

GRANGE VISITOR

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

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CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

WHOLE NO. 504.

Master's Address.

State Grange, 1896.

To the representatives of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry convened in State Grange:—Onward we are moving. Years seem but a day. Events great and small, joyous and sad, in fast succession crowd for our attention, and so absorb us that we little realize how swift time flies. Once more we meet to legislate in the interests of the order we love and revere, for the good it has done, and is destined to do for the farmer and the agricultural interests of our country. We scarcely realize that another year has fled. How well we remember the earnestness and enthusiasm that characterized the last State Grange, and the renewed zeal with which the delegates departed for their respective homes, determined to be more devoted workers in the Grange vineyard. The deliberations of the State Grange should impress each and every delegate with the great importance of the Order at large. They are here led to see and realize, as never before, the magnitude and grandness of its work. The new fires thus kindled should spread out to all parts of our state to warm and invigorate to extra effort the thousands who form our membership. Thus we see the great importance of our coming together. Sister and brother Patrons, the work and duties of this session are essentially yours to perform. With each succeeding year new responsibilities must be assumed and our Order must stand for more and more before the world. Thus you see that you cannot, altogether, pattern after the past. New and original thought and ideas are demanded. Beseech you to be brave and assume to do, and strive to do well; so that when the result of your deliberations is made known to our people throughout the state it will be as substantial food to strengthen them in their efforts in that most important work of all, to support and make stronger the Subordinate Grange, for it is herein that all hopes of the Order are anchored. In this grand work you have much to encourage and keep you steadfast. All along during the thirty years' existence of the Order is left the impress of its influence for good upon state and national legislation, methods in farming and home keeping, and above all, upon the people of farm homes, to make them more thoughtful, charitable and better.

The object of this communication is to give you a fair understanding of the present condition of the Order throughout the state, to call your attention to questions of interest and regarding which the Grange has placed itself on record as favoring, and to make such general suggestions as may be helpful to this body in formulating the work of the session. To give each part that distinctiveness desirable to impress importance, separate headings are used.

GENERAL CONDITION.

Throughout the United States substantial growth has been made during the year just past. From every direction come reports of important work well done. A spirit of unity prevails throughout our ranks, and never has faith in the Order been more manifest.

There has been issued to Michigan during the year twelve charters for absolutely new Granges and seven others as good as new have been established by the use of charters that had not been called in since these Granges ceased to work, some fifteen to twenty years ago. These added to dormant Granges that have gone to work again after a brief inactive condition make a total of about twenty-five Granges added to our list. The report of membership dues paid to the National Grange in 1896 show an increase over 1895 of \$72.82. This indicates an increase of 1,456 paying members during the same time.

It should be a great satisfaction to all our members to note that through the recent intense struggle between the great political parties, the Grange was not involved, and now that the smoke is cleared away, we behold with joy a haven to which we may go, where party strife and rancor do not sway.

FIELD WORK.

Immediately after the State Grange session of one year ago, specific plans were matured and in printed form placed in the hands of all county deputies for their guidance in the work of organizing and reorganizing Granges. Also other specially prepared and printed matter was freely circulated for the use of officers and workers in existing Granges in their work of supporting and increasing membership. Farmers in attendance at institutes were also canvassed for the purpose of locating neighborhoods favorable to Grange work. From this last source there is now on file much valuable data with which to commence the work anew. From personal experience I am fully convinced that the printed recommendations as furnished each deputy will result in success in most cases if confidently applied. For a test, seven localities were selected in Lenawee county, and today strong, active, new Granges exist in every place, with three new Grange halls in process of building. The farmers are surely ready to accept of that helpful agency, organization, and it is not difficult for them to see that the Grange is the best equipped of all.

That which is most needed is well directed methods in presentation of Grange principles followed by systematic work in gathering the people together for perfecting organization. I cannot here make special and separate mention of the good work of county deputies. I am satisfied that each did as well as surrounding circumstances would allow. During these days of strict economy the farmer is compelled to either hold the plow or drive, this means that it is not easy to leave home, and when age begins to tell upon the once active patron the comforts of the home shelter are most desirable. These conditions are against effective deputy work along the line of organizing. Preliminary work can be perfected from the home but after the localities are selected and the stakes set, then the deputy should go out to stay until organization and instructions are complete. This requires young or middle aged men who can, during such time, be free from home cares and able to meet all kinds of weather. I cannot impress too firmly upon the delegates here and all members the great importance of continuous work to increase our membership. Personal influence and the employment of all recommended methods are desirable. The Subordinate Granges are like unto the bricks in the wall of the great structure. Each must be perfect within itself to bear its share of the weight.

THE GRANGE VISITOR.

This old friend, which has served so good a purpose for so long, is to be no more after the close of the present year. In accordance with the contract made, it is to be consolidated with the Michigan Farmer, and the Grange relieved of its publication.

On several former occasions the attention of the Grange has been called to the unprofitable publication of the VISITOR. That it not only took its entire subscription receipts, together with the net earnings of the State Grange, from fees and dues, and interest on invested funds, above current expenses, but that it also reached over and made demands from our reserve funds annually, and for several years in a dangerous manner. The Grange has seemed slow to see the inevitable, which could be no other than final abandonment of its publication, with a much injured treasury. So loath has been the Grange to part with the paper that several changes have been made to cheapen its cost, and great effort has been made to increase its subscription list up to a paying basis. Its failure now is not because of a lack of its good qualities and great value in sustaining the Grange cause, but of others, and most notably, general retrenchment in family expenses, and the enterprise of so many newspaper publishing companies in supplying general news in connection with well edited special departments. Other State Granges have been forced to abandon business. By the loss of these special palaces on the list to go out of the publishing their special papers, Michigan being the

pers the field is not allowed to go unoccupied, the demand being filled by private enterprise. One of the saddest reflections regarding the VISITOR is that it has, for several years, brought much other valuable work to a standstill. While the harvest has been ready for the sickle it could not be gathered. If the ten thousand dollars that has gone to pay VISITOR shortages had been judiciously used in the employment of skillful organizers and in carrying out plans for the encouragement and support of existing Granges, who can figure the result. This is from a purely business standpoint. Otherwise the VISITOR has been of great benefit. As we say good-bye, old friend, let us remember it for the lasting good it has done.

THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

This ably-conducted and widely-circulated farm journal, which is soon to contain a comprehensive Grange Department, edited by our own esteemed Bro. K. L. Butterfield, is deserving of the support of every Patron family in Michigan. The Lawrence Publishing Company, as proprietors, promise to make the Grange Department a credit to the paper, a progressive advocate of Grange principles and disseminator of Grange news. Through this medium thousands of farmers who are not members of the Order will become acquainted with our work and become enquirers for closer relations with us. The Grange field will be broadened and its influence greatly increased.

Subscribers to the VISITOR received 24 copies per year for 50 cents. Those to the Michigan Farmer will receive 52 copies per year at \$1.00 as the regular rate. Doubtless there will be club-rate advantages given to Granges for large lists. It cannot be urged too strongly upon Subordinate Granges and members, the advantages that will be gained and the benefits derived from patronizing and urging others to subscribe for the Michigan Farmer. The paper will be complete in all its departments relating to the farm and home, current market reports, and condensed news. Every Grange in Michigan should bring the matter before the regular meeting in December, at which time new officers are elected, and appoint an active member to act as subscription agent.

WOMAN'S WORK IN THE GRANGE.

Where woman is interested and applies her energies success follows. To thus interest her, give her something special to do, so she will realize that she is a spoke in the Grange wheel. It is equally true that without her presence and continued assistance no Grange would long live. The work of education, social culture and entertainment, maintaining true fraternity and the spirit of charity, are compatible with her nature. In reiterating what has been said before, the Granges of the state are strongly urged to appoint a committee on woman's work at the beginning of the new year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

To the delegates here assembled and the membership in general, the things which may be suggested as for the good of the Order are of great interest and paramount importance. The order of the Patrons of Husbandry was brought into existence from a demand of the times. While its promoters saw the necessity of such an organization and had an idea of what its specific lines of work should be, they knew not of its future. In the preamble to its constitution is laid down the general proposition which was intended to form a nucleus around which to build the primitive organization and for this it was successful.

The necessity of a declaration of specific objects was soon made manifest and at the seventh session of the National Grange the now famous Declaration of Principles was adopted and given to the world. With all this progress made, with all the crystalizing of thoughts that resulted in the promulgation of that document, it was not yet clear as to just how these objects so desirable and essential were to be attained. All was yet experimental. Serious obstacles

were in the way. Methods, the result of many years maturing, were to be changed. People with sameness of interests though differing as to methods were asked to work in harmony for their mutual good. The details for accomplishment of this work were still unwritten and unsaid. Experience and time must demonstrate the way.

Thirty years have gone by and the road over which the order has passed to reach its present position records many its appointments, blasted hopes and failures, together with success and bright remembrances.

All these experiences were necessary and the Order could not have succeeded short of it. So much of history has been made. For what has been done and that which is desirable to be done the Order must be maintained, its membership encouraged to be steadfast, and to persevere. Our work is in the future. Movements must continue to be onward. New conditions are to be met. Progressive thought, wise counsels and wisely matured plans must guide us. In this work National, State and county Granges must lead.

What responsibilities then are placed upon the delegates here. The success of the nearly 250 Subordinate Granges of Michigan depends very largely upon what this body suggests and formulates for their use and assistance. Resolutions alone will not answer. Something tangible and clearly defined must be offered. If the wisdom and talents of this body are brought into close thought to develop lines of action for the year to come, practical results will surely follow. In doing this I suggest that the field should all be covered, legislative, co-operative and educational, and contemplate the calling into activity our many willing workers in all parts of the state.

The great importance of making stronger a true fraternal feeling among our members cannot be urged too strongly. All should remember their obligations and the lessons taught in all our ritualistic forms. It will assist in carrying out the true principles of our Order and in establishing that friendly, sympathetic and charitable feeling between fellow farmers that is so necessary in educating them to the point of acting more generally together, and without such acting together their influence can be but little.

TAXATION.

This becomes more and more an important question. It cannot be truthfully said that our state institutions exceed in number or purposes the wishes of the people, nor that our state government is aiming too high, but under the present depressed condition of productive industries, the farmers, who are inclined to believe, and with just cause, that they pay more than a just proportion of the public expense, are uncommonly critical and are inquiring into these matters more than ever before. In doing this they are but exercising good business sagacity. Their investigations should go far enough to arrive at the true conditions, and then to the extent injustice is done, insist that corrections be made.

Necessary burdens justly distributed and equal opportunities given all citizens, is the acme of good government. The constitution of our state says: "The legislature shall provide a uniform rule of taxation." It is also plainly implied that the same power shall maintain such uniform rule. So when a respectable proportion of the people make complaints that the rule in practice is not uniform, but instead is very uniform and works great injustice to those discriminated against, it would seem to be the imperative duty of the legislature to investigate and learn the facts, and if wrong is done to make correction. There can be but few greater crimes against citizenship than to exact of one man proportionately more for public maintenance than from another. Yet it is openly said to be done. So common are these charges and so great the injustice, if true, that every legislator should see his duty and act accordingly. This matter has been discussed at previous sessions of the State Grange, and in answer to its requests the last legislature authorized the appointment of a tax statistician, whose

(Continued to page 6.)

The State Public School.

BY A. J. MURRAY, SUPERINTENDENT.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR: In accordance with your kind invitation, the Board of Control and superintendent of this institution desire to take advantage of the opportunity to present the financial as well as the routine features of this institution to the readers of your valued paper. It is always a pleasure to answer questions concerning this work for homeless children, whether it be to the personal visitor here or to the inquirer at a distance. There are so many points in connection with an institution that one can know so much better by seeing and hearing than by reading that we wish first to emphasize the pleasure it would give us to have yourself and readers make a visit here in order to get the most perfect knowledge obtainable. Everything is ready for inspection at the State Public School at any time and any one is a welcome caller.

The State Public School is situated one mile north of the center of the city of Coldwater and just outside the corporation limits.

The first official action leading to the establishment of this school was taken by Hon. H. P. Baldwin in 1868 after a visit to several poorhouses and in his first inaugural address as governor of Michigan. Here he recommended the appointment of a commission to investigate the subject of preventative and reformatory institutions and that this commission should report on or before the meeting of the next legislature. In accordance with this recommendation a commission consisting of Dr. S. S. Cutter of Coldwater, Hon. C. I. Walker of Detroit, and Hon. F. H. Rankin of Flint was appointed. After two years' study and investigation of the subject their report drafted by Hon. C. I. Walker was made to the legislature in 1871.

In Gov. Baldwin's second message he asked for legislation that should relieve the condition of the children then in the poor houses. A joint commission from House and Senate was appointed with Hon. C. D. Randall of Coldwater as chairman.

The joint commission reported through its chairman February 15, 1871, recommending the establishment of a State Public School, and later Senator Randall drafted a bill providing for such an institution and it was presented to the Senate on the 22d day of February, 1871, the last day of the session for introducing bills. On the 17th of April the bill had been passed by both houses and was signed by Governor Baldwin.

In this bill it is believed that provision was made for the first time for a nonsectarian government institution for the children of the poor and to which poverty alone gives admission. The first commissioners accepted the present site together with \$25,000, offered by the citizens of Coldwater. The legislature of 1873 made a further appropriation and in May 1874, during Hon. John J. Bagley's governorship, the buildings were ready for use.

It was arranged that in case the institution could not accommodate all dependent children who should come, each county should have its pro rata number in proportion to the population of the various counties, giving preference at all times to the children of Union soldiers and sailors.

The site is especially fine, being about twenty-five feet above that of the city, with a picturesque prospect in every direction. There is a farm of 160 acres with a fine garden of 20 acres, about 700 apple trees, a beautiful grove, and play grounds of 10 acres.

The buildings consist of the administration building, nine cottages, a school house, laundry, engine house, hospital, and farm house,—all adapted to the especial needs of the children. All are warmed from a single plant. There is a fine water and sewerage system. The latest improvements in steam heating, cooking, laundry, bathing, and ventilating apparatus have been introduced.

The cottages are the homes where the children room and play and are in charge of intelligent women whose duty it is to care for the children with the same ideas of justice tempered with mercy as does a sensible mother. They recognize that over indulgence as well as lack of entertainment is not true kindness and in all moral, physical, aesthetic, and religious things strive for the highest good of the children. The children are taught to know good, to live it, and to exemplify it.

The manner of admitting, the government of the School, the plan of finding homes, and the oversight of the children in the homes are all described in the superintendent's biennial report, a copy of which will be sent free of charge upon application to any enquirer.

The School had received 3,991 children July 1, 1896, and has accommodation for about 250 children. The annual current expense has been about \$35,000 per year.

Though the State public school has not been able to change all natures placed in its care there have been so many children saved from the evils of poverty that the School holds a very warm place in the

hearts of all Michigan citizens.

"The state of Michigan, which has existed only about forty years, has the merit of preceding ancient Europe in the inauguration of a new era for dependent children." Address of Drouin de Lhuys before the French Institute in 1878.

OUR OBJECT.

There seems to be some divergence of opinion concerning the object of this institution. To the average citizen of the state this School is a reformatory. To the more learned, an educational institution for the literary culture of the state's children. The industrial feature is expected to predominate by many. A few have supposed that this institution was a sort of temporary shelter and boarding house for children whose parents pay for their support. Act 115 Sec. 6 of P. A. 1873, the act providing for the government, management, and control of the State Public School, says "The object of this act is to provide a temporary home for dependent children in said School where they shall be retained only until they can be placed in family homes." And in Sec. 8 of same Act it further says "While in said School the children shall be maintained and educated in the branches usually taught in the common schools. They shall have proper moral and physical training and shall be taught how to labor so far as their age and condition will reasonably permit."

While it would be pleasant to "read into" this act the possibility of giving a good start in education to each child admitted, or to keep children as temporary boarders whose parents wish to call upon them from time to time and might possibly contribute to their support, or to train children for shops, we have sought earnestly to follow the object as stated by the legislature and not sought to carry out any other line of work that to us might have seemed pleasant or profitable. We believe sincerely that the family home should be secured as soon as reasonably possible, and have sought to train the children for such home life. With the person who goes blindly and says this kind of an institution is not an absolute necessity, we most decidedly differ. As a hospital would not be an ideal home for any one but becomes a necessity in civilized life, so it is that with dependent or neglected children, the State Public School acts as a mental, moral, physical, industrial, religious, aesthetic, and literary hospital for the boy and girl who must be treated before going into the class of family homes that we wish for the State Public School's children. That there are persistent and chronic cases in this hospital life of the State Public School is asserting that child nature is but human nature.

Those who are seeking aid of a benevolent public to carry on this home securing work and child supervision in homes without an institution must admit that they can do little for certain classes of children among which are included the colored children, children of foreign language and parentage, those children who are greatly emaciated and need a course of physician's tonic prescriptions, healthful diet, fresh air, and those who need an education in good manner and habits in refined surroundings.

THE RECEPTION OF CHILDREN.

During the past two years there has been a marked increase in the number of children received. There were received as follows for each year since the School has opened:

B.—RECEPTION AND CARING FOR CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL.

TABLE No. 10.—Showing number received each year since the institution opened.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Boys, Girls, Totals. Rows from 1874 to 1896. Totals: 1874 (113), 1875 (108), 1876 (108), 1877 (108), 1878 (108), 1879 (108), 1880 (108), 1881 (108), 1882 (108), 1883 (108), 1884 (108), 1885 (108), 1886 (108), 1887 (108), 1888 (108), 1889 (108), 1890 (108), 1891 (108), 1892 (108), 1893 (108), 1894 (200), 1895 (221), 1896 (3991).

*For nine months only, from October 1, 1886 to July 1, 1887.

This table shows the marked increase in the past two years over the preceding biennial period. There has been an increase

of 31 per cent in 1895-6 over 1894-5 and an increase of 30 per cent in the biennial period of 1894-6 over 1892-4. It will also be noticed that there was an increase of 55 per cent in the number of girls received in 1895-6 over 1894-5 and an increase of 56 per cent in the biennial period of 1894-6 over that of 1892-4. Another interesting fact is that 33 1/2 per cent of all children received have been girls, while during the past year 40 per cent have been girls and during the biennial period of 1894-6 37 per cent were girls.

CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE.

By act 94 passed by the legislature of 1895 this School is allowed to take children under two years of age when possible. When the condition of the School became such in the spring of 1896 to warrant it, the superintendent was authorized to begin the practice within certain limitations. This will probably bring 20 or 30 children more to the School each year than might otherwise come. There is a growing desire on the part of most worthy homes for such children and we have found many of our most happy experiences have come through finding homes for these infants.

It has not been thought possible as yet to care for children under six months of age, and possibly in many cases where the mother can care for her child, not desirable.

Act 189, page 219 Session Laws 1889. Ill-treated children. Though the separation of parent and child is one of the most serious questions that can be discussed in civilized nations, there is a time when the state of Michigan has decreed that the sacred words father and mother are a misnomer and justice to the general welfare as well as the child nature demands that these home relations shall be sundered. The act referred to says, in substance, that any parent or guardian who cruelly punishes, or negligently deprives any child of food, clothing, or shelter or who permits such child to visit public places, to solicit or beg alms, or allows such child to frequent the company of depraved persons, may, upon trial before judge of probate, have such child taken forever from them and sent to the State Public School.

This act has been very salutary in its effects upon the communities where it has been enforced and probably represents the most advanced type of civilized law. The children committed here under this act have usually been somewhat emaciated and of the rougher class. We have found them showing splendid and very marked results from a few weeks or months School life. They yield to kindness and good treatment quite readily and form one of the highest types of child saving work. There have been received during the past year under this act only five children. It is believed that the influence of the enforcement of this act upon the School will be to increase the number of children sent here and as most of such cases will doubtless be found in cities it will cause an additional usefulness to come from the systematic, religious, moral, aesthetic, and physical regime of this institution.

I believe it is to be regretted that this act is not more universally enforced and think that cases deserving the application of this law exist in many cities and villages where the machinery of the law should be started.

INSTITUTION OR HOMES.

There are many pleasant features about child life in an institution that to a casual observer seem ideal and therefore the best method of caring for children. But to be always dependent is not, nor never was, a happy way of permanent living for the Michigan boy and girl. There is a longing for real life and family love such as few at first understand who come in contact with these children. They long for a home as the school boy longs for promotion or graduation day. They instinctively feel the mechanical nature of the institution though filled with ever so much kindness, and you can count the child who prefers dependence in an institution to the freedom of a real home as a boy who will very likely believe later that the world owes him a living. Again, the financial view teaches the same lesson of the importance of placing the child in a home after preparing him for the same in an institution. Then with those who believe in the institution for children until of age, and with those who believe that any child may be taken from poverty and possibly ill-treatment, and at once placed in a desirable home we differ, believing that the Michigan system is the true one because it may be adapted to the individual case in hand.

PLACING CHILDREN IN FAMILY HOMES.

On July 1, 1894, there were 200 children in the School, of whom 177 were boys and 43 girls. One hundred five were on trial in homes, of whom 74 were boys and 31 were girls and 84 on indenture. During the year from July 1, 1874 to July 1, 1895, 178 were received making a total enrollment of children cared for in the School, on trial, and received of 498 during the first year of the biennial period. On July 1, 1895, there were 221 in the

School, of whom 178 were boys and 43 were girls, 132 on trial in homes, of whom 85 were boys and 43 girls, and 905 on indenture. During the year from July 1, 1895 to July 1, 1896, 233 were received, making a total enrollment of children cared for in the School, on trial, and received of 586 during the second year of the biennial period.

There were in the School July 1, 1896, 137 children, of whom 121 were boys and 16 girls. There were 142 on trial, of whom 91 were boys and 51 were girls, making a total in the immediate care of the School July 1, 1896, of 279 together with 1037 others from whom reports are being received or a grand total of 1316 in the care of the School.

The lifting of the little children averaging seven and a half years of age from positions in life of toil, disappointment, poverty, and possibly crime to that of usefulness, affluence, and dignified manhood and womanhood is the primary and most important work we strive to do. As the selection of the children for homes is the work especially of the superintendent it helps to make his position enjoyable and brings much satisfaction.

But this work of finding good homes could not be done alone from the office of the School. The governor of Michigan, Hon. John T. Rich, the State Board of Corrections and Charities, the county agent of the State Board of Corrections and Charities, the state agent, and the clerical force of this office, together with the kindly assistance of the commissioners of schools, guardians, newspapers throughout the state, and other friends of homeless children have made the effort of the State Board of Control and superintendent quite successful. This combined harmonious influence has all been bent toward accomplishing the primary object of the State Public School, that of finding good family homes for needy children.

In finding new homes for children and in cheering others in the homes, the work of the state agent has been wise, effective and continuous.

FINANCIAL.

Especial attention is requested to the estimates made by the Board of Control of this institution for the years 1897-8. The current expense estimate is \$4,000 less per year than for 1895-6. The special appropriations are about \$6,500 less per year than for 1895-6. Each item will bear the closest scanning. It gives me much pleasure to state that each individual item asked for met the approval of the State Board of Corrections and Charities as shown by their letter, which is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Items include: Prof. A. J. Murray, Supt. State Public School, Coldwater, Mich. (\$804.00), Laundry-washers, engine and repairs (\$950), Water works and heating (\$1,225), etc.

The condition of the old washers now in use is such that, in our opinion, they should be replaced. This is also the case of the old engine, and the item is approved. The need of an outside closet at the hospital is apparent, and is approved. The isolating cottage should no longer lack proper heating and bathing facilities, the amount asked to put it in proper shape is reasonable, and is approved. Attendant and expenses \$804.00. The need of an escort for the little children who are being placed in homes, is beyond question. At the rate homes are being found for such, the amount would seem no more than would be required, and the item is approved. Painting and repairing \$1,202.75. The condition of the buildings named shows need of the repairs contemplated to keep this state property in proper shape. The estimated expense for doing the work is, in the opinion of the Board, reasonable, and the item is approved. Yours Respectfully, L. C. STORRS, Secretary, GEO. D. GILLESPIE, Chairman.

Trusting that this may cause many readers to be filled with the desire to aid some homeless child, to ask for our biennial report, to visit the institution, and to be the better friends of both the children and their management. Coldwater.

How's This!

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm. WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio, WALKING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.

Report of Special Committee on Education.

Worthy Master and Members of Michigan State Grange: Nearly three years ago your special committee on education sent out a series of questions concerning the Agricultural College. This report comprises the results of that inquiry. We regret the delay in making a report on this subject, but it has seemed unavoidable. The following were the questions:

1. How is the Agricultural College regarded in your locality? b. Is it much spoken of, or is its work discussed? c. If so, in what way? d. What do the farmers expect the College to do for them in the way of experiment, etc., and for their boys who attend there? e. And would they like to have provisions made for their girls, by instruction in domestic economy, etc.? f. Do they favor the mechanical course as a part of the work of the College?

2. a. Why do not more farmers' sons from your section come to the college to get educated for the farm? Do any of the following reasons explain why? b. Too long course; c. too expensive; d. not "practical" course; e. boys not ambitious; f. college course not considered necessary for a farmer; g. not prepared to enter, or afraid can't get in; h. scarcity of help on the farm; i. close times for past six or eight years; k. lack of information about work of College; l. If any of these are the reasons, which are the most prominent?

3. a. From talking with farmers on this subject, could you suggest any changes that might be made in the present Agricultural Course that would in your opinion tend to draw students from the farm to the College? b. Or can you recommend any other change of policy, of any kind, that would aid in the same direction?

4. Would a two years course, (an additional course,) including chiefly Agriculture or Horticulture, as principal studies, with some English, and the elementary principles of such sciences as chemistry, botany, entomology, veterinary medicine, with practical work on the farm or garden and among the stock, be popular as a course for farmers' sons who expect to follow farming?

5. What would you think of a short winter course of three months in dairying, stock-feeding, lectures on agriculture and veterinary science? Would it be appreciated and used by young farmers and by farmers' sons?

This set of questions was sent to 139 people in Michigan: first, to 16 of the most widely known farmers of the state; second, to 41 graduates of the Agricultural College who are at present living on and working a farm in this state; third, to 15 county commissioners of schools; fourth, to 51 Granges; fifth, to 16 farmers' clubs. The replies to our first circular were so few that a second request was made. Altogether we have had 43 replies from the 139 sources, divided as follows: first, 7 of the 16 prominent farmers; second, 18 of the 41 graduates; third, 9 of the 15 school commissioners; fourth, 8 of the 51 Granges; 5th, 1 of the 16 farmers' clubs. Most of the replies made were quite full and complete. I will endeavor to tabulate the 43 answers in an intelligible way.

In reply to the question, "How is the Agricultural College regarded in your locality?" 27 of the 43 answered the question. 14 of these 27 said that the College is favorably regarded among the farmers of their locality; 6 said that it was very highly regarded; 4 that it is regarded with some indifference—not opposed, but not enthusiastically discussed; 2 said that their community did not think it of much use, and one said that it was the subject of ridicule in his section. 21 answered the question "Is the College much spoken of or its work discussed?" 16 said that it was discussed very little; 3 replied that it is often and favorably discussed; 1 said that the experiments are more spoken of than is the educational part of the institution. There were 17 replies to the question "What do the farmers expect the College to do for them in the way of experiment, etc., and for their boys who attend there?" Of these 17, 11 said that the chief work of the College is in the performing of valuable experiments, and furthermore that these experiments and the results as sent out in the bulletins, are generally regarded with the greatest favor; 1 complained that he desired but did not receive the bulletins; 1 said that the people expect a practical education; another that the College is expected to solve the hard problems that meet the farmers; another one said that the farmers generally do not depend on the station for the results of the experiments; another thought that the feeling is that the College is scientific as well as agricultural. In reply to the question "Would the farmers like to have provisions made for their girls, by instruction in domestic economy, etc.," 32 of the 43 replied. 15 said yes, some of them mildly, a few emphatically. The other 17 said that there was little or no demand for this department and little is said about it. In regard to the mechanical course, 20 replied. 14 said that the mechanical course is regarded with favor, or that there is no objection to it. 3 of them objected to it, one of them calling it a mistake. The other 2 said that in their community nothing had been said about this course. Another said that it is all right, but should be subordinate to the agricultural course.

The second general question embraced a number of questions, all bearing on the main question, which was: "Why do not more farmers' sons from your section come to the College to get educated for the farm?" This question was directly answered by 2; 1 said that the University entirely overshadows our College, and

boys would go there; another said that the farmers in his locality are poor, and are ignorant of the College. This main question was followed by other questions bearing on the same topic. These questions were with the replies as follows: To the question "Is the course too long," seven answered: five said yes, and two no. In reply to the question "Is the course too expensive," five replied, two yes and three no. In answer to the question "Is the college course considered practical," nine answered, one yes, seven no, and one replied that the course is not flexible enough. In regard to whether the boys of the farm are ambitious or not, seven answered, five thought that there is a lack of ambition, two said the boys have enough ambition, but other causes enter in. In reply to the question "Is a college course considered necessary for a farmer," twelve replied, all no. In reply to the question whether one reason why boys do not come to the college is that they are not prepared to enter, or are afraid they cannot pass the examinations, five replied, three saying yes and two no. "Is there a scarcity of help on the farm?" Four answered this question, three yes and one no. "The hard times for the past six or eight years,—does this effect the attendance?" Sixteen answered, all yes. "Does the lack of information about the work of the College affect the attendance?" Eighteen answered this question, all yes. Then the question came "If any of these are reasons, which are the most prominent?" Twelve answered this question directly, ten said lack of information is the most important reason; 1 said hard times; the other that the boys are not ambitious to become farmers.

The first part of the third general question was as to what changes in the course could be made that would aid in increasing the effectiveness of the College. Twelve out of the forty-three answered this question, three said no changes in the courses are needed. One said that more English and less science should fill the course. One said, have a summer vacation. Two make farming more profitable in some way, and the boys will come to the college. One, establish short winter courses. Another said, have more elective studies so that boys can choose more of what they want. Another, have more literary and scientific studies, as these draw more than the agriculture. The next man would eliminate all studies not agricultural. Another thinks that better student discipline would help. These replies were all in regard to that part of the question which applies to changes in the course. In regard to that part of the question which speaks of change of policy of any kind, twenty-two answered the question. Thirteen of these twenty-two say, advertise more, and the following are some of the suggestions as to the method of advertising: Have a farmers' institute in each county. Have a farmers' institute in every township. Have an agent to work up localities for students. Let the Grange take special pains to advertise the College and its work. Have more lectures and farmers' institutes, and what is called "college extension" work among the farmers. Publish a college paper for the farmers. Get people to visit the College. One of the twenty-two said "make the board elective." Another "keep right on the present way." One said "have co-education." Two suggested more harmony in the college. Two thought that better experiment work would solve the problem. 1 said "issue more bulletins." Another, "provide special work for students so that they can take up anything they want and pursue it as far as they want to, and then grant them certificates of efficiency in what they have gone over."

Thirty of the forty-three answered the question in regard to whether a two years course, in addition to the four years course, would aid. Fourteen of the thirty said yes quite emphatically, eight said yes doubtfully, suggesting that it might be well to try it, eight said no. In this connection the point was made that if a two years course were established, it must not injure the four years course.

The fifth question was in regard to the short winter courses. Thirty-four of the forty-three replied to this question, and only two answered no. One of these answered no in regard to general agriculture and stock but yes in regard to dairy and veterinary work. The other person, I happen to know, has changed his mind since his letter was written, and is now favorable to the short courses. One or two of those who said yes were somewhat doubtful of the short courses being patronized, while some were very enthusiastic about them, and the replies to the question might be said to be practically unanimous for the special courses.

The replies to these questions were not so numerous as we could have wished, and it would not be safe to base emphatic conclusions upon all the points raised. At the same time, those who replied to the questions did so in such an intelligent and complete way that we cannot help but think that certain conclusions in regard to the sentiment of the farmers of this state regarding the Agricultural College can safely be drawn from this investigation. And first, as to how the Agricultural College is regarded, I think we may conclude that the College is generally regarded with favor, but not with especial enthusiasm, while a few are inclined to criticize severely. The College is not much discussed among the farmers except in a few localities. The experiments are considered of great value, and by many as the chief work of the College. A women's course has a moderate but not an enthusiastic demand. The mechanical course is not seriously objected to,—in fact is well thought of.

Second, as to why more farmers' sons do not

come to the College, the answers are too few to predicate broad conclusions upon, but we may say in general that there are apparently two minor causes,—the first one existing in the College course itself, in that it is considered by the farmers' boys and the farmers themselves too long, too expensive, and not sufficiently practical according to their definition of the word; second, a feeling that if a young man intends to follow farming, he not only does not need a four years' college course, but that it will if he takes it very likely change his decision to be a farmer. We may say also that there are two main causes, the first one being a lack of information regarding the purpose and work of the College, and the second hard times, affecting possible students in two ways; first, in getting money to come to the College, and second in keeping the boys headed away from the farm and into apparently more profitable lines of work.

Third, in regard to possible changes, there seem to be two leading suggestions. First, there should be more elasticity in the course, allowing boys to choose far more than they do at present; and second, the College should advertise far more than it has done in the past.

Fourth, the preponderance of opinion is favorable to the two years' course in connection with the four years' course, but the point is well taken that we must not injure the long course.

Fifth, the sentiment of the farmers is decidedly in favor of the special winter courses.

I now wish to quote briefly from a number of the letters. I will not give any names, or comments of my own. Have chosen these particular quotations because each one contains food for thought. The first few quotations are from prominent and well known farmers of the state.

"The reason that so few farmers' sons attend from the south part of the state is that the University and other colleges offer far greater range of courses for practical and scientific preparation for practical work, at less expense, near home, with better social surroundings, lectures, musicals, literary honors, and sanitary conditions."

Another said: "But the greatest impediment in the way of the Agricultural College consists in the universal disposition to educate everybody above their business. Too many men, old and young, are looking after 'soft jobs,'—doctors, lawyers, teachers, officers, anything for an office, while the dignity of labor is not so well understood as it should be, and is too much ignored in all our public schools."

"The College is generally regarded with favor by the farmers, but the major portion of them are not very well posted as to its aims. If some method could be devised whereby leading farmers from all over the state could be induced to visit the College, I think it would help."

"The experimental department is often discussed and highly appreciated. Our people look to this department to work out and solve difficult problems, and then they want results brought to them in their most attractive form; hence they favor more institutes where the professors will participate."

The following quotation is from a man who is both farmer and educator. "I am sorry to say that too many boys feel that to be educated means to be separated from the farm. They have never seen the *educated country gentleman*, and as the best of them aim for better things, it takes the direction of what they have seen,—teaching, clerking, and, possibly, law. This locality, like all others that are naturally fertile and new, has produced abundantly with only the labor of the hands, and few realize that any other skill is ever needed in this productive industry." This man also says, "Lack of co-education has been mentioned to me oftener than any other as a reason for choosing some other school. To express my individual opinion, I would say that it is my firm belief that any scheme for the education of the mass that does not include both sexes is far behind the times and bound to fail."

Another prominent farmer says: "Hard times affect the Agricultural College no more than any other institution. One of the reasons, in my judgment, which affects the attendance, is the belief that the College is not educating farmers enough in proportion to boys who seek some other calling. This applies more particularly to the parents; the remedy is more enlightenment on the work of the College."

The following quotations are taken from the letters of graduates of the College who are farmers. Here is one: "I am occasionally asked whether I ever got the money back that I spent at the College, the idea being that the College is a place to learn the trade of farming, and if I had not made money out of my education, that it must be a failure. Farmers scarcely think of higher education for their sons, unless they want to follow a profession, and then of course they go to the University."

"There is too much hurry now-a-days. Boys and girls are too eager to get into business. If they could only know what work they were adapted to, and give a few more years to special study in preparing for that work, they would be gainers in the long run, they would command better wages and have the satisfaction of knowing they were masters of their business."

"I think the most ambitious farmers' boys do not aspire to become farmers, and the district school does not fit them for College. By the time they go through a high school, they cannot

afford the time or money for a college course. Better district schools are demanded."

"I should extend the work done in literature, rhetoric, or mental sciences. Shorten two-thirds the time put in chemistry, botany, and zoology, and also in theoretical agriculture. I should have the farm department feed stock by the car load for the market, extensively and continuously, in a business way partly, and in an experimental way partly. I should have the farm department breed horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs, as the best breeders breed them, and in both the breeding and feeding I should have the students study the business methods as closely as the breeding and feeding methods are studied. A change in this direction would, in my opinion, draw more students from this locality, who would become farmers after they graduated."

"The best known feature of recent years was the short term in dairying during the past winter. Its effect upon the general welfare of the College has been most marked. Let this be but a beginning of a system of short winter courses which will accommodate many who cannot take the longer and better full course."

"The great prime cause of indifference is lack of realizing the necessity of such a training as is given at the College in order to get the most good from life. Too many machine farmers. The dollar is too often the standard for measuring the man."

"A very small proportion of our sons are adapted by nature or inclination to take a college course, just as a small proportion of our horses are adapted to the race course. They may be just as bright boys, and just as useful men, but not scholastically inclined. Of the few who may take a college course, a larger proportion are led by their professional friends, doctors, lawyers, and especially their teachers, to the University and to other institutions; and a still larger proportion perhaps are led by their parents and preachers to denominational colleges of the state. Farming is not remunerative. Farmers' sons who have sufficient intelligence, enterprise, and ambition to take a college course, have ambition to make a success of their after life, and much as we regret the fact, it is none the less true that success in life is measured largely by financial results."

"I think the course is good as it is. My opinion is that more institute work among the farmers, more popular lectures throughout the state by members of the college faculty, and closer acquaintance of the president of the College and the faculty with representative farmers would solve the problem of more students. The alumni have much responsibility in this matter."

"The Agricultural College work, especially of the Experiment Station, is highly valued by the horticulturists and farmers of this locality. The experiments in potatoes, vegetables, small and tree fruits, experiments in spraying for insects, blights, fungi, etc., and bulletins on the same, are sought and valued; especially so where farmers' clubs, Granges and horticultural societies bring out and discuss these subjects."

"I cannot tell you why more farmers' sons do not attend the College, but I believe the principal reason is a lack of ambition among the boys themselves. I think very many of our teachers in the country schools fail to inspire their pupils with a love for learning and a desire to make the most of themselves. I am very glad to see the effort that is being made in this county in introducing the study of elementary science into the district schools. I believe it may be made a source of great good, and create a desire for scientific knowledge."

"I think people have lost interest because there has been so much squabbling and changing about. When they get a good man there, they let some other college take him away. I think it might be a good plan to have more of our graduates on the Board. It would be a good plan to publish more about the College and its work. When I was in College ours stood at the head,—now it is behind a number of others."

"Then, too, there is a feeling among some of the graduates at least, that the College is not keeping up with the times; that it is letting its best and brightest young men go to other institutions where they are doing better work than the Board will permit to be done at M. A. C."

"I do not feel qualified, however, to express an opinion of many things that might be of value to our College. One needs to be in touch with the worth of the College, to be familiar with its courses, to study facilities for imparting instruction, and to be in touch with student life in all its phases to speak with authority as to the value of any proposed change."

The next few extracts are from letters written by county commissioners of schools. "In my opinion, the great difficulty is that the people are getting to think that they can farm without particular education in that direction."

"Education now-a-days is apt to be a matter of dollars and cents. I am certain, from my acquaintance in the county, that the University has drawn more farmers' sons in the last few years from this county than has the College. This is largely due to the times. Farming seems unprofitable. The majority of those who seek education seek it with a view of escaping from

(Continued on fifth page.)

THE GRANGE VISITOR

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OUR WORK.

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

OUR OBJECT

is the Organization of the Farmers for their own Improvement, Financially, Socially, Mentally, Morally. We believe that this improvement can in large measure be brought about:

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

The session of the Michigan State Grange for 1896 was a success. In this issue we publish a running account of the meeting, as well as several of the reports of officers and committees in full. The attendance was perhaps a little light, and the debates were hardly as vigorous as usual, but, in our judgment, the reports of the standing committees were unusually strong. The committee chairmen indulged less than common in glittering generalities, and made practical and pertinent suggestions. It was, in all respects, a business session, and a great credit to the Order in Michigan.

With this issue closes the twenty-second volume, and also the final career, of the GRANGE VISITOR. For all of these years the VISITOR has occupied a unique position in Grange journalism, being, we believe, the only paper owned and operated by a State Grange for any length of time. For twenty-two years it has fought Grange battles, advocated Grange principles, and spread abroad Grange sentiment. At last it has succumbed to what appears to have been the inevitable. From a purely financial point of view, it has never been a paying institution, even in its palmy days having a deficit. Lately Patrons appeared to neglect it for other papers, and its drafts upon the Grange treasury became serious, less from any sudden increase in them than from the fact that any draft would be more acutely felt than in years gone by. As a business proposition, the only resource was to drop it. As most Patrons already know, beginning with the first of January, there will be a Grange department in the *Michigan Farmer* conducted by the present editor of the VISITOR. We ask of Patrons cordial support and interest in this department. We want to make it worthy the Grange of Michigan.

In writing this our last editorial for the GRANGE VISITOR, we feel moved to speak more in a personal vein than is our wont. The editor of this paper became connected with the VISITOR, and also with the Grange, a little less than five years ago. We did not at that time know very much about the workings of the Grange, but soon came to have the highest respect for Grange principles, and an intense belief in the mission and the work of the order. Doubtless we have made many mistakes of judgment, and have not made the paper all that it could be made. We know that we have not lived up to our own ideal of what the paper should be. At the same time, we have put into it the very best work of which we were capable, and claim at least the merit of having been intensely in earnest. We have tried to work for the best interests of the order as we saw them, and our special effort has been to urge the ideas of breadth of view and concentration of effort. We do not claim to have been the principal factor in bringing about any reform in this respect, but we do feel that the Grange has grown strong in both of these characteristics during the past few years. In saying farewell we wish to extend to those many Patrons whom we have learned to know and respect through the VISITOR, our sincere thanks for their practical support by way of contributions

and words of encouragement. The greatest pleasure connected with our work on the VISITOR has come through the acquaintances formed. We have come to believe that the best thing in the world is the enjoyment that comes through strong and earnest friendships. We hope that our efforts have been of some avail, and that we have sown seeds which have been fruitful in inspiration and encouragement to those who have read our words.

State Grange 1896.

TUESDAY.

The 24th annual meeting of the Michigan State Grange opened in Representative Hall Tuesday morning, with Worthy Master Geo. B. Horton presiding. A large number of delegates were present, and a large number of the old workers, notably, Bros. C. G. Luce, Mars, Woodman, Ramsdell, H. D. Platt, and every officer was in place. Chaplain, Mrs. Mary Mayo invoked the divine blessing upon the deliberations of the Order, and the State Grange was open for business.

The first business of the session was the appointment of a committee on credentials. While the committee was preparing its report, the time was taken up in social greetings in which J. J. Woodman, A. E. Palmer, Judge Ramsdell, M. T. Cole, C. G. Luce, D. E. McClure, D. D. Buell and others participated.

The opening session closed with one hundred and fourteen delegates present.

The afternoon session opened with an excellent song by some pupils from the School for the Blind, followed by music by Fruit Ridge Grange choir. For fear we may omit mention of this choir, we will say just here that the delegates, officers and visiting members at the State Grange very much appreciated the excellent music furnished.

Report of committee on credentials was next in order. One hundred and fifteen delegates were reported and seated.

Worthy Master Horton's annual address next occupied the attention of the delegates. The object of the address as announced, was to give the growth, condition and objects of the Grange. Twelve new Granges have been organized, eight dormant Granges made alive, and five suspended Granges set at work within the last year.

Farmers may be led to see that the Grange is the farmers' best friend.

Earnest work to forward the growth of the Grange was recommended to county deputies and grangers.

The GRANGE VISITOR has been, by contract, incorporated with the *Michigan Farmer*. This paper is deserving the support of every agriculturalist. It will publish a Grange department under the supervision of K. L. Butterfield. Woman's work: So potent has become the work of this department that its influence is felt in home and school everywhere.

Good of the Order: Thirty years of journeying over the Grange road have only added strength to this great Order. But much hard and earnest work remains to be done to bring the great helpfulness of the Order home to every farmer.

Taxation: It cannot be said that we have more state institutions than the people demand, but it can be truly said that the people demand close and just economy in their administration. As the state develops, laws for taxation work an injustice. Special privileges should be accorded to none. If taxation is measured out to railroads according to earnings, why not tax the farmer in the same spirit?

Official salaries should be paid for actual work done, and in a spirit of economy.

Pure Food: Our agriculturists should be protected in keeping the markets for genuine goods. The workings of the law ought to be extended to clothing and other lines.

Co-operation is the basis of all work, especially of the farmers.

Grange fire insurance companies were recommended.

National Grange: The 30th anniversary of the Grange was celebrated at Washington, D. C. Several members of the founders of the Grange were present. The meeting was potent to strengthen the fraternal ties of the north, west, east and south from which there were representatives.

Agricultural College: Mr. Horton characterized this institution as the farmers' college. Its interests were earnestly impressed upon his hearers.

Agriculture: This subject always of special interest has been emphasized by the great depression resting upon this fundamental pursuit.

The influence of the farmer, his happiness for himself and children cannot long continue on a downward grade without a menace to free institutions.

Brothers Moore and Dresser were mentioned feelingly as great helpers of the Order who have passed over death's river.

A shower of memorials and resolutions covering many fields of legislative action were introduced.

Master's address was ordered published

in sufficient numbers to supply the members present.

Col. DeLand came before the Grange and made report of his work as tax statistician showing there had been a growth towards a more equitable taxation. A marked increase in city taxation had been shown. There ought to be a reduction in taxation and there would be, if all property was made to bear its proper measure of taxation. The state of Michigan, as powerful as it is, cannot make those who levy taxes, honest by legislation.

Col. DeLand said he was going to make a proposition to the legislature to levy not a cent of state tax on real estate. He is in favor of the Pennsylvania system which raised \$13,000,000 without making a cent levy on real estate. He also favors the Massachusetts system of assessment, viz: the owners of property make a sworn statement of property holdings which is filed with the assessing officer.

Sister Mary Mayo read report on committees on credentials at this time, and the work of the Grange was well commenced.

A joint meeting of farmers and Granges was held in the evening in Representative Hall.

State Lecturer Jason Woodman welcomed the farmers' clubs in a simple and hearty fashion, and response was made in an eloquent manner by President A. N. Kernis of the farmers' clubs.

Hon. C. G. Luce welcomed the state officials in a most happy manner. No man is more honored and loved by the Patrons of Husbandry. Mr. Luce said the first meeting held in Representative Hall was a State Grange meeting, that while Andrew Johnson had done some things we could not remember with pride we could all remember with thanks that he paved the way to the establishment of the great Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Response was made by Hon. Fred S. Maynard who said he was aware that he was addressing the most noble band of men and women upon whom the sun shone. Mr. Maynard said Michigan was the first state to found an Agricultural college. Mr. Maynard was earnest and eloquent.

Governor John T. Rich responded to the sentiment "Michigan my Michigan," pointing out her greatness in area, progress and movement toward a higher civilization.

"Michigan Agricultural College and the Farmer Boy" was the toast to which President J. L. Snyder of the Agricultural College responded. Pres. Snyder very ably led his audience to see the great work of this college, and the great work done by its farmer boys.

Violin solo by Miss Blanche Wheeler, Lansing.

Mrs. Lawrence, owner of the *Michigan Farmer*, was called out and gave voice to some practical thoughts.

"The Farmer's Wife" was the foundation of an address by Mrs. Emma Campbell who pointed out in eloquent words the beauty growing all along the journey of the farmer. Mrs. Campbell made a masterly plea for nature study; for the farm as the center of all-round development for a true citizen.

"National Organization of Farmers" was the theme of Hon. J. J. Woodman who commenced by saying that "The 19th century was the first to witness a national organization of farmers." We are sorry that space does not allow us to give all the points of Mr. Woodman's splendid address.

"What is Michigan doing for her Girls?" was discussed by sisters Mary A. Mayo and Prof. Edith McDermott who said that 99 of our girls were safely housed in good homes while the state was taking care of the wayward girl.

"The Grange and our Public Schools" was the text given Hon. H. R. Pattengill, who in his most happy vein waked up an audience at half past ten o'clock. Mr. Pattengill made an earnest plea for rural school education. "You must," said he, "make a man or woman before you may have a farmer, lawyer or doctor."

"Beautiful surroundings, pictures, good literature all these things which let in the light of a better life should be the environments of our public schools."

"What is Worth While?" served Mrs. Belle Royce as a topic, and who summarized the good points made as "What is Worth While."

"An excellent meeting!" was the exclamation heard on all sides. The Grange and Farmers' Clubs are working harmoniously for the betterment of agricultural workers, homes and schools.

WEDNESDAY.

When Grange was opened many memorials and petitions were introduced.

Report of Chaplain Mary A. Mayo who said these state meetings were for the purpose of bringing good cheer, gathering together, uniting for a more decided stand, a shoulder-to-shoulder stand for the improvement of humanity.

Ceres, Mrs. Mary A. Robertson, read her report. She thought those who lived close to nature enjoyed a great advantage; and closed with a plea for a more loyal hand-lift, burden-bearing, for each other. Pomona, Mrs. Julia E. McClure, read

the report of this station. "Let thy great deeds be thy prayer to thy God." Report showed that nearly one million bushels of peaches, fifty thousand bushels of plums, one million bushels of apples had been shipped from Oceana county during season of 1896.

Overseer M. T. Cole read a good report from his station. He thought the last few years had not been conducive to dispensing charity. "Charity, however," said the Overseer, "may be taught best through kindness."

The Grange is doing a great work in educating people that "Education is to know for the sake of living, not to live for the sake of knowing."

Gatekeeper Wm. Robertson read his report. He said: "Confidence had been restored, everything was moving save corn and potatoes," that "we need more legislation for the farmer."

State Librarian Mary C. Spencer addressed the State Grange upon the system of traveling libraries. Great good has been done by the movement. Every Subordinate Grange should see that its members have the advantage of the traveling library, of good reading; every district school should have it.

Committee on Woman's Work: Mrs. Mary A. Mayo presented report of this committee. The state was divided into districts and the "Fresh Air" campaign carried forward. Outings for 234 persons were found, and over-worked mothers, shop girls and homeless boys were made to revel in the pure air of the country. Eleven homeless children found permanent homes. This is a work of love and deserves well at the hands of grangers.

Mrs. Mary Sherwood Hinds read a supplementary report emphasizing the work in making better rural school education.

Secretary Jennie Buell read her annual report. Receipts of the year nearly \$3000, disbursements nearly \$4000. Many new Granges organized. Miss Buell suggested that we work for sixty new Granges for 1897. If all grangers had the enthusiasm, hope and helpfulness of the Misses Jennie and Flora Buell, what today is a suggestion, next annual Grange meeting would be a fact.

Treasurer E. A. Strong reported \$9,006.96 receipts, something more than \$7,000 disbursements. Subordinate Committee of the Executive Committee, F. W. Redfern, chairman, reported secretary's and treasurer's books correct in all points.

Flora, Mrs. Estella E. Buell, plead for the companionship of beautiful flowers. Many a sick room is lighted up by their presence and let our lives be like them.

Ex-Governor C. G. Luce submitted report on GRANGE VISITOR. Mr. Luce reported that the special committee on the GRANGE VISITOR had made arrangements with the *Michigan Farmer* to give a department to the Grange under the editorship of K. L. Butterfield. During the twelve years past the GRANGE VISITOR has run the Grange behind \$10,000. It now ceases to exist. The committee recommended that all grangers loyally sustain the *Michigan Farmer*.

Steward Geo. L. Carlisle submitted his report and this report together with Assistant Steward's report were filed for publication. Bro. Jas. A. Martin, A. S., suggested that state lecturer be sent into the field. Lady Assistant Steward Mrs. A. Martin made the annual report of her station which contained many good suggestions.

Evening Session: Chairman Wright of the Executive Committee read the report of that committee. The report carefully avoided any political grounds.

Insurance company for Grange insurance was recommended.

Taxation is largely of local nature and retrenchment should begin there. Salaries should be such as to insure and engage official talent commensurate with the business sought to be done.

The recommendation for the university was one-sixth of one mill. Township unit plan for schools was condemned.

Members of the State Board of Agriculture should be elected by direct vote of the people.

Free rural mail delivery was recommended. The Tax Statistician resolution was next taken up. The resolution was introduced by Hon. E. A. Wildey, and continued that office for another two years. Hon. E. A. Wildey opened the discussion which was carried on by Hon. C. G. Luce, Judge Ramsdell, DeLand, Mayo, R. K. Divine, Senator Campbell, and the resolution was adopted.

THURSDAY.

After the opening exercises K. L. Butterfield made a special report on education with reference to agricultural education. In answer to a large number of questions sent out, a small per cent of answers were received. These questions were vital ones, and should have received earnest attention, and especially by the farmers.

The Agricultural College is working hard to develop and dignify the work of the agriculturists. The farmers should rally around this school which now takes his sons and daughters and educates them

in harmony with the laws of development of true citizenship. The report recommended teaching agriculture in rural schools, not by text book, but practical work.

Prof. Thomas repeated by request, "They sail out, but never sail in."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Master, George B. Horton, Fruit Ridge.
 Overseer, E. B. Ward, Charlevoix.
 Lecturer, Jason Woodman, Paw Paw.
 Steward, Geo. L. Carlisle, Kalkaska.
 Assistant Steward, Wm. Robertson, Hesperia.
 Chaplain, Mary A. Mayo, Battle Creek.
 Treasurer, E. A. Strong, Vicksburg.
 Secretary, Jennie Buell, Ann Arbor.
 Gatekeeper, M. H. Foster, Kent.
 Pomona, Estella E. Buell, Union City.
 Flora, Rizpah Norris, Lansing.
 Ceres, Estella Knight, Swartz Creek.
 Lady Assistant Steward, Mary Robertson, Hesperia.

Executive Committee:
 H. D. Platt, Ypsilanti.
 W. E. Wright, Coldwater.
 A. E. Parmer, Kalkaska.
 Thos. Mars, Berrien Center.
 R. K. Divine, Holly, E. A. Holden, Lansing, F. W. Redfern, Maple Rapids, held over until 1897.

Report of committee on division of labor was the first standing committee to report. This committee, which divides and assigns the different departments of work outlined in the Master's address to the proper committee, should make report earlier in the session.

Report of committee on by-laws of State Grange was read and adopted. The committee reported against reducing the fees going to State Grange.

Report of committee on charity recommended the good work of the Woman's Work committee to be enlarged and encouraged. Report was adopted.

Committee on legislative action made report commending the work of the Grange in securing the Pure Food Law, Tax Statistician Law, and Farmer's Institute Law.

New legislation recommended. The Tax Statistician Law should be strengthened; that Michigan states prisons be made self-supporting. That the food necessary for state institutions be purchased in the state.

The committee suspended its work for a few minutes, and the committee on Woman's Work reported, earnestly commending fresh air, school, and traveling library work. Committee on legislation continued its report, classifying resolutions. Board of county auditors suggested. Free rural mail delivery recommended. All of which were adopted.

Committee on Agricultural College recommended that a greater interest be taken in the College, which is now in a most prosperous, progressive condition. The committee recommended a more vital connection between the Agricultural College and the rural schools. Pictures representing different features of College work should be placed upon the walls of every rural school room. The report was adopted.

A class of fifteen was initiated in the fifth degree, and a class of thirty in the sixth degree, Thursday night. The occasion was enlivened by excellent work by those having the initiation in charge, and the pleasing Lenawee County Grange choir.

FRIDAY.

Committee on instruction of delegates to the National Grange submitted a report, which was accepted.

Resolution asking for an appropriation of \$2,500 to carry on the work of traveling libraries was passed.

Report of committee on agriculture was presented. Committee recommended that free distribution of seeds be discontinued. Carried. Mr. Jason Woodman read the report, which was full of meat.

Committee on education, was read by Mrs. Belle M. Royce, chairman, whose report should be published in every paper in Michigan.

Committee recommended that free text books be made compulsory. Graduates from the eighth grade should be admitted to the Agricultural College without examination. The report was adopted after striking out the free text book recommendation. The chairman asked the Grange to investigate the free text book question before coming to the Grange next year.

Your correspondent believes that free text books, the best that can be purchased, not published by the state, is a plan we shall all come to at no distant day.

Hon. E. A. Willey made report on taxation for the committee on that subject. The recommendation followed the line of thought found in other portions of this report.

Committee on Dormant Granges made report making an appeal for more active organized effort in the field. Chairman J. D. Studley made the very able report on this subject. Hon. Thos. Mars read report on Pomona Granges. This report will be published, we doubt not.

Committee on good of the order was

made by W. H. Seitz. The report was adopted. It necessarily covers ground traversed by other reports. Report recommended appointment of Hon. J. H. Brigham as Secretary of Agriculture.

H. N. Webb made report on transportation. Report made a strong argument for cheaper transportation.

Report of committee on co-operation was made by J. Y. Clark, chairman of committee. The committee made no specific recommendation, but, in a general way, pointed out how the cause of good government, agriculture, home and school may be advanced. The report was an able one, and, we trust, will be published in all agricultural papers of the state.

Report of committee on by-laws of State Grange made no recommendations.

Report of committee on resolutions was made by A. E. Palmer. Committee recommended that the incoming legislature repeal the law providing for the publication of the Legislative Manual and joint documents, further than a sufficient supply for members of the legislature, state officers, and library. Recommendations concurred in by the Grange.

F. W. Kelley submitted report upon finance, and recommended that the State Lecturer receive three dollars per day. Adopted with the exception of that part of the report relating to the amendment of the by-laws.

The remaining portion of the report of committee on resolutions was presented. The report was adopted. The thanks of the State Grange were extended to all who helped make the meeting so successful.

One thought saddens us as we near the conclusion of this report. The GRANGE VISITOR will greet us but once more. It has been a great help to the best interests of farm, home and school. It is too bad that so large an order as the Patrons of Husbandry cannot support an organ of its own. Editor Butterfield has done the very best he could to make the paper self-supporting. No one could have done better. Now he is to edit a department in the Michigan Farmer. Let the department be a credit to the Grange. To do this, he solicits your assistance. Will you not send him news items so that the Grange department will be the best part of the Michigan Farmer?

In the closing evening of the Grange, appropriate remarks were made by Brothers Luce, Woodman and Horton, on the death of Brothers Dresser and Moore. The chair sang very impressively, "Nearer My God to Thee."

Installation of officers took place in the evening. This, taken together with the Grange love feast, closed one of the most valuable and interesting State Granges held since its organization.

D. E. McCURE,
 Reporter.

Education for the Farmer.

Paper read in Benton Harbor Grange No. 122, December 4, 1896, by Brother W. H. Wightman.

Bishop Worthington, of Nebraska, made a statement, a short time since, which challenges inquiry, especially as the utterance came from a man who is held in high regard by those who know him. He holds that too much learning has made the farmers of Nebraska mad.

He evidently meant just what he said, and he bears the reputation of being a man who does not speak unadvisedly. The enunciation of such a doctrine, uttered with Episcopal solemnity, has given him an unenviable notoriety among educators as well as among the farmers of Nebraska. I quote some of his words: "The trouble with the farmer is, in my judgment, that we have carried our free educational system entirely too far. Of course, I know that this view will be considered a bit of heresy, but still, I believe it. The farmers' sons—a great many of them—who have absolutely no ability to rise, get a taste of education and follow it up. They will never amount to anything—that is, many of them—and they become dissatisfied to follow in the walk of life God intended they should, and drift into cities. It is the over-education of those who are not qualified to receive it, that fills our cities, while our farms lie idle."

Now, my friends, we belong to the class who till the soil; and we have been led to believe that the more intelligent we become the better are we fitted for our work. Has our education been all wrong? Is our system of free schools an injury rather than a benefit?

It has long been our proud boast that our public schools are the bulwark of American liberty. Must we go back to first principles and learn our lessons over? When the schools of our land are assailed it becomes us to ascertain if the charge be true, and if so, seek a remedy. Is there truth in the utterance of the Nebraska Bishop?

The worst thing it contains is the truth embodied in it; for truth, taken away from its proper relations and put into false relations, is the worst kind of a lie. It has been said that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing;" and while this is true, the remedy is not in curtailing present

school facilities, but in the increase of them until the results from the "too little" is expanded into that broad development of the mind that will enable the youths of our land to distinguish the real from the seeming. The obvious remedy is not, as the Bishop would have us believe, in less education for the farmers' sons, but rather more knowledge.

The farmers' sons get the big head and leave the farm for which they are best fitted, and go into cities and undertake to conduct business for which they have no natural nor acquired ability, only proves the necessity of a more thorough education. It certainly does not teach that we must abandon the educating that has inflated these rural aspirants. There is a period in the life of the average boy when the fund of his knowledge deceives him into the belief that he is equipped for greater things than he can handle. Should we therefore remove him from school and consign him to future ignorance? No! No! rather let us educate him forward out of his self-conceit into that broader knowledge which begets humility. Total ignorance is mental death and slavery; while a liberal education and a ripe scholarship are full emancipation.

The science of farming really includes all other sciences. It is a noble occupation, worthy the attention of any man of education. It must be admitted that there is need for something in the common schools to start young farmers in such an intelligent comprehension of their occupation as shall lead them to see the folly of planting, sewing, etc., "in the moon;" when they let their timothy hay go to seed, because it will "last longer;" and when they waste more than one-half of the fertilizing that is made on the farm, because they "know better" than the men who have studied the soil, and have told them how to use it. They should be trained to think about their vocation in a way to gain knowledge which they can apply to the various operations of farm life in a way to arouse a spirit of inquiry.

Homes should be made attractive. One prime cause of boys leaving the farm for city life is the general unthriftiness and unattractiveness of the farm home. His education should be broadened rather than restricted, that he may not only see great possibilities in the farm rightly conducted, but also to enjoy his work and his home.

Now what is the end of education? Is it not to fit one for a higher and nobler life? to subdue and train and polish and equip the soul itself with all its immortal powers for the duties, conflicts and heroisms of life?

Free schools are the nurseries of the public mind; the lights by which republican virtues and honors are most clearly reflected; the best safeguards against the ills of ignorance and vice.

Without them no republican government can long exist and flourish; with them, wisely fostered and generously supported, no tyrant's sway can long continue—no bigots views be widely disseminated.

Report of Special Committee on Education.

Continued from page 3.

the farm. It is rare that you can find a young man of seventeen or eighteen who is doing well in school, and who returns to the farm of his own accord."

"I think the strength of the institution never has or never will be made greater because of any demand on the part of the 'poor farms.' They have always been led, and are likely to be for several hundred years, by those in other professions and occupations."

"Farmers' institutes should be held in every township, and literature freely distributed. Such an organization, headed by the College faculty, would be productive of much good, in my opinion."

"I think, with a liberal appropriation for institutes, and the holding of a good rousing one in each county, at least once a year, a better sentiment might be created. People need to be impressed by the fact that farmers should be the best educated people in the world."

"I would suggest that some means be taken to enlighten farmers on the real practical work of the College, even if the boys do have some dress parties, and look unusually slick when they get back among the natives." This man is an alumnus of the College.

The following extracts are from letters written by members of the Grange, and are supposed to represent, to some extent, the collective thought of the Grange as well as of the individual who wrote:

"The stirring up of the people with regard to our College can be done in no better way than by our Subordinate Granges of the state."

"I feel satisfied that if the Agricultural College is not what the farmers desire, they are to blame for it. Statements we so often hear are mere repetition rather than the results of earnest investigation."

"I want to suggest that those who have the management of the interest of the Agricultural

College would do well to be a little more aggressive with their demands of the farmers of the state. The school wants patronage; more information regarding its purposes and accomplishments wants to be placed in the hands of the people. I am glad your committee have taken hold of this matter, and I hope you will be able to enlist the Grange in an aggressive work in favor of the College all over the state and adjoining states. It is the farmers' school, and it ought to be upheld, patronized, and advanced by the farmers everywhere. Commit the Grange to an aggressive policy of advocating the support of the College under all reasonable circumstances."

The following quotation is from the letter of the member of the farmers' club. "It might be of some benefit if students could be received for indefinite periods, and allowed to take special courses, receiving from the College a certificate of proficiency in the studies in which satisfactory examination had been passed."

The above answers and quotations are given just as they came to me, without change or comment. Had this report been made a year ago it would have been more interesting and perhaps more valuable. As a whole I think the answers are fair and intelligent; in a few cases they betray prejudice or lack of information. We believe the report will represent the average of the thought of the farmers of the state, regarding the College.

We now wish to enumerate a few recent advances made at the Agricultural College. 1. The Farm Home Reading Circle. This has made a good growth, and contained several hundred readers. 2. Farmers' institutes, which have been extended from twenty a year to seventy a year. 3. Special winter courses. The College this winter offers four of them, and we hope that every Grange in Michigan can furnish at least one student for one of these courses this winter. 4. A woman's course, offering advantages to farmers' girls, especially in practical lines. 5. An increase in the number of experiment station bulletins sent out. During the past three years this list has increased from 5,000 per issue to 20,000. 6. The appointment of an officer called a "Student Field Agent," whose business it is to solicit students for the College. There has also been a weekly paper established. Another change is that of the vacation from winter to summer.

All but the last two are largely the result of Grange effort, agitation and thought. Although the Grange would not claim to have done all that has been done for these advances, yet if anyone will take pains to look at the records of the State Grange for the last three years, he cannot help feeling that the Grange has been a most potent factor in inducing the College to take these progressive steps. Observe also that all of these changes are in accord with suggestions made in the answers to the questions which your committee sent out. This probably is a coincidence and not a result of the inquiry. But it cannot now be said that the Agricultural College is not advancing, nor that it is not meeting popular wishes.

The above is a report of your committee regarding this investigation. We believe that it contains many things of value, both to the farmers, to Grange members, and to the management of the College. While it is not complete or exhaustive, we hope that it is suggestive.

But we do not wish to close without referring to a few special lines of endeavor that it seems to us are of essential importance in this great and difficult, but most important, problem of agricultural education.

I. We ought to have the teaching of agriculture in our district schools. We cannot do more at this time than to call your attention to the report of your committee made before this Grange in 1894, and reiterated a year ago. We do not care to discuss this matter to any extent here, except to call your attention especially to one point, and that is that we do not want a text book on agriculture in the district schools. What we want is first the creation among the farmers of sentiment which will demand the teaching of natural science in a plain way,—just simply teaching the pupils to observe the common things around them, and carry this through from the beginning to the end of the pupil's education, taking illustrations directly from farm products and farm surroundings. We could do nothing worse than to introduce a text book on agriculture into our district schools. The next thing we need is for the College to supply a means whereby teachers can be fitted to teach nature studies in the district schools. There are, then, two things to be done. They are, let the Grange agitate this matter thoroughly, and thus create a demand for the teaching of agriculture in district schools, and then let the College afford opportunities for teachers to get the necessary training.

II. We need more reading in farm homes,—more papers, books, magazines; and not only more but better. There are means immediately at hand for supplying this need, none of which are expensive. In the first place, let the Grange, in accordance with a resolution passed a year ago, provide means whereby papers and magazines, and even books, can be purchased by patrons at reduced rates. Let each Grange urge the increase of the appropriation for traveling libraries, and then let each Grange have one of these libraries in their hall during each winter. Let individual members and Granges take up the reading in the Farm Home Reading Circle. Let there be lecture courses provided by Subordinate Granges. These lecture courses could be secured at a very slight expense, provided the State Grange, or Pomona Granges even, would arrange for considerable territory.

III. It would not be appropriate for your committee to eulogize the present farmers' institute system. Doubtless there have been mistakes in administration, but it is only fair to say that, from the reports of the officers of the various county farmers' institute societies in the state, from the reports of our lecturers, and from personal conversation with farmers in sixty of the counties of the state, we are assured that with but a few exceptions the farmers' institute law is highly approved by those who are acquainted with its workings. Our chief criticism is that it does not reach a sufficient number of people. The great objection to reaching a larger number of people at the present time is the question of expense. But we believe that by holding several one-day meetings in different portions, and in the more out of the way places, of each county, and then a longer meeting at some more central point, we could, with an expenditure of not over 50 percent more funds, reach three or four times the number of people we now reach, and, too, reach people who perhaps most need the institute. All of which is respectfully submitted.

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD.

Master's Address.

(Continued from page 1.)

duty it should be to make such investigations, compilations and comparisons of data as would not only aid the state board of equalization in their duties, but also show whether or not legislative action was demanded in tax laws revision. Although complete and final report of the statistician has not been made, enough has been made public to positively show that neither the spirit of the constitution nor the intent of the state tax laws are in a justifiable way carried out. As the state develops, new conditions come to the surface and in many cases laws that worked with general uniform justice when enacted permit radical injustice soon after. This seems true of our tax laws. Much property that is intended to be taxed escapes entirely, and in a majority of such cases the property that evades the tax rolls is the most able to pay, because of its free and absolute worth and its superior earning powers. Favoritism and failure to live up to the requirements of law by assessing officers are said to be common evils that assist in the discriminations and injustices complained of.

Although permitted by the constitution, the specific system of taxation gives special privileges that are not granted other business interests. If railroads pay a specified tax based on annual earnings, why not grant the same privilege to the farms. These are important questions and demand your earnest consideration.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

Although injustice in tax levies as between people and interests add much to the burdens complained of by farmers and their correction would give substantial relief, they should not overlook those items of public expense which may unreasonably increase the aggregate amount to be raised. Official salaries should be in accordance with the abilities required and the value of the work to be performed. Economy in the management of all public institutions and legislative sessions. Also a judicious care over appropriations should be demanded. The large majority of tax payers are forced to strict economy in all their affairs and especially in the expenditure of money. Therefore, extravagance in the management of any of the people's affairs should not go uncorrected.

For these reforms and to encourage that interest in public affairs which will make our people well informed therein, our Order should use its strongest influence. No partisan bias should be permitted to deter our members from doing that which is right and in presenting a solid front in these requests.

PURE FOOD.

No work of the Grange is more gratifying than that put forth in the interest of having enacted laws for the protection of our honest food producers from unfair and disastrous competition and at the same time to assure the purchaser and consumer that he gets what he asks, desires and pays for, and further to permit the consumer who desires or prefers the cheap or adulterated articles to buy at their true value. The work in Michigan has but fairly commenced and so valuable is it to both producer and consumer that the system can never be abolished, but instead the laws will be perfected and their powers extended and the field of work for the Food Commissioner enlarged. The thanks of the people of Michigan are due to Commissioner Storrs for the conservative and considerate methods employed in successfully establishing the new system and order of things. Having justice in his cause he appealed to the good sense of dealers in a way free from threats and they soon adjusted their stocks to conform with the law. Public opinion is now so unanimous in its favor that the law will easily be sustained.

SHOULD COVER OTHER MERCHANDISE.

This kind of protection is of so much benefit to the people that effort should be made to extend it to other lines of merchandise. Why should an unsuspecting pub-

lic be liable to be defrauded in the purchase of clothing, gold and silver ware, and the many other articles of common use. If the coat is shoddy or part cotton, why not have it so labeled and let it sell on its merits for just what it is? Let us use our influence in hastening the good time when all causes for suspicion will be removed from the purchase of needful articles.

CO-OPERATION.

Although the term applies to every feature of Grange work, its consideration here has a more special reference to co-operative trade. The farmer, to be successful, must reduce cost of production to a minimum, buy at the cheapest and sell at the highest prices obtainable.

In doing this he may consider and use the world as his marketplace. There is no law, moral or otherwise, in operation to dictate that the farmer shall sell and buy only through prescribed channels. Moreover, it is a duty to investigate for himself and to act in accordance with the plan that will leave for him the best net results. The social standing of the farmer and his family depends upon his success in business. The amount and kind of schooling, clothing, books, advantages and opportunities that may be furnished, depends upon the degree of success that follows his efforts measured in dollars.

It becomes plain, then, that it is the duty of the farmer to investigate, consider, and become familiar with details of sales and purchases through co-operative channels, as well as others, to learn where gains can be made. It is next in importance to plowing, sowing and reaping. The plan started by the State Grange two years ago, although full of imperfections, met the general approval of our members. It has been allowed to drift for lack of a special head to look after details in season and keep members fully informed. The plan needs perfecting and placing under special management. The earnest consideration of the executive committee is solicited in its behalf. It is of great importance to the welfare of the Order. The growth of the Order during the past year is no doubt largely attributable to the encouraging influence of this work although but partially matured.

The matter of co-operative fire insurance within the Grange was last year referred to the Executive Committee, which will no doubt be covered in their regular report to this body. The success of these companies in other states proves conclusively that they furnish safe insurance at a minimum cost. Several sections in Michigan could no doubt organize and maintain Grange Fire Insurance Companies to the benefit of the Order.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

It was highly proper that the thirtieth annual session of the National Grange should be held at the place of its birth, and to have two of the immortal seven who founded the order welcome it home again after so many years of experience and wandering. The venerable William Saunders and National Secretary Dr. John Trimble are both residents of Washington, where the meeting was held. The sessions were full of interest and much earnestness characterized the consideration of all questions. It spoke volumes for the fraternal strength of the order to see the delegates from the east, west, north and south, who had so recently been intensely interested in partisan strife, settle down to the friendly consideration of questions, many of which were political in nature. The thought came as the scene was witnessed that such education as the Grange encourages will go on, until the farmers of the country will become so liberalized and strengthened in freedom and independence of thought and action that they will present a practically solid front in passing questions, and thus correspond with the sameness of their true interests therein. Amidst the scenes and bustle of a metropolitan city, and the capital of the nation where, so many important and notable events are so common, it was not thought that a gathering of farmers would be noticed more than casually, but instead there was a cordial greeting manifest on every hand. The daily

press of the city gave liberal and fair accounts of our proceedings. Representatives of the Agricultural Department, Interstate Commerce Commission, National Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations and others favored us with their presence, and the President of the United States gave the National Grange a reception. The many places of historic interest in and about the city, including Mt. Vernon and Arlington Heights, where acres of Union soldiers are sleeping, can but make a lasting impression of the great cost in life and treasure to maintain government, and to increase the loyalty of every citizen.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

One of the important movements formally instituted at the National Grange was that to secure the appointment of Col. J. H. Bringham, Master of the National Grange, to the position of Secretary of Agriculture, and as such to a place in the President's Cabinet. The elevation of the National Department of Agriculture so that its secretary may have a voice in the highest councils of the nation was first proposed and urged to final success by the Grange. This department, having in its keeping the general interests and welfare of farmers, should be presided over by a practical farmer, for none other can so fully see and sympathize with such measures proposed and to be presented as will assist this great and all-important interest.

Mr. Bringham is a broad-minded, substantial man, and from his close associations with farmers in every state of the Union, together with his extensive experience in public affairs, is especially well equipped for the position. The National Grange endorsed him unanimously and now urge his appointment. It is asked that all State Granges support the National Grange in this request; and take such action as will make the demand strong, and so general that it will be granted.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

No general annual report to the State Grange would be complete if it did not call the attention of the delegates to the importance of this, the farmers' school. The State Board of Agriculture, from earnest desires and long experience, are striving, as I believe never before, to make this institution meet the true wants of the farmers of the state, in supplying their sons and daughters with practical and helpful education. During the year several changes and some additions have been made to the course of study and methods of procedure each calculated to keep the college up to the demands of the times. The Granges of Michigan have been foremost in asking that suitable arrangements be made at the college to educate the young women as well as the young men. This request has been granted and such a department is now a reality. That the members of this body may be fully informed regarding the ladies' department, and other changes that have been made during the year, and to the end that the information thus received may be communicated to all subordinate Granges of the state, I recommend that a special committee of ladies and gentlemen be appointed to visit the college and make report to this body before the close of the session. Special inquiry should be made regarding the short courses provided for the winter months. The farmers of Michigan should have renewed pride in this institution and support it as never before. Without doubt, it gives the best general and special training of any school in the state for farm life. The short courses to which allusion was made are planned along very practical lines, and should be well patronized by all young men who desire to gain through the winter months a kind of information that will prove useful to them the following summer.

AGRICULTURE.

This subject is always of deepest interest to those whose profits from tilling the soil are to measure the advantages and opportunities they may enjoy. Agriculture comprises the business of farming in a broad and general way, and, as a whole, it cannot be truthfully said the general depressed conditions that have surrounded this, the

greatest of all our nation's interests for the past few years, have changed for the better. The same dark clouds obscure its prospects, and farmers are forced to closer economy, and to live within themselves the more. It is a severe trial for the farmer to reconcile himself to the seeming inevitable, that he must take a new inventory, and therein scale down the value of his land and all its belongings fully one-half and on that basis make a new start with practically his own hands. It is also a discouraging thought to entertain, that although the wealth of the country has during the last decade increased in round numbers from sixteen to sixty-four billion of dollars, proportionately the share of the agriculturalist has decreased from nearly one-half to less than one-fourth of the whole amount, and this while the mortgage indebtedness thereon has considerably increased, and the embarrassment caused by such indebtedness has been multiplied. It may be borne in mind that during the time this proportionate ownership of the property of the country has so materially shifted from one class of people to others that the number of those engaged in agricultural pursuits has proportionately increased with the growing population of the country. Whatever may be the causes that contribute to these conditions and tendencies, it needs no philosopher to see that the sure result will be to lower the social conditions and standing of the American farmer, and to make the lines of distinction between the classes more prominent.

Herein the question becomes a serious one and should receive careful consideration by all people who believe in the maintenance of a just equilibrium among all the people. More of social opportunities and benefits for ourselves and our children and consequently for the great agricultural class is the true incentive of the farmer to labor past gaining the actual necessities for mere existence. The forced conclusion is that under the workings of correct economic principles the agricultural interests should and would hold its legitimate property rights and consequent advantages; and instead of descending the social scale the farmers go higher and, with the aid of increased education, maintain his true position as God's nobleman and the peer of any. To this end propositions and policies must be carefully analyzed and original ones matured and brought forward. The farmer himself must act. What he should do others will not do for him. The farmers, above all else, must learn that in union there is strength, and that loyalty to the interests of his class is above and must be considered before mere party success.

While the Grange is a non-partisan organization and cannot as a body take action on partisan questions, it can and should, because of the identity of interests of all its members, educate and encourage toward that union of thought and action on all questions of local, state and national policy as will make the influence of the agricultural people more potent for their general good.

THE DEPARTED.

Since last we met death has removed from the labors of earth and the companionship of our fraternity two active members. Bro. Thomas F. Moore was from the inception of the Grange an able and earnest advocate of its principles. His voice has been heard in many Grange halls and from many public platforms throughout the state championing the cause of improvement, higher aims and ambitions in life. The State Grange has at times honored him with official position and he was always efficient and faithful. Bro. H. H. Dresser, an ex-member of the Executive Committee, was an ardent supporter of the Order. For those sturdy and telling blows that bade opposition retreat, for the upbuilding of his cause, he had but few equals. The present standing of the Order in Michigan owes much to these sturdy pioneers in Grange work. We may well ask, who can fill their places?

CONCLUSION.

And now, Patrons, let us here strengthen and renew our fealty and devotion to this Order. It

stands for grand principles. We can do no better than to defend and perpetuate it. Years of experience are now of great benefit. These, together with the devotion and ardent labors of that army of noble men and women who have labored so long and faithfully, must not go for naught. The degree of prosperity the Order is to enjoy during the coming year will very largely be measured by your work at this session. This fact should place fairly before you the importance of your coming.

For the past four years I have tried to be faithful to the best interests of the Order. I have fully appreciated the honors bestowed upon me by being selected to fill the position of Master of the State Grange, and at the same time have tried to keep in mind the important work of the office. The Patrons of Michigan have my most sincere thanks for the kindness they have at all times shown me and for their charitable consideration of my shortcomings, and now as I hand over the gavel to my successor whom you will choose before the close of this session, I ask for him the same support you have always given me.

GEO. B. HORTON.

Master Michigan State Grange.

Dairy and Food Commissioner.

HON. C. E. STORRS, COM'R.

EDITOR GRANGE VISITOR:—The issue of bulletins each month giving analysis of samples of articles found adulterated, has been worth more than many prosecutions. It serves to expose to the purchaser the brands of goods adulterated and enables him to guard against fraudulent articles. Where analysis shows adulteration in any article and the bulletin reaches the dealer, its sale is effectually stopped. No honest dealer will buy an article, the sale of which makes him liable to the penalties imposed by the law. The distribution has nearly reached the limit of five thousand prescribed by the law. The name of each dealer, as soon as he is visited by an inspector, is placed upon the mailing list, thus continually enlarging the same. Provision should be made so that as soon as the limit is reached, additional copies can be printed until all the dealers, and as many of the people as desire, can be furnished.

There have been a few cases where a prosecution was the only remedy adequate to correct the evil, or to convince the dealer that the law was meant to be obeyed, but they have been very few comparatively. While it is true that at the time the law took effect there were few dealers in the state that were not liable to prosecution, other methods have been found to work fully as effectively and at far less expense. We have obtained results here in Michigan in fifteen months that have taken other states years to reach, and that after contests carried through all the courts. Here we have a sentiment that is almost unanimously favorable to the law, while in others the opposition is so strong that the laws are in constant danger of repeal. While this is true it cannot be hoped that there will not be wilful violations of the law in the future, or that there will not be cases of negligence that will need careful looking after. It may be that an impression will come to prevail that it does not matter, that there is no danger of punishment, and it may be and quite likely will be, that more prosecutions will be necessary in the future than in the past; if it should be so, the fact that it has not been found necessary in the past will be no bar to the application of such measures as may be deemed necessary in the future.

So far as making changes in the law is concerned, I believe but few should be made and they mainly along the line of such changes in the text as to make it more definite and easily understood. On some important points the law is not quite clear and changes of a few words, while they would add nothing in a general way, would make it very much simpler and easier of enforcement.

But there are two or three changes that should be made; more definite authority should be given inspectors under such restrictions, of course, as will amply protect the owners, or those in charge, to

Continued to page 7.

PATRONS' PAINT WORKS.

PATRONS' PAINT WORKS have sold Ingersoll Paint to the Order P. of H. since its organization. House Paints and Cheap Paints for Barns and Outbuildings, 10,000 Farmers testify to their merits. Grange Halls, Churches, School Houses, Dwellings, all over the land—some of them painted 15 years ago, still looking well, prove them the most durable.

MICHIGAN PATRONS "Buy direct from Factory" at full wholesale prices and save all Middlemen's Profits.
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 241-243 Plymouth st., Brooklyn.

Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paints
 Indestructible Cottage and Barn Paints
 Sample Color Cards, "Confidential" Grange Discounts, Estimates and full particulars MAILED FREE. Write at once.

THE WRONG LETTER

By JUSTIN MCARTHUR.

[Copyright, 1895, by the Author.]

At last she was free to answer her letters and to write to Graham. She longed to see him again—longed as if weeks had passed since their last meeting, as if it were likely that weeks would pass before their next. She thought she had been a little harsh or cold to him, and she was eager to make him amends. But she would not write to him until the very, very last. She would get the mere drudgery of letter writing done, and then she would write a letter to Graham. What an unspeakable difference sometimes between letter writing and writing a letter! So she answered and issued numbers of invitations—she conducted most of the correspondence of the house—and she wrote to her dressmaker, and after much work of the kind she came to answer Louis Alan's unwelcome and troublesome letter.

Now this was a serious business. She had never particularly liked Louis Alan, but she had had a good deal touched by his devotion—and her stepmother she knew would have wished her to accept him because he was rich—and he must have known this quite well, and yet he was always delicate and forbearing in his manner to her and never pressed his courtship unreasonably or unfairly, and for this she was grateful to him. He was rather self-conceited no doubt, although darling Graham made a little too much of that defect in a man whom

he considered at one time as his rival. His rival! Only think of that! Louis Alan a rival of Graham! The thought had often amused her, but now it almost shocked her. For when it harmlessly amused her to smile at Graham's overwrought dislike to Mr. Alan she did not know then what Mrs. Cameron had just told her. Now she knew, and fancy her lover, Graham Welwyn, thinking that there could ever have been any rivalry in her heart between him and Louis Alan!

What crime had Louis Alan committed? Not much of a crime after all. He had got into a romantic hyperbolic flirtation with aesthetic Mrs. Cameron, and they had written to each other various unharsh intensities in which there was a good deal of vanity and nonsense on both sides and no serious thought of love on either. In truth Mrs. Cameron was very fond of her husband, who was a successful queen's counsel and hardly ever had time to talk with her. She used to say that she would be very glad if her hostesses at London dinner parties would allow her husband to take her in to dinner, for then she would be secure of at least an hour's talk with him. But her husband was too busy and had absolute faith in her, and she got into this ridiculous high flown sentimental correspondence with Mr. Alan, and they wrote of themselves as congenial souls—and other such stuff—and then she misdirected the letter, and Alan got the formal invitation to a dinner which was meant for Graham Welwyn.

Katherine did not want to take too much of it. She believed every word Mrs. Cameron had told her, and she was right. She did not think much harm of Louis Alan. Still, there was the fact that at the very time when he was pressing her to marry him—well, not unduly pressing, but certainly trying quietly to induce her to marry him—he was all the time carrying on an aesthetic flirtation with Mrs. Cameron. This was what Miss Katherine very naturally did not like, and she was anxious in consequence to give a pretty sharp rebuke to Mr. Alan.

But how to do it—how to manage it—there was the question. Mrs. Cameron's story had been told of course in the strictest confidence, and only for the purpose of obtaining Katherine's somewhat extensive influence over Graham Welwyn. She could not make any allusion to that. Yet she meant to hit him a little hard if she could.

This was what she wrote to Alan: "It will be of no use trying to see me tomorrow or any other day. I write this without affectation of great compassion for you. You will find some woman more suited to your tastes and temper than I desire to be."

"That will do," she said to herself. Then she put the letter a little apart on the blotting pad and left it to dry, while she wrote her few lines to Graham.

"Come tomorrow at 1—I shall take care to be alone until luncheon time—and shall give you a welcome."

That, too, would do, she thought, and then she began thinking about the two letters that lay open and drying side by side. She had no pity for Alan, al-

though like a kind hearted girl as she was she would in the ordinary course of things have felt infinite pity for a man whose offer of marriage she had to reject. But she had no pity for Alan. For Graham—for Graham—for dear, darling Graham, what infinite love and trust and longing! "Tomorrow—tomorrow—if it were only tomorrow!"

"Haven't you finished your letters yet, Katherine?" Mrs. Shirley asked, almost sharply, as she bustled into the room. "It is close on post time, and James is waiting to take the letters to the pillar box, and you will have to dress yet, and you'll be quite late for dinner, and these formal, tiresome people coming!"

"I'm all right," Katherine exclaimed in great good spirits. "I have only to seal up two letters." Here she breathlessly inclosed and sealed them. "Where is James? Oh, yes! Thank you, I shall be dressed in no time."

I heard a story—and I believe it was quite true—of a once celebrated English tenor who is long since dead. He was playing the principal part in the opera of "The Rose of Castile." He had in one scene to come abruptly on to the stage and sing a song beginning with the line, "When the king of Castile pledged his word!" His pleasant comrades, men and women, kept playfully admonishing him every time he was in the part that he must be sure not to say, "When the king of Castile pledged his watch!" The repeated admonition seemed to have got upon his nerves at last, and one night he electrified the house by singing in his most thrilling tone, "When the king of Castile pledged his watch!" This story may seem a little irrelevant. Wait, and you shall judge.

Katherine was waiting next day for the coming of Graham. Their usual trysting time was 1 o'clock, but as it sometimes had to vary she had thought it prudent always to write to him and say exactly whether it was on any particular day to be a fixed or a movable festivity. Of course it would have been easy to form a standing agreement that Graham was to come at 1 every day unless warned by her to the contrary, and this would undoubtedly have saved some letter writing. But the man who believes that lovers like to be saved the trouble of writing to each other is a man who never can have been in love himself, and with whom any self-respecting woman would be ashamed to be in love.

Just before 1 o'clock Graham was announced. The meetings of the lovers always took place in Katherine's own little room, the windows of which opened on to the garden. It was the way of the lovers that Graham should come through the garden to the windows and should tap there on the glass for Katherine to let him in, provided the windows were not standing open, as in fine weather they always were. It pleased them both that he should come in this way and not in the way of a common visitor.

But this day, to Katherine's amazement, he came in and was announced in the way of any common visitor. The footman preceded him, threw open the door and formally announced "Mr. Graham Welwyn."

Amazed at the announcement, Katherine looked up and saw in one glance at Graham's face that something painful had happened. Graham advanced slowly toward her, hat in hand, and having all the air of a defiant and determined intruder. He was silent—stony silent—until they were left alone, and poor Katherine positively trembled at his look.

"You see I have disobeyed you," he said sternly, "and I have come."

"Disobeyed me in what?" she faltered. "In coming in that way—like some ordinary visitor? Yes—why did you do it?"

"You are trifling with me, Miss Shirley!"

"Miss Shirley! Why, Graham, what do you mean? Are you taking leave of your senses?"

"I am coming to my senses, I think," he said solemnly. "I suppose I know you now!"

"You know me now? Well, I suppose you do," she said disdainfully, not comprehending in the least what he would be at.

"Yes. You believed, I dare say, some stupid or malignant story about me. Oh, Katherine, how could you," and he almost broke down, "how could you? I ought not to have come here at all, but I resolved that at whatever pain to you and to me I would have from you the reasons for your conduct."

Suddenly the door was thrown open, and the footman announced "Mr. Louis Alan!"

Louis Alan entered the room with an expression of fatuous self-satisfaction on his old young face. Graham had drawn back, and the smiling, self-satisfied

Alan saw no one but Katherine.

"I have come," he said in dulcet tones—"I have come at your bidding, my Katherine! I may venture to call you mine, may I not?" Then, as he was about to take her hand and she was drawing back from him quite amazed and alarmed, his eyes fell on Graham Welwyn.

"Oh, I beg pardon, I am sure," he said. "I—I—did not know you had visitors."

"So far as I am concerned," Graham said with truly tragic dignity, "it does not matter to me. You have asked this lady if you may call her yours. So far as I am concerned, you may."

He was turning to stalk out of the room with the solemn grandeur of a Ravenswood leaving forever the hall in which he saw for the last time the woman he believed to be faithless.

"Stop!" Katherine exclaimed—"stop, Graham, I insist upon it! Are you both going mad?" Then a wild ray of guesswork seemed to flash upon her, and she turned to Alan and asked rather fiercely: "Why did you come here, Mr. Alan?"

"Because you told me to come," he answered, with a tremulous bewilderment—"you told me you would give me a welcome."

"I told you to come? Why I told you expressly not to come—not to come."

"Oh, I say, look here," he began to say, but she cut him short.

"Graham, what did I tell you in my letter?"

"You forbade me to come to see you any more," he said in funeral tones.

Then Katherine looked from one to the other, and then—she could not help it, she could not control herself—she burst into a peal of laughter. Again and



Louis Alan entered the room.

again the peal of laughter was renewed while the two men stood, now glaring at each other and gazing now at her as she shook with laughter.

"Oh, it is too ridiculous!" was all that she could say for awhile.

"Really, Miss Shirley," Louis Alan began, in simpering remonstrance.

"Really, Katherine," Graham began, in the true Ravenswood tone—

"Oh, Graham, don't you see?" she managed at last to say.

"See! See what?"

"Don't you remember what we were talking about yesterday?"

"I remember nothing that has much bearing on your conduct of today."

"Oh, you goose—you great—great goose. Can't you guess? Don't you see? I put the letters into the wrong envelopes! I was in such a hurry. I was so pressed for time, and you yourself with your story put the idea, I suppose, unconsciously into my head—and I didn't know what I was doing—and, Mr. Alan, I am sorry to have given you the trouble to come here today for nothing—and if you, gentlemen, will kindly exchange letters everything will be made clear—and, oh, Graham—my Graham, how could you ever mistrust me?"

"Even with your own handwriting to bear witness against you?" he asked in all the tenderness of a reassured lover.

"Even with 20 handwritings to bear witness against me. Why didn't you come and ask me?"

"You see I have come!"

"Yes, but you came in unbelief and not in faith. Never mind—I forgive you—but I'll never again write letters without putting names inside!"

THE END.

Ripans Tabules: pleasant laxative. Ripans Tabules: for sour stomach. Ripans Tabules: cure liver troubles. Ripans Tabules: gentle cathartic. Ripans Tabules: one gives relief. Ripans Tabules cure headache. Ripans Tabules cure constipation. Ripans Tabules cure nausea. Ripans Tabules cure dizziness. Ripans Tabules cure dyspepsia. Ripans Tabules assist digestion. Ripans Tabules. Ripans Tabules cure indigestion. Ripans Tabules cure flatulence. Ripans Tabules cure bad breath.

Dairy and Food Commissioners

Continued from page 6.

examine places where goods are made or stored, and also to take samples if owners object.

Two or three more inspectors could be profitably employed if the legislature should see fit to make the proper appropriation. If this should be done the state should be divided into districts and each one given his territory. He would thereby become better acquainted with the dealers, would know from whom they purchase their goods and be enabled to keep things in hand, as he would soon learn where to look for adulterated goods and where to apply the remedy for evils found.

I am firmly of the opinion that the anti-color clause, in regard to oleomargarine, should be incorporated in our law. You will remember that I said at the start, that a law that did not amply protect every manufacturer of honest goods, was a failure so far as the right to such protection was concerned. With every class of manufacturers who sell food products in Michigan, with one exception, the protection is ample. That class and the one the most important of all is "out in the cold."

The Michigan dairyman is compelled to compete with an article so like his own, that only an expert can tell the difference, and yet that for the purpose for which his is used, is acknowledged to possess far less value. Not salable anywhere except as it is given a fictitious value by its likeness to his product; none of it made in our own state, but every man that makes a pound of butter for sale in the state, has to turn a part of its price into the pockets of men who have grown rich out of his contributions, and those of others in the same line of business.

No one has the right to object to the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine if it is a healthful and valuable food product, but it should appear in its own proper color and semblance. It has no claim to come in the guise of another and more valuable article, and by virtue of such appearance usurp the place of that other.

Our present law is entirely inadequate to regulate this matter and to compel its sale for what it is, as the sale of other food products are regulated. To ask that its proper place in the markets of the state, without anything added to make it appear better or of greater value than it really is, is simply to ask that the wealthy proprietors of the twenty "oleo" factories in the United States be given no greater privileges in the markets of Michigan, than the thousands of those in this and other states engaged in other lines, no greater privileges than our own dairymen.

Laing.

Buckingham's Dye for the whiskers is a popular preparation in one bottle, and colors evenly a brown or black. Any person can easily apply it at home.

500,000

FRUIT TREES

must be sold this year—

Apple, Pear, Plum, Cherry, Peach.

MILLIONS OF PLANTS.

Hardy Michigan Varieties of Peach: Kalamazoo, Gold Drop, Lewis, New Prolific, Fitzgerald, Seeded, Triumph, Etc. All stock guaranteed to be as represented. Send for our new price list.

Send us your list and let us figure on it. TRY US ONCE.

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Benton Harbor, Mich.

A SPECIFIC

—FOR—

La Grippe, for Colds, Coughs,

AND LUNG TROUBLES,

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL

"Two years ago, I had the grippe, and it left me with a cough which gave me no rest night or day. My family physician prescribed for me, changing the medicine as often as he found the things I had taken were not helping



me, but, in spite of his attendance, I got no better. Finally, my husband,—reading one day of a gentleman who had had the grippe and was cured by taking Ayer's Cherry Pectoral,—procured, for me, a bottle of this medicine, and before I had taken half of it, I was cured. I have used the Pectoral for my children and in my family, whenever we have needed it, and have found it a specific for colds, coughs, and lung troubles."

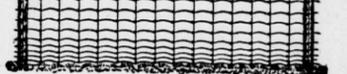
EMILY WOOD, North St., Elkton, Md.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral
 Highest Honors at World's Fair.
 Cleanse the System with Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Our Fair Exhibits.

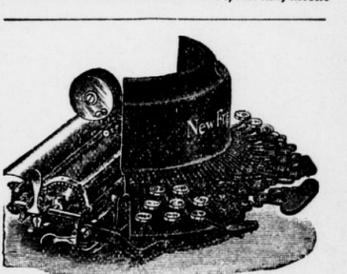
With five car loads of wild animals, we have given free shows at the leading State and District Fairs. We thus furnish instruction, amusement, and proof that the Page is the best. Several applications are in for next year's exhibit.

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2 to 20 cts. a Rod. Over 50 styles. Catalogue Free.

KITSELMAN BROS., 102 E. Sideville, Ind.

Grange News.

Trent Grange passed appropriate resolutions upon the death of Bro. Fred C. Mills, a valued member of that Grange.

Rockford Grange No. 110 held a pleasant session on Saturday evening, December 12, with good attendance. The delegate to State Grange was present and made a report of work done there.

Benton Harbor Grange No. 122 is really flourishing—not like some of our neighbors with a hundred and more members, but with a healthy growth and accession of strictly first class material.

Capitol Grange No. 540 enters the new year with 56 members. E. A. Holden is the new master, K. L. Butterfield, lecturer, and Miss McHenry, secretary. Two candidates will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Lowell District Council, at its last meeting, passed resolutions respecting the death of Brothers J. Lusk and Jas. Aldrich. The former was an active and zealous member of South Boston Grange and the latter of Bowne Grange.

CHICKAMING GRANGE NO. 382.

We meet every second and fourth Saturday of each month. On the 14th of November we conferred third and fourth degrees on five and held a feast. We had a very pleasant and profitable time. I suppose this next issue will be our last GRANGE VISITOR. Am so sorry to give it up but we have to part with our best friends while here below. So we will say good bye, dear old friend, good bye.

MARY H. CLARK, W. M.

Kent Pomona held its election of officers on December 16 and also declared itself in favor of free rural mail delivery. Suitable resolutions were passed on the death of Bro. C. E. Merriam of South Lowell Grange. The following is the list of officers of Kent Pomona elected:

Master, Wm. T. Adams.
Overseer, J. H. Martin.
Lecturer, E. K. Keech.
Steward, John Preston.
Assistant Steward, Floyd Foster.
Chaplain, Sister Wm. T. Adams.
Treasurer, Jerome Parker.
Secretary, Sister Myrtle L. Preston.
Gate Keeper, M. H. Foster.
Pomona, Sister Nettie Keech.
Flora, Sister Thos. Whittall.
Ceres, Sister Adelia Peterson.
Lady Assistant Steward, Sister Eliza Foster.

LENAWEE COUNTY GRANGE.

The annual meeting of Lenawee County Grange was held at the court house in Adrian on Thursday, December 3, 1896. Reports show seventeen subordinate Granges in good working order in the county and that conditions are favorable to the early organization of others. Lime Creek, South Ogden and Adria Granges have new two-story halls in process of building. Resolutions were passed regarding the death of Hon. Thomas F. Moore, who has from the first of the Grange movement been an active member. Also complimenting the action of the board of supervisors in reducing their own and other official salaries, and we appointed a special committee to investigate the feasibility of organizing a Mutual Fire Insurance Company on the New York and Pennsylvania plan. The following were elected as officers for the coming year:

Master, E. A. Taylor, Rolling.
Overseer, Frank Peters, Madison.
Lecturer, Geo. D. Moore, Hudson.
Steward, Geo. Humphrey, Palmyra.
Assistant Steward, R. A. Woolsey, Madison.
Chaplain, P. H. Dowling, Rome.
Treasurer, Alfred Edwards, Adrian.
Secretary, Alfred Williams, Seneca.
Gate Keeper, J. C. Tolford, Dover.
Ceres, Mrs. Amanda Horton, Fairfield.

Pomona, Mrs. J. B. Stockwell, Dover.
Flora, Mrs. M. T. Cole, Palmyra.
Lady Assistant Steward, Mrs. R. A. Woolsey, Madison.

The next regular meeting will be held with Rollin Grange on the first Thursday in February at which time officers will be installed.

ALFRED WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Beautiful Sea Shells.

Every one admires them. Since coming south I have received numerous inquiries from northern people for sea shells, and now I am prepared to answer yes, I can send you shells, for I have made quite a collection of lovely shells, both from our own coast, the coral reefs and some lovely ones from the West India islands. I will mail a dozen or more different kinds, no two alike, to any one who sends a stamp for postage.

Yours,
Mrs. F. A. WARNER,
Jacksonville, Fla.

If You Are Going to Use Paint,
Read Carefully.

Susq. Co. Aug. 14, 1896.
DEAR SIR:—I painted my house with Ingersoll's Liquid Rubber Paint in 1890, and it is in good shape at this time.

Fraternally yours,
M. DOLAWAY.

To the Patrons of Michigan.

I cannot refrain from offering, for the columns of this the last number of the VISITOR, a few words of encouragement to all members of our order in taking such steps as will bring to their homes weekly, such published grange news, reading and official correspondence as will keep all well informed of the movement of the State and Subordinate Granges. This is of great importance to every patron for without these advantages there cannot be that sympathy and unison in effort nor that crystallization of thought so essential in accomplishing the best results. From and after January 1st the Michigan Farmer is to be the official paper for the Grange in Michigan. Every Grange secretary, or some member of every Subordinate Grange in the state should write the publishers at Detroit for their best terms on club list of 10, 20, 40 and upwards. I also urge upon every Grange that no one thing can be done for real helpfulness to the order, that is of more importance than to give brief accounts of important work done at each meeting for publication. Direct all such to K. L. Butterfield, Agricultural College, Michigan, and all readers of the Michigan Farmer will know what your Grange is doing.

GEO. B. HORTON.

Report of Chaplain.

Worthy Master and Patrons:—It is said of caravans passing each other on the desert that those in command always give words of cheer. If the march has been unusually severe, the sun and sand extra hot; if the weary miles have called for extra courage, and the night watches needed unusual care and caution; if the water has run low; the men been unusually lazy; the camels sullen and ugly—all of this they never speak, knowing that each has had his share of all that was hard to bear, but words of comfort, cheer and hopefulness have greeted the travelers, and the rest of the journey taken up with renewed energy and courage.

Of each weary day, they only said, sunset only brought the sunrise nearer. If necessary to double the watches, the rest only slept the more securely. Of the lazy man, they said, he eats well. Of the sullen, stubborn camel they remark, today he is quite fresh, the best of the herd. Then each bows low, blessing Allah for the good things that have been theirs.

Today we greet each other as fellow travelers on the journey of life. If for some of us the days have been weary and full of care, let us remember that each one passed counts the number less and brings the haven, towards which we all are traveling, only one day nearer.

Though there has not been, as it would seem, prosperity within our borders, not a day has come to us but its every hour has been laden with blessings.

I wish I might bring to you such words of cheer today that we would not brood over short crops, low prices and the general business depression that is everywhere evidenced. These are not, as some think, the visible wrath of the Great Master, but the legitimate results of certain causes that must follow fixed laws.

Excessive rain, or parching drouth, the death-dealing tornado, or the lightning's stroke, are not mere happenings coming by chance, but the results of certain laws that we cannot fathom.

This year has seen one of the most closely and bitterly contested political campaigns this country has ever known. Party spirit has run high, the whole country was agitated as never before since the days of '61. This spirit was very infectious; everybody was anxious and under such a strain that all were glad when it was over.

We believe that no country on the face of the earth could or would have so quietly accepted the results as the United States of America. The men on both sides, who the day before election were rabid, hot-headed politicians, filled with the intensest anxiety and direful apprehension, the day following greeted each other kindly, and the great nation moved on from the fact that we are American citizens, loyal to our country's best interests, her rulers and her flag. Let each of us as Patrons of Hus-

bandry prove our loyalty by giving our best influence in turning public sentiment into the channels that are wisest and best.

We trust the same spirit will be manifested in our election here, and not only here, but in home Granges. Use care and your best judgment in the selection of those who shall be your leaders for the ensuing year, then give them your confidence and your unqualified support.

MARY A. MAYO.

Report of Gatekeeper.

Worthy Master and Members of the Michigan State Grange:—When presented with the emblem of my rank I was cautioned to be vigilant and watchful, as my position was a responsible one. It now remains to be seen whether or not I have been faithful.

From his vantage ground the Gatekeeper has a fine opportunity to observe the passing events which go to make up the history of this great nation.

This year has been an exceptional one for the farmer. He has been blessed with nearly everything but money, but confidence has been restored, prosperity is staring us in the face and everything seems to be moving but corn and potatoes.

This has been a year of changes. In our own country we have survived one of the greatest campaigns ever known in history, which resulted in a great landslide for Republicans.

Outside our gates about the same state of affairs exist as did a year ago. Cuba is still struggling for the independence which is almost within her grasp; Uncle Sam has shut down on John Bull concerning the Venezuelan question; the rulers of two great nations have met in consultation together for what purpose we can only guess; the eyes of all nations are turned towards Turkey, who, like an unruly child, will not obey until more stringent measures are taken; but within the precincts of the Grange we have no such commotion. Our order still stands for everything that is elevating to mankind, and asks all who would seek refuge from the evils which threaten to come within its peaceful boundaries.

Let us have more legislation for the farmer and more farmers to represent us. Washtenaw county is to be congratulated for sending a farmer and Patron to each branch of our State Legislature. An open Grange once in a while would keep our gate from rusting on its hinges and with a nice program would be a healthy change for all concerned.

Patrons, are you aware of the solemn fact that in a few more weeks our beloved official organ, the VISITOR will have passed beyond our grasp?

The VISITOR made a brave fight, but it had too many disgruntled ones to contend with, and so gave up at last after a hard struggle for existence. Nothing will ever be accomplished in this Grange unless we hang together, as did our good old Colonial fathers and mothers who preferred to steep the leaves of the dried raspberry for tea and wear homespun to defy the mother country. They would not be taxed under any consideration, and such courage gained for them and for us independence.

We are joined together here by ties most sacred; let us work for the common good of all.

"We are but one, be that the bond,
To hold us till we die;
Shoulder to shoulder let us stand,
Till side by side we lie."

Respectfully submitted,
WM. ROBERTSON.

A Thoroughbred Herd.

A report from the herd at Traverse City asylum.

"The Holstein herd, the pride of this asylum, will be of interest to the taxpayers of the state. A portion of the herd was purchased in April, 1894, so that we entered upon the biennial term with sixteen thoroughbred cows and a large number of grades, some of them nearly full blood and many of them excellent milkers. With this herd, even, several hundred pounds of milk had to be purchased daily to supply the wants of the inmates of the institution. In the spring of 1895 it was decided to purchase ten more thoroughbred Holstein cows. The purchase was made from one of the best herds in Iowa, and the new cows arrived at their destina-

tion March 29, 1895. The wisdom of this purchase was soon apparent. For nine months before the asylum had bought 80,046 pounds of milk at a cost of \$1,600.92, an average expenditure of \$177.88 per month. For the remainder of the period, or from April 1, 1895, to July 1, 1896, fifteen months, not a pound of milk has been bought, the new cows easily supplying what was before lacking, which at the same rate we had been paying, \$177.88 per month, would have cost the state for the fifteen months \$2,668.20. The ten cows purchased cost in Iowa \$750. The cost of purchase and transportation was \$131. The cost of keeping the cows fifteen months and the labor to care for them was \$975, making the entire cost of purchase and keeping fifteen months \$1,856, or \$812.20 less than the milk would have cost, and we have that in the treasury and the cows in good condition on hand and two bull and five heifer calves we have raised from them. The asylum herd of thoroughbreds now consists of twenty-seven cows giving milk, ten two-year-old heifers soon to be added to the list of milkers, eight yearlings, three heifer calves, forty-eight females, one aged bull, and three bull calves, fifty-two in all, registered or eligible to registry in the Holstein-Friesian Herd Book, worth and will readily sell for \$3,000.

To show the relative value of the thoroughbreds and grades as milkers we give some facts from the last year's record of the herd. Each cow's milk is weighed as soon as milked and the cow credited with the amount upon the stable books, from which a monthly report showing the daily record of each cow is made. The twenty-six thoroughbred cows milked last year gave 239,631 pounds of milk, worth \$4,722.62, an average of 9,216 3-5 pounds to each cow, worth \$184.33. These cows are milked on an average 300 days during the year, which would make the average per cow per day of 30 3/4 pounds, worth 61 1/2 cents. The twenty-six grades milked gave 199,817 pounds of milk, worth \$3,996.34, or 7,685 1/2 pounds per cow on an average, worth \$153.70, which for 300 days would give 25 3/4 pounds, worth 51 1/2 cents per cow per day and with no perceptible difference in the cost of feed or care. Had the whole herd been thoroughbreds at the same rate the yield of yield would have been 479,262, pounds worth \$9,585.24, \$796.28 more than was received, enough to buy ten more thoroughbred cows.

By careful selection and keeping the best of the herd and fattening for slaughter the inferior ones, we hope soon to have a herd whose yearly average per cow will be thirty-five pounds of milk per day, enough, and more than enough, to supply the wants of the institution.

The greatest present need of the farm now is more pasturage, that the milch cows of the herd may be kept more in the open air and not be so liable to the diseases resulting from keeping cattle too much in close stables.

We wish it borne in mind that the farm of this hospital has been made what it is by the efforts of the management, by the use of the labor of patients and attendants and funds saved from the running expenses of the farm, without a cent of cost to the taxpayers of the state."

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