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THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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A. C. GLIDDEN, Editor,
PAW PAW, MICH.

Michigan State Grange—Report of Executive Committee.

(Concluded from last issue.)

GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSING OF FARM PRODUCTS.

This, too, we regard as a proposition unjust, impractical and utopian in the extreme. If the products of the farm are to be received and stored by the Government and advances made upon them, why not the products of all other industries. If the Government is to become a broker for the farmer, why not a broker for all other producers, the cotton, the woolen, the silk and the linen manufacturers, the iron masters, the potters and glass makers and all other manufacturers of warehousable products.

If we ask the Government to interfere with the law of supply and demand by hoarding our products for a rise, why should it not interfere with the same law by hoarding all other non-perishable products of labor for the same purpose. We regard the proposition as too absurd to gain the approbation of honest, intelligent men, and hope this Grange will express its emphatic disapproval of the scheme.

AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

The causes which have led to the depressed condition of agriculture which has prevailed not only in this country, but all over the civilized world, and in Great Britain and Germany to a greater extent than here, have not been fully understood by the people, and it is to this misapprehension that we attribute the wild schemes proposed for the relief of the farmer, and the discontent which political demagogues have fanned into a flame of indignation against all other callings and professions. While the acts of demonetizing silver in Germany, Scandinavia and the United States and the cessation of silver coinage in France was one of the causes of such depression, it was not the sole cause. Those acts bore equally hard upon all productive industry.

But a far more potent cause for such depression in the agricultural industries of the world, comes from the rapid expansion of the cultivated area in all agricultural countries, which has taken place in the last twenty years. The rapid and cheap transportation which brings the production of this increased area of cultivation to the centers of demand, and the stationary condition, and in some respects decrease in demand at those centers, occasioned by an increased home supply in some of the countries which have heretofore been more largely dependent upon importations of farm products, has been the most potent factor in producing the decline in value of farms and farm products.

EXPANSION IN AMERICA.

During the last twenty years the extension of railroads throughout the vast plain of the west, and the great improvements in farm implements and machinery, aided by the free land system

of the government, has developed and made productive a vast extent of the richest lands of the country. Over two hundred million bushels of wheat are annually grown, and a proportionate increase in the production annually of oats and corn, where twenty years ago the Indian reigned supreme.

The same extension of railroads has opened a larger region to grazing, where millions on millions of cattle and sheeppare now fed, where the buffalo and antelope roved before. This expansion in the cultivated area has been so great that from ninety million acres under cultivation at the close of the war, over two hundred and twelve million five hundred thousand acres are under cultivation now, and the average yield per acre of farm produce as a whole has been largely increased.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

In other countries the extension of the cultivated areas has advanced from the same cause (cheap transportation) not so fast in any one country, but in the aggregate to a greater extent. Russia, India, Australia, South Africa, South America and New Zealand have felt the stimulus of cheap transportation, and have rapidly extended their cultivated area. Modern improvements in railroad building and their equipment, have so cheapened inland transportation, that interior are able to compete with seaboard countries, and the application of the compound steam engine to marine navigation, the introduction of refrigerator compartments in steam and rail transportation, and the shortening of routes by the Suez canal have brought the whole agricultural world to the very doors of the center of demand as competitors for its supply.

The center of demand is now confined to Great Britain, France, and the smaller states of Western Europe. And, according to C. Wood Davis, the equivalent of 300,000,000 bushels of wheat and a proportionate amount of other products for the table are sufficient to supply the import demand of all these countries.

Farm productions, even in these countries, England excepted, have largely increased; according to Prince Protokin, of Paris, the ratio of increase of the annual wheat crop of France has been two and one-half per cent greater than the ratio of increase in population. While the population has increased but five millions in forty-five years, the annual production of wheat has increased 117,400,000 bushels.

Here, then we find ample cause for the world-wide depression in agriculture, as compared with other fields of production. While the import demand of western Europe for agricultural products was wholly supplied by eastern Europe, Egypt and North America, the profits of capital and labor invested in and applied to agriculture were fairly proportionate to the profits of capital and labor employed in other branches of production. But now, with forty-four different nations competing for that market, with a supply so greatly disproportioned to the demand, no other result than a decline in prices all around could or should be expected.

THE OUTLOOK.

It may be asked, how long is this condition of things to continue. For foreign countries who depend upon Europe for a

market, we see no immediate relief. Expansion in the cultivated area of Russia, India, Africa, Australian, New Zealand and South America may continue indefinitely. The unoccupied area of arable lands in those countries is for the present inexhaustible. For the farmers of the United States, however, the outlook is more cheerful. The rapid expansion of cultivation has ceased for want of territory to occupy—hereafter the population of the country will increase much faster in proportion than the fields of agriculture. Our grain fields and grazing grounds have been pushed to the utmost western limit of profitable production, and hereafter any increase in production must result from better methods of cultivation; 96 per cent. of the aggregate of agricultural productions in the United States, cotton excepted, finds a market for its consumption at home, and the urban population as shown by the late census is rapidly increasing, while the rural population remains nearly stationary; at the same ratio of increase in urban over rural population, the home demand will absorb all our productions, cotton excepted, within less than five years, when we shall no longer be compelled to compete with the cheap lands and cheap labor of other countries, East and South, for a market in Western Europe. It is hoped that the policy lately adopted by Congress will build up new manufacturing industries and enlarge and extend the old, and thereby increase the home demand and hasten the day of our emancipation from European dependence.

THE TARIFF.

Since the beginning of this government the tariff has been a prolific theme for political discussion. One portion of our statesmen contending that duties upon imports should be levied only on such things as people of this country could not successfully produce; and another portion about equal in number contending that a tariff should be levied upon such products or articles as can be successfully raised or produced in the United States. The first is styled tariff for revenue only; the second, tariff for protection to American industries. These parties have alternately controlled the legislation of the Government, but neither, until the late enactment of the McKinley bill, has ever had the courage to put their theories in practice by legal enactment.

For the first time in American history a purely protective tariff has been put in operation. Whether it will produce the beneficent results which its supporters hope for, or the dire calamities which its opponents predict, can only be determined by the actual results of its practical application. If the principle is wrong, its opponents can afford to wait until a fair trial has demonstrated it. If it is right, a fair opportunity should be given to develop its virtues.

An hundred years of theoretical discussion in congress and before the people is amply sufficient, and we now demand the crucial test of actual trial, unhampered by fear of interference, until ample time is given to the business of the country to adjust itself to the new order of things. We, therefore, deprecate and condemn as unjust, unfair and impolitic, any interference with, or material alteration of, the tariff

law, either in principal or detail, until a fair time has been given it by actual application to the business of the country, to determine its merits or demerits, its benefit or its injury.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

While acknowledging the great improvement that has taken place in the Agricultural Department at Washington, since it has been elevated to the position of a cabinet department, still the department falls far short of what we think it might and ought to be. As the price of all exportable products depends upon the world's demand and the world's supply, it would be most beneficial to the farmers of the United States if they could know the ratio of supply to demand of all export products from time to time, during the planting, growing, harvesting and market season. As, for instance: If they could know the acreage of wheat sown in each wheat producing country, and condition of the crop from time to time, during its growth, the probable yield per acre at harvest time, the probable amount available for export, and the probable demand of the importing countries to cover shortage in home supply, they would have a fair basis to guide them both in production and marketing. And, if the department having obtained this information would estimate from the ratio of price to supply, as equalized for a period of five years past, the probable price which wheat would bring as thus deduced, and publish the conclusion arrived at, no speculator in wheat would dare to gamble on future prices, as the information thus obtained would be more accurate and extended than any which could be obtained by individual effort. False reports of crop failures or of abundance would be at once detected and gain no credit, and the producer would get the proper return which the unobstructed law of supply and demand should give him.

We would therefore respectfully suggest to the Secretary of Agriculture that he undertake to carry out the plan herein outlined. That he ask Congress to furnish the necessary appropriation and the Secretary of State to co-operate with him by collecting the needed information through our ministers and consuls abroad, in order that we may be relieved from the injuries inflicted by boards of trade.

We would further suggest to the Honorable Secretary of Agriculture that in case Congress should fail to make the necessary appropriation to carry out the plan proposed, then that the funds now used in the useless distribution of seeds might be more properly employed in obtaining and disseminating the information above suggested. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. G. RAMSDELL,
H. D. PLATT,
GEO. B. HORTON,
F. W. REDFERN,
J. Q. A. BURRINGTON,
J. C. GOULD,
THOMAS MARS,
J. T. COBB,
Executive Committee.

The Michigan State Grange.

The State Grange has been wise in its selection of officers for many years past, and Governor Luce, one of the best governors Michigan ever had, graduated from the master's to the gubernatorial chair. The exec-

utive committee of the State Grange is the working committee, and it numbers among its members some of the shrewdest workers and best thinkers in the State. Judge Ramsdell, of this place, has been at the head of this committee for some time, and it is from his pen that Michigan and the country at large have received some of the soundest, most widely known and important financial articles of the day. The report made by this committee at the late meeting of the State Grange has attracted widespread attention, and has placed Judge Ramsdell among the foremost writers upon finance in the country. The press of the country, of all political parties, comment, in highest terms of praise, upon the executive committee's report, which was unanimously adopted by the Grange.

The New York World says: "The farmers of the Michigan Grange are men who see clearly and think straight," and after quoting approvingly the resolutions, further adds: "The World knows of no terser or more convincing way of setting forth truth than this."

In referring to the resolutions declaring against the proposition that the government loan money to farmers at two per cent, another New York paper says: "We have nowhere seen so concise and convincing a statement against this new scheme as is presented by this association of farmers, and we trust that any of our farmer friends who have been fascinated by the idea of getting money made to order, in quantities, and on terms to suit the needs of the applicants, will study the resolution with care."

The New York Tribune also endorses them, and of the last idea says: "The sooner the Alliance plows that proposition under, the better for its prospects."

The Cadillac News and Express pays Judge Ramsdell this high personal compliment: The report prepared by Judge Ramsdell, of Traverse City, and adopted by the Michigan State Grange pronouncing against the delusive government loan scheme and the government warehouse idea, has given the Michigan Grange very creditable notoriety. It can usually be relied upon, that anything with which Judge Ramsdell has to do will be performed in a practical, reasonable and creditable way."

The Petoskey Record comments: "The Record has kicked on the Grange in times past because it thought that Grange influence was unduly strong in the making of State appointments to office, and its feelings were peculiarly acrid when the editor thereof was fired out to make room for that horny-handed farmer, ex-Probate Judge Crosby. That's natural. But nevertheless the Record cannot withhold its admiration, when in these times of wild and visionary financial schemes, the Michigan State Grange exhibits a solid sense, and a comprehension of fundamental principles, in marvelous contrast to the wild utterances of the Farmers' Alliance. The State Grange sees clearly the ruinous results of the 2 per cent government loans demanded by the Farmers' Alliance and says: 'We regret that other organizations indorse such a proposition, and express ourselves as vigorously opposed to such a policy. We believe that the loan of one billion of treasury

(Continued on 5th page.)

R. C. Kedzie, M. A., M. D.

Agricultural science has made wonderful progress during recent years. A few years ago the idea that a science might be built upon agriculture as a foundation, was laughed at by the scientific world. But agricultural science to-day has reached an eminence that commands respect and reverence from all her devotees. No society that has for its object the formation of general scientific knowledge, is complete without representatives from the science of agriculture. This position has been attained mainly through the devotion of those who have been directly connected with our agricultural schools and colleges. Foremost among these scientific investigators is Robert Clark Kedzie. He now occupies the chair of chemistry at the Michigan Agricultural College. Connected with this institution, as he has been, through four-fifths of its existence, there is perhaps no other man who is so conversant with its history and development. He has watched over its growth with a jealous eye. From small and modest beginnings he has lived to see it today with its spacious laboratories, broad acres and extensive museums, all equipped with the best modern appliances and aids to study.

Dr. Kedzie was born at Delhi, New York, January 28, 1823, of Scotch-American parents. With little early training in the public schools, he started for college with \$25 in his pocket. After buying his books and a wash bowl and pitcher for his room, he had left just three shillings with which to go through college. But perseverance, pluck and a determination to win, sustained him and enabled him to remain at the institution. During his course he engaged to teach a district school for the munificent sum of \$34 for three months. This aided the depleted state of his finances, and finally in 1847, he graduated with the degree of M. A. Four years later he graduated with high honors from the medical department of the University of Michigan. He practiced medicine in Kalamazoo for a short time, but finally settled at Vermontville, Mich., where the duties of his profession engaged his attention until 1861, when he enlisted in the war as surgeon of the 12th regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry. In 1863 he was elected to fill the chair of chemistry at the Michigan Agricultural College, where he has since been engaged. In 1867 he was a member of the Michigan legislature. In 1864 he was president of the State Medical society. He was chairman of the section on State Medicine and Public Hygiene of the American Medical association in 1876. He was for many years a member of the Michigan State Board of Health and did valuable work on the committee appointed to investigate poisons, explosives, chemicals, accidents and special sources of danger. He was also president of the board. In 1850 he married Harriet E. Fairchild, who is still living.

As a member of the State Board of Health he did much valuable service to the public. He has never hesitated to use his well trained mind in defense of the people's interests. His contest and final victory over the dishonest illuminating oil companies, will long be remembered by Michigan people. Stringent laws were enacted on the statute books of Michigan, but the methods of testing were so crude that the people were using not only a very inferior oil, but an oil which was also dangerously explosive. An oil tester was invented by Dr. Kedzie to ascertain the correct flashing point of all the illuminating oils exposed for sale in the State. It was found that nearly all oils were below the required standard. He insisted upon an enforcement of the law, and at length secured to the people a perfectly safe illuminating oil. There were various burning fluids in the State, in addition, which were known as "Aurora Oil," "Liquid Gas," "Sunlight Non-explosive Burning Fluid," etc. Although exceedingly explosive, the manufacturers furnished a mysterious compound which it was claimed

not only prevented the possibility of an explosion, but preserved the lamp chimneys, increased the brilliancy of the flame, etc. One of these highly valuable compounds was analyzed, and found to contain one ounce of common salt colored with aniline dyes. These frauds were all promptly exposed and the people warned against their use. As might have been expected, the wrath of the manufacturers was aroused, but neither threats nor money could drive Dr. Kedzie from his position.

His investigation of arsenical wall papers is deserving of no less notice. After testing some samples of wall paper he became thoroughly convinced that the health of our people was seriously endangered by reason of the arsenical poisons used as a pigment in the paper. He analyzed many hundred samples of wall paper and found more or less arsenic in nearly all.

Dr. Kedzie is first and foremost the friend of the farmer. It is a fact to be deplored, yet too often true, that the average farmer is slow to avail himself of the discoveries of science, hence investigation along the lines of agricultural chemistry has not been so inviting as that in other branches of the subject.

He has not only labored for its advancement in a general way, but has rendered incalculable benefit to the farmer in several instances. He has always cheerfully come to the rescue with his vast store of technical knowledge and has saved to the farmers many hundreds of dollars. At the time when lightning rod swindlers were numerous in our country and were disposing of their rods at five or six times their real value, Dr. Kedzie proposed a plan by which the farmer could put up his own lightning rods. He was immediately taken to task by the manufacturers, and such eminent authority as Prof. Henry of the Smithsonian Institute, was quoted to show that he was in the wrong. But he maintained his position and proved that his premises were correct. This one investigation saved to the farmers of Michigan alone thousands of dollars which had been formerly spent for poor lightning rods of doubtful efficiency. It was largely through his efforts that agents for fertilizers were required to take out a license, and that a label must be fixed to every package, having the chemical analysis of the contents plainly printed thereon. In one instance a fertilizer was analyzed which was selling for \$25 per ton. It was found to contain just 25 cents' worth of valuable materials. Thus a few minutes in the laboratory saved the farmers years of expensive trial and final disappointment. About the year 1877 Clawson Wheat had come rapidly to the front in Michigan. The peculiar conditions of soil and climate seemed to be eminently fitted for this variety. At a meeting of the State Millers' Association it was solemnly resolved that of all the wheats raised in Michigan, Clawson was the least valuable for making fine flour. This was a serious blow to the farmers of Michigan. An investigation was immediately instituted by Dr. Kedzie and the results clearly indicated that Clawson Wheat held a front rank as a flour producing variety. Through this investigation confidence was restored and Clawson remained the leading wheat in Michigan.

The Doctor is known most widely perhaps as the founder of the present system of farmers' institutes. Although institutes had been attempted before, none were successfully established until Dr. Kedzie, through resolutions presented to the faculty of the Michigan Agricultural College and by this body to the State Board of Agriculture, submitted a scheme which was adopted. This established the institutes of Michigan on a solid basis. The movement rapidly spread, until to-day nearly every State in the Union has its farmers' institutes. No one thing has done more to bring farmers into sympathy with our agricultural schools. The world will long remember Dr. Kedzie's valuable services in founding these "colleges for farmers." No more fitting epitaph could be inscribed

on his monument than: "He was the father of the farmers' institute."

Besides these achievements he has written on various other subjects of public interest, among which are Ventilation of School Buildings, Water Supply of Michigan, Healthy Homes for Farmers, etc. These articles have been published mostly in the reports of the Michigan Board of Agriculture and State Board of Health. He is considered an authority on the subjects treated, and his writings are valuable additions to scientific literature. As an instructor, he is a true friend to the honest and diligent student, but a "terror to evil doers." He believes that the teacher is a true friend to the student only as he holds him strictly to the performance of his duties. During his long connection with the college he has made many collections of chemical curiosities, which are made valuable adjuncts to his instruction. His lectures are interesting, complete, and full of scientific truth. F. B. Mumford, in *Rural New Yorker*.

A Sound Document.

The report of the executive committee of the Michigan State Grange, a liberal abstract of which will be found in the *Republican* to-day, is significant from the fact that it not only opposes squarely the recent expression of the national body, and other farmers' organizations, in favor of making the general government loaner-in-chief to the farming population, but it outlines a financial policy for the relief of the country that is remarkable for its lucidness, practicability and intimate knowledge of the present condition which it displays from first to last.

Unlike the crude "demands" of the Farmers' Alliance for congress to accomplish certain desired ends, Michigan Grange, through its executive committee's report, takes up in detail the questions of free coinage, loans by government, government warehousing, etc., presents a plan for the first that is in full harmony with the present silver legislation, and then shows the utter unfairness and absurdity of the "demands" for the two measures last named. It discusses intelligently, and with a rare knowledge and appreciation of facts and existing conditions, the causes of agricultural depression in all parts of the globe, recommends the upbuilding and protection of the home markets.

The paper also points out how, through the department of agriculture, the injuries inflicted by the boards of trade upon agricultural interests may be removed, and recommends such action.

As a whole, the report of the executive committee of Michigan State Grange is at once so moderate, fair, statesmanlike and practical in its exposition of present conditions that it could not fail to work incalculable good if a copy of it could be placed in the hands of every farmer in the great northwest.—*Lansing Republican*.

Don't Be Mean, Boys.

Sometimes I wonder what a mean man thinks about when he goes to bed. When he turns down the light and lies down alone, he is then compelled to be honest with himself. Not a bright thought, not a generous impulse, not a word of blessing, not a grateful look comes back to him, not a penny dropped into the palm of poverty, not the balm of a loving word dropped into an aching heart, no sunbeams of encouragement cast upon a struggling life, no strong right hand of fellowship reached out to help some fallen man to his feet—when none of those things come to him as the "God bless you" of the departed day, how a man must hate himself, how he must try to roll away from himself and sleep on the other side of the bed, when the only victory he can think of is some mean victory in which he has wronged a neighbor. No wonder he always sneers when he tries to smile. How pure and fair and good all the rest of the world must look to him, and how cheerless and dreary must his own path appear! Why, even one isolated act of meanness is

enough to scatter cracker crumbs in the bed of the average man, and what must be the feelings of a man whose whole life is given up to mean acts? When there is so much suffering and heartache and misery in the world, anyhow, why should anyone add a pound of wickedness or sadness to the general burden? Don't be mean, boys. Suffer injustice a thousand times rather than commit it once.—Burdette.

As soon as they emerge from the hydraulic press, postage stamps are gummed. The paste is made from clear starch, which is acted upon chemically and then boiled, forming a clear, smooth, slightly sweet mixture. Each sheet of stamps is taken separately, placed upon a flat board and its edges covered with a light metal frame. Then the paste is smeared on with a large whitewash brush, and the sheet is laid between two wire racks, and placed on a pile with others to dry. After the gumming, another pressing in the hydraulic press follows. Then another counting—in fact, stamps are counted no less than thirteen times during the process of manufacture. The sheets are then cut in half, each portion containing 100 stamps, this being done by girls with ordinary hand shears. Next follows the perforation, which is performed by machinery. The perforations are first made in a perpendicular line, and afterwards in a horizontal line. Another pressing follows—this time to get rid of the raised edges on the back of the stamps made by the dies, and this ends the manufacture. A separate apartment is devoted to the packing and sending off the stamps to different post offices.

Effects of Food on Wool.

The feeding of the sheep, says a French journal, has a most marked influence on the quality and quantity of the wool. In this connection, the rules to be observed are: 1. To obtain wool of good quality and proper quantity, the sheep should be well fed. The increase of the wool in length and resistance comes to a stop if the animal be deprived of the amount of food necessary for it. Well-fed sheep pay for the increased expense by the weight of the fleece and the better quality of the wool. There is, however, an essential difference to be noted in long-wooled sheep. Too much and too rich food soon makes the wool of short-wooled sheep too long, an inconvenience which has not to be feared in long-wooled varieties. 2. When the sheep receives too little food or when the food received, given in sufficient quantities, is not sufficiently nutritive, the wool preserves its fineness and acquires a certain length, but its resistance fails, it is deprived of grease, which makes it weak, harsh to the touch, and dry as flax. 3. Regularity in distribution of the food is of the highest importance, the wool soon showing the effects of this.

This is what is seen when, in winter, the sheep are well fed with hay, grain, beans and oil cake, and when these supplementary foods are too quickly taken away in the spring. The wool undergoes a time of stoppage; later, continuing to grow under more favorable circumstances, the woolly hair is less resistant, and, in a part of its extent, covers a dead spot, a real scar, indicating the irregularity of growth. 4. Opinions differ as to the action of different foods on the wool. All however, agree in attributing a marked effect to fertile pastures. The fleece is more abundant, the hair is longer and noticeable by its softness, whiteness, brightness and strenght. Sturm lays down the rule that all foods which promote perspiration, produce a finer wool, that is, those which include the nutritive matters in the smallest compass. Two sheep of the same breed, covered with the same wool, but differently treated, one being for fattening and the other in the usual way, show quite a different variety of wool from the first shearing. In the first place it will be longer, coarser and have lost its elasticity. This is more noticeable at the second and third shearing. The other

sheep will have preserved all the original qualities of its fleece. The difference in the diet being continued up to the third generation the offspring could not be recognized as coming from the same stock.—*Ex*.

The Money Crisis and Farm Lands.

More than one shrewd financier expresses the opinion that the money stringency now resting upon business circles will in the end redound to the benefit of the farmer. Indeed, the belief is general that disasters connected with current financial disturbances will continue to be, as they have so far been, confined largely to the cities. It is believed by many that the feeling following this must be one of distrust of stocks and investments of various kinds which have been so largely absorbing the surplus cash of the country; and that a reaction in the popular estimate of the value of real estate must ensue. Should this prove to be the case the tendency will be to enhance the demand for farm lands. It will be remembered by old observers that two or three times in the history of the country a similar feeling of distrust has resulted in just this way. Whether the current difficulties will be followed by similar action on the part of capitalists is not certain; but it is among the possibilities well worth considering in at tempting to size up the early future of the general business of the country.—*Stockman and Farmer*.

Care of the Manure.

When manure is thrown from the stables into the yard, it should not be piled up so as to heat and become firefanged but spread out and kept somewhat level so that the cows will tramp it solid and keep it from heating too much. If it can be hauled direct from the stable to the field and spread at once, there will be no danger of waste from heating or leaching, but this is not always convenient or practicable. When little or no bedding is used in the stable, the manure should be piled—if it can be piled—so that the cows will not have to wade through it, for they dislike very much to wade through a mass of soft manure. If the horse manure can be mixed with that of the cows it will be better for both kinds, if the cow manure is very wet, because the horse manure being dryer will absorb much of the moisture of the cow manure and the mixture will make a more evenly balanced fertilizer than either would alone. One of the profits of good dairying is the rich manure, and it should be carefully saved and used.—*Stockman and Farmer*.

A Gem of Art.

The Detroit Journal Year Book for 1891, just issued, is indeed a gem of art. The cover is of rich blue and gold, beautiful in design, the engravings of State institutions and public men are exquisite, the latter including members of the supreme court, leading G. A. R. and other society officers, etc. All the leading topics are clearly and concisely treated in alphabetical order, besides the full 1890 census and complete election and other statistics.

The book is handsomely printed on plate paper, has 150 pages, and no home is complete without a copy. Every subscriber to the *Detroit Journal* gets one free of charge. The price for extra copies is 25 cents, by mail 30 cents. Send 30 cents in two cent stamps to the *Journal*, Detroit, Mich., and receive a copy of this valuable work by return mail.

The most beautiful frontispiece ever produced in an American magazine, appears in the January *Cosmopolitan*. It is a reproduction in colors of Francois Flameng's famous picture "The Cake Seller," and can scarcely be distinguished from the imported photogravure which is exhibited in the dealers' windows at the price of \$7 a copy. It is one of the most charming of subjects and well worth framing and preservation. The *Cosmopolitan* has become noted of late for its frontispieces, and this very much excels its previous efforts.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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Send the names of your friends on a postal card when you desire to receive sample copies.

Farmers' Institutes and Dates of Meetings.

Each institute will begin in the evening and continue through the next day, closing with an evening session.

Northern series, last week in January, under the direction of Prof. A. J. Cook:

Alma, Monday evening, Jan. 26th.

Traverse City, Tuesday evening, Jan. 27th.

Bear Lake, Wednesday evening, Jan. 28th.

Benzonia, Thursday evening, Jan. 29th.

Southern series, last week in January, under the direction of A. C. Glidden:

Union City, Monday evening, Jan. 26th.

Concord, Tuesday evening, Jan. 27th.

Napoleon, Wednesday evening, Jan. 28th.

Adrian, Thursday evening, Jan. 29th.

Eastern series, first week in February, under the direction of Hon. I. H. Butterfield:

Mt. Clemens, Monday evening, Feb. 2d.

Port Huron, Tuesday evening, Feb. 3d.

Marlette, Wednesday evening, Feb. 4th.

East Saginaw, Thursday evening, Feb. 5th.

Middle Southern series, second week in February, under the direction of A. C. Glidden:

Eaton Rapids, Monday evening, Feb. 9th.

Hastings, Tuesday evening, Feb. 10th.

Alpine Grange Hall, Wednesday evening, Feb. 11th.

Cedar Springs, Thursday evening, Feb. 12th.

Middle Northern series, third week in February, under the direction of Hon. C. W. Garfield:

Howell, Monday evening, Feb. 16th.

Byron, Tuesday evening, Feb. 16th.

Ovid, Wednesday evening, Feb. 18th.

Muir, Thursday evening, Feb. 19th.

By order of State Board of Agriculture.

A. C. GLIDDEN,
 Ch'n Institute Com.

Collecting Delinquent Taxes.

Early in the year we announced that we should present some reasons, in a future number of the VISITOR, why the collection of delinquent taxes should be made through the office of the county

treasurer in each county, instead of at the auditor general's office at Lansing. Soon thereafter other influential papers in the state began cudgelling the auditor general's office in a very vigorous manner. We mentally said "lay on Macduff," for it was exactly in line with our estimate of its deserts.

The messages of both the retiring and the incoming governments recommend that that part of the duties of the auditor general's office which pertains to the collection of delinquent taxes be discontinued, and that the taxes be collected by the county treasurers. Gov. Luce says:

A change in the method of collecting taxes on lands returned to the county treasurer, is commended to your very careful consideration. It is a question that has been much discussed for years, and there seems to be a growing demand for the change.

I can conceive of no good reason for the return of these lands by the county treasurer to the auditor general, and by the auditor general returned to the county treasurer for sale. I cannot believe that more errors would be committed by having the sale made directly by the county treasurer, as it is in most of the other states, than under our present system. More errors are made in the return to the supervisor and in the assessment than in any other way, and their going to the auditor general does not correct these errors. The present system adds largely to the expense. Now the taxes may be paid to the auditor general or the county treasurer. Under the change they must necessarily be paid to the latter alone, but this need not embarrass.

Governor Winans on the same subject has this to say:

Many who have given thought to the subject favor a return to the county system for the collection of delinquent taxes. I believe it would be less expensive and more efficient than the present system, which is, in my opinion, cumbersome and costly.

We have seen a compilation of figures taken from the reports of the auditor general for the years 1883, 1884 and 1885, showing the amount of delinquent taxes in each county for the years specified, the amount collected at that office for each county, the amount collected at the several county treasurers' offices, and the expense at the auditor general's office for collecting each of the sums returned to county treasurers, as delinquent taxes. Taking Van Buren county as an illustration: In the year 1885 the amount of delinquent taxes returned for that year was \$542.56. Of this sum the county treasurer collected \$433.44. The auditor general collected \$107.11; yet it cost this county for clerk hire, postage charges, etc., at the auditor general's office, \$303.06. Our neighboring county of Kalamazoo makes a more disparaging showing still. The business the auditor general's office did for it that year amounted to just six cents, but they had to pay as expenses for clerk hire, etc., to handle and duplicate the return of that six cents, \$55.19. In the 35 counties composing the southern half of the state, which pays 81½ per cent of all the taxes in the state, the delinquent tax collected in the year 1885 by the auditor general's office, amounted to \$1,274.98, at an expense of \$18,416.29. The several county treasurers for that year collected \$27,193.38. In the 48 northern counties, for this same period of 1885, the auditor general's office collected \$9,270.85, at an expense of \$29,397.09. Even here, where the per cent. of expense is greatly reduced, the counties send down over three dollars to pay the charges for collecting and returning one dollar.

Now the basis for all the work performed at the auditor general's office comes from the county treasurers of the state, where the compilations are made and kept, and the labor which it costs the state so much to get done at Lansing, is already completed in each county treasurer's office, and is kept there as safely and as accurately as at the model rooms under the direction of the auditor general, at Lansing. Indeed, it would greatly simplify the labor of the county treasurers if all the work growing out of the collection of delinquent taxes could be done exclusively at their offices. For instance, when a delinquent tax is paid to the county treasurer, he must not only make a receipt for the owner of the land, but he must make a duplicate of it and send to the auditor general, where it is doubtless again duplicated to infinity. The county clerk must also make a monthly report of the redemptions and collections for the use of the auditor general. While these reports are required to be sent promptly, the taxes paid at that office, and charged against the land on the county treasurer's books, are often delayed for months before they are received. It is not necessary that the yearly sales of land for taxes should emanate from the auditor general's office. Each county treasurer has all the lands on which taxes are delinquent copied into a book by themselves, and a duplicate of these is what is kept at Lansing. If the sales were made entirely from the evidence as shown by these books, there need be but one sales book, whereas now two are required—made up at Lansing as a part of the expense—one to be kept in the office of the county treasurer, and the other to be sent back to Lansing, to go the duplicating rounds again.

It would seem that a deed, issuing direct from the county, through its judicial officers, for tax sales, ought to be as competent to secure the purchaser against loss as one having the prestige of the Auditor General's signature. The owner of property is already as safe, holding a tax receipt although for delinquent taxes coming from the county treasurer, as one sent him from the former official.

When the office was created, it was a tacit understanding that, as soon as the state was generally settled, its duties should be relegated to the counties, where they properly belong. It is bolstered now by the specious plea that it gives an opportunity for persons in other states, holding property here, to pay their taxes at the state capitol. But the other plea, not made so conspicuous and public, that it furnishes an institution in which our indigent cousins can be genteelly and liberally pensioned, is the real key stone to the structure.

We hope the present legislature will make the desired change in the interest of economy, and the crowded condition of the offices at the State House.

shown up. Besides, and this is the important point, any change of the nature asked for, means less profit for the members of the Board engaged in handling grain. From letters received at this office within the past ten days it is as certain as anything well can be, that the weights of the grades of No. 1 white and No. 2 red were purposely left out by the Board for the purpose of deceiving the farmers who had wheat to sell. Even their agents were not aware of the fact that these grades did not require wheat to weigh 60 lbs. to the bushel, or else some of them are champion liars. Yet Mr. Hall will talk about farmers knowing all about the various grades.

The fact is, the Detroit Board of Trade has passed into the hands of a few grain dealers who use its name and former standing, and the power it possesses through its charter, to deceive farmers and secure their products at a lower price than they are worth. This is the whole matter in a few words, and the question is, "What are the farmers going to do about it?"—*Michigan Farmer*.

Well we are going to kick and clamor for a change. We don't propose to continue to permit stealing, however adroitly it may be hidden under the guise of "business" and remain the dupes of such deceitful practices, with full knowledge of the swindle. Farmers have always been considered a kind of game in a preserve, which it is the prerogative of corporate royalty to hunt with trap and snare. The wheat trade is one of these hunting grounds, and the *Michigan Farmer* and kindred journals are poachers who are scaring the game and making them timid and harder to surround and capture. Millers hate the VISITOR because it has flushed the game and thus made it harder to fill the toll bin. If No. 2 red is sold by wheat dealers at 56 to 58 lbs. per bushel, there is a clear steal of the difference, when it is purchase at 60 lbs at the elevator. This two to four pounds per bushel goes to the pockets of those who handle the crop, and the sly sneaking method of taking it is unadulterated stealing. *The Michigan Farmer* deserves well of the farmers for ferreting out and exposing trade methods. And all farm papers ought to keep the rascals in hot water until a reform is established all along the line.

Public Spirit.

There is a class of men in every community upon whose shoulders fall all the labor and a good share of the expense of arranging and planning for entertainments and meetings in which every one is interested. All the organizations of farmers that are in a flourishing condition, are so because a few individuals have determined they should succeed, at the cost of much time and frequently at considerable personal expense and inconvenience to themselves. Such men are never half appreciated. The public get in the habit of saying, "Oh, so and so will attend to it," and they throw off and shirk all responsibility in the matter, except the prerogative of grumbling. All honor to those public spirited citizens who are willing to forget self in securing the public good. We meet them at every preliminary meeting to arrange for a farmers' institute. They come to the front at the organization of a Grange or at a public installation, becoming sponsors for every duty and many obligations, which ought to be more generally distributed. If you think you cannot do as good work as they, tell them so and encourage them by an appreciative word, and when asked

The Board of Trade and Grain Inspection.

After wrestling with the letter sent them two weeks ago from this office, the Board of Trade, or its executive committee, has decided not to make any answer. The question of extending inspection to receiving points in the interior was regarded as a dangerous one to handle. The Board concluded that the best thing to do was to keep very quiet. It was something the Board could not discuss openly without having the shortcomings of the system they are responsible for

for a contribution give a good, round dollar with a "God bless you" accompanying it. There are always a lot of small, spongy men who go to farmers' meetings to soak up all the information and slide out—never before dinner—and congratulate themselves that it didn't cost a cent. These were well characterized by a lady at Alpine Grange Hall when arranging for the institute and making provision for "feeding the multitude," who said there were some large-hearted people who would bring large baskets well-filled, but there were some who were "larger inside than out."

The Grange has done more to multiply and extend this public spirit than any other institution in the land. It sets everybody to work and makes them efficient laborers in public affairs.

Organization.

We should like to emphasize the request of the Worthy Master in another column, that the work of organization be vigorously pushed during the season of leisure and long evenings. The Grange can be made the center of attraction for the young people, as well as for the improvement of the older ones. Last week we installed the officers of a Grange six miles out in the country, three fourths of whose officers were young men and young ladies, and about that proportion of the audience were also young people. An excellent program followed the ceremonies of installation. That vicinity is, and may well be, proud of its Grange. It ranks with the school and the church, and combines the good in both. It teaches deportment, stimulates the intellect, and inculcates morality. Farmers' sons and daughters bred and directed in the Grange, go out into the world prepared to take part in all the affairs of public or private life fully equipped for active service. Hundreds of places in the state might be equally benefited by organizing a Grange.

The Harvester Combine.

This \$30,000,000 conspiracy

has fallen apart through dissensions among the parties to the cabal. It is said that corporations have no souls, but it seems that there was some conscience left in the make-up of one or two of the leading spirits in the scheme, who opposed the increased price contemplated. We all along had no faith in the assertions that the price of machines would not be raised. It was opposed to the trend of business, when unrestrained by competition. The opportunity for larger profits needs only to present itself, or be compelled, as in this case, to be taken advantage of. The change shifts the battle ground from the farm to the factory, and farmers now need only to "stand and wait" to get cheap tools.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE, MASTER'S OFFICE, BERRIEN CENTER, Jan. 9, 1891.—ED. VISITOR: I desire again through your columns to call the attention of the Patrons of the state to the importance of placing an energetic organizer in the field as early as possible. It is impossible for the general deputies to visit every locality, and therefore the necessity of having a special deputy in each county. This should be done immediately. Now, patrons, attend to this matter; and should you desire any assistance, write me, and with the help at my command, I think not a county in the state need complain, nor be neglected. I further insist that it is the duty of all to patronize the VISITOR.

Yours fraternally,
 THOS. MARS.

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Remember that by paying one year in advance, you secure both of these publications for the regular price of THE NORTHERNER—\$1.50.

Glubbing List with The Visitor.

Table with 2 columns: Publication Name and Price. Includes Weekly Free Press, Detroit Weekly Tribune, Cosmopolitan Magazine, etc.

Send 10c for postage, packing, etc. WE WANT BUSINESS. UNION SUPPLY Co., 26 & 28 River St., Chicago.

The State Public School—How Michigan Cares for her Dependent and Neglected Children.

The State Public School for the care of the dependent, neglected and ill-treated children of Michigan is an institution of which the people of this State may well be proud. It has solved the financial problem of taking care of these children, and as a protective measure against pauperism, vice and crime, its value to the public is immeasurable.

The establishment of the State Public School and the passage of the wholesome laws governing it and for the protection of children, marked an epoch in the child life of Michigan. The state assumed the right to the guardianship of those dependent, neglected or ill-treated, and cares for them by furnishing them a temporary home at the school where, by means of perfect physical comfort and healthful moral training, they are led to forget their old life and are prepared to take their places with their more fortunate fellows in the families and public schools throughout the state.

Since the opening of the institution in 1874, nearly 3,000 children have been received and cared for. There are now in the institution about 189, and over 1,100 are with good families throughout the state and under the supervision of the school.

The others have passed out from under the school's control. Those with families are placed on contracts which provide for their proper care and education.

Is it not probable that there are many in this vicinity who would gladly take one or more of these children into their homes and make them their own?

The best selections are boys from 5 to 9 years of age, and it is believed that the homes would be blessed fully as much as the children by coming together.

Any information desired may be had by addressing C. F. Newkirk, Superintendent, Coldwater, Mich., or J. C. Gould, agent for Van Buren county, Paw Paw, Mich.

Winter's Opportunity.

Young men of country homes, how do you intend to spend your time this winter? Of the twenty-four hours of each day, sleep should have eight; the morning, evening and noon "chores," if thoroughly well done, will consume two and a half; your three meals of thirty minutes each—I know it is useless to ask you to give them more time—will use up one and a half.

We thus account for twelve hours, just half your time.

Now, suppose we say that, of the remaining twelve hours, six, three in the forenoon and three in the afternoon, shall be appropriated to the performance of such manual labor as may be required of you, or you may plan for yourselves.

This last suggestion grows out of the conviction that unless you do lay out some special work for yourselves, for a portion, at least, of these six hours, they will not be fully occupied. And here is a good place to suggest that, on every farm, there should be a work shop supplied with a complete outfit of carpenter's, cabinet-maker's and harness-maker's tools; and whatever else may be required to make or mend anything that followed. They were not, to my eye, of any known

species, but, with the exception of being evidently used to hard lines, they looked enough like tramps to pass as such. Inside sat, in all seriousness, a wonderful cageful of Japanese. To say that they were not to the horse-car born, conveys but a feeble notion of their unnaturalness.

They are propped, rather than seated, bolt upright, with a decorum which would have done more than credit to a funeral. They did not smile; they did not stir, except to screw their heads round to stare at me. They were dummies pure and simple, and may pass for the second item in the properties.

The real personnel began with the horses. These were very sorry-looking animals, but tough enough admirably to pull through the performance. Managing them with some difficulty stood the driver on the front platform, arrayed in a bottle-green livery, with a stiff military cap which gave him the combined look of a German officer and of a musician from a street band.

His energy was spent in making about three times as much work for himself as was needed. On the tail of the car rode the guard also notably appareled, whose importance outdid even his uniform.

He had the advantage of the driver in the matter of a second-class fish-horn, upon which he tooted vigorously whenever he thought of it; and he was not a forgetful man.

Comedie Francaise, indeed! Why, here it all was in Japanese farce! From the passivity of the passengers to the pantomime of the driver and guard, it could hardly have been done better; and the actors all kept their countenances, too, in such a surprising manner.

A captious critic might have suggested that they looked a thought too much at the audience; but, on the whole, I think that rather added to the effect. At all events, they were excellently good, especially the guard, whose consequential airs could not have been happier if they had been studied for years.

Professor Alexander Winchell gives the following for a cement that is readily and permanently adhesive to any substance: Take two ounces of clear gum arabic, one and one-half ounces of fine starch and one-half ounce of white sugar, the gum being then pulverized and dissolved in the same quantity of water as is commonly employed in laundry operations for the quantity of starch indicated, and both starch and sugar are dissolved in the gum solution, the mixture being now suspended in a vessel in boiling water until the starch becomes clear.

The cement should be as thick as tar, and remain so, prevention from spoiling being insured by dropping in a lump of gum camphor or a little oil of cloves or sassafras. This cement is so very strong and tenacious that it will hold immovably to glazed surfaces, will repair broken rocks, minerals and fossils, and has innumerable adaptation in the mechanical and industrial arts.—Ex.

A physician, writing of rest as a medicine, recommends a short nap in the middle of the day, for those who can take it, as a beneficial addition to the night's sleep. It divides the working time, gives the nervous system a fresh hold on life, and enables one to do more than make up for the time so occupied. A caution is given against the indulgence in too long a sleep at such a time, under a penalty of disagreeable relaxation. There has been much discussion regarding the after-dinner nap, many believing it to be injurious, but it is, nevertheless, natural and wholesome.

Mr. Luce ends a career as governor of the State with, perhaps, as few mistakes and defects as any of his predecessors. He has honored his office and commended himself to his fellow citizens by moderation, good sense and as much executive ability as the narrow limits of the office permit the governor of Michigan to display.—Detroit Journal

Somehow, the mere idea seemed comic. A horse railroad in the heart of Japan over a pass a mile high! To have suddenly come upon the entire Comedie Francaise giving performances in a tea house at the top could hardly have been more surprising. The humor of the thing was not a whit lessened by its looks.

To begin with, the cars were fairly natural. This was a masterly stroke in caricature, since it furnished the necessary foil to all that followed. They were not, to my eye, of any known

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

- Officers National Grange. MASTER—J. H. BRIGHAM, Delta, Ohio. OVERSEER—HIRAM HAWKINS, Hawkinsville, Ala. LECTURER—MORTIMER WHITEHEAD, 1618 Q St. N. W., Washington, D.C. STWARD—E. W. DAVIS, Santa Rosa, California.

G. R. & I. RAIL ROAD.

Nov. 30, 1890.—Central Standard Time.

Table with 4 columns: GOING SOUTH, No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, No. 8. Lists stations like Mackinaw City, Potosky, Traverse City, Cadillac, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Fort Wayne, Richmond, Cin. C. S T L & P Dpt.

GOING NORTH.

Table with 4 columns: No. 1, No. 3, No. 5, No. 7. Lists stations like Cin. C S T L & P Dpt, Richmond, Fort Wayne, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Cadillac, Traverse City, Potosky, Mackinaw.

Nos. 5 and 6 daily between Grand Rapids and Cincinnati. Nos. 1 and 4 daily between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. Nos. 2 and 3 carry through parlor car between Grand Rapids and Cincinnati.

C. L. LOCKWOOD, G. P. & T. Agt., Grand Rapids. E. BAKER, Agent, Kalamazoo.

C. & G. T. RAILWAY.

Jan. 19, 1890.—Central Meridian Time.

Table with 4 columns: TRAINS WESTWARD, No. 2, No. 18, No. 4. Lists stations like Port Huron, Lapeer, Flint, Durand, Lansing, Charlotte, Battle Creek, Vicksburg, Schoolcraft, Marcellus, Cassopolis, South Bend, Valparaiso, Chicago.

TRAINS EASTWARD.

Table with 4 columns: No. 1, No. 3, No. 5. Lists stations like Chicago, Valparaiso, South Bend, Cassopolis, Marcellus, Schoolcraft, Vicksburg, Battle Creek, Charlotte, Durand, Flint, Lapeer, Port Huron.

No. 42, mixed, west, leaves Schoolcraft at 9:50 a. m., and No. 43, east, at 3:40 p. m. Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 run daily. Tickets sold and baggage checked to all parts of Canada and the United States.

