

# THE MARITIME PATRON, AND ORGAN OF THE Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.

"In Essentials Unity - In Non-essentials Liberty - In All Things Charity."

[All communications intended for this column should be sent to the editor of the Maritime Patron, EDWIN S. CREED, M. D., Newport.]

We present below a partial report of the session of the Executive Committee of the Maritime Provincial Grange, held at Winans' Hotel, Tiuro, on Wednesday 22nd ult. The members of the Committee arrived in town on Tuesday, and spent a long evening, as well as the whole of Wednesday until a late hour, carefully and thoroughly discussing the varied interests of the Order demanding their attention. Much of the work resulted in decisions not to take any action—or to leave the matter under consideration for further discussion by and action of the Provincial Grange.

The programme of business for the session was arranged and taken up in alphabetical order.

Agricultural Education received a large share of attention and the Committee was greatly aided, as well as instructed, during the deliberations on this most important interest by Professor H. W. Smith, of the Nova Scotia School of Agriculture, who spent an hour with them at their hotel, and another at the laboratory of the Agricultural School. The Committee were much and favorably impressed with the varied and apparently thorough attainments of the professor, evinced by his ready replies to, and full information concerning, all the many inquiries addressed to him. The professor believes that the facilities afforded by the School of Agriculture for acquiring a thoroughly useful knowledge of the profession, so far as they may be obtained at a school, are not surpassed by any with which he is acquainted. The professor also asserts that the Laboratory is superior in many respects to any in Canada, if not on the continent. The pupil teachers attending the Normal School share the Professor, and the facilities for an Agricultural course, with the Agricultural students. Perhaps the government of Nova Scotia will not be unwilling to share with our Order, and especially with our worthy brother, Col. Blair, the honor and credit due in connection with the establishment of the School of Agriculture, which should be an enduring monument in their honor. We have also been assured that the premier has promised, that as soon as Prof. Smith has under his care twenty Agricultural students, land and the necessary equipments for an Agricultural College and Model Farm, will be furnished. The Executive Committee strongly urges the governments of the Maritime Province to adopt such measures as shall effect the introduction of the first principles of Agriculture into all country district schools in the jurisdiction. The rudimentary knowledge thus acquired will, it is believed, not only be of great practical service in itself, but will also create a thirst for more knowledge and furnish students for the much-needed Agricultural College.

The Secretary reported efforts made to awaken, stimulate or assist a sentiment in favor of the general observance of Arbor Day—also the action taken by the Council of Public Instruction concerning the observance by schools. The Sec'y was instructed to convey to the Council of Public Instruction and to the able and zealous Superintendent of Education of Nova Scotia, the thanks of the Committee on behalf of the Order, for the co-operation to which is due the measure of success attained.

It was resolved that subordinate Granges throughout the Maritime jurisdiction be requested to observe the 12th day of May 1887 as Arbor Day; and to use every effort to obtain the observance in the District Schools of their neighborhood.

The past history and prospects of Assessment reform, agitation and measures were fully discussed. Past Master W. M. Blair, being present, gave the Committee the benefit of his intimate acquaintance with the history and position of the measure.

The Committee by resolution expressed strong disapproval of the manner in which the Assessment Bill, and the demand for Assessment Reform, had been treated, also their opinion that while the measure introduced at the last Session of the Legislature of Nova Scotia, was a great improvement upon the existing law, it failed to provide for an equitable adjustment of taxation. The Committee also by resolution expressed a hope that the passage of the bill referred to, or a better one, would signalize the first session of the new House.

The condition of the Order in the jurisdiction received a share of the attention of the Committee commensurate with its importance. The only reliable information at hand, was obtained from the official Report of Secretaries of Division Granges. A number of subordinate Granges have failed to report to the Secretaries of their several Divisions, which shows a condition of the Order demanding efficient treatment and remedies. It was decided that the Secretary be instructed to request Division Deputies to furnish quarterly reports of the condition of the Order in their several jurisdictions. It was also decided to recommend the appointment by each Division Grange of a competent member to visit the sub-Granges in their several jurisdictions, whose duty it should be to explain the unwritten work, to see that each Grange worked in accordance with the constitution, laws and usages of the Order; to instill, if possible, an appreciation of and zeal for the principles, purposes and objects of the Order; and to report quarterly for the information of Division Granges and of the Provincial Grange.

The Secretary presented a statement of the financial condition of the Provincial Grange, and a Deposit Receipt of the Halifax Banking Company, which shows that the finances are in a very gratifying condition.

The relations of the Order in the Maritime jurisdiction to the Dominion Grange and the Order in Ontario, were fully discussed. The Committee expressed the opinion that greater efficiency, as well as a great saving in expenditure, would be effected by adopting the amendment to the Constitution which proposes that the Dominion Grange be composed of the Executive Committees of the Provincial Granges under its jurisdiction.

The Committee also reiterated the determination previously expressed, to strenuously oppose the Amalgamation of the Dominion Grange and the Ontario Provincial Grange.

The Secretary was instructed to request the Executive Committee of the Dominion Grange to restore a previously existing arrangement for remuneration of Deputies organizing Granges outside of their own counties, which would afford some slight encouragement to the work of organization, now at a stand still, no new Granges having been organized during the present year.

The Secretary was also instructed to communicate with the Executive Committee of the Dominion Grange, with reference to retention by the Maritime Provincial Grange of one-half of the tax due the Dominion Grange, on the ground that no session of the latter was held during the past year, and that the Maritime Provincial Grange would thereby be enabled to prosecute efficiently the work of organization.

The Organ of the Provincial Grange, published in the Halifax Critic, was considered by the Committee to be doing a good work for the Order, by diffusing a knowledge of its principles, purposes and objects. The Committee also passed a resolution urging all Subordinate and Divisional Granges to furnish Secretaries with a copy of THE CRITIC, so that it might be a reliable and efficient means of official communication. Patrons generally are also urged to subscribe, as the efficiency of the Organ of any Society must depend, not only upon efficient management, but also upon its circulation among those whom it is intended to reach.

The Secretary was instructed to convey to the manager of THE CRITIC Publishing Co., the thanks of the Committee for the liberality and courtesy which has characterized his dealings with the Order.

The Secretary reported having recently received applications for information concerning the Order, and for Deputies to organize Subordinate Granges. Bro. W. M. Blair consented to visit Prince Edward Island in response to applications for organization and to deliver lectures in the interest of the Order.

The Committee appointed to select a subject for Essays, competing for Bro. W. F. George's prize of \$5.00, not having performed the duty assigned them, the Executive Committee selected the following:

"Does the occupation of Agriculture in the Maritime Provinces afford sufficient inducements to sons and daughters of farmers to remain at home and engage in it?"

Hints concerning the treatment of this subject will be offered in our next issue.

E-rata. The word "incenture" occurring in the second line second column of the last Maritime Patron is *pretty*, but is not from our mint, "incentive" was the word of course intended to be used.

**THE SMALL TOMATOES.**—Soon after the promotion of the tomato to a position among most valued garden esculents, the miniature varieties were brought prominently to notice, and in the good old gardening days no more popular "preserve" or pickle was seen on the farmer's table. An occasional compromise was "sweet pickle," a toothsome relish, partaking of the characters of both the other forms. There has been no change in these pretty little varieties of late years, but they are almost unknown to the majority of tomato-growers. Still they possess decided merit in the way of reliability and great productiveness; in fact, during a disastrous season when the large and solid kinds have rotted badly, the small varieties presented a mass of perfect fruit. The most curious, and at the same time most ornamental of the latter class is properly known as the currant tomato, with fruit very little, if any, larger than the cherry currant. Next in size is the cherry tomato, with both yellow and red varieties, and these are especially recommended for preserves, being of mild, pleasant flavor. The plum, or, as it is most frequently called, the pear tomato, for the shade of difference is too slight to notice, is likewise represented by both yellow and red, and these appeared to be the most highly prized by our ancestors. A size yet larger, and entirely globular, is very appropriate for salads, as the firm texture of the flesh is unexcelled. In this class are several new introductions of decided merit.—*Croppie*.

**BUILD AN ICE-HOUSE.**—It is now in order for those wishing to harvest their share of the ice-crop to prepare for storing the same. In alluding to this seasonable topic, an Eastern paper says the ice house is no longer considered a luxury, as ice is now one of the necessities for every farmer. An ice-house may be very cheaply built, and a shady place should be selected for it, if possible. Evergreen boughs are admirable for placing in the house to preserve the ice, when sawdust or chopped straw cannot be obtained.

**SEEDING TO GRASS.**—Whether to seed to grass in Spring or Autumn depends on circumstances. On some lands when the weather is favorable fall seeding will seem to do best. But often when the autumn months are dry the grass gets such a poor start that unless the winter is very favorable it makes but a poor showing the following spring. Crickets and grasshoppers often do much damage to fall seed-land. In dry weather the young grass starts slow, and makes but little growth, and at such times these insects are