

Patrons of Husbandry.

Meeting of the Dominion Grange.

THE WORTHY MASTER'S ADDRESS.

The Dominion Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, met in the lecture room of Shaftesbury Hall, October 26th. There were present forty-seven delegates from Division Granges, also eleven officers of the Dominion Grange, and about fifty patrons from subordinate Granges. Twenty-one Divisions were represented.

Worthy Master W. Hill, after opening the Grange, gave a short address, congratulating the members on the great progress the order had made during the past year, their being now 274 Granges, comprising several thousand members, compared with 44 of last year, with 1,300 members.

During the evening session, B. J. Case, Master of the New Hampshire State Grange, and member of the Executive Committee of the U. S. Grange, was introduced and fraternally received, and when asked to address the Grange did so in a very forcible and instructive manner, expressing the wish that the Dominion and National Granges might co-operate for the good of the order. After which, Worthy Master S. W. Hill delivered his annual address as follows:—

PATRONS.—We have left the busy and varied scenes of our homes, and have laid aside for a while the implements of occupation, to congregate here in a representative capacity to legislate for the interests of our order; and in congratulating you on the happy results of our congregation in Canada, I can do no less than call your attention to the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us in life and in health, as well as in basket and in store; for all which the heart's deepest devotion is due to Him who can bless or blight our prospects.

In my address at our last annual meeting I called attention in an especial manner to our home surroundings and I still wish to impress upon the members of the Grange the importance of enhancing the appearance and pleasures of our homes, for in that, I believe, depends many of our happy successes in life, and it is a powerful instrument placed in our hands to strengthen our attachments to our occupation and the attachment of our children to the occupation of their fathers, and if any were led by ambition or otherwise to leave their homes, their reflections would be associated with the days of their youth, and would prevent them from falling into error; for what is there a man looks back to from the scenes of struggling life with purer and holier feelings than the happy home of his childhood?

As has been stated by our worthy secretary in his circular to subordinate Granges, the Dominion Grange is morally, numerically and financially a success, and with his statements I can but compare the present with the past. At the last meeting of the Dominion Grange we had but forty-five subordinate Granges in our jurisdiction; we now have two hundred and forty-seven subordinate Granges, twenty-two Division Granges, with a manifest increase of interest among the farmers throughout the country, to enlist in the cause that so immediately affects their occupation. Granges have recently been established in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, thus enlisting in our jurisdiction the Grange interest of the four Provinces. The order has now arrived at an important point in its history in this country. We will find many, who are opposed to us, putting forth every effort to stay our progress, and as soon as we are deemed of sufficient strength by others to be made available, we will be sought after to gain for themselves influence and position; therefore it becomes each member to guard every avenue of the Grange against all such intruders, where it is prompted by selfish motives, keeping in view the fact that we are bonded together for a higher and holier purpose than to be the instrument in the hands of designing men. The Grange has its work to do. We shall eventually ask for the protection of our interests, equal to other interests of the country, as well as to elevate the farmer's occupation and lead his mind to a different train of thought. Many questions of importance will be brought before you, and I trust your deliberations thereon will be marked with dignity and justice, and I would call your attention to the importance of devising some plan to assist and inter-est subordinate Granges, believing it to be a duty incumbent upon this Grange to extend that paternal care as far as possible. It would not only add

strength to the order, but would beget a uniformity in sentiment, and place the organization upon a sound working basis. And I would recommend to all the members of the order a close adherence to our declaration of principles. The desire is still apparent in all our subordinate Granges for a recognition by the National Grange of the United States; and, as delegated members from those Granges, we acknowledge said national Grange as the parent institution, and will use all honorable means for amicable and fraternal relations. As that Grange has been successful in binding more closely the agricultural interests of the country, so fraternal union of the two Granges might be instrumental in more closely uniting the well known dependent relations existing between the two countries.

In thus reviewing the happy success of the Grange, we may rejoice in our strength, but temper it with gentleness, and a spirit of love for all mankind—a love that shall perpetuate tranquility, and leave the boundless and rapidly increasing resources of the country at liberty for its future development. Then let no man land his occupation above another. Still, if any one occupation or mode of life is superior to another, it is that which in its very nature furnishes the motive power that gives impetus to all others—and this one we must accord to the rural life. I admonish you to cherish the highest regard for the other arts and sciences, as well as legitimate trade, remembering we are all parts of a great whole, weak when taken alone, strong when united in the bonds of social brotherhood. We are dependent upon each other; for, as the sons of science are scouring every heath, and prairie and wilderness, to see if some new grass lies hidden in some unexplored glade, if some rude stock of the forest, can offer a new fruit to the hand of culture, I speak of these things not only to assure those who are opposed to this organization, that we wage no aggressive warfare upon their interests, but to incite an interest in the members of the Grange, as well as the farmers of Canada, to a better protection of their real life; in itself peaceful and happy—free from the corroding cares and anxieties of trade and commerce, free from the harassing toils of professional life—conductive in itself to virtue and religion. Containing in itself the germs of usefulness, that gives an impulse to all other interests. Shall we not then strive to elevate it to the high position to which its merits entitle it? How shall it be done? I answer by adhering to our principles, “and laboring to develop a better and higher manhood among ourselves. To enhance the comforts and attractions of our homes and strengthen our attachments to our pursuits, to foster mutual understanding and co-operation.” We may meet with difficulties and disappointments. These are but impediments thrown in the pathway of life. Let none despond, but toil on; and, as we gain knowledge, we will gain power to triumph over the physical difficulties that lie in our path.

“Pause not in fear;
Preach thy desponding, servile view—
What’er thou wilt thy will may do;
Strengthen each manly nerve to bend
Truth’s bow and bid his shaft ascend!
Toil on!”

Be firm of heart;
By fusion of unnumbered years,
A Continent its vastness rears;
A drop, ’tis said, through flint will wear;
Toil on, and Nature’s conquest share!
Toil on!”

During the morning and evening sessions considerable important business was transacted relating to the order.

O. H. Kelley, Secretary of the National Grange, says that Granges are being organized now at the rate of about eighty per month; that would be an increase of about two thousand four hundred members for every thirty days.—*Ohio Farmer*.

At one time the Order of Patrons of Husbandry seemed to be on the wane as to interest in Iowa, but the tide seems to have turned and the Secretary reports 912 more members for the June quarter than were reported at the March quarter.

Mr. B. F. Bryant, a member of Shelby Grange, No. 20 of Shelby county, Ky., lately had his wheat stacks burned by an incendiary, and, as he could ill afford such a loss, the Grange made up, by contributions of wheat and money, about enough to cover the loss. This exemplifies a species of insurance that exists among Patrons.—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

Patrons of Husbandry News.

The National Grange is in session at Louisville this week. Officers are to be elected for the next three years, and action will be taken on a number of very important subjects. Probably the future prosperity of the Order will be more affected by the action taken than by anything done in the past.—*W. Rural*.

In all, ninety-two Granges were organized in the United States during October. This makes a total of 306 in three months.

The position of official organ of the State Grange of Louisiana has been resigned by *Our Home Journal*, which, however, offers its columns freely for any matter of general interest.

The *Rural New Yorker* thinks the social and material advantages gained through the Order are sufficient to secure its perpetuity. If it fails at all, it thinks the reason will be found in its attempting too much and having too much centralized power. It thinks the arguments in favor of simplifying the ritual and dispensing with as much machinery in the Order as possible, are sound.

The *Chicago Times* thinks the Order has done great good socially and considerable in co-operation. It suggests that the National Grange meetings are a little too expensive; that the members should give their time during attendance at these meetings and only be paid actual expenses, and that mileage be not allowed the wives of members. It advises the National Grange to recommend “honest money,” and oppose a tariff for benefit of manufacturers. It also says:—“To our mind, the great mistake of the patrons has been in trying to regulate matters over which they have no control, and in paying no attention to abuses which they could correct. They have sought to regulate the carrying trade, but have shown no concern about the character of the produce that was transported. They have shown up the frauds of commission merchants, but have covered up their own frauds in relation to the goods consigned to them.”

The Patrons in the vicinity of Ottumwa, Mo., have a co-operative store, with a cash capital of about \$3,000. It made a dividend of ten per cent. out of the net profits on the first six months. The stock is owned by Patrons in shares of ten dollars each, no Patron being allowed to own more than ten shares.

The Executive Committee of the Missouri State Grange earnestly urges the National Grange to so amend the constitution that all fourth degree members shall be eligible to any office in either the County, State, or National Grange, and also to any of the degrees known to the Order.

The *Rural World* says the main object of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry has been, and is, to encourage and advance education in all branches of agriculture, and to elevate the occupation of the farmer to its true position among the productive interests of the world.

What Next?

Now that the granges have been organized to so great an extent, and in many instances have initiated nearly all the farmers within their jurisdiction, is it not time to think of enlarging its scope in accordance with the original design of its founders. On page 24, of Brother O. H. Kelley's History of the Order, we find the following:

As soon as lodge work is over, open the doors and admit the public, or have regular evenings for the public to be present, to listen to lectures or discussions, and have these frequent—once a week if possible. Let the Department of Agriculture send out the most capable and talented men in the country, to lecture before the grange upon horticulture, etc., giving illustrated lectures. Let each grange have a fair every fall, and require every member to exhibit at least one bushel of some kind of produce. This to be the property of the grange, and to be given to the poor under its charge.

We take pleasure in referring to this subject, as we believe it to be an essential feature and one which, if rightly managed, will result in much good. The lecture should be followed by an informal off-hand discussion, and a brisk fire of cross questions would do much to eliminate truth from error, and it would be highly interesting to the audience. As the season of the year has arrived when a lecture course should be instituted, we say let this subject be taken up and considered and acted upon, and let it be at least one answer to our pertinent inquiry of what next?—*Rural World*.