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THE GRANGE.

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All matters of business connected with Grange should be addressed to Toronto. All matters connected with this paper to Drawer A., Welland, Ont. Patrons will confer a favor by keeping the Grange and newspaper business entirely separate as above.

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.

THE GRANGE AND MUTUAL AID.

The following letter from Bro. D. H. Thing, Worthy Master of Maine State Grange, to the *Farmers' Friend*, Pa., is well worth a perusal, and we commend it to the careful attention of our readers:

At this time of general interest in the Order let us see to it that we build for the future as well as enjoy the present. To insure permanence and stability we need to feel our mutual dependence and our personal responsibility to realize that we, as individuals, are a part of the great army of Patrons which is to subdue the earth with plowshares and pruning-hooks. We need to feel that while we are to a certain extent dependent upon others, others have claims upon us, and that neither can be ignored with safety. How can this bond of union best be created and strengthened? Our Declaration of Purposes is the grandest paper in the English language; its principles are sublime; its sentiments challenge criticism; its claims right and just. Our Ritual is calculated to elevate the mind and broaden the intellect, and every step of our journey from the unbroken forest to the quiet

of home in the serene evening of life is filled with instructions. Careful and persevering heed to all the lessons taught will help us to provide for the present and do much to insure comfort in the future. But they do not annul the laws of mortality. We are passing away. Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters are continually dropping out and survivors are left to continue the battle of life alone. Our Order is composed of farmers; as a class we are not rich. We do far more to enrich others than ourselves. We do well as a class to provide for those dependent upon us to educate our children, fill our place in Society, keep our surroundings in good shape and meet the demands of the tax gatherer. But few of us can accumulate a surplus, and yet the contingencies of the future await us. How shall they be provided for!

Right here comes in the real benevolence and fraternity of the Order, and gives us the opportunity to divide our burdens and share our good and ill fortune. The Patrons' Mutual Aid offers us just what will meet the emergency. It is no lottery, no game of chance, does not offer us something for nothing, is not a game where one must die to win, but is just a mutual affair, a bearing of one another's burdens. We may be hale and hearty now and in need of nothing, but sickness and death will come sometime. Doctors bills, nurses, undertakers, probate courts, hired help, headstones and all the extra expenses attending the experiences through which all must pass, come when we are least able to bare them. Now, my brother, let me suggest that you become a member of the Mutual Aid, and also make your wife a member if you are fortunate as to have one; that your policy be payable to her and hers to you. That is all there is of it. By and by a member dies. You are called on for one dollar. Respond promptly in the goodness of your heart to aid a distressed worthy brother or sister, and get your pay as you go in the good feeling a generous act produces, and you will feel the assessment only as a pleasure; and by and by when the same terrible experiences overtake you, a few hundred dollars will come to the dear ones left behind at the very time when it is most needed. There, that is mutual aid, all there is of it. No high salaries, no costly offices, no travelling agents; all is fair and above board, everything honest and equal, and spread out so as to be easily borne and sure in all results. So simple that it would seem that no argument is needed to show the economy and precedence of the operation. Mr. Editor, when I look the whole matter over I am surprised that all farmers, farmers' wives and farmers' sons and daughters are not Patrons; and I am more surprised that all are not members of the Patrons' Aid. But the world moves slowly. Farmers have so long trodden out the corn for others that they have come to think no man unselfish or honest; but the truth is being apprehended. Our Order is attracting increasing attention; our aid societies are increasing in members; our Grange papers are obtaining a wider circulation; farmers are feeling and acting more independently; party whips are losing their terror, and all indications point to a more healthful public sentiment; and no influence has contributed more largely to this result than the Grange press. May the people be wise and sustain it.

Fraternally,
D. H. THING.

TEXAS STATE GRANGE.

The following extracts are taken from the able address of Worthy Master Rose, delivered before the Texas State Grange, Aug. 8, 1882:

CO-OPERATION.

We apply this term to all Grange work, for without united effort the Grange would never have been organized; little can be done unaided and alone. In every plan adopted by the Grange for the promotion of its members, each one must contribute his or her part or else lose the benefits to be derived. It is not expected that every one can do the same work—each is fitted for his or her sphere—yet all can help in extending its principles and benefits. As the social, moral and educational features are dependent upon the business feature, to a great extent, it becomes necessary to encourage financial co-operation. We believe the credit system to be demoralising, tending to make mankind lose confidence in each other, and also to lessen their opinion in their own ability to do. We are clearly of the opinion that the credit and mortgage system is one of the greatest curses that a people ever permitted to fasten upon them and all just means should be used to eradicate it. Who can be sociable with a heavy debt hanging over them? or how can we educate our children without the means? Co-operation has a code of laws and principles which, if put into practice, will stimulate and arouse to greater action each participant, thereby increasing self-confidence. We know of no instance where the laws of co-operation have been complied with, where business has not been a success. This feature has done much to build up the Order in Texas. The co-operative members have carefully considered the interests of the Grange, that no move should be made which would detract from or weaken its interests, but give it strength, by requiring all who became directly interested to keep up their good standing in a Subordinate Grange. This feature has proved to be of far more importance to our Order than was at first admitted by some of our members. The farmers being in direct business communication with the commercial world, their enlightenment upon this subject was of vital importance. The thought that has been awakened among our people by discussing this question has proved of much value to them. The practical lessons here taught have induced greater effort to disseminate the business principles among the Subordinate Granges. Knowing that it takes springs, rivulets and rills to support a river, it was easy to determine where to start our commercial enterprises. That, as it takes springs to keep up the flow of a river, so it takes local stores to keep up and sustain a wholesale purchasing agency. In 1878 it was decided that enough of these fountains had been started to establish a wholesale purchasing agency. This was done, which has more than met the expectations of its founders and many of its earnest supporters. These fountains have continued to burst out in different portions of our State until they now number more than one hundred, which continues to increase the agent's facilities for buying and selling. With proper care this movement will prove of incalculable value to the producers of this country. Wherever an effort has been made in commercial co-operation its influence for good to the masses has been admitted, even by those who are not taking a direct interest. Every safeguard has been thrown around this and the local stores, to insure pro-

tection to all who entrust their business or money in their channels. When full protection has not been provided, the fault is with those who inaugurated and managed the business, and not in the general plan. We would not have the State Grange do more than give such endorsements as its merits demand, this would strengthen its influence with the Order, the success of which will continue to assist in building up the Grange. Co-operation, with gigantic strides, moves safely and quietly over the land, as the dew of heaven, dispersing wide its blessings alike upon all mankind.

AGRICULTURE.

It is stated that the prosperity of a nation is in proportion to the value of its production. This would argue that the farmers of the South were the most prosperous people on the globe, producing her six or seven millions of bales of cotton per annum, worth at a home market over three hundred millions of dollars. But upon investigation, we find it takes over half of this to furnish supplies, and most, if not all of the remainder, to pay for labor and taxes. It is estimated that the South has paid the last season over two hundred millions of dollars to other sections for wheat, corn, oats, hay, meat, butter, cheese, potatoes, &c. This neglect upon the part of producers to provide for the necessities of life for the productions of a crop that under the present management of growing, gathering, marketing there is but little or no profit on, and often produced at loss, is one of the reasons why agriculture in the South is trailing in the dust. Shall this state of things exist?

It has been urged by the organization of Patrons of Husbandry from its inception that an equal, uniform, adhesion to mixed husbandry, would add greatly to our prosperity. Patrons of Texas, shall we continue to proclaim these important truths until they are generally complied with. We certainly fail to see the opportunity that is within our reach. Cotton is taxed on every hand, why then raise so much (2) just enough to supply the demand is all that is necessary; this could be easily calculated. Then by concert of action, a just reward for labor expended could be secured. Your duty is apparent, will you act wisely? Let all continue to impress the necessity of home production for the necessities of life, and make our cotton the surplus crop.

WOMAN IN THE GRANGE.

Ours is the first organization to receive the weaker sex (so-called) into full membership. We acknowledge the foresight and wisdom of the noble brother who perfected the work of the Order, in giving equal prominence to the degrees for our wives and daughters, with those for ourselves, and in the offices assigned to them elevating them to their true position—goddesses among men. For both of these they have shown their appreciation, in their efforts for the welfare of the Order. In every idea advanced for the promotion of our interest, we find the Matrons eager to contribute all in their power to forward the good work. Noble descent, high culture, and elegant surroundings, may or may not be, but she is true to herself in any and every position. Sincerity, benevolence and the charity which vaunteth not itself, are her watchwords; such women we find in all the walks of life, and especially in the Grange. A blessing and a joy are they to it; without such gentle spirits, men would retrograde on the highway of civilization. The Grange is the only organization, except the church, where the wives and