

GRANGE VISITOR

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

VOL. XXI. NO. 22.

CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 19, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 502.

Taxes in Michigan.

Total Amount of State, County, and City Taxes in 1892, 1893 and 1894, as Shown by the State Tax Statistician.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR:—I see by the last number of the GRANGE VISITOR that you suggest taxation as a subject for discussion, and that you have divided the subject into a large number of topics or subdivisions. Now, it occurs to me that a most important point to begin at is to know just how much taxes the people pay, and just what for, so as to see who most needs to be reformed, the state, the county or the townships. In order to furnish this basis, I respectfully submit the following statement of taxes paid in Michigan in the years 1892, 1893 and 1894, as gathered from county and township officers and tabulated in this office:

1892.	
Agg. valuation state as assessed.	\$967,359,020 00
Agg. of state tax for 1892.	1,419,503 83
County tax levied by supervisors.	\$2,346,371 88
Rejected taxes charged county.	21,882 87
Drain " " " "	23,669 73
Road " " " "	7,510 31
Soldiers relief fund.	24,412 83
Grand total of county tax.	2,423,537 62
School taxes, mill and voted.	4,937,482 52
Library and other special.	19,344 44
Total school taxes.	4,956,827 96
Gen. purposes in towns and cities.	4,864,560 66
Highway purposes.	1,464,811 73
Drain and sewer taxes.	448,123 96
Support of poor.	191,242 41
Dog tax.	37,935 39
Cemetery purposes.	12,646 23
Bounty, bond, interest and mis.	511,810 95
Total tax levied in towns, cities.	7,531,131 33
Add liquor tax.	1,915,207 50
Grand total taxes levied state '92.	\$18,246,208 04
1893.	
Agg. assessed valuation of state.	\$960,765 912 00
Agg. of state tax for 1893.	1,352,375 80
County tax by supervisors.	\$2,505,731 93
Rejected taxes charged county.	17,143 84
Drain " " " "	4,908 08
Road " " " "	96,279 88
Soldiers relief taxes.	25,208 68
Total taxes for county purposes.	2,648,972 41
Mill and voted school taxes.	4,955,700 69
Special " " " "	14,181 05
Total of school taxes.	4,969,881 74
Gen. fund, towns and cities.	5,166,553 49
Highway purposes.	1,532,200 76
Drain and sewer taxes.	322,969 56
Poor fund taxes.	190,931 32
Dog " " " "	62,583 99
Cemetery " " " "	11,949 76
Bounties, bonds and mis.	202,553 57
Total tax in towns and cities.	7,659,481 46
Total liquor tax paid.	2,015,698 99
Grand total of all taxes for 1893.	19,226,840 40
1894.	
Agg. assessed valuation state '94.	\$959,658,502 00
Agg. state tax for 1894.	1,688,642 76
County tax by supervisors.	\$2,913,256 19
Rejected taxes charged county.	32,554 82
Drain " " " "	76,154 03
Road " " " "	80,083 77
Soldiers relief fund.	30,401 00
Total for county purposes.	2,882,735 81
Mill and voted school taxes.	5,080,333 65
Special school taxes.	34,426 31
Total of school taxes.	5,115,359 96
Gen. fund, towns and cities.	5,423,875 97
Highway purposes.	1,374,232 96
Drain " " " "	518,079 15
Poor fund " " " "	183,121 05
Dog " " " "	72,849 00
Cemetery " " " "	10,250 63
Bonds, interest and mis.	69,844 67
Total tax in towns and cities.	7,652,063 43
Add liquor taxes.	1,834,671 53
Grand total of all taxes in 1894.	19,122,903 49

The above does not represent quite all the taxes the people pay, as there are some items of local taxes it has been impossible to obtain such as the "excess of rolls." Many towns and cities do not report the dog tax or license fees, while the cities fail to report these special assessments for sidewalks and similar purposes. All these discrepancies will add nearly or quite a million dollars to the local town and city taxes. Then there is the highway, labor and poll tax, which is not returned by the township officers, which will amount to upwards of two millions of dollars annually in the whole state. I desire at this time to simply submit the facts, and allow the farmers and tax-payers to examine them carefully and to draw their own conclusions as to where to commence to retrench.

Yours truly,
CHARLES B. DELAND,
State Tax Statistician.

Lansing.

Michigan Dairy and Food Commission.

BY COM' R. C. E. STORRS.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR:

In trying to give an estimate for your readers of what has been accomplished so far, as the result of the passage of the food law at the last session of the legislature, it

may not be amiss to state at the beginning something of the condition of things at the time the law took effect. There were a few articles on the market that were adulterated, chiefly for the reason that their cost could not be materially reduced by any known method, but with a great majority of all the articles of food in use, fraud was the rule and purity the exception. For example, in spices it was a rare thing to find a pure article, pepper was mixed with ground olive stones, buckwheat hulls and various other articles too numerous to mention; mustard with cornmeal or wheat flour and colored with various substances, and so on through the whole list.

Manufacturers and wholesalers knowing of the law and preparing for the time it would become operative, had concluded that like charity, the word "Compound" or "Mixture" in section 3 of the law, could be made to cover a multitude of sins, and used it for that purpose until they learned to the contrary. One large concern outside the state was so advised by their attorney, and large shipments were made into the state so labeled, but after a personal call at the office of the Commissioner, he advised his client that the proviso would not admit of so broad an interpretation, and the matter was at once corrected by recalling the goods or correcting the label, where that would remedy the evil.

There was from the beginning a disposition shown by dealers and manufacturers to comply with the law, and earnest effort to learn what its requirements were that they might take no chances. Manufacturers and jobbers from all the principal cities and out of the state came to Lansing, to learn what would be required of them. The construction placed upon the law by the Commissioner was in nearly every case considered a fair one, and even where there was a difference, they in all cases promised a prompt compliance with the views held by the Commissioner. So far as known there has been no case of failure to fulfill the pledges made.

Almost all the cities and larger towns have been visited by the inspectors and stocks thoroughly inspected, many of them having been visited two or three times. Almost invariably a second visit has found dealers complying strictly with the law, and in cases of failure in some articles, it was found to be from imperfect understanding of the law in regard to the article and has been at once corrected. The universal expression of the trade is that the law is all right, that it is better and vastly more satisfactory to deal in pure goods than impure and that it pays better in every way.

Lately more attention has been paid to the smaller villages and country places. Here the inspectors find the dealers protecting themselves by buying goods that so far as they can determine the matter, comply with the law. Of course in most cases they are obliged to take the word of the travelling salesman, but in the majority of cases they find the goods as recommended, showing on the part of the wholesale trade an honest purpose to comply with the provisions of the law.

At first and until the evils were in a great measure corrected, goods in large quantities were returned to first hands and replaced by pure articles, in many cases, manufacturers and jobbers themselves recalling them. In other instances they were thrown in the street or otherwise disposed of. Inspectors report almost an entire revolution in the trade in food products. The lowest estimate from one of them is that the improvement is at least seventy-five per cent. and others ninety per cent. While these estimates may be too high there is no doubt that the improved conditions have many times repaid the expenditure.

The first work done by the inspectors was to visit all the wholesalers and manufacturers in the state. With them making and selling only pure goods it was only a question when the trade would be what it should. The result has been all that could be desired.

The work has from the first had the hearty co-operation of the parties named in the state and very generally of those outside.

Lansing.

The Home for Feeble Minded.

BY SUPT. W. A. POLGLASE.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR: It affords me great pleasure to present to the tax payers of this state, through your paper, a statement of what we are doing at Lapeer. Although hardly fair at this time to place an estimate upon our cost of maintenance, which would be difficult as yet to determine, for running the short period we have, and without (during the first portion of that time) a full number of inmates. Our appropriation was large enough to permit the purchase of many articles for which special appropriations are usually made, and for which the institution had use, also much work was done in changing and re-fitting. There existed such a pressing demand for these articles and additions that good business judgment dictated their purchase and construction.

The annexed statement will give in detail the items which we are able to furnish to date. The fact of the existence of such an institution as the Michigan Home for Feeble Minded and Epileptics is unknown to a vast majority of the tax payers of this state, and especially so the purpose and work of the institution, the class of unfortunate defects it cares for, and the attempts to train them to something of usefulness. I may therefore be pardoned if I give a short synopsis of the history of this institution, and the particular class of humanity it cares for; and the final accomplishment and organization of this school.

The idiot and imbecile can be traced through all the pages of history. In the ancient times as the demoniac or the possessed of devils, in Rome the Fatua, in the middle ages as the jester and the fool of kings. The American Indian allows to pass unharmed "these children of the great spirit," while the Koran gives this special charge to the faithful, "Give not unto those who are of weak understanding the substance which God hath appointed you to preserve for them; but 'maintain them thereout, and clothe them and speak kindly unto them.'" (Chapter 4.)

History also shows him driven from place to place, the sport of the multitude, the victim of barbarity, ignorance or fear, his portion often the dungeon of the poor house. The weakling a leech upon a poor wage earner, with no chance of betterment, or drifting naturally into the criminal or basest of despised outcasts. And still worse by the stern law of transmission to taint and pollute the human race and redouble by his posterity the tax for pauperism and crime.

Not a century has passed since the recognition of the possibility of training this class to usefulness, and but 50 years since any attempt was made toward the organization of institutions for their care and education. Massachusetts was the first state to inaugurate this work and up to the present but 17 states have training schools. The last being Wisconsin, preceded by our own state. Though the matter was frequently agitated before the legislature of this state during the past 15 years by earnest and benevolent people, it was not until June 2nd, 1893, that an act was passed establishing the Michigan Home for Feeble Minded and Epileptic and appropriating \$50,000 for the construction of suitable buildings. The plans adopted provided for the "cottage plan." Up to the present time \$67,000 has been expended in building and equipment. The present buildings consist of two three-story cottages, dining hall, boiler house and engine room, and last winter a small frame cottage was built as a temporary hospital. The floor plan of the cottages are alike: one for males and one for females, each having a capacity of 100. Each building contains two school rooms, three day rooms, four dormitories besides the rooms for attendants. The appropriation not providing for an administration building, the departments usually conducted in the same are divided up between the two cottages, crowding out room that was intended for inmates.

Since the establishment of the first training school for feeble minded in the United States, these institutions have

gradually broadened their scope until to-day the plan of our institution is modeled upon the advanced ideas in that it combines an educational and training school for the feeble minded, a colony where the treatment and care of epileptics is assumed, and, above all its custodial features, which commits to the permanent care of competent officials. These defects which in a large majority of cases should never be returned into the world to enter social relations.

The present buildings are constructed more for the care of the feeble minded, it has therefore been impossible to take the epileptic; next year however a cottage is to be erected for that class. The applications for epileptics have nearly reached 400, while we have applications for the feeble minded, exceeding our capacity by over 300.

Broadly considered we have two groups in classification of the feeble minded: the idiot and the imbecile—idioty the unimprovable and imbecility the improvable class.

In the school department children are instructed in the ordinary branches as taught in the common school. As compared with the education of the normal child it is a difference of degree and not of kind. The games and occupations of the kindergarten, object teaching and developing gymnastics, made attractive, are equally as well adapted to the education of the feeble minded as to the normal child, only with the former, instruction must be given on a lower plane, the progress is lower and the pupil cannot be carried so far. Habits of cleanliness are taught, tidiness, control of temper; truthfulness, politeness, correct habits and behavior, observance of the ordinary amenities of life and the simple principles of morality. Manual training is a prominent feature in developing dormant activities, it is education by doing.

One of the saddest features of our work is the denial we must give to the oft repeated question of sorrowing mothers: How soon will my child be cured? The incurability of imbecility is for the most part as great an enigma as the existence of the moral imbecile. We may train, strengthen and develop what is there, but as Wilbur has tersely said: "We do not propose to create or supply faculties absolutely wanting, nor to bring all grades of idioty to the same standard of development or discipline; not to make all capable of sustaining credibly all the relations of a social and moral life, but rather to give dormant faculties the greatest possible development and to apply the awakened faculties to a useful purpose under the control of an aroused and disciplined will." It is estimated that not more than 15 per cent (even when taken at the most favorable age) can be so trained as to be returned to the world and they should be debarred the rights of propagation.

Trained specialists are a necessity in this work and "life long guardianship for these life long children" for one step beyond the mental limit and retrogression will ensue with possibly insanity or lapse into profound idioty.

I believe that imbecility is rapidly on the increase, and that heredity is one of the potent factors. The United States census returns on June 1, 1890, showed a total number of 95,609 feeble minded persons, only 6,000 of which were cared for in institutions. It is conservatively estimated that there are two feeble minded persons to every 1,000 of the population, epilepsy bearing also about the same relation, this would give Michigan nearly 5,000 of each class. One of every five epileptic is feeble minded, and one of every ten insane. Much that has been said of the feeble minded can be said of the epileptic, but the world is more familiar with this dread disease and its results. Suffice is to say that no more pitiable condition of disease is known; as it ostracises completely the individual from the world, a curse to himself and a burden to others, shunned by neighbors, debarred from school and employment. It is not strange that so many swell the list of suicides or are shut in asylums for the insane. Humane measures suggest their colonization, where all that can be done to ameliorate

(Continued to page 5.)

Field and Stock

Agricultural Conditions of South Dakota.

BY PROF. E. A. BURNETT.

South Dakota is a state as varied in its climatic conditions as the state of Michigan. From its eastern boundary where it joins Minnesota and Iowa, it stretches for four hundred fifty miles across rolling, treeless prairie, across the Missouri river, through the Bad Lands and into the Black Hills, which it intersects by its boundary line with Wyoming. The eastern part of the state resembles, in its soil, climate, and rainfall, the states of Minnesota and Iowa. South Dakota divides naturally into three divisions: First and easterly, The Big Sioux Valley, comprising a belt about three counties wide extending from north to south. Second, The Great Artesian Basin, extending from the Sioux Valley on the east to the Missouri river and probably west of the river into the third belt which is known as the Range Country or the Grazing Lands.

It is my purpose in this article to speak only of the Sioux Valley, which comprises the eastern fourth of the state in which rainfall is sufficient to produce grain crops with fair degree of certainty without the necessity of irrigation. Southeastern South Dakota is in most respects like northern Iowa. It is on the same latitude as Port Huron, Flint, Grand Rapids, with an average temperature but little if any lower, though subject to much greater extremes of temperature. The dent varieties of corn grow and ripen there with safety. Hardier varieties of apples flourish there and all the small grains are grown in abundance. As you get farther north corn and fruit are less and less common, until in the northeastern part of the state the people have an idea that their climate is too cold and too uncertain for corn. A few years of experience will prove to these farmers that the smaller varieties of corn will grow and ripen with comparative safety. Not many years of dairy farming will be necessary to impress upon our farmers that corn is a more important crop than it has yet been considered and its area will be greatly increased.

THE SIZE OF FARMS.

Dakota farming is essentially different in some respects from that of the average Michigan farm. Farms here are generally larger than in central Michigan, ranging from two to four quarter sections. There are few "bonanza farms" in this state, and those which still exist in this state and in North Dakota are fast being broken up into smaller farms and sold or rented to tenants. The low price of grains for the past few years, the risk of crop failure, and the great expense of hiring men, who were in no way interested in the business, who killed time at every opportunity, and who demanded large wages on account of the large demand for labor, has defeated the attempt to form immense farms operated on a large scale and to consolidate the farming industry as the manufacturer has done in the immense factories of the United States.

The fact that this state was settled by a class of farmers who came here to raise grain, and the consequent demand for labor during a few months of the year has tended to make wages high during the summer. The large fields make it possible to use four-horse teams, as a rule, with occasionally a six-horse team. But the latter is cumbersome except on very large fields and is not a frequent sight in this section of the state. The plows used are generally two bottom gangs except for breaking sod when a single bottom is used and a very shallow furrow is turned. Harrows vary in width from fifteen to thirty feet, drawn by four and six horses and driven by one man. I am sorry to say the harrow is too little used in this country where the necessity for conserving moisture is very great.

WHEAT GROWING.

There is yet very little idea of a rotation of crops. Wheat is followed by wheat or oats or barley and that again by wheat. This is no longer the case with our best farmers who have learned the value of rotation and are raising some corn and are summer-fallowing for clean cultivation, but the uncertainty of grass, the cheapness of hay and the difficulty of finding a variety of crops with a market value tend to limit the number of crops grown. Much land is plowed in the fall in order that it may be ready for wheat in the spring. It is left rough in the fall to catch snow and prevent blowing, and a large per cent of this land is never even touched with the harrow in the spring, but is drilled "upon the furrow." Some farmers argue an advantage in this method as the harrowing tends to loosen the soil and increases the danger of "blowing out," by which means many acres of seeding are lost each year from our heavy winds. On the other hand such a method encourages the growth of

weeds and shiftlessness generally, and, though a cheap method, is generally bad practice.

The corn crop is becoming more and more important and our farmers are learning that corn ground, if kept clean, is fully equal to summer fallow for a grain crop the year following. The crop is often drilled upon corn land without any cultivation or with nothing more than a slight harrowing. It is readily seen that these are not intensive methods. They have been encouraged by the small amount of cultivation necessary on these prairie lands to produce a crop; by the fact that the most careful methods sometimes fail, and by the fact that unintelligent cultivation is sometimes detrimental rather than beneficial. But better and more intelligent methods must come into practice as the country becomes older and the soil loses its fertility.

The dry summers of recent years have made it difficult to seed to grass and the abundance of native prairie grass has prevented the necessity for artificial grasses for hay.

DAIRYING.

The large quantities of grain raised here make all grain and refuse grain products very low in price. These, with an abundance of cheap, coarse forage, have made dairying profitable even in its present crude condition. Many creameries are being constructed and operated on a co-operative plan. They have been reasonably successful. Sheep are finding their way from the range onto the farms, and it will not be many years before South Dakota will furnish a much larger amount of live stock for the markets than she does today, for grain raising is still the principal industry. One-third to one-half of the grain is still unthreshed and the machines are running full force with self-feeding and self-stacking separators which either bag the grain or elevate it into tight wagon boxes in which it is drawn without sacking. The yield of wheat for the state in 1895 was twenty bushels per acre, but for the present year it is not likely to exceed twelve bushels on account of the rank growth of straw and the damage from rust and weeds.

The country is one of extensive landscapes and a view can often be secured covering many miles. From the hill on which our college stands we can often see the village of White, fifteen miles away. From a neighboring station I have watched a passenger train creep toward me for thirty minutes before arriving at the station. But all these things become ordinary events as you become accustomed to them.

Dakota is a land of sunshine, but in this portion of the state is favored with a rainfall of about twenty inches annually. This amount seems quite sufficient for the method of farming practiced here, although a more abundant and better distributed rainfall would materially aid the new industry of dairying which is so rapidly developing in the state.

SOME REFORMS NECESSARY.

The Dakotas were unfortunate in being settled at a time when fortunes were being made in raising grain. In the early eighties men came to this country with or without money, except enough to put in a single crop, which paid for their land and machinery and left them a credit balance on the first crop. Nothing could have been more disastrous to the country. Land was taken up in parts of the state which were unfit for grain farming. Falling prices, the machine agent, the money shark, and the dry years which followed, all were needed to teach our people that no system of farming could succeed which allowed such enormous waste and so many months of enforced idleness as is caused by exclusive grain farming. It required large amounts of labor at high prices and then turned this labor free upon the community for many months of the year with no possible employment. It produced immense quantities of grains to pay freight to the cities, and thousands of tons of straw and wild grasses to be burned as a nuisance while the farmer was buying coal at eight and ten dollars per ton for fuel. I mention these facts only to show that if these western states in their early history have seen many bankrupt homes, it is largely because they have failed to utilize the natural resources, or have worked in opposition to the natural resources of the country.

Already the impulse for a rational system of farming is being carefully studied. Dairying, sheep and swine husbandry are receiving attention. The question of farm rotation is tardily being studied. A few years ago people denied the possibility of raising corn successfully but they now have proved the possibility by doing it.

The cost of producing butter can certainly be reduced to a low figure here with bran \$4, shorts \$6, oats 12c, barley 15c, hay \$3, corn 20c per bu., which is about the present price.

It is a frequent sight at Brookings to watch the farmer bring in a load of wheat which sells at seventeen cents below the

Chicago market and return with a load of wood purchased at eight dollars per cord or with coal now selling at \$9.75 per ton. These are things radically wrong in our system. Our vast prairies must produce their own fuel, and thereby furnish wind breaks for the country. We must consume these vast areas of untouched grasses and the quantities of cheap grains and sell the finished product as beef and mutton, pork or dairy products. We must no longer follow a system of farming which requires vast amounts of high priced labor for a few months of the year and then brings upon the laboring man a period of enforced idleness, which drives labor out of the country to be again enticed only by excessive demand, but we must diversify our farming to furnish more months of labor or a lower average wage, secure larger profits by concentrating our shipping products and selling our skilled labor. These are still the pioneer days of the great Northwest. Time only can reveal the greatness of her resources.

Brookings, S. D.

General Topic for November.

THE FARMER.

QUESTION 1. How does the condition of farmers compare with the condition of other classes in society?

QUESTION 2. How can farmers best improve their condition?

SUGGESTIONS.

Very much is said at the present time, about the condition of the farmers, and their relation to other classes, and it may not come amiss for farmers themselves to study the question a little in the light of facts, and not wholly from a sentimental standpoint. The farmer who is in embarrassed financial circumstances from any cause, or one who has a complaining, pessimistic nature, is inclined to think that he has the hardest lot of anybody in the world and gets the least returns from his labors; while the farmer of an optimistic nature, who looks on the bright side of life, or one who is "well fixed," is quite sure that farming is not the worst vocation in life, and that farmers are as prosperous and happy as most other classes in society.

The word "condition," as used in this topic, may be made to cover a wide range of investigation, and include the moral, social, intellectual, political and financial standing of farmers.

In point of morality the relative position of farmers to other classes is an enviable one. As a class, the farmers of this country, are peaceable, law-abiding, God-fearing, liberty-loving men and women. Riots never occur on the farm, and no one ever heard of bombs being manufactured by farmers.

Doubtless there are anarchists in this country, men who hate society and are opposed to wholesome laws and good government, but it is very injudicious, to say the least, to call farmers in any part of the country anarchists, because they entertain certain views on important questions before the people today; and it is equally injudicious and unwise to call farmers who take the opposite side of the question "traitors to their country." No one but the blatant demagogue or the thoughtless politician will be guilty of such inexcusable indiscretion, even in the excitement of a heated political campaign.

The social and intellectual condition of farmers may not be all that could be desired. They may be somewhat lacking in ease of manner or grace of diction when in the company of the learned and polished element of American society; but during the past four years there has been a wonderful transformation in this direction, and it is not uncommon today to see farmers in the best society, and on the platform with the most polished speakers and profound thinkers of the day, and when any comparison is drawn, it is generally with no disparagement to farmers.

Politically the farmers are not where they should be, they are easily outranked by other and far less important classes in society; but their eyes are being opened. A quarter of a century of education in the Grange is bearing fruit of the right kind, and if farmers are but true to themselves it is only a question of time when they will become the peers of any other class in the arena of political strife.

Statistics give the farming population the following financial standing:

All of the tangible wealth of the United States amounts to a little over sixty-five billions of dollars. The value of all the farms of the United States is a little over thirteen and a half billions, making a total valuation of all farm property over eighteen billions, or considerably more than one-fourth of all the wealth of this country. Between 1880 and 1890 the increase in the aggregate valuation of farm lands was a little over thirty per cent, and the estimated increase in the aggregate valuation of farm products was a fraction over eleven per cent. The increase in tenant farms during the same period was a little less than three per cent. A little over one-third of the

farm valuation is incumbered, and the incumbrance amounts to 35.55 per cent of the valuation of the incumbered farms. The incumbrance on city incumbered homes amounts to about 40 per cent of their valuation. Over 72 per cent of the farms and homes of this country are unincumbered, and the incumbrance on the remainder is about 38 per cent of the valuation. All farmers are not prosperous even in prosperous times, neither are all men prosperous in other lines of business. It is stated on good authority that over 90 per cent of the men who engage in business make a failure. Failures among farmers are exceptional and not the rule.

The second part of this topic calls for but few suggestions. While the condition of the farming population of the country may not be as deplorable as sometimes depicted, yet it is far from what it should be, or might be. If farmers have neglected their opportunities, or been careless or indifferent in regard to their rights and duties as citizens, giving undue advantage to smaller and less deserving classes, the fault is their own. No reforms can be effected in any line, politically or otherwise, until the farmers themselves manifest sufficient interest to take hold of the work in earnest, and unitedly labor for the accomplishment of the objects in view.

It will be interesting and profitable to know how farmers in different parts of the country estimate their relative condition to other classes, and know how they think they can make their condition better than it is today.

Every lecturer should feel it a duty to give a full report of the discussion on this topic.

Agricultural Instruction.

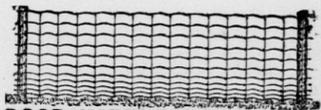
The New York *Mail and Express* does not agree with the proposition presented in the annual report of Superintendent of Public Instruction Skinner that the teaching of the principles of agriculture in country schools would tend to keep the boys on the farm. The *Mail and Express* says:

"The suggestion is attractive theoretically. As a matter of fact, no amount of academic discussion can turn back the stream that flows, as it has flowed for decades, from country to town. No rural school curriculum can force aggressive and ambitious human nature to cease the irrefragable longing for the thickest of the fray and the amplest of opportunity in the greatest age of progress and achievement the world has known. You cannot argue back the tide.

"The abandoned farms of northern New England cast a shadow of sadness and regret over New Hampshire and Vermont; yet they stand as monuments to that spirit of progress which chafes under failure and stagnation, and which has burst the bonds of home and lifelong association to cut a way to independence in the states and territories of the Far West. The farms of our own Empire state, more blessed in natural advantages than those of New England, will never be utterly abandoned; but they must suffer in serious degree from the spirit of the time.

"It is the friction of the congested centers of population that develops to the utmost certain characters, moral and intellectual. It is the touch of elbow that maintains the steadiness of the march. Many return defeated to their homes, and more fall by the way. But it is a matter of record that the most successful men of New York today are men country born and country bred. The whirligig of time may eventually bring us back to a more even distribution of population, but we have no time or inclination to mourn over present facts. Where the country loses the city is apt to gain, and the state strikes a general average of profit. Poor farmers often make merchant princes, and dissatisfied rustics generals in finance and mechanics."

While it may be impossible to stop the exodus to the cities, it can, we believe, be checked somewhat by spreading the principles of agriculture among the farmers' boys. The more knowledge the boy gains of agricultural methods and all matters pertaining to the farming industry, the more anxious he will be to remain on the farm. But it is useless to attempt to make a farmer of a boy whose talents lie in an entirely different direction. Better not try it.—*Farmers' Union League Advocate.*



DOOR YARD HORSES

A name applied to such as put on style on short drives, but soon "peter out." Many of the three rod samples of wire fences shown at the fairs, are built on this plan. The strong spring works nicely, but when required to regulate 40 or 80 rods it fails. The only "long distance" regulator is made by

PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Grattan Grange.

We thought a few words from one of our woman's work committee might not be out of place at this time, for we expect as usual that our state committee will be governed somewhat by the favorable or unfavorable reports of our Subordinate Grange committee. First, we consider it of the greatest importance that our committees understand what is required of them, that they should know when, what, and how to do. For if we do not understand our work, mistakes must and will occur. Sometimes they occur through the carelessness of others connected with our work.

This we cannot help, we may suggest though. Our field of work has been greatly enlarged since the appointment of a woman's work committee in the Grange. First, we were only required to have a general supervision over the house work of our Grange homes, plan entertainments, and labor for the growth and prosperity of our Order, which was no small thing to do, if rightly done. Next in line came visiting of schools, and a laudable work it is and one we enjoy, and then was added the Fresh Air work, another grand and beneficent work, too. But the question is, can we do so much and do it well? If we cannot, let us drop some of it and adopt the good old Grange maxim, what we attempt to do, strive to do well.

We should, I think, first labor for the welfare of our own Grange, and those near home; after that widen our sphere as much as we can for the aid and comfort of others. I would not discourage one dear soul from doing good, for there are worlds of work to do, seemingly, and always will be. But I think we were not expected to take upon ourselves burdens we cannot bear. If we do we will droop in the shadow of care by trying to do what we thought was our duty.

We had a little experience in our vicinity this summer with Fresh Air children from Detroit. With the aid of Sister Austin Slayton, places were secured for fifteen children and young ladies for a two weeks vacation. The most of them proved quite satisfactory. Two young ladies were homesick and went home the fourth day. They were clerks in a store. Then there were two more, young girls that were homesick and made much care and trouble because they could not be sent home. The young ladies held single tickets, but the children were sent in a bunch, nine on one ticket, so if one went all must. You readily see the trouble such a course would make. Each one should have had a return ticket and those who have charge of the children should also have charge of their tickets, so if they were sick or for any other cause they could be sent home without much trouble. We have explained more fully to Sister Mayo in a long letter we wrote her sometime ago. She will, of course, bring the subject up before the State Grange soon to convene. The question asked is: How is the Fresh Air fund raised, and does the State Grange contribute to its support? Some one please answer. Are we to have any school blanks for woman's work committee to fill out? We are ready to report when we get the blanks.

There is much we would like to say about the needs of our country schools, if we only felt competent to do so, and perhaps we may anyway some of these days.

Fraternal yours.

AUNT KATE.

Contributing to the Press.

The following was written for the VISITOR by Mr. Jesse J. Parker of Hillsdale, formerly a compositor in the office of Perry & McGrath, and the gentleman who for some time was responsible for all of the typesetting on the VISITOR. It is written from a printer's standpoint and contains some valuable suggestions:

There are but few people not practically engaged in printing who comprehend how difficult it is for the average typesetter to read poorly constructed manuscript. It is a fact much to be deplored that there are countless thousands of contributors to the press who are seemingly indifferent as to how their manuscript is prepared, and it is also true that a large per cent of poor manuscript (known to the printers as "rot") is submitted by those who have an exceptionally good education, including clergymen, doctors, school teachers, and lawyers, especially the latter. A greater portion of such manuscript is undoubtedly "written in haste," and the writer, if called upon to do so, would oftentimes find it a difficult matter to read his own hand-writing after it had become cold.

Not long ago a Detroit real estate man wrote a letter to the man who was engaged on his farm in Clinton county, therein explaining what he wanted done. The man was unable to read the letter and it was filed away until a few days later when his employer made a visit to the farm, at which time the letter was produced, and the real estate man declared that he never

wrote it. The writer himself was unable to read it.

As a rule, people usually make a great stir if by chance their name appears in print wrong, but nine times out of ten such errors occur simply because sufficient care is not taken to write the name plainly. When the question of studying out a proper name is considered, it will be readily seen that it is by no means an easy matter to jump at a conclusion.

Compositors are usually instructed to "follow copy," even though it might chance to blow out the window of a third story, but if this rule was strictly adhered to for just one issue of the GRANGE VISITOR, or any local paper, there would be a multitude of wry faces accompanied with many bitter remarks. Not only is the writing often undecipherable, but the spelling is equally as bad, and as for construction, there is none—it is simply thrown together and to bring into print the idea the writer wished to express taxes the mind of both compositor and proof-reader, in case the communication was not in the first place thoroughly reviewed by the editor. Too many of our college graduates write and spell by main strength, and if a slight mistake occurs in their communication, the printer or proof-reader was surely the one to blame.

The most essential rules to be followed by those who contribute to the press are the use of good paper, good ink, (never use a pencil,) write a plain hand and do not attempt to write one line on top of another. One might better use an extra sheet of paper and keep the lines fully one-half inch apart.

I wish to state here that the GRANGE VISITOR has several extra good contributors and especial credit is due them for the extreme care taken in the preparation of their manuscript. There are always some who have no regard, seemingly, for any style at all, and a great many times the writer can be duly charged with carelessness.

If everyone knew how much the printer had to contend with in the way of reading writing that often bears a closer resemblance to quail tracks than anything else, it would be a lesson of profit both to the writer and to the printer. There are those who suppose that the major portion of the errors which creep into print might have been avoided, in the first instance by due care on the part of the printer. This, to a certain extent is true, but not to the extent supposed. It might be proper to charge him with all the errors if he had nothing else to consider in performing his work but correct composition. But there is a certain demand made upon him for quantity as well as quality, therefore he cannot devote his entire time to literal accuracy, if he did there would be no need of proof-readers, and even the latter overlook errors for which they are many times unjustly criticised. Leaving out of consideration the variations from rules of capitalization and punctuation to which there are as many exceptions as there are to any of the so-called "rules" of English orthography, the labor of weeding out literal errors is one which taxes the patience and assiduity of the reader to the utmost. Sometimes errors which may strike the casual reader as so plain and easily discernible as to raise a conclusive presumption of carelessness, may have passed half a dozen careful readings unnoticed. When even a careless reader devotes an hour to the conning of a single page, with a mind fresh and unclouded with other cares, he may discover errors which the proof-reader has overlooked.

The professional reader brings to the daily discharge of his duties a constitution similar to that of those engaged in other vocations, and, like everyone else, is subject to the ills that unfit him for close application and careful discrimination. The most competent have days when their minds are beclouded by anxieties that draw their attention from their work. A great many times the verdict should be instead of careless proof-readers, overworked proof-readers.

Morals of the Bathtub.

"It is very easy to find a direct connection between the cleanliness of a people and their moral standard," writes Edward W. Bok, editorially, of "The Morals of the Bathtub," in the November Ladies' Home Journal. "Of all the external aids to a moral life none is so potent as tidiness. An untidy man or woman soon becomes a moral slob. Let a man be careless of his surroundings, of his companionships, of his dress, his general appearance and of his bodily habits, and it is not long before the same carelessness extends into the realm of his morals. We are all creatures of our surroundings, and we work and act as we feel. If a man lives in a home where carelessness or untidiness in his dress is overlooked, he very soon goes from one inexactitude to another. He very quickly loses himself. The moral fibre of a man, fine of itself, can soon become coarse if the influence of his external surroundings is coarse. I believe thoroughly in the effect of a man's dress and habits of person upon his moral character. I do not say that

neatness of appearance and cleanliness of person constitute the gentleman or the man of honor. But I do say that they are potent helps. And I would like to emphasize the importance of this belief upon the women of our homes. For it is given them to be an important factor in these helps to the betterment of the world's morality. * * The man who makes a point of keeping himself clean, and whose clothes look neat, no matter how moderate of cost they may be, works better, feels better, and is in every sense a better business man than his fellow-worker, who is disregardful of both his body and dress, or either. He works at distinct advantage. The external man unquestionably influences the internal man. I would give far more for the work done by a man who has the invigorating moral tonic of a morning bath and the feeling of clean linen than I would for the work done by a man who scarcely washes, and rushes into his clothes. * * The time spent upon our bodies is never wasted; on the contrary, it is time well invested. A machine of metal and steel must be clean before it can do good work. So, too, the human machine. A disregard of the body and disorder in dress soon grow into moral slovenliness."

A Man's Greatest Help.

Noting the tendency of mothers to escape the care and responsibility of training their own children, resorting to nurses, governesses, kindergartens, etc., Edward W. Bok, in the November Ladies' Home Journal, vigorously contends that woman should consider her God-given "duties" to her children vastly paramount to every "claim" that can be made upon her time. "It is one of the most baleful tendencies of the times," writes Mr. Bok, "that young children are placed so much and so entirely in the hands of nurses, and so far away from their mothers. I do not think that women exactly realize what the early teachings and influences of a mother mean to a man when he reaches years of maturity. The time which a boy spends at his mother's knee is never forgotten by the man. Our morality is learned there. Our characters are formed there. We are most impressionable when we are in a stage of absolute dependence upon others. What sort of a recollection is it for a man to look back to a line of nurses or governesses? What moral stimulus does he receive from the recollection of a mother inevitably reading some novel and resting in a languid stupor with fan and smelling bottle? What moral fibre is instilled into a child who sees his mother only as she flits before him between morning calls, luncheons, meetings, teas, drives, dinners and theatre-parties? What does a boy learn at the knee of a nurse? Good? Perhaps. But just as often he learns that which is not good. * * * Many a man has stood at the forks of the road in his life, broken-hearted and perplexed, only to have his mother's words, uttered to him when a child, come before him, and point him the way. It is then that he realizes that the best thing in the world to a man is to have had a good mother, watchful, tender and anxious, as only a mother can be where her child is concerned. In those supreme moments the lesson taught—not by the nurse, not by a stranger, not at the kindergarten, but at the mother's knee—becomes a precious recollection and a benediction. It means then a man's salvation. And in that quiet moment a man thinks of a good mother as he never thinks of any other woman. A look of tenderness comes into his eyes, a feeling of softness creeps into his heart, and the attitude of his earliest infancy comes to him as, unconsciously, he looks upward and breathes to himself the most precious of all words: 'Mother.' It remains for the mothers of today to determine how much that word will mean to the men of tomorrow."

The Juveniles.

My Shadow.

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me, from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me when I jump into my bed.
The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller, like an India-rubber ball,
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.
One morning very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup.
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me, and was fast asleep in bed.
—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Jack Hunting.

Jack hunting for deer, when you have a good guide and a sure gun, is deadly work, and is wisely being made illegal; but Jack

hunting with an amateur paddler and a greenhorn at the lantern, is not dangerous to the deer, and is any amount of experience to the amateurs. That is the way my brother and I together had a taste of it. Our water was a pond or bog high up in the mountains. We were our own guides and our own paddlers. The bog was full of rocks, every second rod we would grate over a stone with noise enough to scare all the deer in a mile. Our lantern did not work, smoked like a fire engine, and smelt loud enough to give every delicate nostril on all the mountains a substantial whiff. The paddling was by no means noiseless. The wind blew a moderate gale, whirling the scent into every available corner. Altogether it could not be said to be an ideal hunting expedition in its management or equipment, and yet we had our experiences.

It was cold work out on the lonely lake. It was dark enough for jacking, no doubt about that, black everywhere, with perhaps a still deeper dye where the pines fringed the edge of the water. While getting out into the water we had collided with all the available rocks, and had to wait interminably for things to quiet down. There was no lack of time to take in the weird, uncanny effects of night and forest and woodland sounds before we heard that sharp k-plink k-plank of a deer's step in the water. The most skilled hunter, with the best of paddlers behind him, could not have tasted deeper of all the excitements of the chase than we did of the white shaft of light slowly circled round the lake, glided up toward the shore, shot far out under the blackness of the trees, made silver the leaves and creamy the waters under its touch. To the sentimentalist also there was the added attraction that so much soot, and smoke, and smell went with the light, and so much of noise with the paddling of the boat that there was chance for amusement for the deer as well as of excitement for ourselves. This creature, whose feet we heard splashing, and towards whom we were aspiring, was evidently a buck, and as evidently had charge over the whole situation. He took to the woods in good order, and there commenced operations. He whistled; he drummed with his feet; his shrill calls echoed high up on the hills. He would start and run, tearing and crashing through the bushes, far off into the forest, and then come as rapidly rushing back again. He would come so near that we felt sure the next leap must bring him out fairly under the jack. He would run so far that we would feel, "Well, that is the last of him;" only to hear him whirling his way back again. He kept us thus on tenter hooks and himself on the run for a quarter of an hour, effectually warned all the deer this side of the Canada border, did his duty manfully, worked up our excitabilities greatly, and finally departed with a last defiant whistle, leaving us to the lake and its stillness, to the jack with its smoke, and to the night with its chill. Surely no one, except the base pot hunter, who really thinks it necessary to get his game in order to enjoy his hunting, surely no one could imagine that we did not feel fully paid for our expedition.—Ex.

A Friend of the Helpless.

An exchange tells the following interesting story of a dog's kindheartedness: "The other evening, in New York, a policeman was strolling along one of the upper West Side streets not far from a stone-yard. Presently a white bulldog ran toward the policeman, barking as if for aid. The policeman was quite struck with the way in which the dog would give his bark, and then bound back into the yard. He decided at last that he would see what the dog was trying to do. He followed him into the yard and on the ground was a little white bundle. The policeman struck a match, and the little white bundle proved to be a baby. The policeman picked it up, almost afraid that the dog would bite him; but, instead, he wagged his tail, and gave every evidence of being quite pleased at the policeman's act. The dog trotted along by the side of the policeman until the latter went into the station-house. When the policeman stopped, the dog wagged his tail and looked up into his face. When the policeman went into the station-house, the dog followed him, seemingly listened to what he said, and when the door was opened, walked out. Evidently, the little baby was a stranger to the dog. He had found it in this lonely place, and then done what he could to have the baby cared for. The policeman says that this is just a common street dog—probably one of the kind that naughty boys would think it great fun to tease, and to tie a tin pail to his tail and send him frightened down the street. But this dog was a real hero, and showed himself much more human than the boys who delight to torment him."

Ripans Tabules cure biliousness.
Ripans Tabules cure torpid liver.
Ripans Tabules: at druggists.
Ripans Tabules assist digestion.
Ripans Tabules cure indigestion.
Ripans Tabules cure bad breath.

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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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 proposes to work. We hope every Grange in the state will work earnestly in all 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.

For Discussion.

The following are questions suggested for discussion in Subordinate Granges and in the VISITOR between now and State Grange session. We hope that Lecturers will have each one thoroughly discussed in the Grange, and brief reports of results of such discussion sent to us for news items. We also invite short, pithy articles from our readers bearing on these subjects. We have divided some of the topics so that we could arrive at details. "Come, let us reason together" and then we shall be able to know what is best for our interests and for the general welfare.

1. Are the present tax laws of Michigan just and fair to all classes? If not, why not?
2. Are the tax laws complied with in making assessments? If not, where is the blame?
3. What specific changes in our tax laws would be advantageous?
 - (a) Specific taxes.
 - (b) Inheritance tax.
 - (c) Mandatory assessment under oath.
 - (d) County boards of auditors.
 - (e) Personal property.
4. How can expenses in our state government be reduced?
 - (a) The departments at the capitol.
 - (b) The legislature.
 - (c) Miscellaneous.
5. How can expenses in our state institutions be reduced, without injuring their efficiency?
 - (a) Educational institutions.
 1. University.
 2. Agricultural College.
 3. Normal School.
 4. Mining School.
 - (b) Prisons.
 1. At Jackson.
 2. At Ionia.
 3. At Marquette.
 - (c) Asylums.
 1. At Kalamazoo.
 2. At Pontiac.
 3. At Traverse City.
 4. At Newberry.
 5. At Ionia.
 - (d) Other institutions.
 1. Industrial school for boys.
 2. " " girls.
 3. State Public School.
 4. School for deaf.
 5. School for blind.
 6. Home for feeble minded.
 7. Soldiers' Home.
6. How can county and township expenses be reduced?
 - (a) Courts.
 - (b) Schools.
 - (c) Jails and poor houses.
 - (d) Roads and drains.
 - (e) Salaries.
 - (f) Miscellaneous.
7. How can our pure food law be strengthened?
8. What can we do for temperance?
 - (a) As to enforcing present laws.
 - (b) An investigation of the liquor traffic by a commission, or by the Board of Corrections and Charities.
 - (c) The formation of an anti-saloon league.
9. Shall free passes for state officers be prohibited?
10. Shall we have a uniform text book law?
11. Shall we have a free text book law?
12. How can we bring about the election of the United States Senators by the people?
13. Is free rural mail delivery practicable?
14. Are farm statistics valuable?
15. Can gambling in grain be prevented?
16. Shall we have state inspection of grain?
17. How improve district schools?
18. Shall women vote in Michigan?

Election is over, the Grange still lives! And why shouldn't it?—There is work for it to do.

Let every delegate to State Grange come for business, determined to do his or her share toward making it a successful and notable meeting.

"Aunt Kate" asks whether the State Grange is at any expense for the Fresh Air work. There is no expense to the Grange except the slight expense connected with the work of the state committee on woman's work, who have charge of the Fresh Air work. The expenses of railroad fare, etc. are borne by a fund raised in the city, or from the generosity of the railroads. Burden comes only on those who share the privileges conferred by the work.

Election has not settled all things by any means. There are still some important matters that the Grange can help to settle, and they lie outside of the domain of politics too.

We noticed in the daily papers of recent date an account of the sudden death of Brother Thos. F. Moore of Adrian. He was one of the "Old Guard," and his work and influence are better known to the older members of the Grange than to the newer ones. But we know something of his strength of character and nobility of purpose. The idea forces itself upon us that we must have able men to take the places of those who are gradually dropping away.

We have heard about campaigns, educational campaigns, and all that sort of thing for five or six months; now let us hear something about a Grange campaign. We have not got as much money as the politicians had to spend this fall, but we have just as good a cause to work for, and we ought to have just as much enthusiasm in it. Why cannot we have a genuine Grange revival this winter? It has been talked about but it has come only in a limited degree.

President Harrison gave some sensible advice to the Farmers' National Congress the other day. He told them not to make complaints against everything in general, not to indulge in any "calamity howling," not to make their attacks in such a way as one that "beath the air," but to concentrate their efforts upon certain evils and bend every energy to eradicate those evils. This is pretty good Grange doctrine. We wonder if Mr. Harrison has ever read reports of Grange meetings. But we are afraid that even the Grange sometimes forgets this advice and is apt to indulge in generalities. Let it not be so at the coming meeting of our State Grange.

We wish to indulge in a few thoughts on public affairs. We consider them especially pertinent at this time, when our delegates to State Grange are thinking about what they shall do there, and when the eyes of the farmers are upon us. There are several important and fundamental questions that we must give attention to, and we must do it in such a way that our work will have been done thoroughly. The thing that comes nearest home to us is that of taxation. In these hard times the question is unusually pressing. We wish to utter a word of caution in regard to the handling of this subject. Let us not waste time over the comparatively insignificant details of the subject, but let us get at it in such a way that we shall effect some permanent good, and a reform that will really count for something. There are two phases of the subject. One is that of raising the money, and the other is that of spending it. There are chances for reform in both lines, and it is perhaps pretty hard to tell which is the more important. That of spending the money is the easier thing to complain of, because we can perhaps see the operation better. It is perhaps the hardest thing to manage satisfactorily. Doubtless public expenditures can be reduced without injury,—indeed with positive good. There is no question but city taxes can be reduced, but that does not effect farmers particularly. County and township expenses can be reduced without harm: expenses of courts, jails, roads, salaries, etc. we believe can be reduced. When it comes to our state affairs, doubtless the legislature can be run more cheaply than it is; doubtless the departments in the capitol in the aggregate can be managed for a great deal less money; and possibly some state institutions can reduce their expenses without injuring the work they really ought to do. Our own judgment in regard to state institutions is that the best thing that can be done is to prevent increased expenses rather than to try to reduce present ones to any great extent. If all the expenses of the state government were reduced 50 per cent, which is something that is probably out of the question, how much difference would it make with each farmer's tax? A consultation of the figures given in this issue by State Tax Statistician DeLand will enable one to figure this up to some extent. It would not remove the burden very materially, would it? Let it be understood that we favor conservative public expenditures. It is very easy for people to spend more in a public way than they would out of their private purse. That this is true is best shown by the fact that the very people

who object to public expenditures, when they themselves become public servants, usually do not bring about any very great reforms. Let us control expenditures; let us watch them carefully to see that our public servants do business as it should be done.

But this still leaves untouched the question of raising the money. In our judgment this the more important and the more difficult problem. We believe we should not move hastily in this matter, but that we should take hold of the question from the bottom up, so that after a series of years we may have the satisfaction of having brought about a permanent reform. The Grange of Pennsylvania has done this,—why cannot we do it in Michigan? This means patience, study, labor. Are we able to give these qualities? We cannot reform the system at one State Grange; we cannot do it at one legislature; we cannot do it in one year. The matter should be studied by the best minds in the state. We must get at the facts first. The appointment of a tax statistician was a step in the right direction; but we do not expect, and have not expected, that his discoveries would settle the matter. Now, if we hurry this business and get feverish about it, we shall not gain a thing; we shall simply delay the question. Let the wisdom of our Grange legislators be directed toward something that is in advance and permanent. It is of course simply good business to bring about such changes as will be immediately helpful, but let us not lose sight of the main question.

The next question that claims our attention may be treated under the general name of "protection." This includes our pure food laws, and control of corporations, monopolies, and things of that sort. This also is a big subject, and cannot be settled by a resolution of eight or ten lines, no matter how unanimously it may be passed. It means toil, study, thought, investigation, co-operation.

The next question is that of temperance,—worthy of separate treatment,—worthy of our special study,—worthy of Grange action. This needs also the same care, thought, investigation, and action.

Then we come to education, "last but not least," in fact the most important of all,—education in a general sense and education for the farmer. The Grange itself is an educator, but it is not the only educator. It ought, however, to be the leader in agricultural education; it ought to determine the tone of our agricultural press, the work and methods of our Agricultural College, and it ought to aid in directing the work of our district schools. This means the most careful thought, the wisest direction, and the most enthusiastic devotion. Are we equal to this task?

We have, in the above, outlined several lines of activity in a very general way it is true, but in our judgment they represent certain things that the Grange ought to be working at. We must have some things that take immediate effect; otherwise our efforts are spent wholly on the coming generation, which, although a very unselfish thing, does not satisfy. At the same time, we must not be in too much of a hurry. Large structures are built slowly. Therefore if we wish to settle these questions permanently, we must be contented with a step at a time,—we must build the foundation solidly. We must not be afraid to "labor and to wait."

For about a year and a half the measure known as "The Redfern Liquor Commission Bill" has been discussed in the columns of the VISITOR. Leading citizens of Michigan have been kind enough to send us articles on the topic, and the matter has frequently been referred to editorially. Doubtless by this time each reader of the VISITOR has made up his mind whether or not such a measure is practicable and wise. There are two phases of this subject. One is the practicability of the scheme itself, and the other is the wisdom of the Grange advocating it. We purpose in this issue to sum up the arguments for and against this bill, as well as to discuss the question of the advisability of Grange action.

After having carefully reread the arguments against the bill by those who have contributed to the VISITOR on the subject, we believe that the chief objections are summed up under the following four headings: 1. The results will show nothing new. 2. Large expense of a new board. 3. Its provisions are impracticable. 4. The result will be of no use when secured. The objections, if they can be maintained, are sufficient to condemn the measure. Let us look at them. 1. The results will show nothing new. We grant that every observing person realizes that the liquor traffic is doing a vast damage financially, socially, morally. But there is absolutely no scientific basis for any statement that may be made along this line. We do not know

of any statistics of any kind that would enable one to discuss this phase of the question in an accurate and logical manner. We do not see how it is possible for students of this subject to get to the bottom of the matter with the material at hand unless they themselves create the statistics. We doubt also if very many of our citizens realize the actual destruction caused by the liquor traffic. We doubt if our people realize the effect of this traffic upon taxation as well as upon morals. In our belief, investigation like the one proposed would indicate, to some extent, the amount of damage done, and would, moreover, show the remedy most immediately needed by showing where the greatest damage is done. 2. Great expense of a new board. This is an objection if it can be shown that the returns would be valueless, but if it is admitted that the statistics gathered would be of great and permanent benefit, it cannot be an objection. We shall speak further of this point a little later. 3. Impracticable provisions. Doubtless this point is well taken, and the earliest way to meet the argument is to say, let the impracticable provisions be taken out of the bill. It will still leave plenty of work to be done. 4. The results will be of no use when secured. This has been partly covered by our points under the first objection. We believe, however, there is another reason why the results will be of value, and that is that the findings would stir up temperance sentiment, which has been apparently dormant. To our mind these objections are all met.

Those who have argued in favor of the measure have brought up many things to show its value, but their arguments may be summed up in these three. 1. It would unify temperance sentiment. This we have just spoken of, and it seems to us it is one of the very best results to be obtained. 2. It has been tried, or rather is being tried. We have quoted in these columns letters showing the scope of the work done by a committee of fifty prominent men in the east, who are working largely along the lines laid down in this bill, although the bill was drafted before their work was known of. Members of the committee assert that the results already obtained are gratifying, and they express an abundant faith in the value of the investigation. 3. Investigation is always good. We believe that half the evils of the world exist because they are covered up. Lavish public expenditure, corruption in high places, social evils of various sorts, we believe exist largely because the people do not realize their enormity. We have statistics about crops, products, mortgages, taxes, about almost every thing in fact, but we have no accurate statistics on the liquor traffic. They cannot be found in existence, and yet the liquor traffic, we believe, is responsible for much that makes the gathering of these other statistics necessary.

One plan has been suggested, (we believe Mr. Brewer spoke of it in his admirable letter,) which would reduce expenses and perhaps achieve the results desired. Put the purely statistical work into the hands of the State Board of Corrections and Charities. This would need an extra clerk, but would cost much less than the commission plan, would do away with the objection to the expense and the objection to the formation of a new board or bureau, and doubtless the Board of Corrections and Charities would have all the facilities for accomplishing the results that the new board would have. Leave the question of methods to the Anti-Saloon League which has recently been organized in this state.

By the way we wish to say a word about this League. We are free to say that this organization has anticipated a work that we hoped the Grange might do. We had hoped that the Grange might take the initiative in calling together representatives of all classes to form such organization as is this Anti-Saloon League, for the purpose of enforcing liquor laws and securing advanced legislation if necessary. We hope that this plan of gathering statistics will commend itself to this new organization which, we think, ought to bear the chief responsibility in seeing such a measure passed. We hope, however, that the plan commends itself to the Grange, and that they will promise the League an earnest support in endeavoring to achieve the results aimed at.

Now is it advisable for the Grange to act? Why not? If the plan is good, it is good for the Grange to favor it. If the plan is not of value, that settles the question. We ask our delegates to State Grange to consider the matter carefully, for it is an important question.

Have You Tried It?

Hartford Co., Conn., Feb. 19, 1896.

MR. O. W. INGRSOLL,
DEAR SIR: Enclosed please find order for paint. I used your paint seven years ago, and it stands the weather well, and looks as bright today as when first applied.

Fraternal yours,

C. R. WOODFORD.

See adv. Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paints.

Michigan State Grange.

The Michigan State Grange will meet in Representative Hall, Lansing, at 10 a. m., Dec. 8th, 1896.

DELEGATES.

The names of all accredited delegates, from either subordinate or Pomona Granges, should be reported at once, if not already sent, to Secretary, State Grange, Ann Arbor.

RAILROADS.

A fare of one and one-third full rate has been granted to all who obtain the proper certificates at the time of purchasing tickets to Lansing. These tickets, with certificates, may be obtained as early as Dec. 3d, and are good until after Dec. 15th. The purchaser of a ticket will pay full fare to Lansing and ask the agent, of whom the ticket is purchased, for a certificate of purchase. In case he must come over more than one road and buy two or more tickets, he must obtain a certificate for each ticket. When properly signed by the State Grange Secretary and special railway agent, these certificates entitle the holders to purchase tickets at one-third fare. These certificates will not be honored this year on tickets for which less than seventy-five cents were paid.

"No refund of fare can be expected because of failure of the parties to obtain certificates."

HOTELS.

The following terms are offered by hotels. Board may also be obtained at first-class boarding houses at \$1.00 per day:

Hudson House.....	\$1.50 per day
Downey " (double.....)	1.50 "
(single.....)	2.00 "
NewGrand " (double.....)	1.00 "
(single.....)	1.25 "
Chapman " (double.....)	1.00 "
(single.....)	1.25 "
Ingham " (double.....)	1.00 "
(single.....)	1.25 "
Van Dyne ".....	1.00 "

Delegates or visitors who desire further information are invited to correspond with Secretary.

JENNIE BUELL, Secretary.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Distribution of State Documents Relating to Penal and Pauper Institutions.

BY RT. REV. GEO. D. GILLESPIE, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE BOARD OF CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES.

The state does not propose to furnish literature for the people. And yet the state is doing a big publishing business. Witness the struggle for the state prints ing. Recall the not very elegant but quite extensive state printing house that stand near enough to the capitol to tell that it does the state's bidding. Look up the figures in the Auditor General's office, "Reports of state officers and boards for 1888, \$35,376.02."—Auditor General R., table 42, page 55. And for the production, visit the document rooms in the basement of the capitol. See the heavy laden desks of senators and representatives, and ask to examine the shipping record of the proper clerk. Or even ask the good lady whose husband has had the honor to be made, by the suffrages of his fellow citizens, representative or senator, as at house cleaning time, she handles the volumes that followed his return at the close of the session.

And what is this literature, very clean looking in its binding, but not particularly ornamental on the shelves? "Stupid enough," says the young lady of the honorable's household, who has been tempted to open a volume or two, or to turn over the leaves of a pamphlet. "Horrors, what lots of figures!" exclaims the boy of the household, as he unfolds a table that likely some fair girl of the capitol has, or ought to have, more than once lost her temper in compiling. And stupid enough to most of us some of it is. Possibly somebody enjoys these lists of institution property, from a spittoon up, with value affixed; this illimitable percentage business that dissects and dissolves everything, and marks up pauper and prisoner with personal valuations, the percentage he sleeps, eats, works or don't work; excluding only the percentage of the property of the one and of the virtue of the other. I presume it is somebody's duty to read these figures. I am glad it is not mine. And as the old lady found the stories in the dictionary, interesting only rather short, possibly somebody likes them.

But I am not here to disparage the state literature. I regularly go to the clerk's office for my documents, pamphlets and books, and I examine them, and I preserve them. Now let me show you what I have on my shelves and what I value. Here is my "Penal Department;" reports of Michigan State Prison, the State House of Correction and Reformatory, the Detroit House of Correction and the Reformatories, Abstracts of Reports of Sheriffs. Over this shelf you read "Insanity," the tale year by year of four asylums. Then below the more cheerful documents that open

up our School for the Blind, and Institution for Educating the Deaf. "Pauperism," means here our annual reports of the County Superintendents of the Poor, and of their conventions, and honored and valued most, at least by me, the biennial reports of the State Board of Corrections and Charities, and of their six conventions and their special issues. This is by no means all the state literature. These thick volumes, better bound, are the reports of the Board of Agriculture, the Horticultural Society, the State Board of Health, the State Board of Education, the Bureau of Labor, the Vital Statistics, all of them annual. I count eight volumes annually; and ten more with these biennially, and added in both periods a number of separate pamphlets. Put them in line on your shelves, and you will have more state literature than the number of books the citizen of average means generally possesses.

What is the value of these issues of the press? I speak from the standpoint I occupy tonight in a convention called to consider crime and poverty in their varied relation. And I speak not as a state official, who may have duty of special examination of figures and facts, but as a citizen. The Board of Health, the Board of Agriculture, the Board of Education, the Bureau of Statistics of Labor, can all enter as strong a plea in behalf of its specialty, as I can in behalf of mine. And there is scarcely a page printed by the state that some officer or legislator is not interested in.

The value of the publications now in view is in opening the prison, asylum, reformatory institution, to the inspection of the citizen. They lead him within doors where his foot has never stood, they tell him what is doing within the walls he sees from the carriage or car window. They give him the financial, the humanitarian, the religious side of charity to the helpless, and punishment to the offending classes of society. They remove his ignorance and meet his prejudices. The great difficulty in all our movements for amelioration and reform is ignorance, and when there is prejudice it is commonly the result of this ignorance. The disgraceful jail, the rickety, tinderbox poorhouse, may withstand the prudence as they say, the parsimony as it often is, of supervisors, but when the people take in the situation, it is doomed. Even the average legislator comes to the task of law-making and appropriation for the state institutions, avowedly ignorant where he is so responsible. As to the citizen, he knows little or nothing beyond the fact that such institutions exist, and that he as a taxpayer has to support them.

This brings us to the point of our paper—the distribution of the penal and pauper volumes and pamphlets the state prints.

The law is explicit and mandatory. See Howell's annotated statutes, title 1, chap. 1, secs. 10-26. The secretary of state is "to direct and oversee the prompt distribution of the laws, journals, documents and reports,.... whose distribution is not otherwise provided for." It is "the duty of the secretary of state to advise with the several officers, boards of officers and public institutions making reports as to the number of copies of their reports necessary." A large number of these reports, etc., are bound up in four or five thick volumes known as "Joint Documents." Of the remainder, 150 copies of each are deposited in the state library for use in said library, and "200 copies in the office of the secretary of state to supply future demands." "The several officers, boards of officers, and institutions making reports are to be supplied with such a number of copies of their respective reports as they may desire, not exceeding 500 copies, to be distributed by them in their discretion."

These are wise provisions; but the bulk of very large issues remains. The statute directs "laws, journals, documents and reports shall be shipped to the several county clerks in the state and be distributed by them to the persons, officers, corporations and societies within their respective counties entitled to the same."

Now here comes in what we must regard as the waste of this state literature. Although notified that the books and documents await them, many of those entitled never call for them. What is the consequence? In every county clerk's office you will find accumulations of the state property in print. The county in which we are met may serve as an illustration. Calling lately at the office, the clerk politely showed us the document room, well shelved, and the shelves well filled with volumes from Lansing. The overflow had been boxed and sent to jail, not for reformation of prisoners, but custodial care. The explanation was the persons entitled to them do not call for the books, even officially decline them and say, they have already more of such matter than they know what to do with.

Now what you may see in this county you may see in any county in the state. The law treats the state literature very reverently. The county clerk "receipts for the same which receipt shall be filed and preserved." The Secretary of State must "notify each person to whom any

books are sent, . . . each person receiving such notice shall, within a reasonable time, apply for the books, . . . and if the books are to be passed over to any successor in office and are not called for such person thus notified shall be held responsible." I see nothing that could be added to the law, unless the requirement that the county clerk shall stately dust such books as may not be called for.

What ultimately becomes of these accumulations? I give the answers I have had "We give them away to get rid of them;" "we box them up, and store them when we have no room for them here;" "we sell them for paper rags." The law does say, "they shall be carefully preserved, by said county clerks." And that "the county clerk shall report once in each year when requested, to the Secretary of State on blanks furnished by him, by giving a full statement of all such books remaining in his office, together with the names of the officers neglecting to call for the books to which he is entitled."

It is due to your kind attention that I should at least make some suggestions for a better distribution.

1. I suggest that the larger portion of the reports of asylums, prisons, reformatories, etc., should be placed in the hands of the trustees of the institution, for distribution under instructions of the legislature. The State Board of Agriculture, the State Horticultural Society, and the State Board of Health, have the distribution of their reports to the extent of 8,000, 6,000, 3,500 copies respectively. Each institution must know where its work should be known and who are interested in it.

2. In place of this plan, a bureau of distribution and circulation, in the person of a secretary or clerk who should give his time and attention to this work. An official of intelligence an tact would make his lists for each document, studying locality, nationality, profession, business. As he became familiar with his office he would make few mistakes. He would be the success for the state that the advertisement clerk is to the extensive business house.

3. Whatever plan may be adopted let there be such advertisement that the citizen may know what the state has printed, and how, if he desires, he may obtain the document. I have repeatedly found documents from Lansing received with great satisfaction by those who were not aware of their existence. If a man or woman takes the trouble to send for book or pamphlet, that guarantees attention to it.

4. Let the state act on business principles, and having produced the article, make the necessary outlay to put it on the market. From a business point of view the state acts very much as a bookseller who should have his small office in which to sell, but keep his stock in the lofts or in the cellar.

5. In a word let the state print no less but let it publish more.

The Home for Feeble Minded.

(Continued from first page.)

rate their unhappy state by skillful medical service, diet and mental and physical employment can be directed.

The expense of running the institution is greatly lessened by utilizing the labor of the inmates and much more can be done by facilities for properly employing those who are idle, besides the large number of small children should be taught, as they advance, simple mechanic pursuits.

The management of the institution is vested in a Board of Control of three members, appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate. The Board serve without compensation but are allowed actual travelling expenses. The Board meet monthly at which time the financial affairs are adjusted, improvements and repairs directed and the condition of the inmates and economical management of the institution passes in review.

Admissions are made directly to the institution and all ages above six years are eligible. Persons from Michigan are admitted to the Home without charge for tuition, washing, medicine or medical attendance, but where the parents of any person or persons who may be admitted are able to contribute to their support, in whole or in part, they may be required to do so as the Board of Control may direct. In admissions so far, preference has been given to young children, indigents, and in consequence but little revenue has been received from this source. A large number of our children had been, previous to coming here, in county houses, several of the older ones came from jails. We have inmates ranging, in age, from six years to fifty-nine years in the institution, and with the limited number of buildings grading is an impossibility.

At present one attendant has the care of 25 inmates and is off duty only during school hours and a half-day each week.

Attendants are also expected to take upon themselves a share of the training and it is a very important part. The pay of attendants does not exceed \$18.00 per month.

The pay in all departments is exceedingly low, which offsets somewhat the in-

crease per capita of running a small number of inmates. The cost per capita, per annum, is about \$175.00. This can be lowered by increasing the number of inmates as the cost of management would not be materially increased. The food cost receives our closest attention, buying directly from manufacturer and producer, and dealing it out with due regard to quantity upon a physiological basis. At present our cost of food including cooking and serving is a little less than 12 cents per day, 4 cents per meal; which cost will compare favorably with any institution.

The farm is an important adjunct to the economical running of the institution, and will make a favorable showing this year, as some new and productive land was cultivated this season; but grazing land is scarce, so that we have been compelled to purchase considerable milk. It would certainly reduce the cost of running expense by increasing our present area of 160 acres for we still have a number of inmates that could be employed in its working. Even in the short time of our existence, we are making nearly all of our clothing, buying little but knit goods, and we shall soon have a shoe shop in operation.

That the Michigan Home is a much needed institution is further proven by the fact that we have today nearly 650 applications for admission on file, for both feeble minded and epileptic, and the question confronts us thus: Shall we accept the idiot who can be cared for? although at the expense of vital energy in the family or in the county house, or shall we release to society the imbecile, who will, by the strong law of transmission, taint and pollute, or drift to his inevitable fate in the jail or penitentiary.

Lupeer.

500,000

FRUIT TREES

must be sold this year—

Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, Peach.

MILLIONS OF PLANTS.

Hardy Michigan Varieties of Peach: Kalamazoo, Gold Drop, Lewis, New Prolific, Fitzgerald, Sneed, Triumph, Etc. All stock guaranteed to be as represented. Send for our new price list. Send us your list and let us figure on it. TRY US ONCE.

WEST MICHIGAN NURSERIES

Benton Harbor, Mich.

Special Rate for the Grange Convention, \$1.00 PER DAY.

BUTLER HOUSE

Cor. Washington Ave. and Kalamazoo St.

FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS.

J. W. MENZIE, Prop.

THE NEW GRAND

R. M. RENNER, Prop.

Washington Avenue South, LANSING.

Special Rates \$1.00 and \$1.25 per day.

College and Station

The Army Worm.

Methods Recommended for Checking It. Bulletin Geneva, N. Y. Station.

The methods which are usually recommended for checking the army worm are mainly these: Plowing deep furrows around infested fields or around infested sections of a field; also where possible in front of the army of advancing insects. It is better to make the sides of the furrows as near perpendicular as possible and, where the soil will permit, to slant them back, especially the side opposite the infested section. Holes should be dug in the furrows at intervals of from ten to fifteen feet. The caterpillars which fall into the furrows, not being able to get out, will crawl along the sides, finally falling into the holes where they may be easily killed by crushing or by the application of kerosene oil. The caterpillars in the furrows may also be killed by scattering straw over them and burning it, or they may be crushed by a log drawn back and forth through the furrow. In case the soil was light and stony and it would have been a difficult matter to make the sides remain perpendicular. The soil being very loose, however, gave way with the weight of the caterpillars as they attempted to climb up the sides and hence preventing their reaching the top. In this case the furrows were made promptly and hence the entire crop was saved.

In pasture fields where the surface of the ground is comparatively even and the soil is firm, the caterpillars can be crushed by a heavy roller. Spraying of crops with a strong mixture of Paris green and water may also be resorted to. It is usually unnecessary to spray more than a strip about a rod wide in advance of the carapillars. Where possible the poisoned portion of the crop should be burned to prevent possible injury to stock.

Shredding Corn Fodder.

Newspaper bulletin, Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station.

During the past few years unusual interest has been taken by farmers in the subject of shredding fodder. Many have hesitated to shred, thinking that the shredded corn would not keep well in the mow or stack. When shredding was first practiced, more or less fodder was shredded in a somewhat damp condition. When such corn was used, it invariably heated in the mow, became musty and gave unsatisfactory results. A knowledge of such unsatisfactory preservation has restrained some people from shredding their fodder, although had the crop been properly handled, there is little doubt but what these same persons would have become endorsers of the process.

Fodder that is shredded, should not be run through the machine until it is entirely dry and well cured. It would be better over-dry than not dry enough. Last season at the Indiana experiment station we shredded all of our corn fodder (stover) and with the most satisfactory results. It kept well in the mow, and was free from mustiness. The cattle and sheep ate it freely, and it was used well into the spring with the stock. This fall we will shred nearly all of our 1896 crop.

Shredded fodder presents several important points in its favor.

1st—It is more economical to feed than the uncut corn. 2nd—It is eaten up cleaner by the stock than most cut fodder is, there being less waste, due to the absence of the hard, sharp-edged, short butt pieces of stalks usually found in cut fodder. 3rd—The refuse makes better material for bedding than do whole stalks or cut pieces, being finer and softer. 4th—It handles far better in the manure pile than does the entire stalk. 5th—It does not make the mouths of cattle sore, while that of coarsely cut fodder oftentimes does. 6th—It packs more economically in the mow than does uncut fodder. The feeding value of shredded and cut fodder is practically the same.

Shredding is coming more and more into practice, and many farmers are making use of the process. Shredders and huskers combined

are made, or the shredders may be bought separately. Baled shredded corn hay may now be found in the hay market and it furnishes a valuable class of coarse food for horses, cattle and sheep. A ton of shredded fodder contains over three fourths of a ton of digestible food for the animal body. In these times of low prices, the farmers of the country cannot afford to allow their fodder corn crop to go to waste, so long as it can be used instead of other rough stuff. Shredded, it may be handled and fed to the greatest advantage.

C. S. PLUMB, Director.

Moisture of the Soil.

Bulletin Cornell Experiment Station.

1. The average annual rainfall in New York is sufficient for the growth of profitable crops. Owing to its unequal distribution and to the loss of nearly one-half of it by surface drainage, crops usually suffer from droughts.

2. The first step towards conserving moisture is to put the soil in such a physical condition that it will be pervious to water, or afford a reservoir for it.

3. Water exists in the soil as free, capillary or hygroscopic. The free water within eighteen inches of the surface is injurious to the growth of cultivated plants. The capillary water is the direct source of their supply and should be conserved by all possible means.

4. Capillary action of the soil depends upon the fineness of its particles and the closeness of their relation to each other. In coarse, loose, sandy or gravelly soils the action is weak; in fine, well compacted soils it is strong.

5. When the capillary interstices or pores in the soil are continuous from the moist under soil to the surface, the moisture rises uniformly and passes off into the atmosphere by evaporation. If, however, these interstices or pores are made very much larger near the surface, the moisture is arrested in its upward movement, a result which is accomplished by light surface cultivation which produces a "soil mulch." This mulch of loose soil answers much the same purpose as a board or carpet would in cutting off the direct connection of the capillary soil with the atmosphere. As soon as the soil becomes baked or encrusted, the capillary connection with the atmosphere is renewed, and another tillage is required to re-establish the soil mulch.

6. A large amount of water is necessary for the plant, as its food is in a very dilute solution, and water is also used in building plant tissue.

7. Moisture in the soil is necessary that nitrification and decomposition of organic matter may take place. Without it, the action by which the roots are able to corrode the solid rock and set free plant food cannot take place.

8. The distribution of rainfall cannot be controlled by any known means. Dependence must be placed upon irrigation and the conservation of soil moisture.

9. Irrigation is expensive and while entirely practicable in arid regions, yet in our section if flooding by irrigation should be followed by heavy rainfall the effect might be disastrous. Where irrigation is not a common necessity, it must be secured by individual enterprise and is therefore expensive. In New York we must depend largely upon conserving or preventing the loss of the moisture.

10. The means by which moisture may be conserved are: judicious plowing and tillage, mulches, underdrainage, wind-breaks, applications of lime, salt, etc., and adaptation of crop to the soil.

11. The absorbing or capillary power of a soil depends upon the fineness of division of its particles.

12. The plow is a most valuable implement for pulverizing and fining the soil. Fall plowing is recommended for heavy clays, the surface to be left rough and unharrowed. Fall plowed lands catch and hold the water.

13. Surface tillage should begin early in the spring, as every day's delay after the soil is in fit condition means the loss of many tons of water.

14. The harrow is valuable as an implement with which to establish and maintain a surface mulch. Frequent harrowing of an orchard will greatly lessen the evaporation

from the surface.

15. Where cultivators are used as conservers of moisture, many fine teeth are preferable to a few coarse teeth.

16. Ridge culture is calculated to promote evaporation. To conserve moisture, practice level culture and so reduce the area exposed.

17. The roller brings moisture to the surface by compressing the soil. On loose sandy soils it is useful by compacting the particles. On clay its use may prove injurious if followed by heavy rains. Where possible it is well to follow it with a smoothing harrow to restore the mulch.

18. A surface mulch of leaves and decaying vegetable matter is nature's way of conserving moisture. It also adds humus to the soil, which is the great store house for nitrogen and moisture. An herbage mulch can rarely be used in farm areas, however.

19. Underdrains act beneficially in making soils porous above them and thus increasing their permeability; and in removing the free water and thus allowing the access of air, which is as necessary as moisture.

20. Lime, gypsum and salt are all used as conservers of moisture. An application of lime seems to have a beneficial effect on heavy clay and on light sand. It also acts favorably on marshy, sour lands.

21. Grasses and grains should be grown on clay and loamy soils, leaving sandy and gravelly lands for cultivated crops. The humus of tilled lands may be kept up by barn manures and by green manuring.

22. The space between the trees in orchards should be left free for tillage. A growing crop makes such a demand upon the supply of moisture that the trees may be seriously injured.

23. Determinations of soil moisture may be easily made by anyone. The importance of this line of work is called to the attention of granges, farmers' clubs and horticultural societies.

24. The importance of thorough tillage to conserve moisture cannot be made too emphatic. Deficiency in rainfall with intensified agriculture is preferable to abundant rains and neglect by the cultivator. The soil will respond in a large measure according to the treatment it receives. Neglect it and it will fail to bring forth liberal increase, but cultivate intelligently and thoroughly and it responds quickly.

Wheat in the World-Market.

The simple fact, that we produce more wheat than we consume, and that consequently the price of the whole crop is determined, not by the markets within this country, but by the world-markets, are sufficient to put wheat, as regards its price, in a different class from those articles whose markets are local. It differs very radically, for example, from corn: While we export 36.88 per cent of our wheat crop, we export only 3.72 per cent of our corn crop (which in 1892 was 1,628,464,000 bushels). Whether he knows it or not, whether he likes it or not, every man who chooses as his occupation in life the growing of wheat must be affected by everything which influences the production and price of that article throughout the entire world. And it need not be said that many wheat-growing farmers make little or no allowance for events beyond their limited range of local information. A good crop in Europe means a lessened demand for American wheat; a large European crop, accompanied by a very large harvest at home, is sure to depress the price abnormally; and if, in addition to these two uniting causes, competing countries in Asia, South America, Africa, and Australia, send large quantities of the same grain to Europe, the price may fall further. A given demand may be more than met by an exceptional supply. It must then be remembered, too, that, as regards an article of food like wheat, after a person has taken his usual consumption, his demand does not rise with a falling price, but, after a saturation point of desire is reached, it practically ceases altogether. This accounts for the extreme fall in price produced by a supply only slightly in excess of the ordinary demand. Does the

farmer of our Western States study to adapt his supply to the known demand, as the manufacturer does? Probably not; he plants because he has wheat-land, and leaves the rest to the mysterious play of forces outside his kin. Yet it is certain, nevertheless, that the price of his grain is determined by events in Australia, Argentina, Egypt, India, and Russia, or by excessive rains in England, France, or Germany. To know the economic nature of the farmers' occupation is necessary to an understanding of his existing situation, and one can clearly see how varied are the world influences which may affect his efforts in growing wheat.—J. Lawrence Laughlin in the November Atlantic.

THAT'S SENTIMENT!

Once a notorious and eloquent statesman said that the attempt to put the decalogue into politics is "an iridescent dream."

If you approach the average business man and ask him to carry the higher feelings of humanity into his business or to conduct his business in such a way that he will build up, develop and improve the men connected with him, physically, mentally and morally, you are usually met with the remark, "That's impractical; that's sentiment."

In that very delightful play, "Shore Acres," a real estate agent tries to induce Martin Berry to mortgage his farm, divide it up into town lots and make a fortune. Martin hesitates and tells the agent that his mother is buried up on the knoll overlooking the sea, and that he had rather not sell his mother's grave, as she had been good to them, and they had rather promised to keep it in the family. The agent sarcastically replies, "That's sentiment," and poor, weak Martin Berry is conquered and concludes that reverence for his mother's grave is an unworthy feeling.

I am aware that sentiment may take peculiar shapes and at times stand in the way of human progress, as in China, where the dead hands of deceased ancestors reach out of the graves of the past and throttle the present. There are times when we hold opinions that are outworn just because our fathers held them. This is a mistake, and one that we can very easily avoid.

What I wish to criticize is the almost universal habit of excluding feeling or sentiment from politics and business. This results in a kind of double life, the cherishing of humanitarian sentiments on Sunday, under the spell of the worship and preaching, and then the rest of the week living in direct violation to these sentiments.

Here is the real and difficult problem of our age. I state it in two questions: 1. Shall our politics be moral? 2. Shall our business become just and righteous? Sentiment includes feeling, thought and idea. We usually mean by the word our deliberate conclusions about matters, but when we speak of a sentimental person we mean one who is rather easily affected. All of our knowledge is based upon or rather grows out of experience or feeling. I touch the book, hear the music, see the tree, and in each case I am aware of something. I am conscious of my own existence and of the impressions and experiences that I have when I touch, hear or see anything. After repeated experiences of this kind I have certain ideas and reach certain conclusions—viz, that stones are heavy, trees have leaves, music is beautiful. I meet with men and women. We have dealings, we are made better or worse thereby, and we have ideas about their conduct, character, etc. These are our sentiments and feelings regarding them, and we are controlled by these much more than we are aware of.

J. W. C.

The Man Who Knows.

I respect the man who knows distinctly what he wishes. The greater part of all the mischief in the world arises from the fact that men do not sufficiently understand their own aims. They have undertaken to build a tower and spend no more labor on the foundation than would be necessary to erect a hut.—Goethe.

Copper wires are used for Mexican telegraph lines, so that they will hold the weight of the birds and monkeys that crowd them at night.

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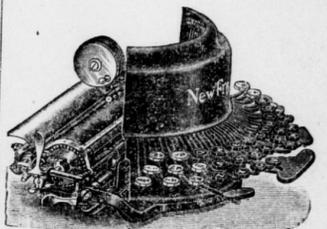
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Kept in the office of Sec'y of the Michigan State Grange

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.

Secretary's ledger, per hundred	80
Secretary's record	85
Secretary's orders, bound, per hundred	30
Treasurer's receipts for dues, per hundred	35
Treasurer's receipts for dues, per hundred	35
Applications for membership, per hundred	25
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By-laws of the State Grange, single copies, 10c per dozen	75
Glad Echoes, with music, single copies, 25c per dozen	300
Grange Melodies, single copy, 40c; per doz.	4 00
Opening Song Card, 2c each; 75c per doz.	10 25
Rituals, 7th edition (with combined degrees), 25c each; per dozen	2 75
Rituals, 5th degree, set of nine	1 80
Notice to delinquent members	15
American Manual of Parliamentary Law	40
Digest of Laws and Rules	25
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Write for prices on gold pins, badges, working tools, staff mountings, seals, ballot boxes and any other Grange supplies. Address: MSS JENNE BRELL, Ann Arbor, Mich.	



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Easy to learn! Simple in construction! Five Years on the Market.

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Hand Made Harness Co., Stanton, Mich. Manufacturers of Horse Furnishings.

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Master Office, Michigan State Grange, Fruit Ridge, January 10, 1896.

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At reasonable prices, a choice selection of April and May Poland China pigs. Can furnish pairs. Pedigree with sale. O. P. C. R. Correspondence solicited and communications promptly answered.

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SECOND SIGHT.

By J. H. CONNELLY.

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CHAPTER III.

When she was gone, Mr. Timberly said to himself: "That woman makes me shudder. But her caper of going through Sam's desk gives me an idea. I don't half like having his confounded letters around here. Suppose Flossy should some day take it into her head to play the same game and find them! Ten to one they are, like most girls' letters, without address or signature, and she would be justified in thinking they were written to me. I've a notion to see if they do not expose me to that risk—not to read them, of course, but just to know what chances I am taking." While soliloquizing he took the package from the drawer, slipped off its rubber band and shuffled over the perfumed billets doux. "As I expected. Not one of them in an envelope addressed to him. Sammy is cunning." He opened one. "Big lump of sweetness," he read, and muttered to himself: "A pretty way to address a man. Might apply to any fellow. 'Your own loving Cuddles'! Loving Cuddles! Oh, this won't do at all. I would rather keep a dynamite bomb lying about loose. They will have to go into the safe until I can see Sam and tell him to take his firebrands away."

Huddling then together and doubling the elastic on them, as if he feared one might get loose, he poked them away back in a private compartment of the safe. He would have done better had he burned them at once. Love letters, new or old, are always dangerous, even though they may be those of a stranger. Those who extol the "golden age" do not lay anything like sufficient stress upon the general ignorance of letters as a factor of popular happiness in that felicitous era. Where few could read or write, there were not many love letters, and no wife in those days would have been likely to suffer such a shock as Flossy had on her way down town from an astral view of her husband handling what her feminine instinct promptly recognized as love letters, and her wifely power of unreason at once assumed was his own pernicious and incendiary property.

Mrs. Timberly was in an elevated railway car, thinking so intently upon Algernon's treachery that she was more than half unconscious of immediate surroundings, when her impish second sight caught a glimpse of him at the very instant of his hearing, "Your own loving Cuddles," and the line was as plain to Flossy as to him. "So," she thought, "that was how the brazen creature called herself—the woman who paid Algernon and made eyes at him—Cuddles!" She ransacked her memory to find if he had ever inadvertently called her Cuddles, for she rightly surmised that a man addicted to pet names is liable to use them carelessly at times, making new and inadvertent combinations of names and women. No, she could not recall that he ever had. But that only showed how sly he was. Slyness would not save him now, however. She would get hold of Cuddles' letters and then let him tremble—she would tell all to her mother.

Flossy found her husband at his desk writing a business letter. Cuddles had left no visible trace of her presence—no dropped glove, forgotten handkerchief or other trifle. "The perfidious monster," Mr. Timberly, professed an unexpected pleasure in seeing her.

"I was lonely at home—bored," she said graciously, "and yielded to the temptation of paying you a visit, but the car I rode down in was so crowded, hot and stuffy that it has made me feel quite faint. Close the door that no one may come in. I must give myself a chance to breathe." He did so, and she loosened her corsets. Then she wanted a glass of cold water. Of course he could not call the office boy to bring it in, when his wife was on deshabille, and must needs go for it himself to the cooler at the farther end of the outer office. He went out, closing the door behind him. Quickly as a cat pouncing upon a bird, she sprang to the drawer she had seen open while he looked at Cuddles' letters, and from which she rightly supposed they had been taken. It was empty. With the celerity of a magician she rummaged the desk, but nowhere could find that which she sought. Hearing his returning steps, she sank back in her chair, fanning herself with a folded paper and mentally debated, "Shall I surprise the truth from him by a direct attack, demanding at once Cuddles' letters, or shall I wait until I know more?" While she sipped the water she decided to wait.

Just then the loud voice of Mr. Bul-

gerly was heard in the outer office demanding Mr. Timberly, who went forth to him. Flossy listened to the two men talking of some "directors' meeting," which Algernon must go to at once to "make up a quorum." Presently he returned, took his hat, kissed her and said, "Remain where you are, dear, until I get back; I shall only be gone 15 or 20 minutes," and went away. It was just sheer luck for him that he did not let his tongue slip and call her Cuddles, for really he had a very narrow escape from so doing. The word flashed into his memory when their lips met, and as he was very fond of his



She would "come back later."

wife the pet name suddenly seemed to him pretty and suggestive. But the thought of who it belonged to saved him, and instead of betraying him into trouble the remembrance inspired him with a good idea. Wagstaff was also a director and would be at the meeting to which he was going. Those letters could be returned at once. He took them from the safe, which was behind the cashier's desk, put them in his pocket and went out with Mr. Bulgerly.

Hardly had he been gone five minutes when a young woman entered the outer office and asked for Mr. Timberly. She was showily dressed, wore excessively high French heels and had dark eyebrows and very light golden hair. She was told that he would be in shortly, and the cashier—a sedate, elderly man, who was not favorably impressed by her appearance—invited her to take a chair outside the railing. She accepted it, but after sitting a few minutes sprang up, gave herself an all around shake which filled the office with rustle and the odor of patchouli, said she would "come back later," and went away.

Mrs. Timberly, peeping out from Algernon's den, saw, heard and wondered. Another! Oh, what a wretch Algy was!

Jennie had met Mr. Wagstaff accidentally and in conformity to his instructions came to reclaim her letters from Mr. Timberly. But she was a restless young person, conscious of deserving admiration, enjoyed evoking it, and, happening to remember that she was near Wall street, suddenly realized that she had much better be out dazzling susceptible young brokers than wasting her sweetness in a dingy office waiting to get some letters about which she did not really care much from a man who might be 60 years old for aught she knew to the contrary.

Hardly was she well out of the way when Mrs. Wagstaff returned, and, having what the office boy mentally characterized as "a very pretty nerve of her own," did not wait to be seated outside the railing or even detained in the outer office, but marched straight into Algernon's den, the door of which now stood a little way open.

Mrs. Timberly was aghast at the audacious familiarity demonstrated. "But no wonder!" she reflected. "A creature who calls herself Cuddles!" Who she was Mrs. Wagstaff did not care or even trouble herself to imagine. She was not Jennie, and that was enough. How could she know that? Well, she had seen another of Sammy's friends, and the fellow—whether from malice or because he was just a plain fool, who can say?—had permitted himself to tell the jealous wife all he knew about Mr. Wagstaff's apparent delinquencies. It was not much. He had seen Sam on two or possibly three occasions dining publicly with a young woman—a very light blond, quite dashing in appearance and a little overdressed—who might, for all he knew to the contrary, be Jennie. She looked like the sort of young person liable to be called Jennie or Fanny or anything like that. And on one of those occasions, two or three months ago, maybe more, at Delmonico's, he believed Mr. Timberly sat at their table a little while. He would not swear it was Timberly, but he thought it

was. "Aha!" thought the jealous wife. "Now let Algernon look me in the eye and deny knowing Jennie if he dares!" Of course if she had found him he would have done so, for he was a consistent man, who having said a thing would stick to it. Furthermore, in this particular instance he would have been right, for the tattler was at fault in naming him. But he was not destined to be put to the test that day. Instead of him Mrs. Wagstaff found another woman and charitably said to herself: "Poor Mrs. Timberly! How she, too, is deceived!" That this lady might be she did not occur to her. In fact, her mind was so full of Jennies that there was temporarily no room in it for tamer imaginings or interest in less reprehensible personalities. Since this lady did not fit the description given of the young person who dined abroad with her husband, Mrs. Wagstaff had no concern as to who she might be. So, after a moment's embarrassed pause at the door, she turned upon her heel, told the office boy she would "return later" and disappeared. She was gone before Algernon's wife had sufficiently repressed her indignation to determine whether to address her as Cuddles and wreck her then and there or wait until by fair speech she should have entrapped "the creature" into some self betrayal.

Just then Flossy's mind's eye caught a glimpse of Algernon as he was at that moment. In a large room, where other men were standing about as if they had arisen from seats at a big table, he was earnestly talking, a little apart from the rest, with a tall, jolly looking man, who laughed, and, receiving a package from Algernon, dropped it carelessly in one of the pockets of the light overcoat he carried on his arm. "Oh, the cunning of the wretch!" exclaimed Flossy. "He is giving Cuddles' letters to a friend to keep for him!"

In a short time thereafter Mr. Timberly returned to his office accompanied by the tall, jolly looking gentleman, whom he introduced as Mr. Wagstaff. They were eagerly discussing business—something about a railroad consolidation. Mr. Wagstaff threw his overcoat upon a chair and sat by Mr. Timberly's desk, talking with him and making penciled calculations. Both men were very busy. Mrs. Timberly, sitting by the window, recognized that overcoat. She did more. In a yawning pocket of it she saw the end of that package of letters. It fascinated her, and her fingers twitched with longing to clutch it. Presently the two gentlemen went out barcheaded to lay a proposition before some other man in another office on the same floor.

In a second after the door closed behind them Flossy had the package. With nervous haste, she tore it open to make sure she had the proofs she sought. The first letter at which she glanced began, "Big lump of sweetness," which meant Algernon, of course, and was signed, "Your own loving Cuddles." That settled it. She put the incriminating missives in her pocket and hastily scribbled upon the memorandum pad on her husband's desk: "I have gone to my mother's. You need not follow me."

CHAPTER IV.

One could have known by the thumping of her little heels in the marble corridor as she went away that she was furious. "He cannot have Cuddles and me too," she said to herself indignantly as she marched out of the elevator at the ground floor. In her excitement she took the first public vehicle that presented itself to her sight, a Broadway cable car, which was not, as she reflected when well under way, the quickest way of reaching her mother's house, which was very far up town. "But then," the idea occurred to her, "I can get off at Union square, march that piece of silk and take the elevated at Fourteenth street." Doubtless there may be in life situations of such intense, all absorbing concern to a woman that in them she will not think of dress, but they must be few, and the present was evidently not such a one to Flossy. It is not, indeed, impossible that she found shopping a consolatory diversion for the time being. That it was not, however, a paramount consideration in her mind was sufficiently evidenced by the fact, discovered when she became cooler, that she had actually taken silk two shades lighter than her sample, which she knew "could never have happened if she had not been flustered."

At the Fourteenth street station she boarded a Harlem train. Wedged in a corner just behind a cross seat, she quickly recognized in the person whose back was against her shoulder tall and jolly Mr. Wagstaff. Accompanying him and in animated conversation was a showily dressed young woman, whose eyebrows were dark and hair golden. Fearing to

be recognized by the gentleman and accused of abstracting the package of letters from his pocket, Mrs. Timberly drew down her veil. This did not, however, prevent her hearing very clearly the artificial blond, who spoke in a sharp, high keyed voice, and her companion, who talked loud, as became one who had nothing to conceal. Yet they were discussing the loss of those letters.

"Really," said the gentleman, "I lost them. I give you my word I did. I had them in my overcoat pocket, intending to give them back to you this evening, as you requested, and they must have dropped out in the Cafe Savarin or on the street somewhere, as I carried the coat on my arm."

"But you wrote me your friend Limberly had them."

"Not Limberly; Timberly. So he did, but gave them back to me this afternoon. Called them 'incendiary,' and said he didn't want them around."

"Oh, well, I suppose it don't matter! Whoever finds them will be none the wiser as to their writer or receiver."

"Not unless you are better known as Cuddles than I have imagined."

"I'd box your ears if we were not in the car. Much more likely you will be identified as Lump of Sweetness or Popsy Wopsy or Baby if some woman finds them."

"Oh, no! Baby at least is of multitudinous application. Every fellow has some one who calls him Baby."

They laughed, not because there was anything to laugh at, but in sheer exuberance of spirits, as the innocently happy laugh, but Mrs. Timberly flushed and shuddered, mentally registering a vow never to call Algernon pet names any more.

"That new code of yours worked to a charm," resumed Cuddles, "and it was awfully funny to see the triumph in old Morgan's sour face when he told me. He doesn't like me, even a little bit, you know, and it did him such good to tell me you were in the country and wouldn't be back for a month!"

"Little suspecting it meant that I would meet you at the usual place and

which her husband fully satisfy. Yet in the midst of her regained happiness a cloud of anxiety



"What were you going to do with that pistol?" swept across her mental horizon. "What," she asked herself, "must have been the dear, good fellow's feelings when he read my cold and cruel farewell and realized that I had left him—gone home to my mother? Would he do anything rash?"

Spurred by the mental excitation of that anxious thought, the imp who supplied her "second sight" again got in his evil work, and Flossy had a most appalling glimpse. She saw Algernon at home, seated before a table, writing a letter—doubtless his farewell to her—with a revolver lying at his elbow. That it was his horrible purpose to blow out his brains as soon as he had finished the letter she did not doubt. The agony of that thought lent wings to her feet. She no longer walked. She ran, she flew, and, reaching home, dashed in and up stairs, where she found her husband exactly as the vision had shown him to her. Breathlessly she sprang forward and seized the pistol, which she had never before imagined she would

dare to touch.

"Hello!" exclaimed Algernon, looking up with a little surprise. "Got back already?"

She gasped and panted. "What are you writing? What were you going to do with that pistol?"

"Brother Bill has written from Butte asking me to send him a good revolver. It seems to be style out there to wear 'em. I have no use for mine, so I'm going to let him have it and was writing to tell him so."

"And you were not going to shoot yourself?"

"Well, I rather guess not. Why should I?"

"And that letter is not really an eternal farewell to me?"

"A farewell to you—when I expected you back from your mother's in time for dinner?"

"Oh, Algy," she cried, her eyes filling with tears of happiness. "I've been such a fool." Then she went on and told him all about it and was duly penitent and full of promises that she would never suspect him, never be jealous, and never trust her "second sight" any more.

THE END.

Restigouche Salmon.

A novel question has been raised in Forest and Stream which is of interest to the fishermen who fish in artificially stocked waters. For some reason or other a fisherman got the notion that the salmon in the Restigouche river were not so game now as in past years. Another of the Restigouche fishermen was of the same mind. If there is anything the sportsman angler does not want and will not have if he can help it, it is the deterioration of the fighting qualities of his fish. He would like to have the fish go into training if possible.

What the fishermen want to know is what is the matter with the Restigouche salmon? It appears that the stream has been stocked to a considerable extent during late years, and if this stocking has taken the nerve out of the salmon every one who is interested in fish wants to know the reason why, and, more yet, the remedy. It is well known that the hand reared English pheasants are not to be compared with a wild American ruffed grouse in any particular. If the artificial propagation of fishes is going to result in taking the fight out of American game fish, it will be a sad thing to the minds of men who fish for fun, and not for profit.

- Ripans Tabules cure nausea.
- Ripans Tabules: pleasant laxative.
- Ripans Tabules cure dizziness.
- Ripans Tabules cure dyspepsia.
- Ripans Tabules.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM TIME TABLE. Nov. 15, 1896.

STATIONS.	TRAINS WEST.					
	11 Mail Day Ex.	1 Day Ex.	3 Lh'h Ex.	23 B.C. Pass.	5 P'nc M'd Ex.	33 Ex. tr'in

HUDSON HOUSE.

Official _____

HEADQUARTERS

FOR

GRANGE CONVENTION

AT LANSING

December 8-11, 1896.

All Officers have reserved rooms
here. The usual rates.

Grange News.

Alumina Grange mourns the death of their brother, Elbridge G. Cilley. Appropriate resolutions were passed by the Grange.

FRATERNITY GRANGE.

The Union Grange held at Fraternity Grange hall, October 23, as already noticed in the VISITOR was most interesting. Bro. H. D. Platt led the discussion of GRANGE VISITOR question No. 5. The sisters led by Mrs. H. D. Platt debated question No. 18. Zest was given to the meeting by the presence of the two men nominated from the tenth senatorial district and the two from the second representative district of Washtenaw county as candidates for the legislature. Three of these four men are members of our Order. It was noticeable that at a time of great political excitement, party differences were dropped entirely. The election shows that Washtenaw county has a Patron both in the Senate and the House. E. A. C.

F. H. R. C.

The Farm Home Reading Circle of the Michigan Agricultural College.

The Michigan Agricultural College has again proven itself alive to the needs and demands of the general farming population. The fundamental purpose of the Agricultural College is to educate farmers' sons and daughters toward the farm and not away from it. She is doing this and in addition is making it possible for those who cannot afford a college course to become posted on agricultural topics through the Farm Home Reading Circle. One of the objects of the Farm Home Reading Circle is to recommend the best books for the farmer, gardener and stock breeder to read, and at the same time to furnish an opportunity for the farmer to buy those books at greatly reduced prices.

The Farm Home Reading Circle, above all, claims to educate the present generation, those who are now farming rather than the future generation. Those farmers who think there is nothing for them to learn in books are yearly getting more scarce. On the other hand we are glad to note that a very large number of our farmers are almost constantly asking for guidance in the selection of books to read which will be of practical benefit to them in their work. Again we say this is the object of the Farm Home Reading Circle. It can no longer be called an experiment, for it has been more successful than any other similar movement. It is stronger today

than ever before. We have a large number of members, not only in Michigan but also in several other states, including Canada. Several changes have been made since the Farm Home Reading Circle was first organized, and we are sure that no one interested in farming, gardening, fruit growing or stock breeding can find a more profitable employment for the long winter evenings than to take up the course of reading outlined. It is not necessary to organize a reading circle to get the benefits of this course. You can read alone.

Please remember that this is not a money making scheme. We are trying to place within easy access of every farmer information of value to him in his every day work. Address the secretary for further information.

HERBERT W. MUMFORD,
Secretary Farm Home Reading Circle,
Agricultural College, Mich.
J. L. SNYDER, Ph. D.,
President of the College.

Good for the Free Press.

There will be a good deal of regret at the announcement of First Assistant Postmaster General Jones that free delivery of letters in the rural districts has not proven a success; but the regret will be lessened somewhat at learning that the failure is simply evidenced by the exhaustion of the appropriation. As there was no provision—or attempt at any—to make the additional service self-sustaining. It is difficult to see how the fact that the money is all expended, or nearly so, has any bearing whatever on the success or failure of the scheme. Free delivery in the large cities does not pay except as the people resident therein get better service. The man who has his letters delivered pays no more in the way of postage than the man who goes to the office. It is a great convenience to the dwellers in cities to have their mail brought to their doors, and the assumption has been that this great convenience was a sufficient justification for the added cost to the government. It will be quite as great a convenience to the dwellers in the rural districts to have their mail brought to them.

THE CHAPMAN

Has been thoroughly renovated. Is centrally located near the business part of the city. Offers

First-class Accommodations to Grangers at Reduced Prices.

Table unexcelled in the city. Come and see us once and you will surely come again.

Yours for comfort,

FRANK WENTWORTH.

BINDER TWINE The Season's at hand.

We're the largest sellers in the world.

1000 TONS, bought and paid for, for this season's sales. Two kinds, Sisal and Manilla. Quality the best. Prices the lowest. There's just one wise way to buy Binder Twine. That's by sample. Take the sample in your hand. TEST IT. Look the price in the eye. There you are, fully posted.

We send Samples, and quote prices, free for the asking

Buy Binder Twine at Headquarters.

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of almost everything that's used in life, have our GENERAL CATALOGUE and BUYERS' GUIDE always with you. Buy Right. Money saved is same as earned.

We hand it to you if you call at our great 10-acre Store, or send it for 15 cents, in coin or stamps, to pay part of postage or expressage.

Montgomery Ward & Co,

Monarchs of the Mail Order Business, the Store of all the People.
111, 112, 113, 114, 115, and 116 Michigan Avenue.
Directly Opposite the new Post Office, CHICAGO.

HOTEL DOWNEY.

Steam Heat, Gas,
Bath, Electric Light,
Hydraulic Elevator,

AND ALL MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.

Convention Rates, SINGLE, \$2.00.
DOUBLE, \$1.50.

THE INGHAM

(formerly the Kirkwood)

J. M. SHELDON, Prop'r.

Cor. Mich. Ave. and Grand St. S.

LANSING.

Rates to Delegates

\$1.00 to \$1.25 per day

Why should not the convenience in their case be regarded as sufficient justification for the additional expense. There is an annual deficiency in the postoffice department anyway. Only a small number of mail routes, comparatively pay expenses. It costs much more than two cents to send a letter from New York to San Francisco, for instance. Yet it seemed to be conceded that the general good requires a uniform rate and demands that no account shall be taken of the actual cost in specific cases of transporting the mails. Why should the rural delivery be expected to pay any more than the transmission of letters from the Atlantic to the Pacific?—*Detroit Free Press.*

With but little care and no trouble, the beard and mustache can be kept a uniform brown or black color by using Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers.

