

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. CREE, M. D., Newport.]

We are favored by our Maritime Provincial Grange Deputy with reports of a very pleasant trip to Toronto, and of the sessions of the Ontario Provincial Grange and the Dominion Grange, held in that city. As we anticipated, these sessions have resulted in the amalgamation of the Dominion Grange and the Ontario Provincial Grange, and in the virtual independence of the Maritime Provincial Grange of the present day.

The Ontario Provincial Grange continued in session from the morning of the 22nd to 11 o'clock p. m. on the 25th ult., adjourning for a short time on the latter day, to permit of a *pro forma* session of the Dominion Grange, at which it was decided to adjourn until Saturday the 27th ult., which arrangement, it was supposed, would allow the thirty days notice required by the Constitution. At 9 o'clock, a. m., on that day, the Grange again assembled, and was opened in ample form in the 4th Degree by Worthy Master Robert Wilkie. After the usual opening ceremonies and routine business, a number of committees reported—among the number one appointed to prepare replies to questions submitted by the Trades and Labor Congress. The report of this Committee elicited a long and interesting discussion. The subjects presented for consideration by this Congress should receive extended notice in a future issue.

The Master's address was very favorably received by the Grange, but excited some adverse criticisms from outsiders who, naturally enough, object to the independent anti-partizan sentiments expressed in the address. On Monday, 29th ult., the Committee on Constitution and By Laws reported, recommending radical changes in the Constitution of the Order which were formulated and adopted.

We quote the 6th clause of this report in full as adopted: "The Maritime Provincial Grange, or any Provincial Grange hereafter to be organized, shall have control of its own affairs, including the framing, altering, or amending its own Constitution, and making its own laws, but shall not change the names of the officers, the rituals, or the unwritten work, without the consent of the Dominion Grange. Provincial Granges shall pay no capitation tax or membership dues to the Dominion Grange, but shall pay a nominal sum for each Charter granted for the organization of Subordinate or Divisional Granges within their several jurisdictions, and shall purchase rituals from the Dominion Grange at a price that will cover the cost of publication. Provincial Granges shall receive from the Master of the Dominion Grange the annual Word, and shall be entitled to send one delegate to the sessions of the Dominion Grange, whose expenses shall be borne by such Provincial Grange." We understand that the Dominion Grange may also send one delegate to attend sessions of the Maritime Provincial Grange.

Radical changes in the Constitution, affecting the Order in Ontario exclusively, were also made. A resolution was passed confirming the amalgamation of the Ontario Provincial Grange and the Dominion Grange, which had already been decided upon by the former body. Representation to the amalgamated body, which is to be known as "The Dominion Grange of Canada," shall be direct from the Subordinate Granges of Ontario—one representative from each Subordinate Grange. Division Granges may also send one delegate, but must pay the expenses of such delegate.

The Subordinate Granges of Ontario are to have the power to reduce the initiation fee, but not below the sum of one dollar.

Whether these changes will result in the extension of the Order and in increased efficiency or the contrary, will depend, as far as this jurisdiction is concerned, upon the wise or unwise use the Maritime Provincial Grange makes of the legislative powers conferred upon it.

(Owing to the length of the address of the Master of the Dominion Grange, which follows here, we are compelled to hold over the balance of this article until next week.)

DOMINION GRANGE—MASTER'S ADDRESS.—Worthy Master R. Wilkie read the following address:—

We have again met together in this the 12th annual meeting of the Dominion Grange. In looking back over the past year we have many reasons to feel thankful to the Great Master of the universe for the favors we have received. The earth has supplied us with a fair yield of its fruits, and we have escaped the devastations of floods and storms and other commotions of nature, which have swept away the hopes and expectations of many of our fellow men, and left want and desolation in their track. With these blessings and advantages, and with the labors of an industrious and intelligent people carefully directed, our country cannot fail to enjoy a fair degree of prosperity; and perhaps in no country is there to be found less poverty and real destitution than in the agricultural districts of Canada. The necessities of life are cheap, and there is work for all who want it at such wages as the farmer can afford to pay. There is therefore no reason why any should want, unless through misfortune or infirmities they are unable to work. And just here I would like to call attention to the fact that in many sections of this country no proper provisions for the care of this class of unfortunates have been made, and while the criminals of our country are comfortably cared for, the honest poor are unprovided for. We are told that the poor we have always with us. This being the case some of them as are really needy should be properly cared for at the public

expense. However, while there is no reason why any should want who are able to work, this is nevertheless a country where man must labor to live, and the wealthy amongst farmers are comparatively few. Fact, good management and a degree of frugality are indispensable to success. There has been far too much boasting about the condition of the farmers in this country, and the result is that a false impression has gone abroad of the wealth which exists amongst them. It is said that in addition to their valuable farms large amounts lie to their credit in the banks. But the money thus deposited is very often intended to meet mortgages which are coming due, and other liabilities of a like nature which are maturing against their property, and which they are struggling to wipe out. Doubtless a very large amount of capital

IS INVESTED IN FARMING,

but much of it belongs to capitalists and is only loaned on the land—a very large proportion of which is under mortgage, much greater than most of people suppose. And much of it is hopelessly sunk. The only hope that still remains in many cases is that the land may be sold for something more than the amount of encumbrance. If any one doubts this, let him turn to the number of advertisements of farms for sale. The newspapers are full of them, and hundreds of land agents throughout the country are furnishing long lists free to any expectant purchaser. The owners of these lands are not men who are retiring on their fortunes, nor are they men who desire to engage in other pursuits. A large proportion of them are men who are selling to save the little which still remains, there being no longer any hope of saving the farm. A great deal of the money loaned on Canadian farms belongs to men in other countries, and is loaned by agents and monetary institutions. In such cases the capital invested does not all belong to the farmer; in some cases his interest in the land is very small, the balance belonging to the money lender, the farmer having the right to repurchase, or call it redemption if you like. But who pays the taxes? The farmer pays it all—pays taxes on the full cash valuation, whilst the money-lender, if he pays anything, pays only on the interest he collects. But there is a great amount of capital invested in land, stock and implements which belongs to the tillers of the soil of this Dominion. The actual return from this investment, after counting out the value of labor expended and contingent expenses of farm operations, is perhaps less than from the same amount invested in any other industry. There is nothing more uncertain than the returns of the farm. It may be tilled in the very best manner, the crops may be sown with the greatest judgment and care; but the misfortune of a wet season or a protracted drought, or the ravages of insects, may render the whole unprofitable. But the work has to be done. The crop must be harvested. What there is must be taken care of, for "half a loaf is better than no bread," and if there is but little there is more need for it. The price of produce has much to do with the profit of the farm, and the farmer has the option of taking the dealer's prices or keeping his produce. For what he buys he pays the price fixed by others, and for what he sells it is the same. In both cases it is often fixed by rings and combinations, and all he can do as an individual is to submit. It is not easy to find a remedy for these difficulties, if any can be brought about.

IT MUST BE BY ORGANIZATION.

Singly and alone, the farmer can never cope with the overwhelming odds that are pitted against him. The world of to-day seems to be run by rings and monster combinations. Every class is organized. The laborers are organized. The mechanics, the dealers, the doctors, the lawyers, all trades, occupations and professions have their active organizations of some kind, and are keenly alive to their advantages. The farmer alone seems to be the only man who looks on with indifference; and with amazing innocence he argues that there is no necessity for these organizations, that the world is none the better for them; that there was no such nonsense in olden times, and he will neither aid nor countenance the like. He does not seem to realize that the world of to-day is not like the world of olden times, nor that the net is weaving around him. Immense amounts of capital are gathered together and thrown into huge enterprises. And these again are amalgamated and placed under one board of management, being more easily controlled in this manner, and competition reduced to a minimum or entirely destroyed. Some instances of such combinations will be fresh in everyone's mind. The salt monopoly which existed prior to the opening of the Grange Salt Works at Kincardine had forced the price of salt up to \$1.50 per barrel, but as soon as the Grange works opened it fell nearly to one-third of that price, and the salt trade has been completely demoralized ever since. Last summer there was a ring or combination amongst the manufacturers of binders, and during its existence nothing less than \$200 would purchase a binder; but it went to pieces when they found they could not sell at these prices and were likely to be left with a large number on their hands, and in some instances they were sold for about half that price. Lately a combination has been perfected amongst the cotton manufacturers, and prices have materially advanced, and it may be long before they are so low again as the late prices. Amongst

THE RINGS OR COMBINATIONS

we might almost class the lawyers, or the law which we get at their hands. Our legislatures, which are composed chiefly of lawyers, have tinkered and amended and enacted laws until they are so perfect that they are a perfect uncertainty. They are like the man's tree that stood so straight that it leaned the other way. The law has become a terror to the poor man, for in most cases to him it means ruin. This has become so well understood that thousands suffer grievances rather than appeal to the tribunals which ought to enforce justice, for "when they ask for bread they receive a stone." The courts are conducted much on the principle of a debating club, the chairman