

THE MARITIME PATRON,

AND ORGAN OF THE

Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.

"In Essentials Unity—In Non-essentials Liberty—In All Things Charity."

[All communications intended for this column should be sent to the editor of the Maritime Patron, EDWIN S. CREEK, M. D., Newport.]

The autumn session of Hants Division Grange was held at West Gore on Thursday, 14th inst. The forenoon, afternoon and evening sessions were fully, pleasantly and profitably occupied. We hope to receive a report of this session, also of all Division Grange Sessions held in the jurisdiction this month.

These quarterly gatherings of Husbandmen and Matrons of the Counties in which our Order has been established, must be highly beneficial in many respects. If those who are eligible, but refrain from uniting with our Order, and those who are ineligible, but yet are more or less directly and intimately interested in the spread of its principles and the accomplishment of its objects—could mingle with us on these occasions—could share in the good feeling and good cheer—the discussion on matters of professional interest relating to farm work and public affairs—relieved and enlivened by music, recitations and readings, all expressing sentiments tending to increase appreciation of and love for rural life and occupations, and could they at the day's close, join us in our fraternal circle and closing ode as we "give each the parting hand;" we feel assured that those who are eligible would be irresistibly impelled to unite with us, and the unfortunately ineligible would be compelled to give our order their unqualified approval and moral support.

At the session of Hants Division Grange a resolution was presented and discussed, the object of which was to obtain from the Division an expression of opinion relative to a proposal to amalgamate the agricultural societies of the County. The resolution approved of the proposed union, provided that the funds be expended so as to be of general benefit to the agricultural interests of the county. This proposal, and the discussion to which it gave rise, suggest considerations of general interest and importance. That the public funds of a country should be expended exclusively for the general public benefit, must always be an axiom of political economy.

That public funds, expended so as to promote the welfare of the agriculture of a country, are expended in obedience to this axiom, is universally admitted.

Agricultural Societies, since their introduction some sixty years ago, have been of very great service in promoting the agricultural interests of this province, but whether the annual grant for the encouragement of agriculture has been or is being expended in ways best adapted to promote the end in view, is more than doubted. The Maritime Provincial Grange, at its session held in Halifax in 1884, passed a resolution expressing its opinion that the money expended under the direction of the Board of Agriculture would be better expended in the maintenance of an Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, and the same year a prominent Agricultural Society unanimously passed a resolution in favor of devoting the whole or a part of the grant for Agricultural purposes, to a Provincial Stock Farm, and higher Agricultural education. These resolutions prove, if they prove nothing more, that prominent agriculturists are in favor of other ways of expending the provincial grant than the ways in which it has been expended. During the discussion of the resolution already referred to, in favor of uniting the Agricultural Societies of Hants County, no facts or arguments were offered in favor of a scheme, which, though doubtless devised to encourage the formation of Agricultural Societies, does, in fact, most effectually discourage the increase of those useful institutions. Is not this plain? Look at the scheme. A certain amount of the sum voted annually for the encouragement of Agriculture is apportioned equally among the counties of the province. This amount is divided in accordance with certain regulations among the Agricultural Societies. The sum received by, or the amount of encouragement given to each society, must diminish with the increase in the number of societies, and if these societies should be so established as that every farmer might share in the advantages which they are expected to afford, the amount of each encouragement received by each society would be so small as to be practically no encouragement at all. A definite sum, if only ten dollars, or even less, given annually to each Agricultural Society complying with certain conditions, would encourage their formation and continuance. Our subordinate Granges would be glad to receive, would be grateful for, and would usefully expend an annual bonus of ten dollars; or more, gentlemen of the Board of Agriculture, if you have it to spare, and our gladness, our gratitude, and our usefulness, will be in proportion to the bonus received. Why should not our Granges receive a share of the public funds devoted to the encouragement of Agriculture?

We believe, and we are prepared to prove, that the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry is not only as efficient as any other organization, society, or instrumentality in existence, for promoting the welfare of Agriculture and agriculturists, but also that our Order has, during its brief existence, accomplished more for the benefit of farmers and their profession than all other instrumentalities put together.

As Agriculture is the most important industry of a country, its encouragement and improvement must be the most important subject that the representatives of a country can have to consider. Unfortunately, parliaments which consider and legislate, and governments to whom is intrusted the execution of laws, are not largely composed of those who either represent, or are capable of representing and wisely legislating for the interests of Agriculture. The remedy is in the hands of farmers. Let

them organize and combine for the discussion of matters affecting their interests. Let them decide what measures will best promote those interests; and let them elect men to represent them and legislate for their interests, and support governments composed of men who are pledged to those measures, and who, being farmers, are professionally interested in promoting what will best promote the interests of Agriculture.

We may devote a few subsequent issues to the consideration of Exhibitions, the introduction and use of thoroughbred stock, agricultural Societies, and what they should be to and do for Agriculture, and kindred topics.

Do not cover the lawn all over with stable manure which is to remain there all winter as an offence to the eye, the nostrils, and the feet. There is nothing more disgusting than this turning a lawn into a barnyard, and there is no necessity for it. Stable manure is worth as much for garden crops as it is on the lawn, and it is doubtful if any one has too much of it for the former purpose. A good dressing of bone-dust or ammoniated superphosphate early in the spring, will keep up the fertility of the lawn, and will not be noticed.

THE PROGRESS OF ENSILAGE.—Within the last few years ensilage has passed the experimental stage, and has been adopted by so many farmers that it may be considered as an established method among many who devote themselves to dairying. The number of silos in the United States in 1880 is said to have been only six, while it is estimated that there are now about two thousand. In England there were in 1880 only four silos, while now Mr. M. J. Sutton, in his recent admirable work on "Permanent and Temporary Pastures," estimates that there are between eleven and twelve hundred. In England, the silo will come into competition with ordinary hay making, allowing the farmer to secure his crops of grass and clover in very wet seasons more promptly and safely than he could as hay. In this country, on the other hand, ensilage will be mainly directed to the preservation of fodder corn, a crop of admitted value, but one which is on all hands regarded as very difficult to cure. In the Southern States, the silo will allow the farmer to preserve one of his most important crops, the Southern Cow pea. This, which is regarded as most valuable as hay, is difficult to cure, as the large leaves are shaken off in the process, but packed in the silo, they yield most valuable cattle food, probably equal in value to ensilaged clover.—*American Agriculturist.*

BEST BREEDS OF CATTLE.—Owing to the little intercourse in early times between the different sections of the country in Britain and the continent of Europe, each county or cluster of counties had a different strain of cattle, which owing to the differences of climate, soil, feed and care became almost a distinct breed, though all may have originally descended from the same stock.

Some of these by careful breeding and judicious crossing have become greatly improved in quality while others still retain more or less of the original type. The introduction of improved breeds and the increased facilities of intercourse are fast obliterating these distinctive marks, while a few of the best breeds are taking their place as being more profitable.

In this country what are called natives are a mixed breed, imported from different countries in early times, and, owing to the migratory habits of our people, have got mixed and scattered over the land. No effort has been made to improve the native stock by judicious selection and careful breeding, as it was easier to import the best improved stock from other countries.

The purest of these native breeds is to be found in Lower Canada, descendants of Norman cattle brought out by the early French settlers. They are rather small, like their progenitors; but for their size they give a good supply of rich milk, and are hardy and easily kept.

A dairy of them, composed of selected cows which can be purchased cheaply, would, considering the small comparative outlay, be more profitable than one composed of the improved breeds that cost so much higher, requiring greater care and better and more feed.

The different breeds of cattle may be divided into four classes—Long-horned, Middle-horned, Short-horned, and Polled.

The LONG HORNS was the first breed improved in England. Bakewell, of Dishley, brought them to great perfection. They were much sought after, and at his sales brought as high prices as Durhams or Short-horns afterwards sold for; but they have gone entirely out of date, being supplanted by Short horns and Herefords—so much so that none are now to be found on the Dishley farm or neighborhood.

THE MIDDLE HORNS are supposed to be descended from the original native stock modified by climate, locality, and feeding.

THE NORTH DEVONS are the most pure of this class, having been bred in some localities as pure as they are now from time immemorial. They are a beautiful breed of a bright red color, they fatten well, and their flesh is fine grained and excellently flavored. They are not heavy milkers, but what they give is very rich. They are very active, and a yoke of Devon oxen will plough nearly as much land in a day as a pair of horses, while their keep is far less, and should they meet any accident they can be fattened and sold for their full value. A herd of pure Devons is still one of the finest in appearance of any breed, and if bred for milk could undoubtedly be greatly improved by careful selections.

THE HEREFORDS are now the best breed of this class, having been greatly improved of late years, pushing the short-horns very close, if not surpassing them, as profitable beef cattle.

But as milkers they are not famed, that quality having been in a great measure sacrificed for their aptitude to fatten early for beef. They are of large size and beautiful appearance; the favorite color being black, with the