

Social Life Among Farmers.

The social life of a people is the best index of their advancement in civilization and refinement. Those classes most closely allied, socially, are the most influential in any country. Farmers have been the prey of most other classes, because these other classes were organized, socially and potentially, while the farmers had no intimate social or business relations. The mechanics, who are much more social as a class, were led many years ago to form co-operative associations, and the consequence is, a more rapid advancement in the knowledge of their art, with adequate protection for all their interests. This social life has also led to political influence, which has given them all the legal protection and advantages their interests required. From the mechanical and mercantile classes, inferior in numbers to the agricultural, have risen the largest proportion of professional men who have wielded the political power of the country. The great bulk of all the property in the country belongs to the agricultural class, and yet this class wields less power in levying taxes than even the handful of lawyers, numbering not more than one in a thousand. The farming class is granted the great privilege of paying the taxes.

The farmer's son, when he fortunately finds his way to the academy or college, and gets a taste of higher social life, is led to charge the farm as the cause of repressing all the aspirations of his social nature, and he abandons it without further consideration. The daughter also finds in the associations of schools, or even a visit to the city, perhaps in the family of a laboring mechanic or a merchant, so different a social atmosphere, that she forms a resolution not to spend her life where all her social faculties are repressed, and the loneliness of isolation freezes her heart. She has seen how little the sunshine and quickening influence of society have cheered the life of her mother, and she charges it all to the situation. She does not see that the country, with all its natural beauty, is well calculated to draw out and develop the social feelings—that farming life as it should be, and in the good time coming will be, is admirably adapted to the highest social and intellectual refinement. True farm life has always been pictured by the poet as the paradise of social refinement; Virgil, the most polished of Romans, dwells lovingly upon it. What, then, is the cause of this shriveling of the social nature upon the farm? It is simply the lack of education to appreciate the higher life which the situation naturally invites. Give the farmer the same education, the same enterprise, the same social stimulus, and he will not be behind the most favored class.

Woman Needs the Order.

Rev. A. B. Grosh, in Mentor in the Grange, says:—Woman needs our Order far more than does the sterner, harder sex; and the Order needs her for man's improvement. Her gentle influence, her innate tact in matters of good taste and propriety, her instinctive perceptions of rightness and purity—all these are needed in the Grange, and also in society at large, from which she is now so much secluded, but into which our Order would introduce her. The unkindness is therefore extended to the community—especially to the rising generation, who are to be moulded and furnished for usefulness by her instructions and example. How shall she be the proper and efficient educator of the young, without being liberated in part from her confining pursuits? how teach unless herself instructed by some such institution as ours? For it is noteworthy, that, while the man generally improves in general knowledge and business ability after he enters active life, woman too frequently retrogrades. When she reaches the period at which her children need her home-instructions most, she has nearly forgotten the lessons of her school days and the acquisition of her girlhood reading, and finds that the children of twelve years old have outstripped the mother of thirty or forty; or, rather, that she has receded from her twenty-year-old attainments, until she is unable to recall the lessons that were familiar during her teens. There is no necessity, no just reason, for such a state of things. Side by side with her husband, should she advance in knowledge and wisdom, that she may be his helpmate in all things. Onward and yet onward, before her advancing children, should she be enabled to progress in useful knowledge, that she may guide their tender feet in the ways of literature and science, while she trains them to lives of virtue, usefulness and peace.

Advantages of Being a Patron.

Besides teaching the farmer how to practice agriculture after the most improved methods, they, likewise, protect him in the act. They are ever on the watch to detect and warn him of impositions, to prevent his intrusting his products to fraudulent agents, and to bring about a reduction of high freights for his benefit. They enable him to purchase his supplies cheaper, and his tools and machinery at from ten to twenty-five per cent. less than he can by any other means. They prevent cruelty to animals, nurse the sick, assist the poor, instruct the youth, establish libraries and reading rooms, and aim at elevating all classes, both socially and morally. And while agricultural societies in general possess no common bond of union, each one being wholly independent of the other, the Grangers are but so many "parts of one stupendous whole," which whole is a body firmly united in substance and intent, guided by one head, striving for the achievement of one end, namely, the general good of the agriculturalist at large. And this is how I came to be a Patron.

We beg to refer our subscribers and readers to the advertisement of Mr. Jno. Lumbers, of Toronto, the only dealer in the celebrated "Devonshire Cattle Food." We have taken pains to investigate the claims of this article, and fully recommend its use.

Prove Your Faith by Your Works.

If your Grange or the Granges of your county have undertaken business co-operation, stand by your organization. Don't let it fail because you take no interest in its success. Don't stand back waiting for it to become a success before you risk a dollar, but show faith in your Grange principles by putting your shoulder to the wheel when it needs your help and support. If you are turned from the support of your own organization by the sneers and jokes and jibes of those whose interest it is to break your organization down, of what avail is your great organization? Have the courage to look sarcasm and ridicule in the face and sustain your organization.

It means self-help to the farmers of the country; it means progress, mentally and socially, and is worth many times what it has cost the Patrons. Whatever the object in view is, building a hall, gathering a library, starting an insurance company, a commercial agency, or building an elevator, stand by your organization, it is worth your heartiest support.—Kansas Farmer.

Business Directory.

Officers of Dominion Grange for 1877.

Worthy Master, S. W. Hill, Ridgeway; Overseer, Stephen White, Charing Cross; Lecturer, E. H. Hilborne, Uxbridge; Steward, Levi R. Whitman, Knowlton, Que.; Assistant Steward, C. McGibbon, Douglas, N. B.; Chaplain, J. Manning, Schomberg; Treasurer, J. P. Bull, Downsview; Secretary, W. P. Page, Fonthill; Gate Keeper, J. A. Dixon, Central Onslow, N. S.; Ceres, Mrs. Jessie Trull, Oshawa; Pomona, Miss Whitelaw, Meaford; Flora, Mrs. Lossee, Norwich; Lady Assistant Steward, Mrs. J. T. Gould, Foley. Executive Committee—Messrs. Daly, Newburg; Hughes, Sharon; Gifford, Meaford; Cole, Cole's Corners, and Drury, Barrie. Auditors—Messrs. Cheyney, Brampton, and Lossee, Norwich.

List of Deputies.

The following are the Deputies in the different Divisions in Canada with their P. O. address. Parties wishing any information or desiring to organize will communicate with the nearest Deputy.

London Division, No. 1.—F. Anderson, London; B. Payne, Delaware; W. L. Brown, Hyde Park; H. Bruce, London; E. K. Talbot, Arva; J. Ferguson, Birr; E. T. Jarvis, Nilestown; D. Baskerville, Evelyn.

Grey Division, No. 2.—A. Clifford, Meaford; Alex. Webster, Jackson.

Niagara District Division No. 3.—D. W. Mettler, North Pelham; Robt. Green, Attercliffe Station; A. H. Pettit, Grimsby.

Simcoe Division Grange, No. 4.—Thos. Parker, Joy P. O.; Thomas Smith, Bramley P. O.; Thos. Duff, Cookstown P. O.; Richard Manning, Schomberg P. O.; Timothy Connel, Stroud P. O.

Lambton Division, No. 5 (West Riding).—Wm. Cole, Cole's Corners; Peter Smith, Colville.

Halton Division, No. 6.—Hiram Albertson, Trafalgar.

Lucknow Division, No. 7.—P. McKenzie, Lucknow; J. Tolmie, Tiverton; J. S. Varcoe, Carleton.

Brantford Division, No. 8.—J. S. Thompson, Brantford; W. B. Underhill, Burford; J. Willson, Galt; Henry Tutt, Kelvin.

York Division No. 9.—Robt. Clark, Downsview; S. Duncan, Richmond Hill; S. E. Phillips, Schomberg; J. Hagarty, Agincourt; Thos. Webster, Coleraine; A. J. Hughes, Sharon.

Peel Division, No. 10.—Francis Slightholm, Humber; Eli Crawford, Brampton; Guy Bell, Brampton; N. Steen, Streetsville; W. J. Oliver, Derry West; R. Dick, Cheltenham.

Kent Division, No. 11.—A. McCormac, Morpeth; J. Wright, Chatham; J. Mann, Valletta; R. Wilkie, Road Eau; A. W. Crow, Kent Bridge; D. H. Everett, Dresden.

North Middlesex Division, No. 12.—John Levi, Fernhill P. O.

Durham Division, No. 14.—Wm. Hall, Oshawa; J. T. Gould Foley; R. D. Foley, Bowmanville.

East Lambton, No. 15.—Thomas Doherty, Uttoxeter; John Dallas, Thedford; J. McDonald, Alvington.

East Lambton Division, No. 15.—Francis Kearney, Watford.

Orangeville Division, No. 16.—J. K. Decatur, Camille.

West Middlesex Division, No. 17.—S. W. Dell, Strathroy.

Elgin Division, No. 18.—Jabel Robinson, Hathorley.

Lennox and Addington Division, No. 19.—W. N. Harris, Napanee; M. Neville, Napanee; Uriah Sills, Napanee.

N. Simcoe Division, No. 20.—Charles Drury, Barrie; E. Archer, Hillsdale; H. G. Lister, Rugby; R. Dixon, Ninnesburg.

Belmore Division, No. 21.—Henry Smith, Gorie.

Oxford Division, No. 22.—G. E. Harris, Ingersoll.

Beaver Valley Division, No. 23.—Neil McCollman, Clarksburg; Wm. Hewgill, Heathcote.

Prince Albert Division, No. 24.—Robert McMorde, Kippen.

Ontario Division, No. 25.—Andrew Orvis, Whitby; J. Haight, Pickering.

Wentworth Division, No. 26.—M. J. Olmstead, Ancaster; P. S. Van Wagner, Stoney Creek; D. Patterson, Copetown; G. Gastle, Carlisle.

Huron Division, No. 27.—J. Smith, Newry.

County Huron.—James Livingston, Moncrief.

Norfolk Division, No. 28.—Isaac Austin, Port Dover; Levi R. Whitman, Knowlton, Que.

Kent Co.—Robt. Wilkie, Road Eau; Charles McGibbon, Douglas, N. B.

Bruce Co.—Thos. Blair, Kincardine; John Biggar, Burgoyne; Thos. Houston.

Wellington Co.—Wm. Woodsworth, Bowling Green.

Stormont Co.—J. J. Adams, Wales.

Wellington County.—Robt. Cromar, Salem.

Belleville District.—W. J. Massey, Belleville.

New Granges.

Abingdon, 630.—Wm. Jackson, M., Abingdon; L. Williams, S., Abingdon.

The Farm.

Epizootic.

The Scientific Farmer says:

There seems to be amongst the community an odd but wide-spread misapprehension regarding the significance of this word, "epizootic," so that it is now commonly considered to describe and define a certain disease amongst horses, whilst its real significance is entirely lost sight of; hardly a week passes that we are not asked to look at a horse which the owner thinks must have the "epizootic." It really denotes the prevalence of any one disease amongst animals, corresponding to an epidemic amongst people; thus there may be an epizootic of pleura-pneumonia amongst cows, of cholera amongst hogs, of abortion amongst ewes, or of influenza amongst horses, just as there may be an epidemic of small pox, measles or scarlet fever amongst humans. The disease with which our horses have so generally been affected at two different periods within the past four years, is, then, influenza or catarrhal fever, and not "epizoot." As we are again approaching the fall of the year, at which time this disease has heretofore made its general and remarkable appearances, a little about the histories of similar outbreaks in this and other countries, and the general causes of influenza, may not be uninteresting or inopportune. It has a very early history. In 1299 it appeared in Seville, where "it killed more than one thousand horses and seemed to be incurable." In 1648 it broke out amongst the horses of the French army in Germany. In 1688 it was prevalent over the whole of Europe, affecting both men and horses; in 1699 Europe and America suffered from the disease, and again in 1732; in 1767 it once more appeared in both hemispheres, when it is recorded that both horses and dogs suffered from it. "In 1776, after a very severe winter and warm summer, influenza spread over Europe, attacking horses and dogs first and human beings after. Poultry died in great numbers; it was very severe in New York and caused great mortality amongst the horses of Maryland." During the present century it has raged with varying degrees of virulence; in 1849-50 and 1863-4 and 1871-2 in London, and in 1872-3 in this country, when it broke out in Toronto, Canada, on Oct. 1, 1872. In nine days it had attacked nearly all the horses in the city. On Oct. 18th it reached Montreal; on the 14th, Buffalo; 17th, Rochester; 22nd, Boston, New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City; 27th, Philadelphia; 28th, Washington; and again in October, 1875, there was an outbreak which, however, was much less intense and wide-spread than the one of '72 just referred to. It is singularly prevalent in some seasons, and although it will exhibit general characteristics in common, yet the epizootic of one year will be marked by some particular symptom or symptoms which will be entirely wanting in the outbreak of the following year. Horses of large cities and crowded towns are more obnoxious to it than those of the country; and in the country those are most liable to it that are the most confined. The attack is attended with great and early loss of strength and with early inflammation of the membrane lining; the nose and throat and the digestive organs are irritable.

Systems of Farming.

Mixed Husbandry.—This system of farming affords opportunities for utilizing products that would otherwise be wasted, reduces the cost of marketing by concentrating values, tends to increase the productiveness of the farm, and guards against the disasters to which special farming is exposed from fluctuations in the market.

Dairying requires but a small amount of capital, demands less labor, teams and machinery than most branches, provides profitable employment for both the male and female members of the family, keeps up the fertility of the land, concentrates the value of other farm products, and its products can be put in market at favorable seasons and comparatively small cost.

Stock Raising.—This business, as is claimed, brings the most money for the least work; obviates the difficulties of scarcity and unreliability of labor; does not wear out, but enriches the land; turns grass into money without the cost of making it into hay; can be sent to market on foot, independent of railroads; induces a better tillage of smaller areas so as to get larger crops, and leave other land for the grazing, and generally allows of a ready realization of profits.

Market Gardening.—This system is limited to agricultural localities which have quick and easy access to market. Under the proper facilities it pays a good profit, but it requires much knowledge of special subjects, and of the necessities of the markets.

Fruit Growing requires less labor and machinery than other kinds of farming, exhausts the soil but little, and usually pays well. It however requires special knowledge, and constant attention to minutiae, that the best results may be realized.

Influential Farmers.

Rural World.—The only way that farmers can become intelligent, influential, progressive men, is to read, listen, observe and reflect. They must keep their eyes and ears open. They must acquire knowledge, as other professional men do. They must have friendly discussions with their neighbors. They must attend the Grange meetings, and do all they can to enhance the interests of the Order. They must attend debating societies and other public gatherings, and take part in the proceedings. If they have information, they can make it available. From nothing nothing can come. It is only from well-stored minds that valuable information can be derived. All men who aspire to become public men, should remember this. All farm-

ers, therefore, who wish to aid in the upbuilding of their class, however good their intentions may be, will fail without large intellectual resources. These they must acquire before they can be of great service.

What Kind of Barns.

The old method of making hay was to let it lay out several days and keep it continually stirring until it was thoroughly dry, and had more the semblance of chips than grass. The improved practice is to cut with a machine, ted it a few times, and draw it to the barn the same day. If such wilted grass is not allowed to get wet, it is found to keep quite as well as the former dried hay, especially in this case where the barns are comparatively tight. Recent experiments are reported, in which the freshly cut grass—cut after the dew was off—was allowed the sun but a couple of hours, during which the tedder went over it once, and was then raked up and housed in a building, clap-boarded, tight beneath, plastered inside, and with slight ventilation, which was at once closed tight and not opened till winter, when the grass came out fresh and bright as the day it was put in. A farmer on the Berkshire hills had a short hay crop which he determined to make go as far as possible. His barn was well sheathed, without cracks. The grass was all cut early, just before blossoming, and housed the same day as cut. While carting the hay the barn doors were kept closed, save to admit the teams, which were unloaded with the doors shut. Access of air was prevented so far as possible; henceforth. The hay was closely packed in the mows. The testimony of the farmer and all his neighbors is that this crop of hay was brighter and fresher the next winter, and was more nutritious—the cattle eating less of it—than any previous crop. We might cite numerous similar examples. There is nothing in this contrary to science or sense. The over-heating of hay will only take place by the action of the oxygen of the air in the presence of moisture. Remove either and the heating will not occur. Remove the moisture and the grass becomes dry hay, less digestible, and minus some of its nutritive and aromatic qualities. It is better economy to keep out excess of oxygen, and have cured grass for fodder. There is a great saving of labor too in housing hay the same day as cut, which of itself is a strong argument of the system. Every wetting by dew, every hour's sun after the grass is wilted, lessens the value of the fodder. We can take advantage of the idea by providing tight barns, and keeping them closed until the hay has gone through its "sweat," which is a slight fermentation which drives off excess of moisture without injury to the hay, if excess of oxygen is not permitted in the meantime.—Scientific Farmer.

Care of Horses in Winter.

A bank or basement stable is a hot-bed to produce glanders and other diseases in the horse. The following is my plan of wintering horses:

My stable is at the south end of the barn, with half doors in the south to let the rays of the sun in for ventilation. The stable floor is two feet above ground, and is kept clean, with plenty of straw for bedding. The manure heap is not allowed to decay near the stable. It is not only a piece of cruelty to compel a horse to stand on a hard wooden floor for a great length of time, but it stiffens his legs, and injures him for service.

I feed my horses what hay or fodder they will eat clean twice a day. I feed them two ears of corn twice a day, except when at work. I feed them four ears three times a day until spring work commences. I then increase the feed a little, but never feed a horse more than nine ears of corn. Some horses are like some men—they will make gluttons of themselves if allowed to do so.

I never give a horse more than a tablespoonful of salt at a time, and then on his feed in early spring. Feed out hay or straw wet and mixed with bran. I never give my horses condition powders, or any other drugs. If my horses are warm when I unhitch, I leave the harness on until they cool off; but, if the weather is very cold, I cover them with a blanket.

I keep from ten to twenty head of horses, and have never given one condition powder, or any other poison; and never has one of them been sick, or refused to eat.

My horses are always in good condition, most of the time rather fleshy. I have one mare that I have worked hard for eighteen years; and she now has the use of herself as well as she ever had. A stranger was here the other day, and, seeing her playing in the barnyard, asked how old that colt was.

In cold weather I warm the bridle-bits before putting them in the horse's mouth. If you think the bits are not cold enough to hurt the horse's mouth, touch them to your tongue, and this will satisfy you.—Ohio Farmer.

The Plague of Insects.

A little while ago we had to call attention to the condition of the Brazilian exhibit of seeds and grains. The moths and weevils had made sad havoc of grains and seeds. Since then we have had a chance to examine the beautiful exhibit of wheat which the Australian colonies make. It is remarkably fine—over sixty bushels to the acre—but does not come up to our Oregon or Colorado grain. It is clear that the weevil is a fearful plague; but they have had more inventive genius than the Brazilians, and have mixed through the grain large quantities of camphor, which enables them to produce enough for exhibition in pretty fair order.

How different is all this to the wheat exhibits of our own people! Who would expect to see our grain in the condition of the Brazilian, or feel the necessity of protecting it as the Australian does? Surely we have cause to be thankful, and in all thankfulness go on our improving course rejoicing!