

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF THE GRANGERS.

From the Manchester Examiner.

We have heard a good deal, and are likely to hear a great deal more, of certain associations which have sprung up in the wheat-growing districts of the United States and Canada. They are called granges, and the members belonging to them are called grangers, names suggestive respectively of places where grain is stored, and persons whose business lies in producing and selling grain. According to the new significance it has received, a grange is a farmers' union or club. Its object is to promote the interests of agriculture, and more especially on their commercial side, by obtaining on the cheapest terms the various machines and implements used in the cultivation of the soil, and by devising the cheapest means for getting the produce of the soil into the hands of the actual consumers. This two-fold object will be found in the last resort to touch upon two large questions—the fiscal policy of the United States, which makes so many things dearer than they otherwise would be, and the existing system for the conveyance of heavy goods from the interior to the Atlantic seaboard. These are the questions which sooner or later will have to be taken up, but the farmers at present are only feeling their way to them. They have been calling out for an increase of the currency, and for lower railway freights, but their outcries are only to be regarded as symptoms of general discontent. The farmers have arrived at the conviction that they are the victims of an artificial system of commerce. They complain that it costs them the price of three bushels of wheat to get one bushel conveyed to Liverpool, and that, what with the charges of railway transit and the exorbitant commissions of the brokers and other middlemen at New York, they are robbed of a large proportion of the profits which ought to accrue to them. They have a suspicion that the clever men "down east" have managed things for their own advantage, and that the result is to impose upon the agricultural States an intolerable yoke, which must be broken at all hazards before the farmer of the Mississippi Valley can get his own, or the resources of the interior be properly developed. It is not very long since the movement began, but it has overspread the country like a tidal wave. The Mississippi States are filled with granges, and the number of members is estimated at two millions and a half. Without being political, they, nevertheless, look to legislation for the attainment of some of the ends they have in view. They are neither Republicans nor Democrats in the old sense of those party names, but a new party seeking to fix a basis for itself in an intelligent recognition of the material interests of the country. Their influence was paramount in the elections of last autumn, and their leaders promise themselves to have the legislature wholly under their control within the next three years.

Regarded from a commercial point of view, the new movement is a rebellion against the autocracy of New York, and the pretensions generally of the Eastern States, and an assertion of the agricultural interests of the West as those which are naturally and rightfully supreme. The first sore point is the cost of conveying goods across the continent to and from New York, and a demand has sprung up for direct trade with Europe by the Mississippi River and New Orleans. The Mississippi Valley is certainly one of the most remarkable regions in the world. The area drained by itself and its tributary streams is equal to two millions of square miles, and is inhabited by twenty-three millions of people. The Mississippi pours along like a great highway right in the midst of this large and rapidly growing population, already equal to that of England and Wales. From the point where it begins to be navigable, at St. Paul, Minn., to the Gulf, is a distance of a thousand miles, and on either side of it are great navigable streams, giving access to the adjacent districts for hundreds of miles. It is estimated that there are from twenty thousand to thirty thousand miles of river communication in the Mississippi Valley, the most gigantic system of ready-made water conveyance to be found on the globe. The advocates of "direct trade" ask whether it is not absurd to send the agricultural products of the West to New York, when it could be carried down to New Orleans at a tithe of the cost. By availing themselves of this cheap route which nature has made for them, they say it would be in their power to offer their wheat at Liverpool eight shillings a quarter less than they can do now. The whole of this saving would not be effected solely in the cost of transit, but the farmers imagine that by trading "direct" with Europe they would escape the mercantile burdens thrown upon them at New York. In this part of their reckoning they are perhaps too sanguine.

But cheaper means of transit is only a small matter compared with the burdens thrown upon American producers by a protectionist tariff. This is the real slavery in which the West is held by the East, and it is as much opposed to the spirit of the constitution as it is to the welfare of the people. There is five times more of capital invested in farms than in manufactures of all kinds, and it is only a part of these manufactures that can be supposed to derive any benefit from protection, yet to hamper and bolster up this small sectional interest, the whole of the population is made to pay twice as much as they need to pay for almost everything they use or wear. The Western farmers are beginning to see really how matters stand. Their prejudices have been enlisted against free trade by the sophistical teaching of the New York Tribune in the days of Horace Greeley, but facts are stubborn things, and the extent to which the agricultural interests are victimized and defrauded by the protectionist system now in force is too palpable a fact to be questioned when people look at it with their own eyes. The case is stated with great ability and abundant plainness in a lecture delivered a few

months ago to the New Orleans Grange by the Hon. T. D. Worrall, Secretary of the Louisiana Academy of Arts and Sciences. "When," says Dr. Worrall, "you send your grain, pork, flour or cotton to England, the Government throws wide open its ports and bids you welcome, no duties are imposed, and no customs-house official obstructs your course. How is it with British manufactures sent to this country? They are burdened with excessive tariffs, which frequently amount to more than the first cost of the article, and as these are the goods that the British people desire to exchange for our grain, produce and staples, we do not sell to them one bushel of grain or one pound of staples where we should sell ten if our ports were free to their manufactures as their are to our products." Dr. Worrall tells his hearers of good union broadcloth which would be in vogue at New Orleans at a dollar a yard, but after passing through the custom-house its price is two dollars, therefore, "should the 2,000,000 more than was necessary. If the duties keep these goods out of the market the farmers lose \$5,000,000 that would otherwise be invested in produce. It is thus that your tariffs drive away your best customers." We quote these extracts to show the sound doctrine which finds apostles on American soil. As it is with the farmer's coat, so is it with every article into which iron enters—even chain, every plough, every article of hardware. He pays through the nose for everything, in order that a few manufacturers in the eastern states may make large fortunes.

CAPITAL AND LABOR.

There seems to be on the part of many newspaper writers and stump orators a disposition to persuade the industrial classes that there is real antagonism between capital and labor, the former endeavoring to make unjust exactions of the latter. The most obtuse questions of political economy are involved in the relations of capital to labor, hence there is always danger that superficial thinkers will fail to comprehend their true relations and purposes, and when such thinkers fancy they have grasped the whole matter and straightway set themselves to the task of enlightening mankind, there is sure disturbance to all industries—damaging alike to capital and to labor.

We are not at present endeavoring to show what should be the management of capital nor what should be the application of labor. But we set forth this principle—that when freed from the disturbing influences used by demagogues and the well meaning but intemperate discussions by honest men who do not understand their theme, there is no antagonism between capital and labor. There is in fact a mutual dependence, each tending by its active employment to strengthen and benefit the other. An erroneous idea seems to prevail in this matter regarding the aims and desires of the order known as the Patrons of Husbandry, that it is to assert the supremacy of labor and make it, if possible, independent of capital, or even its master. Certainly there is no such purpose nor desire. The impression has been created by the intemperate zeal of a few men who are smitten with visionary theories regarding the great wickedness of wealth. Capital is created by labor, hence the people who can apply the most labor may always, if wise management be employed, create and hold the most capital. At this moment the class from which all the recruits to the great order of Patrons of Husbandry are drawn, farmers, managers and controls not only more of capital than is held by any other class, but actually more than all other classes in the country. How absurd, then, to charge that it is hostile to capital. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

We deprecate the tendency on the part of many journals, professing to serve the granges, to discuss questions in a spirit which seems desirous of provoking discussion, especially at this time when all that is desired to bring the greatest prosperity to all our people is harmony, and confidence among all laborers and employes. With such confidence it would matter not a farthing whether our money were rag or bullion. There would be behind it such solid faith, such high honor, such firm integrity that every interest in all the land would spring into the greatest activity, and with that there would be continued prosperity. With the grand resources of this country there is no possible calamity short of war or pestilence, which would serve to depress business, nor would any so operate if confidence could be maintained.

It is futile to charge the present dullness upon the timidity of capitalists alone. There are causes behind that. We have indicated them in a general way, and we have now to add that if the farmers of this country will act wisely they can compel good times within a few months in spite of all human influence which may be supposed to be adverse. Of course there must be a stop to stealing by public servants, although a return to properer times does not depend on that. The public morals must be improved, and the beginning must be with private morals. Every man has his duty. He has even a political duty which he may not put off nor neglect without damage somewhere. It will not avail to say the times are out of joint and some mysterious turn must come before capital and labor can move harmoniously together and general prosperity be returned. There is no mystery in the matter. As we will, so shall we be. Shall we be prosperous?—Husbandman.

WHAT THE GRANGE IS NOT!

"Its object is not to place the people at the command of any set of politicians, but to enable them to combine and take counsel together, for the promotion of their own interests and the improvement of their own condition. Party politics are entirely excluded; the imaginary lines which have hitherto divided men engaged in the same industry, and whose interests are perfectly now identical, are in these societies swept away; neighbor grasps the hand of

neighbor in the fellowship of mutual help, without distinction of Grit or Tory. Real and substantial objects take the place of fictitious principles and fantastic names. Union takes the place of divisions created mainly for the purposes of designing men. So far, at all events, the granges seem to be a gain to the country. Nor, while we await further developments, do we as yet see anything in their objects or their action which should lead us to regard them with suspicion. They act as co-operative associations, like those which have been so extensively developed, and have so much promoted thrift as well as cheapness in England, supplying the farmers with articles of better quality and at reduced cost. They are organs ready for any work of mutual help and improvement, not excluding perhaps the social intercourse so acceptable to the dweller on the lonely farm. They will enable the farmers to take counsel together on questions of fiscal legislation affecting them, as well as all other questions concerning them as a body, and to act in union for their common interest, thus doing for the farmer something like what is done for the commercial class by the board of trade. The principle of association is of course always liable to misuse, and those who enter into any bond of union less broad than the country, have always need to bear in mind that the country is above all. We trust that this will not be forgotten by the grangers, and that they will never allow any influence which they may possess, or the sight of their increasing numbers and growing organization, to tempt them to sully, by any measure of selfish injustice towards their citizens, the honor of the Plough.—Toronto Nation.

A SOUND FOUNDATION.

The history of institutions which have had a short and transient existence, when studied, will show that they originated in the whim or fancy of individuals, or were founded for some specific purpose ephemeral in its character. While, on the other hand, institutions or organizations having their foundation in human needs, and demanded by the new conditions and advancement of the age, are permanent and lasting. Among those of the latter class may be placed the organization known as the Patrons of Husbandry. The dignity of labor and the noble calling of the Husbandman had long been a pleasant fiction of the poets and orators, lacking a practical knowledge of the stern realities of agricultural life. Periodically the politician, desiring to serve the people in the halls of legislation, and the capitalist, who wished the votes or the moral support of the agricultural citizens, talked of the independence and nobility of the farmer's life. But the unfortunate fact remained behind all this service rendered, that the producing classes did not fill the places in the public economy of our nation to which they were entitled, and which was as necessary to its purity and dignity as to their welfare.

A country like this, eminently a producing one, where agriculture in its different forms is the foundation of the social and financial structure, needs a class of farmers as wise, intelligent and cultivated as any part of its people. Agricultural prosperity, not to speak of the safety of our institutions, depends upon this. The farmer must not only know how to reach the highest and most intelligent results in the way of production, but he must also add to this wide range of knowledge the education of the merchant, to enable him to buy and sell; of the statesman, that he may vote wisely; of the lawyer, that he may both criticize and use the law.—Smalley's Manual.

THE GLORIOUS ENGLISH WORKERS.

To show what the English societies, with their millions of capital, are now doing, I give here an extract from an article in the "London Contemporary Review." "Who would have thought that flannel weavers and tinkers, shoemakers and cotton spinners of Rochdale, nor some with wax and carbon and oil, who began their petty, absurd stores in 1844, were founding a movement the voice of which would pass like a cry of deliverance into the camps of industry throughout the English speaking people. Who dreamed that these obscure mechanics, who had no means but peace and no sense but common sense, would in 1872 cause every shop-keeper in every high street in every town and city of the British Empire to scream with an unknown dread, and to cry to members of Parliament, and crowd the offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, praying to be delivered from the deluge of co-operation which they suppose threatens to submerge them!"

Let us set this same class on that same scream here! Not a tenth part of the middlemen are necessary. They are men and brothers, but they need to be "converted," changed into producers.

NOTES ON CANADA.—Winter is setting in earlier than usual in Canada, sharp frosts and heavy snowfalls having occurred at quite a number of places, a month before the date of similar events last year.—The Government of New Brunswick is importing thoroughbred live stock for the purpose of improving the cattle of the province, and held last week an auction sale of a lot costing \$21,000, which realized over \$15,000.—It is feared that much distress will be experienced among the mining districts of Cape Breton the coming winter, owing to the large number of unemployed men. The miners are awaiting for Government aid.—It is expected that 19,000 acres of marsh will be reclaimed by a change which has just been made in the course of the Aux Sauble River, between Lambton and Middlesex, Ontario, the stream having been turned into a new channel cut for the purpose.—The Canadian Fisheries Department has received from Prof. Baird, of Washington, the gift of 100,000 eggs of the California salmon, from the State hatching house at Sacramento.—Hay is being shipped from Montreal to Great Britain.

Stock.

THE COACH OR CARRIAGE HORSE.

It is astonishing to us why some of our breeders do not breed the old time coach or carriage horse that we used to see twenty-five years ago. We can recollect when it was little or no trouble to pick up a lot of splendid geldings which could be mated and matched within a fortnight. This is almost an impossibility now. You very rarely see a fine stepping matched team of coach or carriage horses. Why this great change? Because the desire to breed fast trotters from all sorts and conditions of horses has nearly made extinct the old beautiful high-stepping coach horses. Stallions and mares of this kind are rarely seen now. The country is full of cheap trotting sires that are ready to serve mares at any price. In some cases they have a fair pedigree, but have other gross defects in action, make and temper. Some of them have fictitious pedigrees, and many farmers are tempted by the low fee to breed from them. The produce may turn out well by some accident, perhaps, because the mare in a measure overcomes some of the bad qualities of the horse. But if they fail to get a trotter, the horse is generally worth little or nothing, whereas in breeding fine, stylish coach horses, they can always be sold for good prices.

Our farmers run a great risk in breeding good sound handsome mares to indifferent sires, because if a mare is put to a bad stallion, she is almost certain to throw back (in her produce) the bad qualities of the former sire, and perhaps some of her own defects.

There is no more remunerative enterprise that a farmer could enter upon than to breed first class coach or carriage stock, such as we used to see before speed became all the rage. We want the old style coach horse of high repute, possessing substance well placed, deep and well proportioned body, strong, and clean bone under the knee, open, sound and tough feet, with fine knee action, lifting his feet high, ranging in height from fifteen and a half to sixteen and a half hands high. Ned Forrest was the best specimen of this class of horse that we have had for years, and he was a great loss to the country. Such a sire imported to Kentucky would not only do well, but be a decided improvement on our coach and carriage stock.—Kentucky Live Stock Record.

CROSS BRED SHEEP.

The cross bred races of sheep are the most popular breeds with those who look to the wool and mutton for their profit. The pure bred sheep, so called, or those which go back to a long distant ancestry for their origin, are chiefly bred not for their value in wool and mutton, but for the purposes of crossing upon other races for the production of a really profitable market sheep. The pure South Down, the Cotswold and especially the Leicesters, are found to be less profitable sheep for the farmer than the Oxford, the Hampshire and the Shropshire sheep. These last are cross bred sheep, and amongst English farmers go by the significant name of "rent-payers." In Germany and France the pure breeds have been found less profitable than cross-breeds, and we are making the same discovery in this country. There is a popular need of sheep which produce a large carcass of choice mutton, along with a fleece of wool which bears as high a price per pound as that of any of the pure races, and which can be brought to early maturity and made to weigh heavily at less expenditure than the pure bred sheep. At the same time we need a sheep of hardy constitution, which can stand the rough usage of the farm better than the high bred races. We know of no farmer, unless he has been favorably situated, who has been able to keep a flock of pure bred sheep of the kinds mentioned up to their original standard. It does not pay a farmer to keep pure breeds for the production of mutton at 6 to 8 cents a pound. But he can produce half-bred sheep by the use of pure bred rams, whose mutton will be worth the highest price of the market, from ewes whose mutton would not bring over 4 cents a pound. Thus the business of breeding pure bred sheep, to supply rams to farmers for the purpose of improving their flocks, has reached to great proportions, and must still increase. But the English bred sheep are not exactly what we want. We want some native breeds, which shall not need to go through a course of acclimation, nor to be periodically reinforced by new blood imported for the purpose, thus making us dependent on foreign breeders for our stock.—Am Ag.

CANADIAN PURCHASERS OF STOCK.

Mr. F. W. Stone, Guelph, Canada, has just received the following Shorthorns, purchased at recent sales in England.—Bull Baron Berkeley, roan, 9 mos., bred by the Earl of Rectric, Underley Hall, Westmoreland, got by the 3rd Duke of Gloster (a son of 10th Duke of Thorsdale, 23,458, and 8th Duchess of Aldrie), dam Baroness Bates by Baron Oxford 5th (27,938), g d Lady Bates 7th by 3rd Duke of Geneva (23,753). Cow Jessica, red, 3 years, bred by F. Leup, Wateringbury, Kent, got by 16th Grand Duke (21,852), out of Purity by Lord Wallace (24,473), and her rood b. c. by 8th Duke of Geneva. Heifer Formosa, red roan, 18 mos., bred by Lord Skelmersdale, Lancashire, got by Cherry Grand Duke 5th (23,753), dam Farewell's White Rose by Earl of Eglinton (23,832).

KEROSENE TEST.—Good kerosene should be colorless or light yellow, or with the faintest tint of violet. It should have no unpleasant odor, and at 15° should have a specific gravity not exceeding 0.804, or not less than 0.795. When shaken with a sulphuric acid diluted with its own bulk of water, it should only color the acid a light yellow, becoming itself lighter in color by the treatment.