

GRANGE VISITOR

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

VOL. XX. NO. 4.

CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN. FEBRUARY 21, 1895.

WHOLE NO. 460.

In Need of Help.

The Condition of Farmers in Nebraska.
Office of Lecturer of Neb. State Grange,
Culbertson, Nebraska.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR: In behalf of the needy Patrons of south west Nebraska I write you. Our people have lost three crops out of five, namely, 1890, 1893, and 1894, with only about half a crop in 1892. From this statement you may realize in a slim way our condition in regard to which Gov. Crouse in his famous message to the Nebraska legislature made use of the following language, viz: "The period intervening between the meeting of the last legislature and your present assembling has been one of general depression throughout the entire country, which has been especially aggravated by the partial failure of crops in the year of 1893 (being nearly a total failure in this section of the state) and their destruction in a large portion of the state in the year just closed. The double misfortune has resulted in a condition of distress in many localities which has been followed by numerous and urgent appeals for help. The first and most pressing subject demanding your attention, therefore, will be the action that should be taken for the relief of the sufferers by the late drought. With the limit of indebtedness which, under the constitution is fixed at \$100,000 already reached, and the general fund carrying some hundreds of thousands of dollars, you are confronted with the question of right, as well as of wisdom, in voting any state aid." The present Gov. Holcomb in his inaugural says: "I regret the necessity demanding a careful consideration of the actual want of a great number of our people caused by the drouth of last year. Nature has bountifully blessed Nebraska. Its climate is unexcelled and her soil responds generously to the labor of the husbandman. Many had been unable on account of the short time of their residence to store up sufficient to meet the exigencies of this extraordinary occasion. Some removed from the state, but the great majority, preserving the utmost faith in the country, remained, determined to hold on to their possessions in the drouth stricken district. If patience and long suffering make people deserving, the harvest of 1895 should be bountiful."

Yes, but how are they to subsist until that harvest shall be gathered? They are comparatively speaking without seeds of any kind for the spring sowing and planting. State and county treasurers are unable to respond to our necessities—without money and unable to procure loans to help ourselves, we are truly in a bad way, and as we view the situation, our farmers must have assistance from the outside in order to live and hold their possessions in this beautiful, healthy, fertile country.

The help most needed from now on is provisions, seeds for sowing and planting, some grain for teams while planting their crops and to keep them in strength until the native grasses become sufficiently nourishing to sustain them.

We are destitute of feed. Our horses and such cattle as we have been able to hold over, (we could not sell a horse at any price) are "rustling" on the bleak prairies through sunshine and storm for their living. Should the winter continue open the greater part of them will live through, but in poor condition for spring work, and will require some grain to make them serviceable.

Now, Patrons and friends of common humanity, you have our case in a nutshell. By this statement, without any attempt at sensational coloring or desire upon my part to work upon your sympathies by relating cases of suicide, insanity, or extreme cases of suffering which we might have collected and spread before you, if you can imagine the condition you would be in were you to lose two crops in succession, while the preceding one—the most of it—had to go toward paying indebtedness incurred on account of the drouth of 1890, you will be enabled to realize our condition.

You must remember, however, that our country is new, our people are poor, and consequently it is much worse with us than it would be with you who live in an older settled country, where there is much more

wealth and accumulated supplies to fall back upon. We have well-nigh exhausted—and many have done so—all of our means of all kinds, and upon our success in obtaining seeds for our next crop and means of subsistence until we can grow a crop depends our ability to stay on and work our farms. Otherwise very many of our people will leave their possessions, all that they have accumulated by years of toil, economy, and privation in this fair, new country. Our condition is still more aggravated by the great financial dearth which extends all over our country. In the drouth year of 1890 our farmers could obtain loans from our local banks. Now we cannot on any terms. I have set our condition before you at greater length than I anticipated. You now have our case, and any help you may feel disposed to give out of your abundance toward our relief, if in cash, may be sent to J. R. Cantlin, secretary Nebraska State Grange, Webster, Nebraska. Also any supplies that you may gather for us may be reported to him and he will see that it reaches those for whom it is intended. Brother Touttin will receive and receipt for all supplies intended for our people. He was elected by our State Grange, December last, to attend to this business for us.

But remember, Patrons, free transportation upon our railroads has played out, and we have no money with which to pay freight. All shipments in order to reach our people direct should be prepaid.

I have the honor to be yours in the bonds of fraternity.
JOHN M. WILLIAMS.
Culbertson, Hitchcock Co., Neb.
Fidelity Grange, No. 75, P. of H.

The Township Unit System.

Circulars and petitions coming from Grange organizations, calling attention to senate bill No. 66 and urging members to work against the township system have been widely circulated throughout the capitol. The circular is in error in some respects, inasmuch as it refers to some provisions which are not in the bill nor ever favorably considered by the originators of the bill. Senate Bill No. 66 refers to another question entirely and it seems unwise and unfair for an organization of the high standing of the Michigan State Grange to protest against the passage of a bill which they have had no opportunity to examine. The circular speaks of the township districts in Alpena county in this state, and the inference is that they are unsatisfactory, but the member of the legislature from that county who resides in one of these townships approves of the system and has introduced a bill to organize two other township districts in his legislative district. The testimony of citizens of states now having the township system is nearly unanimous in its favor, notwithstanding the statements contained in the circular. Letters and printed matter verifying this statement I have found in the office of public instruction at the capitol.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

The Patrons of Husbandry are said to be unanimously opposed to the system, but to the knowledge of the writer there are many members of the Order in good standing, who have recently investigated the question and who sincerely deplore the position taken by a few of their leaders. An intelligent and much respected member of the Grange from one of the best counties of the state recently came to the capitol to work against the measure. He asked for a copy of the bill, examined it carefully and frankly admitted that the system is a correct one, and that no men or bodies of men have the right to stand in the way of a township in any locality in the state where citizens would certainly be benefitted by a system which will insure uniform taxation, uniform text books, uniform length of school terms, and will place the responsibility in the hands of boards of competent men, men who are not hampered with neighborhood quarrels and family feuds.

By the provisions of this bill there is no chance for villages or cities to compel country territory to organize with them into township districts. Fractional districts will not prevent such organization, neither will their school houses necessarily

be located on one side of the township district. Attention is called to portions of the bill which are quoted below.

FOR POOR COMMUNITIES.

It is not supposed that many of the townships in the south half of the lower peninsula will organize under this law. Nobody expects them to do so. The bill is an optional one, and none but the people themselves are given any authority. It does not follow because the township of Waterloo, Jackson county, (or any other wealthy township) does not wish to become a township school district, that the citizens of such a township shall say that poor townships in the counties of Rosecommon, Crawford, Montmorenci, and Alcona shall not have an opportunity to organize under the only system that will give school advantages to the poor as well as the rich within their borders. Some plan must be adopted for the benefit of the poorer portions of the state. Below is given a part of the first two sections of the bill. In most respects Act No. 176, Laws of 1891, is copied. The annual meeting by this bill will be the first Monday of September.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT, That whenever the qualified electors of any organized township in the state desire to become organized into a single school district, they may petition the township board to give notice that, at the regular township meeting as hereinafter provided, the officers for such organized school district will be chosen, and such other business transacted as will be necessary thereto. Such petition shall be signed by a majority of the qualified electors of the township, and shall be held in the office of the township clerk at least fifteen days prior to the annual township school meeting. Upon the receipt and filing of said petition, the township clerk shall notify the members of the township board to attend a special meeting to be held not more than five days thereafter, and at which meeting it shall be the duty of such township board to compare the names signed to the petition with the names appearing on the list of registered voters qualified to vote at the preceding election; and, if it be found that a majority of the voters qualified to vote at the last preceding election for state officers have signed the petition, that the organized township of which they are residents be organized as a single school district, they shall immediately give notice that, on the first Monday of the succeeding September, at one o'clock in the afternoon, a township school meeting shall be held at which time officers shall be chosen for such organized school district. Provided, that in any township in which there is situated, in whole or in part, an incorporated village or city, the signature of a majority of the legally qualified voters of the township living outside of the limits of such village or city shall be necessary on such petition.

A TOWNSHIP UNIT MAN.

The Tide of Affairs.

The condition of the farmers of Nebraska is desperate. We have a long letter from a Patron in that state, urging aid from Michigan. We regret that we have no room for this letter in the current issue. But we publish here a short appeal. Is it not possible for the Grange of Michigan to extend a little aid to the suffering farmers of Nebraska?

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR:—Some years ago a gentleman from my native country, England, passed through this country on the cars, and on arriving home again, he commenced a series of lectures on the manners and customs of America. And on reading some of the statements contained in several newspapers, this incident came to my mind. Parties writing about the destitution of western Nebraska must have made as superficial a visit as the above. Anyone wanting to know how our people are fixed, must come out into the country and visit the homes and talk to the farmers. Enquire what his prospects are for winter and spring, with no money and nothing to sell. No feed or seed, and not a dollar to be borrowed, how can we put in a crop unless help comes? Yet some are saying that we don't need it. Think of it. Two years without a crop. That means two years' work without pay for it. What class of people could have held up their heads so long? Though I have been here seven years, and have seen two failures, if asked how we had lived, would have to own that I could not tell. Have always had plenty of hay until now, and we have neither corn fodder nor hay. In fact the grass scarcely started to grow in the spring; some stock was never confined to the pasture. Wheat was sown last year and again more was sown this, and never worth cutting. Hundreds of acres listed to corn

never got above the ground; much of the planted never got high enough to cut for feed, though the writer cut over fifty acres and only got about four tons. Most of the corn after it got about a foot high dried up and was blown away. Many of the people only came here two years ago, so what little money they brought was used up long ago, and how they have lived the Lord only can tell. And now winter is upon us with no grain for our horses, and only what kind eastern friends have sent for ourselves. One of my neighbors had two hundred chickens in the summer and all but about thirty died for want of feed. Most of the cattle were sold and sent out of the country, hogs too; what few are left ran all over hunting for anything they can find. The writer had one sow that will stand and cut fodder like a calf, for she had no corn for weeks.

I am acquainted with one man that has almost a thousand acres of land, but he cannot eat it, neither will his horses nor hogs. He will need help just as much as the renter. Just around here we have plenty of fuel, but further west and north, can only get cow chips to burn, in some places they are worth a dollar a load. Much of the stock must die if help is not sent in soon. The writer has lived in two provinces of Canada, and seven of the states, yet I believe we have as good a class of people as can be found for patriotic and Christian character. And, from no fault of our own, we are in destitute circumstances. Every dollar that we have made over a bare living has been spent in improvements. Patrons, when we sing "There's a union in the Grange," let us mean it. Be loyal to each other. I will be glad to answer anyone wanting information, or, address R. Stanton or Fred Wilkins, Curtis, Nebraska.

ED. JACKSON,
Morefield, Neb.

Growing Disposition of Americans to Live on the Government.

"The horseleech hath two daughters crying, Give, give!" Americans appear to grow more disposed to illustrate the proverb by living on the government. Of course the whole theory of rotation in appointive and non-political offices is that the party in power has a right to pay for the private services of its followers out of the public treasury. A recent governor of the state of New York put this practice in its baldest form when he approved a corrupt public contract so as to pay off his election expenses. The ordinary state of mind as to pensions is similarly low. A few months ago a distinguished soldier, diplomat, and statesman defended the action of a man who was drawing a pension for total disability while an active member of the United States senate. "The law," said he, "makes no distinction; it does not recognize the possibility of mental labor by a man physically disabled." "But," it was objected, "might not the senator look at the matter simply as an honest man?" "You might as well say that I have no right to the pension that I draw," replied the general. The discussion ceased at that point; but the wonder remained that men of wealth and station and public spirit should take, and encourage others to take, payment for their own gallantry. There is no effective public sentiment even against notorious pension frauds. In what community would a person be esteemed who gave information against a widow who had married again and still drew her pension? Yet any of us would notify the police if we saw the same woman stealing ribbon at a counter.—Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart in January Forum.

Horticultural Meeting.

The joint meeting of the west Michigan fruit growers' society, Grand River valley horticultural society, and Grand Rapids fruit growers' union will be held in the court house, Grand Rapids, February 26-7. An elaborate program has been prepared.

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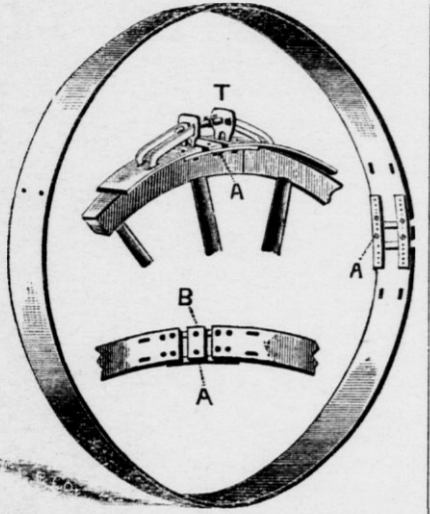
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Leland Stanford Jr. University. PROF. HOWARD J. HALL.

During the past few months all kinds of rumors have been in circulation concerning Stanford University. The institution has been the subject of ridicule, it has been proclaimed a failure, and many even suppose that its doors are closed.

Those who may have expected to see a university fully equipped in every department rise within a few months upon the fields of the Palo Alto ranch have of course been disappointed; a university is a growth of generations, not months.

THE INDUSTRIAL IDEA. In many respects Stanford University differs from institutions of its kind farther east; it is not limited by custom or bound down by tradition.

more conservative than at some institutions in the east, is found to work most admirably. A student, upon entering, selects his major subject for the four years' course, and upon this subject he is expected to spend one third of his time.

ADVANTAGES TO EASTERN STUDENTS.

To the student from beyond the Mississippi this young institution of the west offers many advantages. It has all the vigor and spirit of youth, all the enterprise and faculty for adaptation for which our western country is so famous.

As to climate, Palo Alto is almost without an equal to the student who works the year round. Diversified as the climate of California is known to be, the Santa Clara valley is acknowledged by all to have few equals.

Forestry in Pennsylvania.

The forestry question is before the legislature of Pennsylvania. The essential features of the proposed bill are that "Three state forestry reservations of not less than 40,000 acres each should be set apart, and that these should be under the executive control of the state forestry commission."

Points on Weeds.

HOW ARE WEEDS INTRODUCED AND HOW ARE THEY SPREAD?

- 1. Mixed with seeds or grasses, clovers and grain sown on the farm, rarely by screenings bought by the dealer and mixed with clover seed.
2. By live stock, carried in the hair or fleece or carried by the feet; in some instances passing alive with the excrement.
3. By under-ground feed stuff purchased.
4. In barnyard manure drawn from town.
5. In the packing of trees, crockery, baled hay and straw.
6. By wagons, sleighs, threshing machines.
7. Sometimes by plows, cultivators, and harrows.
8. By railway trains passing through or near a farm.
9. By ballast of boats at wharves.
10. By birds, squirrels, and mice.
11. By water of brooks, rivers, and by washing rains.
12. By the wind aided by little wings, down, or drifted on the snow.
13. By dropping seed to the ground from extending branches and repeating the process.
14. By creeping root-stocks, as June grass, quack grass, and toad-flax.

SOME OF THE WORST WEEDS IN THE STATE.

- To attempt to determine which is the all-round-worst weed is as unsatisfactory and unphilosophical as to try to define the general purpose horse, cow, or sheep.
In Ontario there are about ninety-five weeds, in Michigan about one hundred and twenty-five. Farther south areas the size of our state contain a still larger number. The whole United States contains at least 700 species.
New Jersey contains a list quite different in many respects from the one in Michigan, while Oregon and Nevada contain lists half of which are not weeds with us. In the following lists those introduced from other countries are printed in italics.
1. Weeds troublesome in wheat fields—chess, cockle, red root, rag weed.
2. Weeds of high rank in annual crops—lamb's quarter, pig-weeds, purslane, the pigeon grasses, quack grass, crab grass, barnyard grass, tickle grass.
3. Bad weeds in meadows and pastures—bitter and narrow docks, burdock, several fleabanes, Canada thistle, orange daisy, narrow-leaved plantain, stick seed, wild thistle.
4. The following would take a high rank in many parts of our state were they more common—carrot, dodder in clover, false flax, horse nettle, jimson weed, orange daisy, Russian thistle, teasel, prickly lettuce, bulbous buttercup, moth mullein, toad flax.
5. Many parasitic fungi take rank with weeds; such as wheat rust, wheat smut, corn smut, apple scab, plum rot, blackberry rust.—Dr. Beal.

Silver.

Free silver or a near approach to free silver will give us two standards of value. The gold dollar will represent one value and the silver dollar another and less value. This country has been doing business on a gold basis since 1879.

stand the effect on prices of a depreciating currency. The people would soon understand that such a currency was no benefit to those who wished to make a living by economy and hard work.

It is evident that nearly every business man is opposed to a change of base. Men who do an honest business do not depend on fluctuating prices for their profits. Steady prices is what they most desire. Then they can establish a per cent of profit and do business on a safe plan.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

Table listing various officers and members of the Grange, including National, Michigan State, and County Deputies, along with their names and locations.

