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THE GRANGE.

Brother Patrons are requested to contribute for this column, and to send their communications direct to the office of publication, Welland, Ont.

COLONEL BRIGHAM'S PICNIC ADDRESS.

At the Port Stanley picnic the first speaker was the well-known C. J. Brigham, ex-Senator of Ohio.

He began by alluding to the fraternal relations that had formerly existed between Canada and the United States, and to the fact that while the day was unfavorable to the picnic it was highly favorable to the crops and would therefore be a blessing to the farmers of the country. He spoke of the importance of agriculture, the foundation upon which everything must rest, and instanced the condition of the harvests in the several years as guiding the operations of speculators and business men. He advocated the protection and careful fostering of agriculture, and asked who was to do this, claiming that for the accomplishment of this farmers themselves must do the work, and the question for farmers to consider was how they were to accomplish it. He maintained that by organization and by training children properly the interests of the farm could best be advanced. In union was strength and by uniting they could stand shoulder to shoulder, and carry forward their interests to success. In almost every business and profession there was organization, and he asked how could farmers cope with them without an

organization equally strong. He referred to the benefits accruing from organization in a financial, business and social sense, as shown in all professions, and especially in manufacturing industries. He said when man came to the world he met with associations and schedules; they followed him through life and even when he passed to that bourse where all must answer on their record the funeral directors' organization followed him. Taking this in view then, he asked what farmers could do without organization of some sort. He depicted what would be the result when farmers met together, and asked where was the earthly power that could cope with the farmers when thoroughly organized, meeting together, discussing intelligently and knowing what to do. Farmers must organize and then they could have their proper place, gain their rights and protect themselves and the people from robbery even by any organized power. The manufacturers organized pools, not going by the law of supply or demand—they say pay us our price or go without our implements. If farmers would organize and say these prices are arbitrary they could reduce the price. If the farmers held out for a year or two these men would be glad to compromise. All wished to advance their prices and he had no doubt if the farmers here could do so they would advance the price of wheat (laughter) and all were apt to do this if they had the power. But farmers could not do this, and let them see to it that no other branch of organization could fix arbitrary prices. He reverted to the fact that farmers are producing the wealth of the country and if they cannot enjoy some of the fruits of it there is something wrong. He next directed attention to the question of taxation and expressed his belief that in Ontario as in Ohio the farmers bear more than their just proportion of the taxes. Farmers could not hide their broad acres, their cattle or sheep—they were visible, but he asked did the assessors find the whole of the property, and he showed him how the merchants and others escaped their just dues by hiding their property, evading the assessor, and reducing the valuation. He asked how farmers could protect themselves in this matter without meeting together to discuss the question and protect themselves. He spoke of the large public expenditure and corruption and said that the farmers were to blame for this, which showed the necessity of educating the farmers and their meeting together. There was need of a change in the representation, for all classes should be represented, and the overshadowing interest of agriculture was scarcely represented at all. The farmers should see to it that they were properly represented by men directly connected with agriculture, for if they did not protect themselves no one would. He reverted to the railway question, deprecating the discrimination and extortion practiced by the railway companies in dealing with farmers and the public, illustrating the robbery of the farmer as similar to the bees who, after gathering a stock of honey have it taken away by the bee-keeper, but are glad to have the hive and foundation left to them. He spoke of how in a good harvest the freight rates were advanced and how as long as there were no common interest, and no union amongst the farmers this extortion would continue. He asked who were to blame for this, and claimed that the legislature should regulate the prices, and if they did not do so others

should be put in their places who would do so. He believed railways are of the greatest blessing as long as they performed the duties for which they were constructed, but when they used their power for extortion the farmers must suffer. He maintained that when farmers were educated to understand their own interests they would march to the ballot armed with a freeman's greatest privilege, and by voting to protect the people could control even the giant railway corporations. He condemned the acceptance by representatives of passes or any favor from railway or other corporations. Just as long as the legislators went along with these favors they would vote against the farmers, and it must be stopped. He referred to the work of education and improvement that would be accomplished by meeting together, discussing matters, exercising intelligence and bringing farmers away from the hermit life that too many of them led. This would do all good—the old, the young, and give them a better knowledge, and enable them more successfully to battle with the struggle of life, and this could best be done in the organization—the Grange. The question was what kind of organization farmers should have. Farmers' clubs could do part of the work, but they must have something more powerful, that would reach further and have more control. The order of the patrons of husbandry would bring farmers together, educate themselves, and show them their true power. He alluded to the objection that it is a secret society, but showed how even in the home secrets were necessary. In the Grange all meet on social equality, and those who could not be admitted to the house could not be admitted to the Grange. There was another secret, that they could recognize a brother or sister wherever they went in whom they could place confidence, and these were the only two secrets in the organization that he knew of. It was the only national organization that could do any real good for the farmer. He invited all farmers to take hold and go to shore with them. They had no reason to be discouraged, they were doing right and their work would speed on. He asked them to take up this subject, and fully examine it and the conclusion would be that all farmers should connect themselves with the order. He spoke of those who sympathized with them but did not join the organization, and illustrated it by a humorous anecdote that provoked much laughter. He said if these stood back and allowed the Grange to fight their battle, they would soon blush for shame. It was a grand work and whether sooner or later victory must perch upon their banner. The address was enlivened by several interesting stories which were well received by the audience.

THE BRETHERN OF PEEL, YORK, GREY AND SIMCOE VISIT GUELPH COLLEGE.

On Thursday last about 700 members of the order from the counties of York, Grey, Simcoe and Peel paid a visit to the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. Those from the county of York numbered about 200, and arrived by the regular train from Toronto; the greater number came on the Hamilton and North-Western from Collingwood, Barrie, Onllia, and other points along the line by special train. Upon reaching Guelph they drove to the College grounds where they were met by the President, Mr. James Mills, and Professor Brown, who extended to them a cordial

welcome. After partaking of lunch in a large, airy tent belonging to the institution, Mr. Mills and Prof. Brown in short addresses explained the objects and workings of the College. The remainder of the day was spent in examining the buildings and experimental plots, and the farm generally.

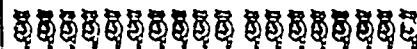
NOVA SCOTIA.

The Nova Scotia Division Grange meet, so Bro. E. S. Creed informs us, on the 3rd of July, and it is the intention of the brethren to hold a grand picnic on July 8th at Alexander, four miles from Ellershouse Station. Success to the brethren.

SANDBFIELD MILLS GRANGE.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—On the 5th of June there was organized by Bros. Slack and Morfet, of Willow Valley Grange, No. 702, Little Current P. O., a Grange at Sandfield Mills, to be called Manitou Grange, with William Hare and John Robinson, master and secretary respectively. Notwithstanding that only two days notice of the meeting was given, a goodly number responded to the call, and we expect to receive many more on Saturday next, at our next meeting. It is also expected that this is only a beginning of the growth of our noble order on this island, as two more Granges are being talked of at present.

Our island is receiving quite an influx of settlers from the older counties this season, and to parties with small means, who are desirous of obtaining homes or lands of their own, I would say before going to the North-west, or deserting your own beloved Canada for a home in the neighboring states, come and see this section of our fair Dominion; but do not come expecting to find a garden of paradise, or you will be sadly disappointed. But for those who are willing to work as our fathers did in days gone by, there is homes and plenty. I would not advise those who have homes in the older counties, to dispose of them for to move to any new section. Let the aged fathers and mothers remain on the old homestead, while the young and robust seek for themselves homes, and in the search don't forget Manitoulin Island. J. R.



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