

# The Canadian Farmer

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Patrons answering or in any way corresponding with those advertising in these columns will oblige us by saying they saw the advertisement in these columns.

A RATHER interesting letter, and our reply, regarding the new constitution of Dominion Grange will be found on page 151 of this issue.

### PROCEEDINGS OF DOMINION GRANGE AND BY-LAWS.

We have been repeatedly asked for copies of the proceedings of the annual meeting of Dominion Grange, also the amended by-laws adopted at that meeting. Up to the present date we have not seen a copy of either, and are informed they are not yet ready for distribution. A reasonable time should be allowed to get these printed and distributed, but they should be given out at as early a date as possible as members are anxious to see them, and it is their right to have the information they should contain. The most important portion of the proceedings were given through the columns of the CANADIAN FARMER at the time of the meeting, held in Feb. last commencing on the 14th, containing a full copy of the amendments made to the by-laws, but there were many minor subjects not embodied in the report given, which would be of interest to members of the Order.

We hope to be able to report the distribution of the matter referred to at an early date, as promptness in

this as well as other matters in connection with the Grange has much to do with its progress and success.

However as nearly nine months have elapsed since the meeting, if not out soon, it would almost seem better to keep last year's report back a little longer, and print it along with this year's report. In an economical point of view this would be wise, and make very little difference now in regard to the usefulness of the publication at this late date. Hitherto these reports have been out within two or three months of the close of the Dominion Grange annual meeting, and consequently the delay this year seems unnecessary.

### THE GRANGE OUTLOOK.

With the coming of winter and more leisure time among farmers, a revival of Grange work should be looked for. Through the busy season of the year the general inclination is to drop the regular monthly meetings, or at least a dilatoriness on the part of many members in attending. We have always advocated the principles of the Grange and urged upon farmers the duty of supporting an association which has for its object the advancement of their particular interest. Our close connection with the Order for years strengthened each year our faith in its principles and its possibilities. We regret to-day to see, what it is useless to deny, that a great lack of interest exists in many sections, and Granges that were once prosperous and flourishing are meeting seldom and the work lagging. There appears to be the country over a general inactivity and the Order is at a standstill.

Perhaps some of our readers, members of the Order, may find fault with us for the above statement, on the ground that such will have a depressing effect. We need hardly assure such that our object is to draw attention to a fact in hopes of awakening members to a sense of their duty to support and sustain their organization, which is the one great and principal medium through which they are to gain that position in society, and in the country, socially and financially, that rightly belongs to farmers as a class. The acknowledgment of a wrong or an error is in itself an important step toward reform. When a fact stares people in the face it is useless to deny it; on the contrary it would be better to honestly acknowledge the situation, and at the same time determine to put forth an effort to correct what is complained of. We do not wish it to be understood that we believe the Grange hopelessly gone, for such is not the case, nor do we believe it will die, for it has gained so strong a hold, and its usefulness is so generally acknowledged that it cannot die; but at the present it is passing under a cloud, out of which we have full faith it will soon break into greater prosperity and more shining usefulness. For the present depression there must be a reason, which is partly due to natural causes, and partly to causes that might have been avoided had the true Grange spirit pervaded the minds of members in general.

You look to the subordinate Granges for life and wonder why there are so many dead branches. We humbly suggest the opinion that if there was more life at the head there would be more life in the branches; if the blood of life run more freely and actively through the trunk of the tree its branches would be greener and more thrifty. The Grange, like all other organizations, cannot succeed unless there is life thrown into it, unless it be kept active and interest kept up through continued effort, which effort must be made felt in every part of the organization, and members made to feel that the Grange has something in it for them if they exert themselves to obtain it.

With an unselfish, liberal, business-like management the Grange in Canada has grand possibilities in future. Farmers, will you come forward like men, put your shoulders to the wheel, and help sustain this great organization, which is your hope for future prosperity?

### THE GRANGE.

To say that the Grange work as an organization has equalled the expectations of its most sanguine friends would be an exaggeration, for much of the work attempted has been so imperfectly done that success could not be reasonably expected. The social and intellectual features of the Order have made their influence felt, directly or indirectly, at every rural hearthstone in the land. The plodding ways of the farmers have been in a measure broken up, his social nature has been expanded, and intellectually and practically he has made more advance in the last decade than in any hundred years which preceded it.

By combination he has learned the advantages which combination gives. By combination he has been enabled to meet and conquer combinations which were formed for his destruction. Failures have been numerous, but the lessons which they have taught are the better part of our heritage.

In the earlier years of the Order, the successes of the Grange were due more to the weight of numbers than to tenacity of purpose or concert of action. Like all spontaneous movements of the masses, it was born of necessity. It has ever been the disposition of mankind to patiently bear the evils that are bearable rather than "fly to ills they knew not of;" but the social and moral elements of humanity are like unto the elements in nature—which, when laden with disease and death, storms arise, and in their efforts to cleanse the air of malarial influences, shake the earth from center to circumference—and woe to him who stands in the track of the tempest? So it is in the social world. There is a point beyond which oppression cannot go, for when that point is reached revolution is inevitable. In the ages which are passed, physical force was the element of strength in all social disorders, but in this age of the world, and especially among our own people, the physical element of strength is made to subserve the higher and nobler qualities of the mind.

### FARMERS SHOULD CO-OPERATE.

If the farmers in a single township, or even a neighborhood, were thoroughly organized for the purpose, with but little expense to each they could procure the finest blood horses, the most showy and graceful cattle, the heaviest-fleeced sheep or the purest-bred hogs, and the gain would more than compensate for the effort. They would be enabled to command higher prices for farm stock, the cost of transportation would be lessened from the ability to market in bulk, the most costly agricultural implements could be procured, and the advantages of schools, churches and libraries be available to all. Co-operation does not interfere with the ordinary business of the farmer. It does not mean communism, nor does it teach immorality. It is not necessary for them to work together on the same farm, or sell out and try something new. We mean nothing of that, but we wish to advise farmers to club together and form co-operative associations for purchasing supplies, stock, seeds, implements and other necessities, and for selling the produce of the farm. In other words, if capital can stud the ocean with thousands of sails, cross the mountains

with lightning speed, and build up thousands of mammoth enterprises, it teaches farmers that by following the same course they can do many things for themselves that would be impossible for the single individual to perform. United effort overcomes all difficulties and surmounts every obstacle, great or small.—*Farmers' Magazine.*

### CONFIDENCE OF FARMERS IN EACH OTHER.

"One of the most useful features of the Grange movement is its tendency to produce confidence among farmers; that is, confidence of farmers in each other. The average farmer is too apt to look upon his neighbors in the light of a competitor, as a sort of business enemy who only wants an opportunity to take advantage of him. This state of feeling probably grows out of the isolated life led on the farm and the infrequency of social or business relations between farmers. Farmers very seldom have dealings with each other, and hence there has naturally grown up a sort of distrust one of the other. The Grange movement brings the farmers as a class together, and by interchange of ideas concerning their agricultural operations and calculations, by a relation of their successes and failures, by a more thorough understanding of each other's feelings, their hopes and fears, a mutual sympathy grows up and mutual confidence is cultivated. Members of the Grange are led by degree to each other more in the light of brothers, as they call each other in the Grange language, and the old notion that each farmer is a sort of competitor in business wears away. When these changes have taken place, the road is open to that co-operation so desirable among farmers, not only in the cultivation of their lands and the improvement of their agricultural knowledge and practice, but in the sale of their produce and the purchase of supplies. The Grange furnishes the machinery to bring farmers together, but mutual confidence in each other must furnish the clue to co-operative success. When farmers can be brought to see more fully their mutual interests and mutual dependence, and the similarity of their relations to all other classes, that confidence will naturally grow and be strengthened. If a sort of farmer's exchange were to be established in each Grange, where each farmer were to state, either in writing, or on a sort of bulletin-board, or orally, what he has for sale and what he wants to buy in the way of stock and other produce of the farm, it might in many cases lead to advantageous business transactions between the members. It frequently happens that one neighbor has an animal or animals for sale that another is looking for, and neither being aware of the other's wants, both undergo many inconveniences, and perhaps spend considerable time unnecessarily, the one in looking up a thing or animal wanted. The exchange suggested would frequently obviate all this inconvenience and loss of time, and result in material advantage.

As a precedent necessary to success in this direction, farmers should always be willing to sell anything they have to a brother farmer at the lowest figure they are willing to accept for it, and not ask a larger price than they would take of a dealer. We have reason to know that this rule is not always adopted where farmers attempt to deal with each other. If one farmer has hay to sell, or any other article of produce, we know it to be a custom to ask his neighbor farmer all he could get for it in town, allowing