THE Grange Visitor
ISSUED MONTHLY
BY THE EXECUTIVE
Michigan State
SCHOOLCRAFT, DECEMBER, 1875.
No. 9.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE.

Annual Address of the Master—Secretary's Report, etc.

Representative Hall, Lansing. Dec. 14th, 1875.

At 2 o'clock, the appointed hour, the State Grange was called to order by Worthy Master Woodman.

The roll of members elect was called by the Secretary and a quorum found present.

A Committee on Credentials having been appointed and made their report, the Worthy Master delivered his annual address, as follows:

MASTERS ADDRESS.

Members of Michigan State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry:

As the chosen Representatives of the Subordinate Granges of Michigan, we have met to-day to consider grave and important questions relating to the interests of the agriculturists of our State and Country; and to devise means for a closer, stronger, and more perfect organization; and encourage a more general and systematic co-operation among farmers. The propositions year just drawing to a close, indicated with its fruits and its blessings, should remind us of the goodness and condescensions of the Great Giver of all good; and fill our hearts with deep gratitude for the blessings bestowed. Then let us acknowledge our obligations to Him, and invoke His aid and guidance in all our deliberations.

As I cast my eyes upon these familiar walls and objects, I am reminded that we have assembled in the Legislative Hall of our State, where the representatives of the people have for a long number of years been accustomed to meet, and enact the laws which have helped to develop our State, and "the wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose."

Although we do not meet as legislators, to enact laws for the State, yet no legislative body ever assembled in these halls, with duties more closely connected with the interests and welfare of the people, than those devolving upon us.

It is the aim of our organization to make the daily lives of men and women better, nobler, truer, holier and happier, to encourage education, social culture, and a better development of the noble faculties of our nature, to provide for ourselves and our children comfortable homes, unencumbered farms, and a fair remuneration for the products of our labor; to beautify our homes and increase their attraction for our children, and their love for them and our profession, and thereby encourage the boys to stay upon the farms, to prevent family jars, diseases, and separations, to less our neighborhood strife and disagreements, and prevent litigation among farmers, to increase the income of our farms by better cultivation, greater diversity of crops, closer study of the market, and increased knowledge of the laws of trade; and thus by increasing the profits of labor, and systematically conducting our business, bridge over the chasm between labor and its results, with joys and blessings which make labor pleasant, healthful and honorable, and the laborer contented and happy; to encourage home manufactures, and every branch of productive industry, to bring the producer and consumer into the closest and most intimate relations, to encourage the building of railroads and canals, and the improvement of our rivers and harbors, and thereby secure cheaper transportation for our surplus products to market; and to demonstrate to the world that farming is a profession, and all who are engaged in it are closely allied in sympathies and interests, and can cooperate in an organization for their own mutual benefit and protection, as well as persons engaged in the other avocations of life.

These are among the principles which underlie our Order, and will indicate something of the nature of the work before us.

This State Grange was organized April 16th, 1873, with but nineteen subordinate granges, they now number 611. The excitement and novelty attending the organization of Granges, has in a measure passed away, and we are now dealing with stern facts and principles, that will demonstrate the strength or weakness of the organization. Then we were teaching a theory, now we are practicing it. Then we were only anxious with the anticipation of realizing some real benefit from the organization, now we are encouraged and strengthened in what we have accomplished, our discouragement by failing to realize all that we anticipated.

The great problem of successful
co-operation among farmers," has been proved by hundreds of Granges in our own State, and by thousands in other States; and I have failed to learn of a single instance, wherever a Grange has been formed, where the object of the Order, either social, educational, or financial, has not received a full measure of success; and in every instance where the members of a Grange have failed to be successful, the fault has been with the Grange. These facts should inspire us with renewed confidence in the teachings of the Order, and stimulate us to greater and more determinate effort, to put them in practice. - "That which costs nothing is worth nothing," and "external vigilance is the price of liberty," are maxims that should be emblazoned upon the walls of every Grange hall, and instilled into the mind of every member.

NATIONAL GRANGE.

At the last meeting of the State Grange the following resolutions were adopted:

1. Resolved, That our representatives to the National Grange be requested to use their efforts in presenting to the Order at the next annual session of the National Grange, so as to conform to the example set by Bro. T. A. Thompson, of the National Grange.

2. Resolved, That the amount of the loan granted to the National Grange be increased, in order to enable the Order to meet the necessary expenses of the same.

These resolutions were presented to the National Grange, and your representatives are requested to secure the required changes in the Ritual and Constitution of the National Grange.

The Ritual as revised has been adopted, and will be published as soon as a new edition is required.

Other State Granges not asking for the changes indicated in the second resolution, it was not made.

The discussion of the principles embodied in the third resolution opened up a subject of the most salutary character, the financial condition and workings of the National Grange, the Executive Committee taking and discussing a thorough and complete investigation of every business transaction entrusted to their hands, and explained every act that was questioned, to the satisfaction of all, that honesty and integrity had characterized every business transaction of the National Grange.

The history of the organization shows that the receipts during the first five years of its existence were not sufficient to cover the actual and necessary expenses, and many of the officers labored without pay, as the following resolution passed at the sixth annual meeting will indicate:

Resolved, That whenever a surplus of $1,000 shall be realized by the treasury of the National Grange, and other funds of the Order, the Master of the State of National Grange shall issue a draft, counter-signed by the Secretary, upon the Treasurer, in favor of Wm. Saunders, D. C., for that amount.

This resolution was passed by a standing vote, and the amount appropriated was reduced by the order of the Grange, given to the order of the years of valuable labor given to the Order by that able and worthy officer.

The years 1873 and '74, the Order grew rapidly and the receipts were large; but the expenses necessary to furnish the new Granges with blanks, Rituals, song-books, instructions, &c., have been for postage, drayage, and express charges, as well as for labor, clerk-hire, and the expenses of Organizing Committees, were correspondingly large. Yet, on the 1st day of January, 1875, there was in the treasury $92,553.50. From this sum, the National Grange has authorized a loan to the several State Granges, without interest, in proportion to the amount paid in, of $54,825, at the same time reducing the amount of annual dues required of members from ten to five cents, that being the whole amount required of members to support the National Grange. By recentation of the National Grange, this loan has been made a donation to the State Granges, and our State Grange, which I trust will be sufficient to cover all expenses, but no large amount can accumulate in the treasury. No fears need be entertained for the safety of surplus funds in the treasury of the National Grange, for they are invested in government bonds drawing six per cent. interest and as safe as the government itself.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The following amendments to the Constitution of our Order were proposed by the National Grange at its ninth annual session, held in Louisville, Ky., November, 1875, which I have submitted to your careful consideration. Each amendment must be considered and voted upon separately, and if ratified by three-fourths of all the State Granges, will be incorporated into the Constitution:

1. Amend the preamble, under the head of "STATE GRANGE," by substituting the following for section 1:

"SECTION 1. Fifth Degree. Pompous (Hope). Composed of the Masters and Past Masters of Subordinate Granges, and their wives who are matrons; provided that Past Masters and their wives who are matrons shall be honorary members, eligible to office, but not entitled to vote; and provided that when the number of Subordinate Granges in any State becomes so great as to render it necessary, the State Grange may, in such manner as it may determine, vest its representatives by providing for the election of a certain proportion of the former members of the National Grange, for the several State Granges, in lieu thereof the words "thirty.""

2. Amend the preamble, under the head of "STATE GRANGE," by adding the following: "The wives of the delegates so elected to the State Granges as provided for in the preceding section, if matrons, shall be voting members of that body."

3. Amend the constitution, under the head of "ORGANIZATION OF STATE GRANGES," in the 4th line of page 4, by striking out the words "not to exceed three."

4. Amend the preamble to the Constitution, under the head "NATIONAL GRANGE," by inserting between the words "Master's" and "control," the words "Past Masters and their wives," and also by adding a new section, the words "that, in the case of the words "do not exceed the number of Subordinate Granges in any State, which shall be determined by their presence at the Annual Meeting," and the words "as members of the National Grange who are Masters of State Granges, and their wives who are matrons, and who are entitled to vote therein; and provided further, that the several State Granges, being members of the National Grange and eligible to office therein, but shall not be entitled to vote."

5. Amend article 1, section 1, of the constitution by inserting the words "District," between the words "State" and "and," where they occur in the second line of said section.

6. Amend article 1, section 2, of the constitution by inserting between the words "practicable" and "in," where they occur in the fourth line of said section, the words following, to wit: "In the District Grange annually at such place, such District Grange may determine."
opted, so as to bring the business of safe, and practical in its operations and be encouraged; and a system, simple, that of business co-operation. This A Grange with a strong treasury will and forethought should be exercised. bership fees and quarterly clues to be made to take effect, when the amend-
cessary to secure to the Order the ben-
proclamation. will take effect at the date of such
so announced by proclamation of the
meeting.

tion, at the same
cumulated means, wants, and knowl-
edge may justly.

FEES AND DUES.

In determining the amount of mem-
ership fees and quarterly dues to be
paid by members, much discretion and forethought should be exercised. A Grange with a strong treasury will live and prosper, while one with a treasury empty or bankrupt, will languish and die.

BUSINESS CO-OPERATION.

One of the most important questions that will demand the attention, is that of business co-operation. This important interest of the Order should be encouraged, and a system, simple, safe, and practical in its operations adopted, so as to bring the business of co-operation within the reach of every member.

The Executive Committee of the State Grange have labored faithfully and well, to develop a system for business, and have succeeded as well as could be expected. A large amount has been saved to members of the Order through the business operations of the State and Local Agents; and no losses have been sustained, that have come to my knowledge. Much credit is due to the committee, for their untiring zeal, and wise discretion; yet the system and plans devised by them, could only be experimental in their operations, and the success, demonstrated, only by practical test.

Much valuable information upon this important subject, can be gathered from the experience of our State and Local agents, that will aid in perfecting a system.

The Executive Committee of the National Grange, composed of men of large business experience, have devoted much time and labor, in preparing a system for co-operative stores, and business, which seems to be simple and practical, requiring but a small capital to commence business with; and may be adopted and successfully operated by a single grange, or a number of granges associating together. This is substantially the Rochdale plan, which has been put into practical operation in England, with results entirely satisfactory, and is acknowledged to be the most successful plan for business co-operation that has ever been devised. This system was considered, and recommended by the National Grange; a copy of which is herewith submitted for your consideration.

I am inclined to the opinion, that this system is simple and well devised may be this system, many of the subordinate granges will continue to mass their orders, and deal directly with the manufacturers. Hence State and Local Agents will be needed, and should be provided for. The following will indicate my views of the duties of a State Agent.

1st. To make contracts with manufacturers and wholesale dealers, for the benefit of subordinate granges, and co-operative associations.

2d. To fill the orders for Local Agents when accompanied with cash, at cost.

3d. To employ reliable business men, in some of the commercial cities, to sell farm produce at reasonable rates, and take ample security for fair dealing and prompt remittances.

4th. To secure the lowest and best rates for freight, on farm produce and all articles, shipped or ordered by au-

2d. To fill the orders for Local Agents when accompanied with cash, at cost.

3d. To employ reliable business men, in some of the commercial cities, to sell farm produce at reasonable rates, and take ample security for fair dealing and prompt remittances.

4th. To secure the lowest and best rates for freight, on farm produce and all articles, shipped or ordered by au-thorized agents of the Order: for the benefit of members of the Order.

5th. To co-operate with the agents of other States, by exchanging price lists, filling each orders, purchasing together, selling together, and unit ing their influence and efforts, to secure desirable purchases, low freight, and uniformity in business operations.

6th. To do no retail business.

The experience of the past has demonstrated that manufacturers and wholesale dealers will sell at lower rates, when goods are bought in quantities, and paid for in cash; hence the agent should be supplied with funds, to enable him to take advantage of the market and buy at the lowest possible rates. For this purpose funds could be supplied from the treasury of the State Grange, taking ample security for the same. The agent should receive a reasonable compensation for his services, which might also be paid by the State Grange.

Local Agents should be appointed by the subordinate Granges associ ating together, in convenient business limits, and to be paid for their services in such manner as the Granges employing them may determine. Ext amplies of imitation for our agents and subordinate Granges, may be found, in the experience and practice of our most successful business men. They commenced business with small capital, doing a limited but safe business at first, studying diligently to establish a reputation for honesty, and promptness in all business matters, and to obtain a thorough knowledge of business, and the laws of trade,—increasing their business with the accumulated means, and knowledge, and thus mastered their profession. So our agents, subordinate granges, and co operative associations, should commence and get on a cash basis, studying carefully the laws of trade, state and fluctuation of the market, and value of all commodities,—increasing their business, preserving harmony, aiding the weak, encouraging the disheartened, and infusing life and interest into all the subordinate granges within their jurisdiction. They should observe and adjust all matters of difference between contiguous Granges, assist in establishing jurisdiction, and should provide for public meetings and discus sions, at such times and places as the good of the Order may require. It should be made the duty of the Lecturer of the Pomonan Grange, to visit every subordinate grange within the limits of its jurisdiction, at least once in each year, and often if necessary, and give instructions in the unwritten work and deliver addresses upon subjects relating to the interests and welfare of the Order.

I am of the opinion that much good could be accomplished, and the interests of the Order greatly promoted, by requiring subordinate Granges to make quarterly reports to the county or Pomonan Granges. Blank forms are furnished for this purpose by the Pomonan Grange, and filled by the Secretary at the last meeting in each quarter; and forwarded to the Secretary of the Pomonan Grange to be read to that body, and added to the file or recorded in a book to be provided for that purpose. These reports should give the number of members received during the quarter, the number suspended or expelled, and the whole number of members in good standing.
The Grange agencies, and amount saved, also mode of co-operation in business, successes and failures, and general remarks.

I am also of the opinion that a system of crop reports, can be inaugurated, that will cost but a trifle, and yet be of great value to members of the Order. Blank forms could be furnished with the blanks for general reports, and filled at the same meeting. These reports should give the condition of the growing crops, within the jurisdiction of the Grange, yield, when harvested, amount raised, surplus for market, &c. This information could be compiled by the Secretary of the Pomona Grange, and sent to the State, and published in the Vindicator.

In my judgment, no other system of crop reports can be devised, that will furnish this valuable information so accurate, at small expense, and tend so much to develop thought among the members of the Order upon this important subject. I submit it for your consideration.

Ten Pomona Granges have been organized, and are in successful working order, and other applications are in. I have placed the work of organization in the hands of the Worthy State Deputy, for detailed account of which, I refer you to his report. A form of By-Laws should be provided for Pomona and subordinate Granges, and published with the By-Laws of the State Grange.

The Grange Visitor.

On entering upon the duties of the Master's office, I was early impressed with the absolute necessity of a regular and more direct medium of communication between the State Grange, and Subordinate Granges, in order to furnish the subordinate Granges with the information and instructions required by them, and were entitled to receive. All communication between the State and subordinate Granges, up to that time, had been conducted on by written correspondence, and circulars issued by the Executive Committee at irregular periods, and very considerable expense to the State Grange. The correspondence of the Master's office had become almost overwhelming. Worthy Master F. Brown, realizing the situation, in his communication to the last State Grange, recommended, that this want, be supplied by establishing a State organ, which the State Grange refused to do. I called the attention of the Executive Committee to this subject, and they decided to issue a Circular monthly, to take the place of all other circulars, except such as might be necessary to communicate matters, which the good of the Order requires to be strictly confidential. The Executive Committee had no intention of publishing a Circular, but an Executive Circular, containing official information, and matter relating directly to the interests of the Order. As the word "Circular" was construed to imply a transient sheet, it became necessary to change the name in order to secure lower rates of postage. This whole subject is submitted for your consideration, and the accompanying documents will explain more fully the action of the Executive Committee, and other matters relating to the subject.

Trials and Appeals.

No well defined system for trials and appeals have been provided for the Order. I recommended that a sufficient number of blank forms, to give system and uniformity of action in all cases, be provided and published with the By-Laws.

State Lecturer and General Deputy.

These two offices have been combined in one, and the duties of that officer have been arduous, with pay not commensurate with the labor performed. It is a principle in our noble Order that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." The body must have "food and raiment," and the wife and children at home and the comforts of life. I would not recommend, high salaries, but a reasonable compensation, for honest and faithful labor should be provided.

The Degree.

Some worthy members of our Order are asking that all the higher degrees be abolished, thinking that they confer special privileges, upon those who receive them, and thus create an aristocracy in the Order. This is an illusion. The degrees are only honorary and intended in a small degree to encourage and develop the noble God-given principle in the human mind, described by the word "exaltation", the exercise of which has removed man from the brute creation, and nations from barbarism to the highest degree of civilization. The beautiful and instructive lessons of the degrees, are well calculated to inspire and elevate. Every fourth degree member can attend all the business sessions of the Pomona, State and National Granges; and by the action of the National Grange, at its recent session, it is intended to make all the degrees accessible to every member of the Order, as rewards for faithful labor.

In conclusion let me congratulate you upon the unqualified prosperity of our Order, not only in this State, but throughout our whole country. The work of organization in most of the States is nearly completed, and the Order is settling down to practical, earnest work. The social and educational benefits, realized by members of the Order, cannot be estimated by dollars and cents; and the amount saved through the operations of the business agencies, amounting in the aggregate to $250,000,000 annually, will indicate something of the pecuniary benefits received by them. The outlook is most cheering, and should inspire us with renewed confidence, in the ultimate triumph of our noble cause. In our Order all power is in the Subordinate Granges, and whatever they demand must be granted. We, as their chosen representatives, must labor for their interests. If we fail to do this, we shall be unworthy the confidence reposed in us. I am aware there are worthy members in our Order who ask for radical changes in our organic law. That there are errors and imperfections, cannot be doubted, but time and experience will correct them. No changes should be made without due consideration; and in recommending changes, the utmost caution should be exercised. The bridge that has carried us safely over, can be leap transition, and he who would destroy it, should measure well the chasm, before he attempts to leap it.

J. J. Woodman, Master.

Secretary's Report.

Worthy Master and Patron:

To you, the Patrons of the State, I write for the first time, my annual report of the business with which you have entrusted me.

Aby-law of the State Grange requires me to act under the direction of the Master and Executive Committee. It therefore seems in order to refer to some of the duties with which I have been charged by the Committee.

At its second meeting in February last, at Lansing, preliminary steps were taken to have the State Grange incorporated. By direction of the Executive Committee, the Association of Pomona Granges, under the direction of Mr. Adrian, was employed to draft an Act for the Incorporation of the State, County and Subordinate Granges, which the draft was presented to the Executive Committee, received its approval, and, in due time by legislative enactment on the 8th of April, became a law. Judge Howell also drafted Articles of Association for the State, County, and subordinate Granges, as soon as practicable, the State Grange was incorporated, in compliance with the law.

I prepared and had printed blank Articles of Association for subordinate Granges, with a copy of Charter granted by the National Grange attached, for the incorporation of subordinate Granges, and I furnished such blanks on application.

To what extent such incorporation has been perfected under the law I am not able to determine. And I would recommend that subordinate Granges be required to send a certified statement of the facts of incorporation to the Secretary of the State Grange, and that the Secretary be required to file and preserve such certificate.

As the Act of Incorporation makes it necessary that a copy of the Charter issued by the National Grange be attached to the Articles of Association, and as Charters of Pomona Granges under the authority of the National Grange, must issue from the State Grange, it was found that, under the Act of Incorporation as we find it, Pomona Granges could not become incorporated.

This is unfortunate, as it is expected that Pomona Granges will take the place of County Councils in the business department of the Order, and it is very desirable that they have a recognized legal existence.

By order of the Executive Committee, your Secretary was required, in conjunction with the Master of the State Grange to issue a monthly circular, and mail a copy to each Master and Secretary of the Granges in the State, which requirement has been complied with, the first one having been issued in April last. It was first offered to subscribers at 50 cents,
and afterwards at 40 cents per annum. We have made every effort to secure subscribers, and of the 546 names on our books the time of one-half will expire with the December number. We have excluded from the VISITOR every thing not directly relating to subjects of interest to the Order, and beyond this it has been in no sense a newspaper. Eight numbers have been issued, of 1000 copies each; of 1500 copies (with postage paid) of each number have been sent to Masters and Secretaries of subordinate Granges, Masters and Secretaries of State Granges, and to exchanges, without any cash return whatever.

We have received from advertisers, $201.38 and from subscribers, 155.73.

Total receipts and from XH 117.

Have paid for printing.

Postage.

Wrapping paper.

Extra help, folding, mailing, etc.

My actual expenses.

Total expenditure.

$350.58

As the Worthy Master has given this subject all the attention it deserves, we shall only add, that in what we have done we know of no motive or act to which we do not invite the closest scrutiny of every good Patron; and though the monthly publication of a sheet, so small as it is, added very much to our labor, yet, without one word of complaint, we have simply acquiesce in whatever disposition the State Grange may make of this whole subject.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee, at Battle Creek, I was directed to prepare blank orders for Plaster, and send to all Grange Secretaries and ask them to canvass their several Granges, procure orders, and return the same to me. Orders have been returned prior to the 1st inst., amounting to 5571 tons. I have made a short record of the same, and forwarded, from time to time, the orders to Brother Weston. With the orders come many letters of assurance that Bro. Weston will be enabled to continue the business, and no matter how much the Plaster Association may cut down the price.

An itemized statement of account, with vouchers for all expenditures, and the books of our office, have been forwarded to the Executive Committee for examination.

It will be remembered that an appeal for aid was made a year ago by the patrons of Kansas and Nebraska, and that in answer to that appeal Worthy Master Brown issued a circular to the Patrons of Michigan asking them to forward their contributions directly to the Masters of those State Granges or to me, as the donors might prefer. In response to that circular, between the 23d of December, 1874, and the 17th day of May, 1875, I received $1157.73. Of this amount, $307.50 was sent to Wm. B. Porter, Master of the State Grange of Illinois; and the remainder, by direction of the Executive Committee, was sent to John G. Otis, State agent of Kansas—vouchers for which amounts I hold.

As soon as rules and regulations for their organization had been adopted, we prepared and printed the necessary blanks for the organization of Pomona Granges, together with quar- terly reports of Secretaries, and such certificates of election, credentials, and other blank forms as seemed necessary for the successful working of the machinery of that organization. These blanks have been furnished on application, without charge.

The Executive Committee authorized the printing of 10,000 copies of By-Laws of the last session. We had 2,300 printed, and as the demand has been very light, this supply has been ample.

While subordinate Grange Secretaries have not all attended to their duties as they should, in making reports there has been a marked improvement within the last six weeks.

As the winter, with its comparative leisure for business, is before us, I anticipate more frequent meetings and a better attendance, will stimulate the officers and members, and the few months hence a much better showing might be made than the one we now own.

Of the 611 Granges in this jurisdiction that have received dispensions from the National Grange, we find, on the first inst., 443 were fully reported; 2 were delinquent in reports for one quarter, 32 for two quarters, 18 for three quarters, 7 for four quarters, 2 for five quarters, 5 for six quarters. Nos. 216 and 451 have never reported, and No. 258 has formally surrendered its charter. From the remaining 18 lately organized no reports are yet due. Those delinquent for one and two quarters will, without doubt, nearly all report before the 1st of January.

The membership of the order in the State, as near as we can determine from reports received, was, on the 30th of Sept., 94,275.

We have given the business committed to us, our undivided attention during the past year, and though the circulation of the VISITOR has somewhat diminished our correspondence, yet now questions are constantly arising, and new lines of labor seem to open up before us.

In many things we are called on to do, we are without precedents to follow, or the light of experience to guide us, and do not expect to show as complete work as under more favorable circumstances. We are more and more impressed with the important truth that the enterprise in which we are engaged is of vast proportions, and that the development will require a period of time that the many of us have not yet to understand. In the business department of the Order we see that a combination of this kind is really but grown up children, and can no more, on the presentation of a theory that seems both simple and sound, appropriate it, and immediately
give it practical application in all its completeness, than children can acquire a thorough education in a few short weeks.

The farmers of our country have presented to them a plan or system by which, through organization, immense social, educational and material benefits are promised, but to realize these good results will require time and persistent effort, and involve experiment and sacrifice before these several objects are accomplished facts.

In conclusion, permit me to say that the courteous and friendly character of the extensive correspondence with subordinate Granges of our own State, and Patrons elsewhere, is to me a token of good will and kindly regard, for which I feel truly grateful, and affords cheering proof of the fraternal feeling which prevails in our Order, and encourages me in the discharge of those official duties which devolve upon me.

J. T. CORN, Secretary.

——Mr. E. V. Neale, of London, one of the pioneers of co-operation in England, in his remarks at a meeting in St. Louis, gave a detailed account of the Rochdale system, explaining it fully as he proceeded. He said one great advantage the Rochdale system of co-operation possessed over the systems of banking at that time was a distribution to customers at cost, was that it provided for the steady and constant increase of capital and did not interfere with the existing system of doing business, and therefore created no antagonism. Another advantage was, it constituted a sort of savings bank in which the profits of the business in connection with the interest allowed on each share would go to increase its value and thus become a permanent investment for the benefit of the younger members of the family.

HOW NOT TO DO IT.—A gentleman interested in the manufacture of one of the machines most in demand in the country, on a recent visit to the factory on the present day, informed us that the cost of the company more to sell the goods than it did to make them. In other words, the manufacturers were paying nearly twice as much for their machinery as they need to do if the "Territorial Agency" system was abolished; and yet many who read this article have this present season bought their goods of these very "Territorialists," instead of our State Grange Agents. This is what we may very properly call "How not to do it."

—Wis. State Grange Bulletin.

—Money is difficult to get at nine per cent on farm mortgages, whilst the farm itself only pays about three per cent. The number of loan societies, building societies, banks, etc., and the dividends they declare, is a fair indication of the profits of money lending. This state of things should arouse the Patron's, and yet many who read this article have this present season bought their goods of these very "Territorialists," instead of our State Grange Agents. This is what we may very properly call "How not to do it."

—Wis. State Grange Bulletin.

State Grange Revenues.

BY WORTHY MASTER A. B. SNEDDY.

The revenues of the state grange are derived as stated in a former article, from the fee of one dollar for each male, and fifty cents for each female initiated and passed to higher degrees, and the annual due of twenty-four cents for each member, paid by the subordinate grange out of its revenues as fixed by the constitution. From the money derived from this source the state grange must pay, first, the dues to the National Grange; second, the expenses of the state grange annual session (which, until quite recently, owing to the very large number of representatives, has been very heavy), the salaries of those officers who devote their whole time to the work, the large printing and postage account which this amount of business necessitates, rents, fuel, clerk and the expenses necessary to carry on the co-operative and business arm of the work. This latter expense, in many states, has been very large, from the fact that at first the whole business relations of the members of the Order had to be in a measure changed, and second, because it was found necessary to pay the expense of this work from the state treasury, for the purpose of gaining the confidence of the farmers and to induce them to take hold of the work with that unity of action which could alone insure success.

Some states undertook, in the beginning, to make their business agencies self-sustaining by charging a commission on sales and purchases. As a rule, however, this plan has failed to meet the approval of the Order. We are so prone to be suspicious, that it was only by guarding, with the most vigilant care, every possible chance where anything might transpire to create a loss of confidence, that it was possible to succeed in the co-operative and business arm of the work.

Hence, while in Iowa, and in some other states, this branch of the work has been very expensive to the state grange, yet no money has ever been expended in the Order which has brought such satisfactory returns. Some few State Granges, singularly enough, refused to reduce their representation, even when the whole income of the state grange was insufficient to pay the expenses of the annual session. Nearly all, however, have now so changed their constitutions that the masters of subordinate granges select certain of their number to represent them in the state grange, thus relieving the treasury of a large and heavy burden.

While new members are rapidly joining, the income derived from this source was ample for the needs of the state grange. But when the whole farming population had become patrons, and the supply from this source was as a consequence materially diminished, it became a serious question how the state grange was to accomplish the work expected of it with the revenue derived from dues alone. It has only been by the most careful economy (at times almost approaching parsimony), that the work has been carried forward to that degree of success which it has attained. A prominent banker in this state, after com-

plimenting the officers on the promptness of all their business transactions, remarked, 'I wish you gentlemen would show me how to accomplish the amount of business and carry forward so great a work with so meager an income. How an organization of the magnitude of the Iowa State Grange, with all its different departments, reaching out into every county in the state, and attaining the results as it has, has been carried forward in all its ramifications, paid the expenses of its annual session and its dues to the National Grange, and the sum of twenty-four cents from each member only, might well puzzle the sharpest financier. But it has been done, and will no doubt be done in the future. The annual dues to the National Grange, and the fact that under a more judicious management, and more harmonious relations with manufacturers, the business agencies are becoming in some degree self-sustaining, tends to the present amount.

Our brothers on the Pacific Coast have a quicker way of tiding over any financial difficulty than any we have ever adopted. While in the beginning this was much harder than ours, both to state and subordinate granges, yet when it becomes necessary to carry forward any measure for the good of the Order, (measures which we have placed in the front rank of this reform movement,) each individual at the call of the executive committee quietly and cheerfully furnishes his proportion of the amount needed.

But our brothers and sisters on the coast are, by habits of business and custom, different from us. We are conservative and cautious. Perhaps if we could be stimulated by a little of their zeal, and they receive a little of our conservatism, we might both be nearer the golden mean. Nevertheless, their zeal and enterprise have carried the work forward there to the wonder and admiration of the whole world.

No people recognize more fully and clearly than our brothers in California and Oregon, that to make money, save money, or to reach great results, the farmers must be educated. Under the influence of the State Grange, and the fact that the state grange out of its revenue would be accomplished, and the wonder is how much has been done with so little money. We have never heard a word of complaint from the farmers, the members or others of the Masonic fraternity, and yet, while their grand lodge simply aims to provide for the executive and clerical department, yet part of the revenues have come derived from each individual member and each subordinate organization. It is several times greater than that of the state grange. The State Grange must in addition, look after and provide for a much wider range of interests.

In conversation with a gentleman,
prominent as an officer in the Illinois State Farmers' Clubs. I asked why it is that we have not seen the crops that you have, and formerly had, you have never been able to produce more wide-spreading higher yields and money. The desired result was promptly made, "simply because we had no financial system and no money. In this utilitarian age money and money were needed to achieve the great and good results," and, he added, "you younggers have made a long step in advance of us in your general interest." I readily find that even you have too narrow and penurious a financial system, and as small as it is, some of your people, even now, think it burdensome."

Experience, however, has demonstrated that a vast work can be done with a limited amount of means if only wisely, faithfully, and generously administered. This has been the case with the funds of the state grange, the good done, the work accomplished, speaks abundantly.

Every patron should loyalty, each year, look over the reports of the different officers, the reports of the several committees to whom these matters were referred, the several reports of the executive committee, and if he finds anything worthy of commendation, let him not be too shy of expressing his full approval of it. If he finds evidence of bad judgment, let him not hesitate, in a fraternal way, to give bis views and point out the error. We should never forget that the Oregon general committees to whom these matters are referred, and the Oregon executive committees, have, not only the welfare of the state grange in view, but the welfare of the whole state, and its resources, in view. We should ever bear in mind that we are, not only members of the state grange, but members of the state of Oregon, and our relations and labors, on the one hand, and our own duties, on the other, should be so combined and worked together through "thick and thin."—Arkansas Weekly Grange.

Brethren, we must learn to stick together through "thick and thin."—Arkansas Weekly Grange.

Our system is not perfect, nor can it be made so without real and earnest co-operation among patrons, but we can point out vast benefits which every farmer has gained by it. The one article of coffee has a beauty of saving effected by our organization. Nearly one-half has the price been reduced. Let the Order die out, and the farmer high rate would probably be resumed. It will not suffice for us to have our names on the books; that is not union of strength, it is merely union of names. We want union of heads, hands, hearts and work; names will do nothing for us. Brothet, we must learn to stick together through "thick and thin."

We must do this, or else we will lose the respect of those who deal with us, and we will gain nothing by our organization. If we establish stores we must deal with them, and not with those who are temporarily under-sell- ing our houses merely to break them down, when prices will immediately rise again. Concentrate your means on the house of your own building; do not fritter them away for the benefit of your enemies. Take pattern after your brethren at Cincinnati, and be real, consistent, true co-operators.

Arkansas Weekly Grange.

Communications.

SALEM, Oct. 29th, 1875.

Please publish these resolutions in The Granre Visitor.

Worthy Master:—Your committee would respectfully ask leave to report the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, It has pleased God in His wisdom to call from her earthly relations and labors, our much respected and beloved Sister, M. E. Knapp. Therefore Resolved, That it is the desire of this Convention to instruct its delegates to use their vote and influence for the purpose of:

1st. To have all resolutions above the fourth abanđoned.

2d. To have delegates to the State and National Granges elected by and from among the people, and not by vote of the members.

3d. To so alter our Constitution as to make the minimum initiation fee for males $3.00, and for females $2.00, also the amount of quarterly dues be reduced to 25 cents per quarter.

G. W. Griswold, Sec'y.

A Baltimore servant girl the other morning tried that good old time-honored plan of lighting the kitchen fire with benzine of her since.

Subscriptions to the Michiγan Teacher—best school journal in the State—will be received until Jan. 1 at the low rate of one dollar a year. Sample numbers, 10 cts. Address J. A. Ford, Kalamazoo.

GRANGE SEALS!

We are furnishing SEALS in BEST LEATHER PRESS, at $3.00, $1.00 or $5.00 Each. Engraving done by Workmen of Large Experience.

Our $3.00 Seal has a fine design of Plow, Sheaf of Wheat, &c. The higher priced Seals are a little larger, with more engraving. We pre-pay Express Charges on $4.00 and $5.00 Seals.

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Manuel of Jurisprudence and co-operation of the P. of H.

By A. B. Smiley, Master of Iowa State Grange, published by Geo. Wm. James of office of Patron's Helper, Des Moines, Iowa. Bound and in cloth. By mail postage prepaid, $1.25 per copy; by express or freight, in packages of five or more, $1.00 per copy. Deputies and Masters are earnestly urged to mail the attention of their respective Granges to this book. Send for prospectus. Sold by J. T. COBE, State Sec.
PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES

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And sent Free of Charge, on Receipt of Cash Order, over the Post of a Subordinate Grange, and the Signature of its Master or Secretary.

Ballot Boxes, (hard wood). $1 25
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Cashing's Manual. 69
Applications for Membership, per sheet 50
Membership Cards, per 100, 40
Blank Envelopes, per doz., 40
Withdrawal Cards, per doz. 25
Illustrated Visiting or Traveling Cards, each 10
Stamps, in envelopes, per doz. 25
By-Laws of the State and Subordinate Granges, per doz. 30
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Rituals, single copy, 1.50
Patrons' Memorial, by Sandifer. 25
Blank Book, ledger ruled, for Secretary and Treasurer, each, per set. 65
Manual of Jurisprudence and Cooperation, by A. B. Sandifer. 1.25
Patron's Pocket Companion, by J. T. Cobb. Cloth, 60 cts, Morocco with buck., 1.00
Address, J. T. COBB, 601 MAIN, STATE GRANGE, SCHOOLCRAFT, MICH.

A. J. THOMPSON & CO., Successors to THOMPSON & BENSON, GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS, 192 So. Water Street, CHICAGO.

REFERENCES:
J. J. Murphy, Cashier,
First National Bank, Woodstock, Hall, Patterson & Co., Union Stock Yards, Chicago.
Herman Schallfarb, Oak Park, L. C. Knutson, Wis., State Farming Agent, Madison, Wis.

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CAPS
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THE PIONEER MACHINE.

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REFERENCES:
B. W. Adams, Master National Grange.
O. W. Parker, Master National Grange.
M. M. Moore, Sec. Ind. State Grange.
O. B. Kneen, Sec. Ill. State Grange.
J. N. Frew, Business Agent Ill. State Grange.
A. B. Sherritt, Master Iowa State Grange.

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The farmers' own journal.

SHAWNEE DAY, Business Agent Iowa State Grange.
P. H. B. Buren, Sec. Iowa State Grange.
T. B. Smith, Sec. Ind. State Grange.
W. W. Miller, Sec. Iowa State Grange.
J. B. Healey, Sec. Wisconsin State Grange.
J. B. Smith, Sec. Oregon State Grange.

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Address, THOMAS & DEMMING, MARIETTA, PA.
Master's Department.

J. J. Woodman, Paw Paw.

The following was omitted in the Master's address to the State Grange, as printed in this number.

CENTENNIAL, 1876.

It is proposed to celebrate the one hundred and forty-sixth birthday of the republic, our national birthday at Philadelphia, in a becoming manner; and all the States of the Union, and nations of the earth, have been invited to a great International Exhibition. As representatives of the agricultural interests of Michigan, it seems proper that we should give such countenance, aid and support to the enterprise, as the importance of the occasion may demand.

Michigan will be seen, examined and judged with her sister states of the union, and forty years of her history as a state, read by the world. The products of her farms, mines, the arts, factories and waters, her primary schools, colleges, asylums, reformatories, public works and commercial advantage, will all be shown to show the quality, value and yield of our products, or greatness of an American citizen. Another such inducement, that could be offered to us, should be the most inspiring of any others, that we might be as heretofore under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The endorsement by the State Grange, of the course pursued by the Executive Committee in this matter, meets our expectations. From our acquaintance with the men composing that committee, we feel justified in saying that they were only solicitous to do what they believed would develop and strengthen the Order in this State. The almost unanimous adoption of the report of the Committee on Publication, with its recommendations, affords us the most satisfactory evidence that our efforts to promote the good of the Order in this work, have not been in vain.

The endorsement by the State Grange, of the course pursued by the Executive Committee, of the Annual Word, in the Annual Reports, will make it necessary to have the name of other Patrons. The Granges in this State should take on the names of other Patrons, and any other officer or member who needs a good Record Book, Office price, 75 cents; by mail or express, charges pre-paid, $1.00. Members are requested to examine List of Supplies kept for sale in our office. See last page of Visitor.

For the information of the representatives to the State Grange who were authorized to communicate the Annual Word, we shall, in the Jan. No. give a list of Granges that from delinquency in reports, or payment of dues, are not entitled to receive it.

The election of three members of the Executive Committee was made a special order for 10 A. M. Friday, the 17th inst. The outgoing members were N. Alston, of Battle Creek, Abnazo Sessions, of Ionia, and Samuel Langdon, of Bowen Station, Kent Co.

The ballot resulted in the election of Langdon, of Bowen Station, Kent Co., for the office of Secretary. The new Executive Committee have under the direction of the Executive Committee, announced that the names of other Patrons, and any other officer or member who needs a good Record Book, Office price, 75 cents; by mail or express, charges pre-paid, $1.00. Members are requested to examine List of Supplies kept for sale in our office. See last page of Visitor.

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Supplies.

We have just received a lot of Blank Books for Records, just what the Secretaries need, and any other officer or member who needs a good Record Book. Office price, 75 cents; by mail or express, charges pre-paid, $1.00. Members are requested to examine List of Supplies kept for sale in our office. See last page of Visitor.

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The American Patron, in noticing a grand pic-nic of Patrons at Ottawa, Ohio, says: "It was one of those pleasant affairs that for observers to add to the social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendship of some, if not all, the representatives of the order, a success. The social features of the Patron, and to the friendshi...
their machines to Patrons at rates that seemed reasonable, and from the reputation which these machines had acquired, and the large orders that were being made by Patrons of other States, your Committee were induced to authorize the State Purchasing Agent to make such arrangements as might seem proper, for introducing them into this State for the benefit of Patrons. Every facility was offered by the manufacturers to enable the Patrons to test the machine, and samples were sent to agents and members of the order for that purpose. The reports that came to your Committee agree that the mower is not excelled by any other machine. The reaper with dropper attachment is equal to any other machine of that class, and the improved self-rake has proved satisfactory.

At this meeting the question of adopting the plan pursued by the Executive Committee of several other States, viz.: of issuing a Monthly Circular, to be distributed to the Granges in the State and furnished to subscribers at a reasonable price, was discussed at length, and adopted. As the action of the committee in this matter has been severely criticized in some quarters, we would say, that all the members were present at the meeting, except Br. Woodward, and that there was universally of the opinion that “such a publication would be for the good of the Order.” The Master and Secretary were directed to act as a committee of publication, and pursuant to such instruction, a Monthly Circular was issued regularly until the August meeting of the Committee.

At that time the Master and Secretary made a report of what they had done, which report is herewith submitted. The committee were unanimous in the opinion that the “Circular” then called “Vitruvian,” should be continued and so ordered. The committee believed that when its action was fully understood, all objections would be removed, and desires of if anything so entirely right that its action would receive the sanction of the great mass of the brotherhood, determined to make an earnest effort to obtain the cooperation of the Master and Secretary, and for that purpose they appointed a committee consisting of Bros, Childs, and Cobb, who were instructed to visit Owosso and confer with Bro. Wood upon the matter of difference between them. Our committee of conciliation subsequently made a report, which is herewith submitted. [See Aug. No. 6 of Vitruvian.] The course since pursued by Mr. Wood shows conclusively, that he was not entitled to the consideration he received from us.

As no provision had been made by the State Grange for the payment of the Worthy Lecturer for services, your committee, by resolution, fixed the same at $50 per diem and actual expenses, for the time spent, for which he received no compensation from the Granges or Counties that it became necessary to visit, in the discharge of his duty.

By the action of the National Grange in February last, County or Pomonae Granges were authorized, under such rules and regulations as the State Grange might adopt. As some counties expressed a desire for such organization, it became necessary to consider the question. Accordingly Brothers Woodman, Cobb and Whitney were designated as a committee to prepare rules and regulations. The result of their labors was submitted to the other members of the committee, by them approved, and appeared in the Monthly Circular.

See 1, Art 3, By-Laws of Michigan State Grange makes it incumbent on the Executive Committee to determine the manner of electing the representatives to the State Grange. A meeting of the committee was called for this purpose, at Battle Creek on the 6th of August. After discussing the matter at considerable length, the following plan was agreed upon:

That a convention should be held at the County seat of each Co., or other place as a majority of the Members of the Granges may determine. Such a convention to be held on the 26th day of October, and to be composed of the Members of all the Granges and their wives, who are members, and of four degree members from each Grange, to be elected by ballot, by the grange. The committee made the further provision that where one-fifth of the granges represented in the convention demand it, the convention should proceed to district the county, before an election was held.

DIFFICULTIES MET WITH.

Your committee have not yet been able to accomplish all that they desire, and will avow that they have failed to meet your expectations in the matter of business arrangements and results. We have had to travel in untried paths, and our limited means and the prudence manifested in the action of the State Grange, has impelled us to be prudent and cautious. When we consider the means at our disposal, and the circumstances that have surrounded us, it is perhaps a matter of surprise that we have accomplished so much.

Our rivals in business are men who have made the study of their lives, and who can command unlimited means; and the experience of the last two years has taught us that we cannot compete with them, with entire success, with our agent working without pay, without money, and without any knowledge of the amount of patronage or support he will receive from the members of our Order.

It would be pleasant to be able to report a better condition of trade prospects, and a greater degree of success, but, when we consider that the work of the last two years has been a work of organization, that the material composing the grange is not the same at $1.00 per diem and actual expenses, for the time spent, for which he received no compensation from the Granges or Counties that it became necessary to visit, in the discharge of his duty.

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For expenses of State Grange Session
From J. J. Robinson, State Treasurer, 8,490 19
For printing, including printing Vis-
SU letters... 237 63
" Balance due F. M. S. B. Brown... 451 80
" Postage and Stationery... 378 55
" Secretary's Salary, three quarters... 750 00
" " office rent... 39 00
" " " Blanks... 67 08
" " Legal Services rendered... 50 00
" " " Insurance... 23 30
" " Expenses of State Agent... 182 70
" " Book and Patterns... 20 10
" Due to National Grange... 1,200 27
" Loan to State Agent... 500 00
" Expenses of Executive Com. 1875, Balance in the Treasury... 5,052 49
Total... $800,00 in the hands of State Agent... making the real balance... $5,62 49

The Committee on Finance to whom was referred so much of the report of the Executive Committee as referred to placing a fund in the hands of the State Agent, report that they have had the subject under consideration and do recommend that a sum not exceeding $2,500 be placed in the hands of the State Agent in the discretion of the Executive Committee, out of any money that may be in the hands of the Treasurer of the State Grange.

Before placing any such money in the hands of the State Agent, the Executive Committee shall require him to execute a bond, with good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Executive Committee, for the payment of any and all sums that may be placed in his hands.

The Committee were also instructed to report the amount of compensation the Worthy Master shall receive for his services the past year, and they respectfully report the following resolution, and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That the Worthy Master of the State Grange be paid for his services the past year, the sum of $600.

Your Committee, to whom was referred so much of the report of the Secretary of the State Grange, as relates to the subject of settling balances due for attendance at the January session of 1875, report the following and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That the Worthy Treasurer be paid for his services the past year, the sum of $600.

Your Committee, to whom was referred so much of the report of the Secretary of the State Grange, as relates to the subject of settling balances due for attendance at the January session of 1875, report the following resolution, and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That the quarterly dues to the National Grange be paid for his able and faithful services in behalf of the Granges of this State, the sum of $850 for the past year.

Your Committee also report the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Worthy Treasurer be paid for his services the past year, the sum of $600.

Your Committee, to whom was referred so much of the report of the Secretary of the State Grange, as relates to the subject of settling balances due for attendance at the January session of 1875, report the following and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to pay all balances due Masters for such services when proper reports have been made from his Subordinate Granges, where the fees and dues accruing from such Granges for the year 1875, have not been sufficient to pay such services.

The Committee on Finance to whom has been referred sundry petitions and resolutions in favor of a reduction of membership fees, respectfully report that they have given the subject careful consideration, and unanimously report the following, and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That after notice of the pending amendment to the Constitution of the National Grange permitting the reduction of fees for membership, that the minimum fee for membership in all Subordinate Granges in the State of Michigan shall be: for men, three dollars; for women, one dollar, for the fourth year.

Resolved Further, That the quarterly dues to the State Grange shall be five cents per quarter for each member after notice of the adoption of the above amendment to the Constitution of the National Grange.

All of which were respectfully submitted.


Report of Committee on Co-operation and Transportation.

To the Master and Members of Michigan State Grange:

Your Committee on Co-operation and Transportation, to whom was referred a certain resolution on mutual insurance, beg leave to present the following, after having duly considered the same:

That, as the plan of Mutual Insurance among farmers, is in harmony with the objects of our Order, and, under judicious management,
will result in a great saving to our people, keeping at home a large amount of money that otherwise would help fill the overflowing treasuries of stock companies, and becoming a dangerous peric in our land.

We therefore recommend—

That the Patron of Husbandry of this State insure the buildings, etc., in Farmers' Mutual Insurance Companies, where they exist, and aid and encourage their organization wherever they are waiting.

Your committee would, therefore, recommend:

1sth. The organization by counties, or where a membership is large enough, with two central or convenient localities for market purposes, have two: or, where these are lacking, two or more counties or parts of counties may join in forming co-operative associations, and where isolated Granges exist, they can do the same by themselves, or an order or purchase from neighboring or State Agents.

These associations to choose their own name and officers, and make their own laws and rules, recommending, however, that the officers consist of a President or presiding officer, Secretary, Treasurer, a Business Agent, and a Board of Directors, under whose direction the business shall be conducted; and where the association is not too large, said board to consist of one member from each sub-district Grange belonging to said association, to be elected annually by the Grange they are to represent.

The presiding officer and Secretary of the association to be directors of the stock company.

2nd. A capital is needed for the purpose of doing business, we recommend—

That the amount thereof be fixed by each association, according to their own needs. Said capital to be raised by shares taken by the members of said association, fixing the value of each share for themselves together with the rate of interest thereon. Said shares of stock not to be transferable to parties not members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

3rd. That such a percentage be added to the cost of goods as will cover all expenses, including interest on capital. The same to be regulated from time to time by the stockholders.

A quarterly report to be made by the board of directors to the stockholders and members of the association, showing a complete statement of the affairs of said association. All business transactions to be strictly and exclusively on the cash basis.

4th. All officers entrusted with funds belonging to the association, shall give ample security by bonds approved by the board of directors, and held responsible for the acts of their employees.

5th. Farm implements should be obtained as near home as practicable, thereby saving freight, and supporting home industries. Where this cannot be done at satisfactory prices, secure them at the best point within your reach, and to the best advantage, either through your own agent, or by him, through any agent or association. The same of lumber, shingles, salt, lime, plaster, seeds, etc.

6th. That a list of the names and post office addresses of the agents of business associations of our Order in this State, be published in the GRANGE VISITOR.

7th. The agents of the different associations in this State, together with the State Agent, should confer with each other, and, if deemed best, meet once or twice a year, giving each other the benefits of their experience, and cooperate for the good of our whole State and country.

There are but few things that can be obtained to advantage through a State Agent except, perhaps, the making of contracts with manufacturers, and railroad companies, and to co-operate with agents of other States, and impress all such contracts and arrangements, and other information obtained by him, to the Secretaries of subordinate Granges, and to local agents. Agricultural implements being manufactured at so many different points in our own and adjoining States, (so with lumber, lime, etc.) that there is little or no advantage over county or district agents.

8th. When we come to general merchandise, here, in our judgment, it would be to great advantage to our Order, to have a man of ability and experience, for the purpose of selecting goods, filling orders of general merchandise, not so valuable in retail quantities, for agents of associations, and finding a market for such surplus products as the Patrons have to sell, say w. e. a. flour, pork, butter, wool, fruit, etc., etc.

That said State Agent be elected annually, by the Executive Committee of this State Grange, and that the Committee also fix the salary of the agent.

In regard to transportation, your committee is not prepared, neither would they deem it wise to burden you with a lengthy report. Only recommending, for the benefit of our Order, that State and District Agents make contracts with transportation companies for special uniform rates of freight for specified time, which must necessarily be confidential.

ALBERT STEGEMAN,
E. H. RISLING,
G. W. VANAIKEN,
THOMAS WILDE,
SAMPSON PARKER,
Committee.

Communications.

Shall We Have a State Organ?

At the recent session of the State Grange, the committee on publication, after consideration of that portion of the Worthy Master's address relating to the GRANGE VISITOR, recommended that its publication be continued, and that it be made a semi-monthly, and that it be enlarged as circumstances should require, should the Executive Committee deem it expedient. This recommendation was almost unanimously concurred in by vote of the State Grange.

This action was not only proper and important, to enable the united action of an Order of the vast proportions which the Patrons of Michigan now assumes; but seems a necessity, and that it can soon be made a weekly if the Patrons of Michigan give it merited support, by subscription and contribution to its columns, seems to me almost certain.

The Patrons of the State cannot expect to get authentic and reliable information in regard to the Order only through such organs as these. That during the recent State Grange, no doubt have noticed the misstatements in the Detroit dailies, in regard to its doings; for instance, one paper stated the amount of money in the hands of the Treasurer to be $53,000, instead of $5,052. The same paper, in publications submitted by the Committee on Resolutions, and passed by the Grange, so changed them, by leaving out and substituting portions of that body that they could hardly be recognized. One of them gave the membership in the State at 3,400, instead of 34,000; another gave a garbled report of the platter question. All of these are calculated to injure or bring discredit on our Order; they may have all been mistakes, but it is singular how they all seemed to be in the same direction.

To secure accuracy of statement, when our interests are involved, we need an organ in entire sympathy with us, and one large enough and coming to our homes directly. Those attending the recent State Grange, no doubt all seemed to be in the same direction.

Orion, Mich., Dec. 19, 1876.

—Mr. Mortimer Whitehead, Master of the State Grange of New Jersey, in a public letter, highly commends the plan for the patron's centennial entertainment at Philadelphia, and urges patrons to subscribe for the stock.

He also makes the important announcement that any patron attending this entertainment next Sunday, may send his checks with his bills with the stock if he desires.

—Lend money first to your Brethren in the Grange who need it. Because a man is a Brother Patron, it does not follow that you should take great risks to accommodate him, but, if you can lend him on ordinary security what he needs, it is fair and right to accommodate him.

—Examine the Visitor, and if it meets your approval, subscribe for it.