

THE STRANGE VISITOR

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

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WHOLE NO. 397.

Wool.

HOW SHALL IT BE PUT UP AND SOLD?

Letters From Leading Wholesale Houses, Wool Growers, And Local Buyers.

Thinking that possibly we could secure interesting and useful information on the ever agitated subject of putting up and marketing wool, we wrote to the leading commission houses of the east, to prominent local wool buyers in Michigan, and to the best known wool growers of the state. We asked of each a series of questions that seemed to bear upon the question at issue. We have not as yet received replies from all but many have responded and we give their answers in full.

To the

Wholesale Houses.

We sent the following questions:

1. Could you give an estimated amount of Michigan wool that your house usually handles?

2. Is Michigan wool put up in worse condition than that from any other states? If so

a. What states excel and in what respects?

b. How much of this inferiority is due either to the class of wool, to lack of care during growth, or to carelessness in putting up?

3. Are local buyers as a rule capable of grading wool properly?

4. Under the present regime for buying could the wool grower better afford to sell his wool on a basis of commercial grades than by the present methods?

5. Would it be practicable for growers to ship their lots to the wholesale house through the local buyer, the latter to sack each lot and to receive a commission only; the wholesale dealer to grade the wool and to make individual returns for the same?

6. If the method suggested in question five will not answer, what would you offer as a means of satisfying the wool grower?

The following replies are at hand.

W. D. EATON & CO.

1. We handle about one million pounds of Michigan wool yearly.

2. Michigan, New York, Vermont and Wisconsin, rank about alike in putting up their wool. We refer to washed wool; and Ohio and Pennsylvania are some better, but a chance for improvement in those states—the trouble is in a "nutshell"—growers half wash their wool and then stuff unwashed tags in and it makes trouble. The remedy is simple. "Do not wash the sheep"—have it all unwashed, and then the wool would sell on its merits and not so much chance for difference in opinion.

3. No, they are not as a rule.

4. Think present method best if all wool is unwashed. Sell to local buyers.

5. Not practicable.

6. Do not wash; sell to the local buyers at market prices, which will always be enough on account of competition among buyers.

Boston.

JUSTICE, BATEMAN & CO.

1. In reply to your questions we would say, that we handle annually large amounts of Michigan wool from the finest to the coarsest, receiving many car loads of every grade raised in the State.

2. In answer to the second question, Michigan wools are put up in about the condition of New York state and Wisconsin wools, and these wools are put up in a worse condition than any other wools raised in the United States, in so far as there is usually a large

amount of heavy thick twine wound about the fleeces with a big knot. Sometimes as much as a half a pound of string, all of a very bad kind, is taken from Michigan fleeces. Besides, Michigan fleeces are not as well washed as other wools, and if they ever are well washed, the fleeces are allowed to remain on the sheep long enough before shearing to again become greasy. The wools of Ohio are in better condition than those of any other state. Ohio farmers wash the fleeces better than Michigan farmers, and shear them as soon as the fleeces are dry. They use as little twine as possible, and that is of a hard, thin quality which does not ravel and speck the goods as is the case with Michigan. In Michigan wools particles of twine and vegetable fibre get into the wool and it is impossible to detect their presence until they show by spoiling the cloth. The growth of Michigan wool is satisfactory and the breed is also good. The only fault is one easily remedied, and that is, in putting wool up in clean condition with fleeces suitably tied up.

3. Local buyers as a rule are not judges of wool, and are often responsible for the bad condition in which wool is put up by the growers, as they do not discriminate, and will sometimes pay as much for fleeces in bad condition as for those in good condition. This applies particularly to agents buying on eastern orders—men who are spending other people's money, and are not as careful usually, as those who are buying for themselves, and are spending their own money.

4. If wools are consigned to a proper responsible commission house, they will be sold in the eastern markets on their merits. Clean wools will bring the top prices, and dirty wools a correspondingly low price, and all are sold on a basis of the amount of real clean scoured wool in each fleece.

5. It would be practicable for growers to ship their wools to wholesale eastern houses, but as farmers as a rule are not in a position to ascertain who are the most responsible eastern commission houses it is better for them to sell the wool to a local dealer, who himself consign it to a commission house. The profits that are usually made by local country dealers are so small as to be only a reasonable compensation for the trouble and risk which they take in buying wool of farmers to forward to the eastern markets.

Philadelphia.

MAUGER AND AVERY.

1. For business reasons we would prefer not to state the amount of Michigan wool we handle. It will be sufficient for your purpose to state that as agents for manufacturers we handle more than a million pounds of Michigan wool annually.

2. Michigan wool is put up by some growers as carefully as it is in Ohio, which is the best of our washed wools. A very large proportion of the wools however are not so carefully handled, and therefore Michigan wools bring less money in the market than Ohio wools.

(a). Ohio and Pennsylvania excel because wools are better bred, longer stapled, more free from tags and stuffing and yield less percentage of inferior sorts.

(b). We should estimate that the difference in the care and breeding of the sheep and carelessness in putting up would account for the inferiority in the Michigan wool.

3. Some local buyers could grade wools sufficiently close for sale

to manufacturers without regrading, but the greater portion could not do so, nor have they the warehouse room nor time during the few weeks in which wool is marketed in Michigan. The most serious difficulty is not in the grading of the wool, but in the method of buying, which does not discriminate between choice and average clips, but pays the highest price to the largest grower, because the buyer being paid one cent per pound for buying is eager to get the big lots and compete with other buyers actuated by the same interested motives. The choice clips sweeten up the lot, but the standard of the state is lowered.

4. "Under the present regime;" the present methods are all wrong. Four or five cents per pound expenses are paid out on the wool to the loss of grower and consumer and only the local wool buyer nets a profit. As a consequence many dealers who formerly operated in Michigan wools have dropped out and there is less competition from commission houses for the business. In Australia, which is now the great producer of merino wools for the world, the wools are classified when shorn by experts. The bales are branded with owner's mark as well as the quality and are sold always in original packages. Any false packing or fraudulent tags be located, and a higher price paid in consequence. The various marks acquire a reputation according to their merits, manufacturers buying frequently year after year the same marks in preference to others. By this method the growers are stimulated to excel and establish the reputation of their clips, and are enabled to increase their flocks yearly. Their wools are closely graded and every quality separate, and every bale marked so that the buyer knows just what he is getting. One buyer wants a long combing, another a clothing, another takes locks and pieces, etc. Each quality is suited for some branch of manufacture and receives the competition of those for whom it is suited.

The struggle for existence of manufacturers not only in Europe, but here also causes the preference for Australian wool, because it yields (so closely is it graded) just the quality they require, whereas a domestic fleece wool graded by experts in market rarely yields more than 40 to 60 per cent of the desired quality, and the loss of interest on the balance which has to be carried until it can be used or unprofitably manufactured, is a serious loss in these days of close margins.

5, 6, 7. It is a good deal easier to explain the difficulty than to suggest a practicable remedy. It is hardly possible to carry out the Australian system because your clips are so small that they could not be so closely classified without putting several qualities, frequently, in the same bag, which would involve expense of rehandling. The only way the plan could be carried out would be for the grower to secure sufficient warehouse facilities and secure experts to classify the farmers wools, crediting the farmers according to the relative value of their clips. These clips could then be sorted and packed in compressed bales, and if properly done could be marketed equally well in Boston or London. Of course, the price in London under protective duties would preclude sale there.

It might be practicable for growers to ship their wools to the wholesale dealer but it would not in our opinion benefit any one as much as the plan proposed above.

The expenses of doing business, rents, labor, insurance, etc., are so great in large cities that the merchant handling small clips in the manner proposed would not be compensated by a commission of five per cent. The great desideratum is to save expenses and the greatest of these is the local buyer or agent who rides around among the farmers and gets a cent a pound for buying heavy wools at same price as light clips. If you can hit upon any plan which will eliminate all but the honest competent wool buyers in the state it will be an advantage. You probably have at least one such in almost every town in the wool growing section of the state. If each town could have a "fair day" once a week, when the principal buyers could examine the growers' clips it would be to the growers' advantage. The better the buyers' judgment on wool the more it is to the advantage of the grower of the best clips, for he can appreciate the higher value of such clips.

What is needed on domestic fleeces is to avoid ignorant buying and save the local commission of one cent per pound. To have wools properly classified and baled (saving freight etc.), and also saving the cost on handling in the great markets, which is from three-quarters to a cent per pound. There is so much indifference on the part of those who dislike a radical change in methods and opposition on the part of those whose interests are likely to be affected, that it is not to be expected that reform will be quickly accomplished, but our methods are antiquated and not in pace with the times and we hope your efforts will help to bring about a change.

Boston.

Of the

Wool Growers

We asked these questions:

1. What is your customary method of putting up wool? Do you grade, in any sense of the word?

2. Have you sold to local buyers or do you ship to wholesale houses? Why do you prefer your method of sale?

3. Do you think that farmers as a rule put up their wool in the best manner? Would it pay them to do it better?

4. Would it be practicable for growers to skirt their wool, separating tags etc., and to sell in two or three grades?

5. Do local buyers generally buy wool on its merits?

6. What is the cause of the antagonism between the growers and the buyers?

7. What remedy would you suggest for the difficulty?

L. L. HARSH.

1. Up to the present time I have done up my wool, tags, sweat locks, and all together; never have approved of the plan. This year we have done up our wool free from tags and sweat locks, tied it with small hard twine. But where are we going to get this small hard twine that the manufacturers want us to use all of a sudden? Ours cost us 22 cents per pound.

2. Always have sold to local buyers until last year's clip. We shipped last year's clip to a commission house. Results were not very satisfactory, but prefer to ship to commission merchants on account of local buyers not buying wool on its merits.

3. No, I do not. It will surely pay them better if local buyers will give them the benefit of the same.

4. I think it would, making at least two grades, and then ship direct to the manufacturer.

5. No, there is not one in twenty that does. What do they care as long as they get their commission? This is one reason why Michigan wool is in the shape that it is today. But there is lots of good wool in Michigan, put up in the best possible shape, but it is called Ohio wool as soon as it leaves the grower's wagon. Allow me to relate to you one instance. Last year we were in a certain town not far from here and we stopped to see them take in wool. Mr. A. drove up with his load of wool. A particular friend of the buyer. This clip of wool averaged nearly 12 pounds to the head, short, heavy, gummy wool. After a short conversation in which Mr. A. declared that his wool was thoroughly washed he received 24 cents per pound. Mr. B. comes next with his load of nice white, clean wool of medium length, done up in good shape, free from tags and sweat locks, averaging about 6 pounds per head. Mr. B. receives 25 cents per pound and eight cents for his tags. Mr. B. undoubtedly put his tags on the inside of his fleeces this year.

6. Dishonest local buyers or buyers that do not understand their business.

7. My remedy would be that every grower do up his wool in the best possible manner; making at least two grades, tying it with small, hard twine; and if possible ship direct to the manufacturers.

Union City.

WM. BALL.

1. In answer to your first question would say that my method consists in putting up the whole amount of wool that grows upon one sheep into the fleece, tags and skirtings in an unwashed form, tying the same with a proper amount of twine, such as has been furnished by those selling twine.

2. Have sold to local buyers and have also shipped to commission houses in Boston and Philadelphia and have had them sell the wool. I prefer shipping, because I think I get more for my wool. The wool is sold upon its merits more nearly than when sold to local buyers who have to trust to the same markets that I do and from which they must look for their margin of profits.

3. To this question I will say that it is difficult to define the best manner. The common sense way is to put into the fleece what grew upon the sheep as wool in good condition free from impurities unwashed, as said in question one.

4. In answer to the fourth question will say no. Upon this matter Fenno Bro's., & Childs, who have just sold our wool say: "As to skirting the fleeces, of course this is something which we hope may come in the future, but we doubt whether at this present time manufacturers are educated up to paying the proportionate value for skirted fleeces. They are fast approaching the point, however, because now very few manufacturers buy a pile of wool without testing sample bags. By testing we mean taking them home, opening the bags, sorting the wool and scouring it. They then know just exactly what they are doing and are prepared to make an offer on it."

5. No.

6. The antagonism, if such a term is admissible, between buyers and growers, arises from the fact that growers feel that there is not much wool bought on its merits. Mr. A's wool, which is known to be of poor quality, brings as much, or nearly so, as Mr. B's whose wool is much better. And the wool buyer with his instructions that the wool must be bought within a

[Continued on Page 5.]

Field and Stock.

RAISING CALVES.

T. D. SEELEY.

There is perhaps no way yet discovered that calves can be so easily and quickly grown, for the first six months at least, as in the natural way, that is, to run with the cows. This, however, except in rare cases, cannot be profitably done with the cattle industry in its present condition in Michigan.

In order that cattle may be profitably kept, the cows must be good milkers and the principal profits derived from this source. The calves from a herd kept with this end in view may, with proper care and attention, be so raised that they will nearly or quite equal those raised on the cows at fifteen or eighteen months.

I have pursued the following plan for the past four years with good results. The calf is taken away from the cow any time before forty-eight hours old, I think the sooner the better, and placed in a box-stall by itself. Here it is taught to drink, and particular care is taken not to feed more than the calf really needs, always aiming to have it ready to take its ration with a relish, and yet have enough.

For the first four weeks the ordinary calf will require about eight quarts of milk daily. If new milk can be had three times a day, I prefer to divide it into three feeds, otherwise I should give but two feeds, rather than give milk that is not absolutely fresh to the calf that is to be raised on new milk.

The second month I begin to use milk substitutes, carefully at first, beginning with one-fourth teacupful of oil meal (old process), made into a porridge by pouring sufficient boiling water over it to make quite thin. I let this stand from one feed to the next, and stir with the milk. This is increased as the calf becomes accustomed to the new feed until the calf at three months will eat and digest at least one pint at a feed.

As the oil meal is increased the milk is decreased and done away with at three months. As the milk is decreased more water is added, and if in cool weather, or if the calf prefers it, warm water is used with skim milk. No new milk need be used after four or five weeks. The porridge should be used with the skim milk the same as with new. For calves up to six months the milk should be warmed to the natural temperature and if plenty is given no other drink will be needed. I have given as high as eight gallons of skim milk daily to yearlings and found they thrived and grew very fast.

The calf should be taught to eat hay as soon as possible, and a little clean fresh hay should be given every day.

For grain feed I like whole oats for calves as well as anything I have ever used. Oat meal and bran is good, but corn meal I do not like for growing calves. The grain should be given after the first months in as large quantities as will be eaten with a relish.

At weaning time great care should be taken not to take the food to which the calf is accustomed away entirely until it has become accustomed to and able to digest the new feed upon which it is to be put.

I have had the best success keeping calves in the barn in darkened stalls, excepting before the flies come in the early summer, when I think a run to grass very beneficial.

Bay City.

A. F. WOOD.

I believe the object of raising calves should be two-fold, viz.: To keep up the herd, and to have a surplus to sell; and if one is a breeder of thoroughbred cattle, and wishes to sell for the improvement of stock, particularly bulls for service, by all means raise the calf upon the cow. My method is to have a good cow nurse two calves for the first six or eight weeks, then each calf have a cow. This gives the milk of one cow for other use, instead of partly milking two, and is more satisfactory to me. The calves should be kept in pens or stalls in the barn, winter or summer, and when a few days old will commence picking a little hay. Clover is the best. When a few weeks old, begin putting in

a few oats in the manger, and as they eat them increase the quantity as they grow, until they will eat a quart three times a day. Turn them out at noon for drink and exercise, and let them have their milk twice a day, morning and evening, until six or eight months old, according to their growth and the time of year. Then, if in winter, roots are good food, with bran and oats, and some oat-meal is advantageous. Calves thus raised will keep their shape and grow from two to three pounds per day, often gaining one hundred pounds per month, and will please the eyes of the purchasers. Such calves should be sold to those wanting animals for use, at from nine to twelve months old. A young bull out of condition or poorly grown is never salable.

Calves being raised for beef, or to make cows, can be raised much more cheaply by feeding skim milk, and by taking more time will be equally as good. My method is to take the calf and tie it up, especially at feeding time, until it is well learned to drink. Feed new milk for the first two weeks to develop its digestive organs, then mix with skim milk for the next two weeks, then skim milk entirely, with hay and oats as above. Fall calves may be weaned and go to grass in the spring and do well, but spring calves should be kept in the barn most of the summer through fly time, etc., and as the object should be to get the quickest return for the expense and to hasten maturity, spring calves should be fed other feed besides grass, until they go to pasture when yearlings. With me oats seem to be the feed for all young growing animals, and as they stimulate the growth of bone and muscle instead of fat, are very satisfactory; then, too, as the calf does the grinding he will eat them slower, and work more saliva into the stomach, and will not be as apt to scour as with ground food. Other feeds may be substituted, but oats have the first place with me.

Mason.

W. E. BOYDEN.

This short article will refer to care of calves of the beef breeds for breeding purposes. First, we must have a strong vigorous sire and dam, properly fed and cared for, to produce a healthy, fully developed calf. With this attained at first all we need is that perfect food, milk, drawn in nature's simple way. If the cow is properly fed there should be no need of anything else until the calf is four to six weeks old except to see that the udder is properly drawn at least twice a day. Think it preferable to let the calf suckle three times a day for the first week or ten days, after which twice a day is sufficient usually. When a calf gets to be four to six weeks old he will want some solid food; very little at first but increase it as fast as he will eat more with relish. Always keep the appetite sharp. For winter feed for calves I prefer corn, oats and bran, whole or ground, with carrots cut fine, and bright clover hay in small feeds. Grain and roots should be fed together, hay fed whole. Prefer feeding three times a day with one to three hours in yard when weather is not too cold and stormy.

Have found winter calves as a rule enjoy a box of good, clean, rich dirt to work at, many times eating it with apparent relish. Have never found anything better than a raw egg or two to check scours in calves, but this will be of rare occurrence when cow and calf are fed and looked after as they should be. In summer, unless you wish calves for fall shows, would advise letting them have the run of the pastures with the dam. They won't look quite as nice as calves as though kept in the stable and fed grain and hay, but will, I think, do better as yearlings. For summer calves feed grain. I think whole oats and bran one of the very best. Two parts oats to one part bran. Watch your calves, study their wants and habits, humor them in all that is reasonable, treat them with kindness and my word for it, if properly bred, with this kind of treatment, they will be a source of profit as well as of pleasure.

Delhi Mills.

Harvest prospects in ten Russian districts hopeless.

LABOR IN THE VINEYARD FOR JULY.

D. G. EDMISTON.

It is difficult to lay out the work to be done in the vineyard during the month, unless we know its present condition. Therefore, you will allow us to suppose that the vines were properly pruned and tied to the stakes or trellis, according to such system as may have been adopted, and that cultivation has been given so as to have the soil in a mellow condition and free from weeds. With the prevalent wet weather of the season, this may not have been done in all cases; consequently the greatest vigilance will be needed during the present month.

When the young growth was a few inches in length, all weak and imperfect shoots, as well as all others not showing good fruit buds, should have been removed, unless such shoots were needed to furnish fruit-bearing wood for the next year. This, of course, has reference to the bearing vineyard, where fruit is the object sought after.

With young vineyards the object is different, and should be the development of a strong growth of vine for future usefulness.

About this time also the vines should have been sprayed with some form of the Bordeaux mixture, as a preventative of fungus diseases, which are liable to attack both fruit and foliage. This spraying should be continued occasionally as long as there is any danger of the attack of these diseases, or until the young fruit has attained considerable size. If these essential requisites for the early part of the season have been attended to, we are now ready for the work which should be done in July.

Thorough surface cultivation should be kept up during the month so as to keep weeds and grass in check, and to keep the soil in a fine condition to produce the best results on the growing crop.

Spraying with the Bordeaux mixture should be continued once in ten days or two weeks, especially if there is any sign of mildew or black rot. Great damage is often done by the attack of these diseases before their presence is observed, unless a constant watch is kept.

Bagging.—The best results cannot be expected without bagging the fruit, which operation should be performed early in the month, if not already done. The sooner bagging is done after the setting of the fruit the better. The No. 2 grocery bags will be found right for all varieties having large bunches, while the No. 1 will be large enough for Delaware and other varieties having small bunches.

If all weak and surplus shoots have been removed, as before intimated, this operation can be performed quite rapidly by slipping the open bag up over the bunch, and then folding carefully around the stem and sticking a pin through the folded paper. In most cities and towns women and smart boys may be found who will do this work better and more expeditiously than men with their more clumsy fingers.

Thinning.—This should be done at the same time the bagging is done by clipping out all small and imperfect bunches, leaving only such as have a fair chance for development.

Summer pruning.—I seem to hear someone say, is not this the time for summer pruning? I answer, yes, if you understand by that term the pinching of buds so as to control the growth for the best development of the vine. This is often very necessary, in order to prevent certain leading shoots from growing too strong at the expense of the weaker ones. In other words, summer pruning should be used to secure a regular and uniform development of all parts of the vine and the fruit thereon. But if you understand summer pruning to mean the indiscriminate cutting of vines and foliage at this season of the year, simply to give a neat appearance to the vineyard, or to let in the sunshine and air, as it is often said, then I say, don't do it. I maintain that no pruning should be done at this season of the year after the growth has become too hard to pinch off with the thumb nail. Every leaf developed on the vine has its mission, and cannot be removed before the fruit is matured, without damage to the growing

crop and the future usefulness of the vine.

Adrian.

CAPON NONSENSE.

GEO. Q. DOW.

All this talk that is sometimes heard that caponizing does not pay is rank nonsense, and when sifted down is found to come from those who have no experience in raising capons or from those who never made a success at anything, but who are always ready to offer advice upon something they know nothing about. I have frequently asserted and now assert again that with the exception of selling eggs at two to five dollars a dozen or breeding stock at equally high prices there is no part of poultry raising that yields so big a profit as that of raising capons.

I have had a practical experience at it for many years; have a large correspondence with people who are engaged in caponizing, am familiar with all the prices in eastern markets, and know that the facts derived from such knowledge or information are conclusive.

Without a shadow of doubt those who caponize their cockerels receive a price more than fifty per cent greater than they would for birds not so treated.

A leading Boston agricultural paper is before me now; it was published April 4, and its market reports are always reliable.

Under Poultry I found the following quotations: Western chickens 12 cents per pound, western capons 17 cents per pound.

Not only does the man who sends capons to market receive this extra price per pound but the same bird weighs two or three pounds more than if listed as a "chicken."

A gain of 40 per cent in price and still another gain of 40 per cent in weight.

Oh, no, capons don't pay! If they were caponized and only sold as chickens, leaving off the capon part, the increase of weight alone would of itself represent a good profit.

I claim that the day is not very far off when the custom of caponizing will become universal, as it now is in France, and when that day comes no doubt the fancy value that is now to be obtained for a capon will disappear. But on the other hand, the advantage of caponizing will still exist from the simple fact that those who do not practice it will only have what will then be known as "stags" and will find them birds as unsalable for eating purposes as bull beef or boar pork is now.

The man who begins to caponize his birds now is going to get the benefit of the extra price they will bring as capons for the next few years and is going to be in a position and possess the knowledge to continue the work, when nothing but birds that have been castrated are wanted in our markets.

This man is not going to get left but is going to be right on the spot with the goods wanted. These are my sentiments and what I believe, and I leave it to time to show that what I predict is right. I will send a lot of printed questions and answers on this subject to all who wish them.

North Epping, N. H.

LAMENTATIONS OF THE WOOL-GROWER.

Those who for some weeks or even months past have read the *Michigan Farmer*, have been forcibly reminded of the "Lamentations of Jeremiah" in the old family bible. It is well known that the editor of that able and indispensable journal has always been the champion of the wool interests, and it is eminently proper that an industry of so much magnitude should have an "organ" to do battle for its peculiar interests. To this there can be no reasonable objections, provided the advocating business is not overdone, or done in such a manner as not to belittle other interests of equal or greater importance. But in reading the articles that are everlastingly dinned in the ears of the public on the irrepressible wool question, I have sometimes been reminded of the old adage, that "a man may like his house, and still not be obliged to ride upon the ridge of it." If wool was the only thing that Michigan produced, it would no doubt be a sufficient excuse for the space it has monopolized in

the paper, but it is not. Certainly there is no harm in looking this subject square in the face, and for once, at least, giving to each industry that importance to which it is justly entitled.

I will say, then, dispensing with superfluous fractions, that Michigan has two million sheep, worth \$2.25 per head, making a total value of four and a half millions invested in sheep. These sheep, we will suppose, produce annually twelve million pounds of wool. One-third of this sold at 17 cts., unwashed, will bring \$680,000; two thirds being washed, at 25 cts., is \$2,080,000; total for one year's wool, \$2,760,000.

Here in round numbers are two and three-fourth millions of dollars for the year's wool clip. Let us hope that we may get as much this season, which, from the present outlook is extremely doubtful. What does all this amount to when weighed in the balance against over thirty million bushels of wheat, which at 90 cents a bushel foots up a round twenty-seven millions, so that in round numbers we are producing ten dollars' worth of wheat for every dollar's worth of wool. And still is it not a fact that we may read some of our agricultural journals from July to January without once being told that Michigan is one of the foremost wheat producing states of the Union? But it is sheep first, sheep last, and sheep forever. Our four hundred thousand horses at eighty dollars a head amount to thirty-two millions, a sum seven times equal to all the sheep in the State. Over three-quarters of a million neat cattle, and half a million hogs are worth twenty millions more; and yet of all these greatest of Michigan's industries we never hear of their besieging the halls of Congress, and clamoring for special legislation.

Quietly and steadily and silently our wheat growers and our cattle growers push on the column on which rests the substantial prosperity of our commonwealth; and they are so meek and uncomplaining that the outside world hardly know they have an existence.

Now, while I am "neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet," I will hazard the responsibility of this declaration. Our wool growers cannot expect to be singled out and treated as a privileged class much longer. Within my memory, which extends back seventy years, they have been petted and pampered more than all other classes of our people put together. And when it is a fact that with all this pampering, during two or three average life times, they scarcely yet produce half the wool the country must consume, can they reasonably expect the country will do more for them than it has done?

The foregoing reflections have been suggested by the doleful complaints of the *Michigan Farmer*, and some of the leading wool growers of the State against what they consider the unreasonable practices of the wool buyers. There can be no doubt but some of the practices and exactions of these eastern wool buyers are unreasonable, but it only verifies the old scriptural adage, "It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer, and when he goeth away he boasteth."

Of course he does; and after all his fault finding about heavy twine and greasy fleeces and tag locks, you will see that, when the wool season is over, and he goes back to his eastern home with a bountiful harvest of the choice wools of our State, he congratulates himself upon the skill with which he has worked his little game.

ENOS GOODRICH.

Fostoria, June, 1892.

NOW AND THEN.

Mrs. Snooper—James, what is a dark horse in politics? Snooper—One which cannot say "Neigh" when he receives a nomination to office.—*Detroit Free Press*.

Mrs. Smallot—Why don't you burn up that pile of trash in the yard? Mr. Smallot—Wind's th' wrong way. The smoke would all blow in our own windows.—*N. Y. Weekly*.

A New Species—Circus man (hunting for a stray elephant)—Have you seen a strange animal around here? Irishman—Oi have that; there was an injur-rubber bull around here pullin' carrots wid his tail.—*Harvard Lampoon*.

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One of the active workers in Western Pomona Grange, Sister P. D. McNaughton, has gone to her long rest. The Grange extends sympathy to her children thus left motherless.

Flushing Grange mourns the loss of Sister Lura A. Partridge, wife of Hon. A. S. Partridge.

An error occurred in our last issue in the name of Hon. Norman A. Beecher, of Flushing Grange, who died May 23. The immediate cause of his death was heart failure, which was superinduced by a severe attack of la grippe, from which he had suffered greatly for five weeks. Brother Beecher was a charter member of Flushing Grange, and the first to fill the master's chair. In 1885 he was elected as representative from his district in the state legislature, and re-elected in 1887.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

HOWARD B. CANNON.

[Second paper.]

Agriculture needed a more efficient governmental exponent than the small bureau in the Department of the Interior. Its friends urged the creation of the Department of Agriculture. Congress at last heard the appeal, and by act of law the new department went into being July 1, 1862. Isaac Newton was the first Commissioner of Agriculture.

The effect of the civil war upon agriculture is to be seen in the stimulus it gave to investigations of sugar and of fibre producing plants and to agricultural inventions. The work of the department conformed to the demands of the times. The period of reconstruction is marked as one in which the department was especially helpful to the south. New seeds were sent there, and large numbers of agricultural documents distributed among those who turned to the plow. The department urged the division of the great estates into small holdings, and that a greater diversification of crops should be raised. It gathered material and made an estimate of the damage the war had wrought so that an enlightened statesmanship could the sooner repair it.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow." The commissioner in 1865 recommended that the importation of farm stock from lands infected with rinderpest be prohibited. In 1866 he asked for power to repress the cattle plague which he feared would reach our shores. In 1867 Commissioner Capron called attention to the enormous losses due to the diseases of stock and urged the creation of a veterinary division in the department. The meat production of Europe and the shipping of fresh beef there take attention. By 1875 essays upon animal disease appear in the annual. By 1878 congress had so enlarged the powers of the commissioner in this direction that he was able to publish in the annual several essays embodying the results of investigations which had been conducted by the veterinarians of the department. The work grew rapidly in scope and importance, so much so that congress saw fit in 1884 to create the bureau of animal industry. This bureau under the administration of its brilliant chief, Dr. D. E. Salmon, has made a fine record. Everybody knows how this bureau has battled with pleuro-pneumonia, Texas fever and hog cholera. The live stock interests of the United States were threatened by that insidious foe—pleuro-pneumonia. In 1888 legislation gave the power to act and now the battle is won. The story of the meat inspection law forced upon our land by the necessity we were under of obtaining access for our meat products to the closed markets of Europe reads like a romance and is common

property. This law passed March 3, 1891.

It is with pleasure that we note the loyalty of the department of agriculture to the new education, even from the first. The various commissioners made frequent favorable mention of the agricultural colleges, and indeed, published cuts of the college buildings. They saw that the colleges would aid the department in its purpose to develop progressive agriculture. In 1869 Commissioner Capron made a prophecy, since fulfilled, that "when the generation developed within the colleges take charge of the instruction within them their true utility and influence will appear." The department was often a champion in the battle for recognition which the new education had to wage.

The year 1840—the date of the publication of Liebig's Chemistry—has been termed "the birth year of scientific agriculture." In eleven years the first agricultural experiment station was established. We have noticed the attention paid by the department to the German workers. We recur to this when in 1874 the annual is seen to contain an essay upon the work being done in European experiment stations. The movement had already spread to this land. By 1887 it had raised its banner in some sixteen states. The opportunity was ripe and the department urged the establishment of more stations under the fostering care of government. The now famous Hatch bill passed March 2, 1887. This measure made it possible for the department of agriculture to extend its influence yet more widely.

That the department is attempting to meet the popular demand upon it may perhaps best be seen by a few examples. The great west asks for grasses which are adapted to the peculiar conditions found west of the 97th meridian. It also wishes irrigation inquiry conducted. Congress furnished money to meet the demand, and the botanists have found the brome grass for the arid planes, and the engineers have mapped artesian basins, and planned attacks upon the great "underflow." The reports upon the grasses of the United States, are recognized by botanists everywhere as of the highest scientific value, and the forthcoming report of irrigation inquiry will be a pleasure to all interested in the subject.

In 1876 the Rocky Mountain locust ravaged a large part of the west. The department studied it and described and illustrated it. The means they devised were found to work well when put to the practical test last summer by Prof. Waldron in North Dakota.

In 1874 the department was called upon to investigate pear blight, etc. This work grew in importance as science advanced into the new field; the plans of the department kept pace. In 1886 a section of mycology was formed in the division of botany. This became a full-fledged division of vegetable pathology in 1889. The work of this division is yet in its infancy, but it has saved the country many times its cost. If it could perfectly control the ravages of fungi it would save the nation over \$200,000,000 a year.

The economic relations of birds began to be studied in 1885. And under the able leadership of Dr. C. Hart Merriam it has become of very great importance. Since 1876 the department has been engaged studying the forestry needs of the nation. Prof. Fernow has been like a voice crying in the wilderness. As yet the nation has not adopted scientific treatment of the forests on the national domain; but it is hoped that ere long the present wasteful policy will be relegated to the limbo it deserves. In its forestry division the Department has a missionary enterprise.

For many years the Grange urged that the head of the Department of Agriculture be made a member of the cabinet. To this demand congress acceded during the closing days of the Cleveland

administration. Now no one can doubt the wisdom of the move. With Secretary Rusk at its head the department has made its appeals felt even at the barred portals of Germany and France. The scientific work under the immediate charge of Assistant Secretary Willits, has increased in efficiency and extended its field of research.

The annual report, once the only expression of the government on the subject, has grown in value and in size of edition till the present. The reports of a few years past have been published in editions of 400,000. This is the largest single edition of any book in the world. The other publications of the department have also grown, till last year the number of all—monthlies, bulletins, reports and circulars, covered 124 bibliographic titles.

Congress, recognizing the good to agriculture which would come from such a move, July 1, 1891, transferred the Weather Bureau to the Department of Agriculture. Prof. Mark W. Harrington was made chief and under his administration the people have been saved many times the cost of the Bureau. The frost warnings alone have been worth all the bureau costs. Yet its work has but begun.

Congress contemplates making a transfer of the Fish Commission and of the Geological Survey to the Department of Agriculture. Should this be done the last executive department to be created may prove to be the first in the point of usefulness, as Julian Hawthorne put it, "Here is a case where you may put a nickle in the slot and pull out a five dollar bill."

When the visitor at the Chicago Exposition in 1893 looks over the display made by the Department of Agriculture it is to be hoped that he will leave it thankful for the wonderful thought in 1837 has expanded into the great "department of utility" in 1893. It is a symbol of the progress made by our nation. First, the idea; then, the entity.

READ THIS!

HESPERIA, Mich.

During the last year we have had what we call a Grange revival and if your space will permit I should like briefly to report results.

One year ago Newaygo County Pomona Grange purchased a flag to be competed for by the subordinate Granges of the county. The contest lasted through the entire year and included a meeting with each subordinate Grange.

At the time the contest commenced the Grange membership of the county was about 200 and had stood nearly stationary for several years. Now it is nearly 600. One year ago Hesperia Grange reported 54 members and our next report will show about 250. The last meeting of the contest has just been held with Hesperia Grange and there were 397 Patrons reported present and a two days session was too short to exhaust the program. The evening meeting was devoted to a jubilee entertainment in the rink. The building is estimated to hold 800 people and was crowded to its utmost capacity.

Now the point that I wish to impress is this, what has been done in Newaygo county can be done in every other county in the state. Why not organize a revival all along the line? Let every county adopt this or some similar plan and the membership for the state could be doubled within the next year. It can be done. All that is required is a little judicious work. Hundreds all over the country are ready to join the Grange. All that is necessary is to let them know that the Grange is doing something and that we need their help. I hope this question will be taken up and discussed in every Grange and also through the columns of the VISITOR.

A. L. SCOTT.

A certain little city maid told her mother that she had to have no more examinations, and that she would soon get her "restificut."

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TO ALL PATRONS.

Michigan State Grange, Master's Office, BERREN CENTER, Mich., June 27, '92.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

The State Grange having accepted an invitation to participate in a Farmers' Day at the Bay View Assembly, on August 9th, I desire to enlist your personal cooperation in making the day one of great success and benefit.

The program, in the hands of Bro. J. G. Ramsdell, promises to be worthy the occasion. Hon. C. G. Luce will be heard on "The True Relation of the Farmer to Society." Col. J. H. Brigham will speak on "The Work and Aims of the Grange in Elevating the Farmer to his True Position in Society." Hon. J. J. Woodman on "The Moral and Intellectual Influence of the Farmer upon the Town and City," and the Hon. Sec'y of Agriculture is invited to address the audience upon "The Farmer and the Government." Other prominent people connected with farm interests may be expected.

The Order in Michigan has much to gain in the success of this movement. I sincerely hope you may plan to attend and use your influence with your friends to visit this famous resort under these most favorable circumstances.

Fraternally,
THOS. MARS.

CHAUTAQUA.

If Chautauqua means any one thing in one word that word is education; and if the Grange over our great country means one thing in one word that word is education. Side by side then let these two great organizations go forward in their grand mission of developing a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves and all the people of the earth.—*Mortimer Whitehead.*

Bay View is Michigan's Chautauqua, on the shore of Little Traverse Bay, a mile from Petoskey; it is easily reached by water or rail.

It is here, at the most delightful of northern summer resorts and under the auspices of one of the best equipped and cultured assemblies, that Farmers' Day is to be kept, August 9, for the first time. Let us make it a day that shall mark progress in agricultural circles, and the beginning of a series of annual Farmers' Days.

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THE GRANGE VISITOR

Published on the 1st and 15th of every month.

Keayon L. Butterfield, Editor and Manager,
LANSING, MICH.

To whom all exchanges, communications, advertising business and subscriptions should be sent.

TERMS 50 Cents a Year, 25 Cents for Six Months. Subscriptions payable in advance, and discontinued at expiration, unless renewed. Remittances should be by Registered Letter, Money Order or Draft.

Entered at the Postoffice at Lansing, Mich., as Second Class Matter.

Are you getting ready to go to Farmer's Day at Bay View? Why not? It will be an opportunity for education that you cannot afford to miss.

If you know of a Patron who does not take the VISITOR will you not get him to subscribe at once? We want every Patron family to have the VISITOR before September 1st.

We have short reports from a number of Granges this issue. We are glad to get them. Send in notes, if only a few lines, on some special feature or features of your work. Let us hear from every Grange in the State.

While talking to your neighbor tell him that if he subscribes to the VISITOR now, for one year, he will get a copy of that practical work by Mr. R. M. Kellogg, on "Big Crops of Small Fruits." It sells in paper binding for a quarter and is worth far more than that.

All of the reports are not in as yet on the wool question and we hope enough will respond to make an interesting collection for the next issue as well. We reserve comment until we hear further. We hope the wool buyers will respond more freely than they have done.

We publish this week the platforms of the Republican and Democratic parties. We give way on our editorial page to these so that a comparison can be made. In our next issue we shall try to give the platforms of the Prohibition and Peoples Parties. It will be a most instructive hour that is spent in studying and comparing these four platforms.

The premium list of the coming annual fair of the Michigan State Agricultural Society is now out and ready for distribution. The amount of premiums offered is the same as for last year. The principal change perhaps in the rules is the restoration of the old arrangement of opening to the world the competition for stock premiums. A list can be obtained by addressing a card to I. H. Butterfield, Secretary Michigan Agricultural Society, Lansing, Mich.

THE SEWING MACHINE.

We are having quite a number of calls for the sewing machine which we offer. In order to make it a little easier for some to obtain this machine we will offer it for ten dollars and ten new subscriptions to the VISITOR at fifty cents each. We trust many will take advantage of this offer.

PROVIDING THE VISITOR.

We wish every Grange in the State would see to it in some way that every family has the VISITOR. Many do it from the Grange treasury. We believe that is the best way. If you do not believe it is can you not find some other way to get every Patron to read the VISITOR? We want to begin this fall to work for subscribers outside of the Grange. To do that we need that the Patrons are already secured as subscribers. Please attend to this matter this month. Will you not?

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

The representatives of the republicans of the United States assembled in general convention on the shores of the Mississippi river, the everlasting bond of an indestructible republic, whose most glorious chapter of history is the record of the republican party, congratulate their countrymen on the majestic march of the nation under the banners inscribed with the principles of our platform of 1888, vindicated by victory at the polls and prosperity in our fields, workshops and mines, and make the following declaration of principles:

THE TARIFF.

We reaffirm the American doctrine of protection. We call attention to its growth abroad. We maintain that the prosperous condition of our country is largely due to the wise revenue legislation of the republican congress.

We believe that all articles which cannot be produced in the United States except luxuries, should be admitted free of duty, and that on all imports coming into competition with the products of American labor, there should be duties made equal to the difference between wages abroad and at home; we assert that the prices of manufactured articles of general consumption have been reduced under the operations of the tariff act of 1890. We denounce the efforts of the democratic majority of the house to destroy our tariff laws by piecemeal as manifested by their attacks on wool, lead and lead ore, and we ask the people for their judgment thereon.

We point to the success of the republican policy of reciprocity, under which export trade has vastly increased and new and enlarged markets have been opened for the products of our farms and workshops. We remind the people of the bitter opposition of the democratic party to this practical business measure, and claim that, executed by a republican administration, our present laws will eventually give us control of the trade of the world.

SILVER.

The American people from tradition and interest favor bi-metallicism, and the republican party demands the use of both gold and silver as standard money, with such restrictions and under such provisions, to be determined by contemplation of values of the two metals, so that the purchasing and debt paying power of the dollar, whether of silver, gold or paper, shall be at all times equal.

The interests of the producers of the country, its farmers and its workingmen, demand that every dollar, paper or gold, issued by the government, shall be as good as any other. We commend the wise and patriotic steps already taken by our government to secure an international conference, to adopt such measures as will insure a parity of value between gold and silver for use as money throughout the world.

ELECTIONS.

We demand that every citizen of the United States shall be allowed to cast one free and unrestricted ballot in all public elections, and that such ballots shall be counted and returned as cast; that such laws shall be enacted and enforced as will secure to every citizen, be he rich or poor, native or foreign born, white or black, this sovereign right, guaranteed by the constitution, the free and honest popular ballot; the just and equal representation of all the people as well as the just and equal protection under the laws as the foundation of our republican institutions, and the party will never relax its efforts until the integrity of the ballot and the purity of the elections shall be fully guaranteed and protected in every state.

SOUTHERN OUTRAGES.

We denounce the continued inhuman outrages perpetrated upon American citizens for political reasons in certain states of the Union.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We favor efficient legislation by congress to protect the life and limbs of employes of the railroad companies engaged in carrying interstate commerce, and recommend legislation by the respective states that will protect employes engaged in interstate commerce, in mining and in manufacturing.

The republican party has always been the champion of the oppressed, and recognizes the dignity of manhood, irrespective of faith, color or nationality. It sympathizes with the cause of home rule in Ireland and protests against the persecution of the Jews in Russia.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

We favor the extension of our foreign commerce; the restoration of our mercantile marine by home-made ships; and the construction of a navy for the protection of our national interests and the honor of our flag; the maintenance of the most friendly relations with all foreign powers, entangling alliance with none, and the protection of the rights of our fishermen. We reaffirm our approval of the Monroe doctrine, and believe in the achievement of the manifest destiny of the republic in its broadest sense. We favor the enforcement of more stringent laws and regulations for the restriction of criminal pauper and contract immigration.

We declare anew our devotion to liberty of thought and conscience, of speech, of press, and approve all agencies and instrumentalities which contribute to the education of the children of the land, but while insisting upon the fullest measure of religious liberty we are opposed to any union of church and state.

We reaffirm our opposition, declared in the republican platform of 1888, to all combinations of capital, organized to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among our citizens. We heartily indorse the action taken on this issue, and ask for such further legislation as may be required to remedy any defects in existing laws, and to render their enforcement more complete and effective.

We approve the policy of extending to towns and rural communities the advantage of the free delivery services now enjoyed by the large cities of the country and reaffirm the declaration contained in the Republican platform of '88 pledging the reduction of letter postage to one cent at the earliest possible moment.

CIVIL SERVICE.

We commend the spirit and evidence of reform in the civil service and the wise and consistent enforcement by the republican party of the laws relating to the same.

NICARAGUA CANAL.

The construction of the Nicaragua canal is one of the highest importance to the American people, both as a measure of national defence and to build up and maintain American commerce, and it should be controlled by the United States government.

TERRITORIES.

We favor the admission of the remaining territories at the earliest possible moment, having due regard to the interests of the people of the territories and for the United States. All the federal office holders appointed in the territories should be selected from the residents thereof, and the right of self-government should be accorded as far as possible.

ARID LANDS.

We favor the cession, subject to the homestead laws of the arid public lands, to the states and territories in which they lie, under such congressional restrictions as to disposition, reclamation and occupancy as settlers will secure the maximum benefits to the people.

THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

The world's Columbian exposition is a great national undertaking and congress should promptly enact such reasonable legislation in aid thereof as will insure a discharge of the expenses and obligations incident thereto, and the attainment of results commensurate with the dignity and progress of the nation.

INTEMPERANCE.

We sympathize with all wise and legitimate efforts to lessen and prevent the evils of intemperance and promote morality.

PENSIONS.

Ever mindful of the services and sacrifices of the men who saved the life of the nation, we pledge anew to the veteran soldiers of the republic a watchful care and recognition of their just claims upon a grateful people.

HARRISON'S ADMINISTRATION.

We commend the able, patriotic and thoroughly American adminis-

tration of President Harrison. Under it the country has enjoyed remarkable prosperity and the dignity and honor of the nation, at home and abroad, have been faithfully maintained, and we offer the record of pledges kept and a guarantee of faithful performance in the future.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

The representatives of the democratic party of the United States in convention assembled do reaffirm their allegiance to the principles of the party as formulated by Jefferson and exemplified by the long and illustrious line of his successors in democratic leadership from Madison to Cleveland.

We believe the public welfare demands that these principles be applied to the conduct of the federal government through the accession to power of the party that advocates them, solemnly declaring that the need of a return to these fundamental principles of free popular government, based on home rule and individual liberty, was never more urgent than now, when the tendency to centralize all power at the federal capital has become a menace to the reserved rights of the states that strikes at the very roots of our government under the constitution as framed by the fathers of the republic.

We warn the people of our common country, jealous for the preservation of their free institutions, that the policy of federal control of elections, to which the republican party has committed itself, is fraught with the greatest danger, scarcely less momentous than would result from a revolution practically establishing monarchy on the ruins of the republic.

ARRAIGNMENT OF THE FORCE BILL.

It strikes at the north as well as the south, and injures the colored citizen even more than the white. It means a herd of deputy marshals at every polling place on the federal power, returning boards appointed and controlled by federal authority, the outrage of the electoral rights of the people in the several states, the subjugation of the colored people to the control of the party in power, and the reviving of race antagonisms now happily abated; of the utmost peril to the safety and happiness of the people. A measure deliberately and justly described by a leading republican senator as "the most infamous bill that ever crossed the threshold of the senate."

Such a policy, if sanctioned by law, would mean the dominance of a self-perpetuating oligarchy of office-holders, and the party who were intrusted with its machinery could be dislodged from power only by an appeal to the reserved right of the people to resist oppression, which is inherent in all self-governing communities.

Two years ago this revolutionary policy was emphatically condemned by the people at the polls, and in contempt of the verdict the republican party has defiantly declared in its latest authoritative utterance that its success in the coming elections will mean the enactment of the force bill and the usurpation of despotic control over elections in all the states.

Believing that the preservation of republican government in the United States is dependent upon the defeat of this policy of legalized force and feud, we invite the support of all citizens who desire to see the constitution maintained in its integrity, with the laws pursuant thereto, which have given our country hundreds of years of unexampled prosperity; and we pledge the democratic party, if it be intrusted with power, not only to the defeat of the force bill, but also to relentless opposition to the republican policy of profligate expenditure, which in the short space of two years has squandered an enormous surplus and emptied an overflowing treasury, after piling new burdens of taxation upon the already overtaxed labor of the country.

AS TO THE TARIFF.

We denounce republican protection as a fraud. The labor of the great majority of the American people for the benefit of the few. We declare it to be the fundamental principle of the democratic party that the federal government has no constitutional power to impose and collect tariff duties, except for the purposes of revenue only, and

we demand that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of the government when honestly and economically administered.

DENOUNCE THE MCKINLEY LAW.

We denounce the McKinley law enacted by the fifty-first congress as the enormity and atrocity of class legislation. We indorse the efforts made by the democrats of the present congress to modify its most impressive features in the direction of free raw materials and cheaper manufactured goods that enter into general consumption; and we promise repeal as one of the beneficial results that will follow the action of the people in intrusting power to the democratic party.

Since the McKinley tariff went into operation there have been ten reductions in the wages of laboring men to one increase.

We deny that there has been any increase of prosperity to the country since that tariff went into operation; and we point to the dullness and distress of wage reductions and strikes in the iron trade as the best possible evidence that no such prosperity has resulted from the McKinley act.

We call the attention of thoughtful Americans to the fact that after thirty years of restrictive taxes against the importation of foreign wealth in exchange for our agricultural surplus the homes of farmers of the country have become burdened with a real estate mortgage debt of over \$2,500,000,000, exclusive of all other forms of indebtedness; and that in one of the chief agricultural states of the west there appears a real estate mortgage debt averaging \$165 per capita to the total population, and that similar conditions and tendencies are shown to exist in the other agricultural exporting states.

We denounce a policy which fosters no industry so much as it does that of the sheriff.

ATTACK ON RECIPROCITY.

Trade interchange on the basis of reciprocal advantages to the countries participating is a time-honored doctrine of the democratic faith, but we denounce the sham reciprocity which juggles with the people's desire for enlarged foreign markets and freer exchanges by pretending to establish closer trade relations for a country whose articles of export are almost exclusively agricultural products, with other countries that are also agricultural, while erecting a custom-house barrier of prohibitive tariff taxes against the richest countries of the world that stand ready to take our entire surplus of products and to exchange therefor commodities which are necessities and comforts of life among our people. We recognize in the trusts and combinations which are designed to enable capital to secure more than its just share of the joint product of capital and labor a natural consequence of the prohibitive taxes which prevent the free competition which is the life of honest trade, but we believe their worst evils can be abated by law, and we demand the rigid enforcement of the laws made to prevent and control them, together with such further legislation in restraint of the abuses as experience may show to be necessary.

THE LAND QUESTION.

The republican party, while professing a policy of reserving the public lands for small holdings by actual settlers, has given away the people's heritage until now a few railroad and non-resident aliens, individual and corporate, possess a larger area than we with our farms between the two seas. The last democratic administration reversed the improvident and unwise policy of the republican party touching the public domain, and reclaimed from corporations and syndicates, alien and domestic, and restored to the people nearly 1,000,000,000 acres of valuable land to be sacredly held as homesteads for our citizens. And we pledge ourselves to continue this policy until every acre of land so unlawfully held shall be reclaimed and restored to the people.

THE SILVER PLANK.

We denounce the republican legislation known as the Sherman act of 1890 as a cowardly makeshift, fraught with possibilities of danger in the future which should make all of its supporters, as well as its author, anxious for its speedy

repeal. We hold to the use of both gold and silver as the standard money of the country, and the coinage of both gold and silver without discriminating against either metal but charge for coinage. But the policy of a united coinage of both metals must be of equal intrinsic and ostensible value and be adjusted through international agreement with such safeguards of legislation as shall insure the maintenance of the parity of the two metals and the equal power of every dollar at all times.

We demand that all paper currency shall be kept on par with and redeemable in such coin.

We insist upon this policy as especially necessary for the protection of the farmer and laboring classes as the most defenseless victims of unstable money and fluctuating currency.

We recommend that the prohibitory ten per cent tax on state bank issues be repealed. Public office is a public trust.

FOR CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

We reaffirm the declaration of the democratic national convention of 1876 for the reform of the civil service, and we call for the honest enforcement of all laws regulating the same.

The nomination of a president, as in the recent republican convention, by delegations composed largely of his employes, his beneficiaries, holding office at his pleasure, is a scandalous satire upon free popular institutions, and a startling illustration of the methods by which a president may gratify his ambition. We denounce the policy under which federal office holders usurp control of public conventions in the states, and we pledge the democratic party to a reform of these and all other abuses which threaten individual liberty and local self-government.

AS TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The democratic party is the only party that has ever given the country a foreign policy consistent and vigorous, compelling respect abroad and inspiring confidence at home. While avoiding entangling alliances, it has aimed to cultivate friendly relations with other nations, with our neighbors of foreign continents, whose destinies are closely linked with our own. And we view with alarm the tendency of a policy of irritation and bluster, which is liable at any time to confront us with the alternative of humiliation or war.

We favor the maintenance of a navy strong enough for all purposes of national defense and to properly maintain the honor and dignity of the country abroad.

SYMPATHY FOR RUSSIAN EXILES.

This country has always been the refuge of the oppressed from every land—exiles for conscience sake—and in the spirit of the founders of our government we condemn the oppression practiced by the Russian government upon its Lutheran and Jewish subjects, and we call upon our national government, in the interests of justice and humanity, by all just and proper means to use its prompt and best efforts to bring about a cessation of those cruel persecutions in the dominion of the czar and to secure to the oppressed equal rights.

IN FAVOR OF HOME RULE.

We tender our profound and earnest sympathy to those lovers of freedom who are struggling for home rule and the great cause of local self-government in Ireland.

IMMIGRATION.

We heartily approve all legitimate efforts to prevent the United States from being used as the dumping ground for the known criminals and professional paupers of Europe. And we demand the rigid enforcement of the laws against Chinese immigration and of the importation of foreign workmen under contract to degrade American labor and lessen its wages. But we condemn and denounce any and all attempts to restrict the immigration of the industrious and worthy of foreign lands.

PENSION LEGISLATION.

The convention hereby renews the expression of appreciation of the patriotism of the soldiers and sailors of the union in the war for its preservation, and we favor just and liberal pensions for all disabled union soldiers, their widows and dependents. But we demand that the work of the pension

office shall be done industriously, impartially and honestly. We denounce the present administration of that office as incompetent, corrupt, disgraceful and dishonest.

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

The federal government should care for and improve the Mississippi river and other great waterways of the republic, so as to secure for the interior states easy and cheap transportation to the tidewater. When any waterway of the republic is of sufficient importance to demand the aid of the government such aid should be extended on a definite plan of continuous work until permanent improvement is secured.

For purposes of national defense and the promotion of commerce between the states we recognize the early construction of the Nicaragua canal and its protection against foreign control as of great importance to the United States.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Recognizing the World's Columbian Exposition as a national undertaking of vast importance in which the general government has invited the co-operation of all the powers of the world, and appreciating the acceptance by many of such powers of the invitation so extended, and the broad and liberal efforts being made by them to contribute to the grandeur of the undertaking, we are of opinion that congress should make such necessary financial provision as shall be requisite to the maintenance of the national honor and public faith.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Popular education being the only safe basis of popular suffrage, we recommend to the several States most liberal appropriations for the public schools. Free common schools are the nursery of good government, and they have always received the fostering care of the democratic party, which favors every means of increasing intelligence. Freedom of education being an essential of civil and religious liberty, as well as a necessity for the development of intelligence, must not be interfered with under any pretext whatever.

We are opposed to State interference with parental rights and rights of conscience in the education of children as an infringement of the fundamental democratic doctrine that the largest individual liberty consistent with the rights of others insures the highest type of American citizenship and the best government.

NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA.

We approve the action of the present house of representatives in passing bills for the admission into the union as states of the territories of New Mexico and Arizona. And we favor the early admission of all the territories having the necessary population and resources entitling them to statehood, and while they remain territories we hold that the officials appointed to administer the government of any territory together with the districts of Columbia and Alaska should be bona fide residents of the territory or district in which their duties are to be performed. The democratic party believes in home rule and the control of their own affairs by the people of the vicinage.

RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

We favor legislation by congress and state legislatures to protect the rights and limbs of railway employes and those of other hazardous transportation companies; and denounce the inactivity of the republican party, and particularly the republican senate for causing the defeat of measures beneficial and protective to this class of workers.

We are in favor of the enactment by the states of laws for abolishing the notorious sweating system, for abolishing contract convict labor, and for prohibiting the employment in factories of children under 15 years of age.

We are opposed to all sumptuary laws as an interference with the individual rights of citizens.

Upon this statement of principles and policies the democratic party asks the intelligent judgment of the American people. It asks a change of administration and a change of party in order that there may be a change of system and a change of methods, thus assuring the maintenance unimpaired of institutions under which the republic has grown great and powerful.

WOOL.

[Continued from Page 1.]

certain range of prices, in order to handle enough to make it of interest to him, will pay more than some clips are worth to obtain them, and for other wool much better he will not pay much more, and the loss on one clip must be made good on some other man's better wool. Hence a distrust. The buyer looking out for himself at the expense of good wool, and the grower feeling that his efforts for putting his wool in the best of order are not recognized, a mutual distrust arises, generally to the disadvantage of the grower.

7. The remedy was suggested in answer to question two, namely: Consign the wool to some responsible commission house and let those running it sell the wool on its merits, as suggested in the quotation from Fenno Bro's. & Childs. Shear the sheep without washing. Put nothing in the fleece but what grew upon the sheep free from impurities, tied up with a proper amount of good suitable twine (if you know what it is), and save the profits made by the practices of many who buy wool. Every farmer can afford to do this. He will get what his wool is worth for manufacturing purposes, and he will be satisfied. Its value must finally be established in the way pointed out and it may just as well be done from the farmer's fleece as when it has passed through the wool buyer's hands.

Hamburg.

THOS. WYCKOFF.

1. I put up my wool in a 16 in. cube box, with very small linen twine, two strings each way around. *No tags are put in the fleeces.* I do not skirt my fleeces, do not wash my sheep, do not grade, as my wool is all *fine combing.*

2. I ship to Boston. I get 26½ cents, *unwashed*, this year. I prefer this method because local buyers are not often competent judges of unwashed wool.

3. Farmers as a rule do not put up their wool properly. They put in each fleece usually heavy tags that injure the sale of the entire fleece. Five cents worth of such stuffing reduces the sale of a fleece 25 cents on the whole fleece.

4. No, it is better to put up wool without tags always. Better throw tags away or wash them clean and put them up separately. In flocks by the thousand it will pay to skirt the fleeces. Farmers are not as competent to grade wool as the heavy eastern experts and should not attempt it.

5. No.

6. The cause of antagonism is two-fold.

Some farmers put in so much dirt that they ought to be heavily fined for their dishonesty.

Some farmers sell unwashed wool (worth say 27 cents in Boston or Philadelphia straight), and the local buyers will discount it one-third, giving 18 cents here. A great quantity of Michigan wool is so heavy with dirt and grease it *ought* to be discounted 50 per cent and men who raise such wool want just as much as men who raise wool that is worth twice as much per pound.

Our Rambouillet wool scours 50 per cent to 60 per cent. American merino wool scours from 12½ to 22 per cent.

One is fine combing, the other fine or medium delaine. It requires an expert to sort and grade such wools. The local buyers rarely are experts.

7. Let farmers put up their wool with tags in separate package, and sell it at home. Never take it to market till sold; or else ship direct to Boston or Philadelphia, where it will meet its proper grading and full returns on its merits.

Davisburgh.

JOHN T. RICH.

1. In the ordinary manner with box, three strings one way and four the other.

2. No.

3. There has not been in the past any inducement offered for farmers to put up their wool in better shape.

4. That is yet to be determined. Quite a number of Michigan farmers have tried skirting this year, myself among the number, but have not received any returns yet.

5. No, they buy on a general average and deduct for unconditioned wool, but very rarely pay

above the ordinary market price for wool put up in extra condition.

6. The antagonisms, if any exist, are due to the reasons given to question five, deductions for ram's fleeces and other heavy or unconditional fleeces and no increase where the wool merits it.

7. The wool must be bought on its merits.

Elba.

R. B. CARUSS.

1. I tag and skirt my wool and sort.

2. I ship it because it makes a difference of four or five cents per pound to my cash.

3. Many farmers put up too much foreign stuff in the fleece. I think it would pay them better to do their work better. It certainly pays me better, and why not others?

4. I think it would, because all wool when reaching eastern market has to be sold on a scoured basis. I never yet heard of any machinery or process by which the manufacturer can make goods from dung balls and sweat locks.

5. They do not. They generally try to make a certain per cent, paying about as much for poorly handled wool as they do for that nicely handled; thereby paying a premium on dirt.

6. It is because the buyer don't pay the difference that they should as to grades, and I don't know as they are to blame, for not one in ten can tell the difference in the grade of wool grown on a sheep, a goat, or that of a dog.

7. I would say to the farmers, do your own business, put your wool up in the best manner with as little fine linen twine as possible. Don't stuff the fleeces. If they are skirted put the skirts by themselves, all tags by themselves, all sweat balls and dung balls throw away; then ship directly to some responsible wool house. At least that is my method and I make some money by it.

Have shipped my wool for a number of years and have done well. There is being a large amount of wool shipped out in first hands, more than ever before, from this part of the country.

St Johns.

W. E. BOYDEN.

No. 1. Whole fleece in one bundle? No.

No. 2. Ship east?

No. 3. No. It would pay if buyers would buy it on its merits.

No. 4. I think it would with the better class of wool growers.

No. 5. Emphatically no.

No. 6. This I consider all talk to depress the price of wool in growers' hands.

No. 7. Put up honest wool in prime condition. Ship direct to consumer.

Delhi Mills.

JAMES M. TURNER.

1. We usually shear our sheep the first week in April, the wool being unwashed and tied, each fleece by itself, with as little twine as will properly secure it. The wool is then sacked without grading in any sense of the word, except that tags are all carefully removed.

2. We have generally been unable to sell unwashed wool here to local buyers for the reason that they insist on discounting it 33½ per cent. For this reason we have generally shipped it to Hallowell & Donald, Boston, and had it sold on its merits. This year, 1892, it netted me 24½ cents here, after freight, commissions, storage, insurance and all charges. Our flock, as you understand, is composed entirely of shropshires.

3. My impressions are that the farmers have, as a rule, put up their wool in Michigan in fully as good shape as the price offered would warrant. My observation has been that those who exercise the greatest care fare no better in the hands of the buyers than those whose clip is in poor condition.

4. If the growers were to skirt their wool and sell it in two or three grades, the Michigan buyers would need to entirely rearrange their methods of buying.

5. I could not say that local buyers, within my observation, have been in the habit of buying wool on its merits. Wool carefully washed and neatly tied up sells for about the same price as that which has been carelessly handled.

6. I have been unable to discover the real cause of the antagonism between wool growers and buyers and conclude that there is no

more between producers and buyers of wool than between producers and buyers of other commodities, the rule being that all buyers of farm products hammer the price in every possible way, the scheme of the world apparently being to get dollars for cents wherever it is possible.

7. What remedy would I suggest for the difficulty? Ah, there's the rub! For when it comes to remedies you know doctors always disagree. In my own case, as above indicated, I have resorted to the method of shipping my wool direct to Boston and the results have generally been quite satisfactory. Perhaps if all the wool growers in Michigan would act in concert, and exercise the greatest care in handling their flocks throughout the year, and then equal care in putting up the wool, having it always in prime condition, the improvement would be recognized by the buyers generally and we should have less cause for complaint.

Lansing.

Few of the

Local Buyers

have as yet responded, a thing we regret. No doubt they are exceedingly busy and can ill spare the time. We hope we may hear from them and we will publish their replies as they are sent in. These are the questions:

1. Have you found any considerable percentage of improper material in the wool offered you for sale? If so, of what nature was it?

2. Do you think wool growers as a rule put up wool as carefully as they might?

3. Would it pay in dollars and cents, the way wool is bought today, for the wool grower to skirt his wool and to present his clip for sale in lots of two or three grades?

4. What is the cause of the present apparent antagonism between grower and buyers?

5. What plan would you suggest as a remedy.

J. G. MILES.

1. Yes. Tags and too much twine in fleeces.

2. No.

3. Think not.

4. The persistent habit of putting on heavy twine and too much of it and tags. Too few care for the reputation of their crop, but try to get all the money possible, no matter how the buyer comes out.

6. That the grower have his wool clean, no tags in fleeces, less twine, and of much lighter weight; in short, do as he would be done by.

Coldwater.

A. O. HYDE.

1. To first question I reply that it cannot be answered correctly without explanation. My answer will not apply to *all* the wool brought to market. Some is in good order; some has *dead* or *pulled* wool nicely wadded up inside fleeces; some has dirty tags and floor sweepings inside the fleeces. Some is called washed, when the buyer would not suspect that any such thing had happened if the farmer did not swear to it.

2. As a rule they do not.

3. Have had no experience in handling skirted wool.

4. I cannot see any reason for any antagonism between buyer and seller, except in cases where the seller over-estimates the quality and value of his wool. Buyers very rarely discount wool as closely as is done in eastern markets.

Marshall.

For lack of space a few replies already received were omitted. They will appear in next issue.

EXCURSION RATES.

For the following conventions, the Chicago and West Michigan Ry, and Detroit, Lansing & Northern Ry, will sell excursion tickets at one fare for the round trip:

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL at Minneapolis, Minn. Sell June 2d to 6th. Return limit, June 25th.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION at Detroit, Mich. Sell June 6th and 7th. Return limit, June 13th.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL at Chicago, Ill. Sell June 16th to 20th. Return limit, July 8th.

PROHIBITION NATIONAL at Cincinnati, O. Sell June 28th and 29th. Return limit, July 6th.

GEO. DEHAVEN,

General Passenger Agt.

Arguments were heard before the Supreme Court relative to the state senatorial redistricting of the last legislature.

Ladies' Department.

KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN.

Kathleen Mavourneen!—The song is still ringing
As fresh and as clear as the thrill of the birds;
In world-weary hearts it is sobbing and singing
In paths too sweet for the tenderest words.

O, have we forgotten the one who first breathed
it—
O, have we forgotten his rapturous art—
Our mead to the master whose genius bequeathed
it?
O, why art thou silent, thou voice of the heart!

Kathleen Mavourneen, thy lover still lingers;
The long night is waning—the stars pale and
few;
Thy sad serenader, with tremulous fingers,
Is bowed with his tears, as the lily with dew;

The old harpstrings quaver—the old voice is
shaking—
In sighs and in sobs moans the yearning re-
frain—
The old vision dims, and the old heart is break-
ing—
Kathleen Mavourneen, inspire us again!

—James Whitcomb Riley.

AN OUTING AT BAY VIEW.

"Beautiful Bay View! And to think we were 'in it!' I try to let its memories help me over the hard places, and there are so many hard places."

So writes a sharer in my last vacation. The lines of the letter run together, as the words send my thoughts scurrying back over those mid-summer days, so full of delightful comradeship and choice privileges, all in a land of historic romance and rare prospects. Fancy even feels that ozone tingle at my finger tips again, now, as then.

And why not tell others of nature's "beauty spot," we thus discovered? So shall it be.

There were six of us. We are self-supporting girls, that is, unmarried. Part of us were school-ma'ams, one a housekeeper in a State institution and one an office clerk. The regular summer vacations, long or limited, are lungs for the rest of our year. Through the weeks we are off duty, we try to catch sufficient whiffs of vigor and inspiration to carry us over another season of close application to duty.

In deciding upon the place and method of spending our vacation, two main features came into importance, namely, the character and the cost. The climate and scenic surroundings were barely secondary considerations. All of us had had a taste of the now popular assembly life, a style of outing which manifestly meets the needs of self-making people, such as we are striving to be. However, with a half dozen of these unique resorts about equally accessible to us, we were called upon to select one.

Every body has heard of the scenery and splendid natural vacation facilities of northern Michigan. One has but to consult his geography to see that this must be so, with its tortuous rivers and inland lakes, besides the legion bays and arms of the great lakes meeting there. Moreover, it was north, synonymous with coolness; and it was growing hot, hotter, in that July where we were. The railroad rates were advertised magnanimously low and we conceived plans for reducing living expenses to their necessary minimum. All things, talked pro and con, we chose the Bay View assembly, way up in the pinnacle of Michigan's lower peninsula, at the head of Little Traverse Bay and with the water line of Lake Michigan blending into the western horizon.

There we planned to rendezvous. There we all found our independent ways, not all going at once, but as we could get away, and all managing to be together during the best of the season.

The assembly at Bay View is a northern Chautauqua in spirit, aim and scope. Mr. John M. Hall, an alert, energetic lawyer of Flint, Michigan, is the superintendent, and publisher of an interesting little paper full of Bay View spirit and information. For three weeks in the last of July and first half of August rich programs are presented, with at least three entertainments daily, such as one pays thirty-five cents to a dollar each to attend elsewhere, besides others of a less popular nature almost hourly through the day. All this through three weeks, at an expense of two and a half dollars, the tickets being transferrable, at that. Such persons as Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, Bishop Vincent, Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster, Miss Frances E. Willard, Russell H. Conwell, Marion Harland, Wallace Bruce, H. H. Ragan, Chaplain McCabe, Drs. Gunsaulus and O. H. Tiffany are familiar with that platform.

There is, also, a summer univer-

sity with departments covering nearly every branch of study and experiment; A boon to study lovers too old or too busy for school or college.

At Bay View people of all ages and ranks were in the art school, the elocution and music classes. Literature and the sciences were well patronized, while the W. C. T. U. school of methods and the Bible classes were crowded. An attractive feature at Bay View is the Woman's Council. Hundreds of bright women gather at this hour to discuss subjects covering the whole range of woman's broadening life. Wit, genial repartee and experienced sense abound. From Marian Harland's housewifery topics to Margaret Sangster's talks on books and authors, the response was quick and animated. The popularity of the Delsarte class drills in gymnastics proved how keenly alive we women are coming to be in matters of physical culture.

It was quite refreshing to see people asking, knocking, receiving, of their own record. It was quite like appetites of a lower order when, at table, you are really hungry enough to ask for what you relish.

This latter kind of hunger is also peculiar to the place, ravenously so often. The bay breezes, the outdoor life, the rambles, the boating, the study and the joyous social atmosphere are conducive to wonderfully practical results in the way of eating. Presumably no one goes to Bay View expressly to eat; but that trout! that white fish! that fruit! could you resist them with the breath of that clamorous climate in your veins?

A region of legends and romance! Treading the old Marquette trail, soft with pine needles and thick layers of decayed leaves, one's step grows strangely stealthy and visions of dark faces, straight black hair and fantastic dresses brush past the fern plumes and set off the dark green of the cedar and hemlock in contrast. It is not uncanny. The ripe, soft sunshine is too bright, high in the green canopy, the water from the spring, the berries on the bushes, all too deliciously real now, for that.

Bay View itself, the cottage city of hundreds of beautiful summer residences and elegant assembly and university buildings, is on a terraced bank, rising from the bay one hundred feet, a veritable amphitheatre. From its piazzas may be seen Harbor Point, Harbor Springs, Wequetonsing and Petoskey, in whose streets one meets the descendants of the Ottawa tribe of Indians and across the bay is the Franciscan convent and school, dating back beyond 1650, where they worship. A twenty-five cent ride takes you to all these places with much more of interest in them than I can name here.

Oden, the scene of fishing, is easily reached from our point of settlement, so also, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, East Jordan and many another summer resort and attraction. But the dream of our summer's trip reached its climax in a visit to Mackinac Island. To be sure, other persons have been at Mackinac besides "our six," nearly a thousand visiting it the day we did, but for the time being it was ours; we reveled in its past, walked and drove its paths and drank in its views as the very elixir of beauty. There was a charm, whether of myth or of atmosphere, all its own for us. Perhaps it was the slight expense we were at for its privileges! though Mr. Lowell says, "We think lightly of nature's penny shows and estimate what we see by the cost of the ticket."

At any rate, Mackinac stands a shrine to delightful memories in our vacation annals. Truly I do believe the cost may have affected our enjoyment, for we have had wild flights of longing to see that picturesque and historic dot of an island and that, too, with no hope of realization. The imagined "cost of the ticket" had hitherto cut us off; but there we were, spending a day on the spot, at an extra expense each of one dollar and seventy-five cents! This was railroad and boat fare, round trip, one dollar, and carriage fee, seventy-five cents. We carried our lunch with us and ate it in the cool shadow of the old fort wall.

You understand now you are "inside" our finances, how we had a complacent little patting of one

another's shoulders over a remark not intended for our ears. A lady exclaimed, a trifle too loud for only her group of listeners, "People ought to expect to pay well for privileges here; no body comes up here who hasn't plenty of means." Even then, we, who had not much of what the world calls "means," stood worshipping in a sort of exalted awe at the gateway of the Great Spirit, the "staircase of Gitche Manitou," or arch rock of modern name. Who shall say but that the eyes that had longed most and waited longest found most of grandeur, most of heart language in that stony arch against the glittering, shimmering, murmuring rainbow tints of the lake below? To whom do Sugarloaf rock, Lover's leap, and the spread of scenery from Point Lookout speak the most? Standing in the pure presence of such nature, one deplores his mental and spiritual incapacity rather than the condition of his purse.

The fort on Mackinac Island, with its splendid command of water ways, its garrison and quaint old, old block houses, was of great interest to us. The island slips down from the fort's battlements and off into the water at the south where, on the edge, sits the little village whose one conspicuous building is Grand Hotel. Our little company walked about the island until we grew tired and so came into very touch with it at the first and entirely prepared ourselves to enjoy riding later. It was eleven at night, by the round, full moon when we returned to Bay View, having left at eight o'clock in the morning.

What did our vacation cost us? Would you know—busy body, or self-supporting girl or woman? Would you seriously consider giving yourself such an outing in preference to visiting a relative or friend, simply for the sake of spending your vacation somewhere, though not always profitably, you confess? Would you go, if you knew you could go two hundred and sixty miles from home and spend six weeks as I have tried to describe, for less than thirty dollars? "Here's a hand o' mine," if you would! I hope you may.

Two of our party spent six weeks at Bay View at an expense each of twenty-nine dollars and sixty-five cents for necessary expenses. This included one-half rate railroad ticket, trips to Mackinac and around the bay, cartage, postoffice box, use of library and an assembly ticket, besides room rent and board. The room was ample for three with an upper veranda affording views magnificent and gratis. A tiny oil stove did efficient duty for the simple but hearty meals. Not many varieties, plenty in quantity and none to waste, were the table rules. Every thing desirable we found in the markets on the grounds. By systematizing, the "housework" never interfered with studies or lectures and while hotel boarders waited for meals we dined on time.

Two of us who stayed three weeks spent twenty dollars each and the other two, who were there but ten days, fifteen dollars each. All of us went as far north as Mackinac Island.

JENNIE BUELL.

The Grange as a Factor in the Life of the Farmer's Wife.

Woman's work consists of many phases and forms. She enters our colleges, both as scholar and teacher. She finds her way into the doctor's office as chief-of-staff in that most important calling in life, and methinks no one can be so well fitted to minister to the sick body, or diseased spirit, as woman's deft fingers and sympathetic ways. Then again she mounts to the pulpit, and enters the lecture room. The depth of her intellectual force and the spell of her eloquence hold her audience in wrapt silence. Are there any who can exceed in diction, delivery, sentiment, or expression, one of our best and most finished speakers, a woman on the rostrum? And how short is the time which has been given her for this preparation to so equal or outshine her brother man! How long ago was it that the hiss was given a woman who took her stand on the rostrum? I remember of listening, nearly fifty years ago, to one of the first of these, Abbie Kelley Foster, who spoke for the freedom of the black man. A treat it was to take in her thrilling

words. Everyone who listened to her knew her whole soul was in her work, and that success was sure to attend her and her fellow-laborers, for all were true seekers after the best good of both the slave and his master. Then came Lucy Stone Blackwell and Susan B. Anthony, followed by Antoinette Brown, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and a host of others. Among them let us not forget Lucretia Mott, the staunch Quaker and true woman, who has passed to her reward, where Abbie Kelley Foster has also joined her. Both were among the first to awaken public sentiment to the thought of woman's wrongs, and publicly to avow their right to be heard. In the short space of time since then interest has been awakened to woman's right of equality with man. What a change has come over the spirit of our dream! Now, where does she stand? What a rapid increase of power for so short a time! What a promise for the future is in perspective! With the brains and force now turning the mill every year will see new achievements gained and a rise of woman nearer to the level pathway of true freedom, and she will finally come to own herself, and can bring forth her own powers in accordance with her own perceptions of truth and right, bound by no prison bars or anyone's dictum. God speed the day, and woman give all hail!

And now to the point of what the Grange may have to do in this uprising, and its effect on the farmer's wife, or his mother, or his daughter, for what affects one does the other. Woman enters the Grange as an equal with all others. No law or by-law restricts her in any manner. That she improves these opportunities as she should I do not believe, for we notice that as a general thing our brothers are heard from twice or three times as often as we hear the voice of a sister. We know that the farmer moves in the outside world far more than his wife; that he comes in contact with men and has a better chance to have activity of thought moving through his brain; and this is just what we want the Grange to do for his wife,—to awaken thought. And when the farmer and his wife are on the way to the Grange let him talk up what he has seen and heard during the week, which she has had no chance to learn, and then say to her, "Now, wife, you do the talking to day and I will keep still." No matter if she don't do it well at first, encourage her to keep on, and many who seem somewhat dull at first, will soon become rapid and interesting speakers, and this will open the way for other interests and diversions. She will become interested in reading, so that she may gain new thoughts, and will awaken the minds of her children. She will interest them in the home life, draw their minds to her reading, and also to an interest in the Grange, where she will soon have them declaiming, writing essays, and cultivating their minds generally. I believe it just as needful that a farmer's wife learn to become a good presiding officer in the Grange as for the farmer himself. Indeed, I think the Grange is just as much for Mrs. C. or A. as for Mr. C. or A., and that she is no more an attachment of his than he is of her, and that she should fill the place of head officer of the Grange as well as he. Our Granges are in a sense schools, and let them be used as the best of educators, and let everyone who is not deaf or blind, fill, one after the other, the important offices, until all are efficient in their formulas. Do you know how this would help to give poise and strength to woman, as well as man, to know they could preside with efficiency at any public gathering? We know it will require patience, forbearance and all kindness of feeling, to give all a chance to learn all this. But this is what we are in the Grange for, to help each other; not for any self good or self glory, but to help each other, and if one has more knowledge than another, or can fill an office better than another, let him help to impart this knowledge and power to another; and often we will find this pupil perhaps reaching far ahead of his teacher. And how many of our farmers' wives would find life taking a new phase! From being tired, dull, apathetic and listless, ideas would be awakened; they would desire to fill their offices in a way to awaken

pride in their children and to hear a word of praise from their husbands. Thoughts would spring into being in their minds which never before found place there. And in a few years, from being a stupid, ill-informed and ungainly farmer's wife, you might find many of them bright, intelligent and cultivated, fitted to be the wife of an intelligent farmer and the mother of his children. "So mote it be." Let us all as Grangers pull together in the right direction, and untold are the benefits which will arise from our Order.

A. N. K.

Benton Harbor.

MODERN AMERICAN SLANG.

While traveling west my attention was drawn to this subject by a tiny child asking her mamma the question, "What makes folks talk so when they try to say anything? You and papa don't." After hearing a short conversation between two educated people, and during my stay in Chicago, and the rest of my journey I paid particular attention to it.

It is positively sad to think to what an extent slang enters into our modern American life. Almost everybody uses slang. You may hear it on the street, in the store, in the cars, in the home, on the platform, and even in the pulpit!

It is no longer the privilege of the young fop to use slang; old men use it, lawyers use it in court, politicians use it in congress, and our newspapers are full of it. Why, the fact is that most of our so-called humorous newspapers would not live a month if they utterly discarded the use of slang. But the saddest of all things is that young ladies, moving in good society, who make pretensions to considerable culture, seem to think it clever and witty to use slang phraseology. This is greatly to be deplored. When the women of our land become vulgar and interlard their speech with slang, then farewell to the graces of refined and elevating speech!

Let our reader think for one moment how many slang phrases enter into the ordinary conversation of life, even among fairly educated people, and he will be amazed that so many counterfeits mix and pass almost unobserved among the current coins of speech.

We have now no doubtful statements, they are "too thin;" no one now understands what you say, he "tumbles" to it; the superlative of anything is the "boss;" thus, we have a boss book, or a boss dinner, or a boss ride; we may even hear a boss sermon, or see a boss play. If however, we want to add strongly to the superlative, we have only to say of a preacher, or a player or a singer, "he takes the cake"—loftier praise we cannot bestow. No man now conducts a business, or manages a theater—he "runs" it. Everything in America is "run," from a peanut stand to a church. A man never gets into difficulties now, he gets "left." Business affairs do not develop, they "pan out;" they do not decline, "they take a tumble;" they are never lively or active, they are "booming."

The common forms of affirmation are peculiar and amusing. You ask your friend a question as, for example, "Is Charles Wallington a thoroughly reliable fellow?" Your friend is prepared to vouch for Charles' trustworthiness, and in reply to your question he is very likely to answer, "Well, I should remark," or, "I should smile," or, "you bet;" if very much disposed to indorse the subject of inquiry, he will urge you to "bet your life," or he will assure you "you can bet on Charles every time!"

But it would require a large volume to catalogue all the slang phraseology that is in common use. It is sad, however, to hear our young ladies indulging in this vulgar habit. It is painful to hear a really refined girl call some gentleman of her acquaintance "a dandy" or "a daisy," or using such phrases as "I should smile," or "you bet." This habit of using slang is tyrannical, and the sooner it is swept away the better.

EDITH SMITH.

Mrs. Martha White of the State of Washington has been presented with a gold medal by Congress, for rescuing three sailors from drowning.

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College and Station.

FOOD INVESTIGATIONS.

(From Bulletin Storrs' Experiment Station.)

The value of food for nourishment depends upon the actually nutritive ingredients or nutrients which it contains. Of these the most important is protein, which occurs in the lean of meat, white of egg, casein of milk, gluten of wheat, and corresponding compounds of other materials used as the food of domestic animals. Protein contains the element nitrogen. It forms blood, muscle, bone, tendon, and other tissues of the body. The other chief classes of nutrients are carbohydrates and fats. Sugar and starch are carbohydrates. The fat of meat, butter, and the oils of corn, wheat and other grains, are familiar examples of fats. Grains and grasses have large proportions of carbohydrates, and but little fats. The fats and carbohydrates of the food form the fat of the body, and are consumed in it to yield heat to keep it warm and muscular strength for work. They are thus the fuel-materials of the food. Food constitutes the chief item of the living expenses of the people and of our agricultural production, and one of the most important of our exports to Europe. Wage-workers and people of moderate incomes generally in New England spend and must spend nearly half their earnings for food. The health and strength of all are intimately connected with and dependent upon their diet. Yet even the most intelligent people know less of the actual uses and values of their food for fulfilling its purposes than they do of those of almost any other of the necessities of life. In consequence there is great waste in the purchase and use of food, loss of money, and injury to health.

this is especially the case with people who do but little muscular work.

Allowing that the food consumption of which statistics have been collated is approximately representative of that of people in the United States generally, we are led to the conclusion that our national dietary has become one-sided; so that, although we live upon a high nutritive plane, our food might be better fitted to our needs. The chief error seems to be in the use of needless quantities of the fatter kinds of meats and sweetmeats.

The subject is an important one for wage-workers. Statistics, as well as common observation, bear emphatic testimony to the better condition of the American as compared with the European workingman, in respect to his supply of the necessaries and comforts of life. Nowhere is this superiority more striking than in the quality and quantity of the food.

The American workingman is better paid, better housed, better clothed, and better fed than the European. He has better opportunities for self-development, more to stimulate his ambition, and more hope of reward if his work is efficient. He accomplishes a great deal more. That this superiority is due to more nutritious food, as well as to greater intelligence, is hardly to be questioned.

But the better nourishment of the American wage-worker is largely due to our abundant food production. With the growth of population, and the increasing closeness of home and international competition, his own diet cannot be kept up to its present standard, nor can that of his poorer neighbor and his foreign brother be brought up to that standard without better knowledge of the laws of food economy.

To the farmer this subject is of vital interest. The agricultural production of the United States is out of balance. Our food supply for man and beast contains an excess of the materials which serve the body for fuel and are relatively deficient in the nitrogenous compounds which make blood, muscle, and bone. In other words, the farmer produces relatively too much starch, sugar, and other carbohydrates; too much fat and too little protein. The crops he grows are, taken together, deficient in protein, and the meat he makes is excessively fat. The one-sidedness of our food consumption is the natural result of the one-sidedness of our food production.

This one-sidedness of our agricultural production is easily explained. In the first place, our vegetable products are deficient in protein. Corn, our great staple, is poor in protein at best. From careless culture, insufficient manuring, or other reasons, our grasses, grains, and other crops contain much lower proportions of nitrogen than they ought to, and much less than the same ones do in Europe where farming is more thoroughly done. In the second place, our meats, upon which we depend to supply the protein which our vegetable foods lack, are excessively fat. This excessive production of fat in meat is uneconomical in several ways. A large amount of vegetable feeding stuffs is required to make a small amount of fat, much protein is lost in the process, and the fat thus produced is sold in a food market where it comes in competition with other materials of which there is a relative overproduction.

The fat of meat, lard, butter, cotton-seed oil, sugar, and the starch which constitutes the larger part of the nutritive material of wheat and other grains and nearly the whole of that of potatoes, all do the same work in nutrition—they are the fuel of the body. The cattle grower, the pork producer, the dairyman, the sugar maker, the raiser of wheat and potatoes, and the cotton planter, are engaged in an unwitting, but none the less severe competition with each other in supplying the food market with fuel-materials, with which it is relatively overstocked, and are all competing with petroleum.

The one-sidedness of our dietary is the result of this one-sidedness of our agricultural production. As the farmer is primarily responsible for the state of affairs, and the first loser by it, so he must be the one to take the first steps to amend it. The remedy for the evil is to grow crops with more

protein. The needed increase of protein may be obtained by breeding and importing varieties of grains and grasses richer in nitrogen than these we now cultivate, and by growing more legumes, such as clovers, alfalfa, vetch, seradella, cowpeas, peas, and beans.

The value of nitrogenous feeding stuffs is not sufficiently appreciated, but the progress of exact experiment in this country and in Europe is bringing it out more and more clearly.

FROM MICHIGAN CROP REPORT FOR JUNE, 1892.

The condition of wheat in the southern counties is reported at 91, in the central 88 and in the northern 100, the average for the State being 92 per cent. Comparison is with vitality and growth of average years.

These show a better condition in the southern counties on June 1, of this year, than in any previous year since 1885, with the exception of last year.

The total number of bushels of wheat reported marketed by farmers in May is 1,523,005. Of this amount 299,617 bushels were marketed in the first or southern tier of counties; 328,557 bushels in the second tier; 308,971 bushels in the third tier; 470,258 bushels in the fourth tier, 108,490 bushels in the fifth and sixth tiers, and 7,112 bushels in the northern counties. At 22 elevators and mills from which reports have been received there was no wheat marketed during the month.

The total number of bushels of wheat reported marketed in the ten months, August-May, is 14,895,457, which is 903,487 bushels more than reported marketed in the same months last year.

The quantity of wheat reported marketed in May is 453,368 bushels more than reported marketed in April. The total quantity reported marketed in the ten months, August-May, is 49 per cent of the estimated crop of 1891.

Not nearly as much corn has been planted in the State this spring as in average years, owing to the large amount of rainfall, figures for the several sections being: Southern, 76; central, 90; northern counties, 102, and the State 83 per cent.

The acreage in oats and barley this year is about 12 per cent below the average. In condition they were nearly the same in all parts of the State, being in the southern section 80 and 82, in the central 91, and in the northern counties 100 and 99, average for State being 85 and 86 per cent.

Condition of meadows and pastures in the southern counties is 96 per cent, and in the central counties is 97 per cent, and clover sowed this year in the southern counties is 98 per cent and in the central 101 per cent. Comparison being, in each case, with average years.

The outlook for a full crop of both apples and peaches is better now than for the past six years, figures for the State being: For apples, 102 per cent, and peaches 95 per cent of an average crop.

The completion about June 15th of the extension from Traverse City to Petoskey and Bay View of the Chicago & West Michigan Railway will open a new and popular route to the Northern Michigan Summer Resorts. The new line will be up to the high standard of the C. & W. M. and D. L. & N. system, and with the excellent train service, which will be a special feature, it will speedily prove to be a favorite. It will be the scenic line of Michigan, running as it does along the shores of lakes and rivers for more than forty miles, passing through the towns of Barker Creek, Spencer Creek, Bellaire, Central Lake, Ellsworth, and last, but by no means least, beautiful Charlevoix, than which there is no more delightful summer resort and to which it will be the only rail line. Elk Rapids is also reached by a short branch from Williamsburg. For several miles the road skirts the shore, almost at the water's edge, of Little Traverse Bay, nearly the entire distance from Traverse City being a panorama of beautiful scenery. Our new Summer Book, now ready, will be sent to any address on application, and much information may be obtained from it regarding the Northern Resorts, and the advantages in reaching them possessed by the C. & W. M. and D. L. & N. lines. Through sleeping and parlor cars will be run during the summer between Chicago, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Petoskey, via Traverse City and Charlevoix.

Geo. DeHaven, Gen'l Pass'r Agent.

A hurricane in northern Germany was quite destructive of property. Berlin suffered to some extent.

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Revised List of Grange Supplies

Kept in the office of Sec'y of the Michigan State Grange

And sent out post-paid on receipt of Cash Order, over the Sec'y of a Subordinate Grange, and the signature of its Master or Secretary.

- Porcelain ballot marbles, per hundred, \$0 75
- Secretary's ledger, 85
- Secretary's record, 85
- Treasurer's orders, bound, per hundred, 35
- Secretary's receipts for dues, per hundred, 35
- Treasurer's receipts for dues, per hundred, 35
- Applications for membership, per hundred, 50
- Withdrawal cards, per dozen, 25
- Minutes, in envelopes, per dozen, 25
- By-Laws of the State Grange, single copies, 15
- 10c; per dozen, 75
- "Glad Echoes," with music, single copies, 2c; per dozen, 3 00
- Grange Melodist, 40c; per dozen, 4 00
- Opening Song Card, 2c each; 5c per 50; 10c, 1 35
- Rituals, 7th edition (with combined degrees), 2 75
- Rituals, 5th degree, set of nine, 1 80
- Rituals, Juvenile, single copy, 15
- Rituals, Juvenile, per set, 1 50
- Notice to delinquent members, per 100, 40
- American Manual of Parliamentary Law, 50
- Digest of Laws and Rulings, 25
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- Sample package co-operative literature, 15
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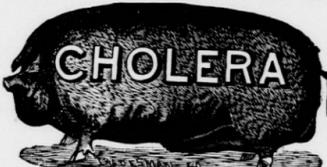
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Melette, S. D., Nov. 6, 1891.
Mr. Stekete:—Dear Sir—I send you \$1.50 for which send me three packages of your Hog Cholera Cure. I have used it on colts and sheep and am well pleased with your medicine. Yours truly, A. D. BELL.

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Dec. 13, '91.—Central Standard Time.

GOING NORTH.	No. 1	No. 3	No. 5	No. 7
Cincinnati, Lv	P. M. 8 10	A. M. 8 30	P. M. 8 50	A. M. 9 10
Richmond	2 20	10 55	11 35	—
Fort Wayne, Ar	6 00	2 15	3 05	—
Fort Wayne, Lv	—	2 35	3 25	8 05
Kalamazoo, Ar	—	6 05	7 00	11 50
Kalamazoo, Lv	3 45	6 25	7 20	12 10
Grand Rapids, Ar	5 15	8 10	9 20	2 00
Grand Rapids, Lv	7 05	10 30	11 30	4 15
Cadillac	11 00	—	—	9 10
Traverse City	—	—	6 35	10 45
Petoskey	—	—	5 45	8 25
Mackinaw, Ar	—	—	7 00	9 45
GOING SOUTH.	No. 2	No. 4	No. 6	No. 8
Mackinaw City, Lv	7 20	7 45	2 00	—
Petoskey	9 10	9 05	3 10	—
Traverse City	—	—	10 45	4 15
Cadillac	2 25	1 25	6 45	—
Grand Rapids, Ar	6 20	5 30	10 40	—
Grand Rapids, Lv	7 00	6 00	11 05	2 00
Kalamazoo, Ar	8 50	8 00	12 30	3 40
Kalamazoo, Lv	—	5 55	8 05	3 45
Fort Wayne, Ar	12 40	11 50	—	7 15
Fort Wayne, Lv	1 00	12 10	5 45	—
Richmond	4 20	3 40	9 15	—
Cincinnati, Ar	7 00	6 55	12 01	—
	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.

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AGENTS WANTED

To Canvass for THE GRANGE VISITOR

Third, in this country many people—not only the well-to-do, but those in moderate circumstances also—use a needless quantity of food; part of this excess, however, is simply thrown away, so that the injury to health, great as it may be, is doubtless much less than if all were eaten. The investigations here referred to confirm the general impression that we consume much more food than is required for our best nourishment, and that

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FROM POMONA.

INGHAM COUNTY.

At Felts Grange Hall, June 10 and 11, 1892, occurred an interesting meeting of the Ingham County Pomona Grange. Unusually pleasant weather prevailed and a goodly number of Patrons from all parts of the county were in attendance.

The meeting opened Friday evening in secret session for the conferring of the fifth degree and the transaction of business. Both sessions the following day were open to the public.

The morning session, June 11, opened with a song by the choir and prayer by the chaplain of Pomona Grange. A recitation was given by Jessie Clark, of Felts, after which the subject of "The Farmer vs. the Mechanic," was introduced in a paper read by Z. B. Dewey, of Fitchburg. The relation of these industries to each other, the educational advantages presented to each and the necessity of co-operation among all classes of laborers, received the attention of the writer.

After a lengthy discussion of this paper the audience was treated to a poem composed and read by Mrs. A. C. Lawrence, of Bunker Hill Grange, entitled, "The Old Year and the New, or 1891 and 1892."

Next in order came an essay by Jas. Webb, of Williamston, "The Farmer and his Home." The farmers first and highest ambition is to possess a home; second, to make and keep it pleasant and attractive. Many good points were brought out, of which space will not permit the repetition.

This paper was followed by a recitation by Miss Laura Call, of Fitchburg, which closed the morning session. All now being prepared each repaired to his or her allotted station at the dinner table which had been profusely spread by the kind sisters of Felts Grange.

The afternoon session opened with a song by the choir followed by a fifteen minutes talk by R. L. Hewitt, of Lansing. "Inventive Genius and its Effects on the Laboring Classes," was the principal theme. A paper on the subject of "The Grange," was then presented by J. H. Forster, of Williamston, mentioning the principal virtues of the Grange and giving a history of its origin, growth and development.

G. C. Davis, from the Agricultural College, was next on the program and interested the audience on the subject of "Hot Water as an Insecticide." This paper contained valuable information and led to the relating of various experiences by the members in attendance.

The editor of the Grange Visitor was present and spoke in praise of the Grange, also in favor of the paper he represents. The program having been completed the meeting was then declared closed, and with the feelings of satisfaction which attend those who have profitably improved their time the members wended their way to their respective homes with kind thoughts of Pomona Grange and the subordinate Grange with which they had met.

CARRIE M. HAVENS,
Secretary.

TRAVERSE DISTRICT.

Traverse Dist. Pomona Grange No. 17, met with Summit Grange on Wednesday, June 8th, 1892. Most of the visiting members arrived on the noon train. After a bountiful dinner and a short time spent in social greeting the Grange was opened in the fourth degree, Worthy Master L. M. Tompkins, in the chair. The address of welcome from Sister Wiley expressed in well chosen words the hearty welcome which every Patron of Summit City showed toward the visitors. Bro. Tompkins in his response said that the large number in attendance showed plainly that they knew they would be welcome.

The reports from subordinate Granges showed that they were in a prosperous condition and increasing in membership and interest.

Bro. J. G. Ramsdell, chairman of the executive committee of the State Grange, spoke in behalf of the GRANGE VISITOR and the plans which the committee have in view for increasing its circulation and placing it on a sound financial basis. He also spoke of "Farmers' Day" at Bay View and urged Patrons to attend.

The question of reviving dormant Granges and increasing the interest in Grange work throughout the district was discussed at some length and resulted in the appointment of a committee of one from each subordinate Grange to assist the special deputy in this work.

After a short recess the Grange listened to the reading of several very fine papers which were greatly enjoyed and freely discussed.

The open meeting in the evening was attended by a large number of people. The excellent music rendered by the choir, and the presence of the Kingsley cornet band added much to the interest of the occasion. "Does it pay," was the subject of a very interesting paper by Bro. E. H. Allyn, in which he argued that it does pay to employ improved methods of conducting farm operations. It pays to take proper care of tools and to employ help enough to do the work in proper time and in a proper manner. Bro. S. Kingsley's paper, "What to teach the Boys on the Farm," was highly enjoyed by the boys and appreciated by their parents. Several recitations, a poem by Bro. Phillip Rose and an exhibition by Mr. Manigold of his wonderful skill in the use of numbers closed the exercises.

On Thursday morning, June 9th, the Grange was called to order at 9 o'clock and a class of seven were instructed in the mysteries of the fifth degree.

Sister Isabel Kingsley then read a paper entitled "Good cooking essential to Happiness." She thought that all girls should be taught to be good housekeepers, and that no accomplishment could make up for a lack of knowledge in this direction. Bro. Rose read an interesting paper on "Political Parties," but for want of time no opportunity was given for discussion.

A resolution was passed recommending that the Patrons of every township in the district make an effort to have the schools in their respective townships unite in a grand celebration on the 12th of October in honor of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America.

A vote of thanks was tendered the Patrons of Summit Grange for their generous hospitality, and the Grange closed, all feeling that they had enjoyed a pleasant and profitable time and one that would long be remembered as a "bright spot in the web of life."

E. O. LADD,
Lecturer.

KENT COUNTY.

Kent County Pomona convened June 8 and 9 with Cannon Grange and had a very interesting and instructive session. The first order of exercises was dinner, which was finished by all present. These were from Harmony, Grat-tan, Whitneyville, Cascade and Rockford Granges. First subject for discussion was "Care of Orchards," and more particularly pruning. Any time in the year was claimed as a good time by some, others that February or March when not too cold, as bending the branches at that time was injurious. It was claimed that the timber became seasoned and firm and not liable to rot as when the tree was full of sap and bled badly, as would be the case later in the season. The latter part of June was said to be the best, as the wound soon healed and there was not much drainage of sap at that time.

Various remedies for injurious insects were given. The most effective for curculio seemed to be jarring the trees, or air slaked lime and dry ashes thrown into the trees when wet. Spraying with Paris green for apple enemies and for currant worms was the favorite.

"Haying" was the next subject for work, and like any other business various methods of procedure were given. Some would commence as soon as the clover blossoms began to turn, not cutting till the dew was off, cocking up quite green and sweating out for two days, then hauling—keeping close up at night that none was out to take the dew. Some claimed that any one can make hay all right in a dry season, but in a wet season is where the trouble comes, and to be successful you could not wait for the wet or dew to get off nor commence too early in the season. Wait till one-third or more of the heads are brown,

then go at it, put in the tedder and keep the grass moving and you would have your hay half made in a poor cloudy day while you were waiting for the dew to dry off before mowing. Wet weather demands close and lively work if you expect to make good hay. Some thought tedders were not paying machines.

A very instructive and interesting paper on "Botany" was given by Miss Myrtle Preston of Harmony Grange. The necessary steps to take for one to collect an herbarium and a large sample of her own work were given by the many cards containing specimens of various plants. The great pleasure and profit of botanical knowledge and the instruction gained therefrom might be obtained during the long winter evenings. It was thought that this subject ought to be introduced into our rural schools, that the children soon became much interested in the subject and gained information which was of great importance and use in after life. A good knowledge of how plants grow, enables one to so feed his land that he may influence their growth to a greater extent than to depend upon the changes of the moon to do it.

The benefits derived from the Grange were stated by various members. At the first organization of the Order the agriculturists were at the mercy of every other class of people who were organized for protection and advancement. The Patrons organized for the purpose of bringing down war prices by doing away with the middle man, but later they had turned their attention more to education and to legislative work, where they have made rapid strides.

They have succeeded in establishing a cabinet officer, fought the patent laws, drive-well and slide gate swindles, succeeded in introducing our breadstuffs where they were never used before, besides many other laws which were beneficial to all.

All this in the way of legislation has been accomplished by organization, and yet the Grange is not a political organization. Why cannot our Prohibitionists succeed in the same way?

The Order is very different from all other secret organizations as it was not selfish; its accomplishments were for the benefit of all, while others were only beneficial to their members. The agriculturists are over half of our population and could have things their own way, but instead of taking hold to help themselves they stand back and growl and find fault, when they have no one to blame but themselves.

Brother J. N. Dayton of M. E. church in Cannonsburg, though not a Patron, thought the Grange was doing about as much good in an educational and moral way as the churches, and he was much interested in the sessions of the Order.

Brother Ed. Campau, of Whitneyville Grange, told in a comical way, with his French accent, what the order had done for him, which was pleasing to all as it fulfilled Solomon's proverb, that "a merry heart doeth good as a medicine."

It was decided to have a grand county picnic at North Park in August, due notice of which will be given. Instructive speakers are to be obtained, and a good time had.

After a splendid dinner, served by Cannon Grange, Pomona adjourned, having enjoyed the session in spite of the heavy rain.

All the discussions were interspersed with music and songs, recitations, and other exercises, which made the session a good one.

OVERSEER.

NEWS NOTES.

MICHIGAN.

Calhoun county goes "wet" by 967 majority.

Prince Michael goes to Jackson prison for five years.

The University graduates a class of nearly 700 this year.

J. W. Waterman, the generous lawyer and capitalist of Detroit, is dead.

Jackson will have a quartette of big men the Fourth; Alger, Winans, Pingree, Rich.

Mt. Pleasant is to have a normal school. Prof. Bellows of Ypsilanti is to be its head.

The People's party convention at Lansing elected delegates to the national convention at Omaha, and adopted the

platform of the St. Louis convention of last February.

Senator James McMillan has presented Albion college with \$20,000 for a chemical laboratory.

The Michigan Supreme Court unanimously sustained the validity of the Miner electoral law.

Two serious railroad accidents in Michigan. One on the Big Four near Niles, the other on the C. & G. T. near Battle Creek.

Fifty-one warrants were issued in Detroit against saloon law violators. All but about 400 of Detroit's 1,200 saloons have paid their liquor taxes for the year beginning May 1, and the county treasurer has received \$290,500.

Here is a good example of partisan journalism—just a different point of view, you know:

From the Detroit Tribune: "For an Aggressive Campaign.—Belding, Mich., special, June 21.—A rousing republican club was organized here this evening. C. M. Wise was elected president. An aggressive campaign will be conducted from start to finish."

Grand Rapids Democrat: "A Little Campaign Club.—Belding, June 21.—A weak attempt was made to start a republican club tonight. About twenty attended out of six hundred in the township. Harrison's nomination killed all enthusiasm here."

NATIONAL.

Cyrus W. Field is very ill. Prohibition National Convention in session in Cincinnati.

The 29th the "Clevelands" kept open house at Buzzard's Bay.

Congress has done practically nothing for the past two weeks.

Thirteen killed and a number injured in a railroad accident in Harrisburg, Pa.

Congressmen Springer, Burrows and Watson discuss the pending presidential campaign through Democratic, Republican and People's party glances in the July ARENA.

The July LIPPINCOTT'S contains an interesting description of the Peary North Greenland expedition and the relief that is now organized. A chatty paper on "Canoe Life" will interest all lovers of outing.

The silver question is discussed in the July NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW under the caption of "What Shall the Ratio be?" Senators Stewart and Hansbrough, and Representatives Springer, Bland and Dalzell are the writers.

Edward Everett Hale has a very entertaining talk on "Making a Living," in the COSMOPOLITAN for July. He discusses the advisability of those dwellers in cities who at forty have small incomes, big families and discouraged hearts, going on to small farms to make—not money—but "a living."

"What shall the Ratio be?" The question that will engage the forthcoming International Conference, will be discussed in the July number of the North American Review, by Senator Stewart of Nevada, Representative Wm. H. Springer of Illinois, Senator H. C. Hansbrough of North Dakota, Representative R. P. Bland of Missouri, and Representative John Dalzell of Pennsylvania.

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