

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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

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WHOLE NO. 440.

THE COUNTY ROAD LAW.

An Abstract of Its Provisions.

Thinking that an abstract of the county road law would be useful in discussing the road question, we asked Hon. Wm. L. Webber to make us such an abstract. He also makes a few remarks concerning the value of the law.

The new constitutional provision which permits a county road system to be adopted, if the people of any county desire it, was adopted by the people of this state, and the legislature passed an act to provide for a county and township system of roads to be in force in such counties within this state as the people might desire.

An abstract of this act, showing the course of proceedings to put it in force, and the operations under it, is as follows:

SECTION 1. Provides that the board of supervisors may by a two-thirds vote of all the members of said board elected, submit the question of adopting the county system to all the electors in the manner prescribed by the act. And gives the form of resolution which should be adopted for that purpose, and authorizes a special election to be held, at which the people shall vote.

It will be observed that it requires a two-thirds vote of all the members of said board elect to submit this resolution—two-thirds of the members present would not be sufficient unless the board was full.

Sec. 2. Provides that at least three weeks shall intervene between the action of the board of supervisors and the date of holding the election, and prescribes the form of notice which shall be given, and the manner in which the vote shall be taken.

Sec. 3. Requires the clerk to cause the notice to be printed in the form of a handbill, to be posted and published in newspapers, and provides for the printing and distributing of ballots as in a general election; the question to be stated in said ballots being "Shall the county road system be adopted by the county of _____" and immediately below and on a different line shall be the word "yes" and the word "no." So that the voter can strike out such word as he does not wish to vote.

Sec. 4. Provides that if on canvass of voters a majority be in favor of the system then the county road system shall be considered as adopted in said county, and thereupon the provisions of this act and all other acts relative to such system shall be and become operative in said county.

Sec. 5. Provides that all elections under this act may be held on the first Monday of April, shall be considered general elections, and shall be held in all the cities, wards and townships except Wayne county, and that the ballots shall be prepared, distributed and canvassed as in cases of general elections.

Sec. 6. Provides that when the county road system shall have been adopted there shall be a board of county commissioners elected by the people in such county, and such board shall not exceed five in number, and the board of supervisors shall determine how many shall constitute the board.

Under this provision there shall be more than one commissioner, as it has been held that a board cannot consist of one person only. There cannot be more than five; so the board of supervisors can make it two, or three, or four, or five, as in their judgment is thought best.

These commissioners may be elected at a general election or a special election, as the board of supervisors may order.

The term of office of each of these commissioners will be fixed by the board of supervisors so that one will go out each year and his successor will be elected.

Sec. 7. Provides for the terms of office of the said commissioners, according as the number may be, more or less, so that there will be one each year to go out of office.

Sec. 8. Provides for filling vacancies in the office of commissioner by appointment of the board of supervisors until the next election.

This section also authorizes the board of supervisors to fix the compensation of these commissioners, except in Wayne county, where it is to be done by the board of auditors.

Sec. 9. Says that a majority of the board of commissioners shall constitute a quorum; authorizes this board to adopt rules and regulations for its own meetings, and for the transaction of its business, and the clerk of the county is to be clerk of said board of county road commissioners, and shall keep their records and preserve their files.

Sec. 10. Prohibits the clerk and every member of the board from being interested directly or indirectly, in any contract to be let by the board, or any property to be purchased or sold by the board, and requires accurate accounts to be kept of all disbursements, and authorizes the commissioners to employ superintendents and engineers, and to purchase the proper tools and material for their work.

Sec. 11. Authorizes the board of county road commissioners to lay out new roads within the county, and to change the width or the location or straighten the line of roads over which they may take jurisdiction; and authorizes private property to be taken for road purposes if necessary, upon making compensation therefor.

SECS. 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 provide for the condemnation of such private property and the method of proceeding.

Sec. 17. Authorizes the boards of county road commissioners of adjoining counties to unite in laying out a county line road if thought best.

Sec. 18. Provides that any road heretofore laid out or any part thereof shall become a county road if the board of county road commissioners shall at any time determine; and in passing through, or on the line between townships and incorporated villages, any streets or parts of streets of such village may be adopted as a county road, with the consent of the

proper authorities of such village or villages. It requires a vote of such commissioners to be taken by yeas and nays to be entered at large upon their minutes, and a notice of such determination to be given to the highway commissioner of each township in which such road may be situated, and also to be published in some newspaper in the county for three weeks. After such publication and notice it gives the board of county road commissioners exclusive jurisdiction over that road; and it is made the duty of the board of commissioners to give the road a name by which it shall be known in their proceedings.

Sec. 19. Authorizes the board to grade, drain, construct, gravel or macadamize or improve in any other way as they may think best all county roads, and gives them authority to construct bridges and culverts, and maintain and repair such roads, culverts and bridges on all county roads.

Sec. 20. Authorizes the board of county road commissioners on or before the first day of October in each year, to determine the amount of taxes to be raised for county road purposes. Such tax shall not exceed two dollars on each one thousand dollars of the assessed valuation, nor shall it in any case exceed one dollar on each one thousand dollars of such valuation without authority of board of supervisors previously given to assess a greater sum; requires the moneys to be collected and kept as a separate fund, and applied exclusively for the purpose of improving the roads.

Sec. 21. Prohibits the county road commissioners from contracting any indebtedness; and makes the county liable for damages that may accrue for its neglect to keep the roads in proper repair, the same as townships, cities and villages are made liable in that regard.

Sec. 22. Authorizes the board of supervisors, by a two-thirds vote, to submit the question to the people as to whether bonds shall be issued for the construction and maintenance of roads.

Sec. 23. All roads and bridges in townships will remain under the care and control of the township except such as the board of county road commissioners shall have declared to be county roads.

Sec. 24. Provides that in all cases where the county road system is not adopted, the township system, as heretofore in vogue, shall continue in force.

It will be observed that if the county system be adopted cities will pay ratably according to their assessment rolls, for the making and maintenance of all county roads within the county, the same proportion as the property in the township shall pay.

There is no provision in the law to authorize special assessments upon property specially benefited. The board of county road commissioners would have authority to make so many of the principal roads within the county into county roads, and the benefits to accrue to the different sections of the county would be thereby equalized.

One of the greatest, and, perhaps the greatest advantage which the friends of the county system have claimed for it, arises from the fact that it has been demonstrated by many years of experience that the making and repairing of highways is a matter of skill and calls for skilled labor as much as the making and repairing of railroads; and the friends of the county road system claim that the expenditure of the money under the control of the county road commissioners, who, it is presumed, will employ competent engineers to assume the direction and charge of the work, will give more than double the advantage and benefit to the people than could be given by the same money expended by the several overseers of highways, and in detached parcels throughout the county. Another advantage is that the outlying township can always procure a good road to the county seat through any other township which it may be necessary to cross. Under the township system the outlying township has no means of compelling good roads in a township which the people are obliged to cross to reach the county seat. The county road system will overcome this difficulty.

It will be observed that the act leaves the board of commissioners at liberty to maintain these county roads as earth roads or to improve them in any other manner which its means and its judgment may deem wisest, but these county roads are all to be kept safe and fit for travel so as to protect the county against liability for accidents.

In some counties it has been heretofore a large expense to some townships to make and maintain bridges across the several streams; under the county road system the county at large can take charge of the construction and maintenance of all those bridges, ensuring a cheaper and better construction and maintenance, and distributing the expense thereof over the whole county instead of having it borne by the township in which the bridge may be constructed.

PURE FOOD.

The Grange was instrumental in the last legislature, in aiding pure food legislation. This legislation merely took the form of providing for a dairy and food commissioner. So it may be of interest and profit to Patrons if we mention the leading provisions of the existing laws on this subject, in this state.

A law passed in 1873 prohibits the sale of watered and skimmed milk, or milk from which the "strippings" have been held back; milk from cows fed on the refuse of distilleries or breweries, or from any diseased animal; and the use of any deleterious substance in the manufacture of cheese or butter. The penalty is a fine of from \$10 to \$100, or 90 days in jail.

In 1881 there was framed a statute against frauds in the sale of butter. Any one who offered for sale any oleomargarine or butterine, or any "substance in semblance of butter not the legitimate product of the dairy, and not made exclusively of milk and cream," must offer the same in packages plainly labeled with the proper name of the product, and must also furnish the purchaser with a label also bearing the name of the product. Penalty, \$10 to \$100 fine, with costs, or 5 to 30 days in jail, or both fine and imprisonment.

Section 9316 of Howell provides against the sale of unwholesome products and the next section states: "If any person shall fraudulently adulterate, for the purpose of sale, any substance intended for food, or any wine, spirits, malt liquor, or other article intended for drinking, he shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not more than one year, or by fine not exceeding three hundred dollars, and the article so adulterated shall be forfeited and destroyed."

Another law passed in 1881 provides that when any person shall mix, color, stain, or powder any article of food, drink, or medicine, with any other ingredient or material; "he must properly label the same with name and ingredients." The same act prohibits the mixing of glucose, grape sugar, or oleomargarine with any article of human food, or its sale, unless properly labeled; also designates the prosecuting attorneys to appear for the people. The penalty is not over \$50 fine, or not exceeding three months in jail.

In 1885 there was enacted a law providing against the sale of compounded or manufactured honey, not so labeled, with a fine of \$10 to \$25 for the first offense, and for subsequent violations a fine of \$25 to \$50, less than three months in jail or both.

An act of 1887 covers the sale and use of oleomargarine. Any one selling it as butter commits a misdemeanor and is liable to a fine of from \$25 to \$200, or by imprisonment in jail or in the state house of correction 90 days to one year, or both. Any hotel or eating house using oleomargarine or butterine as butter comes under the same penalty. The presence of the false butter is *prima facie* evidence of violation. To escape the provisions of the law, the proprietors of stores and eating houses selling or using butterine must display a plain sign, "oleomargarine or butterine sold or used here."

Various laws passed in 1886 and subsequently, provide against the sale of unwholesome, watered, adulterated, or impure milk. The addition of water or ice is made an adulteration. Milk must have 12.50 per cent of milk solids, 3 per cent of fat, and a specific gravity at 60° of 1.029 to 1.033, or it will be deemed adulterated. Skimmed milk will be considered as adulterated, if not possessing a specific gravity of 1.032 to 1.037. It provides for the testing of milk by inspectors, and a test showing adulteration is *prima facie* evidence of violation. Severe penalties are provided.

A law of 1889 prohibits the manufacture and sale of adulterated vinegar. Pure vinegar must have no artificial coloring matter, must have 4% of acetic acid, and 1 1/2 per cent of cider vinegar solids. Adulterated vinegar must not be sold or exposed for sale. Cider vinegar or fruit vinegar must be so branded on the cask containing it. The violation of this law is a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine of

not less than \$50, or more than \$100 and costs, or by 90 days in jail.

The legislature of 1893 provided against the adulteration of maple sugar and syrup. When common sugar, beet sugar, or glucose is used, the article must be so labeled. Any one selling the same is liable to a fine of not less than \$50 and the manufacturer may be fined from \$500 to \$1,000.

By a law of 1893 there was also created the office of dairy and food commissioner. His salary is \$1,200 per year and necessary traveling expenses. The professor of chemistry at the Agricultural College is made state analyst. But not more than \$1,000 a year can be spent for analyses and clerk hire. It is the duty of the commissioner

"to carefully inquire into the quality of the dairy and food and drink products and the several articles which are the necessary constituents of foods which are offered for sale in this state, and when he has reason to believe that any such articles, foods or products are adulterated, impure or unwholesome, he shall procure samples of the same and direct the state analyst to make due and careful examination of the same and report his finding thereon. If it shall appear from such report that the article, food, food and drink product, or dairy product, is adulterated, impure or unwholesome, in contravention of the statutes relative thereto, it shall be the duty of the commissioner to make complaint against the manufacturer or vendor thereof, in the proper county, and furnish the prosecuting attorney with the evidence thereon to obtain a conviction for the offense charged.

"It is the duty of prosecuting attorneys to prosecute to completion all suits brought by the dairy and food commissioner under the several statutes relative to the adulteration of food, and the sale of impure or unwholesome food or food products."

The commissioner says in his report:

"Having deemed it best to begin the work of investigation first with the manufacturers of adulterated food products, I experienced some difficulty in tracing the specimens for analysis, which could be definitely traced to their sources. Manufacturers of such products are unwilling to admit strangers to their places of business and the commissioner is armed with no authority of law to demand entrance. But almost invariably the samples secured, as will be seen by the report of the state analyst hereto attached, have proved to be what they were suspected of being—unfit compounds to be taken into the human stomach. The results shown by the work of the state analyst, under the direction of this department, have already justified the creation of the office of dairy and food commissioner, and have demonstrated the necessity of more thorough and energetic work than can be accomplished under the laws of the state as they now exist.

"No prosecutions for the violation of the laws were begun during last year. I felt it to be the best policy to call the attention of the people to the evils of food adulteration and to awaken, so far as possible, a strong sentiment in favor of the enforcement of the laws which had been allowed to slumber so long, before resorting to the harsher measures of prosecution. Deeming the manufacturer as primarily the most guilty party, since he always knows the unlawful composition of his products while the dealer may sell them innocently, and knowing that any attack made upon him would be vigorously resisted, I wished to have the matter of proof well in hand before making any complaints. One prosecution imprudently begun and abandoned or lost would do more harm than a little delay. This department must not be defeated in its first attempts. To lose some cases after the department is well established and has won the confidence of the people for prudence and effective work will do no harm, but to suffer an ignominious defeat at the outset would be disastrous."

The chief recommendations of the commissioner are—

1. A system, not complex or expensive, of factory inspection; the idea being to prevent adulterations. This would require district inspectors. It is argued that this inspection would be particularly valuable in cheese factories, as cheese that has been inspected and properly branded will find readier sale.

2. The commissioner should be given the right to take samples wherever found.

3. Also the right to seize and confiscate adulterated products. The legislature should establish standards of purity and any product falling below the standard should be a fraud.

4. The analyst's certificate should be made *prima facie* evidence in court.

Members of the Grange sometimes forget the obligation they have taken and lose sight of the fraternity of the Order in their dealings with and relation to other members, and it is not strange that this should be so, but members should think twice before they speak or act in a hasty manner, and remember the golden rule which is especially applicable under such conditions.—Grange Homes.

The sire or dam of a herd can not do everything towards profitable swine breeding.

Field and Stock.

POTATOES AS A SPECIALTY.

H. P. GLADDEN.

Farmers as a class are conservative; they are slow to change opinions. Viewed from a political standpoint it is well that this is so. Many a scheme of the politician has failed because it could not secure the support of the farmers. Does not this same spirit of conservatism, valuable as it may be in state and national affairs, act to prevent the farmer adopting new methods in agriculture? The large proportion of farmers are content to do as their fathers have done before them—try to do a little in every branch of farming. They plant a few acres of wheat, oats, corn, potatoes. They raise a few vegetables for market, set out a few fruit trees. They raise some of each kind of stock, make a little butter, and sell a few eggs.

Is the farmer, by following in the footsteps of his father, making the most of his opportunities? Has he kept abreast of the merchant and the manufacturer in adapting himself as best he could to the changed conditions? Cheap and rapid transportation facilities have made it impossible for some farmers to raise certain crops in competition with those whose farms are much better suited to those crops. Also, competition has become so strong and the margin of profit so close, that a farmer can no longer afford to spread himself over so many branches. The average farmer has not enough brains and executive ability to be successful in all lines of farming. Have enough general work to keep yourself and teams well employed throughout the year; then select some special crop to which the farm, location, and your own abilities are best adapted, and to this crop give your best study and energy.

At present there seems to be an unusual interest in many sections of the country on the potato question. The low prices of grain crops have caused the farmer to turn his attention to something else. The price of potatoes for several seasons past has been high enough for the grower to realize a fair profit for his labor. Many farmers are considering the advisability of increasing their potato acreage.

WILL POTATO RAISING BE OVERDONE?

Before undertaking a specialty there should be a preparatory period. All the information obtainable on the subject should be had. The capabilities of the farm and how to get it ready for the required crop should receive much attention. The specialty should not be dropped until a thorough trial for a number of years has shown it to be unprofitable. Ninety-nine out of a hundred who will increase their potato acreage will not give the crop the care and attention necessary for profitable results. They will engage in the work temporarily, and the first failure to meet expectations will cause them to turn their attention to something else.

For one who will study well the subject and who has a farm adapted to the crop, the growing of potatoes is an inviting specialty. The soil should be such as can readily be made loose and fine, and one that will admit of deep plowing. It should not be too light to hold moisture and fertilizing elements. To increase the potato crop will not call for a radical change in the system of farm management.

Perhaps there is no crop that pays so well for thoroughness in working it or will show the effect of neglect sooner than potatoes. This is one good reason for making it a specialty. The importance of having good seed cannot be overestimated. This point would receive proper attention by the specialist. By growing a large acreage of potatoes the capabilities of the farm and the farmer can be concentrated. The grower can give the attention when needed, and can have all the tools necessary to the best culture and harvesting of the crop, and will produce at a good profit where the ordinary grower will make little or nothing.

Agricultural College.

FARMERS' ACCOUNTS.

M. T. COLE.

Perhaps there is no branch of farm economy so much neglected as the matter of keeping accounts. It hardly seems possible, and yet very many farmers keep no account at all except in their head—as they term it. The head may be all right, but it is not a trusty place to keep accounts, hardly over night. Some keep no book account, but trust to slips of paper. Often the home has to be searched to find these same slips of paper. In too many cases they are not found at all and then trouble is liable to follow.

Can we hope to call ourselves business men while we are so negligent in this matter of keeping accounts? I often use this argument to prove that farming pays: What other business could be conducted so carelessly with so few failures?

When I commenced farming I commenced keeping an account of all sales and expenditures and have so continued all

the way through. Also a memorandum of time of planting, harvesting, and other notes of importance, such as exceptional weather, late frosts in spring, and early frosts in the fall. Many times when the season is either too wet or too dry, too cold or too warm, it seems to take out the wrinkles to look back and find that other years have been as bad if not worse. If prices are very low I look back and find that other years have had low prices. I must confess, however, that I have looked in vain to find any similar record of prices on wheat, wool, and horses. Maybe some of our old timers could give us some pointers, but I can't.

For individual accounts I keep an indexed journal so they can readily be found. If I am from home my wife or other members of the family can attend to any business, very often just as well as when I am at home.

All accounts with hired help for past years have been preserved. They may never be referred to, and yet they might prove of much importance.

The Grange should teach with emphasis this question of keeping farm accounts. Officers of the Grange should set the example by always keeping their Grange accounts in perfect order. Nothing injures a Grange so much as to have their officers keep uncertain accounts.

Perhaps the boys and girls would be more willing to stay on the farm if the business was conducted more systematically.

Palmyra.

Farm Accounts.

In response to the following questions sent to a number of farmers we have letters that will give a fair idea of the prevalence of the practice of keeping farm accounts. The questions were: 1. Do you keep farm accounts? 2. If so, to what extent? 3. Is it satisfactory? 4. If you do not keep them, why not?

WM. BALL, HAMBURG: At certain times I have kept farm accounts, but as a rule have not; the reason being indifference or carelessness, induced probably by too much work in other directions. In answering your questions you oblige me to expose methods not to be recommended. It would be well for farmers to keep strict account of their receipts and expenditures as a preventive to extravagance as well as correct business methods. One reason for neglect of this important feature in farm economy is due, I think, to the fact that the farmer does not have to rely upon book accounts for his purchases and sales as do men in other business, useful though it may be.

F. HART SMITH, SOMERSET: In answer to your questions I would say: 1. Not as a rule. 2. Occasionally of some particular crop; or the fitting of a lot of cattle, sheep, or hogs for market. 3. It depends on which side the sheet the balance figures come. 4. Indolence or want of time. I think the former the most correct answer.

H. H. DRESSER, LITCHFIELD: In reply to yours: 1. I keep book accounts of receipts and expenses. 2. To the extent of where the money comes from and what becomes of the same. 3. Yes, quite. Could not get along without it. It would be much more satisfactory to know what each crop costs to raise. I have never kept account with any crop but corn one year. I found that my corn cost me 14 cents per bushel of ears that year.

C. S. KING, THORNTON: 1. I do keep farm accounts and have for about 25 years. 2. I book everything sold, the article, and to whom sold. I book everything in the shape of expense, mentioning every article, where bought, always explaining what the money went for, always giving dates. 3. No, not exactly satisfactory and yet it does very well. This plan tells me at the end of the year very near how I stand with my business. What I leave out is this, I do not weigh out the flour and butter, and measure the milk and cream used in the family. I know about the pork and potatoes very closely, and then some fruit, garden sauce, and such like, I do not put on the book. To make the bookkeeping complete, all such things should come in the account. This makes considerably more work. The plan which I have adopted I think does quite well. At the close of the year my accounts are all balanced and I know very nearly how I stand, and everything is so arranged on my book that I can tell at a glance what I have paid out for farm help, for machinery, and for sugar, tea, coffee, dry goods, etc., and also how much it has cost me per bushel to raise wheat, potatoes, oats; and I usually take an inventory at the beginning of every year, lately. This I think a good plan.

M. W. SCOTT, HESPERIA: 1. I do, but have often found it a difficult matter to keep a debit and credit account with the farm, and also with the several fields and their respective crops; so much of it of necessity being "estimates" and "guess

work,"—such as the cost of fertilizers, clover and manure, the "wear and tear" of tools, machinery, etc. 2. A "general account" of all crops, farm receipts, expenditures and balances. Also a "journal" of general farm matters, including weather, dates of seeding, cultivation and harvesting, product and average yield per acre, and cash results, weight of stock, age and price when sold, etc. 3. In some respects it is. But for the last 20 years under a constantly falling "gold standard" prices, I have found it necessary to be very careful in making the figures or the balance would be sure to be against me. This you know is never satisfactory. With the wheat crop the balance is not only not satisfactory, but it fairly frightens me. I think I might safely put the wool crop on the same list. Perhaps some of my brother farmers may be able to help me out in making the figures? However I would never try to farm it without keeping farm accounts.

We have below some very brief replies that will nevertheless aid in showing what the practice is. In a few cases the correspondents did not sign their names, but we think we have made no error in attributing replies to the proper ones.

JAS. TAYLOR, HOLLY: I have kept accounts to the extent of everything bought and sold and have found it works well.

If farmers would accustom themselves to keeping accounts of their expenses they might be better prepared to meet hard times.

JACKSON VOORHEIS, HOLLY: I keep account of articles bought and sold. It is satisfactory and every farmer should keep a strict account. Then he will know the profit and loss, and will be better prepared to plan for his interest the coming year.

JOHN MCKAY, ROMEO: The only account that I keep is a cash account of my whole receipts and disbursements. Then I know in a general way at the end of the year how much I have made or lost.

OMAR D. DILLS, DEWITT: I keep farm accounts to the full extent and think it pays.

PERRY MAYO, BATTLE CREEK: I used to keep farm accounts, complete in all details, but do not now. It was too much trouble.

E. S. BURNETT, BANCROFT: I keep cash and business accounts. Satisfactory.

A. D. SAXTON, EATON RAPIDS: I keep accounts of all receipts and expenditures, but not with each crop. This system is better than no system, in my opinion, but this year I expect to keep account with each crop.

JOHN LESSITER, COLE: I keep partial accounts; all sales from the farm, all purchases, and amounts paid for labor. The accounts are all right enough, but at the present time are not financially profitable or very entertaining.

BARNARD PARISH, FLAT ROCK: Keep quite complete accounts, and would not do differently.

SWINE NOTES.

A. H. WARREN.

Proper feeding and care of a young sow with her first litter is an important factor as regards her future usefulness as a breeder.

The different breeds and the purposes for which they are bred enables any farmer to select a breed that will meet his wants. Any of the improved breeds can be made more profitable than scrubs.

When the pigs begin to follow the sow around in the lot, increase her feed until she gets all she will eat up clean, three times a day.

Look closely after the farrowing sow and little pigs, for now is the critical period, and cuts quite a figure for either profit or loss.

If you raise or buy feed for your hogs, don't try and see how long you can make it last. Feed the pigs regularly all they will eat up clean. No man ever grew profitable pork who fed sparingly, as there is no profit in stinting the feed now in order to have a supply later.

If I find the pigs show signs of scours, I change the feed of the dam. If rich food has been fed, change to pure water and oats for a few feeds. At the same time keep the bedding clean and dry, always using wheat straw when it can be had; the use of oat straw as bedding should always be avoided as it draws moisture, and is I believe injurious to pigs.

When I find that the pig show indications of thumps, I give a more laxative food to

the dam, and compel the little fellows to take exercise at least twice a day, as it is indigestion and being over fat, caused by too little exercise and too strong feeds. But should this disease get a thorough hold on the pig, the best and surest way to effect a cure is with a club.

Ovid.

BETTER THAN WHEAT RAISING.

WM. A. OLDS.

ROCKY COMFORT FARM,
April 12, 1894.

I will write briefly of my own experience as proprietor, gardener, and salesman of my small business. For a few years past I have thought there was something more suited to my taste than raising wheat and peddling hay. But as there are but few of us who can afford to follow a business simply because we like it, our efforts must bring us material returns. That is the reason why I was so long thinking of the matter before I ventured.

In the year of 1891 I purchased four acres of land, one acre of which could be worked, the rest were covered with cattails and bullrushes, and a portion was covered with water sometimes three feet deep.

With a money expense of \$50, and some hard work, the land was drained, plowed twice that year, and planted to potatoes and turnips. In the spring of 1893 I began gardening. Nearly every one who knew what I was at became interested. Any amount of advice and criticism I received from the passers by; but I worked away at the garden. Now I will give you the results, also a chance for any of your readers to ask questions.

GARDEN ACCOUNT, DR.

Interest on \$50, cost of 3 acres of land.....	\$9 00
Taxes and fence repairs.....	2 00
Manure.....	5 00
Wear on tools.....	2 00
Seed.....	4 75
Insecticides.....	2 45
Advertising.....	3 00
Use of market wagon, measures, and baskets.....	5 00
Labor, \$1.00 for man, \$2.50 for team.....	97 00
	\$130 26

GARDEN ACCOUNT, CR.

Green onions.....	\$54 00
Potatoes.....	7 52
Sweet corn.....	29 04
Corn stalks.....	4 00
Cabbage plants.....	4 75
Squashes.....	4 54
Cabbage.....	8 60
Onions.....	30 00
Tree onion sets.....	5 00
Onion sets.....	63 00
Ruta bagas.....	9 35
Carrots.....	42 00
Parsnips.....	20 00
Turnip beets.....	13 24
Strawberry bed.....	5 00
Receipts.....	\$300 04
Expenses.....	130 26
Profit.....	\$169 78

Receipts per acre.....	\$100 01
Expense per acre.....	43 42
Net profit per acre.....	\$56 59

Or as the team work was paid for in hand labor at \$1.00 per day, the amount of my work and the net profit divided by the number of days gives me \$2.75 per day for my time. Let me say that I have only just begun, and think a net profit of \$100 per acre is possible. This year I will add two acres to my garden and have a forcing house 12x26 feet for starting plants.

Okemos.

THE GRANGE

Invites every farmer, his wife, sons and daughters to become members and workers. It offers you the most practical advantages for a broader and more useful field of action.

It is to day the only farmers' organization that has preserved its national character.

It has demonstrated its ability to live for nearly 30 years, and is stronger today in influence and good works than ever before.

By its conservative course it commands the respect of all classes.

It is equipped with all of the essentials for complete concentration of forces, commencing with the local Grange, then to the county, state, and national.

It is a complete success for social and mental improvement.

It furnishes unexcelled opportunities for parliamentary practice and the discussion of questions relative to home and farm.

Through it farmers may influence favorable legislation and set right many of the evils of which they complain.

Through it farmers may co-operate for financial advantages in many ways.

The financial expense of the Grange is reduced to a minimum.

The treasury of the Grange, from subordinate to national, is in a sound and substantial condition; and is ample to pay the expenses of all meetings, and such sums as seem necessary for purposes of interest to agriculture.

The Grange is a good and useful organization.

It has passed safely over the rocks upon which most other farmers' organizations have foundered.

There should be a Grange in every country community, and supported by the best farmers as willingly as they do their churches and schools.

Will you, as a progressive, thinking farmer, take an active part with your neighbors and join us in the Grange movement?

GEO. B. HORTON.
Master of State Grange.

Woman's Work.

BE MY SWEETHEART.

[The first love-song ever written by Mr. Field.]
Sweetheart, be my sweetheart
When birds are on the wing,
When bee and bud and babbling flood
Bespeak the birth of spring;
Come, sweetheart, be my sweetheart
And wear this posy-ring!

Sweetheart, be my sweetheart
In the mellow golden glow
Of earth aflush with the gracious blush
Which the ripening fields foreshow;
Dear sweetheart, be my sweetheart,
As into the moon we go!

Sweetheart, be my sweetheart
When falls the bounteous year,
When fruit and wine of tree and vine
Give us their harvest cheer;
Oh, sweetheart, be my sweetheart,
For winter it draweth near.

Sweetheart, be my sweetheart
When the year is white and old,
When the fire of youth is spent, forsooth,
And the hand of age is cold:
Yet, sweetheart, be my sweetheart
Till the year of our love be told!

Eugene Field in the March Ladies' Home Journal.

MICHIGAN.

[Written by Mrs. Rose Hartwick Thorpe, author of "Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight," and read by her at the Michigan day exercises at the Midwinter Fair, San Francisco.]

With face looking full in the face of the sun,
With breath of the pines, and the lilac new blown,
Our Michigan sits like a queen on the throne,
Where true worth has placed her. Her laurels all won
By patient endeavor through wearisome years;
By slow, but sure progress; hope conquering fears.

No indolent child of the tropics is she,
But strong as the north winds that sweep o'er her breast,
She garners new strength through ambitious unrest.
With muscles firm-fashioned, heart loyal and free,
She sits in her daisy-decked mantle of state,
A sea at her eastern and westernmost gate.

Where Pontiac fought for his people's birthright,
Grand forests have bowed, mighty waters been spanned;
The elk, beaver, and deer deserted the land
When civilization advanced in her might.
The wigwam has vanished, and temples of art,
Like blossoms, have grown out of Michigan's heart.

Long past are her venturesome days of romance;
Her cowslip grown marshes are meadows of grain;
Her orchards are countless on hillside and plain,
From log hut to mansion her dwellings advance,
With churches magnificent, schools at the van;
Abreast of the times is our own Michigan.

To the needs of the world she opens her breast,
At the call she yields the rich ore of her mines.
She has wealth in factories, orchards, and pines;
In manifold blessings, abundantly blest,
Successfully crowned with snow-garlands and flowers,
What state can excel her, this mother of ours?

We have come to the land where the sun goes down,
Where a continent bends to th' kiss of the sea;
Where winters are verdant and summers are brown;
We bask in its sunshine, but loyal are we
To Michigan, home of our childhood afar,
All honor to her for the best that we are.

WOMAN'S WORK.

It is designed that each of the graces that presides over our Grange meetings shall have one meeting of her own this coming year; when all the arranging, planning, and providing may be their work. If it pleases you Patrons, we would like that the Floras of each Grange shall have charge of the May day meeting, the first meeting you hold in May.

It is too early for very many flowers, but a few house plants and what flowers are available may serve to brighten and adorn the Master's table as also the table in front of Flora.

We know of one good matron, intent upon doing all the good she can, to everybody she can, who brought to one Grange meeting at least three quarts of hyacinth bulbs at an autumn meeting; and that one kind distribution of roots spread fragrance and delight over a wide area of country and brightened many front yards. Would it not be a good plan at this May meeting to bring our extra garden and flower seeds that we may not need, and exchange them or give them to our neighbor? And any extra variety of seed corn or potatoes that we have to spare, let it be on exhibition and sale if any one wants it.

Let our Granges stand for a mutual benefit society, and by sharing of our best in seeds, plants, and roots, we may thereby enhance the beauty and comfort of our homes.

PROGRAM FOR MAY DAY MEETING.

May, and some of the old time customs of the month.
Flowers in front yards or vegetable gardens, which?
Care of the farmer's lawn.
"The May Queen"—Tennyson—Recitation.
How I intend to care for my corn fields.

MARY A. MAYO.

LEAVES FROM OLD OAKS.

OLD OAKS FARM.

April 16.—Some things properly belong to April. For example, "setting hens." Their fitness lies in the contrast of fickleness, inconstancy, and unrest on the part of the weather, and the persistent persistence and stolid obduracy on the part of the hen. We are experiencing some experience with both, these days.
Insatiable progress indicates that the hen that wishes to hatch and train her own chicks after simply hen notions, must go

into the background with the sickle and cradle, the fire-place and the dasher churn. Incubators, brooders, and chicken standards are bound to rob poultry raising of its picturesque and poetic features. A common-place egg producing hen is prose. It is not until she is a fussy, fidgety, fluffy round of motherly anxiety and industry, with a dozen or so fuzzy satellites circling about her, that one's thought of her breaks into rhythmic motion and all the finest feelings for perfect domesticity are stirred. We still have some of these relics of pioneer life adorning our back yard. Neighbors may reap the profit, but we go on with the pleasure and poetry of the business.

What variety of form and feathering is banished from the door yard since farm fashion decreed that each flock ought to show some distinct lineage. It matters not if it is Hamburg or Houdan, Langshan or Leghorn, Cochon or Brahma, Plymouth Rock or Wyandotte, so it is not all in one. Flocks in "assorted colors" are out of date; instead they must be as monotonous compared to their former glory, as a modern lawn is beside an old fashioned flower bed. Where is the "red chanticleer" of poetry, and where the ringed, streaked, and speckled hen of past memory?

But nature, be it in human or hen, is everywhere much the same. My conclusions came from watching the hens today. I had in mind how thousands of New York women are going on with their house cleaning, letting down of little gingham dresses and patching knickerbockers, while a handful of their number are going up and down the state insisting that they all want the ballot and must have it. There is never a protest from the mass, and pretty soon the thing will be forced upon them. I saw a busy yellow hen making the grit fly for twenty prospective broilers, knowing nothing but to stop their ravenous bills, and to hover and cuddle and "curr-r-r" to them between feeds and I thought, "How like!"

What cares the yellow hen for egg machines and hot water brooders? Not a whit! And yet they are on her track. She must succumb. Yes, my yellow "Primrose," I fear your indifference amounts to acquiescence! I watched her desperate activity, her strain of nerve and muscle, the scattering sand after the quick dash of her beak, her total oblivion to the "larger, higher world about her," even content that her liege consort should step superbly by in his dapper, glossy coat and leave the monotony of scratching to her. How all her frenzied fears for her babies' safety, her frantic scrabbling for their worms are as nothing compared to their welfare under machine mothering when it comes to a score of lucre. Verily that is the root of all evil when it thus discounts domestic instincts.

Like hen, like women! They are not even like

"The man who said 'Fools!'
And opposed reforms, railroads and schools;
He stood in the way,
But the train did not stay,
It ran over the man who said 'Fools!'"

Some women do not even take interest enough to "call names," but their fate is likely to be the same as if they each one separately cried "Fools." They should band together and raise a chorus of "Fools." The truth is, I suspect, that the touchstone of organization has not been applied to some women any more than to any hens, and the inroads on domestic life, as they cherish it, do go on. RUTH L. RESTLY.

FAITHFULNESS TO DUTY.

(Read at Hillsdale Pomona by Miss Lucy Conklin.)

In whatever occupation of life we may engage our ultimate success depends almost entirely upon our fidelity and adherence to the duties which it imposes. "Life is no speculative adventure with those who feel its value; on the other hand, it has a deeper purpose, and its path becomes distinct and easy in proportion as it is earnestly and faithfully pursued."

As in the occupation of life, so it is in our Grange duties; we are successful in so far as we are faithful to its teachings. From the very beginning of creation it has been loyalty to duty or disloyalty, and today there is no variance. Are we as Patrons anxiously and carefully embodying its principles in our lives? Are we faithfully performing the many little duties of today entrusted to us? Are we faithfully improving the precious moments and hours that an all wise hand is meting out to us for a few fleeting years? Or, on the other hand, are we allowing the valuable moments of time to be swept by unthought of and unnoticed? God grant not, for these are opportunities and responsibilities which God has entrusted to us and which call for wisdom, discretion, and intelligence of no ordinary standard, and the use of them reaches through time and through eternity. Seek not your own happiness. Seek the road toward which duty points, let that be your object always, and happiness will find you, and will make her home with you forever. Seek her, like a will-o'-the-wisp, she flees from you, ever just in sight but beyond your grasp. Forget, ignore her, while following the path that duty points out to you, and she will soon find you. There is no such thing as abiding, all

enduring happiness, only such as comes from the consciousness of duty well done, contentment with our surroundings, a cheerful spirit, and a firm determination to do right.

COURAGE NEEDED.

Bravery is an essential characteristic for people who would be faithful to duty. Life is not a playground but a battle field, and people are needed who are brave; then

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose firm,
Dare to make it known.

Brave are they who, recognizing their duty, will follow the dictates of conscience at whatever the cost; follow it amid the scoffs and frowns of the proud, heartless world, and lend a helping hand to an erring one. Brave are they who dare to do right when it is not popular, regardless of what society will do or say; who have more anxiety to please God than man, and would rather hear the masters' "well done" than the applause of fastidious multitudes.

Are we looking into the future expecting glorious results, while the present seems unpleasant, and with the dawning of each day and hour does the dread duty increase more and more? If these are the habits that are controlling us in the present, our expectations will be in vain, and life's light will be wafted out, leaving only dreads and unpleasantness. Therefore let us Patrons be loyal, faithful and upright, and constant, for the harvest of autumn and the repose of winter depends entirely upon the faithful performance of duty in the spring and summer of life.

Let us so live, that when the Great Master shall garner in the sheaves, we shall be numbered among those who have remembered the pass-word into that eternal city, which was whispered to us by divine lips: "He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

PICKINGS.

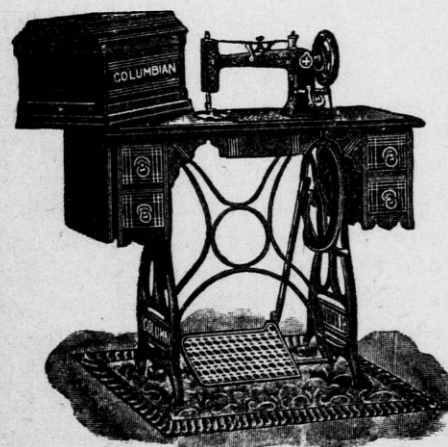
Mrs. Mayo's list of suggested topics in the last VISITOR is helpful. Thank you.

While comparisons may be odious out of place, they serve a lively purpose in programs for mixed companies sometimes. The following subjects of that sort have lately come to my notice: "Whose work is harder, man's or woman's, considering the strength of each?" "What portions of the indoor work should men do?" "What part of the outside work should a woman do?" "Who are more extravagant, men or women?" "Are brothers the best critics of a sister's faults?" Is a sister the best judge of a brother's virtues?

May we not have more of Sweet Briar's Grange's doings? Judging from the "pronunciation social" that she reported, there must be much original material in its make up. If she is the rose that used to bloom in the VISITOR, she received a double welcome from many who recall her, I am sure, and who hope she will be very generous of her fragrance again. J. B.

Those who "lay out" the work of the Subordinate Grange should study the declaration of purposes of the Order and should also know what has been done by the Grange in the past as well as what their State and their National Grange is working to accomplish at the present time. If they are ignorant of these or ignore them their Grange might as well be a one-horse farmers' club so far as its being any benefit to the organization is concerned.—Grange Homes.

Do You Want a Sewing Machine?



If you want to get a first-class Machine and don't want to pay double price for it, write for particulars about a good Machine at a low price, to

THE GRANGE VISITOR,
Lansing, Mich.

IT IS FIRST-CLASS.

Pittsford Mich., March 29, 1894.

EDITOR VISITOR—We received the Columbia sewing machine all right and it meets with our entire approval. We believe it to be equal to any of the high priced machines, doing all kinds of work in the best manner possible.

Yours respectfully,
JAMES COUSINS.

The Juveniles.

LITTLE ETHEL'S FINGER STORY.

Five little sheep stood under a tree,
The first one said, "Come, follow me;"
The second one said, "Let's keep in line;"
The third one said, "That will be fine;"
The fourth one said, "We're coming fast;"
The fifth one said, "I am the last;"
So after their leader they ran until
They came to a fence where they all stood still.
—Selected.

THE BLUE-BIRD'S SONG.

I know the song the blue-bird is singing,
Up in the apple tree where he is swinging,
Brave little fellow! The skies may look dreary,
Nothing cares he while his heart is so cheery,
"Daffodils! daffodils! say, do you hear?
Summer is coming and spring time is here!"

Hark, how the music leaps out from his throat,
Hark, was there ever so merry a note?
Listen awhile and you'll hear what he is saying,
Up in the apple tree swinging and swaying,
"Daffodils! daffodils! say, do you hear?
Summer is coming and spring time is here!"

"Dear little blossoms down under the snow,
You must be weary of winter I know,
Hark, while I sing you a message of cheer,
Summer is coming and spring time is here!
Daffodils! daffodils! say, do you hear?
Summer is coming and spring time is here!"

GENTLEMAN BROWN.

Brown was simply a large dog, who was so strong, so fearless, so intelligent, and so active in affairs that he was considered the champion of the town.

He could thrash any dog round about and always did it when it was necessary.

But he was extremely kind and benevolent. He showed great kindness to tramp dogs, and protected many a wretched little vagabond, and saw him safely out of the town in good condition.

One day he brought a specially bad specimen home with him. He came into the house and into the dining room, where the family were at dinner, the wretched little tramp dog at his heels.

He looked up at his master, wagging his tail, asking for something to eat. A plate of food was set down, and the little dog snatched at it ravenously. Brown seemed to think that was all right. He did not offer to touch the food. When the little dog was through he asked for another plateful and had his own dinner.

He kept the little dog for quite awhile, always permitting him to eat first. At night he took the dog into his kennel, himself sleeping outside.

He was not at all intimate with the dog, but treated him as a visitor, not at any time as a friend. The tramp finally went on his way, strong and well and as plump and sleek as any dog need be. What was said between these two dogs, both at meeting and parting, would be very interesting to know.—Inter Ocean.

FOUR YOUNG ROBINS.

When I was about twelve years old, my father had a large tree in the front yard cut down. When it was almost ready to fall we discovered a bird's nest high up in the branches, and thought it very probable there were young birds in it. We knew, if they stayed there, they would be killed by the falling of the tree, so my brother climbed up and carefully brought the nest down in his hand.

Sure enough, there they were—four of the homeliest little birds. Their great yellow mouths were wide open, and they had no feathers to speak of. We put them in another tree, thinking the old birds would take care of them; but they did not come, and at night we took them into the house. The next day we put them in the tree again; but the parents seemed to have been frightened away, so I said I would be a mother to them.

We had an empty room in the house, where nothing could harm them, and in a few days they were able to hop over the floor. My mother's room was directly beneath the one in which they were; and she said she could hear their little feet pattering over the floor as soon as it became light in the morning. They grew very fast, and improved in their appearance, as their feathers were now thick and pretty. I fed them with dough made of cornmeal and water, and with angle-worms.

Two died; but the other two were very cunning. One of them used to take the bottom of my dress in his mouth, as I sat on the floor, and pull so hard as to lose his balance and fall over; but he did not care for that, but would hop up and try again.

After awhile they were large enough to take care of themselves, and father said I ought to let them outdoors with the other birds. So one pleasant morning we opened the window, and it was not long before they both flew away. I felt bad to have them go, but consoled myself by thinking what nice times they were probably having.—Christian Register.

The Grange is developing some strong debaters among the younger members who will some day be heard from in legislative halls. Young man, are you one of that number?—Grange Homes.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

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Kenyon L. Butterfield, Editor and Manager.
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NEXT ISSUE MAY 3.

OUR WORK.

The following has been approved by the State Grange as a fair statement of the objects the Grange of Michigan has in view and the special lines along which it purposes to work. We hope every Grange in the state will work earnestly in all of these departments, so that by a more united effort we shall rapidly increase our numbers, extend our influence, and attain more and more completely those ends which we seek.

OUR OBJECT

is the Organization of the Farmers for their own Improvement,

Financially,
Socially,
Mentally,
Morally.

WE BELIEVE

that this Improvement Can in Large Measure be Brought About:

1. (a.) By wider individual study and general discussion of the business side of farming and home keeping.
- (b.) By co-operation for financial advantage.
2. (a.) By frequent social gatherings, and the mingling together of farmers with farmers, and of farmers with people of other occupations.
- (b.) By striving for a purer manhood, a nobler womanhood, and a universal brotherhood.
3. (a.) By studying and promoting the improvement of our district schools.
- (b.) By patronizing and aiding the Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations in their legitimate work of scientific investigation, practical experiment, and education for rural pursuits.
- (c.) By maintaining and attending farmers' institutes; reading in the Reading Circle; establishing and using circulating libraries; buying more and better magazines and papers for the home.
4. (a.) By diffusing a knowledge of our civil institutions and teaching the high duties of citizenship.
- (b.) By demanding the enforcement of existing statutes, and by discussing, advocating, and trying to secure such other state and national laws as shall tend to the general justice, progress, and morality.

Don't miss page six.

Do you keep farm accounts? See page two.

Write to our advertisers. Mention the VISITOR.

What's troubling you? See F. H. R. C. for further particulars.

Will you discuss the questions suggested in the "Lecture field?"

Supervisors will be interested in "The Assessor's Manual," in our book reviews.

Mr. Gladden knows all about potatoes. He gives us a drop from the bucket, on page two.

Do you believe we need better roads than we have? Do you think the county road law an advance step, or not?

Send us a postal card with a bit of news from your Grange. Any thing that will interest you will interest other Patrons.

We have a strong article from Hillsdale county on the liquor question, which will appear next week. What do you think of it?

You must not miss our "Book Reviews" in this issue; not because they are reviewed so well, but because the books reviewed are so good.

The inheritance tax law has been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. It is held to contravene the provisions regarding equality of property taxation.

Brother Old's article on "Better than raising wheat," will be suggestive to many. Brother Olds is a young man who is "getting to the front" by dint of hard thought and hard work.

Arbor day, Friday April 27. Plant a tree.

Our articles on the county road law and the pure food laws will aid greatly in discussing these questions. We hope Patrons will send in their opinions.

We were delayed in sending the premiums won in the recent contest, because a few Granges did not respond promptly. Don't think that you have been forgotten.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

Never before, since our connection with the VISITOR, have there come to us so many encouraging signs of Grange activity as during the past three months. Grange news or postal jottings furnish a pretty fair barometer of the Grange weather, for it is very rarely that a dormant Grange will take the pains to tell about it, and the Grange items from our own state have been fairly rained in upon us, at times. We have also had numerous inquiries from those outside the Order about forming Granges in their locality, a rare experience for us previous to this year. There come reports, directly and indirectly, of several counties that are doing revival work most efficiently. In spite of the depressed times the Grange is marching on, and is winning its way as it deserves. Let us get encouragement from these signs of life, for a better day is dawning.

PURE FOOD.

It will be well if every one will carefully read our article on pure food. It gives a brief outline of the existing laws on the subject, and the chief recommendations of the dairy and food commissioner. We shall endeavor to follow this with similar articles concerning the pure food laws of several other states.

The weak points in our laws are apparent, but we sincerely hope that the commissioner will have two or three rousing prosecutions before the year is over. If he wins, good for the law. If he loses, it will be the best possible argument for new and more stringent regulations.

One very good proof that the present laws are not of much use is the fact that nobody is objecting to them. When Michigan has proper pure food laws and attempts to enforce them properly you will hear a hubbub from the dealers that will make Rome howl.

A POOR POLICY.

Several papers have stated that the state supreme court is now caught up with its work and is prepared to grind out decisions with the rapidity of a roller process mill, whereas a year and a half ago it was way behind, and with small prospect of getting even. The reason of this agreeable state of affairs is alleged to be the increase in the salaries which the last legislature granted the justices, coupled with a compulsory residence in Lansing. The aforesaid papers argue that a similar delectable condition would result in the other departments of government, were the salaries raised and Lansing residence required. Whatever may be the force of this argument on its face, it is surprising that any friend of the movement to increase the salaries of the state officers should trot out that shameful supreme court deal as an analogous case. The gentlemen of the court had the effrontery to acknowledge that they were not doing their duty, but would faithfully promise to do it for \$2,000 more a year each! They were elected to perform certain business; nothing prevented them moving to Lansing, if necessary to the performance of that business. They knew when they were elected what the duties and the salary were. Yet they neglected their work and only have been keeping it in proper shape since their successful but undignified little game of bluff with the last legislature. No, brother editor, don't illustrate your points for increased salaries with any quotations from the remarkable and inspiring chronicles of the doings of our noble supreme court. Bright as the record is, there is one blot that won't wash out, and we all know just where to look for it.

A BACKWARD STEP.

The Republican editors, at their recent state meeting, took occasion to pass a resolution favoring strict adherence to party

lines in municipal elections. It seems to us that this is distinctly a step to the rear. We are by nature partisans, in other things as well as in politics. The object of all civilizing agencies, the press included, is supposed to be the broadening of men's minds. We are supposed to be striving to get out of partisanship into liberality. These same editors would no doubt strenuously plead for more liberal views in religion. Why draw the lines closer in politics? Partisanship has been the curse of city government. Why pull back the movement of reform? If either of the great parties stands for anything at all, it represents principles of national importance. Surely the principles of protection or tariff reform do not weigh in municipal affairs! To adhere to party lines then in municipal elections is to admit that in those elections the party has no principles to advocate; and what is a party without principles? When a great party will make distinct issues in state and city politics, well and good. But where is the sense in dragging a national economic issue into the purely business administration of a large city! The scheme is a sop to machine politics and machine politicians.

Of course we know that it will be a long day ahead of us before the divorce of city and national politics will be accomplished. But the finger of reform points to it. Common liberality demands it. And we believe in setting our faces Zionward anyhow, no matter if there be lions in the way.

HOW WOULD THIS WORK?

There are many taxpayers who would doubtless favor the payment of decent salaries to our state officers, but who would hesitate to vote to increase taxation by so much as one penny. And if the work and salaries of the departments could be so adjusted as to call for the expenditure of no more money than at present, it would seem probable that no voter would refuse to sanction an increase in the salaries of certain elective state officers. A plan has been suggested by which this could be done without crippling the efficiency of any department or necessarily reducing the number of employees. The idea is merely that, by constitutional provision, the elective officers should be required to attend personally to the duties of their office; this would do away with the necessity of high priced deputies, and the duties of the latter would partake more of the nature of chief clerks. Inasmuch, however, as the laws quite uniformly confer upon the deputy the powers of the principal whenever the latter is unable, by reason of sickness or necessary absence, to perform his duties, it would seem wise that the name and powers of the deputy should not be abridged.

Without attempting to discuss the plan further than to say that it would seem to be entirely practicable, we venture to put forth some figures as showing, not how this change should be made, but how it might be made.

Officer.	Present salary.	Proposed salary.	Salary of deputy.	Proposed salary.
Sec. State.....	\$800	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$1,200
Treasurer.....	1,000	2,500	2,000	1,200
Auditor Gen.....	3,000	2,500	2,000	1,200
Com. Land Office..	800	1,500	2,000	1,200
Atty. Gen.....	2,500	2,500	2,000	1,200
Supt. Pub. Inst.....	1,000	2,500	2,000	1,200
Com. Insurance.....	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,200
Com. B. R.....	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,200
Com. Labor.....	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,200
Com. Banking.....	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,200
Totals.....	\$18,100	\$28,000	\$16,300	\$10,800
Increase.....		\$4,900		\$5,500 Decrease.
Net saving.....				\$600 00

In addition to this there are now five chief clerks receiving \$1,200 each; these offices could be abolished and the duties be performed by \$1,000 clerks, effecting a further saving of \$1,000. It would seem necessary to provide in the constitution that no deputy official or clerk should be allowed a compensation above \$1,200 a year.

As hinted above this is no hard and fast proposition. Possibly the salaries for the officers are not just what might be best. Possibly \$1,200 a year for deputies is too small compensation for Michigan statesmen. But we fancy that the principle of the scheme is practicable. We should like very much if Patrons would discuss this salary question pretty thoroughly, in the Grange and through the VISITOR. May we not have numerous brief and pithy opinions from our readers?

OUR WORK.

We believe in "maintaining and attending farmers' institutes; reading in the reading circle; establishing and using circulating libraries; buying more and better magazines and papers for the home."

This sort of work is exceedingly important. The average man or woman, after they leave school and take up the responsibilities of life, need some incentive to reading and study. Few on our farms can partake of the advantages of a college course. Yet for this reason it does not follow that they shall forever lay aside books, nor forswear the pursuit of knowledge. But "the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches," especially in these prosperous times, tend to draw one's thoughts and ambitions away from study and reading, and the need of an incentive becomes apparent. Here the Grange once more asserts its utility. By deliberately planning and persistently following lines of self-improvement, it furnishes to its members the necessary stimulus. And as channels through which may more easily flow the mental activities of the people, the Grange recommends and proposes to use the means named in our text. A few words regarding these means may not come amiss.

Farmers' institutes are doing a good work in Michigan. Much practical information is disseminated and, better, the younger men and women are encouraged to new efforts on the farm and to new love for their calling. Our best rural writers are given a chance to be heard, and budding talent gets opportunity to expand. Any one who has attended the institutes will admit that much ability has its home on the farms that lie between our great lakes. But there is not enough of this work. There should be one "long" institute in every agricultural county each year. There should also be one or two shorter institutes for special purposes, such as legislation, discussion of hard times, new crops, experience meetings, schools, etc. The long institutes could be conducted directly under college management, and should in reality be schools of agriculture. The shorter institutes might be managed by the farmers themselves, but they should be organized and systematized. The state can well afford to expend some money in aid of such institutes, for the practical good would be untold. The farmers would not be asking too much in demanding as complete a system as the one suggested above.

Institute experience should be preceded and followed, on the part of the farmers, by reading and study. It would be perfectly practicable to make the reading circle work lead up to and culminate in the institute school. We conceive of this idea as of great value, because it is the habit of continuous study, thought, and investigation that will be of most lasting benefit. And probably the best means at hand to secure and train this habit is through some sort of a course of reading. It is to be hoped that there will come such a demand for the use of the Farm Home Reading Circle that the work can be enlarged and put on the broad lines we have indicated.

There is no question but that farmers read too few books. There are many farmers homes where the best literature is owned and read. But there are, oh, so many rural homes where can be found only a very meagre library, and the books even in that are seldom touched. Circulating libraries are not plenty nor plentifully used. Yet they should be as prominent in the country as in the city. They demolish one great argument against private libraries—the cost; for although books are abominably cheap, they do cost money. In Massachusetts there is quite an extensive rural library system, and we understand that it has been growing rapidly in favor among the farmers. The Grange furnishes a most convenient centre for this work, and no Grange should neglect to have a library policy which shall begin a library, add to it each year, and care for it properly. How many Granges in Michigan have such a policy?

A prominent Patron from another state told us that he fears the farmers of his state read less than they did a few years ago; at least they read more of trashy

stuff, flashy stories, cheap papers, and less of first-class reading. If that is true, it is discouraging enough. We hope it is not true of our own state, and are inclined to doubt that it is. But certain it is that the standard papers and magazines do not circulate as they should among the farmers. Good magazines are now so reasonable in price that almost every farmer can afford to take one of them. The Grange can encourage this movement for better literature in the home, and should lose no opportunity to do so. The influence that the farmer class shall exert upon society thirty years hence will depend very largely upon what the young men and women of the farms are now reading about and thinking about.

Farmers, the Grange should win your respect for this reason alone, even if you can find no other phase of its work that suits you. It is the only well organized effort in our state toward bringing the farmers into one grand army of intellectual progress. One of its most definite purposes is to make of farmers more intelligent, self-respecting, successful, influential men. Will you not add your intelligence and counsel to the movement?

The Lecture Field.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SMALL GRANGES.

It was my pleasure on the 13th to meet with Wayne county Pomona at the hall of Redford Grange, and though the number of Granges (four) represented was small, the gathering of membership, the enthusiasm, and banquet were more than full size.

After dinner, under the direction of Miss Jessie Burt, the Lecturer, an excellent program of music, recitations, essays, etc., was given by members of Redford Grange, who arose unannounced and did their parts well. The Pomona managed a morning and evening session, and a class of four were instructed. The road law was considered pro and con and most of the speakers were of the opinion that it should be carried out, for it would draw about five-sixths of the funds from the city of Detroit, and they thought farmers could well afford to contribute their share, which could not exceed fifty cents on one thousand dollars valuation, while the city neighbors were willing, for the desire might change ere long.

This Redford Grange, like many others, has seen its days of discouraging decline and ran quite low, but when they talked "disband" a year or two since, the outsiders took a hand and about 47 was the size of one of the first classes received, a few at a time followed, and 21 were instructed just before this meeting, while 16 or more are marching that way now. As we viewed the 50 or 60 young people vieing with each other in gayety, happiness, and Grange work, we thought surely our words to them last winter "that the Grange is admirably a young people's association" had been fully comprehended, and the encouraging letters and jottings in the columns of the VISITOR from all parts of the field seem to say "next."

A. J. C.

Ypsilanti.

FOR DISCUSSION.

We hope lecturers will not be slow in making use of the topics here suggested. If the Granges make up their minds that a certain movement is right and decide to lend all their influence in its behalf, people will begin to open their eyes, and prick up their ears. For the Grange is powerful because its sentiments, if the result of careful thought and discussion, usually represent the average opinion of the farming class.

Don't be backward about sending us short reports of discussions on these topics. Here are two questions that it will be interesting to discuss just at this time.

1. What salaries should be paid our state officers and under what limitations?
2. Can the farmers aid in solving the liquor question? If so, how? Have they any interest or duty in the matter?

SPECIAL TO LECTURERS.

We shall send a marked copy of this column to every lecturer whose address we have, and we hope each lecturer will read and weigh every word. We believe there is scarcely anything that will make the VISITOR more interesting, or that will be of more real use to Granges, than the knowledge of what the Granges are trying to do and how they are trying to do it. To save the trouble and expense of sending a personal note to each lecturer, we give here a request to which we hope every lecturer will respond.

In order to get new points as to methods of work we should like to ask lecturers to answer the following questions through

this department. Write as briefly as is consistent with complete answers. Please let us hear from you all. It is for the good of the Order.

1. How often do you meet? On what evening and at what hour? At what hour do you usually close?
2. Do you have a literary program at each meeting? Please name a few topics that you have recently discussed with profit.
3. How much heed does your Grange give to the strict enforcement of parliamentary rules?
4. Does degree work occupy a prominent part in your Grange work?
5. How frequently do you have public meetings? Do you ever hold meetings where your friends who are not Patrons are invited by your members? What is your opinion of the value of either of these kinds of meetings?
6. What plans have you for increasing your membership?

F. H. R. C.

MOTTO—"Begin; keep at it."

WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU?

What is your greatest hindrance to reading the F. H. R. C. course? Is it the cost of the books? The books of class I. cost only \$3.23, less than one cent per day for a year. They will furnish you food for thought for a whole year. Better still, the reading and thinking will be directly in line with your work on the farm. More and better thinking is necessary if farming is to be successful in these days of depression.

Is it want of time? Do you use what time you have? Think what has been accomplished by using the fragments of time which most people waste as of no value. Take as an example "the learned blacksmith," Elihu Burritt, who mastered the principal languages of the world while supporting his family by working at his trade, studying with his book lying open before him on the forge. Who of us has not as good an opportunity for improvement?

"No one else is reading?" Perhaps not in your neighborhood. So much more reason that you shall begin. Others are waiting for some one to lead. Begin yourself and others will follow. Tell your Grange about the books. Organize a class, if possible. Be yourself the pioneer in the good work. You will not be sorry in the years to come.

If we have failed to locate the difficulty, write at once to Prof. Mumford or the editor of the VISITOR and explain, so that we may know what the great hindrance is. The country needs thoughtful, intelligent farmers. You need this course to make you more so.

J. W. H.

THE REASON FOR IT.

EDITOR VISITOR—Hon. Geo. E. Hilton makes some remarks about the recent road law in your issue of February 15, and the action of the State Grange in adopting a certain resolution, and he asks the writer of said resolution to answer his questions through your paper, hence I intrude upon your space.

Now I find but two "questions" in that article. One, had the State Grange a "moral" right to pass the resolution without recommending something better than the "county system"?

2. "Or does the State Grange believe in minority rule?"

Though I wrote the resolution that seems to give the honorable gentleman so much trouble, I am not a member of any Grange (because there is none in reach of me), and as the said questions relate entirely to the action of the State Grange, hence I think it is entirely the province of the Grange to answer as it is called to the bar.

If I thought it my business to answer them at all, first, I should want him to define the word "moral" in the relation then used, and the second question I think too absurd to need reply.

THEY KNEW IT ALL.

The former part of Mr. Hilton's remarks would seem to indicate that all "intelligence" was locked up in the minds of a certain committee, who seem to think they know what the farmers of Michigan want, better than the farmers themselves. In other words, said solons, together with or under the influence of the bicycle trusts and those engaged in that trade, with a smattering of high (?) men in some of the villages and cities on the strength of a vote, mostly from those that pay no tax, think the farmers are fools, because they cannot see the "intelligence" of mortgaging their farms for from three to six per cent of their value to fix things nice for top heavy young bloods to run their wheels over the country.

Less fast horses, fewer riding wheels, I think would increase honesty in high places, if not intelligence.

No one desires good roads more than I, but I want them by the farmer, for the farmer, and such and where he wants them, as he in the end must build them.

If the farmers of Michigan do not know what they want, the villages and cities better wait till we ask before they give. A few roads in the country improved would not materially assist the general farming community. We could only draw what we

could draw on the poorest road. I cannot see that the present plan is so very much out of joint.

Kalamazoo county has, all over it, fair roads most of the year, at least so that the farmer can haul home all the money he can get in the village.

It is said that you must not look a gift horse in the mouth. That might have been true once; but if we must feed him, it might be well to see if he has any teeth.

MIGHT HAVE ASKED THE FARMER.

Had those abnormal bunches of "intelligence" once thought to call in the farmer there might have been saved some of the great strain they were put to in those "two laborious days." It is all bosh to say that the villages and cities of this state are advocating to bond the counties for the benefit of the farmers. Did any one ever hear of corporations lying awake nights to devise means to assist the old hayseed? What is the universal thought as soon as he is seen in town? "Get all the money out of him you can." As to needing better roads to get to town,—he gets there now too much,—better stay at home and improve his farm. If Mr. Hilton will read carefully the preamble he will know the writer's reasons.

D. T. DELL.

Vicksburg.

THE VALUE OF A STRONG POMONA IN GRANGE WORK.

MARY C. ALLIS.

The good that may be accomplished for the Order, both general and local, by a strong Pomona, is incalculable. While the local work is far in excess and of greater importance, there is a growing tendency on the part of Pomona Granges to reach out and make their work more general; and the more progressive counties, quick to catch at anything which will build up the Order, are extending their borders of usefulness and aim to come within the range of those outside the gates.

Some we find exchanging work with adjacent counties. Union picnic associations have been formed, embracing several counties, and in other cases we find them leading farmers' institutes or forming an alliance with teachers' associations. Each of these have their respective merits in broadening and extending the influence and usefulness of the Order, for we must take the Grange to the people if they will not come to us, and mildly educate them to our ideas. But the primary mission of Pomona is an oversight of the subordinates of which it is, or should be, a fostering mother, carrying strength and support to the weak ones and possessing stimulating influence for all. Being itinerant in its nature it travels to all parts of the county, drawing within its circle the best workers and thinkers, and affording an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and new and successful methods of work. There would be less dormancy to report if the Pomonas were better attended. The strong subordinates are invariably found to be firm supporters of Pomona. There is nothing like a rousing Pomona meeting to revive the spirits of a discouraged officer.

The present hard times are making themselves felt in the Grange, but remember, Patrons, a substantial treasury is the power of any organization, so don't neglect your Pomona.

Adrian.

SALARIES OF PUBLIC OFFICERS.

The last number of the GRANGE VISITOR very properly calls the attention of its readers to this subject, and invites an expression of opinion, to which invitation I cheerfully respond. There is no doubt but our legislative cranks will keep on thrusting constitutional amendments before the people at every succeeding session. Public office holders are like our pensioners, and they are all like the three things we read of in the Bible that "never saith it is enough." To every farmer in the state I desire to say, these are no times to talk of raising salaries and increasing public expenses. The GRANGE VISITOR presents a table showing the salaries of state officers in ten states, including our own, from which the reader might be led to conclude that some of our salaries are comparatively low. But what have we to do with other states? Let them squander their money as they please, and we can do the same thing. When the president's salary was foolishly raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000 it was sometimes justified by telling how much more the crowned monarchs of Europe were being paid. This is no rule to go by. What has become of our old time traditions of American equality? Where are the men who used to tell us that these officers were servants and the people were masters? And wherein is the justice or policy of giving the servant more in one year than the master can earn in ten? Certainly there is not a single state officer whose salary is so low as that of the farmer, who toils through storm and shine to produce wheat at 50 cents a bushel, and wool at 10 to 15 cents a pound. Farmers of Michigan, in considering this

question of salaries be sure to bear in mind that in almost every instance the work is largely done by clerks, deputies and subordinates paid by the state. In some cases the deputy is paid much more than the officer's salary, and it has been said that the clerks or deputies, after doing the work, have sometimes been squeezed to divide their pay with the officers.

I have lived in Michigan ever since the days of her territorial existence, and I have never yet seen an election of state officers when there was not plenty of just as good men left at home as those elected to office, who would willingly and gladly have taken the office with its salary. Years ago I was a member of a mutual fire insurance company, which became embarrassed by the great fires of 1872. We decided to wind up our business, and it devolved on me to call on the commissioner of insurance, whose duty I knew it was to wind up the business of the company. But imagine my surprise, when, instead of doing it he appointed another man to do it, and our bankrupt company had to pay that man eight hundred dollars, while the commissioner sat in his sumptuous rooms at our state capitol.

Yes, brother farmers, bear in mind that all these state officers have sumptuous rooms at the state capitol, built, carpeted, heated, and lighted at the public expense—at your expense and my expense—and whenever they choose to leave those comfortable offices, whether on the public business or their own, whether to visit friends or world's fairs, or to attend political conventions, they go supplied with free railroad passes, leaving some one in their office to do the work who is paid by the state.

And now, Mr. Editor, a few words more before I close. You have asked the farmers of Michigan to write you their views on this salary question, and some of them will undoubtedly do so, and when you get their views you will send them out to the world as so much public opinion. But right here there is one thing I would like to have the average voter of Michigan bear in mind. Perhaps I ought not to say it aloud; but there is an aristocracy among farmers, and your paper will be read, and your article will doubtless be answered by some men who have an aspiration to be state officers, for some farmers are now, and have been, and will again be state officers. And these aspiring men are generally the ones who do the most work; not always on their farms, but in the business of manufacturing public opinion. Now, when you read the writings of these aspiring farmers, who are possessed of a laudable ambition to become state officers, do not refuse to give their arguments whatever weight their logical merits demand, but at the same time "consider the source it comes from."

ENOS GOODRICH.

Fostoria.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE MEETING.

The tenth annual convention of the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association will be held in Grand Rapids May 8-10, 1894. Distinguished speakers and representative men and women will make addresses, take part in discussions, etc. There will be held three sessions daily. All who are interested, though not members, will be cordially welcomed.

All organizations who believe in the enfranchisement of woman are invited to send fraternal delegates.

Entertainment will be provided for all delegates and visitors. An early notice to Mrs. H. Margaret Downs, 339 Jefferson Ave., of one's intention to be present will insure information as to who will entertain her.

EMILY B. KETCHAM,
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GET THIS REPORT.

Patrons, send to Senators McMillan or Stockbridge, or your member of congress, for the senate committee's report on agriculture and forestry, termed "Agricultural depression, its causes and remedies," and study it.

H. D. PLATT.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO } ss.
LUCAS COUNTY,

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

{ SEAL }

A. W. GLEASON,
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Revised List of Grange Supplies

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Michigan State Grange

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

Table listing various supplies and their prices, including Porcelain ballot marbles, Secretary's ledger, Secretary's receipts, and various books.

Brain Work.

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Open to all. Contributions and solutions desired. Issued the first and third Thursdays of each month. Subscriptions 50 cents per year.

ORIGINAL PUZZLES.

No. 120 and 130—Diamonds.

- 1. A letter. 2. A great talker. 3. A sort of base coin. 4. Ardent. 5. Eng. jurist 1420-31.

Belton, Tex. G. WHIZZ.

- 1. A letter. 2. Village of Belgium. 3. Pilasters. 4. Startles (obs.). 5. A copy. 6. The act of making entire.

No. 131—Charade.

When stern Hyems' hand is reigning O'er the bleak and hoary earth, And the daylight slowly waning, Unto even giveth birth.

No. 132—Double Letter Enigma.

The TOTAL "of the poorest" lot, The "hapless FINE" is ONE "For grander" scions with him taught, Yet wins on learning's crumbs.

No. 133—Star.

- 1 and 9 are letters. 2. Look. 3. Attacked. 4. Becomes less. 5. A bamboo frame. 6. Verbal expression. 7. Part of the arm. 8. Like.

No. 134—Diamond.

- 1. A letter. 2. French physician, (d. 1532, Biji). 3. To beat. 4. An orb. 5. Village Loirs, France.

SOLUTIONS TO BRAIN WORK XVII.

- No. 111. F BACED RESIDED BASILICON FACILITATED DECATUR DETER NED D

No. 114. R P P CEDES CORNSD PERFDIES RADSVILLOV PENDICLES SELLES DELES SOS V

No. 115. Boer, bore, robe.

SOLVERS TO BRAIN WORK XVI AND XVII.

Calvin, 5; Phil O. Sopher and Sappho, 3; Granite Poser, Flactem, H. Ennis, G. Whizz, Bourgeois, Sylvester, Vetrulina, Es Osny, Attossa, Milburne, Dick Graver, H. S. Nut, Grace B, 2; Lily May, Dainty Dell, Picturesque Pete, Columbia, Terf-mop, A. Noah, Grace Darling, Winnie Winn, Canadian Boy, Nany Lee, Jack Little, 1.

PRIZE WINNERS.

Calvin and Phil O. Sopher. These prizes were offered by Granite Poser.

Prize winners for solvers to Nos. XVII and XVIII, as offered by us, will be announced in our next issue.

CHAT.

Our prize contest for forms is open until May 1.

Arthur R. Leonard, (Terf-mop) has removed to Wareham, Mass. Calvin, we will always remember you for your kindness.

Phil O. Sopher, Granite Poser, and all other puzzlers could make us happy by sending us some good forms. No. 24 will be Brain Work's birthday, we would like to receive some extra good forms for that issue.

All contributions intended for that issue must reach us by May 25. Cinders has our thanks for "cons." That just reached us as we commenced this chat, will start using them in our next. Would you like a nicely executed picture of Washington puzzlers, embracing Nyas, K. T. Did, Gudson, Alumnus, Damon, Eugene, R. O. Chester, and A. F. Rinter? If so, send fifteen cents to Charles H. Coons, 32 Ohio National Bank, Washington, D. C.

The above group picture of puzzlers is really worth \$1.00 to any puzzler. No. 4 of The Detroit Puzzler will contain headers by Thos. McGinty, Frantz and Cinders. Our space is up. Be sure and send solutions.

NANCY LEE.

A REVIEW.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF WESTERN POMONA GRANGE.

Once more it becomes my duty as Master of this Grange to submit to you my annual report.

In regard to the work of the past year most of you are as familiar with it as I. Four meetings have been held, the first or annual meeting being held at Tallmadge, at which time the election of officers took place; there was also a class of five initiated into the mysteries of the fifth degree which, I believe are the only members admitted during the year.

The next meeting was held at Trent, in May. This was a very busy time with many and the attendance was not large but the time however, was fully

and profitably occupied. In August we met at Hudsonville, and in October at Herrington. Both of these meetings were well attended and an interesting literary program presented.

These meetings are a source of enjoyment for all, and I think the social, educational, and recreative advantages afforded are fully appreciated, but I would like to ask if our whole duty to the Grange ends here? We read in the constitution of the National Grange that "District or County Granges shall have charge of the education and business interests of the Order in their respective districts, and shall encourage, strengthen and aid the Subordinate Granges represented therein."

In these respects and in extending the Order beyond its present limits I do not think we have done all we could or ought, and hope some action will be taken whereby our field of usefulness may be increased.

The past year has been adverse to Grange work in many respects, and yet the Grange throughout the state has held its own. By a united effort the coming year may be made one of general prosperity.

In this work we are assured of the hearty co-operation of the State Grange through its officials and have an able advocate in that brightest of papers, the GRANGE VISITOR, which all should read. With these to cheer us on let us awake to the situation and put forth our best efforts and a year hence may we be able to show that our efforts have not been in vain.

Respectfully submitted, MELVIN S. SMITH, Master.

THE PRESS.

Brother Perry Mayo is said to be responsible for the following:

The press is mightier than the sword; it is also heavier. It is likewise more powerful than the pen, except the gold pen which is more powerful and the pigpen which is stronger. The most powerful press known is the gentle press about her waist, on the front porch in the moonlight. This press should never be used by young or inexperienced persons, as it is liable to cause palpitation, more commonly known as heart beat. This is a genuine blood beet, but is not a good variety for farmers to raise. It is said to be worse than a dead beat, or our present state officers.

There are various kinds of presses; but the most prominent are the political press, the religious press, the non-partisan press, the agricultural press, the hay press, the cider press, and the GRANGE VISITOR. We formerly had another important press called the press of business, but this has been abolished by legislative enactment, and we have in its place our pressing necessities. There is also the express. This is managed by a lot of farmers who make money by watering their stock. As we are pressed for ideas we will close this article in haste.

A SPARTAN IDEA.

How often we read what others write, and think ah, me, its all well for them but no such inspiration comes to me. Others tell of victories gained or laurels won, of foes conquered or wonders done, and we say if it were true of us we would write too, but we must be silent because we never climbed the hill of fame, we are only common men. I think farmers too often underestimate their own abilities and talents and look for great minds and deep thought in men of other classes; but history tells us that some of the great and talented of earth were reared on the farm. Then lift up your heads, despondent yeoman! Gather the fruits and till the soil. He who planted the garden of Eden has a reward for those that toil. It's only a narrow, conceited mind that looks down on a farmer because he lives in the country and works for a living. The man or woman who despises the laborer shows a want of common sense and forgets that everything that is produced is the result of more or less labor. Physical labor produces food and clothing for the body and is the increase of wealth. It develops the treasures in earth and on water. Labor induces men and women to be better citizens, and but few are so ignorant as not to feel their dependence on one another, and

this feeling produces harmony and increases happiness and sociability. It behooves everybody to study, to learn, to improve. So all classes have, or should have their schools, and the Grange is a fitting school for farmers. Experience teaches, and by relating our experience and giving an interchange of ideas we are convinced and convince others of better methods, be it in labor or social relations. We don't boast, but our Grange work tends to educate and to elevate all who come within our doors, the young and the old, male and female, one great family willing to teach and be taught.

Our subordinate Grange meets in a village and is one of 12 different secret societies, but of course we think our Grange a little the best. Among our members are three with "Hon." prefixed. Our present Master was last year a member of the "house of law," and we have two members on the editorial staff, wide awake witty fellows, as all editors are. In fact every member is honorable and a good citizen. We have a class of young who are not behind the times. South Sparta Grange is marching on.

SECRETARY.

QUITE TRUE.

This indifference to obtaining the best knowledge for use on the farm is undoubtedly the prime reason for the condition in which many of our farmers find themselves. Agriculture is a calling in which can be profitably used more knowledge than in any other occupation, and when it can be obtained without money or price who is to blame that people do not have it? Some may take exception to this gentle scoring but the truth of the statement remains nevertheless.

The Grange organization, of which every farmer could well afford to become a member, has a few farmers and their wives who hold the order together. A series of meetings could profitably be held in this village during the winter months, at which much valuable information could be obtained, and which would be very pleasant as well as profitable. Let many of our representative farmers spend some thought upon this matter and act upon it. There is strength in organization and pleasure as well as profit in meeting your neighbors. No one ever attended a meeting of this kind who did not go away improved.—Ravenna Times.

SCRAPS FROM TRAVERSE POMONA.

Judge Monroe said he was sick of the old system of voluntary or assessed highway labor. With 25 per cent of the money thus spent he could do the same amount of work. He was in favor of the county system. Farmers were standing in their own light when they neglected any opportunity to improve the country roads, especially if the towns and cities of the county were willing to pay the greater share of the expense.

Some of the causes of the defeat of the county system at the polls last spring were touched upon, prominent among them being the natural distrust and jealousy commonly existing against the cities when any new scheme was proposed by them, also the fact that it is necessary to be careful about selecting men from the cities to further and push a scheme.

Wm. D. Bagley, in an able paper on "Reading" said: Remember that Pres. Garfield said that Americans read too many newspapers and too few books. Remember also and take for a pattern his practice of reading at home; of getting the members of his family together and one of them reading aloud and the others listening and commenting on what was read. This practice is valuable in many ways. It makes home attractive, and is vastly better than the too common practice of the members of the family scattering in all directions for the evening in quest of amusement, thereby acquiring a distaste for home, contracting habits including one not very often considered, that of irregular and scanty sleep, "that knits up the raveled sleeve of care." It increases affection of the family for each other, it makes good readers and, what is just as rare and important, good listeners. For who cares to read aloud to persons that are doing anything

but listening. The habit of listening once well established, estimates and utilizes observation, strengthens memory, and enables us to digest what we hear while hearing it, to decide whether it is truth or falsehood. It enables us to concentrate our attention on one thing to the exclusion of all other things, a faculty, which when well developed, is of lasting importance in all mental effort and is especially valuable in business.

All the men and women who have made their mark in the world as writers or public speakers have first been constant and careful readers. For no person can teach others what he has not himself learned, and reading for pastime and in a desultory manner is of little benefit; it is like eating confectionery, pleasant to the taste for the moment only. Those who have contracted the habit of reading in a haphazard manner, and who wish for better things will find it no easy matter to make the change, but perseverance and discussing what we read of this better class of literature with those of our friends who are already well grounded in it, will soon create in us a lasting desire to "hold fast that which is good."

WILL APPLY TO MICHIGAN.

"PATRONS AND FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE.—It seems to me that a strong effort should be made by all who are interested in Grange work to increase the number of Granges in this state. The Grange is now popular with all classes in the community, and with proper effort on the part of state deputies and officers of Pomona and Subordinate Granges, assisted by the membership, there ought to be a large increase in the number of Granges and in membership during the present year. To accomplish this desired end will require some sacrifice of time and effort on the part of our Grange workers; but the sacrifices which we may make of time and effort in this direction will be fully compensated by the consciousness of doing our duty and being co-workers with others in the effort to increase the prosperity and happiness of the farming population of our state. Every member of a Grange should consider himself or herself as specially invited and authorized to canvass the field for new Granges and recruits for existing Granges. Let the canvass be made in every direction; ask your neighbors to join the Grange; drive to the neighboring towns and interview the best farmers in regard to the Grange if none exists in town, and write to your friends in all parts of the state where there are no Granges, and ask if there is not some desire for an organization. Advantage should be taken of every opportunity to gain information in this direction; and the master of the state Grange, or the nearest deputy, should at once be notified of any willingness or desire of farmers in any part of the state for a Grange organization.

"The cause is a noble one, and the influence of the Granges is uplifting in all its tendencies. The farmers of Vermont need the Grange, and the Grange needs all the farmers and their families. We want the best men in the Grange to assist in developing and making proper use of the social and educational features of the order, for the benefit of the rural population of our state. Our farming population should use every opportunity within their reach to properly develop the social element in their natures and to educate themselves, not only in the various lines which relate to farm work and farm production, but also in those lines of education which relate to their duties and responsibilities as citizens. A united movement all along the line cannot fail of good results. Let us labor together for this end."

Fraternally, ALPHA MESSER, Master Vt. State Grange.

AFTER EIGHT YEARS USE.

Mianna Co., O., March 29, 1894. MR. O. W. INGERSOLL:

DEAR SIR—I painted my house in 1886 with your Liquid Rubber Paint, and want to tell you how it is wearing. It still looks as if it would stand several years longer without repainting.

Yours truly, D. M. COPPOCK.

[See Adv. Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paints.—Ed.]

HILLSDALE POMONA.

Hillsdale Pomona held its April meeting with Adams Grange. There was a good attendance. A number of Granges reported accessions; one new Grange was organized at Hanover with 41 charter members and with 10 applications, with more to follow.

Welcome address by Brother Tell Travis, master of Adams Grange. He reviewed the past of the Order and drew encouragement from its present steady and apparently permanent growth.

Response was by Brother Strait, master of Pomona. He said that Pomona never meets but that it leaves a salutary influence, and if a cause is worthy of our labor at all it is worthy of our very best efforts.

A paper was read by Sister Clark on the subject, "Are we educating our children too much?" The objection to our present system was long hours and often close confinement in illy ventilated rooms and going over and over again the same books for eight or nine years until the child is fifteen. Then the cramming system commences just when rest is needed. The boys are at once turned into men and the girls become fearfully old. They should be made familiar with their books much as they were with their homes, by pleasant rambles over them. Many of our greatest statesmen were never subject to this cramming system.

Bro. Moore said that there is too much required that is not essential, to the detriment of the useful and practical. There is a tendency to force.

Brother Strait: Any system of enforced education is detrimental. We can see this illustrated in any attempt to force nature. We should not cultivate the mental to the detriment of the physical.

A paper by Brother Walworth was on "Life insurance in the Grange." Said it would be in harmony with the principles of our Order. It is the fatherless and the widow we are to care for, but it is easy to forget duty. The remedy is in insurance. It has been a success in other organizations. It would be an inducement to join the Grange.

Brother Nokes said: I am interested in another order. I think it would be a good thing in the Grange. The Grange is so extensive, it might become national in its features.

Brother Davis asked the question: Does your order comply in its insurance department with the laws of the state, and is it incorporated?

Brother Nokes: No; if we did we would have to have a fixed capital. It is run alone on honor.

Bro. Strait: I don't want to belong to any organization that I have to die to win. Life insurance organizations are founded on selfishness, and honor is not to be trusted. The rich don't need it, and the poor often can't meet their engagements and never can afford litigation to recover.

Brother Patterson: I have had enough of it. It is a place for officials to get rich.

Brother Davis: What if the Grange should die. Insurance companies have got rich out of the people. You would have to die young or you are out.

Brother Moore: It goes on the principle of mutual help. And examples of its beneficial results are all around us. The Grange isn't going to die. But it is a question whether it would be beneficial in the Grange at present.

Sister Clark: The benevolent and charitable features of these institutions are not very conspicuous when they take in the sound and young and reject the sick and lame.

Brother Rockwood: It's a good thing to let alone. It's all right as long as you can pay assessments, but when you can't you are out. It's a good place for a board of officials to get rich out of the masses.

Sister Nokes: When a member can't pay his assessment he can commence to draw back.

Bro. Moore: If these associations should eventually fail, we get our pay as we go along by the sense of security we enjoy while they last.

Sister Hunker read a paper on the control of liquor, which brought out a sharp discussion too long to report. By request of the Grange the article goes to the VISITOR.

Recitations were given by Emma Edwards, Sister Alice Pease, Miss Perrin, Miss Florence Huff, Miss Bell Whitney, Miss Mary Kirby and Master Roy Huff. Our next meeting will be held at the G. A. R. Hall in Hillsdale, if not changed to Allen Grange. Due notice will be given through papers if it is so changed.

W. KIRBY.

Notices of Meetings.

INGHAM POMONA GRANGE will be held with Williamston Grange April 20 and 21, 1894.

FRIDAY, 2 P. M. Music, Williamston Grange. Address of welcome, W. R. Jackson, Williamston.

Response, Geo. Proctor, White Oak, Grange Growth, Hon. J. H. Forster, Williamston. Recitation, The cry of to-day, Pierce Proctor, Plainfield.

SATURDAY, 9:30 A. M. Music. What I saw at the World's Fair, Mrs. A. C. Lawrence, Fitchburg.

Recitation. Money situation in the United States, W. O. Hedrick, M. A. C. Recitation, Mrs. G. C. Davis, M. A. C. Music. Dinner at 12.

Grange Temperance work, J. A. Curtis, Fitchburg. Recitation. What sort of reading should a farmer have in his house, K. L. Butterfield, Lansing.

Clover insects, G. C. Davis, M. A. C.

Friday evening, 7:30, a fifth degree meeting will be held for the transaction of business and conferring the fifth degree. All other sessions open to the public, who are invited to attend and take part in the discussions.

WM. A. OLDS, Lecturer.

Grange News.

Correspondents, and all Patrons indeed, are requested to send us postal cards giving some news jotting,—anything of interest to you. It will interest others. Please also send short answers to some or all of the following questions. Help us to make this the most valuable column in the VISITOR.

- 1. How is your Grange prospering? 2. Have you many young people? 3. What do outsiders think of your Grange and its work? 4. What difficulties do you meet? 5. What are your prospects? 6. What is most needed in Grange work in your vicinity? 7. In what way are your members most benefited by belonging to the Grange?

Michigan.

OBITUARY.

Died at her home in Courtland, March 17, Mrs. Ida Whittall, aged 37 years and six months; a charter member of Courtland Grange No. 563.

Onstead Grange No. 279, passed appropriate resolutions expressive of their deep sense of loss in the death of their beloved sister, Martha Daniels.

POSTAL JOTTINGS.

Williamston Grange held a newspaper social and sends 10 new names to the VISITOR as a result.

Everything is running very smoothly in Girard Grange No. 136. They have a large number of young folks in their Grange, and among them have formed a fine orchestra.

Ashland Grange 545, is alive yet. They recently conferred the degrees on three new members. Recently they held a feast with visitors from Trent and Hesperia Granges. A few weeks ago they had a quotation and basket social, the proceeds of which went to help pay for a new carpet which was recently purchased.

EXCELSIOR GRANGE

No. 692, Kalkaska county, held an open meeting at the Congregational church on the evening of March 16. The church was filled to overflowing. There is much good talent within the jurisdiction of this Grange, which assisted by Brother A. E. Palmer of Boardman Valley Grange, who gave the principal address of the evening, made the meeting a great success, and at its close eleven names were handed in for membership, and still others said they should join the Grange as soon as circumstances would permit.

Brother Palmer, who has become one of the ablest speakers on agricultural topics in this section of the state, is richly entitled to public acknowledgment of his valuable services to the farmers of Kalkaska county.

BOOMING.

For the good of the Order and to encourage others to persevere in the work of the Grange, Orion Grange reports to her sister Granges of Michigan what a determined effort with united action will do for the advancement of the noble principles of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

The past winter has been spent in a contest, made by choosing sides; every member chosen; credits by counts of points given for prompt attendance, quotations with authors, essays, recitations, select reading, dialogues, songs, new members, reinstatement, and subscribers to GRANGE VISITOR outside of Grange. The side scoring the most points by April 7, 1894, at sit at first table of a maple sugar festival and waited on by the losing side. Result: We have added 38 new members to our Grange, reinstated 5, have sent for 70 copies of GRANGE VISITOR, paid for out of Grange funds. Saturday, April 7, we held our sugar festival, about 150 present. A happier, more social, and jolly gathering is seldom, experienced, than we had on that occasion. There has been great interest manifested with good attendance during the contest. The intellectual exercises have been of a high order, and our Grange has enjoyed an intellectual feast coupled with very fine social enjoyment. Our Grange now numbers about 145 members. To the Grange of Michigan and the

United States, go and do likewise. The principles of our Order are worthy of the effort.

HIRAM ANDREWS.

SUGAR SOCIAL.

De Witt Grange held a sugar social March 17. The evening was fine, the sugar delicious, the attendance large. Over \$9 worth of sugar was sold. All present reported an enjoyable time. De Witt Grange expects to become the banner Grange for good order and observance of parliamentary rules. The members have pledged themselves to pay strict attention to correct rules and if one happens to break over the laws they are to be called to order with perfect good nature. This is a right step in the right direction. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

Clinton county favors the tri-county picnic at the Agricultural College in August. Let all Patrons boom the picnic question.

MRS. C. L. PEARCE.

DANBY GRANGE

No. 185, is a live, active Grange, consisting of about 70 members. We hold our meetings every two weeks on Wednesday evening, and have a literary program to be carried out each evening in which the children that are not old enough to join the Grange can take part, which makes it very interesting. We had a newspaper social and also a literary program March 30, conducted by the committee on woman's work. The program was somewhat lengthy and and very nicely rendered, and quite satisfactory to the Grange, as the admission fee amounted to \$10.75.

The ladies of the Grange furnished a lunch April 2 for the voters of the town of Danby, and succeeded in adding seven dollars more to their financial account.

The committee on woman's work are contemplating a fair and festival to be held at the Grange hall this fall.

Danby Grange has a list of names for the VISITOR that will be sent in soon, MRS. AMELIA PEAKE, Cor.

TRIBUTE TO A PATRON.

Miss Olivia J. Carpenter, of Dimondale, filled Rev. Dickerman's appointment at the Universalist church on Sunday, he being still ill. She took our people, as she did those of Lansing, by storm, many declaring that they never had a greater feast of reason in a single day. Miss Carpenter is not unknown to many Eaton county people, as she is an active member of the Pomona Grange. Her activity in several reforms which she is proud to champion, has given her much experience in the life work upon which she is entering with so much promise of eminent success.—Charlotte Tribune.

New York.

Regarding our Grange, I would say that it is not dead, only a little sleepy, and therefore is not accomplishing all it might under somewhat different circumstances. Probable cause, lack of perfect harmony at all times. The social part is emphasized moderately. We have appointed at each meeting several persons who are to furnish something of interest for the good of the Order, and have quite a library of books on promiscuous subjects. We discuss our own lodge matters. We have trade arrangements by card, but do not use them. There are no store arrangements to use here, I wish there was. The prospects for Grange growth among us here are good, though but little is being done.

I. W. HUBBARD.

Panama, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Anyone who desires to become really familiar with American history can not neglect the relations that have existed between our country and foreign governments. Several incidents of late also increase the necessity for information regarding our foreign relations. The prolonged Bering sea dispute, the Chilian difficulty, the Hawaiian question, the Bluefields incident, can much better be understood if one knows what the history of our diplomacy has been. A recent article in one of our leading magazines deals with the possibility of reform in our consular service. This is a question that is quite sure to come up for discussion in a very prominent way. Senator Morgan of Alabama has a bill in the United States senate providing for an entire reconstruction of our consular system, evidently believing that its efficiency can be improved by making it more stable and less expensive. A book that fits into the want for such information as we have mentioned came to our desk recently. It is a Chautauqua book, written by William Eleroy Curtis, published by Flood & Vincent, Meadville, Pa., costs \$1.00, and is entitled, "The United States and Foreign Powers." It is designed for the people, is not long nor exhaustive, but is complete, recent, and entertaining.

Assessor's Manual.

The title page of a little book just issued reads as follows: Wright's Assessor's Manual, a guide to the assessment of taxes under the Michigan tax law of 1893 by Edward J. Wright; with applied notes from three hundred decisions by the supreme court. This neat volume is intended as an aid to supervisors and assessors in performing their duties in a more uniform and satisfactory manner, under the somewhat complicated tax law of 1893. Mr. Wright has given a good deal of study to matters of this kind, is well posted in the actual work of the assessors, as well as in the nature of the tax laws and the decisions of the supreme court. In addition, he is a thorough worker, and has gone to the bottom of his subject. This is evidenced in the fact that he has condensed so much into so little, for it is harder to condense than it is to amplify.

This book is intended for practical use. In the introductory the author says:

"It is sought herein to present (1st) some general principles, an understanding of which is necessary to the proper assessment of taxes in general; (2d) notes of such decisions of the supreme court of Michigan and of principles laid down by recognized

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authorities as are applicable to the tax law of 1893, these notes being arranged in connection with the text of the law so far as it relates to assessments and being supplemented by observations by the author; (3d) statutory provisions governing the taxation of such corporations, associations, etc., as are affected by the several statutes to which reference is made; (4th) an index to the provisions of the statutes other than the general tax law which relate to the assessment of taxes, (a) in townships, (b) in cities incorporated under the general act, (c) in villages incorporated under the general act, (d) in villages incorporated by supervisors, and (e) in school districts." The price is one dollar per single volume. In lots of ten or more, 75 cents per volume; in orders of twenty or more, 50 cents per volume. Address orders to Mr. Edward J. Wright, Lansing, Michigan.

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES PAYS. We have just received a handsome illustrated catalog on the subject of spraying fruit trees from the P. C. Lewis Manufacturing Co., of Catskill, N. Y. This book is full of valuable information on this subject and should be in the hands of every one interested in raising good fruit. The above firm will send the book postpaid and absolutely free to all who apply. This firm are pioneers in the manufacture of spray pumps. They are thoroughly reliable. They make a specialty of the New Wonder Spray Pump, which they are selling at \$6.00, express paid. This pump makes three complete brass machines. They have now sold about 60,000 of them. They guarantee the pump to do as much and as good work as any \$10 or \$15 spray pump on the market, or money refunded. You would therefore take no possible risk in ordering one of these pumps on trial. Parties intending to buy a spray pump should write them for their catalog and illustrated book on spraying before purchasing, mentioning the GRANGE VISITOR.

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The Arena closes its ninth volume with the May issue. The Arena has made steady progress; its circulation having increased during the year, and it has necessarily been enlarged to one hundred and forty-four pages. There is, also, in addition to this, the book reviews, which cover over twenty pages, making in all a magazine of over one hundred and sixty pages. The steady increase in circulation of this \$5 magazine during a period of unprecedented financial depression shows how deep rooted and far reaching is the unrest and social discontent; for this review has steadfastly given audience to the views of the social reformers of the various schools of thought.

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