

THE GRANGER,

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY IN CANADA

"In Essentials, Unity; In Non-essentials, Liberty; In all things, Charity."

No: 2, Vol. 1.

LONDON, ONT., DECEMBER, 1875.

Price, 50 Cents per Annum

The Granger.

ADVERTISING RATES.

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The GRANGER AND GAZETTE is published in London, Ont. W. L. Brown, Secretary London Division Grange, Editor. All communications to be addressed to Box 91 F. London, Ont.

THE GRANGER AND GAZETTE FOR 1875-76.

Grangers! this is the only paper devoted to our interests in Canada. It is the paper that advocates your principles and rights. It will give no uncertain sound. We have nothing but your interests and advancement at heart. Some papers who gave you the cold shoulder before are trying to bolster up their reputation with the Society by giving a few scanty Grange quotations. Grangers! you have been treated with contempt and neglect. Parties who claimed to be champions of your rights shamefully deserted you in the time and hour of need, because a little more money could be made out of your opponents than you.

We have put our paper so low—50 cts.—that there is really no profit when it is considered the publishers have to pay the postage.

The various flattering notices that we have received from the press, both in Canada and the U. S., and also from private individuals, satisfies us our supplying this need to our members is duly appreciated.

We hope our members will not forget we depend on their prompt action and support. A small number of subscribers from each Grange will make a handsome subscription list for the GRANGER. Through its columns the various Lodges will see what each other is doing, and the progress made in their respective neighborhoods. We are sure there is a great need felt of knowing this.

The various Granges writing their opinions and views on the great questions with which our order is concerned, will mutually help in instructing the members. We hope our friends will not be backward. Jot down something you think will be of interest. Don't wait to see what other Granges are doing before you say anything. Do not be afraid to speak out fearlessly and maintain your principles. Do not confine your exertions to merely members of the Grange in procuring subscribers, but ask your neighbors who do not belong; it is equally interesting to every farmer; they are all one in substance. What is beneficial to a Patron is equally advantageous to every farmer.

Every person who is capable of taking a rational view of matters knows that the press is the prop that holds up every organization that has any permanency or claim to respectability of size; if this be removed the foundation is gone and the structure, no matter how magnificent its form or proportions, is soon only a mass of ruins.

The conclusion of many of the most observant members of our Order is that the great lever of the Grange movement in America has been the press. Our enemies are not unaware of this and are calling to their aid any means that can be employed to hedge this great influence and neutralize the power it is acquiring. They fully understand that without the agency of the press we are at their mercy; and they as fully realize the importance to them of breaking it down at whatever

cost, and to this end are exerting all the power of which they are capable.

If the Grange is to be a live institution, Grange papers must be circulated and read, and a little prompt and well-directed effort in this direction on the part of each Patron would do wonders for the Order. But as our duties are ignored, or their performance postponed, so in proportion will the interest of the Order languish.

So, Patrons, support the GRANGER.

OPPOSITION TO THE GRANGE.

We have heard complaints from different parts of the country stating that there is great opposition to the movement by prominent merchants and manufacturers, and that this opposition is looked upon as injurious and detrimental to its progress. Our members are but imperfectly acquainted with the growth of institutions and human progress if they think anything can exist without opposition. Principles and ideas that are accepted and received by everybody as true are only axioms and do not need any exercise of the judgment to perceive their truth. Did any of our members ever know of a system or theory that had no opponents. Dispute is what generally establishes and roots any new doctrine. That opposition is the life of institutions is just as true as that opposition is the life of trade.

Institutions that have gained the greatest foothold in society have been well opposed. We need hardly allude to different permanent institutions at the present time to show this.

Men, as a general thing, do not make a noise until they are hurt. If men whom the Order naturally expect, from their interests, oppose the Order, it is a good sign. Probably the Society has not met with that opposition that its increased numbers and influence demand. Criticism would tend to make the policy of the Order more thorough and efficient, and its members better posted in the principles.

The rapid growth of the Grange system in the U. S. has rather retarded than increased its usefulness. The originators of the Order had not the slightest conception it would assume such dimensions in so short a time. The Canadian Order should be guarded by this and proceed slowly and cautiously, and not look so much to increased numbers for strength as systematic and uniform working. Granges that are but improperly taught, and do not understand the correct working of the ritual, and do not fully comprehend the basis on which the Order is built, are a source of weakness instead of strength. However, it would be most unreasonable to expect that an institution, such as the Patrons of Husbandry, which has so recently sprung into existence, which has increased with such remarkable rapidity, should have come into existence or reached its present gigantic proportions without many mistakes both in plan and execution.

The Granger is the only paper devoted to the interests of Patrons in Canada. Only 50 cents per annum. Full of Grange news. Every Patron should subscribe.

MIDDLEMEN.

This word has been bandied around in connection with the Grange Society without any thought as to its meaning or adaptation. It is well known that as far as mere words are concerned, that some have a variety of meanings, and also the same meaning in different degrees, that is in a particular or general sense. For instance, the word man may mean a single individual, or as a general term may mean the whole human race. Now, the word middleman has been seized upon by the opponents of the Order to show the absurdity of accomplishing what the Grangers claim to do away with—middlemen in its extended sense. Of course in its strict application it would imply no medium between two nations or even in-

dividuals. The commerce between the various nations in the world would be totally done away with, and men live in a state of primitive barbarism. Then of course they say if you don't want middlemen, farmers must fetch their spices from Ceylon, their tea from China, and go to England for their hardware, broadcloth and cottons. Now this would be too absurd to be entertained by any other than a set of fanatics. But this nonsense is paraded with great pomp and show as a conclusive argument against Grange principles. Now Patrons contend that intelligent and honest middlemen are as requisite to the welfare of Society as lawyers, doctors and other professions. What they disclaim against is the surplus, or that portion which is not requisite and necessary to the well-being of the community. "Their surplus and their exaction diminish our profits."

The bitterest enemies of the Grange system cannot deny but farmers are daily preyed upon by men who thus insist upon doing their business whether they want them to do so or not. We contend that Canadian farmers are, or should be, sufficiently intelligent to know their own wants and means without hiring anybody to instruct them. They have enough to do with their hard earnings without supporting a number of agents and peddlers at the price they have to pay. Our farmers often grumble about the legitimate taxes laid on their land for municipal and government purposes, but if they only considered the tax paid by them on every hundred acres of land to support a host of surplus middlemen, they would not grumble much. At a low calculation an average farmer pays \$100 a year to clothe and feed this numerous class of gentry. In this sense the Grangers say they don't want middlemen. Periodically there are turned loose on the farming community hordes of this class for some new enterprise or article. The swindles are so glaring and palpable in many cases that it is strange the good sense of our farmers do not detect them. But it will be recollected they are trained swindlers—men who understand human nature. They are in fact a vast improvement on Sam Slick in understanding "Soft Sawder and Human Natur." They have been schooled in talk and trickery the same as the Artful Dodger and other pupils of old Fagin, the Jew, and have gone through the same mental manipulation as those apt scholars did in abstracting a handkerchief without being detected. It is not generally known that such agent schools are in operation, and applicants for situations are put through a regular course of training. They are thus more than a match for the generality of our farmers.

The operations of some of those gentlemen last winter and spring were really alarming. At a low calculation, and this is from the men themselves, \$60,000 were taken out of Ontario alone, on bogus fruit trees and "High Bush" strawberries.

So perfect were those fellows in this business, that they deceived the shrewdest of our farmers, and even members of the Grange who were especially cautioned against their wiles, were mulcted into large sums. Their plans are laid with mathematical precision and order. When they call at a house they say they have been recommended by Squire —, or Dr. —, or Rev. Mr. —. He or they have invested, and certainly they must follow their influential neighbors. In fact, we have said before, they work systematically on the principles of Soft Sawder and Human Natur.

The first instruction, and one of the elements of success, is by no means, or on any account, to let the price of the article be known. This, of course, is the basis of the agency system and monopoly: Don't let the farmers know anything about the original cost.

A further reference to this system may not be uninteresting, and will be finished in our next.

GRANGE INSURANCE.

We have received two communications on this subject, asking for information, and proposing that this question should be thoroughly discussed in our columns.

The question as to whether the insurance companies are receiving more or less than an equitable return, we do not propose to discuss; but it will not be denied that the expense of insurance is largely increased by the number of salaried officers and soliciting agencies which they support.

Any plan, consequently, that will do away with this large item of expense, and at the same time allow the assured to retain for his own use the money needed for this purpose, is worthy of consideration. Our correspondent from St. Mary's has put it in a very fair light when he says, "Insurance at present is cheap, but can it not be cheaper?"

While mutual companies have been reasonably successful and safe in the business, it would seem that they have had drawbacks. The first is the large number of high salaried officers and the army of soliciting agents, which have increased the expense and eaten up the profits.

The only plan which could be adopted would be for the officers of the Lodges to do the local work themselves at a small expense. But if the rod be bent too much one way, and you bend it as much the other in order to get it straight, you avoid on the one hand the wasteful and expensive old system, but run to the opposite extreme and adopt a policy penurious, mean and ineffective. Between these extremes we must choose our system.

Broeders will find the Granger an excellent medium for advertising. Look at our rates.

BANKING THEIR MONEY.

BUYING ON CREDIT.

We hear considerable complaints from our merchants that farmers bank their money and come and buy from them on credit. Did it never occur to them that they have been the means of driving the farmers to this? Farmers know well their neighbors buy on credit at as cheap a rate as they do for cash. When this is the case it is very natural they should make the most out of their money they could.

The cash customers have hitherto been paying the bills of all the dead beats our merchants have. The per cent. laid on for bad debts amounts to no small item under the present credit system. Let the merchants bring their business to a cash basis, as the Grangers propose, and they will have no reason to complain that farmers bank their money and buy on credit.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

A correspondent from Lambton states the farmers of Plympton have lost a number of cattle by what they call Black Foot. Malcolm Dewart, Uttoxeter, having some days ago lost 5 head of his best steers and cows. This is the only case we have heard of, although we have made diligent enquiry from our prominent breeders and drovers, and we have heard of nothing to warrant the rumor that the disease is prevalent through the country only from this correspondent. However, if cases do happen they should be promptly reported by our farmers. An article will be found in another column by Drs. Wilson & Teuant, of London, on this disease.

The first number of the Granger lies on our table. From an oversight we have not noticed it earlier. The Granger is an eight-paged quarto journal, devoted to the interests of the Grangers, and is published monthly in London, at the low price of 50 cents a year. The number before us is printed in large, clear type, and is creditably got up, and if the first number is a sample of those to come, the paper is cheap.—*Strathroy Democrat.*