

at the hands of the great controlling agencies of the day. Through the medium of organization a grand revolution has been commenced, and though that revolution may be slow, it is sure, steadfast and increasing, and will eventually triumph.

As the representative farmers of this country, we no longer require to be persuaded that agriculture must occupy a higher place among our national industries; that nothing short of this will properly promote our interests and protect our rights, and we look forward to the day when the calling of agriculture shall be raised to the rank of a recognized power second to none in the land; when money kings and railway rings, and all combinations which have hitherto held the farmer beneath their iron grasp, will succumb to the popular verdict of the people, and right shall rule.

While political partizans and party leaders point us to their political banners and appeal to our party and sectional feelings, and seek through the weakness of our allegiance to our common cause, and the blind fanaticism with which we imbibe their fraudulent harangues to ride into place and power; we, the representative element of the great producing class who are, and are to be, the hope and pride of this great country, should not only remain steadfast and immovable, and utterly deaf to their false alarms, but should put forth all our energies in endeavoring to allay the heat of political passions and strife thus engendered, and endeavor to bring together those having a common interest into one grand national organization, through which we could make our power and influence felt in the land, and for the good of our common cause and the country. But, says one, you are endeavoring to array class against class. Nothing of the kind. The very reverse is our purpose. Any movement which builds up privileged classes tends to array class against class. Any movement which places one class in a position higher than it is entitled to by its numbers, wealth and importance, tends to array class against class, by engendering jealousy, discontent and envy, which we seek to reconcile by a proper readjustment of the position of classes. Shall we succeed in this undertaking or shall we continue to bow our necks to the yoke as our ancestors have done for ages?

In taking a retrospective glance at the condition of our Order throughout the Dominion, and at the same time considering some of the causes which contributed to our present condition, I think we have just reason to feel proud of our standing.

When we consider the unrivalled stagnation in all business circles, the severe pinch of financial depression, in which all classes of industry participated; compelling business men to force their wares upon the market almost at first cost, thereby rendering our co-operative movements comparatively useless, and driving large numbers of our people back into the old channels of credit, is it any wonder that those who were induced to join us by pecuniary motives only should have become lukewarm? It is true that signs of decay are apparent in some parts of the heritage, which our returns clearly show; but it is just as true that in others all is life and vigor; that notwithstanding the great hue and cry set up by our enemies that we are dying out, during the summer months just past new Granges have been organized at the rate of one per week. And further, it is a fact, patent in the history of every organization, that with a growth so prolific as ours, so rapid and so universal, unrivalled in the annals of any society, more or less unsound wood, unnatural growth and lifeless branches have eventually to be pruned off.

At the last annual session you instructed the Executive to thoroughly revise and consolidate our constitution, and add thereto a constitution for Provincial Granges, which task, I am happy to inform you, has been faith-