore, shall say to our candidates in advance that our support for either branch of the Legislature will depend upon the unequivocal pledge they make to the letter and spirit of these resolutions.

Resolved, That we demand of the coming session of the Legislature, at an early day, the repeal of the present law regarding the rates of interest, and in place thereof, they shall use their influence toward the enactment of a law fixing the rate of interest at a maximum rate not exceeding seven per cent per annum, and any person accepting directly or indirectly, any sum greater than seven per cent per annum, or an equivalent in any manner shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be held to punishment for such act, and in all cases shall forfeit the right to collection of both principal and interest.

This subject of Interest is one of great importance, and I am glad that our friends of the Galesburg Grange have called attention to the necessity of some legislation.

No truth is more obvious than this, that money loaned brings a far larger return than money invested in property or business.

No class of people are gaining in property, through these years of "hard times," except the class who loan money, be they bankers, public, private or individual capitalists. To bring the rate of interest down to a point that the debtor class can afford to pay, may be an impossibility, but our laws relating to interest, need amending in behalf of the borrowing class.

We hope Granges will discuss this question fully, and that we may act intelligently.

We shall expect communications on this subject for the next VISITOR.

OBITUARY.

BRONSON, August 21, 1876.

BRO. COBB.—Please publish the following: Whereas, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove our Sister, Margaret Lockwood, therefore be it

Resolved, That in the death of Margaret, the Fraternity has lost an active, honorable, and well beloved member.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the husband and relatives who have been so suddenly bereaved.

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions be furnished the GRANGE VISITOR, for publication, and the same be recorded in the Minutes of the Grange.

BYRON BENTON,
Secretary, Bronson Grange, No. 91.

N. B.

PARTICULAR.

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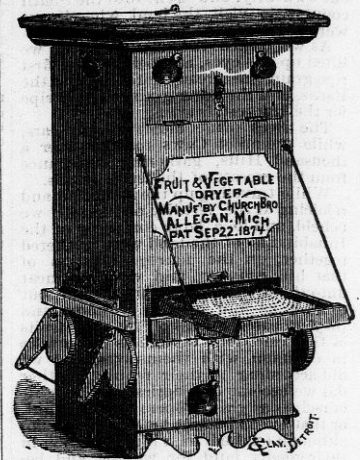
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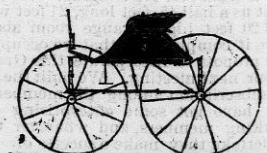
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