

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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All persons desiring to advertise in the GRANGE VISITOR, should address A. J. ALDRICH & Co., Coldwater, Mich., as they have assumed complete charge of that department. Prices will be furnished upon application. Average circulation for 1886 has been over 6,800 copies. Regular edition 6,000 copies. The paper circulates in nearly every county in the lower peninsula of Michigan and into families of as intelligent a class of people as can be found in any state in the union. The VISITOR, also has a good circulation among the Patrons of Iowa.

A. J. ALDRICH & Co.,
Printers of the GRANGE VISITOR.

To Subscribers and Correspondents.

All subscriptions to the GRANGE VISITOR, and all correspondence, excepting for advertising, should be addressed to

J. T. COBB, Editor,
Schoolcraft, Mich.

We have arranged with Bro. I. B. Hamilton, of Grandville, Mich., to solicit subscriptions and advertising for the VISITOR. We hope some of our friends who have neglected to renew will have a call.

To Subscribers.

Remittances may be made to us in postage stamps, or by postal note, money order, or registered letter. If you receive copies of the paper beyond your time of subscription it is our loss not yours. We aim to send every number of the paper for the time paid for, then strike out the name if not renewed. Renewals made promptly are a matter of much convenience, and we respectfully solicit such that no numbers be lost to you. Advise this office at once of a change in our address, or if numbers fail to reach you.

There is no doubt the honest worth of Ayer's Sarsaparilla as a blood purifier. Thousands, who have been benefited by its use, will attest its virtues. This remedy cures kidney and liver complaint, and eradicates every trace of disease from the system.

Postal Jottings.

No. 655 prospers finely in every way but taking in new members. We are getting forehanded financially, having taken premiums at the County Fair two years in succession and by holding literary and musical entertainments monthly, at the least of which the proceeds amounted to over \$15.00. Now, if we could obtain a few new members we would feel quite encouraged and set about building our new hall with a hearty good will. SEC'Y.

Mapleton, Traverse Co.

In my jotting last Spring stating that Working Grange No. 509 had joined with the I. O. O. F. to build a new hall to be used by the two societies, I think I intimated that in the near future you might hear from us again, and it is with a feeling of unalloyed pleasure that I can write and tell you our new hall is finished and dedicated. The 20th of Oct. was the time appointed for the dedication, and Gov. Luce was the dedicating officer. The morning dawned lovely—one of those beautiful Autumnal days, it seemed as though Providence was with us and smiled on our good works. Gov. Luce arrived from Lansing on the morning train and was driven to the hall by brother J. B. Kellogg, and ate a hearty breakfast in the kitchen of our new hall.

The building is of frame 24x52, two stories high the upper portion being used for holding meetings exclusively, and the lower for dining hall and social gatherings. There is a nice kitchen partitioned off in the lower story, with pantry, etc.

At ten o'clock the main hall was filled with members, and visiting members of the Order and invited guests; and the ceremonies began by W. M. J. A. Fowler calling the meeting to order and announcing that the exercises would commence by singing, then followed the beautiful dedicating services of our Order, made extremely interesting and impressive by the manner in which they were rendered. At the conclusion of the exercises, dinner was announced, and all repaired to the spacious dining hall below, where an abundance of the good things of this life had been provided by the kind hearts and willing hands of our sisters. That it was enjoyed by all, goes without saying among Patrons. Between two and three hundred ate, and still there was enough and to spare.

At two o'clock the hall was again filled to overflowing, to listen to the speech of W. M. Luce.

The Governor made a strong and forcible address, from the stand point of a practical farmer to farmers and their families. Many saw and listened to him for the first time and showed their appreciation by frequently applauding him. Brother Luce spoke for over an hour and much good will result from it. At the conclusion of his speech a rising vote of thanks was rendered the W. M. of the State Grange for coming so many miles to dedicate our hall and for the able address to which we had all been privileged to listen. Alarms at the gate are so frequent now that the work of initiating almost seems monotonous, yet the good work must and shall go on. From eleven members in March we have swelled our numbers to thirty-one and five new applicants to put through at our next meeting, and ere the new year comes in, I trust our membership will number fifty. We expect shortly to start another contest, and at the same time have Grange socials once in two weeks, to replenish our treasury.

We have a literary program and serve a lunch at our socials, and charge a dime each as fees.

T. G. CHANDLER.

"How is your Grange doing now?" "Well, not very well, I guess; I do not attend very often, but I guess they are not doing much." "If your Grange is failing it is because you are not there." "But I pay my dues; my name is clear on the books." "Yes, but your dues are just half paid when your money dues are paid. It is your due to your Grange to be there. It will not flourish unless you are. Then put brains into your Grange. It is the best tonic, the best stimulant to a good growth of anything that we know of. Your business will not flourish unless you put brains into it, your home, your school, nor your Grange. Have an hour for opening and open at that hour, an hour

for closing and close at that hour. Have an objective point and work to it and your Grange will succeed.

MRS. MAYO.

"WHATEVER we do, strive to do well." Patrons, these earnest words are for you. They imply that you are doing something. What is it? Anything to "advance the interests or elevate the characters" of your associates? If not you are not living up to the spirit of the obligations you have assumed. They who merit and receive success, strive for it. When in attendance at the State Grange and witnessing the vim of the members composing that body, I have said to myself, "Surely, we shall see a great increase in the membership of the Order during the ensuing year, for if this body of intelligent men and women go to their homes and the heaven they have received works as it ought, dormant Granges will be revived and those in existence will double or quadruple their membership, and new Granges will spring into existence all over our beautiful State. That was my fancy; here are the facts: The December gales encountered on the way home from Grand Rapids or the Capital City chilled the leaven in the majority of the representatives and it fell, a cold, inert lump into a niche of some subordinate Grange and never emerged. Another important gathering, our National Grange, has honored our State with a session. Will its influence be lost? Less than a year ago we promised that Michigan should again step to the front of the column in membership. Have we redeemed the pledge? If not, why not, and who is to blame?" F. W. REDFERN.

We get, now and then, a little sprinkle, just to remind us that there are blessings in store for us by and by. I have great reason to be devoutly thankful for my farm abundantly supplied with good water. Ohio is lukewarm in Grange work and our forthcoming report will show considerable of a falling off. I believe now the third party question is settled in politics, and henceforth it will be Democracy vs. Republicanism with the Grange to furnish salt to keep them both from spoiling. Perhaps we will grow now. T. R. SMITH,
Sec'y Ohio State Grange.

The socialist or anarchist being allowed to utter their pernicious sentiments in public is working harm to our society. These bad sentiments find lodgment in men's minds and then find expression in some act of the man that may lead to exciting his fellows to a riot. Fielden, who is now a life convict in an Illinois Penitentiary, said that he learned while in England to hate kings and queens, and when he came to this country he merely transferred that hate to those who administer the affairs of this government, from the President down to the policeman. "Tis said that he had a ready pen and fluent speech and hence was more capable of doing great harm to society by the readiness with which he could scatter his pernicious ideas among the masses, many of whom he made believe that "socialism was a means in their hands of preventing somebody else from taking their property." He made them believe that no man in society is responsible for what he is; that "all the ills that are in society are the product of this bad government;" and that the wealthy class are the enemies to the poor working man, consequently by making war on the mansions they would bring peace and plenty to the cottages. "Tis said that the Haymarket meeting began to flag and the rabble to disperse from lack of excitement, when Fielden got into a wagon and by his fiery harangue called them back and excited them on to the riot that resulted in the death of seven policemen and the wounding of some 60 citizens. V. B.

Now that the fall work is mostly over and the evenings are getting long it will be a good time for the farmers to consult each other through the "Jottings" of the VISITOR as to the best course to pursue next year. The experience of one farmer may be very useful to others. Even mistakes and failures are often worth relating; they may prevent others from doing likewise. The page for jottings is just the place to discuss the best methods of conducting Grange meetings. Occasionally a short item from the Lecturer of each Grange would be of great benefit to the work of the Order. The item must be short or the editor will scold

and throw it into the waste basket. We learned while at Lansing last week that Capital Grange, which is supposed to be the model Grange of the State, always commences its meetings on time without varying one minute. I think other Granges would do well to pattern after Capital Grange in this respect. It would induce each member to hurry up and would be less tedious for those who are always on time. Palmyra Grange holds regular meetings every two weeks. We have a short literary program at each meeting. On alternate evenings we have literary and no Grange work, the whole time being occupied with dialogues, recitations, singing, reading, discussions, etc. It is an experiment. We will let you know in the spring of our success. Shall we hear from other Granges? Lenawee Co., Nov. 22. M. T. COLE.

[The above suggestions are timely at this the close of the Grange year. Gather up the experiences of the year, cull out the benefits and send them to the jotting page. In accord with this idea we ask every Lecturer in the State to send us a brief summary of what he or she has learned in that office, with practical hints and helps that may be of use to the incoming officers of a new year.—Ed.]

TALLMADGE GRANGE, No. 639, at its last session requested the publication of the following: "Tallmadge Grange No. 639 respectfully requests our representative at Washington to use his influence against any repeal or modification of the present oleomargarine law that would be favorable to the manufacturer of any make of bogus butter. FRANK WOODARD, Sec.

Notices of Meetings.

THE annual meeting of Hillsdale County Pomona Grange, No. 10, will be held in G. A. R. Hall, Hillsdale, December 7. The forenoon meeting will be devoted to business of the Order and hearing reports from subordinate Granges. Let every Grange report. The afternoon session will be devoted to hearing reports of officers, election of officers, then responsive exercises. Let every Patron be ready to respond. Let us have an active and a pleasant meeting. J. E. WAGNER, Sec'y.

KALAMAZOO County Pomona Grange will hold its next meeting Thursday, December 1, with Portage Grange. The election of officers, reports of subordinate Granges, also the reports of officers will be called for. There will be time for reports from those who have threshed corn, which will, perhaps, be of benefit to all. A general attendance is requested. MRS. H. DALE ADAMS, Sec'y.

THE County Grange of Barry County will hold its next meeting with the Glass Creek Grange at the hall in the township of Rutland, on Friday, Nov. 25, at 10 o'clock sharp. Patrons, it is very necessary that you be present on time as at this meeting the election of officers will occur and our literary program should not be omitted. Following is the program:

Ten o'clock A. M., regular order of business in the 4th degree.
Twelve o'clock, M., recess for dinner.
One o'clock P. M., Address of welcome—Wm. Otis.
Response—Chas. Biggs.
What lessons in agriculture has the past season taught us—Volunteers.
Essay or selection—Sister S. Johnson.
The County Fair, how the rules for its management as carried out this year been as satisfactory to the farmers of the county as in years past—Chas. Newland and C. H. Stone.
Recitation—Sister Alida Newland.
Is there any part of the Declaration of Principles of the Order of the Knights of Labor that conflicts with the principles of the Grange—J. Dawson and J. Robinson.
Soil Exhaustion, selection—A. Parker.
A. PARKER, Lect.

THE annual meeting of Allegan County Council will be held at Allegan Dec. 6, it which meeting will occur the election of officers, the general business transactions of the Council, also reports of officers etc. The entertainment will consist of music by the Austin and Colburn families, address of welcome by sister M. A. Ely, response by S. C. Foster of Trowbridge, "The world as it moves: its moral motion" by W. J. Shirley of Millgrove, also readings, recitations and essays from those who have failed to respond to the programs this year. The dinner will be basket picnic. N. A. DIBBLE
Sec'y Allegan County Council.

Cheap Wall Paper.
The Michigan State Board of Health has published a book entitled "Shadows from the Walls of Death" and placed it in the Public Libraries of the State, in which the use of wall paper is condemned. Not only does the use of paper stop wall respiration, as it is very properly termed, but the amount of poisonous material which is used in the manufacture of paper, particularly the cheaper grades, is arousing a spirit of alarm among scientific men throughout the country, who are pronounced in their opinion that the use of cheap wall paper must be stopped, or else very serious and wide spread disaster will follow and disease and death be multiplied. The constantly lowering price of paper can only be met by corresponding cheapness in the process of manufacturing, which has now been brought to the very lowest point, regardless of the results that may follow. The time has come when the attention of all householders should be called to this matter that they may for themselves investigate and determine whether, or not, there is reason for alarm. In a matter so clearly affecting the health of the family, ignorance is criminal.

As a substitute for poisonous papers and unwholesome kalsomines, Alabastine, the durable wall coating is being generally recommended by those whose opinions are entitled to consideration. As coming from a reliable source and a party who is generally known and acknowledged, as authority on such matters, we append the following letters.

Alabastine Co.—Dear Sirs: At your request I have analyzed specimens of Alabastine manufactured by the Alabastine Co., of Grand Rapids, and find no traces of poisonous material. The material was carefully tested for arsenic and copper, but none could be found. My study has been Alabastined, and I am very well pleased with the result. The Alabastine makes a very firm and durable covering to the wall, and seems to be free from any tendency to crack or scale. It is also free from any disagreeable odor. Yours Truly,
R. C. Kedzie, Prof. Chem.

Alabastine Co.—Dear Sirs: The Alabastine put on the walls of the Chemical Laboratory more than four years ago, is in as good condition and bright in appearance as when first applied, save where water from a leaky roof has injured it. The Alabastine seems to grow harder with age, making a firm and coherent covering, and has no tendency to soil the clothing by contact, as whitewash and kalsomine will. I am well satisfied with Alabastine. Yours Truly,
R. C. Kedzie, Prof. Chem.

Alabastine is a clean, beautiful and healthy wall coating; the only natural finish for a wall that will admit of applying successive coats from time to time that will cement together and become a part of the wall. Write for sample cards showing twelve beautiful tints, and any other information that you may wish to. Alabastine Co.,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Patrons, Attention!
The Secretaries of county conventions in most instances failed to report the postoffice of representatives to the State Grange which meets at Lansing on Tuesday, the 13th of December. On that account we can not send delegates Railway Certificates for a return ticket at one cent per mile. Representatives will please apply to this office at once. Be sure and have them signed by the agent at the point of starting else the certificate will not be of value.

Arrangements have been made with the Lansing House and Hudson House for delegates and visitors at \$1.25 per day where two persons occupy one bed. Other hotels will charge \$1.00 and the Everett House will provide transportation both ways.

Tone up the system and improve the appetite by taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It will make you feel like a new person. Thousands have found health, and relief from suffering, by the use of this great blood purifier, when all other means failed.

Don't disgust everybody by hawking, blowing and spitting, but use Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy and be cured.

MASTER'S ADDRESS.

THE WORTHY MASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Brothers and Sisters of the National Grange:

In compliance with an established custom, I submit this my annual report with some suggestions and recommendations for your consideration.

The progress made in the work of our Order since we last met in annual session, is commendable and gratifying. Success has attended the efforts of our lecturers, as shown by the large number of dormant granges that have been revived and by the establishment of 174 new granges—an increase unusual if not unparalleled in an institution as old and well established as the Grange. The State Grange of Nebraska has been re-established and we have the pleasure on this occasion of welcoming Bro. O. E. Hall, her worthy representative, to our meeting. We also have the pleasure of extending fraternal greetings through Brother Peckham, the Worthy Master, to Patrons in Rhode Island who have recently fallen into line with this farmers' movement, thus completing the circle of states, and making the Granges "in deed and in truth" a national organization.

In several localities there have been established

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS

with objects and principles very similar to those of the Grange. In some instances their establishment has been so rapid and enthusiastic as to overshadow the Grange and retard its work. This, however, in my opinion is only temporary, for in those localities where first organized the reaction has already set in, and our members now regard their coming as an advantage, as it has aroused them from their lethargy and set them to work. We do not antagonize these orders—on the contrary we welcome them as laborers in the great work of ameliorating the condition of American agriculturists, and wish them success in every good undertaking.

With proper understanding of the methods to be pursued and the objects to be attained, I think much good for our class might be accomplished from the successful establishment of other agricultural organizations. There is plenty of room and a sufficiency of good material to maintain a number of them. Though we have a large number of religious denominations begging for members, we know that only a few of our people belong to the church. Though we have a number of charitable institutions seeking members, we know that only a small proportion of our people unite with them. The Grange has been established for years appealing to farmers to join in advancing and protecting their class rights and interests, and while we are aware that it is the largest and strongest agricultural organization, numerically or otherwise, ever established in the history of civilization, and wielding a very great influence, more through the power of its organization than through its numerical strength, yet we know that we have a small proportion of our seven millions of farmers as members. History and our experience teach us that we cannot organize the greater portion of our farmers into any one organization, but we may secure a working majority in different organizations, and with wise directions work in accordance with the methods preferred to achieve the same ends.

THE GRANGE IS THE PIONEER

In the work of organization for the advancement and protection of agriculture, and as such it to-day occupies commanding ground. Through its regard for the rights and interests of others and its conservatism in all things, it commands the respect of all classes, and its petitions are treated respectfully by the law-making bodies of the land. To it the farmers of America look for a wise and statesmanlike leadership that will, by and by, relieve agriculture of the hindering causes to prosperity.

The eyes of the country are watching this meeting, and, while the thoughtless and overzealous may expect every system of error to be destroyed by the passage of high-sounding resolutions, making demands which invite scorn and ridicule, the more thoughtful will expect of this meeting conservative action and wise direction.

By pursuing a wise and firm, but patriotic and progressive course, it has reached its present high position in the estimation of the people, and I feel sure that you, its present leaders, realizing your responsibilities, will nobly press on to the accomplishment of the aims of the Order as published in our "Declaration of Purposes."

We cannot reasonably expect to extend the order or increase its membership in any other way, than by sending out

LECTURERS AMONG THE PEOPLE

to explain its principles and purposes. It is encouraging to know that such has attended every effort of the kind that has been made. All reports in my possession from the National, State, County and subordinate lecturers, show that wherever they have made an effort, the order has been revived and strengthened. I would therefore recommend that you adopt a system by which our order can be kept as prominently before the people as possible, consistent with our ability to pay. In this connection I would earnestly suggest that

STATE GRANGES

devise a system for having lecturers

work done in their respective jurisdictions, and not depend upon the National Grange, as its financial ability is not equal to the task of furnishing the requisite number of lecturers for all the work.

THE GRANGE PRESS

has done, and is still doing, splendid and noble service in sustaining the order. It is needless to say had it not been for the assistance of the Grange Press, the order could not have maintained its high standard of efficiency and usefulness, and that without their continued help our future existence would be of doubtful duration. While we are proud of the ability, fidelity and excellency of our press, yet we cannot expect it to extend the Order or increase its members. The living lecture must first get the people interested and enlisted in the Order before they will subscribe for our papers. I would, therefore, urge upon State Granges the fact that a system whereby lecturers of the Order may be kept continually at work is indispensably necessary to the future growth of the Grange. We have competent and qualified lecturers in every State, if we would only devise the ways and means to keep them at work.

THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

of the Lecturer's office, cost during the past year, about one thousand dollars. This is a matter worthy of your consideration. Would this amount spent in the lecture field do more good is a question for your decision. It occurs to me that the best policy to be pursued in this connection is for the National Grange to give such assistance as it is able to those weak jurisdictions where our Grange papers are not taken, and where only the lecturers can do good, and leave for the strong jurisdictions to devise such ways and means for the work as they may think best. If the plan suggested is the better one, then the money expended in the editorial work of the Lecturer's office could be more advantageously expended in the lecture field.

With three months' active work in each congressional district in the country, by an earnest efficient lecturer, we would add fifty per cent to our membership in the next twelve months.

CONDITION OF AMERICAN FARMERS.

An anomalous condition confronts the American farmers. Producing, as they do, immense crops, which constitute the greater part of the wealth of the country, they ought to be prosperous, and they would be if the wealth they produced were properly distributed. The fact that they are not is evidence of great wrong and injustice. What is the matter? By what means are farmers deprived of the rewards of their labors? Disguise the fact as you may, cover it up with sophistry and ingenious technicalities, apologize for it by pleading for other industries and the necessity for internal improvements, etc., still the fact will remain that through Class Legislation other interests in the distribution of the wealth of the land are enabled to absorb an undue and unjust amount of the products of the farmers. Every other important interest in the land is protected by helpful legislation, while farmers are discriminated against in trade, travel and taxes. The products of their farms are priced for them by others, as also the articles consumed by them. So studiously prepared and well arranged is this legislation that it is quite difficult to trace it up and show just how it operates to sap the prosperity of farmers. One says the farmers are not prosperous because railroads are allowed to charge "all the article will bear." Another says it is because farmers are required to pay more than their just share of the State and county taxes. One thinks it is due to the financial policy of the government. Another thinks it is due to the protection given to our manufacturers. Some think it is due to over production, while others attribute it to a want of diversity in agricultural productions, etc., etc. Now, if there is any truth in any, or all of these reasons, it certainly is the fault of the farmers, as they have the power in their own hands to correct any of the alleged grievances, whether they be in the management of the government or in the management of their farms. If the government has failed to give equal protection to our industry, we should not complain, nor should we attempt reform by making demands through resolutions on paper, but we should use power now in our hands and practice what we have been preaching for the last twenty-one years, and elect with our ballots Representatives who will legislate in the interest of agriculture, and not against it.

But, before we adopt this policy, we should be certain: 1st, That we are right; 2d, That we are agreed; 3d, That it is practicable for us to cooperate in securing the proposed reform. Years ago, when the Grange first demanded that railroads should be restrained by law, we were sure that right was on our side, and the National Grange and all the State, County and subordinate granges were agreed as to the justice of the cause, and the necessity for action, and with a united front they entered the contest, and so far success has attended every effort.

If, as some think, our unsatisfactory condition is due to the unfair proportion of taxes we pay to support our State and county governments, then our State, county and subordinate Granges should look into the matter fearlessly and without delay, and correct the injustice with the only in-

strument in their hands, viz: a free-man's ballot.

If, as others think, it is due to errors in the financial policy of the government, we should use the means at our command to change the present system, and have the public debt extinguished, and the national banking system repealed, and legal tender treasury notes substituted for the issues of the national banks. Or, if it be true as contended by some, that farmers are kept poor by protective taxation that manufacturers may keep rich, then we, as the only national body of organized farmers should see to it that this wrong be corrected, and that "equal and just taxation" continue the leading principle of our free government. But we Patrons are not agreed upon this question. Yet its importance demands the fullest and freest investigation possible. We should, and do, throw open wide the door to discussion and let in all the light possible that we may see and know how to act, I fully believe the time has come in our history and education when we can dispassionately discuss this or any other question from a non-partisan but patriotic standpoint, and I think the past history of the Grange will endorse the assertion, that when Patrons are convinced, they have the courage of their convictions and will act together for their mutual benefit, protection and advancement. It sounds unreasonable to say that over-production is the cause of our trouble—bringing failures and bankruptcies and producing millions of tramps. It would rather appear more reasonable to say it is for the want of a sufficiency of money and just legislation to distribute our productions properly and justly.

One of the greatest of the many victories of the Grange was the establishment of the

INTER-STATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

In the language of a distinguished Congressman, "Had the Grange done nothing more than create the public sentiment which forced the enactment of laws to restrain the injustice of railroad corporations, it has amply repaid every effort and sacrifice made and for all time and money spent in its maintenance." While this is true, yet these corporations are not restrained from trespassing upon the rights of the people as they should be. Only a good beginning has been made by establishing the principle that they are creatures of the law, and therefore subject to the law. It is not claimed that the law establishing the Inter-State Commerce Commission is perfect by any means. On the contrary, it is admitted to be very defective, especially in that feature which gives to the Commission authority under certain circumstances, to suspend the operations of the fourth section, which forbids railroad companies from charging more for a short than a long haul. This is a great injustice complained of and every effort should be made to have the law so amended as to take away from the Commission the right to suspend the operations of section four.

Senator Edmunds, in his great speech before the Inter-State Commerce Commission, as attorney representing the State Grange of Vermont, sounded the key note for our future guidance and action when he said: "I think it will turn out to be so in the next ten years—not upon any supposed construction of this law that you may make, or upon any too extended construction of it, but as a fact in the social economies of this country, resting upon justice, which gives to every man his due, and a fair play to all, that every service that a railroad or any body else does for another under regulations, and of which he is not the master as every man has the right to receive profit from his labor which he can sell at any price he chooses to take or not) will be regulated according to the value of the services performed, not according to the particular circumstances of the person, or the corporation, who has to perform it." Again in the same speech, the Senator said: "In less than ten years, unless the people of the United States have lost their reason, this matter will be dealt with by Congress, so far as they have the power, and you will not be troubled with any question about considerations as to competition. You will only be troubled with the question of what is reasonable according to the value of the service performed, because that stands and can only stand upon principles that are beyond the reach of any contrivances that men may make."

In addition to the above, I will venture to express the opinion that the time is not far distant when railroad companies will be allowed by law to charge only a specified amount per hundred pounds per mile, just as some of them are now permitted to charge only a specified amount per mile for passenger travel.

For a number of years the Grange has been agitating the necessity of having agriculture represented in the Cabinet of the President. The idea met with much opposition and ridicule, which has delayed longer than was expected the consummation of our wishes. While our progress in creating favorable sentiment has been slow, it has been sure, and now I think I may with certainty congratulate you upon the prospect of success in the near future. The importance of this matter deserves more than a passing notice.

Hon. Henry L. Muldrow, of Mississippi, now first Assistant Secretary of the Interior, during a debate in the House of Representatives, in May, 1882, declared that, "If I have a hobby, it is the creation of a Department of Agriculture, with a Cabinet Minister at its head. At the first session of the 45th

Congress I offered the first bill, the object of which was to elevate this Department (agriculture) and make its chief an executive officer, with a right to a place in the Cabinet of the President. The measure was criticised by some and ridiculed by others. The New York Tribune asserted that it emanated from a member who hailed from a State where shot guns were the principal implements of husbandry, but I am glad to know that it had the effect of drawing attention to this subject and was supported by some of the best men and leading journals of the country. The ranks of its advocates have been steadily augmented until we find to-day but few politicians representing agricultural districts disposed to run counter to the all-pervading sentiment of the people."

Mr. Muldrow, in subsequent Congresses during his public service, renewed this measure and ably supported its passage. Other bills for the enlargement of the powers and duties of this Department were also introduced or supported by members in both Houses, in the Senate by Messrs. Miller, of New York, Jones, of Arkansas, George, of Mississippi, and Windom, of Minnesota; and in the House by Messrs. Aiken, Hatch, Anderson, Updegraff, and others. In the meantime the Granges in nearly every State in the Union continued to pour in on Congress petitions praying for the establishment of this Department. In both Houses the measure was attacked chiefly upon the ground that it was unconstitutional and unnecessary. It was claimed that it would not advance the great cause of agriculture, that it would only benefit the leading officers by increasing their salaries and individual importance and influence, and ultimately injure agriculture by degenerating into a mere political machine.

But the friends of the measure, embracing some of the most eminent members of both Houses, with great power defended it upon grounds of its absolute necessity, its manifest justice, and as a substantial recognition of the importance of agriculture. They had no doubts as to its constitutionality. They exhausted our legislative history and the history of civilized states in multiplying precedents and arguments in its support. Every government in Europe had an Agricultural Department fostered and protected by the State. Even Mexico and the South and Central American republics had such departments. The most illustrious men of ancient and modern times had borne evidence of its inestimable importance to the people. Among others in modern times, Gibbon has esteemed agriculture as the foundation and support of manufactures. Dr. Samuel Johnson maintained that "Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches which it can call its own." And the great Napoleon had described it as "the soul and body of the Empire." In our own country experienced statesmen and scholars, equally eminent for learning and ability, have added their testimony to its importance. Washington, in his first speech before Congress, urged the "advancement of agriculture as an interest of primary importance," and in his last speech advocated the establishment of a Board organized by law for its promotion. He regarded it as a proper "object of public patronage." He knew of no "object" to which "the public purse" could "be dedicated with greater propriety."

In 1839 an appropriation of \$1,000 was made to be disbursed under the Commissioner of Patents for the collection and distribution of seeds, and small annual appropriations were subsequently made for the same purpose until 1862 when agriculture was separated from the Patent Office and made an independent Department as it now exists.

Brother D. Wyatt Aiken, from his seat in Congress on May the 8th, 1882, said: "Sir:—Fostering agriculture is no class legislation—much less is it centralizing power in defiance of the Constitution, for it is the people's cause as well as the nation's life. You may as well every American vessel and raze the ground all our manufacturing establishments; this people would remain as proud and independent and as self-supporting as any people on earth. But should the vengeful power of an offended Deity destroy but for a single season all our agricultural products, annihilation, both individual and national, would be our inevitable doom. No, sir; agriculture is a service too vast in its extent, too powerful in its bearing upon the welfare of the people, to be considered in the same legislative category with our other manifold industries."

Agriculture has outgrown its primitive state. All the material conditions of the country have advanced a thousand fold; great cities and towns have grown up; population has increased very greatly. Manufactures and commerce, under the fostering care of the Federal Government, have proportionately advanced, and now agriculture, no longer a passive interest, but organized throughout the Union in the National, State, County and Subordinate Granges, has assumed the aggressive in the maintenance of its just rights and acknowledged grand importance to all the manifold occupations and interests of our whole people.

After the presentation and failure of a number of bills in different Congresses, a bill was offered at the last Congress and passed both Houses, but having been amended in the Senate and not reaching a conference committee, it failed. But the establishment by the Fiftieth Congress of an Executive Ag-

ricultural Department may be confidently anticipated. Let us not relax our efforts, however, "to make assurance doubly sure."

THE DRIVEN WELL PATENT.

At former sessions of this body, measures have been considered whereby the iniquities of a tyrannical law, as shown in the enforced exactions of royalties on patents, might be alleviated or mitigated without depriving inventors of that protection to which they are justly entitled as pioneers in mechanical progress. Our Order has always gladly contributed by its support and encouraging influence to lighten labors and increase rewards of all who serve usefully in every field of science and art. But we have been compelled again and again to meet the drafts of swindlers for whom the law supplied convenient machinery, and we have gone to the courts with the plea that robbery of which we are made the victims was also a disgrace when it had the sanction of Government.

This has been most conspicuously illustrated in what has been aptly termed the "driven well fraud," a scheme of plunder against which our protests have been ineffectual until within the past week, when by a righteous decision of the United States Supreme Court the iniquity is stripped of authority and has now no semblance of support. Yet we can not forget that during the life of a patent founded in fraud, thousands of our people have been compelled to pay tribute to thieves who visited them with demands that left no recourse except through the slow process of law, that in the present instance has uttered its voice too late to afford relief, except for those who are brave enough to resist, while warfare might be protracted through weary years. Still we rejoice in a triumph embodied in the righteous decision which stamps with shame a villainy that has drawn from honest industry vast sums of money, as the price of protection against wrong of even greater magnitude. Let us hope that our representatives in Congress may now see the necessity of so modifying the patent system that frauds can not invoke successfully its protection.

There are other subjects to which your attention might be called, but as it would be beautifying the reports of our standing committees, I will desist.

For the business operations and the financial condition of the Order, I refer you to the reports to be made by the Executive Committee, the Worthy Secretary and the Worthy Treasurer.

Willing obedience on the part of our members to our laws and ready acquiescence in all decisions and the fraternal regard manifested in all the mutual and reciprocal duties of Patrons, prompts me to say that the discipline in our Order is as perfect as could be desired.

THE WORK AND SUCCESS OF THE GRANGE has been phenomenal and its accomplishments wonderful. Beginning twenty-one years ago with a class unused to organization and unaccustomed to discipline, it has continued to advance until now it has a membership roll in every State in the union, and "binds us in mutual fraternity as with a band of iron; but, although its influence is so powerful, its application is as gentle as that of the silken thread that binds a wreath of flowers." Under such circumstances with its membership segregated and scattered over such a wide extent of territory, with erroneous views of the so-called independence of farm life, ignorant of the laws of commerce and the problems of political economy, progress has necessarily been slow in the accomplishment of the many objects of the organization. Yet this "slow progress" has proven our safety, for the organization has stood the crucial test of time, criticism and opposition, and now all those who are posted will endorse the assertion that, in all the essential elements of strength, permanency and efficiency, the Grange, the only truly national farmers' organization in the country, is stronger than ever before.

Its establishment has been so triumphant, having as yet made very few mistakes, with nearly every object undertaken in a fair way of accomplishment, and the further fact that so few failures have been made impress one with the idea that an unseen hand is directing its destiny.

There is injury, however, to be apprehended from the restless and impatient spirit manifested by some of our members in demanding radical changes in our Constitution and By-Laws, and in our beautiful ritual. An idea seems to prevail in some quarters that if our fees and dues are reduced to very small amounts, and all the degrees consolidated into one short degree, that our numbers would increase to such an extent as to secure the accomplishment of all our purposes at once. Upon sober reflection it will be seen that we have undertaken an immense work, that of elevating the farmer and preparing him to cooperate intelligently with his neighbors for the protection and advancement of his own rights and interests, and that it will take time and patience.

The Grange is not a temporary organization, gotten up to secure some revolutionary purpose. It is to agriculture what masonry is to charity. Founded as it is upon the great principles of truth, justice and equality, it is destined to live on and on, progressing with the march of improvement, the grand conservator of farmers' rights, promoting the general interests of all people. Since it has triumphantly battled through the experimental age, and been successfully

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The National Grange.

The twenty-first session of the representatives of the several states was called to order in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, November 16, at 11 o'clock, by Worthy Master Darden, of Mississippi. Little was done beyond the appointment of a committee on credentials at the morning session and recess was taken until evening. It was announced that the evening session would be public and that the annual address of the Worthy Master would then be read. It will be found on another page and we commend it to the careful consideration of our readers. At its close brief speeches were made at the suggestion of the Worthy Overseer by Giller, of Illinois, Hawkins, of Alabama, Messer, of Vermont, and Whitehead, of New Jersey, and the Grange took recess until Thursday morning.

The second day of the National Grange opened at 9:30. The standing Committees were announced, resolutions were presented and referred, officers of the National Grange who were prepared read their annual reports and they were ordered printed in the journal.

The Treasurer's report showed the receipts for the year from States as dues were \$5917.08. The Secretary's report gave 143 new Granges organized and the receipts of the office \$3586.99.

Reports of Masters of State Granges were called for. W. M. Hawkins, of Georgia, said the Grange had lived beyond the period of inflation, had struck bottom with but a numerical remnant and was now on the up grade with excellent prospects. Many members are availing themselves of the advantages of co-operation with good results.

Brother Draper, of Massachusetts, referred to the work of his State done in Rhode Island which aided by the National Lecturer had brought that state into the line of Grange States within the last few months.

California represented by its newly elected Master W. L. Overhiser has by her splendid exhibit been at the front ever since the doors of the senate chamber were opened on the first day of the session. The exhibit of the agricultural products of localities has been a prominent feature of Grange work in California. The State Agricultural Society offering special premiums to Granges as did the Mechanic's Association of San Francisco. Seventeen Counties competed for prizes.

The old Nutmeg State has made commendable progress in Grange work. "Holding our membership in all Granges in the State and making moderate gains in most of them and with the organization of 21 new Granges we have added more than a thousand members to the Order within the year."

Such is the language of Worthy Master J. H. Hale, of Connecticut, and he adds, "Our relations with other agricultural organizations are of the most cordial character." Little Delaware reported a gain in membership of 10 per cent. to its 25 subordinate Granges. Georgia was reported as holding its own without discouragement under embarrassments and difficulties. E. A. Giller, of the great agricultural State of Illinois, said: "We are holding the fort with a slight gain in membership; have wiped out a debt and have a little surplus in our treasury which we intend to use for lecture work." Milton Truster, of Indiana, said: "The Order still lives and does much to mold public sentiment. We have several fire insurance companies that have saved thousands of dollars to the farmers."

Kentucky's Worthy Master, J. D. Clardy, said: "We are about holding our own with some favorable signs of improvement." He hoped the fee of admission would be reduced.

Bro. J. H. Blackford, of Iowa, while regretting the low condition of the Order in that State, was glad to report a gain and a gain that he believed would continue to grow. He said: "The rapid growth of the Farmers' Alliance proved that the farmers felt that they ought to organize." The Alliance is

the cheap and that with the drought and low prices tends to make farmers give it the preference. He, too, asked that the initiation fee be reduced and quoted as authority "the language of our lamented Bro. Aiken: 'Our initiation fee never kept out a corrupt man, but it has excluded many a poor but worthy man.'"

Hon. Frederick Robie, of Maine, reported a good healthy growth of the Order, with a present membership of 15,000, twelve new Grange halls built and dedicated within the year and many more in process of construction. "Grange halls in Maine are very numerous, costing from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and they are a strong element of success. The key note of Grange success is the education and development of the brain power of the farmers of this nation. The Chautauqua methods of active co-operation have done much for the Granges of Maine."

"There is hardly a Grange that has not added new members the past year," said the wide-awake James Draper, Master of the Massachusetts State Grange. A Deputies' Inspection Service has been established in Massachusetts. The authorized officer inspects the entire work of the Grange when in session, the books of the Secretary and Treasurer, points out errors in manner of doing business, Grange work, care of regalia, and in this way secures conformity and makes the Order more highly educational. This State has also "organized a Patrons' Mutual Fire Insurance Company on a solid basis, confining risks to members of the Order."

Gov. Luce, responding for Michigan, reported the Order in "healthy condition," but recognized "a tendency to apathy and carelessness in some places," referred to the "contest plan" as useful in stimulating rivalry and developing the boys and girls, the men and women of the Grange, to the great benefit of individuals and the Order.

Bro. R. Colts reported for New Jersey. With little gain the Order is exerting a healthy influence. "The Farmers' Reliance, a Grange fire insurance company organized and conducted by the Order, has given it much strength. The State Board of Agriculture and the Grange are working in harmony and giving much strength to each other."

Bro. Charles M. Daniel, Worthy Master of New Hampshire, by his report proved his diligence. He referred to the authorized "Arbor Day," "Children's day," the success of the Patrons' Fire Insurance Company, the second annual State Grange Fair, with its 20,000 people in attendance. "No gambling, pool-selling, or horse-racing allowed; temperance was fully illustrated." The Order is flourishing in the old Granite State.

W. B. Williams, the Worthy Master from North Carolina, said: "The Grange has been on the up-grade the last year in my State, but within three months a real boom has set in. We have organized two new Granges, re-organized 55 and have at least 1,000 more members than a year ago. The most of the re-organized Granges had not had a real existence for nearly 10 years. The Alliance is moving rapidly forward in almost every county. It claims to be cheaper and more aggressive than the Grange."

Little Rhoda was next heard from through her Master, J. G. Peckham, who gave a brief history of the work and its results that made him so soon a member of the National Grange.

Worthy Master Nelson made a very brief report for Tennessee, in no wise flattering.

A. J. Rose, the Worthy Master of the Texas State Grange, might well be proud of the position of his State, standing as shown by the report of the Treasurer of the National Grange, as it does, next to the head of the column in its contribution of dues to the National Treasury. He said: "Our wholesale and purchasing Grange, the Texas Co-operative Association, Patrons of Husbandry, has done remarkably well, returning a net profit of over \$20,000 the past year. This Association has established a purchasing agency in the city of New York. This has brought us to the door of the manufacturers, thus accomplishing one of our declared purposes. This is an important step, one in which every State should unite in order to secure the best results. In failing to unite and carry out our principles, is the great hindering cause to our progress. The key to our present and future success will be found in the means that will unite us in carrying out our Declaration of Purposes. Our

Fire Insurance Association has been more than self-sustaining the past year. Our paper, the Texas Farmer, is extending its usefulness every year. * * Perhaps there is no State doing more for the education of the colored people than Texas, with her free school-houses all over the State, and a public fund that maintains the schools from four to six months in the year."

Worthy Master A. Messer represented the Grange for the Green Mountain State. Said he: "The gain in membership has not been large, but the gain in public sentiment and tangible results has been satisfactory." In referring to the agencies that had educated the farmers he referred to the aid afforded by the National Grange Lecturers, Bros. Whitehead and Wing, of Maine, to the Rural Vermonter, an agricultural paper of the State, and lastly, to the "victory gained over railroad monopoly at the hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Rutland, in September, by which the farmers of the State vindicated their rights and secured a reduction in freight rates of nearly 33 per cent." He gave great credit to the Governor of the State for assistance and added, "Great honor is also due to U. S. Senator Geo. F. Edmunds for his able argument of the case for the Grange before the Commission. His valuable services to the farmers of the State and Nation in this connection will not soon be forgotten."

The report of X. X. Charters, of Virginia, was in no wise discouraging, although no great advance has been made. Some gain, however, in the way of increased knowledge among the people concerning the objects of the Order has been made. Trade under the "ordering system" has given great satisfaction to the Patrons of the State.

Worthy Master Carr, of Wisconsin, was hopeful but could not report an improved condition of the Order.

Other states that we have passed were not ready to report.

We print the condensed report of the Public Reception in Representative Hall on Thursday afternoon as it appeared the next day in the State Republican.

The idea of the State of Michigan teaching the Southern States and all the rest of mankind a lesson in hospitality would heretofore seemed like sending coals to Newcastle; but that she has done it, well and effectually is conceded on all sides, and her praises and the praises of the people of Lansing are echoed on all sides in eloquent and even extravagant terms. Said Col. Brigham, of Ohio: "You've made us happy and done yourselves proud." Hon. Jonathan Woodman: "The arrangements are surprisingly complete." Col. Hiram Hawkins: "Never expected such an ovation. Hope we may be able to approach it at Montgomery, some of these times." Secretary John Trimble: "The arrangements are the nearest perfect of any in my experience of the Grange, and I thank you reporters very much for not pestering me as they usually do. But oh! the proprietor of this hotel keeps it terribly warm." Mortimer Whitehead: "I know Michigan well and told the boys they would get the best reception they ever had and I was right." Worthy Master Put Darden: "We are perfectly overwhelmed with kindness and attention. Michigan a great state." Treasurer McDowell: "The utmost courtesy, the strictest attention and the best accommodations we ever had. I for one am very much gratified." Hon. J. M. Lipscomb: "The finest building and the best accommodations ever placed at our disposal." Dr. Blanton: "A right good, hearty welcome. I hope we may have the pleasure of reciprocating at Richmond some time."

PUBLIC RECEPTION EXERCISES.

Both gallery and floor of Representative Hall were crowded to their utmost capacity when the National Grange was called to order in open session Thursday afternoon. Every foot of available space was occupied. Many were unable to gain admittance. It was probably the largest gathering that has ever congregated at Michigan's Capitol. At a low estimate not less than 5,000 people were present. The exercises were opened with a welcoming song, followed with a fervent prayer by Patron Rose, Worthy Chaplain of the National Grange. In his supplication, God's greatest gifts were especially petitioned for the Peninsular State and its worthy Governor.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

As Master of the State Grange and Chief Executive of the great commonwealth of Michigan, Cyrus G. Luce extended to the visitors a most cordial welcome. He deemed it the proudest day of his life to be thus able to receive at the political metropolis of the State one among the grandest organizations that has ever been consummated in the Federation of States. Referring in a casual way to the several sections of this Union, their wealth of soil, great natural advantages, and the excellency of their people, he fled not to impress upon the minds of his hearers the unbounded resources of this great State of the North, its productive farming lands, forests of inestimable value, mineral deposits of

richness beyond conception, a population whose wholesouled generosity and hospitality were unquestioned. It was with pardonable pride and pure delight that he stood as the mouth piece of Michigan's people in extending a warm welcome to the brethren from the North, South, East and West. The Southern representatives were greeted with especial warmth, and those from the far Western slope were as joyously received. Gen. Put Darden, of Mississippi.

MASTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

ably responded to the welcoming address. The 21st anniversary of the organization of the National Grange called forth delegates from nearly every State in the Union and the joyous reception which has been tendered them by the people of Michigan in general and the citizens of Lansing in particular has made an impression on their minds and hearts that time will never efface. The organization of the National Grange, the object of which was first accepted with grave doubts, formed an epoch in the life of the American farmer that will stand out in bold relief in the annals of the ages.

"For years a great deal of ignorance was manifested as to the motives of the society," said he. "Whether the great channel of communication, the Press, ignored the order or whether the

ORDER IGNORED THE PRESS

I know not, but it is probable the limited notice given the body has been for its eternal good. Its growth has been steady and sure, and to-day is a power in the body politic. Organization is the only means by which a farmer can protect his home and fire-side. Referring to the great military organizations of England and continental Europe and the great results they accomplish, he advocated the necessity of co-operative work to resist the encroachments of organized capital in the shape of monopolies. Of the 7,000,000 farmers in the United States, but 3,500,000 own their own farms and they are hopelessly mortgaged. The Grange is the great protector of the tiller of the soil, and he who is thoroughly informed in the order and doubts it is of poor understanding. "I am a

MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRAT,"

said Gen Darden, "and Cyrus G. Luce is a Michigan Republican. When cruel war swept our fair land Gov. Luce was on one side and I was on the other. But when I received information as to his gubernatorial nomination I was thrilled with joy that was only exceeded when the happy news came of his election. Educated husbandry knows no partisanship, and when the people of Michigan chose for their chief executive one whom we Grangers knew would subserve the best interests of Michigan we all rejoiced." In reference to agricultural education Gen. Darden spoke of the Mississippi Agricultural College, the excellency of the institution and the good work that is being accomplished. High compliments were paid to Profs. Gully and Meyers, former students at the

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,

who are rendering efficient service in the Southern institution. The courtesies extended by the Michigan State Grange and the Capital City were most gracefully received. Gen. Darden is a clear forcible speaker, and is an enthusiastic worker in the interests of husbandry.

HON. O. M. BARNES' ADDRESS.

On behalf of the citizens of Lansing, Hon. O. M. Barnes welcomed the visitors and tendered to them the freedom of the Capital City. His remarks were pleasing and very appropriate. Among other remarks, Mr. Barnes called attention to the great foreign immigration which has America for its destination, and cited the dangers to which our free institutions were subjected if these strangers were invested with governmental authority shortly after setting foot on these shores. Political ideas that have caused rank disorder among the nations of the old world should not be countenanced in this free land of America and all

ANARCHIST OUTBREAKS

should be summarily dealt with in subserving the best interests of this peerless commonwealth. And the farmers, of all others, should see that government is maintained. The gentleman's remarks were well received.

Deviating from the regular program, Elton Eselstyn favored the audience with a solo, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." His magnificent voice was in fine form and the vast audience evinced an appreciation of his effort by most liberal applause.

EX-GOV. ROBIE, OF MAINE,

Master of his State Grange, and one of the most enthusiastic patrons of agriculture that this country has ever presented, was the next speaker. He is hardy and robust, of rugged constitution, and a gentleman of the old school. His subject was New England, and his consideration of the theme did him great credit. Beginning with the early history of New England, he marked the progress of events that characterized the settlement of that section, from the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth Rock to the present era, his eloquence of words measuring with magnitude and solemnity those stirring annals. The influence of the early fathers of New England has followed the history of the Nation through all of its remarkable revolutions, changes and progress down to the present period. The typical New Englander has done his part in populating and developing the country beyond his New England

home. Her sons and daughters are found in every State, city and town in this broad land, and they have filled an unusual number of places of

GREAT HONOR AND TRUST.

The blood of New England mingles with that of every kindred current. But let the New Englander emigrate where he will, he never forgets but continues to love the pine woods, hills and valleys, of Maine, the granite hills and White Mountains of New Hampshire, the Green Mountains of Vermont, the sound and roar of the ocean as it breaks upon the rockbound coast of Massachusetts, the lakes and cultivated hills of Worcester and Berkshire, the power and influence of little Rhody, the Charter Oak of Connecticut and its beautiful river hustling on to the sea.—All presents itself in review before the native of New England. Gov. Robie dwelt in fond recollection on the

FARMER OF MARSFIELD

and his honorable and commendable record. The Grange has built up a powerful organization in New England and is fully represented at this National meeting.

PRES. EDWIN WILLITS.

President Willits, of Michigan's Agricultural College, delivered a wholesome address upon the subject of Agricultural Colleges. His enthusiasm on this point is widely known, and the great success of the institution of which he has charge fully demonstrates the practicability of his theories. His remarks struck a popular chord, and his apt comparison occasioned frequent and liberal applause. Scientific agriculture is the great demand of this age. Farming was mankind's primitive occupation and every man has the natural right to be a farmer. The world gets along after a fashion without kings and princes, lawyers and merchants, poets and priests, drive wells or patent medicines, but you blast the world's agriculture and mankind would disappear as a snow-flake in mother earth. The Agricultural College believes that it is no disgrace to be a farmer. There is no disgrace in the proper exercise of a natural right. A man has no natural right to steal, therefore a thief is whipped out of decent society. No man has a natural right to make another drunkard, and he who does is marked with infamy. His occupation is a disgrace and always has been. But the sun shines in regal glory around the labor of the farm. It has been the stock sneer of men who live on the labor of others to deprecate farming. Any wretched cub in their estimation is good enough for a farmer or for a minister, while it is apparent to all candid thinkers that this is a field of wide scope for the best intellects in agriculture and religion. The field has been occupied by some of the brightest minds that adorn the pages of history. Mr. Willits progressed at some length, and none but a prejudiced mind could fail to appreciate the great and important benefits of agricultural institutions where farming is taught from a thoroughly practical and scientific basis.

After music by the choir, Gov. Luce introduced

HON. J. M. LIPSCOMB,

of South Carolina, and Master of the Palmetto State Grange. A slight disturbance was prevailing in the rear of the room and in the gallery, occasioned by the excessively crowded condition of the house, but Mr. Lipscomb's quaint expressions and sallies of wit very soon placed the audience in good humor, and the gentleman's address was immensely enjoyed. He has attended every meeting of the National Grange, and for the past 12 years has been an active member of the Order. He considers the organization the great benefactor of the South. Mr. Lipscomb is a farmer, and while not actively engaged in superintending his agricultural interests he is looking after the duties of a governmental position at the National Capitol.

CAPT. ALLEN, OF YPSILANTI.

Hon. E. P. Allen is a familiar figure to every Michigander and especially to the citizens of Lansing, where he passed the winter of '77-'78, ably representing the Washtenaw district in the House. Capt. Allen is not a member of the Grange, but addressed the body at the request of Gov. Luce. His remarks were timely and a high tribute was paid to the Patrons of Husbandry. Upon the point of education he referred to the great advantages of this State and other commonwealths in the North, but deplored the lack of opportunities South. He expressed himself as heartily in favor of the National Government appropriating aid for educational benefits and declared it to be her sacred duty to assist the Southern States in this vital matter. He also strongly advocated the necessity of elevating the Department of Agriculture to a cabinet position. The address of

HON. J. H. BRIGHAM,

was the last upon the program. He is Master of the Ohio State Grange, and is a strong speaker. His subject was the "Great Northwest," and he is most emphatically a worthy representative of that favored section. He considered briefly the early settlement of the Northwest Territory, its rapid progress and transformation from a howling wilderness into a region unsurpassed for productivity and great National consequence. Dwelling upon the organization of the Grange, and the great fraternal feeling which it has aroused between the North and the South since the devastation of that once prosperous region

by the throes of war, Col. Brigham grew grandly eloquent, and the brotherly manner in which he grasped Gen. Darden's hand thrilled the audience with an ecstasy of delight, and more than one swift move cleared away a tear of joy.

THE CLOSING EXERCISES. The closing exercise was a recitation by Columbia and thirty-five associates, the verses of which were published in Thursday's STATE REPUBLICAN. Lansing High School sang "My Michigan" in most praiseworthy style and by request Columbia was produced. Three cheers for Michigan were then offered by Col. Brigham, and they were given with a will.

The most interesting feature of the whole session was the program as arranged by Gov. Luce and carried out in its completeness on the afternoon of Thursday with the following

- MUSIC. Prayer, Chaplain. Address of Welcome, Gov. C. G. Luce. Response, Pat Darden, of Mississippi, Master National Grange. Address, Hon. O. M. Barnes, Lansing, Address, Ex Gov. Frederick Robie, Maine. Address, "Agricultural College," Hon. Edwin Willits, President Michigan Agricultural College. Music. Address, Hon. J. M. Lipscomb, South Carolina. Address, Hon. E. P. Allen, Vp. Ill. Address, Hon. J. H. Brigham, Ohio. Exercise, Columbia and thirty-five Associates. Music, Lansing High School.

By all odds the prettiest feature of the open session was the exercise by 36 young ladies, who personified Columbia and the sisterhood of States in costume, and gave the following recital:

- COLUMBIA-ANNA ROBINS. Welcome, welcome daughter fair! Our kindest wishes let each share Columbia's hundred years have passed, Each one more prosperous than the last. From 13 to 38 we've grown, And each some source of wealth has shown. Should Uncle Sam ask us to-day Some token of our love to pay. What could you bring with hearty will This horn of plenty here to fill! MAINE-PEARL BANK. The Border State will give you spurs For ships whose masts will reach the stars; And if you lack in the good cause Can furnish Prohibition laws. NEW HAMPSHIRE-IDA SOPER. The Granite State with looms and mills, Yields fabrics for your frocks and frills; Her valleys furnish finest grass Her cheese and butter are first class. VERMONT-NELLIE CREVTS. Our wool and men are fine and strong, Our girls and sugar sweet as song. Pure marble and the purest state Are found in the Green Mountain State. MASSACHUSETTS-KATIE EVERETT. From Massachusetts you may choose Her woolsens cottons, knick-knacks, shoes; From Plymouth Rock and Bunker Hill We give you loyal fealty still. CONNECTICUT-MAUD ALLEN. Connecticut with Yankee skill Can give you in wealth as will; Old Time with s'ythe is now old stock, We give instead a Yankee clock. RHODE ISLAND-DAISY CHAMPION. Little Rhode's two plantations Will give their share of Grangers' rations; And though the quantity is small, The quality will suit you all. NEW YORK-CLARA SMITH. The Empire State finds wealth in these: Stock-breeding, broom-corn, hops and cheese; In wealth and commerce, numbers, shops, All other States she overtops. PENNSYLVANIA-MAR VALENTINE. The Keys one State beneath her soil, Find coal and iron gas and oil; Her woods as in the days of Penn, Yield walnut which delighteth men. NEW JERSEY-JOSIE MCKIM. New Jersey's garden-truck and fruit Will give the most fastidious suit: Berries, apples, cid-r, clams, Pumpkins, cabbages and yams. DELAWARE-LAURA STALKER. Her strawberries and peaches fair Give fame to little Delaware, And Jersey's farms will grow to grass Are they excel our "garden sass." MARYLAND-LORA MURPHY. Whose luscious bivalves do we eat? Whose fruit and fish are hard to beat? Potomac's waves, that bay so grand, Give back the answer "Maryland." VIRGINIA-LIBBE DOWNER. As long as men will use the stuff, Of good tobacco we've enough; But noble men we grow as well, As famed historic records tell. WEST VIRGINIA-GRACE GILBERT. Salt and iron, oak and coal, From West Virginia's riches roll; We've sulphur springs of which a smell, Will make the sickest traveler well. NORTH CAROLINA-RHODA CLARK. The Old North State adds to our joys, Peanuts and gum, for girls and boys; Potato, sweet, and tar so strong, We add to help the world along. SOUTH CAROLINA-ANNA RAPP. Our is and cotton and fine rice, Command the market's highest price; Thus, South Carolina adds her share, To fill the horn of plenty there. GEORGIA-NORA REEVE. Georgia's rich in various ways, Rice and cotton on her bays, Golden corn her uplands bear, Of coal and iron she's a share. FLORIDA-SUSIE ANGELL. Here's Florida, the "Land of Flowers," Bananas oranges and shawers; Here fruit and vegetables abound, And alligators sometimes found. ALABAMA-JENNIE TOWAR. Alabama, "Here we rest," Her cotton and iron are her best, Great mines of coal and iron ore, Will run the horn of plenty o'er. MISSISSIPPI-MOLLIE CARPENTIER. On Mississippi's bottom land, Great crops of corn and cotton stand; Corn, fruit and sugar to we'll show, Near by where pines and cypress grow. LOUISIANA-MABEL CHAPPELL. Louisiana yields to thee, Good sugar for thy evening tea; Her rice and cotton, too, not small, She gladly offers you her all. TEXAS-BESSIE GUNNSON. The Lone Star State will freely bring A little of almost everything; Cotton, corn and hogs of stock, And sheep by thousands in the flock.

TENNESSEE-MAY BEAL. Our wheat and stock, our hemp and hay Are at your service without pay. Our mines and forests, too, are rich, In fact we're far from the last ditch. KENTUCKY-AMANDA GREEN. Kentucky's cattle take the prize, Her horses too delight the eyes; We raise of hemp the largest crop, And beat the world on mules and pop.

OHIO-ELLA FELTON. Now if there's anything you lack, Don't be discouraged, don't hang back; From fine wool sheep to corn in shock, Ohio keeps it all in stock. ILLINOIS-MAMIE SMITH. In wheat and corn our State ranks first, In other grains she's far from worst; Our hogs are fat, our horses strong, We'll always help the cause along.

WISCONSIN-EDITH OAKLAND. Vast crops of grain from our soil, Repay the farmer for his toil. And lumber, factories and mines, In various parts are healthful signs. MINNESOTA-MINNIE MAIN. Of wheat and oats we have great store, Our mills give many bushels more. MISSOURI-JENNIE BEAL. Missouri's crops are corn and wheat, In raising hogs she's hard to beat. In zinc and iron and lead, I think we are well towards the head.

IOWA-MAGGIE MURPHY. Our prairie soil is rich and black, For grain and corn we do not lack; With hogs, potatoes, hay and fax, Iowa very little lacks. ARKANSAS-MINA STANFLEY. We're Grangers all in Arkansas, For wheat, corn, cotton on us draw; To Hot Springs send your very sick, We'll cure them of their ills "right quick." NEBRASKA-IDA COOK. Corn and cattle do we bring, And like our sisters of them sing.

INDIANA-MISS BERRY. The Hoosier boys are good for grain, Hogs and hominy and blue jean; She can't be led, you see it's so— She's close to Michigan, you know. KANSAS-FANNY OVIATT. In forest strife our State was born, Now prairies teem with wheat and corn; On western slopes our cattle graze, And droves of porkers eat our maize. COLORADO-AMELIA HEIDER. Colorado came in late, You call her your "Centennial State." Our wealth is our silver ore, But farming now is at our door.

CALIFORNIA-NETTIE MCCORD. The Argonauts of forty-nine Wheel California into mine; Her gold and woods, her fruits and grains, She sends by car-loads o'er the plains.

In response the 50 school children of the fifth and sixth grades present sang "Michigan, My Michigan," and Columbia proceeded to impart to the States a very good quality of advice for future action, the most striking being:

"Keep your old Saxon honor bright, Not ask what's policy but right." The final verse was recited by all the States in chorus. No resolution offered during the session was adopted with more hearty unanimity than was the following offered by Brother Chartters, Virginia, which was adopted by a rising vote: "That the thanks of the National Grange be extended to the young ladies of Capital Grange, Lansing, Mich., for the entertaining exercises which contributed so much to our enjoyment; also to Mrs. Rarick and the pupils of the high school, for singing."

THE THIRD DAY. The business of the session on the third day was opened by the adoption of a resolution presented by J. N. Lipscomb, of South Carolina, "That the Commissioner of Agriculture when the incumbent is a Patron in good standing, shall be ex-officio an honorary member of the National Grange during his term of office and have all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto."

Brother A. N. Brown, Delaware, offered the following which was adopted: Resolved, That the Worthy Master of the National Grange is hereby instructed to extend the fraternal greetings of this National Grange to the National body of the Women's Christian Temperance Union Convention, in annual session in the city of Nashville, Tennessee, and express our high appreciation of the noble work of their association for God, home and our native land.

Under the call of unfinished business Masters of State Granges who had not reported on Thursday made reports. First that of Worthy Master Armstrong, of New York, is so brief and encouraging that we present it entire.

"The Grange in New York has made progress in the past year as in each of the half dozen years immediately preceding, its course having in that period been uninterruptedly marked by gains in membership. It is gratifying, however, to observe that gains in the past year have been greater than before. New fields have been occupied, new organizations effected in localities from which radiating influence extending into still wider fields gives promise of a larger harvest awaiting only the process of time. As a proof of interest in the Order, it is worthy of note that several officers of the New York State Grange attend this session as visitors, moved by desire to know more of the Order in which they have rendered useful service. In the State of New York all signs are encouraging. There is that confidence which is begotten of strength. There are no jealousies, but everywhere good will abounds and hope is buoyant." The Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Grange have with greater persistency perhaps than any other State endeavored to secure pecuniary advantage to members of the

Order. The report of Worthy Master Rhone is of such length and contains so many good points that we propose to present it to our readers in full when we have a less pressing demand upon our columns.

Worthy Master Simms, of Kansas, reported a slight gain in membership and closes with these words, "while the outlook is not encouraging, we are by no means discouraged, and propose during the coming year to make a strong effort to recover lost ground."

In the early Seventies the Western States had Subordinate Grange organizations established by the thousands. They came into being flushed with a visionary hope, loaded with promises and in a few brief years they had disappeared with general disappointment often with personal loss. This fact we should bear in mind as we hear from these western States.

Missouri is hopeful as the opening paragraph of the Worthy Master D. N. Thompson indicates.

"I have the pleasure of saying to you that the Grange in Missouri has made a forward move in the year just closed. There have been some new members added and some forty Granges reorganized, and I believe we have passed the Rubicon."

J. H. Brigham, Worthy Master, made report as follows: "In some counties of Ohio remarkable zeal and activity in Grange work has been manifested during the year just past, and good results have followed. In other counties, where zeal and activity has not been so manifest, the order has suffered in the estimation of farmers and has lost somewhat in numerical strength. I am sure that the interests of the order in Ohio would be promoted by a reduction of membership fees to one dollar, as many of our farmers wait for the time to come when they can spare three dollars to pay the initiation fee, and before that time comes the boy has grown to manhood, or lost his desire to enter the Grange organization. We hope for increased interest and membership for next year."

Nebraska losing her connection with the National Grange ten years ago, has this year recovered it. Her representative O. E. Hall closed his report as follows:

"We do not expect to see the rapid growth of '73 and '74 again in Nebraska. Neither do we desire it. But we do expect a steady and wholesome growth and one that will stand by the Grange permanently. We are weak in numbers, yet I have no fear in saying to our Brother and Sister Patrons throughout the world, that the Grange is in Nebraska and is there to stay."

The report of Worthy Master Darden, of Mississippi, had no rosy hue though he believed in time farmers would find their true interest demanded loyalty to this Order.

Brother Lipscomb, of South Carolina, the last to report believes the Grange should be more aggressive. The Order has made some gains in his State and would be strong if it could fulfill its intended mission.

AFTERNOON OF THIRD DAY. The advertised program of work required the conferring of the sixth degree on all fourth degree members who presented the proper vouchers. Those not having previously been instructed in the fifth degree were first obligated in a class by themselves by Bro. Whitney, who, as is his habit, was in attendance to render what service he could to the Order.

The facilities for conferring this degree in form by the National Grange were of the very best, and the gay court of Flora presented such a rare picture of beauty that there was a general demand that it be photographed. This was done the next morning, and although not advised on that point we suppose all who wish can be supplied. The afternoon and evening were devoted to the work of the sixth degree. Some who expected to listen to the beautiful lessons of this degree were compelled to leave on evening trains before their wants were met. Four hundred and sixteen Patrons, mostly from Michigan, will remember with pleasure the brilliant spectacle that met their expectant gaze when first introduced to this higher degree.

The morning session of the fourth day was devoted to business. Numerous resolutions were introduced and referred. A report from R. P. Bois Worthy Master of the Oregon State Grange, was read. Not being able to attend the session, he had forwarded his report by mail. The report as whole was favorable as to the condition of the Order. Its value to the people of the State may be inferred from this brief extract:

Our influence in matters of State legislation has constantly increased

during the past six years. Through our influence we now have a law similar to the Reagan bill. We also have a Railroad Commission doing pretty good work; their recommendations if obeyed by the R. R. (and I think they will be) will save two dollars per ton on the wheat shipped from eastern Oregon and Washington, which will amount to not less than 250,000 tons annually. These laws were not only supported by the Grange, but the original bills were drawn by the Legislative committee of the Grange and presented to the Legislature by members who are Patrons.

We are now preparing to secure just laws on taxation that will compel the very rich tax dodgers to pay on their property as farmers pay, and we are also in favor of a graded income tax. We are also satisfied that farmers will never be able to get their rights until they take them, and that they will never take them until farmers fill the public offices in such numbers as to direct public policy and secure a public integrity that cannot be corrupted by money, corporate influence or political patronage.

This sort of millenium is not in sight, but the right thing to do is to make it an objective point until we have secured our fair and equitable share of power and influence in the legislation of the country.

Invitations to visit the Agricultural College and the State Reform School had been received and accepted and Saturday afternoon had been set apart for the excursion. The city authorities generously provided transportation. The afternoon was stormy and disagreeable, but it did not deter the Patrons as the long line of hacks and other vehicles filed across the bridge looking like a funeral procession. But the inmates were jolly despite all disagreeable conditions, and returned well pleased with these Institutions of which Michigan may well be proud.

In the evening the National Grange, visiting Patrons, and some of the citizens of the city attended a reception to which they had been invited by ex-Mayor Donovan and lady. And here we wish to recognize one of the best features of the social character of the Capitol City. There is probably no other city in the State where the wealthy citizens are so free from that offensive "I am better than thou" spirit in all their social relations as Lansing. The most perfect freedom seemed to be felt and enjoyed by all present. The refreshments and service were of the best and nothing occurred to mar the general enjoyment so generously provided. This closed both the labor and recreation of the members of the National Grange for the first week of the session.

Since the last meeting of the National Grange, four of its members have crossed to the other side.

In recognition of this solemn fact, by a special order, the Grange assembled at 3:30 o'clock P. M., on Sunday, and was declared in open session by Worthy Master Darden for MEMORIAL EXERCISES.

Said he: We have assembled here this Sunday evening for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect and honor to the memory of a departed sister and three deceased brothers, that we may commemorate their virtues and consecrate a page in our proceedings with a token of our affectionate regard.

Time, in its onward flight, is destroying and being destroyed by its own operations. But yesterday the friends whose death now saddens our hearts and makes this an occasion of mourning were with us. They have crossed the dark river and now rest securely in the great unknown beyond. Tomorrow will come our time to surrender to the destroyer Death, when others will drape our chairs in mourning and place our names on the death roll of the Grange, which is now so rapidly increasing. It is right that we should honor the memory of our dead. May impressions be made here that will prepare us to meet them in Heaven.

The several committees previously appointed made most touching reference to the departed dead, presented suitable resolutions that were supplemented by remarks from sisters and brothers full of affectionate remembrance and fraternal regard. Space will not permit further reference to his memorial exercises and we can only add that there was no mistaking the sincerity of the sorrow so well expressed.

Monday, the fifth day of the session, and the Grange in session at the usual hour. The Worthy Master promulgated the amendments submitted at the last session which had been ratified by the constitutional majority of State Granges.

The first authorizes County or Territory Granges to be represented in State Granges under such regulations as the State Grange may provide.

This has been Michigan Grange law for years. The other amendment adopted authorizes State Granges to confer the sixth degree on all members in good standing for which the required fee is one dollar, one-half of which goes to the treasury of the State Grange and the other half to the treasury of the National Grange.

Reports of standing committees with discussion and final action thereon occupied the entire day. The Grange adopted the recommendations of the committee on Good of the Order for "a reissue of fractional currency for use in the mails"; the abolition of the present postal note and "provision for the issuance of postal money orders in sums of \$5.00 or less for a fee of three cents." The Grange had previously approved of a restoration of the former rate of a half cent an ounce on seeds, plants, etc., instead of the present one cent per ounce rate, which is exorbitant as compared with papers which are carried for two cents per pound. A resolution was also adopted authorizing the overseer of a State Grange to represent a State when from any cause the Master is unable, and if the Overseer is unable the Executive Committee may appoint a substitute.

The following, presented by the Master of the State Grange of California, was adopted:

Resolved, That the National Grange urge our Representatives in Congress to only prepare and present to Congress such bills for enactment as will better protect the rights of our people, and rigidly enforce our present laws against legislative and judicial corruption.

At the 19th session of the National Grange a system of lecture work was adopted and the sum of \$3,000 appropriated. At the 20th, or session of 1886, \$5,000 was appropriated less the unexpended amount of the previous appropriation, and the country divided into four districts under the supervision of Thos. of Maine, Lipscomb of South Carolina, Brigham of Ohio and Woodman of Michigan. The report of the Executive Committee showed that \$4,583.83 had been expended by the National lecturer and his assistants. A badge pin was adopted at the last session, patented, and a contract for the manufacture of the same made with Simons Bros. & Co., of Philadelphia. Space will not permit further reference to the very lengthy report of the Ex. Com. The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws reported the following amendment which was adopted:

1st. Amend article VII by inserting in lieu thereof the following: "A State Grange shall have the power to regulate the fees for membership within its jurisdiction, provided, however, that the minimum fee shall not be less than one dollar"

An invitation from A. O. Bement, an extensive manufacturer of the city, had been received and accepted by the National Grange and visiting Patrons to attend a reception on Monday evening. We were absent from the city, and lost an occasion for social enjoyment that was spoken of by those who attended in very flattering terms. We omitted to state in place that an invitation by Capitol Grange to attend a regular meeting on Saturday evening the 19th inst. had been accepted and several distinguished members of the National Grange put in an appearance at an early hour. That the meeting under such favorable conditions was a success goes without saying.

The printer complains that he is overloaded with copy and we shall defer further report of the National Grange session until the next issue, only adding that the officers of the last two years were nearly all re-elected, and the next session of the National Grange will be held in Topeka, Kansas.

SINCE the last issue of the VISITOR the press has given free circulation to a decision of Justice Blatchford, of the United States Supreme Court, in a driven well suit, that decision being adverse to the claim of N. W. Green. This report has occasioned general rejoicing; but we are not sufficiently advised at this date of the real facts and are not ready to assume that we are out of the woods until we know more about this matter, which we hope to before another issue of the VISITOR. If the decision is final the Michigan people may well be thankful to the State Grange for promptly coming to their rescue and standing in the breach between them and the parasites who so vigorously and successfully plied their trade in other states to the annoyance and cost of driven well owners.

SEVERAL articles are crowded out of this number that will appear in next issue. National Grange proceedings to those who did not attend has precedence.

The farmer who is out of debt is very dependent anywhere; he is always sure of a good living, and that is about all that can be enjoyed by any one.

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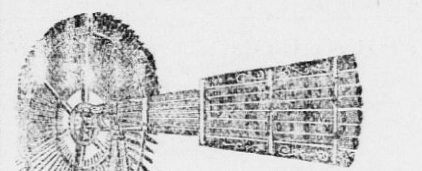
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AT FREQUENT DATES EACH MONTH FROM CHICAGO, PEORIA OR ST. LOUIS WITH CHOICE OF ROUTES VIA DENVER, COUNCIL BLUFFS, OMAHA, ST. JOSEPH, ATCHISON OR KANSAS CITY.

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