

THE Grange Visitor

ISSUED

MONTHLY

BY THE **EXECUTIVE**
Michigan State



COMMITTEE OF THE
Grange, P. of H.

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J. T. COBB, - }

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—Is it not mortifying that neither Congress, the State Legislatures, or the Patrons of Husbandry, have established a system of statistics that will give the farmer any basis to govern him as to what he should ask for his surplus products? He is told that he must plant, sow, and sell, according to the demand and the supply on hand. How can he do so under the guessing system? If our legislators would go to France, they would find a system of statistics that would, if adopted in this country, save millions to our people.—*Helper.*

—We have all read of the over careful mother, who told her "charming daughter" that she might "go out to swim," if she didn't "go near the water." Some Patrons seem to be emulating the conduct of this discreet matron. They think we may be good members of the Order and receive all its benefits without going near the Grange stores and dealers, without participating in the Grange meetings, without doing anything to make the Grange profitable and entertaining.

Michigan State Grange.

Fourth Annual Session—Master's Address—Reports by the Secretary, State Agent, Executive Committee, &c.

The Fourth Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange was opened in due form by Worthy Master Woodman in the hall of the House of Representatives in the city of Lansing, at 10 o'clock A. M., on the 12th inst. All the officers of the State Grange responded to their names at the call of the roll, and nearly every delegate elected was found present.

A Committee on Credentials having been appointed and their report received and adopted the Worthy Master delivered his

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Michigan State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry:

WORTHY PATRONS.—Time is on the wing. Another year, like the dew-dispersed before the shining messenger of day, has vanished. Again we meet in this old hall, rich in the history of passed events. Although many esteemed friends and valuable members who were with us one year ago are not here, yet their places are filled by those who seem equally earnest to advance the interests of our Order, and competent to perform the duties devolving upon them.

As representatives of the Subordinate Granges of Michigan, it becomes your duty, to examine critically the records of progress of the past, post the books, strike the balance, and prepare for the work of another year.

Our Order was a necessity, demanded by the Agriculturists of the country for their mutual benefit and protection; and organized for wise and beneficent purposes. It sprang into existence as if by magic, naturally arousing the suspicion and jealousy of other classes. Apprehensions were felt that the farmers of the country who had suffered grievances, had organized to redress them, and would assume control and retaliate upon those whom they fancied to be their aggressors. These fears had no foundation in fact. To assume that the agriculturists of the country, organized to correct abuses, would be guilty of injustice to others, is to question the theory upon which our republican form of government is founded. No organization was ever formed for the protection of human rights, with purer motives, or nobler aims; or which had greater or more difficult obstacles to overcome. It was like a

ship launched upon an unknown ocean, and manned by those unacquainted with the art of sailing or science of navigation; yet laden with a nation's hope. Soundings had to be made, a chart prepared, the compass set, and men trained to handle the ropes, lift at the windlass, and stand at the helm.

The farmers of the country were isolated, having but little intercourse with each other; and consequently unsocial and distrustful. They had to be brought together, sociability cultivated and confidence inspired. The benefits derived from a frequent interchange of views, in relation to the best means to accomplish certain results, and the influence of united effort were not appreciated. The importance of experimental farming, and the relation of science to agriculture, were not generally understood and practiced. A large majority of farmers were unacquainted with the routine and detail of business as practiced by those engaged in trade and commerce, and consequently were unable to take advantage of the market in buying and selling, or to obtain the most favorable terms for shipping their surplus products to market. They were not politicians or office seekers, and were seldom elected to office; and had but little influence over the legislation of the country. Persons engaged in the other avocations in life, were thoroughly organized for the protection of their own interests; and by united effort and influence controlled the price of almost every commodity bought and sold upon the market, and moulded legislation to meet their own requirements, regardless of the depressing influence upon the business of the farmers who were unorganized and had no means of protection.

These circumstances, together with the avariciousness of speculators with aggregated capital, and incorporated powers, and the exacting demands of the "money-changers," who hold the mortgages upon the farms, all combined to cripple the business of the farmer and the laborer, by absorbing the profits of the farm, and of labor.

Wisdom and justice demands, that all legitimate business and interests, should be fairly and equally protected; and that he who by his labors or energies adds to the wealth of the world, and general prosperity of the people, or contributes to commerce, either by raising wheat or manufacturing it into flour, or

transporting it to market, is equally entitled to a fair remuneration for what he contributes to the grand result. The man who invests his money in a farm, a factory, store, bank or railroad, is equally entitled to a fair profit on his investment. But to require an individual who has no cash capital, but invests and uses the brain and muscle which God has given him, to receive but a scanty subsistence for his life's labor, or to make capital invested in a farm, yield to the owner but three or five per cent while the mortgage upon the farm draws ten, seems to be an unjust discrimination in favor of capital and against labor and agriculture, the tendency of which is to reduce laborers to pauperism, and the farmers to mere tenants, the titles to the farms passing into the hands of the mortgage holders, thus creating a moneyed aristocracy, and establishing with unerring certainty, a system of landlords and tenants, not much unlike the Feudal System of the Old World.

Government is established for the mutual protection of the people; and legislation has been instituted as the medium through which the people are to obtain that protection, and thereby secure the benefits of government. The strength, stability, and power of a nation, is in the virtue, intelligence, contentment and general prosperity of the people. Hence legislation which fosters and protects one interest, to the injury of another, is subversive of every principle of good government.

As all wealth comes from productive industry, the wealth of a nation is in the labor of the nation; and the government that neglects to encourage and protect its home labor, and productive industry, disregards its best interest and main support, and invites the penalty. If the wages of the laborer are not sufficient to enable him to provide for his family the necessaries and comforts of life, or if the profits of productive industry, are taken from the producer, and swept into the vortex of concentrated capital in the hands of millionaires, and soulless corporations, having no interests in common with the welfare of the people, is not the object of government subverted and the rights of the people crushed out? But in a republican form of government like ours, where all power is vested in the people, and public officers are but servants, amenable to their constituents for every official act, the remedy for all oppressive acts, or unjust laws is with the people. If therefore, the farmers have suffered from unfriendly legislation, or through the influence of organizations among other classes, who number but a moiety of their own, the fault has been with themselves. No blame can be attached to those engaged in the other occupations in life, for using all honorable and legitimate means to foster and protect their own interests.

No great reform has ever been effected, except through the influence of organized and united effort, and no great interest has ever received legal and just aid and protection, either from legislation, or the influence of public opinion, that had not

some medium or organization through which its importance, its wants, and its wrongs or neglects, could be made known.

This order presents to the farming interest a medium through which, it can not only speak and be heard, but have the assurance that proper and well directed efforts will produce practical results.

It has already accomplished great good in bringing farmers and their wives together, cultivating sociability; and discussing questions relating to the farm and the household; in disseminating general information relating to agriculture, business, state and condition of the market; and wants and prospects of the same, in cultivating more thorough business habits, and better economy, in doing away in a large degree with the credit system, thereby reducing the price paid for farm implements and supplies, and consequent interest on debts, in encouraging the circulation of Agricultural Journals, and infusing into the minds of farmers the necessity for exercising more thought and skill in their farm and business operations, in preventing litigation, and settling difficulties by arbitration in the Grange, and in enabling the Husbandman and Matron, thought poor and burdened with cares, to feel that they are not doomed, isolated and alone, to toil on through weary life, without friends, sympathy, society or hope of advancement, but to know that they are members of a great Fraternity, bound together by the ties of brotherly love, and laboring for the good and the elevation of all.

Although we have accomplished much, yet there are new and uncleared fields before us, and obstacles to overcome, which require strong arms, steady blows, and perseverance, with united effort. I will call your attention to a few of the many subjects which will claim your attention.

EDUCATION.

There is no subject so intimately connected with the interests of our Order as that of Education. Beginning with the infant mind just budding into life, which expands and develops under the influence of circumstances, and continues to the end of our existence. Hence the necessity of correct early examples, influences and instructions, not only in the family, but in our associations, and in the Public Schools. I need not discuss here the importance of a higher and more practical education for farmers. No class of our citizens are better prepared to enjoy and be benefited by, a well educated mind and heart, than the cultivator of the soil; and no occupation in life, is so well calculated to develop a man, morally, mentally and physically, as that of agriculture; or which requires closer study, deeper thought, or a greater need of the application of science to obtain desired results.

The labors of the farmer are not confined to the dingy office of the merchant or banker, pouring over ledgers and balance sheets, or to the narrow channel of study and thought required of the doctor, to learn the nature and cause of diseases and ap-

plication of remedies, or to the lawyer, whose life's labor is devoted to the study of statutes and decisions, and precedents and interpretations. The daily labors of the farmer are in nature's broad fields, where science had its birth; end where the earth beneath and the heavens above him, are pages on which are written in letters of truth, the history of all literature and civilization; and point with unmistakable certainty to a future and higher state of existence. There is not a science known to the literary world, that may not be brought into practical use, by the reading, thinking, scientific farmer. Scientific farming is but the practical use of science in agricultural operations. Science means knowledge, and is the same, whether acquired in the college, the log school house, or on the farm.

As citizens of Michigan we are proud of our system of free schools; but do we take the interest in our *country district schools*, which their importance demands? Are we not too apt to consider them suitable only for small children to attend, where mere rudiments are taught; and send our children away to the higher school, where they are rushed over the primary branches, and put to studying sciences, for which they are not prepared to understand or comprehend; and then into foreign and dead languages, before they have learned to read, speak or write the English language well; or even spell the most common words correctly; and after years of study and toil, attended with great expense, come out educated only in name. If the severity of this criticism, shall have the effect to induce parents to fully investigate this subject, my object will have been accomplished.

I recommend, that this subject be thoroughly discussed in every Subordinate Grange in the State, and measures adopted to popularize our common schools, and make them what they should be, schools where every child in the community can obtain a good practical English education.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Michigan led the van in establishing a college for the higher education of farmers sons. This was a new departure, a step in advance of the age, and like this organization, met with opposition, laughter, and derision. The opposition it encountered had the effect to locate it in a dense forest, which was deemed sufficient by its enemies to crush it in its infancy, and before the light of the *Sun* or of *reason* could be allowed to shine upon it. For years it was opposed by some of the best educators of the State, who lent their whole influence to destroy it. Yet in spite of opposition and unfriendly legislation, it struggled on, and farmers' boys felled the trees, split the rails, laid the fence, dug the ditches, ploughed the soil, and at the same time prosecuted their studies, and graduated with honors. They came out not "educated in name only," but in *reality*, prepared to grapple with the stern realities of business life. Our college to-day, is a model of its kind, and takes its place among

the first institutions of learning in the land. It is the farmers institution and it becomes our duty to look after its welfare.

CO-OPERATION.

The term means concurrent action, working or operating together for the same end. Hence, co-operation in our Order is not confined to mere business or pecuniary matters, but to the cultivation of the social virtues, and everything that tends to inspire thought, develop intellect, and elevate our members. During the past year we have not only made progress in this direction, but the business arm of the Order has been strengthened, and its benefits brought within the reach of every member of the Order. Our State Agency has proved a success, as the report of the business agent will show. Arrangements have been made with manufacturers and wholesale dealers, by our State Agent, to supply the members of Subordinate Granges with almost every thing needed on the farm or in the house-hold, at reasonable rates. As the agency has been so well established, and successfully operated the past year, would it not be well to consider the policy of levying a tax of two or three per cent upon the business, to be paid into the treasury for the support of the agency.

Several Patrons' stores, and co-operative associations are doing business in the State, and so far as I have been able to learn, are meeting the expectation of those having access to them. These local institutions have been organized to bring the benefits of business co-operation right home to members of the Order, and cannot fail to be advantageous to those living near, and patronizing them. They are in no sense, in conflict with the State Agency, but on the contrary, are a counterpart of the same business system, operating together, for the mutual benefit of all.

Organizations for business on the co-operative system, recommended by the National Grange, should not overlook the following points which seem essential to place all members of the Order on an equal footing and insure success in the enterprise.—1st. Shares of stock so low that all members may become share-holders; 2nd. Competent and honest men to manage the business; 3rd. Cash system of business; 4th. To sell for a fair profit; 5th. A fixed interest on share capital; 6th. Quarterly settlements; 7th. Division of profits among purchasers, giving full dividends to share-holding purchasers, and half dividends to non share-holding purchasers; 8th. Re-investment of a large portion of the dividends in stock capital, by the purchasers.—This system has been devised for the benefit of subordinate Granges wishing to do business and associating together at some convenient center.

The National Grange has also enacted the necessary legislation to encourage international co-operation with the co-operative societies of England. However well matured may be this system, I am clearly of the opinion that the benefits to be derived from it, by the farmers of the great north-west, are more imaginary than

real. Yet it can do no harm, and may if inaugurated, furnish a better market for a limited amount of farm products; but in my humble judgment it is for the interest of every American farmer to encourage home manufacture, and home production of the raw material, and thus "bring the producer and the consumer into the closest and most intimate relation," thereby creating a market for a large portion of our produce, near the place of production.

My views of practical co-operation are set forth in my last annual address to the State Grange. I submit this subject for your careful consideration.

PLASTER.

The firm of Day & Taylor, of Grandville, are manufacturing land plaster for the Subordinate Granges of Michigan, under a contract with the Executive Committee, as authorized by the State Grange at its last session. They are prepared to furnish any quantity of pure fresh ground plaster, at the contract price, \$3.00 per ton on board the cars at their mill, to be paid for when delivered. Every Patron should patronize this firm, and thereby secure plaster at reasonable rates for the future. Let it be a fixed principal in our Order to stand by those who stand by us, and deal with those who by their acts are entitled to our confidence.—For full particulars relating to this question, I refer you to the report of the Secretary and Executive Committee. I trust this subject will receive the attention its importance demands.

COUNTY GRANGES.

Fifteen County Granges have been organized in the State. My views in relation to their object and utility, were fully given in my last annual address, to which I call your special attention.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

I am satisfied that the Order has been firmly planted in the confidence of the farmers, and has become one of the fixed institutions of the country. During the past year many fine and expensive Grange halls have been built in this State by the Subordinate Granges, and a large amount of business has been done, with results favorable and encouraging. A serious error was committed in the early organization of Granges. The impression seemed to be that the Grange was a good thing, and the more the farmers could have of them the better.—Jurisdiction was disregarded, and Granges were organized near together, sometimes in the same neighborhood, and strife over jurisdiction and candidates commenced at the outset. It has been my policy to protect Granges in their jurisdiction, counsel harmony, and as far as possible, consolidate the weak with strong, and make the Grange a place where social culture, refinement, education, and business co-operation could be realized by its members. A few charters have been surrendered, and in some Granges there has been a falling off in the membership. This was to be expected; and is no cause for discouragement. What our members most need, is correct information on all

questions relating to the interests of the Order, which must be supplied by public journals, documents, and lectures. These should be provided for.

LECTURER OF THE STATE GRANGE.

Under instructions of the Executive Committee, I authorized the State Lecturer to visit all delinquent and dormant Granges in the State, and inquire into their condition, and the cause of their inactivity; and if possible, to put them in working order, otherwise to take up their charters, and limit all the members who wished to retain their connection with the Order. I am confident that this work has resulted in much good to the Granges visited, and to the Order generally. Several dormant Granges have been revived and are now doing good work. For full particulars, I refer you to the Lecturers report.

GRANGE VISITOR.

This sheet has been issued regularly each month during the year, and has been the means of affording much valuable information to members of the Order, at very little expense. Much complaint has come to me, that officers of Subordinate Granges who receive it free of cost, do not present it to the Grange, or even call the attention of members to it, or recommend them to subscribe for it. The cost of the VISITOR is so small, that it does seem,—if the proper efforts were made by Masters and Secretaries of Subordinate Granges,—that a very large percentage of the members of the Order would become regular subscribers to it. Its issue has cost the State Grange nothing, and its circulation already numbers several thousand. For full particulars see Secretary's report.

FINANCE.

For information relating to the financial condition of the State Grange, see Secretary's and Treasurer's reports. The strictest economy should be exercised in every department of the State Grange, and where expenses can be reduced without serious detriment to the Order, it should be done.

NATIONAL GRANGE.

The 10th Annual Session of the National Grange was held in Chicago in November. A large amount of business came before it for consideration and action, which was all acted upon and disposed of. As a matter of economy, the printing of the proceedings from day to day, was dispensed with, consequently I am unable to give any authentic information of the business done, or acts passed, except the following amendments to the Constitution, which were submitted to the State Granges for ratification. I herewith submit the same for your consideration.

1. Amend article one, section two, by inserting after the word "ballot," the following words: "any fourth degree member, in good standing, shall be eligible to office, or to receive the degrees, in the County, District, or National Grange, within whose jurisdiction such member may reside, but shall not be entitled to vote."

2. Amend article one, section four, so as to read as follows:

Section four. There shall be an Executive Committee of the National

Grange, consisting of three members, whose term of office shall be two years. The Master of the National Grange shall be, *ex-officio*, a member of the Executive Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote except in case of a tie.

3. Amend article two, section three, by striking out the word "annually" and inserting in place thereof the word "biennially" and by striking out the words "from year to year," in said section; by striking out the word "annual," in article three, and inserting the word "biennial" in place thereof; and by striking out the word "annual" in article thirteen, and inserting the word "biennial" in place thereof. This amendment shall take effect after the annual session of the National Grange, to be held in the year 1877.

4. Amend the preamble under the head of Organization,—State Grange—Section one—by inserting after the word "Matron," in the third line, the words, "provided that when the Master of a Subordinate Grange cannot attend the meeting of the State Grange, the Subordinate Grange may elect a substitute from those who are duly qualified—and"

The 1st amendment if ratified, will make every fourth degree member eligible to office in the County, State, or National Grange, and entitled to receive the lessons of all the degrees in the same.

The 2nd will reduce the number of the Executive Committee of the National Grange, from five to three, and constitutes the Master of the National Grange an *ex-officio* member of the Board.

The 3rd provides for "biennial" instead of "annual" sessions of the National Grange.

The 4th provides for the election of substitutes to attend the State Grange where the regularly elected delegates are unable to attend.

THE CENTENNIAL.

The Centennial exhibition brought together not only the people of our own country, but the nations of the earth, with the products of their skill and industry. Its effect upon advancing civilization must be direct, salutary and powerful.

Old ideas will be utilized, new ideas will crowd the fertile brain, and a new life given to inventive genius and intellectual development. It will add volumes to the history of the world, the brightest pages of which will relate to the first one hundred years of our national existence.

The Patrons' Encampment, built by the members of our Order, for the accommodation of Patrons and their friends visiting the Exposition, answered well the purpose for which it was erected, and tens of thousands of our members were entertained and made comfortable there. The proprietors of the Encampment are deserving the commendation and thanks of every member of our Fraternity.

INTEREST ON MONEY, FORECLOSURES, &C.

In view of the fact that a large portion of the farms of our State are under mortgage bearing a high rate of interest, many of which are being foreclosed and the titles passing from the owners forever, when the mortgage

proper is but a fraction of the value of the farm, it becomes your duty to examine our statutes regulating interest on money, and the foreclosure of mortgages.

The question of interest on money loaned has been somewhat discussed in the Subordinate Granges in this State, and has elicited much interest in the subject, and called forth many expressions of opinion. This question is not confined to State laws, but reaches out and involves the whole monetary system of the country. Money is not an article of commerce to be bought and sold, but the "standard of values," or "medium of commerce." Congress has the power to "coin money and regulate its value." It must also establish a "uniform currency." Now if the currency or money of the country, must be "uniform," and its value regulated by Congress, should not *interest*,—which has something to do with the real value of money,—be also *uniform*, and regulated in the same manner. This question will bear investigation. The real estate mortgages of this State usually draw ten per cent interest, and often "usury" is charged and paid by the owner of the property, under threats of foreclosure,—the expense of which under our statutes, is almost appalling. I am of the opinion, that it would be eminently proper, and the good of the Order demands, that you should, by suitable resolutions, call the attention of the Legislature, soon to convene, to this question, with the view of having the laws so amended as to prevent taking usurious interest, and limiting the fees and expenses of foreclosure, to reasonable and uniform rates.

During the war, the fees paid to public officers and others for services, were raised, on account of the depreciated state of the currency. As this is a time when economy and retrenchment should be practiced, the Legislature should consider this subject.

The foregoing are a few of the many subjects which demand some consideration; but the time limited for our session, and the amount of business which must necessarily come before you, warns me to desist from further recommendations.

My official term expires with this session. For nearly two years have I labored in this work, and have endeavored to do my duty faithfully and impartially. That I have committed errors there can be no doubt. I trust that the duties and responsibilities of the position may be placed in abler hands, and the work of building up and perpetuating our Order, carried forward with renewed energy and interest. I am profoundly impressed with the idea, that the only hope for the farmers of our country to rise above the position of "hewers of wood and drawers of water," is by organized and united effort; and if this organization fails, the last hope of the American farmers has vanished forever. But it will not fail. The interests and future hopes of more than 6,000,000 of earnest and determined men and women are centered in it. It must go forward in its glorious work, overcoming every obstacle, and bringing all within its influence nearer

to the good, the beautiful, and true. May your labors be characterized by harmony and wisdom, and your acts result in promoting the welfare and prosperity to our Order.

J. J. WOODMAN.

Secretary's Report.

Worthy Master and Patrons:

I herewith submit my report of the business of the Secretary's office for the year ending Dec. 1st, 1876. Although seventeen new Granges have been added to the list during the year, yet we have a less membership to report to the National Grange than we had one year ago. A few consolidations have been effected, and several Granges have surrendered their charters.

A careful examination of my accounts with Subordinate Granges shows, that of the 628 Granges that have been organized within this jurisdiction, on the 30th day of November, the time which we have adopted as the close of the fiscal year, 357 Granges were fully reported; 82 were delinquent one report; 87 two reports, and 34 three reports.

Of the residue 14 have consolidated, 18 have surrendered their charters, and the remaining 36 were dead from the date of their organization, or are now dormant and have been for more than a year. Missionary labor would restore a few of these to activity and usefulness and induce good members of the rest to procure certificates from the State Secretary that would enable them to join other Granges.

A condensed statement of my account with the State Grange appears by the following exhibit:

J. T. Cobb, Secretary,	Dr.
To fees and dues received from Subordinate Granges from Dec. 1st, 1875, to Nov. 30th, 1876, inclusive.....	\$7397 86
To fees from Special Deputies.....	10 00
To fees from organizing Pomona Granges	12 00
To amount of Subscription to Visitor..	537 16
To amount from Advertisers.....	118 25
To profit balance from supply account.	116 23
Total Receipts,	\$8191 50

Cr.
By amount deposited to the credit of the State Treasurer as appears by his receipts.....

\$8191 50
I was directed by the Executive Committee to collect from N. Chilson, our former State Agent, a balance due on settlement of \$122, which has been done and the amount paid over to State Treasurer S. F. Brown.

Of the \$1500 advanced to State Agt. J. H. Gardner, for business purposes, \$700 was returned August 21st, and deposited with the Treasurer. For these two sums I hold his receipts.

The expense account of my office for the year has been—

For Postage and Stamped Envelopes.....	\$219 85
For Blanks, Stationery and Printing, (aside from the Visitor).....	379 73
For Blank Books.....	5 30
For Office Furniture.....	3 00
For Office Rent.....	30 00
For Clerk hire.....	144 35
For Miscellaneous Expense account.....	99 75
Total,	\$881 98

The second item includes printing the Proceedings of the last Session, \$221.60. The fifth includes all assistance in folding, directing and mailing the VISITOR. The last includes telegraphing, exchange, and my traveling expenses, covering five trips to

Grandville on plaster account, and two to Lansing, and all other miscellaneous items.

GRANGE VISITOR.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the close of the last State Grange session, it was ordered that the publication of the GRANGE VISITOR be continued under the same management as heretofore, and the Publishing Committee were given discretionary power as to size of sheet, time and frequency of issue, and price per annum.

We decided to reduce the price, but otherwise to make no change in the current volume. While there was, and is, quite a pressing demand for a larger sheet and a more frequent issue, yet I then felt that it would be impossible for me to give it more attention than it then required, and still give my personal service to all the duties pertaining to the Sec'y's office to which had been added the work growing out of the plaster business. During the year there have been issued ten editions of the VISITOR of 3000 copies each, and two editions of 3500 each. Also a supplement to the Dec. and March numbers. For each regular edition of 3000 copies we have paid \$40, making a total of \$480 00

The Supplements and additional numbers of last two issues have cost.....	\$ 42 50
Postage for the year.....	42 40
Miscellaneous expenses attending its publication and mailing.....	57 00
Total.....	\$621 90
Receipts for Subscription.....	\$537 16
" Advertising.....	118 25
Credit Balance reported for 1875, 50 53	
Total.....	\$705 94

This would show an apparent profit of \$84.04. A careful examination of our subscription book, however, shows that we have 1796 subscriptions pre paid, to whom we must furnish 8239 copies of the VISITOR which will cost for printing, postage and mailing.....\$120 00

Receipts for Advertising, pro rate, about	28 00
Advertising Bills not collected.....	25 00

Amounting to..... \$53 00

Which would leave us with this calculation, a credit balance of \$31 00. In considering this subject, we must not forget that 45 per cent of every issue is sent to Masters and Secretaries of our State, to Officers of other States, and to exchanges, for which no pecuniary return whatever is received. In this experiment of issuing the GRANGE VISITOR it was only intended to, if possible, make it self-sustaining. That end has been accomplished—but the margin as appears by our report, seems to me too narrow for safety. With this statement, I leave the future of the VISITOR in your hands for disposition.

BLANKS.

We have prepared and had printed 20 different Blank forms that seemed necessary for the use of the Order, and the successful operating of the business of our office.

Of blanks for Incorporation of Subordinate Granges and return certificates, Consolidation Blanks, and Certificates of Dimit, and a few others, there is a supply in the office for another year.

BALANCES ON MASTER'S ORDERS, 1875.

By a resolution adopted at the last session, I was instructed to pay all

balances due Masters on orders issued in payment for attendance at the January Session of 1875. In obedience to that resolution I have settled with twenty-four Masters and paid them by orders on the Treasurer of the State Grange the several amounts found due—the aggregate amt of such balances being \$245 20.

PROCEEDINGS OF LAST SESSION.

By direction of the Executive Committee I contracted with the Kalamazoo Publishing Co. for printing in book form 1500 copies of the Proceedings of the last Session of the State Grange, at a cost of \$221.60, and forwarded as directed by resolution of the State Grange a copy to each Subordinate Grange Master and Secretary in the State, excepting only those Masters and Secretaries who failed to report the officers elect for 1876 to my office.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

For the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the Granges in the State, I sent in September last, to each Secretary, a series of questions which, if fully answered, would have furnished an amount of specific information very much needed, to enable us to arrive at correct conclusions as to the actual condition of the Order in this State. The time proved most unfavorable. This Centennial year, with its demands upon our time, resources, and energies, in connection with a political campaign of unusual excitement, has drawn upon our vitality to a very considerable extent, and I am satisfied that these Reports do not reflect the true condition of our Order in Michigan. Of all the Secretaries in the State, only 113 filled up and returned the blank circular. From these I gather the following facts: That of the Granges reported, nearly all hold regular meetings twice a month—that the attendance of 41 was good, 47 fair, and 22 poor; that 36 were incorporated; 23 own halls, reported value \$18,800; 96 reported an aggregate of Grange property—exclusive of halls—amounting to \$8,886; 77 report purchases within the year amounting to \$122,402—amount saved by such purchases, \$19,038—37 only of these have made purchases from State Agt. Gardner, or by his arrangements, and all of these report themselves satisfied.

The average number of members suspended for non payment of dues by each of the 110 Granges that reported, was 16; 23 reported that delinquent members were notified at the end of the quarter, and 87 do not notify members of their delinquency; 81 reported that members were suspended for delinquency, and 28 do not suspend members for delinquency, but continue to pay dues for such to the State Grange. Fifty reported that their Secretaries and Treasurers have given Bonds, and 60 that these officers had not. Blanks for that purpose were sent with blank quarterly reports to every Secretary last winter.

To the enquiry, "Have you any local or home arrangements for purchasing goods at a discount" 56 replied Yes, and 54 No; 38 reported such home arrangement satisfactory, and 18 unsatisfactory. To the question, "Has the Grange improved the social status of its members and the people

of your township, and do you visit one another and cultivate social intercourse to a greater extent than you did before organization?" 107 reported Yes, and 2 reported No.

To the question, "Do you strive for intellectual advancement by the use of the Query Box, discussions, essays, lectures, etc., in your meetings?"—95 replied Yes, and 13 replied No. To the question "Where you have a County Grange is it proving beneficial to the Order?" 36 reply yes, and 13 no. The other reports received were from counties without county organizations. If these reports prove anything, they show the need of laborers in the field, to instruct and encourage the officers and members of our subordinate Granges.

PLASTER.

As the Ex. Com. will recount in their report their doings in connection with this vexed subject, I will refer to it as briefly as my connection with the business would seem to justify.

In the arrangement made with Bro. Weston last Jan., all orders for plaster that had been received by me and forwarded to him, amounting to some 8000 tons, were assigned to me, and were to be filled by Bro. Weston in the order in which they were received, and the plaster shipped by my direction,—Bro. Weston to send me the shipping bills.

I was directed to collect the pay for all plaster so shipped, and remit to Bro. Weston 75 per cent. of all collections, retaining 25 per cent. to reimburse the Ex. Com. for money advanced to aid Bro. Weston in getting his mill in running order.

It is not necessary to give a detailed statement of the delays and mishaps that attended the business—Bro. Weston done the best he could. His first shipping bill bears date Feb. 28; his last, April 7—600 tons in all. At about this last date he sold his entire interest in his mine, mill, fixtures and business to Day & Taylor. This firm assumed the obligation of Mr. Weston to the Executive Committee, with the same arrangement in regard to shipping plaster. The condition of the mill and mine was such, when these parties took hold of it, that they were only able to get out and ship before the close of the season, 481 tons. All well know that we obtained but a small part of the plaster ordered, and but little of that just when wanted. The whole matter was attended with vexatious delays and disappointments, but there was far less fault-finding than I expected, when I found that everything relating to the supply was so unreliable and that in the main we were to be disappointed. The total sales of plaster were:

600 tons shipped by Bro. Weston,	
amounting to.....	\$1,800 00
91,850 pounds sold from Mill.....	137 77
481 4-5 tons shipped by D. & T.,	1,445 40
Total value of sales,.....	\$3,383 17

In almost every instance bills for plaster were met with commendable promptness,—only \$40 still remaining uncollected. If the plaster had arrived in time, so that it could have been used, every dollar would have been remitted.

By direction of the Com. I applied the 25 per cent. of all collections in payment of interest and principal on the note of the Com., held by the Southern Mich. Nat. Bank, and made an order July 25th on the Treas. of the State Grange for the balance due amounting to \$3,310.17.

At a meeting of the Com. in Jackson, Aug. 9th they resolved to adopt the plan of last year in relation to plaster, and I was directed to prepare a circular setting forth the condition of the plaster business, and also to prepare and have printed *blank orders* for plaster returnable to me, and send the circular and orders to every Master or Sec'y in the State. That the circular might be more sure to receive attention, I had it printed on the back of the order for plaster, and by the 1st of September 1300 copies were distributed.

The result has not justified the expectations of the Committee.

This circular has been supported by articles in the Oct. and Nov. numbers of the VISITOR in which I urged Patrons to make up orders and forward at once, referring to the fact that agents of the plaster companies composing the association, are soliciting and obtaining orders for plaster from Patrons at the same price that we propose to furnish at the mill in Grandville. I think it was also clearly proved that the plaster furnished by Day & Taylor is really worth from 10 to 40 per cent more than that sold by any firm that make stucco. At the suggestion of Bro. Luce, another circular letter relating to plaster addressed to Masters and Secretaries was sent from the Secretary's office to each of those officers the first week of this month.

It seems to me that every thing has been done to carry out the instruction of the last State Grange to the Com.; the end sought has been reached, and it only remains for the Patrons of the State who demanded of the Com. some effective work, to realize all that was asked for by them and their representatives at the last session, in regard to plaster.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The duties of Secretary as prescribed in our By-Laws do not include recommendations to the State Grange, but the opportunities afforded that officer to discover any omissions or defects in existing laws and usages would seem to warrant him in so doing.

I would therefore respectfully recommend that Art. 12 of State By-Laws entitled "Fiscal Year" be so amended as to read—the fiscal year of this and Subordinate Granges shall commence on the first day of Dec. and end on the 30th day of November of the following year.

This change seems to me desirable, that it may correspond with the time that it is found practicable to make up reports of the business of the previous year, for presentation to the State Grange soon to assemble. While the State Grange sessions are held before the middle of December, the business of the Secretary's office transacted after the 1st of Dec. can not well be included in his report.

It gives two months from the close

of a quarter, which is certainly ample time for all Subordinate Granges to have their reports made and forwarded for the quarter ending Sept. 30th.

I would also recommend that Sec. 1, Art. 13, be amended by substituting in the second line for the words "dues of" the words *Reports from*, and in the third line, after the word "promptly" add the words—*made, and the dues.*

Also, amend Sec 6, Art. 13, by striking out the words "rejection and" in the fourth line of said section.

Also, amend Section 1, Art. 14, by striking out the word "dispensation" in the 12th line of said section, and substituting the word *Charter.*

In the enumeration of the duties of the Secretary of the State Grange, Sec. 6, Art. 7, I think the words "and publish quarterly" found in the 10th line, on page 17 of By-Laws, should be stricken out. It is a requirement attended with expense and labor, and when done is of no practical value. It is so unnecessary and impracticable that I have not attempted to comply with the requirement since the first year of our State organization.

The list of Granges as printed this year cost nearly \$100, and except for use by the officers of the State Grange is of no sort of benefit to the Order. To said Sec. 6, Art. 7, I suggest additions as follows:

He shall prepare and publish a tabulated sheet of balances of account, of each Subordinate Grange with the State Grange, as it appears on his books on the 1st day of September of each year, and before the 15th day of said month, shall send one copy of such balances to every Grange Secretary in the State.

He shall make a list by numbers of the Granges entitled to representation in County and District Conventions, and shall determine under such regulations as the Executive Committee may establish, the number of representatives to which a county or district is entitled, and the publication of such list of Granges and number of representatives in the official paper of the State Grange, shall be deemed and taken as sufficient notice to all Granges, of their rights to representation.

He shall keep a list of Granges delinquent more than one quarter in reports or payment of dues, standing in the official paper of the State Grange, and shall correct the same monthly.

It will be recollected that the Act for the Incorporation of the State and Subordinate Granges, though intended to provide for County Granges and County Councils, was defective in its application to County and District organizations, and I would recommend that some person be designated whose duty it shall be to procure such amendment to the Act of Incorporation from the legislature soon to convene, as will remedy the defect referred to.

And lastly, in obedience to one of the first principles of our Order—Economy in all things—I venture to recommend that Sec 1, Art. 3, be so amended as to materially reduce the number of this representative body.

Complaints, to me quite unreason-

able, are made, that too large an amount of money is demanded from Subordinate Granges for the support of the State and National Grange.

Under our present system of representation, we certainly could not get along with less. The January session of 1875 cost over \$5,000.

The Pay Roll of the last Session was... \$2665 43
Contingent Expenses of Session,..... 107 65

Total, \$2713 08

This does not include the amount appropriated in payment for services of the Worthy Master, Lecturer and Treasurer of the State Grange.

I assume that too much is not paid by the Subordinate to the State Grange. And I venture the opinion that we should hazzard little in the quality of its legislation if this body was reduced 50 per cent, and that the good of the Order would be promoted by the use of the money thus saved in supporting its business arm, or perhaps better still, paying for more labor in the field by Lecturers.

I trust that you will pardon this digression from the legitimate object of a Secretary's Report, and believe my only purpose in making these suggestions is the welfare of our Order.

CONCLUSION.

I have only to add that during the entire time of my official connection with the Order, no incident has occurred in my intercourse with the different officers of the State Grange, and members of the Executive Committee to mar our fraternal or business relations. For the many proofs of confidence in my devotion to the best interests of the Order, received from Patrons of the State, and officers of the State Grange during these years, I shall ever cherish a grateful remembrance; and as I again surrender to you the official trusts confided to me, I do so with confidence that our joint labors in this new field of human progress have not been in vain.

J. T. COBB, Secretary.

State Agent's Report.

To the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Business Agent would respectfully submit the following report:

I commenced business on the 27th of January last and up to December 1st I have been employed 235 days at \$2 per day, making \$470; I have paid for postage and stationery \$116.30; for traveling expenses while on business \$128.25, making \$714.55. I have purchased on orders from Granges and individuals, goods and implements to the amount of \$24,459.97, and have now on hand the value of \$6,185.00 in goods and implements.

In order to purchase at low rates, it has been necessary for me to enter the markets and buy in quantities in the same manner that dealers do, and advance the money for payment, therefore I have now this amount on hand.

I have offers of farm machinery and implements on favorable terms for the coming season, from manufacturers who are desirous to secure your trade; also from wholesale houses, in dry goods, groceries, and boots and shoes.

If all could unite in using a few

leading machines and bulk their orders together in a few purchases, lower prices could still be reached.

I have no means of knowing the amount of business done by co-operative associations and members of our Order, independent of my transactions, which have not been large, for when I commenced I was new to it, and the former State Agent declined to give any information or advice whatever thereto, so that I have had to work it up from the beginning. I would respectfully suggest that funds should be provided to enable the purchase in considerable quantities of articles that are in common use.

J. H. GARDNER,
State Agent.

Politics in the Grange.

Occasionally we get notice in the papers, allusion to the Grange as a political organization, particularly in the city papers, with such headings as "The Grangers preparing for the fray," "The Grange element will do so and so," etc., but sensible people, both inside and outside the order, have long since learned to know that the Grange is not, nor was never meant to be a political organization. While at the same time it is having slowly but surely a moral effect upon politics and politicians, that is bringing about results that all good citizens are glad to see and hail as an omen of better times coming. Politicians seeing that farmers are cutting lose from the party lines, and voting more for principle, and men that will carry out principle; were never so careful as to the kind of men they are putting in nomination, hence a better class of men are being nominated by all parties.

Arguments in abundance can be brought to prove that we are not, as an order, a political organization. One has come to our notice within a few days. In a certain neighborhood in which is located as live and active a Grange as Pennsylvania can produce, or can be found anywhere, will to-day be found two worthy members, the one a candidate for the State Legislature on the Republican ticket, the other on the Democratic ticket, placed there by the political parties themselves. Now, if the Grange was a political organization, only one candidate would have been put up. But we venture to say, and farmers outside the order must agree with us, that whichever one of those farmers is chosen to represent his section in our Legislature, that it will be better done, and more in the interest of his fellow-farmers and the farmers all over the State, than if some lawyer had been sent there as has been too much the case in the past. Not that we object to the lawyer because he is a lawyer, but because his interests have been looked after by representatives of his class twenty times more in proportion to their numbers than have the interests of the farmer.—*Farmers' Friend.*

—Now is the time, with the beginning of a New Year, to subscribe and form clubs for the VISITOR. Masters and Secretaries please help us in our efforts to benefit the Order.

One Good Feature in the Grange

It takes in woman. The Masons, Odd Fellows, and clubs without number, have ignored them altogether; have left them at home night after night, till the women are tired of lodge night and club night, and now here's one open door where the wife goes in side by side with the husband; and when Grange night comes he daren't say, I am going to the Grange meeting, I may be out late, and you had not better sit up for me. Not a bit of it! He just says, it is Grange night. I see you are ready, and we may as well go along, for it is best to be in season. And when they get there, she feels as if she had as much interest in choice fruit and fine stock and full crops as he has, and if she does have to work hard, there is something to work for. Then it is pleasant to meet old friends and new faces, and feel that a common interest binds them all together. Why, keep a man at home week in and week out, with only the accustomed faces around him, and the Grange would be sure to find him prompt in attendance. And the farmer's wife gets tired, not of home, but of unbroken care and labor, and is glad of an hour's rest and change afforded by the Grange.—*Co-operative Journal.*

The Grange Spreading.

The Grange has not only spread all through the United States and Canada, and been introduced in England, but there are inquiries about the organization in British Columbia. The Secretary of the Cal. State Grange has received a letter from that far-off province, requesting "forms and rules" for the formation of a Grange at Victoria, where a number of farmers seem interested in the movement. With such a growth as we have had, is it not reasonable to suppose that not many years hence there will be Granges in every country where there are farmers enough to form one. Under our own government there are, we believe, Granges in every State and Territory, except Rhode Island; that State has thus far been too small for our Order.

—Secretary Kelley of the National Grange informs us that several secretaries of State Granges are unable to make their reports, owing to the neglect of secretaries of subordinate granges in not having made their quarterly returns. We have frequently urged upon masters the importance of holding the secretary up to his duty, and can but feel that the Master is as much or more to blame than the secretary, for it is the duty of the Master to see that each officer "acts well his part," and to report to the grange any neglect or inefficiency upon the part of an officer that the Grange may supply the place with one of trust and ability. We trust Masters will give this matter their prompt and immediate attention.—*National Granger.*

Communications.

MATTESON, Mich., Oct. 12, 76.
J. T. Cobb, Sec'y State Grange:
WORTHY BRO.—We notice a communication in the September number of the VISITOR concerning the legal rate

of interest, signed M. Fosdick, Secretary No. 3, and we beg the privilege of answering some of his objections to a legal restraint upon interest, through the columns of the VISITOR.

Now we want to begin right in the middle of his argument (if such it can be called) and work both ways, so that he may not accuse us of "advancing backward, crab fashion." He says, "If the legal restraint upon the rate of interest were removed, we could borrow money as cheaply as we can now; for thousands of people would expect to get rich by loaning money at a high rate of interest, and would convert their property into cash for that purpose, etc."

I am surprised that a Secretary of a Grange in this State of free schools, should make an argument so foolishly lame as that. Can't he see that such a plan would stop the selling of property, for as a generality, one man knows as much as another, and he that would pay \$1,000 for a farm that with his labor would only bring five per cent on his investment, when he could loan his money at ten or twelve per cent and let some one else do the work! would have a poorer head than the worthy Sec'y of Grange No. 3 has. Now comes his law of "supply and demand." The supply of property for sale, would render it cheap.

The demand for money—not for business purposes—but for the purpose of loaning at a high rate of interest, would render it dear, and the grand result would be no one would want to borrow any money. Now we claim that it is the legal restraint upon interest that has kept the business of this country upon its feet, and we further say that the business, although upon its feet, is staggering because that legal interest is fixed too high. He says, we have no more right to fix the price of money, by law, than we have to fix the price of wheat, in answer, we say,—Money is a creature of law, limited in the amount of circulation by law—in a measure common property, fixed in its value, and should always be under the control of law, rent included. On the other hand, wheat is not a creature of law, cannot be limited in amount by law, and is very justly controlled by supply and demand, while money is not, because the supply is always the same, and so would be the demand, were it not cropped by this high rate of rent that our brother undertakes to advocate.—He might just as well argue to remove the legal restraint upon stealing, for the supply of thieves would be greater, and as a consequence they would steal less. And in conclusion we will say, if the brother is a money lender and wishes all legal restraint removed so that he may lay the cruel hand of the extortionist upon his fellow men, he is unworthy to be a member, much less a Secretary of a Grange, and should be invited to step down and out. If a poor man, is he willing to place himself under the power and caprice of the money lender according to the principle he advocates? To the good brothers of Galesburg Grange, we send greeting. Keep on in the good work. Hope on, yersereve, every hard working man in Michigan will say amen to your resolutions. Fraternally,

H. C. FAXON,
Sec'y. No. 89.

Bro. Cobb:—I have received the GRANGE VISITOR from March to October, both months inclusive.—Am in hopes to send soon some subscriptions for the VISITOR from our Grange. As a Grange we are prospering beyond our most sanguine expectations.

Fraternally,
TRUMAN MORSE, Master,
Nov. 12, 1876. No. 382.

BERLIN GRANGE, No. 463.
BRO. COBB.—Dear Sir and Brother:
In the VISITOR I notice an inclination to ventilate the interest question. I would be glad to hear more about it,

but to me there seems to be a better way to get at what we wish. Let us tell capitalists to hunt their customers, or take lower rates of interest; we are not obliged to hire money and run into debt.

Suppose I have a farm worth six thousand dollars, and owe three thousand on it, let me sell to some one who can pay for it, I take my two or three thousand dollars and buy cheaper land, pay for it and be independant. If we would all say and do so, we could soon get money at our own rates. The power is with us, let us use it, not forgetting to send farmers to legislate for us.

I am not one who thinks a Granger would let money for six per cent, if he could just as well get ten.

Fraternally, A. D. MCGEORGE.

BLANKS.

Blanks that are sent free from this office on application are:

Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Subordinate Granges.

Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Pomona Granges.

Blank application for organizing Pomona Granges.

Blank applications for Membership in Pomona Granges.

Blank Bonds of Secretary and Treasurer.

Blank Election Reports of Sub. Granges.

Blank Certificates of Election to County Convention.

Blank Certificates of Representatives elected to the State Grange.

Blank for Consolidation of Granges.

Blank Application for Certificate of Dimit.

Blank Plaster Order.

Blank Certificate of Incorporation.

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Porcelain Ballot Marbles, per hundred,....	60
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Order Book, containing 100 Orders on the Treasurer, with stub, well bound,.....	50
Receipt Book, containing 100 Receipts from Treasurer to Secretary, with stub, well bound,.....	50
Blank Receipts for dues, per 100, bound,....	50
Cushing's Manual,.....	60
Applications for Membership, per 100,.....	50
Membership Cards, per 100,.....	50
Withdrawal Cards, per doz.,.....	25
Illustrated Visiting or Traveling Cards, each,.....	05
Dimit, in envelopes, per doz.,.....	25
By-Laws of the State and Subordinate Granges, single copies 5c, per doz.,.....	50
New kind of Singing books, with music, Single copy 15 cts, per doz.,.....	1 50
Rituals single copy,.....	15
" per doz.,.....	1 50
Blanks for Consolidation of Granges, sent free on application.....	
Blank Applications for Membership in Pomona Granges, furnished free on application.....	
Blank Orders for use of Granges or Purchasing Agents, per doz., 10 cts, per 100, Blank "Articles of Association" for the Incorporation of Subordinate Granges with Copy of Charter, all complete,....	10
Manual of Jurisprudence and Co-operation, by A. B. Smedly,.....	1.25
Patron's Pocket Companion, by J. A. Cramer, Cloth, 60 cts., Moracco with tuck,.....	1 00
Notice to Delinquent Members, per 100, ..	40

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Supplement to the Grange Visitor.

Michigan State Grange.

Report of Executive Committee.

To the Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Executive Committee respectfully submit the following report:

Our board was organized at the Lansing House, in the City of Lansing Dec. 17th, 1875, all of the members being present, by the election of Bro. J. Webster Childs as chairman.

The first business presented for our consideration was the Plaster Question, referred to us by the State Grange at its last session, they having considered it by special committee and in committee of the whole, without reaching practical and definite results.

From the feeling manifested by the members of the State Grange, and by patrons throughout the State, we were fully satisfied that the time had come in the history of the Order, when it must, and should meet boldly the combined influence of capital and speculation concentrated in ring organizations in their most repulsive form, or acknowledge its inefficiency and inability to grapple with one of the many monopolies of the age, that are tending to make the tillers of the soil mere "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

The great difficulties before us lay the fact in every establishment for the manufacture of plaster in Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, had been concentrated into a combination or sort of joint stock company, for the purpose of raising the price of plaster some twenty-five per cent above the price charged during the war, when everything reached inflation prices, and putting forth as justification of such high price, the specious plea that it was necessary in order to pay cost of manufacture and interest on capital invested in their works, which by their own showing was five times larger than the demands of the country had ever required.

After mature consideration of the question, we could see no hope of escaping the coils that were winding us in, but to try and utilize in some way, the propositions that had been made to the Grange by Bro. H. O. Weston, as this was the only location where there was assurance, outside the ring of an abundance of rock, and improvements partly made for manufacturing it.

The most serious difficulty with Bro. Weston's proposition was, how to make its advantages permanent to the Order, and how we could be made secure for advances made, when his property was so heavily encumbered by mortgage.

Your committee sent a sub-committee composed of Bro's. Holloway and Woodward to Grand Rapids and Grandville to investigate titles to land encumbrances on the same, and prospects for immediate manufacture of a sufficient supply of plaster. This sub-committee reported to the Executive Committee at Jackson, Jan. 5th 1876, showing in such report: 1st. That the title was good, save the encumbrances. 2nd. That these were all overdue and about to be foreclosed. 3rd. Condi-

tional arrangements for the release of 25 acres where the works were situated, by the payment of \$5000. 4th. That \$4000 would have to be advanced to pay for machinery and fixtures to put the works in operation.

On this report your committee was called to act, and feeling that as your agents, they were clothed with but limited powers, they decided to become personally responsible, with all the hazard and risk of failure, and thus save the whole project from being abandoned, and the interests of the Order in this matter, given over to the oppressor.

Accordingly by resolution we assumed such responsibility, made two notes, one for \$4000, and one for \$5000, each signed by eight members of your Executive Committee, viz:— J. Webster Childs, J. J. Woodman, C. G. Luce, J. T. Cobb, F. M. Holloway, Samuel Langdon, G. W. Woodward, and S. E. Jeffers.

They delegated Bros. Luce and Cobb to raise the money on the notes, to go to Grand Rapids and Grandville and close the arrangement in such form as in their judgment should seem best. On arriving at Grand Rapids they found that no release could be had from the mortgage on the plaster lands, as we had hoped, and that whatever arrangements should be made must be temporary.

Your committee advanced to Bro. Weston the \$4 000, taking for security a chattle on all machinery and fixtures, and holding all orders made for plaster collecting the same from the Granges, retaining 25 per cent, to apply on the loan, paying the balance to the parties for running expenses.

Your committee hoped and believed that the difficulties and hinderances to this undertaking had thus been fully met and overcome, and that before the month closed the orders already made would be filled as fast as shipping facilities could be obtained. But we were again disappointed, another month passed before a car was shipped. From this date Feb. 26th, to April 7th only 600 tons were furnished and shipped. At this time Weston sold his interest to Messrs. Day & Taylor, they assuming our contract.

On account of the machinery being imperfect, and from the amount of time required in stripping rock, we got but 482 tons more up to June 15th, making a total of 1,089 tons only, of the over 8,000 tons that had been ordered by the Granges, being less than one seventh of the wants of the Order.

Of the money collected for the plaster furnished, seventy-five per cent. has been paid for manufacturing plaster, the balance applied to the protection of the note, its discount, interest and reduction of principal leaving as due and unpaid at this time \$3,310.17.

The present out-look of this whole question is as follows: Eight of your committee are individually and collectively holden for the balance of this note, making \$413 76 to each one as his part, every dollar of which would have been paid last year. Had it been possible to have secured the filling of

our orders promptly in the plaster season.

The other note of \$5,000 made by your committee was destroyed, as the arrangements for its use had fallen through.

The present status of Day & Taylor's manufacturing establishment is practically as follows, viz:

Two thousand tons ground plaster ready for delivery, rock in sheds for 2,000 tons more. They are quarrying or can quarry ahead of all demands. They can crush and grind in their own mill 60 tons every twenty-four hours. They can also command the use of a large mill near by, if necessary to meet the demands that may be made upon them for plaster.

All they are waiting for now is the orders from the Granges, these they can only receive through our Secretary, and he is dependent upon the Subordinate Granges for them.

The necessary blanks for ordering were sent to every subordinate Grange in the State in last September.

It will take 4,138 tons of paid for according to the terms of the contract, to relieve the committee of the liabilities assumed by them for the good of the Order.

The last State Grange by resolution unanimously pledged the Order to the support of the Executive Committee, financially or otherwise in whatever arrangement they might be able to make in connection with the plaster interest, and it seems to us the duty of this Grange to take up the work where they left it, and carry it forward to completion.

This implies that as you return to your several localities, you will see to it that the Granges you here represent have their orders filled and forwarded to the Secretary of the State Grange, and in so doing do not be so exclusive as not to embrace a kind neighbor's wants in your order, although he may be so unfortunate as not to be a member of the Grange.

We can not close this branch of our report without expressing our thanks to Secretary Cobb for the ability and perseverance with which he has labored with this plaster interest from the beginning.

STATE AGENT.

At our regular meeting, Jan. 5th, at the Hurd House, in Jackson, we took up the matter of State Agent as contemplated in an amendment to the report of the Committee on Co-operation at the last session of the State Grange.

After considering the question in all its various bearings, we decided to appoint a State Business Agent with limited powers, to be mainly a contracting agent, and to fill positive orders, but in no case to have recourse upon the State Grange for any bad debts or accounts he might make.

Our first effort was to find a suitable person, for the place, one favorably known, and in whom the Order in the State would have confidence; for without this the appointment would be of little benefit. In casting about for such a person your committee made choice of Bro. J. H. Gardner, of Centreville, St. Joseph Co., as one well

worthy of trial, provided he would accept the appointment.

For purpose of conference we invited Bro. Gardner to meet us, and after a full consultation, closed an arrangement with him, he to receive \$2.00 per day for time actually spent, and all necessary expenses accruing. In this appointment your committee believe that they have put the right man in the place, and that through his efficient labors the Order has been greatly benefited, so far as they have availed themselves of his services and contracts.

We have strong confidence to believe, that, with the advantage of the past year's experience, his labors continued would soon develop the benefits of co-operation to the Patrons throughout the State. We take great pleasure in referring to his report for a full and explicit statement of his doings. Also to the Secretary's report for the amount of money and other effects in the hands of Agt. Gardner belonging to the State Grange.

Your committee would further report a Session of their Board held at the Hurd House, in the city of Jackson last Aug. 9th and 10th, which was called in the interest of the good of the Order. At this meeting a committee was appointed to locate the next State Grange and make all necessary arrangements therefor. Bro. Gardner was instructed to secure, if possible, arrangements for reduced fare upon the various railroads for those attending the meeting of said Grange. Two appeal cases were considered and disposed of at this meeting.

Also a Sub-Committee was appointed, composed of Bro. Childs, Holloway, and Luce to examine the books and accounts and settled with the Secretary, Treasurer and State Agent. The said committee met at the office of the Secretary, in Schoolcraft, on the 28th of Nov. last, and after a thorough examination of all the books and accounts of the said officers, finding them correct, made settlement as directed. They also made a searching investigation into the Secretary's system of book keeping between the State and Subordinate Granges, and the checks used to ensure accuracy, and the committee report the methods used for consolidating small items into a general whole as in their judgment, nearly perfect, bearing in mind that this officer becomes the accountant and adjuster for the Subordinate as well as his own Grange; therefore, the necessity of thorough system, efficiency and integrity, to avoid collision and distrust.

Your committee find that there has been received by him for fees and dues from Nov. 30th, 1875, to Nov. 30th, 1876, inclusive, the sum of \$7,419.86. Also for the same period for supplies sold, the sum of \$684.82; for Subscription to the VISITOR and for advertising in the same, for the same period, the sum of \$655.41, making a total of \$8,658.09, which, less \$568.59, the amount of bills accruing in the supply account, leaves the total receipts for the year \$8,191.50. These amounts have been deposited with State Treasurer Brown and his vouchers taken therefor.

In the Secretary's supply account there is a profit appearing of \$116.23, which has been paid to the Treasurer, as his vouchers show.

In the VISITOR account your committee find the total expense for the year in printing, wrapping, postage, and miscellaneous items, to amount to \$621.90, which shows a nominal profit of \$84.04, which amount has been paid the Treasurer, as his vouchers show. But we must bear in mind that there is an increased circulation at this time, over the corresponding date of last year, and that much of this increase is of recent date, thereby laying upon the paper an increased liability in discharging its obligations to subscribers, which will absorb nearly all the nominal profits.

In his plaster accounts his books show a sale of 1089 tons, amounting to the sum of \$3,383.17. Of this amount all has been collected except \$40. Seventy-five per cent of which he holds vouchers for from Weston or Day & Taylor, as manufacturers, and the balance has been passed to the canceling of the note given by the Executive Committee.

When we take into account the various duties that have been placed upon this officer by the Grange, and its Executive Committee, it is a wonder to your committee that some interest has not suffered under his supervision. All, however, seems to have been carefully guarded under his watchful eye.

Your committee find the accounts of State Treasurer Brown carefully kept. His monies are on deposit in the bank of E. B. Dyckman & Co., of Schoolcraft, as appears from his bank book exhibited, which deposit corresponds with the amount found due from him at the close of business Nov. 30th, 1876, being the close of the fiscal year, and, as further shown by the Secretary's vouchers from said Treasurer.

Your committee would further report, that at their meeting in January last, they authorized the Worthy Master to engage Bro. C. L. Whitney the State Lecturer, as General Deputy, at \$3.00 per day and traveling expenses, to be employed in visiting delinquent and dormant Granges. Services have been rendered by him up to Dec. 11th, amounting to \$505.50 including per diem and expenses (after deducting the amount received as compensation from the Granges visited,) which your committee has audited and allowed.

Your committee would summarize the work of the year as shown from the reports of last year, and from their own investigations to be as follows:

Balance in the Treasury Dec. 17, '75, ..	\$5117 24
In the hands of N. Chilson, former State Agent, ..	500 00
Received from National Grange, ..	1377 50
" " Fees and Dues, ..	7419 86
" " Supplies Sold, ..	584 82
" " Subscriptions to and Advertising in Visitor, ..	655 41
Total, ..	\$15754 83

CONTRA.	
Pay Roll of State Grange Dec. 1875, ..	\$2713 08
Paid for Supplies, ..	568 59
Paid for Publishing Visitor, ..	621 90
Miscellaneous expenses incurred in '75, ..	241 26
Paid Mast'r's Ord's as delegates to State Grange, Jan. Session, 1875, ..	245 20
Paid Master Woodman for services, '75	500 00
Paid Treasurer Brown " " "	150 00
Paid Lectur'r Whitney " " "	158 00

Paid N. Chilson former State Ag't, Salary and Expenses, 1875, ..	387 00
Expenses of Secretary's office for stationery, printing blanks, proceedings of State Grange, assistance in office, rent of office, and postage, ..	714 55
Paid Lecturer Whitney, salary and expenses for 1876, ..	414 67
Paid Secy's Salary for 1 year 2 mos., ..	1166 66
Paid Ass't Secretary, Dec. Session 1875	14 00
Paid Master Woodman, Miscellan's Ex.	30 00
Paid expenses of Executive Com., 1876,	357 07
Fees and Dues paid National Grange, ..	1502 75
Cash on hand Dec. 1st, 1876, ..	5097 12
	\$15754 83

In conclusion, your committee would respectfully offer the following suggestions for the consideration of the Grange:

1st. Your committee are of the opinion that the further reduction of the representation to the State Grange or a reduction in the present per diem and mileage of members, would be in the interest of economy, and would be attended with beneficial results, and we would therefore recommend that such reduction be made.

2d. Your committee would further recommend the appointment of suitable persons as visiting Lecturers, who shall hold themselves in readiness to answer calls to address Subordinate Granges—the compensation to be paid by the Grange inviting them, at such prices as shall be fixed and published in the Visitor.

3d. Your committee are strongly impressed with the fact, that many of the officers of Subordinate Granges are derelict in presenting to the members of their several organizations the importance of sustaining the GRANGE VISITOR, a monthly paper devoted entirely to the good of the Order, and which should be in the hands of every Patron in the State. And we would recommend to this Grange, that action be taken by it requiring the Secretaries of Subordinate Granges to open subscription lists for the VISITOR, and to call the attention of their members to the same.

All of which is respectfully subm'd,

J. WEBSTER CHILDS,
F. M. HOLLOWAY,
GEO. W. WOODWARD,
W. A. WALES,
C. G. LUCE,
SAMUEL LANGDON,
S. E. JEFFRES,

Executive Com. Mich. State Grange.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COM. ON PLASTER. To Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

The Special Committee to whom were referred the Plaster interests of the Grange, deeply impressed with the great importance of such interests and with the trying and embarrassing circumstance which have surrounded the Executive Committee in the premises, to secure for the membership of the Order their plaster at a reasonable price; also cognizant of the fact that the so called Plaster Association have endeavored, and will endeavor with all the power and means they can command to overcome the doings and actions of the Executive Committee and place Patrons again at their mercy, would say that they have had the subject so submitted, under consideration and would respectfully submit their report.

Recommending that the action of the State Grange Executive Committee in carrying out the instructions given them at the session of this Grange one year ago, be fully endorsed, and their report at the present session on the Plaster question be not only accepted, but fully and earnestly adopted by this State Grange, and to this end your committee

beg leave to offer the following and ask for its adoption:

Resolved, That it is the duty of all the delegates to this State Grange and Masters of all Subordinate Granges to make a special point to lay this whole subject before the Granges which we each respectively represent, urging upon them the necessity and importance of immediately filling out their orders and forwarding them at once to the Secretary of the State Grange, that he may know what can be depended upon, and make an intelligent preparation to carry out the arrangements; and we do hereby pledge ourselves to each other to do this in our respective Counties, Districts and Granges.

In order that the objects of this resolution may be better accomplished, the committee would suggest that each Subordinate Grange appoint a Special Plaster Committee to work earnestly and at once in the securing of plaster orders. Your committee would recommend that the Executive Committee be instructed to carefully investigate and act as circumstances may require, upon all the developments of the plaster interests, with the view of securing to Patrons benefits therefrom in the future, and guarding them against the powers of combination and monopoly.

P. W. ADAMS,
EDWARD KING,
MALACHI COX,
WILLIAM HULL,
A. M. FITCH,
H. D. WEDGE,
J. W. PERRY,
Special Committee.

Master's Department.

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

State Grange.

The attendance at the State Grange was large, many members of the Order availing themselves of the courtesy extended to them by the several Railroad Companies of the State, in issuing to all who had paid full fare to Lansing, passes to return free over the same line of road. This liberality towards the members of the Order was highly appreciated by the State Grange; and in behalf of that body, I do hereby tender to the managers of the several roads, our hearty thanks, and due appreciation of the favor.

Delegates to the State Grange.

Delegates who attended the session of the State Grange, were instructed to communicate the Annual Word to the Masters of Granges entitled to receive it. The Secretary of the State Grange will immediately send a list of Granges, that are delinquent and not entitled to it, to the delegates from the several counties.

State Lecture and Deputies.

The Executive Committee of the State Grange, has not authorized the payment of any salary to the State Lecturer, consequently Granges employing him, must remunerate him for his time and expenses. If the Subordinate Granges in a county, could arrange for several lectures to follow each other daily, the expense to each Grange, would be but little.

The Lecturer is also General Deputy of the State; and will continue to organize Subordinate and County Granges. For such services he receives his pay from the Charter fees. Each county having five or more Subordinate Granges, is entitled to a

Special Deputy, whose duty it is to organize and instruct Granges within the county. Every county should have an energetic working member in the field as a Special Deputy. See Section 2, of Article 10, By-Laws State Grange.

By Order of the State Grange, the Grand Traverse country, embracing several counties in that portion of the State, is entitled to a Special Deputy. The appointment will be made on receipt of the proper application.

It gives me great pleasure to know that several members of our Order, who are known to be good and effective speakers, (whose names are given in another column), have consented to take the field, and deliver addresses on subjects relating to the good of the Order. They will make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the unwritten work, and be prepared to instruct Granges in the same; all who are members of the State Grange, or have received instructions in the fifth degree, will also attend to the installation of Officers in Subordinate Granges. Members of the State Grange can install officers in a County or District Grange,

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.

Constitution of Nat. Grange.

"ART. 7, Sec. 2. The Secretary of each Subordinate Grange shall report quarterly to the Secretary of the State Grange the names of all persons initiated during the quarter, and pay to the Secretary of the State Grange one dollar for each man, and fifty cents for each woman, initiated during the quarter; also a quarterly due of six cents for each member; said report to be approved and forwarded at the first session of the Grange in each quarter."

I again call attention to this Sec., as some Secretaries and Treasurers still think it the duty of the Treasurer to make a quarterly report and forward the dues of the Grange to the Secretary of the State Grange. The Treasurer has no report to make except to his own Grange. The Secretary should not only make a quarterly Report, but should send the fees and dues of the Grange to the Secretary of the State Grange.

State Grange.

I have neither time or space in this number to hardly refer to the work done at the recent session of the State Grange. The proceedings were marked by earnestness of purpose and entire harmony of action.

The amount of business done during the brief session has probably never been equaled by any legislative body convened in that hall in the first three weeks of its sitting. Petitions, resolutions, reports of committees, amendments, references, &c., followed each other in rapid succession, but without confusion, irregularity, or any impropriety whatever. Some amendments were made in the By-Laws, and some Standing Resolutions adopted, which will appear in the Jan. number of the VISITOR. The address of the Worthy Master and the Reports found in this number, leave little room for other matter, however important, even with a supplement.

The recommendations found in my

report were, I think, all adopted except the one looking to a reduction of the number of delegates to the State Grange. As this was advised only as an economical measure that our expenses might not exceed our income, and as the end sought was reached in a different way, I am very glad that the recommendation did not find favor with the body, for I look upon the assembling of Patrons together in large numbers as a fruitful source of good, both to the individual and to the Order.

No member weak in faith, can attend a session of the State Grange and witness the resolute purpose, and fraternal spirit of its members, and go home doubting the important truth that there are many members of our Order who, imbued with a noble spirit of philanthropy, have taken hold of this enterprise with an honest, earnest purpose, that gives assurance of present benefits and ultimate success.

Plaster.

We call special attention to that part of the Report of the Executive Committee relating to Plaster, and also the Report of the Special Committee appointed to consider this important interest. As carrying into effect the arrangements made with Day & Taylor, has again been committed to me by the Executive Committee, I ask your active, earnest co-operation, that we may secure the results which a determined fight for two years with the Plaster Association has brought within our reach.

At your first Meeting adopt a resolution pledging your support to Day & Taylor, and send them a copy, it will do your Grange and Day & Taylor good, and strengthen in some degree the cause of co-operation.

Secure orders as soon as possible, and if you make a mistake and get orders for 1000 tons or so of Bro. Farmers who are not Patrons, the Plaster will not only be furnished, but a better article than is sold from any other Mill at Grandville. Now that we have accomplished our purpose, and can get all the plaster we want at a fair price, the different and independent monopoly have changed their tactics and are trying to induce Patrons to buy their plaster even below our contract price, \$3.00 per ton.— Their agents are now travelling from house to house soliciting orders from Patrons—from any body.

One year ago, *only such Orders from Patrons as were accompanied with the money at the rate of \$4.00 per ton, were received by their Secretary at their CENTRAL OFFICE in the city of Grand Rapids*, or recognized by the Association, when their agents orders without the money were good enough.— Our security for the future depends on our honest, faithful support of Day & Taylor for the next three months. "Stand by your friends" is not only honest and right, but it will pay.

I hope where Patrons have plaster houses they will order their supply as early as January, later in the season cars may be hard to get and delays will occur that those who can should provide against by ordering plaster shipped early, besides Day & Taylor are getting their storage full and we should help them by ordering some away at once. By and by there will be a rush and I am afraid we shall be in each others way. The State Grange session left a large

amount of work on my hands which I must clear away, and then I will at the earliest moment practicable, have printed and distributed a schedule of freight rates to all probable points of shipment in the State.

Delinquent Granges.

To Sec. 6, Art. 7, By-Laws of State Grange (which prescribes the duties of Secretary) was added "He shall keep a list of Granges delinquent more than one quarter in reports or payments of dues, standing in the official paper of the State Grange, and shall correct the same monthly."

Granges delinquent more than one quarter in reports from Secretary:
No. 7, 12, 15, 36, 52, 54, 70, 71, 79, 93, 97, 105, 106, 109, 111, 116, 117, 119, 120, 131, 132, 139, 147, 150, 151, 163, 164, 165, 167, 168, 174, 180, 184, 190, 201, 204, 205, 210, 215, 224, 231, 242, 244, 246, 257, 265, 277, 283, 289, 297, 299, 300, 305, 306, 311, 312, 324, 338, 344, 345, 349, 352, 354, 356, 359, 365, 369, 371, 377, 378, 385, 386, 396, 397, 398, 401, 409, 413, 416, 418, 435, 436, 444, 449, 457, 470, 487, 489, 490, 493, 504, 506, 507, 512, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 529, 532, 538, 541, 543, 546, 550, 552, 555, 561, 569, 571, 572, 577, 578, 586, 587, 591, 595, 596, 598, 601, 607, 609, 611, 615, 617, 621.

A list of Granges delinquent in dues will be published in the January Visitor.

Special Lecturers.

As the Master of the State Grange and the public speakers of the Executive Committee are daily receiving invitations that they cannot possibly accept, to lecture to, or address Granges and public meetings it was thought best by the Executive Committee to arrange with some of the Brothers and Sisters of the Order, who are accustomed to public speaking, to hold themselves in readiness to respond to invitations when called upon. We give the names of the Bros. and Sisters who have signified their willingness to serve the Order in this State, with their Post Office address. The conditions of this arrangement are, that they shall be paid by the Grange or parties inviting them, \$2.00 per day for time spent, and necessary travelling expenses.

- THOS. F. MOORE, Adrian, Mich.
- L. B. BROWN, Rawsonville, Wayne Co., Mich.
- REV. A. M. FROTH, Albion, Mich.
- Geo. W. WOODWARD, Shelby, Oceana Co.
- MRS. C. D. BLAKEMAN, Kalamazoo.
- MRS. C. D. BLAKEMAN, Kalamazoo.
- Past Master S. P. BROWN, Schoolcraft.
- R. A. INGERSOL, Kalamazoo.
- R. E. JAMES, Kalamazoo.

LIST OF GRANGES.—I am instructed to prepare and send a printed List of Granges with the name and address of Masters and Secretaries, to every Grange in the State. To comply with this requirement, I must have election returns from Secretaries. Before the 1st of Jan. I shall send blanks for Secretary's Quarterly Reports and Certificates of Election. Do not fail to fill out and return at once, the election certificates. Do not omit the P. O. in filling up the blanks.

THE GRANGE VISITOR was very cordially endorsed by very many members of the State Grange at its last session, and if our brothers don't forget their volunteer promises to aid in extending its circulation, we shall soon have several hundred new subscribers. In view of the fact that economy must be practiced in every department of our business as a State organization, the State Grange determined that the VISITOR should no longer be sent free to Secretaries, and that the copy sent to the Master should be kept on file in the Grange Hall for the benefit of members.

—Why is not the lecturer called upon in the "regular order of business" at each meeting?

State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER, CENTREVILLE

As we are now commencing business for another year, permit me to offer a few suggestions. If we expect to receive the greatest benefits from our transactions, it is necessary for all to join together in procuring our family supplies. For instance, there are one hundred granges at least, each wanting a sack of coffee, a chest of tea and several barrels sugar, not mentioning other articles; now if I can have orders and money to make this purchase at one time, I can go to the best market and get the goods at a lower price than any retailer in Michigan can do, because it is a much larger quantity than he would sell in a year. Just so in domestic dry goods.

Now can you not do this? I don't believe there is a grange in the State but what will use more than this quantity every three months, and can raise the amount necessary to make the purchase in a few days. Is it not best for you to do so. I know many like to go to the village grocery weekly to get a pound of coffee, a quarter of a pound of tobacco, not mentioning a glass of beer or grog, and perhaps a few yards of dry goods for the family.

Can you not quit this practice? I think all can if they firmly try and resolve so to do, and then live up to the resolution.

I must insist on money being sent with orders which I am to fill or see paid to dealers. I am frequently notified that goods which have been sent to Patrons have not been paid for and I am asked for the pay. I must hereafter decline to order goods unless money comes to me with the list. Wholesale dealers are not willing to wait for their pay while goods are being sold and pay collected, taking in some instances, several months.

Sugars are not quite as high as they were four weeks since. Fine New Orleans, white clarified is now 11 1/2 cts. and choice yellow, 9 1/2 cts. at New Orleans, freight and charges are about a dollar a cwt. now, to most places in Michigan. These are pure sugars from the plantations and have not been mixed with common sugar, starch and acids. I advise all to try a barrel. Choice Louisiana rice, 6 1/2 cts. and coffee 22 1/2 cts. a lb., choicest japan tea 60cts. and the finest 70cts. a lb. now.

I keep most kinds of groceries in stock which I furnish at lowest rates. Kerosene has advanced to 45cts. a gallon for the best quality of Michigan test, water white oil at Detroit. Let us use as little as possible and return to candles more than we have been doing. Nice stearine candles can be had for 16cts. a lb. or candle wicking for 22cts. a lb., and many families can make what they need to use.

I can furnish blue mixed or gray or white yarn suitable for socks at 65cts. a lb.; fine or blue mixed 85cts., seal brown Marine blue or scarlet at \$1 10; balmoral yarns, fancy colors, at \$1 25, and the finest eastern balmoral yarns, all colors, for \$1 40 a lb. Heavy wool socks for \$4 00 a dozen; woolen mittens \$4 75; wristlets \$1 50 a dozen pair. Flannels from 30 to 50cts. a yard. Knit wrappers and drawers from \$3 00 to \$12 00 a dozen according to quality.

I am filling orders for boots and shoes all styles, either a single pair or by the case, from the best manufacturers. Stoves from the Detroit Stove Works, either cooking or heating. I have some fine Esty Organs on hand at extremely low prices which I will furnish to anyone wanting to purchase.

I would call attention to the Home Sewing Machine which is offered at a lower price than any other first-class machine, on twenty days trial, when if not satisfactory it can be returned. It is equal to any machine in the market for capacity and quality of work. Prices

and circulars will be furnished on application.

I have some drills, cultivators and plows on hand which I will sell now very low, in order to close them out; also a harvester, and spades, scoop shovels, manure forks, farm bells, hollow tooth harrows and many other articles to dispose of for less than they can be purchased in the market.

I have arrangements for dry goods at Detroit and Chicago at wholesale prices in wholesale quantities, and can have orders filled as soon as received.

When goods are delivered at a railroad and receipted, the liability of the shipper ceases, and if any damage or loss occurs thereafter it must be collected from the railroad, unless the shipper agrees to deliver.

Report of Committee on Co-operation.

Supplementary Report of Committee on Co-operation and Transportation.

To the Officers and Members of the State Grange:

Your Committee on Co-operation and Transportation to whom was referred a certain communication from the President of the Sovereigns of Industry of the City of Detroit, having carefully considered the same, beg leave to report:

That whereas, the Sovereigns of Industry are in part the consumers of the products of the farm, and we, in return, need the products of their handiwork, Therefore, Resolved, That we extend to them the right hand of fellowship in all co-operative effort whereby the exchange of products can be most readily and directly effected between these two industrial classes, and further recommend that we aid each other in the social, intellectual and moral elevation of the laboring classes of our land, those in factories and shops as well as those on the farm.

Resolved, That wherever it is found to be of mutual interest to co-operate in the purchase of merchandise and its distribution, thereby aiding each other, your committee see no objection to Patrons availing themselves of such opportunities.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

- J. W. WING,
- R. E. JAMES,
- A. LAMPMAN,
- LORENZO RANIER,
- C. W. WHITFIELD,

Committee on Co-operation, &c.

NORTH LANSING, Dec. 19, 1876.

J. T. COBB, Schoolcraft, Mich.:
Worthy Brother:—The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted by this Grange at its last session: WHEREAS, The arrangements made by the Ex. Committee of the Mich. State Grange, for Plaster, are satisfactory and the parties that arrangements are made with are ready to fulfil their part, therefore be it unanimously

Resolved, By the members of Capitol Grange, that we will buy all the Plaster we use from them, through these arrangements, even if other parties should offer to sell at a lower price.

Resolved, That we firmly believe in the doctrine of standing by those that stand by us.

ORVILLE GOODNOE,
Secretary Capitol Grange, No. 540.

We find it impossible to publish in full the Obituary notices sent to the VISITOR. Many of them recite at great length the merits of our departed Brothers and Sisters. This is matter more of local than general interest, and the publishing Committee have deemed in future to give place only to a brief notice.

DIED.

- BRO. JOHN W. RUSSELL, Treas. of Trowbridge Grange, No. 296.
- KEENLAND P. HALE, of Ross Grange, No. 23.
- Sister FRANK LEASORRELL, L. A. S. of Ronald Grange, No. 132 died Nov. 1st, 1876.
- Sister JANETTE BLANDING, of Vergennes Grange, No. 221.
- BRO. E. H. CARPENTER, Grange, No. 351, died Sept. 13th, 1876.
- Sister SUSAN E. COPELAND, of Conway Grange.