

THE Grange Visitor

ISSUED

MONTHLY

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE

Michigan State

Grange, P. of H.



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R. M. Cox, in an address to Pomo na Grange, Jackson County, Indiana, says: "Co-operation should be the maxim of the Order. If one wheat-thresher will do the work of a single township, unite and use it. If one will do the work of six farmers, co-operate and so use it, and save four-fifths in capital invested. Likewise co-operate in everything that will pay a dollar to the parties uniting and that is practical. We have too much invested in idleness. Whatever we buy we should pay cash for, and when we sell our products we should receive cash. If we invest in steam powers keep the boilers hot by directing the power aright.

—A library of 100 volumes of standard works might cost \$200. Could any Grange do better than to establish one for the benefit of themselves and their children.

Keep Manures in Summer.

Most farmers lose the bulk of all summer fertilizers by suffering it to be washed away in the ponds and creeks, or else by allowing it to leach and lose the chief essential which makes plant-food, by exposure to the sun's rays or the winds and rains during warm weather.

Now, to keep manure made by soiling green crops or by feeding with dry food and grain, it is necessary to "fix" the valuable particles that naturally waste themselves in the surrounding atmosphere. To do this the farmer must turn chemist for the moment and see what other ingredients will neutralize valuable substances and hold them in the compost until they become plant-food. Fortunately we have a very cheap and common substance, viz: gypsum land-plaster, that answers this purpose admirably. Ammonia, carbonic acid, uric acid, phosphorus and nitrogen all have a strong affinity for the sulphate of lime, or gypsum, and will chemically unite with it upon all occasions, and form a new composi or salts, that will not evaporate in the air very readily and can be used as one of the very best fertilizers for almost all classes of crops grown in the temperate zone.

In order to make land-plaster available, the manure should be heaped up; and whenever six to twelve inches deep, a good coating of "land-plaster" should be scattered over it, and the process continued during winter or summer, as long as the compost is being increased. It is best to keep the compost heap sheltered, to prevent unnecessary leaching; but even without shelter, this treatment will preserve the greater part of the strength of the fertilizing particles of the manures.

Gypsum costs less than any other kind of fertilizer. As a top dressing for clover, corn, tobacco, wheat or grasses, and from its power of attracting ammonia, phosphorus, etc., from the atmosphere, adds more to the strength of the soil than any other fertilizer of equal cost.

Millions might be saved to the country each year if our farmers would properly preserve all the manures that can be made on the farm, and then skillfully use them. We only speak on this subject to awaken an interest in a source of profit that ought to be familiar to every farmer in the land.—*Ec.*

Good Advice.

"Make few promises. Always speak the truth. Never speak evil of any one. Keep good company or none. Live up to your engagements. Never play a game of chance. Drink no kind of intoxicating liquors. Good character is above all things else. Keep your own secrets if you have any. Never borrow if you can help it. Do not marry until you are able to support a wife. Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy. When you speak to a person look in his face. Make no haste to be rich if you would prosper. Ever live (misfortune excepted) within your income. Save when you are young to spend when you are old. Avoid temptation through fear you may not withstand it. Never run into debt unless you see a way to get out again. Small and steady gains give competency with a tranquil mind. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue. Your character can not be essentially injured except by your own acts. If any one speak evil of you let your life be so that no one will believe him. When you retire to bed think over what you have been doing during the day. Never be idle; if your hands can't be employed usefully attend to the cultivation of your mind. Read over the above maxims carefully and thoughtfully at least once a week."

Grange Visitations.

One of the most important movements yet made in this State since the organization of the State Grange is that just inaugurated in Erie County, and noted in our columns this week, by State Deputy Kennedy and Brothers Everson and Wilson, viz: A systematic visitation of every Grange in that county. These visits will undoubtedly result in much encouragement to the Granges, and will draw the attention of farmers outside of the Order to its aims and objects, whereby much good will be attained. If the deputy of each county in the State will call to his aid two or three active Patrons, and follow the example set in Erie County, we may look for a general revival in the Grange.—*Farmer's Friend.*

—"Many a mickle makes a muckle" and the small contribution of a million Patrons combined makes a vast sum, and the strength of will of a million Patrons an irresistible force.

Master's Department.

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

Constitutional Amendments.

Since the publication of the last edition of the Constitution, the following amendments have been ratified by the State Granges; and are now a part of the Constitution.

1st. The following has been substituted for section 2 of article 7:

"The Secretary of each Subordinate Grange shall report quarterly to the secretary of the State Grange, the number of persons initiated since his last report, and also the number who, by death, expulsion, removal, or otherwise, have ceased to be members within the same time; and shall pay to the Secretary of the State Grange such an amount of dues, on each member, and fees for each person initiated during the quarter, as the State Grange may determine; provided that the State Grange may require such reports and payments to be made through the secretaries of the County Grange."

2d. The following has been added to section 2 article 1:

"Any 4th degree member in good standing, shall be eligible to office or receive the degrees in the County, District, State, or National Grange, within whose jurisdiction such member may reside, but shall not be entitled to vote."

3d. Section 4 of article 1 has been amended so as to read as follows:

"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."

The following letter from the chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Grange explains itself; and will be read with many regrets, by the Patrons of Michigan:

COKESBURY, S. C., April 11, '77.

J. J. Woodman, Esq.:

DEAR SIR AND BRO.—At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the N. G., your letter was presented asking for the Lecturer's time at some future period during the year. I was instructed then to write you, as I do now at the very first opportunity, and inform you, that the Committee have determined to send the Lecturer out no more, solely upon the ground of economy. His necessary expenses were a heavy draft upon the treasury; and as they were allowed to issue "*The Grange Record*," the Committee were unanimously of the opinion, that the good of the Order would be better advanced by that instrumentality than through the continued services of the Lecturer. We trust you will agree with us.

Fraternally, D. WYATT AIKEN.

BRO. A. P. SHEPHERDSON, Master of Corey Grange, No. 291, requests me to state, in addition to what I said in the last VISITOR, on the "Powers and Duties of County Granges," that thirteen members could have a County Grange, although one thousand might oppose, and that 4th degree members cannot vote in a County Grange."

I had supposed that these facts

were so well understood by members of the Order, that to repeat them would be unnecessary. But in answer will say, 1st. That, under the laws of the Order, 13 eligible persons, duly empowered, can organize a Subordinate Grange, although 100 may oppose; "that 13 eligible persons, duly empowered, may organize a County Grange, although a thousand may oppose," that 15 eligible persons, duly empowered, may organize a State Grange, although a hundred thousand may oppose; that 7 persons, without special authority, did organize, temporarily, the National Grange, and 23 eligible persons duly empowered by the State Granges, perfected and made permanent that organization, although one-half of all Christendom were opposed.

2d. It is a well established principle in the Order, that a member cannot vote in an organization of which he is not a member.

COREY, March 2d, 1877.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

In looking over the VISITOR I find an article from the pen of our Worthy Master, that I cannot harmonise with the Constitution. It is in the July number of 1876. If I can have the privilege, I should like to call the attention of Patrons to this subject, not that I wish to bias any one, I may be wrong in my conclusions, but I think it is every Patrons duty to compare views and weigh them by the proper standard, which in this case would be the Constitution.

He says "an impression seems to prevail among some of the members of the Order that Pomona Granges were instituted by the National Grange to provide for a privileged class, who may assume control over the Subordinate Granges." In reply to the foregoing he says: "So far from the above being correct, the exact opposite is substantial truth." Without comment on the first proposition, we leave the readers to form their own conclusions. On the second, which is this: "who may assume control over the Subordinate Granges," we cite them to the Constitution which says: "Such District or County Grange shall have charge of the education and business interests of the Order in their respective districts, and shall encourage, strengthen and aid the Subordinate Granges represented therein." We know of no way to understand the English Language only as it reads, and it is explicit. It is not they may, or can, but they "shall have, etc.," and if we are not wrong in our conclusions, if there is a Subordinate Grange which is not represented therein, they will not receive aid and encouragement from said Grange.

Now we give our stand point as far as the fundamental principle is concerned. We are a Granger inside and out, top and bottom, right and left, fore and aft, but on the higher degrees we are anti degrees.

The following are questions that should be considered by every Patron, for every Patron is interested in them:

Are the higher degrees of any benefit to me? Should I receive benefits, socially or pecuniarily, that I could not receive without them?

Patrons let this be meditated upon carefully, and talked of in the Subordinate Granges, so that we may be prepared at the next session of our National Grange, to claim a right which we believe our law making department will grant us the right of petition. Let petitions go up from the majority of the higher degrees, and we believe it would be granted. Let the east and west, north and south, speak with the voice of petition at our next session of the National Grange.

A. P. SHEPHERDSON.

I discover but two points in the brothers mild criticism which I care to answer.

1st. If the readers of the VISITOR will turn back over the file a little more than a year and a half, they will find the article referred to, which together with what appeared in the last number, will sufficiently explain this point, and convince every unprejudiced mind that the Subordinate Granges, through their representatives to the State and National Grange, can make and unmake constitutions and laws, abolish the higher degrees and lower degrees, and County Granges, or the Order itself if they choose to do so.

2nd. The Constitution says: "District or County Granges shall have charge of the education and business interests of the Order in their respective districts and shall encourage, strengthen and aid the Subordinate Granges represented

therein." "Not may or can, but shall." Plain English, no mistaking the language. Now substitute "may" for "shall," as the brother would have it, and see what a total want of positiveness and business foresight the language would convey.

"Have charge," (not control) as an agent employed or entrusted or commissioned to do certain work, or perform certain duties; and the language of the Constitution, defining the duties to be performed by the County Granges is positive and business like. The County Grange cannot control or interfere with the rights or business of the Subordinate Granges any more than the agent can control the business and trample upon the rights of his employer. The Subordinate Grange "has charge of the education and business interests of the Order within its jurisdiction;" and the County, State and National Granges have the same "charge" and similar duties to perform, in their respective jurisdictions. It is made the special duty of the County Granges to disseminate information and develop business for the benefit of the Subordinate Grange, and I think they "may" encourage, strengthen and aid Subordinate Granges not "represented therein." J. J. WOODMAN.

Tons of Pepper, &c. for the Patrons of Pennsylvania.

While in Philadelphia a short time since we called at the Pennsylvania State Agency, and in talking of the business interests of the Order, Bro. Gladding happened to mention that during the past year he had purchased for the Patrons of Pennsylvania over two tons of pepper. We expressed surprise, when turning to his books we were shown many interesting figures, illustrating the constantly growing and large amount of business done by Patrons. We found that among all the great variety of articles he had purchased during the past year he had sent out:

Pepper.....	2 1-7 tons.
Starch.....	3 1-10 "
Tea.....	1 1-4 "
Soda.....	5 1-6 "
Tobacco.....	6 1-3 "
Prunes.....	7 1-8 "
Soap.....	8 "
Rice.....	13 1-3 "
Coffee.....	41 1-2 "
Syrup.....	100 "
Sugar.....	210 "
Mackerel.....	431 barrels.
Salt to the amount of \$5,277.	
Grass seed to " " 7,327	
Hardware " " " 8,202	
Boots & shoes " " " 6,733	

Large as these amounts are of only a few of the articles purchased, they do not represent the full amount of any one article bought, as large quantities of goods are procured by Patrons visiting the city direct of the merchants on "orders" given them by Bro. Gladding: For instance, Bro. Gladding's books show that he bought about \$1,000 worth of furniture of one firm for Patrons, while the books of the furniture dealer show that their sales to Patrons for the year amounted to over \$6,000, and the same holds good with nearly all other goods, thus showing somewhat the large proportions of the business done by Patrons in Philadelphia.

Bro. Geo. B. Borton, of the New Jersey Agency in Philadelphia, reports business steadily increasing, Patrons slowly but surely learning what has long been felt as one of the greatest needs of our Order before the full benefits of co operation could be attained, viz., confidence.—*Farmer's Friend*.

English Co-operation.

THE success which has attended the co operative efforts of the workmen of England, has encouraged other classes to adopt similar measures for the promotion of their interests. From the extract below, which we take from a late number of the New York Graphic, it will be seen that another great co-operative enterprise is about to be inaugurated in Great Britain. The Graphic says:

"An immense co operative enterprise has been started by meat consumers in Great Britain, consisting of a sort of Grange, with headquarters at Edinburg, having for its object the purchase at first cost of meat, vegetable and dairy products in the United States for consumption in England, Scotland and Ireland. The point of attack is of course the middlemen, whose services and salaries the new company will dispense with the beef which now sells in Liverpool for 20 cents will then be delivered at 18. This is all very well. An increase of good food for the million means an increase of wealth, health, comfort and culture. Now let us organize a company in New York, having for its object the attainment of American beef as cheap as the Scotch can get it. Are we not paying 2 or 3 cents more a pound? It is likely that the interflow of supply and demand will soon regulate this, either by cheapening the meat in New York or stopping the exportation altogether. If not we will get up a benevolent society to import American meat from Edinburg! The ocean freight is only 1 and 1-2 cents a pound, and this would enable speculators to deliver Illinois beef in Fulton Market via Edinburg at about three cents cheaper than current prices. We want American meat as cheap as foreigners can get it. To Edinburg we send up the Macedonian cry."

So the people of New York are beginning to feel the weight of the exactions of middlemen! It is not the farmers alone that suffer from this great evil. Let the Grange push forward their great enterprises, and the artisans and other consumers in the cities will soon be found battling with them to bring producers and consumers together, and reduce the vast army of middlemen, who, by combination and concert of action, rob the laborer of the fruits of his toil, and increase the expense of the consumers.—*Patron of Husbandry.*

—A farmer need not be afraid of taking too many papers. They are good companions, both for himself and his children and may save him tenfold their cost in a single suggestion.

—Is there nobody who wants to pitch into the Grange now and rake it fore and aft. Some of our brethren are getting lukewarm because they have no fight on hand to rouse them up.

—Now is the time to subscribe for the VISITOR. The third volume commences with this number.

THE GOOD PATRON.—The good Patron is no office seeker. He maintains that the office should seek the man. He does not discuss political questions in the Grange, and strives outside the gates to put down all bribery and corruption. He uses his influence to secure the nomination and election of competent, faithful and honest men, who will stand by the industrial population and work for their interest. The true Patron, in fine, is actuated by one principle—the universal good of mankind,

Third Letter from Brother Sessions.

Worthy Secretary Cobb:

Another very bad habit to which I call the attention of my brother farmers, and one which will continue to keep them down and under, so long as they indulge in it, is the habit of allowing others to do their reading and thinking.

In this land of free schools it is hardly possible that a farmer has been allowed to grow up without learning to read. And the man that can read has the means of acquiring knowledge so far as he has inclination and leisure, yet it remains lamentably true, that there are very few well informed, intelligent men among farmers. With here and there an honorable exception, they neither read or think to any purpose, and if they have ideas or convictions they are often borrowed from parties whose interest it is to mislead or deceive them, instead of being the result of careful thought and investigation.

It is not for want of time and opportunity, for every man can find time to read and think, and grow wiser every day, if he will, but it requires energy, determination and a resolute will to overcome indolent and easy habits. And to make the start, the labor and effort may be irksome until some degree of progress is gained when all becomes natural and easy. As the man improves in knowledge and in self-reliance he becomes more confident of his own powers, and is more a man, and the more manly he becomes the more successful and useful is he in every position in life. If he reads and thinks for himself, he is a better farmer, he knows better how to apply his means and his labor to escape loss, and secure profit. He is a better parent, he educates his children to make them valuable and useful. He is a better citizen, because he is fitted to perform the duties of citizenship with intelligence and discretion, and with some degree of wisdom.

This is a matter so important that it will be farther considered. ALONZO SESSIONS.

THE Executive Committee of the State Grange at a session in February last, adopted the following preamble and resolution, and ordered them published in the April number of the VISITOR:

WHEREAS, The matter of wool raising by the members of the Order in the State suffers from time to time in the marketing of their wool clips, through combinations of wool buyers and middle men, and

WHEREAS, The difficulties of establishing a wool and assorting depot for the west, are found by us to be surrounded by insurmountable difficulties, therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend the Order throughout the State, to take this matter into their own hands and through their Subordinate or County Granges or Councils, mass their wool, keeping each member's by itself, or otherwise, having it put up in the very best manner, then holding the same open to the purchaser at what shall be deemed a reasonable and paying price.

Hon. J. J. Woodman, Master of the State Grange, Installed the officers of Pomona Grange No. 11, Newaygo County, at the Village of Newaygo, March 24th. The lecture delivered was very instructive and somewhat amusing. Brother W. can tell that shanghai story finely, and was listened to by an appreciative audience for a long time. Numerous questions were asked and answered for the benefit of Patrons.

Many things concerning the public revenues, laws of trade, and co-operation were clearly explained, and at the close both visitors and Patrons considered their time both pleasantly and

profitably spent, and hoped the speaker would come again. A. E.

Fremont Center, March 30, 1877.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Keeler Grange, with a membership of only 58, has ordered and received of Day & Taylor, five car loads of plaster, a part of which was for farmers outside "the gates," who have generously given their support to the Grange firm, although offered plaster cheaper elsewhere. Will order one or two more car loads this spring.

Has any Grange in Michigan done better than this in regard to plaster?

R. E. KEITH,
Sec'y. of Grange 159.

BATTLE CREEK, April 19, 1877.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

Yours of the 17th inst., is received containing information about seal, as requested, for which accept my thanks. You ask the time of our next meeting.

We have held several meetings to complete a business organization, and get ready for work, and they have been somewhat interesting and enthusiastic. Our next meeting will be the regular quarterly meeting of the Association, May 2d, at 1 o'clock, P. M., at Battle Creek Grange Hall. Our Grange meets every Saturday evening.

We have formed a lecture course in our Grange. Some one of our members gives a lecture each month, at which time our doors are opened and friends who are not members, are invited to be present. So you will see that we are trying to keep the stone rolling, both financially and socially.

Dealers here in plaster have sold it one dollar less per ton than the Grange, but our members would not take the bait. And at the very time when they thought we were about ready to fail, they were surprised to learn that we were indeed a power.

I think we have overcome here the reaction in interest occasioned by some unfortunate business matters, and the members seem to be taking new courage, manifesting new interest, and the future prosperity of the Grange in this locality looks exceedingly cheerful. Come and see us.

Yours Fraternally,
H. B. HOAGLAND.

GALESBURGH, April 17, 1877.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

DEAR SIR:—The three car loads of plaster consigned to me per order, I have just this day finished dealing out to the Patrons who ordered. All agree it is of excellent quality and over weight. It has given great satisfaction. Have not at this writing got all collected in and have no time to get a draft before the mail closes. Will send pay as soon as possible.

H. DALE ADAMS.

Letter from Lieut. Gov. Sessions.

The following letter from Lieut. Governor Sessions was read at a recent meeting of the Ionia County Grange:

LANSING, March 13th, 1877.

BRO. MATTISON, *Dear Sir:*—I notice a call for a meeting of Ionia Grange and County Council on Thursday next. It would please me much if I could be there, but imperative duties that I must not neglect or evade, will keep me here. I think there is nothing that the members of our Order need more than a good paper, and we have it in the Husbandman, published at Elmira, N. Y. If it could be brought to our knowledge of our people, and every farmer's family could have the reading of it weekly, our constant advancement and progress would be secure. It is truly a farmer's paper, owned by farmers, conducted by farmers in the interest of farmers. Edited by W. A. Armstrong and J. S. Van Duzen, both farmers, and the former Secretary of the N. Y. State Grange. I have read the paper carefully to recommend it as the best farmer's paper that I have ever read. It is published weekly and each week it contains a verbatim report of the discussions of the Elmira Farmer's Club, which is composed of live, wide-awake farmers, who are proud of their business, and who are laboring faithfully, ably and constantly to make it both profitable and honorable. I take and read several other papers, but I will say frankly that no paper comes to my house that is more welcome to myself and to all my family, and not one that is read with so much pleasure or profit. Please attend the meeting if you can and bring this matter before those present. If you are not able to attend yourself, find some one that will. You may read this letter or take any other method to bring the matter to the attention of farmers that you may deem advisable.

Yours Truly,
ALONZO SESSIONS.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

SCHOOLCRAFT, APRIL, 1877.

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.

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.

Plaster.

The business of the season in this article is nearly over. Day & Taylor have made good their contract with the Executive Committee of the State Grange.

The members of the Order throughout the State have been supplied at the contract price, in most instances without delay, and where there has been any delay it has been on account of not being able to get cars or in detention by railroads after shipment.

The quality of the plaster has been satisfactory, and the weight liberal, except in a few instances where employees at the mill failed to obey orders and put in the car the promised amount. In every case of complaint of shortage in weight I have been authorized by Day & Taylor to make such discounts as will be entirely satisfactory to the purchaser.

The amount of plaster ordered has proved the fidelity of the great mass of Patrons to their obligations, and clearly shows that the situation was well understood by them.

The attempt to buy up the Patrons of Michigan for a dollar or two each has signally failed.

To-day the Order is stronger in Michigan for having had to co-operate together and meet a combination, that in a manner alike offensive and dishonorable, attempted to extort an unreasonable price from the farmers of the State for a commodity considered by many one of prime necessity. The result proves the value of co-operation. What could any one man or dozen men have done toward breaking up that combination and securing reasonable prices and fair treatment from the association? So near nothing that the attempt never would have been made but for our organization.

The Order has not been benefitted in dollars and cents as much as the farmers outside "the gate," though Patrons have paid less than ever before for what plaster they have bought.

As a direct result of our successful resistance to the demands of the Plaster Association, other farmers have bought their supply of plaster this year at a saving of from 20 to 50 per cent.

The farmers of Michigan will this year buy as much or more plaster than usual, and will pay less for it by more than \$40,000.

The Executive Committee of the State Grange, by whose management this has been accomplished, are well satisfied with results so far. The Committee are also fully aware that it is not safe to stop here. The future of this important interest must be secured not only against "The Michigan and Ohio Plaster Association," but against any other monopoly under another name.

The co-operation of the members of the Order to carry out the programme as set forth by the circular directed to the Masters of the Granges of the State, is earnestly solicited.

The Committee, as they have heretofore done, will take the lead in this new enterprise and I believe will do their whole duty. Brother Patrons, will you do yours?

Quarterly Reports.

An examination of our books show that 45 Granges made no report whatever during the year 1876. Such Granges are certainly dormant if not dead. It will be remembered that the Secretary of the State Grange is required to 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 correct the same monthly. Aside from the 45 delinquent for a full year, I find the following are delinquent in reports for the quarter ending Sept. 30th, 1876, and some of them for the quarter ending June 30:

36, 51, 54, 70, 103, 106, 120, 131, 182, 233, 240, 244, 245, 257, 300, 305, 315, 324, 327, 349, 352, 361, 365, 396, 397, 398, 399, 412, 428, 449, 467, 477, 490, 507, 524, 525, 541, 546, 560, 569, 572, 573, 576, 577, 586, 593, 615.

Quite a number of those that reported in September have neglected to report for the quarter ending Dec. 31st.

If reports are not received from them before the issue of May, these will have to be added to the above list.

That list is too large now—we shall be sorry to be compelled to make additions to it in the next VISITOR.

THE VISITOR.

We receive some complaints that the VISITOR is not received—some of these come from subscribers whose time of subscription has expired. Some from Secretaries who by a determination of the State Grange were cut off from receiving it free. Some from Masters of Granges whose Secretary has never reported the names of Master and Secretary elect for 1877 to this office.

All other complaints are no doubt well founded, and the mistake is, I presume, sometimes chargeable to this office and sometimes to the office of delivery. We can only say that we mean to keep this matter all in good shape, and mail every subscriber a paper. On account of the extent

of the plaster business for the last three months, I have been unable to give this matter much personal attention. Any subscriber failing to get his paper before the first of the month following its issue, will be supplied promptly if we are notified of the failure by card or otherwise.

COUNTY GRANGES.

There are now eighteen County or District Grange organizations in the State. The first was organized June 11th, 1875, the last March 28th, 1877. Elsewhere we have a report from Berrien County Grange, No. 1, that indicates that the first one has in its business department been a success. I should like to hear from others. Let the Patrons of the State know through the VISITOR what is being done, and when and where quarterly meetings are held. Under the Rules of Organization, County Granges are required to meet once in three months and may hold intermediate meetings. Secretaries of County Granges are required to report quarterly to this office. Several of these County Granges have not yet been reported, and some that have reported have not done so uniformly. It becomes our duty to look after these matters, and we hope this reminder will be sufficient.

We have just had printed another lot of "Applications for Membership" in County Granges. These are furnished free on application.

CONSOLIDATIONS.

We have been called upon from time to time for Consolidation Blanks. These have always been furnished. In several instances nothing more has been heard from them.

Herewith I give the consolidations as I find them recorded in this office, if any other consolidations have been effected I desire returns should be made showing the fact.

It is important that the records of this office be complete. They cannot be unless Secretaries of Subordinate Granges do their duty.

NO.	99	CONSOLIDATED WITH.	NO.	83
"	100	"	"	83
"	195	"	"	199
"	284	"	"	191
"	200	"	"	63
"	314	"	"	373
"	392	"	"	583
"	423	"	"	447
"	432	"	"	318
"	433	"	"	449
"	484	"	"	513
"	535	"	"	534
"	536	"	"	493
"	547	"	"	562
"	584	"	"	514
"	161	"	"	270
"	35	"	"	60
"	184	"	"	183
"	527	"	"	565

Do not forget that we invite correspondents from our brother farmers of the State upon any subject connected with the Order. Brief letters from Brothers and Sisters are always in order and eagerly read by every true Patron.

Long articles containing abstract propositions or fundamental truths, are well enough, in fact, useful, but do not meet the wants of the great mass of the Order. Let us have short lively letters. Tell us anything that can interest, encourage and strengthen the Order. Even a brief statement of failure is not without its val-

ue. Write us what questions you have discussed in your several Granges and what conclusions were reached. The condition and prospects of the crops. Small as is the VISITOR, we will find room for a good many short articles, though we don't promise to print every thing we receive.

In a number of instances money orders have been received in envelopes without anything to indicate by whom sent or for what purpose. The last one received in that way was dated Ionia, April 4th, and calls for \$5.10. Through the Post Office we may find out the sender of an order, that comes in this way, but it is rather an unfinished way of doing business and I hope Michigan Patrons will all do better in the future.

National Grange.

The Executive Committee have selected Cincinnati as the place for holding the next session of the National Grange, which meets Nov. 21, 1877.

The True Test.

Success depends not so much on a Grange having a large membership as in the effectiveness of the members. Effective working is the true test. We all remember some little people who can walk clear around an overgrown, lubberly neighbor every hour in day. Granges of twenty wide awake, devoted members can be, and often are, more at heart, Patrons of Husbandry than some similar organizations with over 50 on the rolls. This is so in every state, and before we begin praising a Grange with a large membership, simply because the membership is large, we ought to compare it with some of apparently smaller growth. The cedar doesn't grow like the hemlock, but which of the two do we prefer for our fence posts? By the comparison it is not intended to discourage the larger Granges, but to cause Patrons to look around and see for once, if they have not seen, that some of our brightest gems, as Granges, are the meek and humble ones; who speak not of themselves, but pursue an even tenor of way altogether charming.

THE Vermont Granges are generally very prosperous. Bridgewater Grange has built a hall, costing nearly \$4,000. South Shaftsbury Grange hall and store cost \$3,000. St. Johnsbury has a very prosperous Grange store, which supplies the Granges in the country with dry goods and groceries, and also purchases the farmers products and ships them to cities. Essex Center, Westford, Bondville, Ludlow, Cavendish and many other Granges have built halls during the season. Many other Granges will follow their example during the coming year.

FARMERS of Lower Germany are organizing societies similar to the Patrons of Husbandry.

A NUMBER of prominent English papers are agitating the Grange movement.

Lecturer's Department.

C. L. WHITNEY, - - - MUSKEGON.

New Pomona Granges.

Since the State Grange meeting three County and District Granges have been instituted and another will be in being before this reaches the readers of the VISITOR.

On the 9th day of February, in answer to the proper application, we met the Worthy Patrons of Lenawee County at Adrian. There was a large attendance and a general interest was manifest. We missed one brother and sister who are usually foremost in every good work pertaining to the advancement of our Order, and regretted to learn that they had that morning lost their residence by fire. A great deal of sympathy was expressed for Brother and Sister Bush by those present, and a resolution of sympathy placed upon the records of the meeting.

Little did Brother and Sister Bush think, when they, at the State Grange were hearty in condoling with us, that we should so soon have an opportunity to return their sympathy. Such times prove friends and develop fraternal relations.

The following persons were elected and duly installed officers of Lenawee County Grange, No. 15, and with the large membership present, duly instructed in the higher work of the Order.

Master, Geo. B. Horton; Steward, H. S. Powney; Ass't. Steward, H. B. Robb; Chaplain, J. L. Rummington; Treasurer, A. P. Kimball; Secretary, James Cook; Gate Keeper, H. C. Bradish; Pomona, Sister M. A. Briggs; Ceres, Jane Lindsay; Flora, E. H. Remington; L. A. S., Carrie Bradish. Ex. Com.: Bro's E. A. Jordon, J. W. Baker and Martin Poucher.

On the 15th of February we met the members of the several Granges of Ionia County and duly instituted Ionia County Grange, No. 16, with the following for officers, to-wit:

Master, Geo. Prey; Overseer, E. R. Williams; Lecturer, D. L. Waldron; Steward, A. W. Sherwood; Ass't. Steward, Wm. Hixon; Chaplain, H. Cheeny; Treasurer, W. A. Inman; Secretary, M. M. Currier; G. K. E. Vance; Pomona, Sister W. H. Mattison; Ceres, Sister H. Cheeny; Flora, Sister A. W. Sherwood; L. A. S., Sister A. Hubble, also three Bro's. who with M. and S. constitute the Executive Committee. The organization was large and enthusiastic, and means business.

We have just returned from Traverse City, where was held on March 22d, the Dist. Grange, No. 17, comprising the Counties of Grand Travers, Benzie and Ielanaw. Forty-four members were present and took part in the organization, and elected the following to office and they were duly installed and instructed:

Master, D. C. D. Brooks; Overseer, R. P. Latell; Lecturer, W. W. Tracy; Steward, L. A. Jennie; Ass't. Steward, V. T. Gardner; Chaplain, Sister Clara Ramsdell; Treasurer, Wm. Rennie; Secretary, S. A. Gardner; Gate Keeper, S. Franklin; Pomona,

Charlotte Brooks; Ceres, Julia Hyde; Flora, Augusta Gardner; L. A. S., Ettie Carter. Ex. Com.: Bro's. Franklin, M. C. Cote and J. G. Ramsdell with the W. M. and W. S.

In the evening it was our pleasure to meet and address a large and very intelligent gathering of Traverse Farmers, and from their appearance and marked attention, we can confidently predict an onward movement in this section. This is confirmed by our visit with Bro. J. G. Ramsdell to Silver Lake Grange, the following evening. The Grange and the neighboring farmers filled a large school house and showed an interest we seldom find. This Grange proposes to erect a Hall this season. Success to them.

On the 28th of March the Patrons of Kent County to the number of 60 met in Grand Rapids, and after due deliberation organized a County Grange, and elected the following persons officers:

Master, Wm. P. Whitney; Overseer, Smith Thorrington; Lecturer, M. B. Hine; Steward, H. G. Holt; Ass't. Steward, Robert Locken; Chaplain, Henry D. Medge; Treasurer, Charles Dole; Secretary, W. R. Blaisdell; Gate Keeper, John G. Berry; Pomona, Elizabeth Porter; Ceres, Huldah Mills; Flora, Mary J. Tubbs; L. A. S., Jane T. Whitney, and an Executive Committee of three besides the Master and Secretary.

In the evening the Degree of Pomona was conferred in form and the officers duly installed. This County Grange meets at Harmony Grange Hall once in four weeks.

My proposal in the last number was at hand rather late, yet many have availed themselves of it. Thanks to them. I will continue the offer until July 1st, to all who wish seeds or plants, small fruit, etc.

We wish to remark for the benefit of a few members who are not very well "up" as yet on the true intent and meaning of some of the doctrines of the Order, that the clause in our Declaration of Purposes, which reads that one of the objects of the Order is to discountenance the credit system does not mean the credit system simply as practiced by others, but also as practiced by ourselves. It is of course highly desirable that we should so far as possible, discountenance everything like a credit system on the part of those who buy of us. Indeed, the advantages of selling for cash are so readily apparent that, perhaps the merciful reader will excuse us from stopping to enlarge upon them. But the benefits of buying for cash seem not to be so readily discerned. They are however, just as real and just as numerous as those of selling for cash. And since they are so, the founders of the Order made the discountenancing of the credit system in our transactions as well as in the transactions of others, one of the specific objects of our organization.—*Grange Bulletin.*

—The best Granges are not in the villages, but right back in the country where the potent sneer of some pert counter jumper is not felt and the pleasures of lounging about the stores can't be indulged in.

State Agent's Department.

J. H. GARDNER, - CENTREVILLE.

The Grange *News* of Illinois says: "That if some pretended Patrons fall by the way, lured off by the merchants or smooth talker in the little village, let them go back to their 'flesh pots.' They are men who will do you no good because they are only fit to follow their masters, and the Grange only wants men who will think for themselves.

It would be a great advantage to our cause if those who still pretend to be Patrons, could be got clear off. They are in almost every Grange, opposing every measure which is brought up for the good of the Order. They never join in any purse which is made up to send off for supplies, and go and tell the village merchant who credits them, and use their agents prices only as a lever to beat down the local dealers. "Keep out of debt!" "Keep out of debt!" Never spend money until you have it, and then co operate with your neighbor and get what you want.

The man who spends less money than he makes ends in competency, while the one who loves credit, lives hard-up and is in straightened circumstances, with his farm mortgaged, and sometimes sold out by the Sheriff, compelled to turn up as a local politician, seeking for some office or wanting the State to maintain him. Therefore keep out of debt.

Some manufacturers do not like to have their names and terms published as they have trade with dealers which they want to keep, but are willing to send out their wares on my orders.

I believe that I have now arrangements sufficient to satisfy all for plows, cultivators, wagons, carriages, hay rakes and small tools for the season. The Jonesville, Mishawaka, Battle Creek and Buckeye chilled plows. The Diamond Iron, steel mold-board and steel plows; also the Union City plow together, must suffice for all kinds of work and soils. I have made a purchase from the Dayton Machine Company of hay rakes to be sent here soon, so that I can furnish at once on receiving orders, all that may be needed in the State. The new Victor self-dumping rake is equal to any made. Wagons are \$58.00 each, not \$85.00 as published in March VISITOR, and good as made. Carriages of all descriptions can be had at Grand Rapids, Elkhart, Niles or Buchanan. Mr. P. Warner, of Bronson, offers his fanning mills at wholesale prices. This mill is first-class in every respect, and I can recommend it to clean all kinds of grain and seeds in a superior manner, and all orders sent me will be filled at astonishing low prices.

Don't forget when our sisters want a new sewing machine, to try the Home, which is sent for twenty days examination, and if not satisfactory it can be returned. It is warranted to be kept in repair for five years free of charges.

If any brother wanting a reaper or mower would let me know soon I could contract for them if I can be

assured they will be taken; I can not buy machinery as I have done for members, and have to send it out of the State for sale, or keep it on hand.

Prices on goods vary daily, and the price one week may be quite different from a preceding week.

My contracts are now such that I can buy anything to be had in Detroit or Chicago at market rates from wholesale houses, if the order is sufficient size to be sent there. Join together and bulk your orders, so as to get the lowest prices and save on freight. The railroads charge as much for a package of twenty pounds as for a hundred pounds; remember this and be guided accordingly.

I am buying weekly all kinds of domestic dry goods at Chicago, and can fill orders for nearly everything in that line, if samples are sent me of the articles wanted.

In sending money, if convenient, get a post office order on Three Rivers or a N. Y. bank draft, and always *state in your letter accompanying, the amount sent*; give post office and railroad station if different. State plainly what is wanted each time you write, don't expect me to remember your name or what I may have written a week past, to you, for in a correspondence of from forty to sixty letters daily, I can't say what I may have written to each one on the previous day.

Refined sugars have declined somewhat, while New Orleans clarified are firm and advancing in price. This is owing to the large adulteration practiced at the refineries, by mixing glucose with true sugar.

Coal Oil is now 22 to 25cts. a gallon for Michigan test, inspected oil.

I have a short price list now ready to be sent to Secretaries and Masters as soon as I receive a list of the names; also to any person requesting it under the Grange seal.

P. D. Wetmore, the agent at New Orleans, has failed, I am informed; and if anything is wanted from there, send to me, as I have dealings with a wholesale house in the city of whom I have always got good articles at fair rates and orders filled promptly.

I have a few iron beam chilled plows on hand at \$8.00 for plow and clevis or \$11.00 for plows, clevis, wheel and jointer, which I desire to close out. They are in good order and good plows, and to those that use iron beam plows, will give satisfaction.

Four ton scales from the Chicago Scale Company can be had for \$55.00 at the manufactory, and small scales at proportionate prices. I have had one in use for two years and find it to be a good scales.

I shall hold granges responsible for orders under the seal and expect prompt pay when goods are sent without money with the order.

—Immense progress in knowledge on subjects connected with political economy has come from Grange discussions, especially upon all subjects of financial importance, taxes and tariffs, and the ways and means of getting money to run the machinery of government. Much yet can be learned on these subjects before the people can dictate to tricksters what the masses must have as their dues.

Communications.

Stand by the Constitution.

A great many questions are being asked, and some very difficult ones too, and one especially, in regard to the initiatory fees of the Grange. In this section of the country there are a great many that would like to join the Grange if the fees were reduced a little, and we are quite frequently asked why they are so high.

If the enquirers would only stop for a moment and think, they would find that they are small compared to other organizations. Members of Granges are apt to give this question too much importance, many look only to numbers, but I do not. It is not the great numbers that give strength to the Grange. Numbers are all right providing they are all thorough workers. For my part I had rather have ten live members than one hundred and fifty dead ones. Well, says one, "here is a man that I think would be a help to us, but he says the fees are too high," when at the same time this same individual is spending every year, more for tobacco and intoxicating liquor, yes a great deal more than would pay the initiation fees and the monthly dues for five years.

Is this not true? Certainly it is. Now these people say, "if you will reduce the fees a little we will come in."

Now, I say to all, stand by the constitution, for it is the only sure way to success, and if persons offering themselves after we have borne the burden during the heat of the day, started the machine and kept it running until now, if they can't pay what the constitution demands that they shall pay, I say let them stay out. We don't want them, for they would only be a damage to us, and would soon be on the list of delinquents.

In conclusion, I would say, stand by the constitution, and prosperity will crown our efforts.

I would say one word of encouragement in regard to Crapo Grange. We are in the best working order that we have ever been. Our number is small, but what there is of us, is all Granger. We are progressing step by step and are bound to succeed. Yours &c.

A. MIDGLEY, Sec'y.,
Crapo Grange, No. 363.

Worthy Brother:

Harmony Grange, No. 337, is still thriving, we have 134 members and a prospect of some more soon. We are trying to perfect our organization, and advancement is our motto.

Last Saturday we presented our Past Master, Bro. Smith Thorington, with a pair of silver goblets. They were presented by Bro. E. M. Bullard, ex-Secretary, in behalf of the Grange, and a neat and appropriate address made on each side. We had a good time and what is still better perhaps, on Monday, Feb. 26th, we visited the premises of a widow member of our Order, armed with axes, saws, and teams, and soon turned the big trees into stove wood and hauled the same to the house. Last fall we invaded another widow's premises and cut and hauled about twenty-five cords of wood to her door. Strange to say, this widow got married soon after, and donated a portion of her wood to widow number two. If this is the natural result of a chopping bee, we shall soon have no widows in our Grange. Yours &c.,

A GRANGER.

SILVER LAKE GRANGE, No. 624.

Brother J. T. Cobb:

We feel encouraged in the good cause. Bro. C. L. Whitney organized a District Grange at Traverse City, March 22d, in which we take a lively interest, although the youngest Grange here, being less than a year old, we were among the first to act in getting the District Grange organized.

We still have all the members we

ever had and all work well together, there has been no discord yet. We have taken measures to build a Hall the coming summer, have part of the material on the ground and all are active in the matter.

We are getting new members occasionally, and all come to stay.

We find your paper a most welcome visitor, both in the Grange and at the fireside, we only wish it could come oftener.

Brother C. L. Whitney gave a public lecture to our Grange March 23d, which was spoken of in warm terms by all that heard it, and the house was full.

The Granges around here have seemed to take new life this winter. All are more active than usual, and we look confidently for the general prosperity of the Order in these parts.

T. H. CLYDE, Lecturer.

BERRIEN SPRINGS, April 2d, 1877.

Worthy Secretary:

It may be of interest to Patrons of elsewhere to know what the Grangers are doing in South-western Michigan, therefore I will pen a short article concerning the progress of Mount Tabor Grange, No. 43.

We have been holding Grange Meetings in private houses ever since our organization and our Grange has had a slow but steady growth.

We came to the conclusion that a Grange in order to prosper must have a fixed and permanent home, and therefore resolved to build us a Hall.

We have raised the necessary funds for building a Hall 24 by 50 feet and 24 feet high, to be completed by the first of June. This Hall will be built in the country on the corner of a good Granger's farm. Three-quarters of an acre of which is the donation of Bro. Burns Helmick.

Our Grange in Berrien County do most of their trading through the co-operative store at Buchanan, owned and controlled wholly by Grangers.

Brothers and Sisters of the Order, if you desire to make the Grange a permanent success:

1st. Establish a co-operative store in your country.

2d. Build a commodious Grange Hall on a permanent foundation, and show to the world that Grangers mean business.

W. J. JONES, Sec'y.

Resolution of Farmington Grange, No. 267, on the milling question.

WHEREAS, The Laws of this State provide that the occupant of any grist mill shall weigh any grist when received at, or delivered from his mill, if requested by the owner, and

WHEREAS, We feel that many times we do not received what is our just due therefore, be it

Resolved, By Farmington Grange, No. 267, that we will hereafter require that our grists shall be weighed when received at, and when taken from, any grist mill, and that we recommend this practice to our Brother Patrons.

Yours Fraternally,
A. J. CROSSBY, Master.

MOUNT CLEMENS, March 22, 1877.

Bro. Cobb:

Enclosed you will find P. O. Order for dues and fees, \$3.56 and \$1.20 for four copies of the VISITOR.

I will say a few words in regard to Chesterfield Grange. We claim that we have as good men and women in our Grange as can be found in the Eastern part of Macomb County, and feel that we are able to fully carry out the principle of the Order. We have good interesting meetings and well attended when the weather will permit.

We are buying our goods within the Order. We started with \$100.00, and in four months we bought nearly \$500 worth of goods with a saving that is satisfactory. We are looking to our Executive Committee to do more to open up methods of business that will induce members to sell within our Order.

We felt somewhat set up as a new Grange, to have the Macomb Council meet with us. We had a very interesting meeting. The Council passed a resolution to support Day & Taylor.

Fraternally, J. W. ALLEN.

BERRIEN CENTER, April 1877.

Brother Cobb:

I wish to report through the columns of your very acceptable Grange VISITOR the progress the Patrons of Berrien County are making in the business of co-operation.

Our Store at Buchanan has been running about nine months, with a capital of less than \$2,000. Our sales for the last month average over \$100 per day, and are steadily increasing. Our business is entirely satisfactory. Our success is assured, by reason of our concentration of trade and a determination that we will succeed. We shall put this agent of experience in Chicago this season to sell our supplies and products, and buy as ordered. Fraternally,

THOMAS MARS,
Master Berrien Co. Grange.

OVID MICH., April 9th, 1877.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

It seems strange that so many Patrons can get along without taking a Grange Paper. As knowledge is the basis of progress, it is highly important that the Patrons of Husbandry should kindly foster and protect whatever is calculated to throw light upon their path.

It is a hopeful feature of our Order that it is well supplied with newspapers, these papers are well-conducted, being divided into various departments, each of which are especially devoted to some particular interest, as the Grange—the farm—the household—the fire-side—the family—the markets, etc., and are calculated to furnish the farmer and his family with good instructive reading, while the material interests of our Order will be advanced by keeping its members posted with regard to what it is accomplishing elsewhere.

The present financial pressure is bearing heavily upon the various industries of the country, and I fear that many of the members of our Order are overlooking the fact that this pressure is being sensibly felt by the conductors of newspapers as well as those who are engaged in other pursuits. The publication of a newspaper is attended with a constant expenditure of money, while its editorial duties involve a life of unremitting toil and care. The position of an editor is very similar to that of a mother who is burdened with the constant care and responsibility of a large family. It is a life of incessant toil, care and anxiety, and when the work is well done it should not only be appreciated, but should be paid for with commendable promptness.

Do not understand me to say, take every Grange and Agricultural paper that is printed, but give a liberal and cheerful support to such as have claims on you—to those conducted by men of broad views, who are valiently doing battle for the right, and recognize in our noble Order a means of securing social, educational and material blessings to the farmers of America.

O. A. CARPENTER,
Master Ovid Grange, No. 156.

ADDISON, MICHIGAN.

Bro. Cobb:

I send you a few more notes from Rollin Grange, No. 383.

Heretofore we have purchased but little from the State Agent, but at our last meeting the subject was discussed and the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That we make all our purchases when possible through the State Agent. The reason that we have not done so before is that we have had arrangements with a retail grocer, so that we could get some supplies at reasonable rates.

The plaster question was discussed and a resolution adopted pledging ourselves to stick by Messrs. Day & Taylor, and we shall order a car load immediately. Some outsiders have said that they would give 50 cents more per ton for Grange plaster than for any other, for they know that if the Grange Plaster Mills were closed they would have to pay seven or eight dollars per ton for all they will want in the future. If they want our car load we are going to let them have it and order some more for ourselves.

The GRANGE VISITOR has quite a circulation among us, there being but few members who do not take it, and in a short time I expect all will take it. Those who now take it say they would not be without it for double its price. Enclosed you will find 60 cents for two copies, and you may expect more soon. Fraternally,

OSCAR WING, Sec'y.

SILVER LAKE GRANGE, No. 324, P. of H.

Bro. J. T. Cobb:

I see by the GRANGE VISITOR that we are one of the baby Granges, but we are lively as young crickets. We all take a deep interest in the Grange, and in the good of the Order. We meet once in two weeks, at 2 o'clock P. M., and night always comes too soon for us. We have a good attendance.

We are preparing to build a hall the coming season. Some members that feel too poor to contribute money to even fence a grave yard, will do all they can freely to help build a hall. Such is the spirit we have in this matter.

We are doing all we can to get a District Grange organized up here, so we of the Grand Traverse country, can work in concert, in both buying and selling. We have long been oppressed by a monopoly here, and the same monster lives yet, although crippled considerably by the Grange movement. If we can act in concert under an organized head, we can do our business independent of a firm that have grown immensely rich, while the population that have dealt with them from a matter of necessity (for there was no other place to deal), have just barely lived. Fraternally,

T. H. ALZALE, Sec'y.

THE REAPER DEATH.

On Feb. 8th, 1877, Brother James W. Morgan after a long illness of great suffering, aged 51 years.

M. A. HOLCOMB,

Sec'y. Bowen Center Grange, No. 211.

On April 11th, Vergennes Grange, No. 221, adopted a preamble and resolution, expressive of its sorrow and loss by death of a worthy sister, Ida Hogan.

In the death of Sister Louesa Wedge, Alpine Grange, No. 348, has lost one of its brightest ornaments. Our charter is draped in mourning. Our hearts shrouded in sorrow.

CLEOME PRESTON,

JOHN PRESTON,

Com.

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" per doz.,.....	1 50
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Blank Applications for Membership in Pomona Granges, furnished free on application.	
Blank "Articles of Association" for the Incorporation of Subordinate Granges with Copy of Charter, all complete,....	10
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