

Worthy Master's Address.

To the Officers and Members of Dominion Grange:

The distinction and privilege of presenting to you the Master's address at this, the twenty-third annual meeting, devolves upon me, and I can assure you that any expression of pleasure or gratification which I may be able to utter on this occasion are most heartfelt and sincere. The meeting of esteemed and valued friends, the tried and true of many years' service in our noble order, and the strengthening of these bonds, would in themselves be sufficient causes for such expressions; but are made doubly so by being coupled with the duties involved by our presence here as representatives of the Subordinate Granges, and the hope that our services may result in advancing the interests we have so particularly at heart, and incidentally the interests of the whole community. I most cordially welcome you to the duties of the session.

I trust that in the deliberations of the present session, no less at least than in any session of the past, you will bring your highest thought and concentrate your most earnest efforts in solving the problem of how best to restore the enthusiasm which formerly permeated the members of this order, and the farming community, and resulted in that condition in the history of our order to which we look back with so much pride, and toward the return of which we look forward with an equal degree of hope.

The minutes of the annual meeting of 1897 were promptly placed in your hands at the cost, no doubt, of much self-sacrifice on the part of our esteemed Worthy Secretary. These minutes contain a review by Bro. Wilkie of the legislation brought about in our Province and Dominion, mainly through the influence of the Dominion Grange, which should be committed faithfully to memory by every member of the order, and which should, if due importance be attached to the results therein pointed out as following either in whole or in part, from efforts and suggestions emanating from this body, form a sufficient reward for all past services, however arduous, and a sufficient incentive for any possible future exertion on our part.

The state of inactivity in Grange circles to which several of my predecessors have felt called upon to refer, still exists, but the fact that our present membership clings with such tenacity to the principles of our order, I feel disposed to view as an augury of coming strength and renewed aggressiveness on the part of the farmer to assert himself as a factor in shaping the destiny of our country, and assuming his share in the responsibilities con-