Michigan State Grange.

Fourth Annual Session—Master's Ad-
dress—Reports by the Secretary, State
Agent, Executive Committee, &c.

The Fourth Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange was opened in due form by Worthy Master Wood-
man in the hall of the House of Repre-
sentatives in the city of Lansing, at 10 o'clock A.M., on the 12th inst. All the.
officers of the State Grange re-

This content is from an old document and includes historical context about the Grange organization, its activities, and the contributions of its members. It discusses the importance of farmers' interests and the need for protection against unfair practices by speculators. The text also highlights the growth and influence of the Grange movement, emphasizing its role in advancing the interests of farmers and laborers.
transporting it to market, is equally entitled to a fair remuneration for what he contributes to the grand result. The man who invests his money in a farm, a factory, a store, bank or railroad, is only entitled to a fair profit on his investment. But to require an individual who has no cash capital, but merely the use of brains and muscle which God has given him, to receive but a scanty subsistence for his life's labor, or to make capital in a farm, yield to the owner but three or five per cent while the mortgage upon the farm draws ten, seems to be an unjust discrimination in favor of capital and against labor and agriculture, the tendency of which is to reduce laborers to paupersim, and the farmers to mere tenants, the titles to the farms passing into the hands of the mortgage holders, thus creating a moneyed aristocracy and establishing with uncertain certainty, a system of landlordism and agriculture. The tendency of the landlords and tenants, not much unlike the Feudal System of the Old World. Errors are also introduced into the minds of farmers the necessity for exercising more than skill in their farm and business operations, in preventing litigation, and settling difficulties by arbitration in the Grange, and in enabling the Husbandman and Matron, thought poor and burdened with cares, to feel that they are not alone, isolated and alone, to toil on through weary life, without friends, sympathy, society or hope of advancement, but to know that they are members of a great Fraternity, bound together by the ties of brotherly love, and laboring for the good and the elevation of all.

Although we have accomplished much, yet there are new and uncured fields before us, and obstacles to overcome, which require strong arms, steady blows, and perseverance, united effort. I will call your attention to a few of the many subjects connected with the interests of our farmers. The opposition it encountered had, which was deemed sufficient by its authors, and farmers' days felled the trees, split the rails, laid the fence, dug the ditches, ploughed the soil, and at the same time prosecuted their studies and graduated with honors. They lent their whole influence to destroy it. For years it was opposed by some of the best educators of the State, who preferred their own textbooks, and taught what they considered the proper studies. Yet in spite of opposition and unfriendly legislation, it struggled on, and farmers' days filled the tickets, discarded their ledgers and balance sheets, or to the narrow channel of study and thought required of the doctor, to learn the nature and cause of diseases and application of remedies, or to the lawyer, whose life's labor is devoted to the study of statutes and decisions, precedents and interpretations. The daily labors of the farmer are in nature's broad fields, where science has its birth; or which requires closer study, deeper thought, or a greater need of the application of science to obtain desired results. The labors of the farmer are not confined to the dingy office of the merchant or the lawyer, or to the narrow channel of study and thought required of the doctor, to learn the nature and cause of diseases and application of remedies, or to the lawyer, whose life's labor is devoted to the study of statutes and decisions, precedents and interpretations.

EDUCATION.
The opposition encountered had, which was deemed sufficient by its authors, and farmers' days felled the trees, split the rails, laid the fence, dug the ditches, ploughed the soil, and at the same time prosecuted their studies and graduated with honors. They lent their whole influence to destroy it. For years it was opposed by some of the best educators of the State, who preferred their own textbooks, and taught what they considered the proper studies. Yet in spite of opposition and unfriendly legislation, it struggled on, and farmers' days filled the tickets, discarded their ledgers and balance sheets, or to the narrow channel of study and thought required of the doctor, to learn the nature and cause of diseases and application of remedies, or to the lawyer, whose life's labor is devoted to the study of statutes and decisions, precedents and interpretations. The daily labors of the farmer are in nature's broad fields, where science has its birth; or which requires closer study, deeper thought, or a greater need of the application of science to obtain desired results. The labors of the farmer are not confined to the dingy office of the merchant or the lawyer, or to the narrow channel of study and thought required of the doctor, to learn the nature and cause of diseases and application of remedies, or to the lawyer, whose life's labor is devoted to the study of statutes and decisions, precedents and interpretations.

The opposition it encountered had, which was deemed sufficient by its authors, and farmers' days felled the trees, split the rails, laid the fence, dug the ditches, ploughed the soil, and at the same time prosecuted their studies and graduated with honors. They lent their whole influence to destroy it. For years it was opposed by some of the best educators of the State, who preferred their own textbooks, and taught what they considered the proper studies. Yet in spite of opposition and unfriendly legislation, it struggled on, and farmers' days filled the tickets, discarded their ledgers and balance sheets, or to the narrow channel of study and thought required of the doctor, to learn the nature and cause of diseases and application of remedies, or to the lawyer, whose life's labor is devoted to the study of statutes and decisions, precedents and interpretations. The daily labors of the farmer are in nature's broad fields, where science has its birth; or which requires closer study, deeper thought, or a greater need of the application of science to obtain desired results. The labors of the farmer are not confined to the dingy office of the merchant or the lawyer, or to the narrow channel of study and thought required of the doctor, to learn the nature and cause of diseases and application of remedies, or to the lawyer, whose life's labor is devoted to the study of statutes and decisions, precedents and interpretations.
THE GRANGE VISITOR.

the first institutions of learning in the land. It is the farmers institution and it becomes our duty to look after its welfare.

CO-OPERATION.
The term means concurrent action, working or operating together for the same end. Hence, co-operation in order is not confined to the same business or pecuniary matters, but to the cultivation of the social virtues, and everything that tends to inspire those feelings, and elevate our members. During the past year we have not only made progress in this direction, but the business advantages of the system, operating together, for the benefit of subordinate Granges, wish the following points which I consider the policy of levying a tax of two or three per cent. at reasonable rates for the future. Let it be a fixed principal in our Order to stand by those who on us, and deal with those who by their acts are entitled to our confidence. For full particulars relating to this subject, I refer you to the report of the Secretary and Executive Committee. I trust this subject will receive the attention its importance demands.

COUNTY GRANGES.
Fifteen County Granges have been organized in the State. My views in relation to their object and utility, were fully given in my last annual address, to which I call your special attention.

CONDITION OF THE ORDER.
I am satisfied that the Order has been firmly planted in the confidence of the farmers, and has become one of the fixed institutions of the country. During the past year many fine large Granges have been built in this State by the Subordinate Granges, and a large amount of business has been done, with results favorable and encouraging. A serious error was committed in the early organization of Granges. The impression seemed to be that the Grange was a good thing, and the more farmers could have of them the better. Jurisdiction was disregarded, and Granges were organized near together, sometimes in the same neighborhood, and strife over jurisdiction and candidates commenced at the outset. It has been my policy to protect Granges in their jurisdiction, counsel harmony, and as far as possible, consolidate the weak with strong, and make the Grange a place where social culture, refinement, education, and business co-operation could be realized by its members. A few charters have been suspended, and in some Granges there has been a falling off in the membership. This was to be expected, and is no cause for discouragement. What our members must need, is correct information on all questions relating to the interests of the Order, which must be supplied by the Farmers Journal, documents, and lectures. These should be provided for.

LECTURER OF THE STATE GRANGE.
Under instructions of the Executive Committee, I authorized the State Lecturer to visit all delinquent and dormant Granges in the State, and inquire into the cause of their inactivity; and if possible, to put them in working order, otherwise to take up their charter, and, which I believe is no cause for discouragement. I am confident that this work has resulted in much good to the Granges visited, and to the Order generally. Several dormant Granges have been revived and are now doing good work. For full particulars, I refer you to the Lecturers report.

GRANGE VISITOR.
This sheet has been issued regularly each month during the year, and has been the means of affording much valuable information to members of the Order, at very little expense. Much complaint has come to me, that officers of Subordinate Granges who receive the tree of cost, do not present it to the Grange, or even call the attention of members to it, or recommend them to subscribe for it. The cost of the Visitor is so small, that it does seem,—if the proper efforts were made by Masters and Secretaries of Subordinate Granges,—that a very large percentage of the members of the Order would become regular subscribers. Its institution to the State Grange nothing, and its circulation already numbers several thousand. For full particulars see Secretary's report.

FINANCE.
For information relating to the financial condition of the State Grange, the Secretary and Treasurer reports. The strictest economy should be exercised in each department of the State Grange, and where expenses cannot be reduced within the charter to the Order, it should be done.

NATIONAL GRANGE.
The 10th Annual Session of the National Grange was held in Chicago in November. A large amount of business came before it for consideration and action, which was all noted upon and disposed of. As a matter of economy, the printing of the proceedings from day to day, was dispensed with, consequently I am unable to give any authentic information of the business done, or acts passed, except the following amendments to the Constitution, and the resolutions submitted to the State Granges for ratification.

I herewith submit the same for your consideration.

1. Amend article one, section two, by inserting after the word "ballet," the following words: "any fourth degree member, in good standing, shall be eligible to the various degrees, in the County, District, or National Grange, within whose jurisdiction such member may reside, but shall not be entitled to vote.

2. Amend article one, section four, so as to read as follows:
Section four. There shall be an Executive Committee of the National...
THE GRANGE VISITOR.

Grange, consisting of three members, whose term of office shall be two years. The Master of the National Grange shall be, as far as practicable, a member of the Executive Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote except in case of a tie.

3. Amend article two, section three, by striking out the word "annually" and inserting in place thereof the word "biennially," and by striking out the word "from year to year," in said section; by striking out the word "annual," in article three, and inserting the word "biennial" in place thereof; and by striking out the word "annual" in article thirteen, and inserting the word "biennial" in place thereof. This amendment shall take effect after the annual session of the National Grange, to be held in the year 1877.

4. Amend the preamble under the head of Organization.—State Grange—Section one—by inserting after the word "Matron," in the third line, the words "and by providing the said Matron with substitutes from those who are duly qualified—and"

The 1st amendment if ratified, will make every fourth degree member eligible to office in the County, State, or National Grange, and entitled to receive the lessons of all the degrees in the same.

The 2nd will reduce the number of the Executive Committee of the National Grange, from five to three, and provide for the creation of the National Grange an ex-officio member of the Board.

The 3rd provides for "biennial" instead of "annual" session of the National Grange.

The 4th provides for the election of substitutes to attend the State Grange where the regularly elected delegates are unable to attend.

The CENTENNIAL.

The Centennial Exhibition brought together not only the people of our own country, but the nations of the earth, with the products of their skill and industry; and the exhibition, with the view of having the laws regulated in the same manner. This question will bear investigation. The real estate mortgages of this State usually draw ten per cent interest, and often "usury" is charged and paid by the owner of the property, under threats of foreclosure,—the expense of which under our statutes, is almost appalling. I am of the opinion, that it would be eminently proper, and the good of the Order demands, that you should, by suitable resolutions, call the attention of the Legislature, soon to convene, to this question, with the view of having the laws as amended to prevent taking rousious interest, and limiting the fees and expenses of foreclosure, to reasonable and uniform rates.

During the war, the fees paid to public officers, and others for services, were raised, on account of the depreciated state of the currency. As this is a time when economy and retrenchment should be practiced, the Legislature should consider this subject.

The foregoing are a few of the many subjects which demand some consideration; but the time limited for our session, and the amount of business which must necessarily come before you, warns me to desist from further recommendations.

My official term expires with this session. For nearly two years have I labored in this work, and have endeavored to do my duty faithfully and impartially. That I have committed errors there can be no doubt; but I trust that the duties and responsibilities of the position may be placed in abler hands, and the work of building up and perpetuating our Order, carried forward with renewed energy and interest. I am profoundly impressed with the idea, that the only hope for the farmers of our country to rise above the position of "hewers of wood and drawers of water," is by organized and united effort; and if the organization fails, the last hope of the American farmers has vanished forever. But it will not fail. The interests and fortunes of more than 6,000,000 of earnest and determined men and women are centered in it. It must go forward in its glorious work, overcoming every obstacle, and bringing all within its influence nearer to the good, the beautiful, and true. May your labors be characterized by harmony and wisdom, and your acts result in promoting the welfare and prosperity to our Order.

J. J. WOODMAN.

Secretary's Report.

Worthy Master and Patron:

I herewith submit my report of the business of the Secretary's office for the year ending Dec. 1st, 1876. Although seventeen new Granges have been added to the list during the year, we have a less membership to report to the National Grange than we had one year ago. A few consolidations have been effected, and several Granges have surrendered their charters.

A careful examination of my accounts with Subordinate Granges shows, that of those which have been organized within this jurisdiction, on the 30th day of November, the time which we have adopted for the examination of all the Subordinate Granges were fully reported; 82 were delinquent one report; 37 two reports, and 34 three reports.

Of the residue, 18 have consolidated, 18 have surrendered their charters, and the remaining 36 were dead from the date of their organization, or are now dormant, and have been for more than a year. Missionary labor would restore a few of these to activity and usefulness and induce good members of this Order to procure certificates from the State Secretary that would enable them to join other Granges.

A condensed statement of my account with the State Grange appears by the following exhibit:

J. T. CONE, Secretary

Dr. To fees and dues received from Subordinate Granges from Dec. 1st, 1875, to Nov. 30th, 1876. Total—$779.86. To fees from Special Depostaries. 10.00 To fees from Special Depositories. 10.00 To amount of Subscription to Visitor. 507.16 To amount from Advertisers. 36.00 To profit balance from supply account. 116.23 Total Receipts. $1819.50

By amount deposited to the credit of the State Treasurer as appears by his receipt. 1819.50

I was directed by the Executive Committee to collect from N. Chilson, our former State Agent, a balance due on settlement of $122, which has been done and the amount paid over to State Treasurer S. F. Brown.

Of the $1500 advanced to State Agent J. H. Gardner, for business expenses, $760 was returned August 21st, and deposited with the Treasurer. For these two sums I hold his receipts.

For Clerical, Stationery and Printing. 35.70

For Office Furniture. 3.00

For Clerk hire. 144.

For miscellaneous expenses. 98.75 Total, $381.98

The second item includes printing of pamphlets and proceedings of the last Session.$212.00. The loss of this year is all assistance is folding, directing and mailing the Visitor. The last includes telegraphing, exchange, and my traveling expenses, covering five trips to
balances due Masters on orders issued in payment for attendance at the January Session of 1875. In consequence, to that resolution I have settled with twenty-four Masters and paid them by orders on the Treasurer of the State Grange, the several amounts found due—the aggregate amount of such balances being $245.20.

Proceedings of Last Session.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the close of the last Session of the State Grange, it was ordered that the publication of the Grange Visitor be continued under the same management as heretofore, and the Publishing firm, having given discretionary power as to size of sheet, time and frequency of issue, and price per annum.

We decided to reduce the price, but otherwise to make no change in the current volume. While there was, and is, quite a pressing demand for a larger sheet and a more frequent issue, yet I then felt that it would be impossible for me to give it more attention than it then required, and still give my personal service to all the duties pertaining to the Secretary's office to which had been added the work growing out of the plaster business. During the year there have been issued ten editions of the Visitor of 3000 copies each, and two editions of 8000 each. Also a supplement to the December and March numbers. For each regular edition of 3000 copies we have paid $40, making a total of $400.00.

The Supplements and additional numbers of last two issues have cost $42.50. Postage for the year, 49.10. Miscellaneous expenses attending its publication and mailing, $57.00.

Total, $821.90.

Receipts for Subscription, $837.16.

Credit Balance reported for 1875, 50.53.

Total, $888.49.

This would show an apparent profit of $84.04. A careful examination of our subscription book, however, shows that we have 1796 subscriptions prepaid, to whom we must furnish $209 copies of the Visitor which will cost for printing, postage and mailing, $56.80. Receipts for Advertising, pro rata, about $50. Advertising Bills not collected, 29.00.

Amounting to $63.00.

Which would leave us with this calculation, a credit balance of $31.04. In every line of our business, we must not forget that 45 per cent of every issue is sent to Masters and Secretaries of our State, to Officers of other States, and to all individuals who have no pecuniary return whatever is received. In this experiment of issuing the Grand Grange Visitor it was only intended to make it a test, to see how far it could be sustained. That end has been accomplished—but the margin as appears by our report, seems to me too narrow for safety. With this statement, I leave the future of the Visitor in your hands for disposition.

Blank.

We have prepared and had printed 20 different blank forms that seemed necessary for the use of the Order, and the successful operating of the business.

Of blanks for Incorporation of Subordinate Granges and return certificates, for the Prosecution, and Certificates of Dimit, and a few others, there is a supply in the office for another year.

Balance on Master's Orders, 1875.

By a resolution adopted at the last session, I was instructed to pay all

of your township, and do you visit one another and cultivate social intercourse to a greater extent than you did before?

I was directed to collect the pay of all plasterers, and to arrange and order the same to 8000 tons, were assigned to us and were to be filled by Bro. Weston in the order in which they were received, and the plaster shipped by my direction. Bro. Weston to send me the shipping bills. I was directed to collect the pay for all plasterers, and order the same to 8000 tons, were assigned to us and were to be filled by Bro. Weston 75 per cent. of all collections, retaining 20 per cent. to reimburse Ex. Com. for money advanced to aid Bro. Weston in getting his mill in running order.

It is not necessary to give a detailed statement of the delays and mishaps that attended the business—Bro. Weston done the best he could. His first shipping (5) bears date Feb. 28th; his last one April 7th. At this last date he sold his entire interest in his mine, mill, fixtures and business to Day & Taylor. This firm assumed the obligation of Mr. Weston to the Executive Committee, with the same arrangement in regard to shipping. It was well understood that the mill and mine was such, when these parties took hold of it, that they were only able to get out and ship before the close of the season, 481 tons. All well know that we obtained but a small part of the plaster ordered, and but little of that just when wanted. The whole matter was attended with vexations delays and disappointments, but there was far less fault-finding than I expected. When I found that every one relating to the supply was so unreliable and that in the main we were to be disappointed. The total sales of plaster were:

- 600 tons shipped by Bro. Weston, amounting to $1,800.00.
- 91,800 pounds of grind, valued at $9,000.00.
- 481.6 tons shipped by D. & T., valued at $1,445.40.

Total value of sales, $13,288.17.

In almost every instance bills for plaster were at a discount, due to delays and promptness, only $40.00 still remaining uncollected. If the plaster had arrived in time, so that it could have been used, every dollar would have been remitted.

Plaster.

As the Ex. Com. will recount in their report their doing in connection with this vexed subject. It will refer to it as briefly as my connection with the business would seem to justify.
of a quarter, which is certainly ample time for all Subordinate Granges to have their reports made and forwarded for the quarter ending Sept. 30th.

I would also recommend that Sec. 1, Art. 9, be amended by substituting in the second line for the words "dues of the words Reports from, and in the third line, after the word, "promptly" add the words—made, and the dues.

Also, amend Sec 6, Art. 13, by striking out the words "dispensation" in the 12th line of said section, and substituting the word Charter.

In the enumeration of the duties of the Secretary of the State Grange, Sec. 6, Art. 7, I think the words "and published quarterly" found in the 10th line, on page 17 of By-Laws, should be stricken out. It is a requirement attended with expense and labor, and when done is of no practical value. It is so unnecessary and impracticable that I have not attempted to comply with the requirement since the first year of our State organization.

The list of Granges as printed this year cost nearly $100, and except for use by the officers of the State Grange, is of no sort of benefit to the Order.

To said Sec. 6, Art. 7, I suggest additions as follows:

He shall prepare and publish a tabulated sheet of balances of account, of each Subordinate Grange with the State Grange, as it appears on his books on the 1st day of September of each year, and before the 15th day of said month, shall send one copy of such balances to every Grange Secretary in the State.

He shall make a list by numbers of the Granges entitled to representation in County and District Conventions, and shall determine under such regulations as the Executive Committee may establish, the number of representatives to which a county or district is entitled, and the publication of such list of Granges and number of representatives in the official paper of the State Grange, shall be deemed and taken as sufficient notice to all Granges, of their rights to representation.

He shall keep a list of Granges delinquent more than one quarter in reports or payment of dues, standing in the official paper of the State Grange, and shall correct the same monthly.

It will be recollected that the Act for the Incorporation of the State and Subordinate Granges, though intended to provide for County Granges and County Councils, was defective in its application to County and District organizations, and I would recommend that some person be designated whose duty it shall be to procure such amendment to the Act of Incorporation from the legislature soon to convene, as will remedy the defect referred to.

And lastly, in obedience to one of the first principles of our Order—Economy in all things—I venture to recommend that Sec 4, Art. 3, be so amended as to materially reduce the number of this representative body.

Complaints, to me quite unreasonable, are made, that too large an amount of money is demanded from Subordinate Granges for the support of the State and National Grange.

Under our present system of representation, we certainly could not get along with less. The January session of 1875 cost over $8,000.

The roll of the last session was...$200.00 43 Contingent Expenses of Session...$107.50

Total... $217.50

This does not include the amount appropriated in payment for services of the Worthen & Co. Auditor and Treasurer of the State Grange.

I assume that too much is not paid by the Subordinates to the State Grange. And I venture the opinion that we should hazard little in the quality of its legislation if this body was reduced to a per cent. and that the good of the Order would be promoted by the use of the money thus saved in supporting its business arm, or perhaps by a demand for more labor in the field by Lecturers.

I trust that you will pardon this digression from the legitimate object of this address. My only purpose in making these suggestions is the welfare of our Order.

CONCLUSION.

I have only to add that during the entire time of my official connection with the Order, no incident has occurred in my intercourse with the different officers of the State Grange, and members of the Executive Committee to mar our fraternal or business relations. For the many proofs of confidence in my devotion to the best interests of the Order, received from Patrons of the State, and officers of the State Grange during these years, I shall ever cherish a grateful remembrance; and as I again surrender to you the official trusts confided to me, I do so with confidence that our joint labors in this new field of human progress have not been in vain.

J. T. Cosx, Secretary.

State Agent's Report.

To the Executive Committee of the State Grange.

Your Business Agent would respectfully submit the following report.

I commenced business on the 25th of January last, and up to December 1st I have been employed 235 days at $2 per day, making $470; I have paid for postage and stationery $116.30; for traveling expenses while on business $122.25, making $741.55. I have purchased on orders from Granges and individuals, goods and implements to the amount of $34,459.97, and have now on hand the value of $8,185.00 in goods and implements.

In order to purchase at low rates, it has been necessary for me to enter the markets and buy in quantities in the same manner that dealers do, and purchase in lots of thousands, therefore I have now this amount on hand.

I have offers of farm machinery and implements and implements for the coming season, from manufacturers who are desirous to secure your trade; also from wholesale houses, in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes.

If all could unite in using a few
leading machines and bulk their orders together in a few purchases, lower prices could be reached.

I was also made of knowing the amount of business done by co-operative associations and members of our Order, included in my transfer-acting, which had not been large, for when I commenced, I was new to it, and the former State Agent de- clined to give any information or advice whatever, so that I have had to work it up from the beginning. I would respectfully suggest that funds should be provided to enable the purchase in considerable quantities of articles that are in common use.

J. H. Gardner, State Agent.

Politics in the Grange.

Occasionally we get notice in the papers, allusion to the Grange as a political organization, particularly in the city papers, with such headings as "The Grangers preparing for the fray," "The Grange night comes," "The Grange will do the city papers," with such headings and the former State Agent declining to give any information or advice. Now it is just the case in the past. Not that we claim any great interest in choice fruit and fine stock and full crops as he has, and if she does have to work hard, there is something to work for. Then it is pleasant to meet old friends and new faces, and feel that a common interest binds them all together. Why, keep a man at home week in and week out, with the accustomed faces around him, and the Grange would be sure to find him prompt in attendance. And the farmer's wife gets tired, not of home, not of her husband and labor, and it is glad of an hour's rest and change afforded by the Grange — Co-operative Journal.

The Grange Spreading.

The Grange has not only spread all through the United States and Canada, but has introduced in England, but there are inquiries about the organization in British Columbia. The Secretary of the Cal. State Grange has received a letter from that far-off province, requesting "forms and rules" for the formation of a Grange at Victoria, where a number of farmers seem interested in the movement. With such a growth as we have had, is it not reasonable to suppose that not many years hence there will be Granges in every country where there are farmers enough to form one. Under our own government there are, we believe, many who are interested in the national and Territory, except Rhode Island, that State has thus far been too small for our Order.

—Secretary Kelley of the National Grange informs us that several secretaries of State Granges are unable to make their reports, owing to the neglect of secretaries of subordinate granges in not having made their quarterly returns. We have frequently urged upon masters to improve, and to report to the Grange any neglect or inefficiency upon the part of officers of the Grange that the master may super- vise the place with one of trust and ability. We trust Masters will give this matter their prompt and immediate attention. —National Grange.
but to me there seems to be a better way

to get at what we wish. Let us tell

capitalists to hunt their customers, or
take lower rates of Interest; we are not

obliged to hire money and run into debt.

Suppose I have a farm worth six

thousand dollars, and owe three thou-

sand on it, let me sell to some one who

can pay for it, I take my two or three

thousand dollars and buy cheaper land,
pay for it and be independent. If we

would all say and do so, we could soon

gain money at our own rates. The pow-
er is with us, let us use it, not forgetting
to send farmers to legislate for us.

I am not one who thinks a Granger

would let money for six per cent, if he
could just as well get ten.

Fraternally,
A. D. McGeorge.

BLANKS.

Blanks that are sent free from this office on
application are:
Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Sub-
ordinate Granges.
Blank Quarterly Reports of Secretaries of Po-
mona Granges.
Blank application for organizing Pomona
Granges.
Blank Certificates of Representatives elected to
the State Grange.
Blank Certificates of Incorporation.
Blank Quarterly Reports of Sub-
ordinate Granges.
Blank application for Consolidation of Granges.
Blank Bonds of Secretary and Treasurer.
Blank application for Certificate of Dims.
Blank Certificates of Representatives elected
to the State Grange.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES

Blanks for Consolidation of Granges, sent
free on application.
Blank Application for Membership in Pomona
Granges.
Blank Application for Certificate of Dimis.
Blank Certificate of Incorporation.
Blank application for Certificate of Dimis.
Blank Application for Certificate of Dimis.
Blank Order for use of Granges or Pur-
chasing Agents.
Blank Certificate of Representation to At-
tend to the Business of the State Grange.
Blank Application for Membership in Pomona
Granges.
Blank Quarterly Reports of Sub-
ordinate Granges.
Blank application for Consolidation of Granges.
Blank application for organizing Pomona
Granges.
Blank Certificates of Representatives elected
to the State Grange.
Blank Certificates of Incorporation.

We now have our incomparable FALL AND WINTER
CATALOGUE, No. 17, Ready.

These catalogues are in neat book form, contain 184 pages of just such information as
every one needs, regarding some and wholesale price of nearly all articles in every day use.

THEY ARE FREE TO ALL. PRICES ARE VERY LOW NOW. SEND
US YOUR ADDRESS.

N. B. MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.,
Opposite the Matteson House, Chicago.

THE PATRONS’ PAINT COMPANY are manufact-
urers, dealers, and jobbers in THE LONE-HEARTED PAINTS, and
BRUSHES, and selling them at full trade discounts, delivering them freight
paid, and no money required until the goods are received, cheaper
than even the material can be bought elsewhere. They are an absolutely pure
artists, possessing great endurance and brilliancy, and are giving great sat-is-
faction in the Paints and Brushes that are sent
free on application.

THE WHITNEY SEWING MACHINE.

THE PIONEER MACHINE,
To recognize and adopt the Grange Plan of
bringing the CONSUMER and PRODUCER in
close business relations—disposing with ex-
pensive agents—and giving the purchaser the
benefit of wholesale prices.

We have pleasure in saying that the most
prominent members of the Order have heartily
approved and recommended our plan, while
State, County and Grange Committees have ex-
amined, tested and approved, and warmly com-
mented the high character and excellence of
the Whitney Machine. We have already sup-
plied thousands of Patrons with the Machine,
which are giving unqualified satisfaction.

MACHINES SENT TO PATRONS
ON 30 DAYS TRIAL.

For full information and charts and des-
criptions of the

THE BEST FARMING LANDS

in the West, call on or send, postal card to
FRANK B. WHIPPLE, Kalamazoo, Mich.,
Agent for B. and M. E. P. Branch, Kalamazoo, Mich.,
and Chautauqua County, Office, 19 North Burdick Street.
Supplement to the Grange Visitor.

Michigan State Grange.

Report of Executive Committee. To the Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:

Your Executive Committee respectfully submit the following report:

On account of the machinery being in the history of the Order, when it must, and should most boldly the combined influences of capital and speculation combined to make the tillers of the soil mere "heavers of wood and drawers of water." The great difficulties before us lay the fact in every establishment for the manufacture of plaster in Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, had been concealed, and although a few of joint stock company, for the purpose of raising the price of plaster some twenty-five per cent above the price charged during the war, when everything reached inflation prices, and putting forth as justification of such high price, the special plea that it was necessary in order to pay cost of manufacture and interest on capital invested in their works, which by their own knowledge its inefficiency and inability to grapple with one of the many monopolies that were faced, to make the titles of the soil mere "heavers of wood and drawers of water."

The most serious difficulty with Bro. Weston's proposition was, how to make its advantages permanent to the Order, and how we could be made secure for advances made when his property was so heavily encumbered by mortgage.

Your committee sent a sub-committee composed of Bro's. Holloway and Woodward to Grand Rapids and Grandville to investigate titles to land, and holding all orders made for plaster collecting the same from the Granges, retaining 25 per cent, to apply on the loan, paying the balance to the parties for running expenses.

Your committee hoped and believed that the difficulties and hinderances to this undertaking had thus been fully met and overcome, and that before the month closed the orders already made and be filled as fast as shipping facilities could be obtained. But we were again disappointed, another month passed before a car was shipped. The orders from this date February 26th, to April 7th only 600 tons were furnished and shipped. At this time Weston sold his interest to Messrs. Day & Taylor, the decision of the Committee on Cooperation at the last session of the State Grange was reversed, and the necessary blanks for ordering were sent to every subordinate Grange in the State in last September. It will take 4,135 tons of paid for according to the terms of the contract, to relieve the committee of the liabilities assumed by them for the good of the Order.

The last State Grange by resolution unanimously pledged the Order to the support of the Executive Committee, financially or otherwise in whatever arrangement they might be able to make in connection with the plaster works, and committed us to the duty of this Grange to take up the work they left it, and carry it forward to completion. This implies that as you return to your several localities, you will see to it that the Granges you here represent have their orders filled and forwarded to the Secretary of the State Grange, and in so doing do not be so exclusive as not to embrace a kind neighbor's wants in your order, although he may be so unfortunate as not to be a member of the Grange.

We can not close this branch of our report without expressing our appreciation to Secretary Cobb for the ability and perseverance with which he has labor ed with this plaster interest from the beginning.

STATE AGENT.

At our regular meeting, Jan. 5th, at the Hurd House, in Jackson, we took up the matter of State Agent as contemplated in an amendment to the report of the Committee on Cooperation at the last session of the State Grange.

After considering the question is all its various bearings, we decided to appoint a State Business Agent with limited power to be a main contracting agent, and to fill positive orders, but in no case to have recourse upon the State Grange for any bad debts, or accounts dependent on the Committee of Centreville, St. Joseph Co., as one well

Our first effort was to find a suitable person, for the place, one favorably and in whom the Order in the State could confidently anticipate and with whom the appointment would be of the utmost benefit. In casting about for such a person your committee

of the releases for the release of 25 acres where the works were situated, by the payment of $5000. That $800 would have to be advanced to pay for machinery and fixtures to put the works in operation.

On this report your committee was asked to met, and feeling that as your agents, they were clothed with but limited powers, they decided to become personally responsible, with all possible care of risk of failure, and thus save the whole project from being abandoned, and the interests of the Order in this matter, given over to the oppressor.

Accordingly by resolution we assumed such responsibility, made two notes, one for $4000, and one for $5000, each signed by eight members of your Executive Committee, viz:—J. Webster Childs, J. J. Woodman, G. Luce, J. P. Cobb, F. M. Hollower, Samuel Langdon, G. W. Woodward, and S. E. Jeffers.

They delegated Bros. Luce and Cobb to raise the money on the note, to go to Grand Rapids and Grandville and close the arrangement in such form as in their judgment should seem best. On arriving at Grand Rapids they found that no release could be had from the mortgage on the plaster lands, as we had hoped, and that whatever arrangement should be made must be temporary.

Your committee advanced to Bro. Weston the $4000, taking for security C. G. Luce, J. P. Cobb, F. M. Hollower, Samuel Langdon, G. W. Woodward, and S. E. Jeffers.

Two thousand tons ground plaster ready for delivery, rock in sheds for 2,000 tons more. The other note of $5,000 made by the manufacturing establishment is practically as follows, viz:

Two thousand tons ground plaster ready for delivery, rock in sheds for 2,000 tons more. The other note of $5,000 made by the manufacturing establishment is practically as follows, viz:

Two thousand tons ground plaster ready for delivery, rock in sheds for 2,000 tons more. The other note of $5,000 made by the manufacturing establishment is practically as follows, viz:

Two thousand tons ground plaster ready for delivery, rock in sheds for 2,000 tons more. The other note of $5,000 made by the manufacturing establishment is practically as follows, viz:...
worthy of trial, provided he would accept the appointment.

For purpose of conference we invited Bro. Gardner, to meet with us, and after a full consultation, closed an arrangement with him, to receive $2.00 per day for time actually spent, and all necessary expenses. In this appointment your committee believe that they have put the right man in the place, and that through his efficient labors the Order has been greatly benefited, so far as they have availled themselves of his services and conduct.

We have strong confidence to believe, that, with the advantage of the past year's experience, his labors continued would soon develop the benefits of cooperation to the Patrons throughout the State. We take great pleasure in referring to his report for a full and explicit statement of his doings. Also to the Secretary's report for the amount of money and other effect in the hands of Agt. Gardner, belonging to the State Grange.

Your committee would further report a Session of their Board held at the Hurd House, in the city of Jackson, on the 1st of November last, to the interest of the good of the Order. At this meeting a committee was appointed to locate the next State Grange and make all necessary arrangements therefor. Bro. Gardner was instructed to secure, if possible, arrangements for reduced face upon the various railroads for those attending the meeting of said Grange.

Two appeal cases were considered and disposed of at this meeting. Also a Sub-Committee was appointed composed of Bro. Chils, Holloway, and Luce to examine the books and accounts and settle with the Secretary, Treasurer and State Agent. The committee met at the office of the Secretary, in Schoolcraft, on the 28th of November last, and after a thorough examination of all the books and accounts of the said officers, finding them correct, made settlement as directed. They also made a searching investigation into the Secretary's system of book keeping between the State and Subordinate Granges, and the checks used to ensure accuracy, and the committee report the methods used for consolidating small items into a general whole as in their judgment, nearly perfect, bearing in mind that this officer becomes the accountant and adjuster for the Subordinate as well as his own Grange; therefore, the necessity of thorough system, efficiency and integrity, to avoid collision and distrust.

Your committee find that there has been received by him for fees and dues from Nov. 30th, 1875, to Nov. 30th, 1876, inclusive, the sum of $7,419.86. Also for the same period for supplies sold, the sum of $804.82; for supplies accepted by the said officers, finding them correct, made settlement as directed. They also made a searching investigation into the Secretary's system of book keeping between the State and Subordinate Granges, and the checks used to ensure accuracy, and the committee report the methods used for consolidating small items into a general whole as in their judgment, nearly perfect, bearing in mind that this officer becomes the accountant and adjuster for the Subordinate as well as his own Grange; therefore, the necessity of thorough system, efficiency and integrity, to avoid collision and distrust.

Your committee find that there has been received by him for fees and dues from Nov. 30th, 1875, to Nov. 30th, 1876, inclusive, the sum of $7,419.86. Also for the same period for supplies sold, the sum of $804.82; for supplies accepted by the said officers, finding them correct, made settlement as directed. They also made a searching investigation into the Secretary's system of book keeping between the State and Subordinate Granges, and the checks used to ensure accuracy, and the committee report the methods used for consolidating small items into a general whole as in their judgment, nearly perfect, bearing in mind that this officer becomes the accountant and adjuster for the Subordinate as well as his own Grange; therefore, the necessity of thorough system, efficiency and integrity, to avoid collision and distrust.

In the Secretary's supply account there is a profit appearing of $116.23, which has been paid to the Treasurer, as his vouchers show.

In the Visitor account your committee find the total expense for the year in printing, postage, and miscellaneous items, to amount to $6219, which shows a nominal profit of $84.84, which amount has been paid the Treasurer, as his vouchers show. But we must bear in mind that there is an increased circulation at this time, over the corresponding date of last year, and that much of this increase is of recent date, thereby laying upon the paper an increased liability in discharging its obligations to subscribers, which will absorb nearly all the nominal profits.

In his platter accounts his books show a sale of 1089 tons, amounting to the sum of $3,323.75. Of this amount all has been collected except $49. Seventy-five per cent of which he holds vouchers for, from Weston or Day & Taylor, as manufacturers, and the balance has been passed to the cashiers of the railroads given by the Executive Committee.

When we take into account the various duties that have been placed upon this officer by the Grange, and that the Executive Committee, it is a wonder to your committee to have that some interest has not suffered under his supervision. All, however, seems to have been carefully guarded under his watchful eye.

Your committee find the accounts of State Treasurer Brown carefully kept. His monies are on deposit in the bank of E. B. Dyckman & Co., of Schoolcraft, as appears from his bank book exhibited, which deposit corresponds with the amount found due from him at the close of business Nov. 30th, 1876, being the close of the fiscal year, and, as further shown by the Secretary's vouchers from said Treasurer.

Your committee would further report, that at their meeting in January last, they authorized the Worthy Master to engage Bro. C. L. Whitney the State Lecturer, as General Deputy, at $3.00 per day and traveling expenses, to be employed in visiting delinquent and dormant Granges. Services have been rendered by him up to Dec. 11th, amounting to $505.50 including per diem and expenses (after deducting the amount received as compensation from the Granges visited, which your committee has audited and allowed.

Your committee would summarize the work of the year as shown from the reports of last year, and from their own investigations to be as follows:

In the Treasury Dec. 17, 1875, $337.24
In the hands of N. Chilsen, former State Agent $500.00
Received from National Grange $1377.00
Fees and Dues $719.00
Supplies held $584.80
Subscriptions to and Advertising in various papers $655.41
Total $18254.81

Cost of Publishing Visitor $2712.08
Printing blanks, proceedings and stationery $568.00
Carrying on other business $691.00
Miscellaneous expenses incurred in 76 $241.00
Paid Master Woodman for services $750.00
Paid Treasurer Brown $100.00
Paid Lecturer Whitney $150.00

Paid N. Chilsen former State Ag't, Sal-
and Expenses, 1876 $378.00
Expenses of Secretary's office for sta-
tionaries, printing blanks, etc. of State Grange, maintenance in office, 
and office, and expenses for 1876 $714.55
Paid Lecturer Whitney, salary and ex-
penses for 1876 $416.67
Paid Sec'y's Salary for 1 year 2 mos. $1106.60
Paid Asst Secretary, December 25th 14.00
Paid Master Woodman, Miscellaneous Exp. $30.00
Paid expenses of Executive Com., 1876 $357.00
Fees and Dues paid to said Treasurer 6219
Cash on hand Dec. 1st, 1876 $607.12

In conclusion, your committee would respectfully suggest to the consideration of the Grange:

1st. Your committee are of the opinion that the further reduction of the representation to the State Grange or a reduction in the present per diem and mileage of members, would be in the interest of economy, and would be attended with beneficial results, and we would therefore recommend that such reduction be made.

2nd. Your committee would further recommend the appointment of suitable persons as visiting Lecturers, who shall hold themselves in readiness to answer calls to address Subordinate Granges—the compensation to be paid by the Grange inviting the Lecture to be fixed and published in the Visitor.

3rd. Your committee are strongly impressed with the fact, that many of the officers of Subordinate Granges are desirous in presenting to the members of their several organizations the importance of sustaining the Grange and the monthly paper devoted entirely to the good of the Order, and which should be in the hands of every Patron in the State. And we would recommend to this Grange, that action be taken by it requiring the Secretaries of Subordinate Granges to open subscription lists for the Visitor, and to call the attention of their members to the same.

All of which respectfully submit,
J. WALTER CHILDS, J. G. LUCE,
F. M. HOLLOWAY, SAMUEL LANGDON,
C. G. LUCE.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COM. ON PLASTER.
To Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:
The Special Committee to whom were referred the Plaster interests of the Grange, deeply impressed with the great importance of such interests and with the trying and embarrassing circumstances which have surrounded the Executive Committee in the premises, to secure for the membership of the Order their plasters at a reasonable cost, also cognizant of the fact that the so called Plaster System is of very great importance, and will endeavor with all the power and means they can command to overcome the doings at the Central Office of said Executive Committee and place Patrons at their disposal, would say that they have had the said System under consideration and would respectfully submit their report.

Recommendation that the action of the State Executive Committee in trying our case be not only accepted, but fully and earnestly adopted by this State Grange, and to this end your committee.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.
beg leave to offer the following and ask for its adoption:

Resolved, It is the duty of all the delegates to this State Grange and Masters of all Subordinate Granges to make a special point to lay this subject before the Granges which we each respectively represent, impressing upon them the necessity and importance of immediately filling out their orders and forwarding them to the Executive Committee of the State Grange, that he may know what can be done upon that point, and make an intelligent preparation to carry out the arrangements; and we do hereby pledge ourselves to each other to do this in our respective Counties, Districts and Subordinate Granges.

In order that the objects of this resolution may be better accomplished, the committee would suggest that each Subordinate Grange appoint a special Placer Committee to work earnestly and at once in the securing of placer orders.

Your committee would recommend that the Executive Committee be instructed to carefully investigate and act as soon as may be possible, upon all the developments of the placer operations, with the view of securing to Patrons, through the members of the Executive Committee in the future, and guarding them against the powers of combination and monopoly.

P. C. Adams, Edward King, Malachi Cox, William Hull, A. M. Pitch, M. Ferry, J. W. Perry, Special Committee,

Master’s Department.

J. W. Woodman, - Paw Paw.

State Grange.

The attendance at the State Grange was large, many members of the Order availing themselves of the courtesy extended to them by the several Railroad Companies of the State, in issuing to all who had paid full fare to Lansing, passes to return free over the same line of road. This liberality towards the members of the Executive Committee was highly appreciated by the State Grange; and in behalf of that body, I do hereby express to the managers of the several roads, our hearty thanks, and due appreciation of the favor.

Delegates to the State Grange.

Delegates who attended the session of the State Grange, were instructed to communicate the Annual Word to the Masters of Granges, thereby authorizing them to receive it. The Secretary of the State Grange will immediately send a list of Granges, that are delinquent and not entitled to it, to the delegates from the several counties.

State Lecture and Deputies.

The Executive Committee of the State Grange, has not authorized the payment of any salary to the State Lecturer who is employed by him, must recommend to each for his time and expenses. If the Subordinate Granges in a county, could arrange to have one Lector paid by that county and paying each other daily, the expense to each Grange, would be but little.

The Lecturer is also General Deputy of the State Grange, and can organize Subordinate and County Granges. For such services he receives his pay from the Charter fees. Each county having five or more Subordinate Granges, is entitled to a Special Deputy, whose duty it is to organize and instruct Granges within the county. Every county should have an energetic working member in the state as a Special Deputy. See Section 2, of Article 10, By-Laws State Grange.

The Order of the State Grange, the Grand Traverse Country, embracing several counties in that portion of the State, is entitled to a Special Deputy. No appointment will be made on receipt of the proper application.

It gives me great pleasure to know that several members of our Order, who are known to be good and effective speakers, (whose names are given in another column), have consented to take the field, and deliver addresses on subjects relating to the good of the Order. They will make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the subject, and will be prepared to instruct Granges in the same; all who are members of the State Grange, or have received instructions in the fifth degree, will also attend to the installation of Officers in Subordinate Granges. Members of the State Grange can install officers in a County or District Grange.

Secretary’s Department.

J. T. Cobb, - Schoolcraft.

Officers and members of Subordinate Granges in corresponding with this office, will please always give the number of their Grange.

Constitution of Nat. Grange.

An Act, Sec. 2. The Secretary of each Subordinate Grange shall report quarterly to the Secretary of the State Grange the names of all persons initiated during the quarter, and pay to the Secretary of the State Grange one dollar for each man, and fifty cents for each woman, initiated during the quarter; also a quarterly office of six cents for each member; said report to be approved and forwarded at the first session of the Grange in such quarter.

I again call attention to this Sec. as some Secretaries and Treasurers still think it the duty of the Treasurer to make a quarterly report and pay the dues of the Grange to the Secretary of the State Grange. The Treasurer has no report to make except to his own Grange. The Secretary should not only make a quarterly Report, but should send the fees and dues of the Grange to the Secretary of the State Grange.

State Grange.

I have neither time nor space in this number to refer to the work done at the recent session of the State Grange. The proceedings were marked by earnestness of purpose and entire harmony of action.

The amount of business done during the brief session has probably never been exceeded by any legislative body convened in that hall in the first three weeks of its sitting. Petitions, resolutions, reports of committees, amendments, references, &c., followed each other in rapid succession, but without confusion, irregularity, or any improper priority whatever. Some amendments were made in the By-Laws, and some Standing Resolutions adopted, which will appear in the Jan. number of the Viarion. The address of the Worthy Master and the Reports found in this number, leave little room for other matter, however important, even with a supplement. The recommendations found in my report were, I think, all adopted except the one looking to a reduction of the number of delegates to the State Grange. As this was advised only as an economical measure that our expenses might be reduced, our income, and as the end sought was reached without a difficulty, I am very glad that the recommendation did not find favor with the body. For I look upon the assembling of Patrons together in large numbers as a fruitful source of good, both to the individual and to the Order.

I have not read the ad in the “Star” which speaks in such a favorable tone as some important truth that there are more secretaries and treasurers, imbued with a noble spirit of philanthropy, have taken hold of this enterprise with an honest, earnest spirit, that gives assurance of present benefits and ultimate success.

Plaster.

We call special attention to that part of the report upon its Executive Committee relating to Plaster, and also the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider this important subject. It is our intention to effect the arrangements made with Day & Taylor, has again been committed to me by the Executive Committee, and I ask your earnest co-operation, that we may secure the results which a determined fight for two years with the Plaster Association has brought within our reach.

At your first Meeting adopting a resolution pledging your support to Day & Taylor, and sending to them your order, it will do your Grange and Day & Taylor good, and strengthen in some degree the cause of co-operation.

Secure orders as soon as possible, and if you make a mistake, get orders for 1000 tons or so of Bri. Farmers who are not Patrons, the Plaster will not only be furnished, but a better article than is sold from any Mill at Grandville. Now that we have accomplished our purpose, and can get all the plaster we want at a fair price, the different and independent monopoly have changed their tactics and are trying to induce Patrons to order other mills than the proper application, the proper amount of plaster, $3.00 per ton. Their agents are now travelling from house to house solicit orders from Patrons—from any body.

One year ago, only such Orders from Patrons as were accompanied with the money at the rate of $4.00 per ton, were received by their Secretary at their central office in the city of Grand Rapids, or recognized by the Association, when their agents on a coupon, giving our contract price, $3.00 per ton.

As early as January, later in the season, the Patrons should be good to order and delays will occur that those who can order as early as January, later in the season, the Patrons should be good to order and delays will occur that those who can order as early as January, later in the season, the Patrons should be good to order and delays will occur that those who can order as early as January, later in the season, the Patrons should be good to order and delays will occur that those who can order as early as January, later in the season, the Patrons should be good to order and delays will occur that those who can order
amount of work on my hands which I must clear away, and then I will at the earliest moment practicable, have printed and distributed a schedule of freight to all probable points of shipment in the State.

**Delinquent Granges.**

To Sec. 9, Art. 7, By-Laws of State Grange (which prescribes the duties of the Secretary): "He shall keep a list of Granges delinquent more than one quarter in arrears of the payments of dues, publishing in the official paper of the State Grange, and shall correct the same immediately.

Granges delinquent more than one quarter in arrears shall be reported by the members of the Order, and the names of those not in good standing shall be published in the January Visitor.

**Special Lecturers.**

As the Master of the State Grange and the publishers of the Executive Committee are daily receiving invitations that they cannot possibly accept, to lecture to or address Grand Lodges, which I have taken occasion to public speaking, to hold themselves in readiness to respond to invitations when called upon. We give the names of the Brothers and Sisters of the Order, who are accustomed to public speaking, to whom we will send blanks for Secretary's Quarterly Reports and Certificate of Membership, and directly effected between these two industrial classes, and further recom- mend all to try a barrel. Choice Louisi- ana rice, 63 cts. and coffee 22 cts. a lb., chouc japan tea 60ccts and the finest grade of coffee 30 cts.

I keep most kinds of groceries in which I have the largest number of local and general interest, and with the laboring classes of our land, those of the commercial, intellectual and moral elevation of their cities and towns, to whom I cannot give place only to a brief notice.

Resolved, That wherever it is found to be of mutual interest to cooperate in the purchase of merchandise and its distribution, whereby aiding each other, your committees no objection to placing their services in the hands of the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Grange, for Plaster, are satisfactory and the parties that arrangements are made by the Executive Committee of the Michigan State Grange, No. 290. "We find it impossible to publish in full the minutes of the Standing Committee of standing by those that stand by us,

**List of Granges.—**I am instructed to prepare and send a printed List of Granges with the name and address of the Masters and Secretaries, to every Grange in the State. To comply with this requirement, I must have election returns from Secretaries. Before the 1st of Jan., I shall send blanks for Secretary's Quarterly Reports and Certificate of Election. Do not fail to fill out and return at once, the election certificates. Do not omit the P. O. in filling up the blanks.

The GRANGE VISITOR was very cordially endorsed by very many members of the State Grange at its last session, and I feel, therefore, you will not forget their volunteer promises to aid in extending its circulation, which has now gone into several thousand new subscribers. In view of the fact that economy must be practiced in every department of our business as a State organization, the State Grange determined that the Visitor should not exceed free to Secretaries, and that the copy sent to the Masters and Secretaries shall be kept on file in the GRANGE Hall for the benefit of members.

Why is not the lecturer called upon in the "regular order of business" at each meeting?

As we are now commencing business for another year, permit me to offer a few suggestions. (If we expect to receive the largest benefits from our transactions, it is necessary for all to join together in procuring our family orders, and in doing so, we are but fulfilling the duties expected of us. For instance, there are one hundred Granges at the earliest moment practical have the State Grange, and shall correct the same immediately.

Granges delinquent more than one quarter in arrears shall be reported by the members of the Order, and the names of those not in good standing shall be published in the January Visitor.

**Special Lecturers.**

As the Master of the State Grange and the publishers of the Executive Committee are daily receiving invitations that they cannot possibly accept, to lecture to or address Grand Lodges, which I have taken occasion to public speaking, to hold themselves in readiness to respond to invitations when called upon. We give the names of the Brothers and Sisters of the Order, who are accustomed to public speaking, to whom we will send blanks for Secretary's Quarterly Reports and Certificate of Membership, and directly effected between these two industrial classes, and further recom-