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Patrons answering or in any way corresponding with those advertising in these columns will oblige us by saying they saw the advertisement in these columns.

### Among the Granges.

#### ANNUAL MEETING—DOMINION GRANGE.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Grange was convened in the City Hall, Ottawa, on Tuesday, March 4th, at 2 p.m., the Worthy Master, Mr. Jabel Robinson, in the chair. The Committee on Credentials reported that all the officers and delegates from the Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick Provincial Granges were present. The delegates from Ontario were Messrs. Robinson (Eglin), Gifford (Grey), Wilkie (Kent), McLeod (St. John), Servas (Welland), McMordie (Huron), Lethbridge (Middlesex), Glendinning (Ontario), Currie (Huron), Moffat (South Grey), Doyle (Owen Sound), Hilborn (North Ontario), Bull (York), Truell (Durham), Vancamp (Bowmanville), Nellis (Lincoln), Cheyne (Peel), George (New Brunswick), McDonald and Starr (Nova Scotia). Quite a number of ladies, some of whom are officers of the Grange, were also present. The Worthy Master, Mr. Jabel Robinson, delivered his annual address, which is as follows:—

#### WORTHY MASTER'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

In his annual address the Worthy Master of the Grange first drew the attention to the unrivalled advantages of Canada in climate and possessions; then went on to say that the Grange is in a flourishing condition in every Province and to expound the aims and objects of the Grange, which, though not a political organization,

seeks to express its opinions on many subjects affecting the welfare of the farmer. He said:—

The levying of contributions for Government purposes has been a vexed question at all times and with all nations. Indirect taxation is duly perfected when every individual and every industry bears an equal proportion of the taxes in accordance with the income. Under the system adopted in this country men worth \$1,000,000 might pay less taxes the average farmer, and some can make millions while the day laborer's family is in want.

However much argument there may be (and I admit there is some) in fostering the industries of a young country like ours, it is very evident that the great leading industry in which we are engaged can be protected only to a very limited extent.

The discontent that at present exists in all parts of the world is principally owing to the unequal distribution of wealth, and any system that increases the wealth of the rich and increases the poverty of the industrious poor is unjust and should meet with our disapproval.

All the unimproved public lands are the inheritance of the people and should not be monopolized by the capitalist, but held by the Government for the actual settler.

Next to production and taxation, perhaps the most important question to us is that of transportation. With a water highway stretching half way across the Dominion, our surplus productions ought to find easy access to market. In my opinion it would be wise on the part of the Government to remove the tolls from the canals; an impulse would thereby be given to trade, and all classes would be benefitted. Railways are indispensable to the prosperity of the country. Townships, counties, Provincial Legislatures, and the Dominion Government have given money and lands liberally to secure railway accommodation and competition; but instead of competition, two powerful corporations have absorbed nearly all the railways in the Dominion. Railway companies have great responsibilities, and they should receive a fair remuneration for services performed by them; but the public should have a voice as to the value of those services. The price of our produce, as well as that of our land, is subject to the control of the railway corporations. The public have rights that railway companies should be bound to respect, and they should be allowed to ruin or enrich individuals at pleasure by unjust discrimination.

Let us ask our representatives in Parliament to support the Railway Commission Bill introduced by Mr. McCarthy, for the purpose of establishing an independent board of arbitrators from whom the public may seek redress.

The question of co-operation so essential to the welfare of our organization should be well understood and practised by our members. Nearly all the great undertakings of the present century have been brought to a successful issue by co-operation. In Great Britain, where correct business principles are strictly adopted, the Rochdale plan of co-operation has been accepted by all classes of society, and millions of pounds are saved annually to its members. Not only the working men but the civil service and the army and navy clubs have established co-operative stores. If the farmers of this Dominion would adopt this system of buying and selling fifty millions of dollars might be saved

yearly, sufficient to pay the expenses of the Dominion Government for nearly two years. Surely hard times are at the disposal of the farmers. Those of us that have taken advantage of the Grange Fire Insurance Co., the Grange Trust, the Wholesale Supply Co., and the Mutual Aid know the value of co-operation. I trust the Ontario People's Salt Association will be able to commence operations within a few weeks, when our members and stockholders can obtain salt at its actual value.

On the education of our youth we build our hopes. Our declaration of purposes makes education the most important feature in our organization, and we should spare no pains on this point. Seventy-five per cent of all the children in the Dominion are graduates only of common schools, and unless these schools are of a high order and thorough in their work we cannot look forward to that glorious triumph in civilization and intellectual development to which we all ought to aspire.

When the farmers become properly educated and organized they will no longer delegate the power to make their laws. Nations have arisen to become great and powerful just as they have advanced intellectually. So shall we as an agricultural people advance in proportion as we become perfect in our profession.

Therefore it is necessary that the teachers of rural schools should understand the science of agriculture and teach it to our children. In the Province of Ontario AN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

has been established, which is considered one of the best on the continent. It is calculated to do much good, and is fast becoming popular with the farmers of that Province. Our members in the various Provinces should make an effort to start similar institutions within their midst. Governments have great responsibilities, and can do much good by encouraging a greater production in value, and by maintaining schools of experiment and instruction.

#### HOW CAN THE ORGANIZATION BE EXTENDED?

The question for us to consider at this moment is, what can we do to bring our aims and objects before the Canadian farmer, to arouse him from his lethargy and teach him the many advantages within his reach, and to induce him to assist in this great movement, especially introduced for the amelioration of his class. All other classes are organized, and exercise the controlling power that follows associated efforts, while the majority of the farmers stand aloof; and although numerically strong, they receive but few appointments, wield but little influence, and are treated as a nonentity. Many of the subordinate granges have built and occupy halls of their own. It would be well if all the granges would do the same. Quite a number have established circulating libraries; this is an example that all should follow. Good books, magazines, and papers, agricultural papers, and grange literature should be plentifully supplied to every family.

The address was well received and, after discussion, ordered to be published.

#### COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

The committees to report on banking, legislation, education, agriculture, good of order, and constitution and by-laws were appointed, after which the Grange adjourned at two o'clock for the day.

On Wednesday the Grange met again. The morning was occupied with the sittings of committees on education and agriculture. In the afternoon the W. Master, Jabel Robinson, again took the chair.

In the discussions which took place upon the reports of committees a great deal of interest was manifested.

Dr. Orton, M. P., addressed the meeting on the subject of farmers' banks. He took some credit for the Act to amend the laws relating to loans, which he carried through the House, although when first introduced it was opposed by the leader of the Government and both sides of the House. He referred to his bill now before the House of Commons to provide banking and loaning facilities to those engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Casey, M. P., agreed with Dr. Orton that the banking credit at present given to farmers was too short. The bill, he considered, would require several important changes.

Mr. Hesson, M. P., supported the views of the first speaker, and thought the present system was very unsafe, there being out of sixty millions of stock only seven millions of specie retained by Canadian banks.

Mr. Fleming, M. P., strongly opposed the bill, which he considered impracticable.

Mr. Cochrane, M. P., said he was a farmer, but he did not pretend to be well posted in banking arrangements. He thought farmers were to blame for not having more favorable legislation, as in his opinion they possessed the power in their own hands.

Messrs. Wallace, Sproule, Cockburn, Allen, and Guillet, members of Parliament, also gave their views on the subject.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

After a vote of thanks was tendered to the speakers the secretary presented the tenth annual report, which stated that the order was everywhere in a healthy condition. Fifteen sub-granges have been organized during the past year; this number is an increase of two over the preceding year. Four of these new organizations are in Ontario, one in Nova Scotia, one in New Brunswick, eight in Manitoba, and one in British Columbia. Throughout the Dominion the order is on a more substantial foundation than formerly, its aims and objects being better understood. The total receipts from all sources last year were \$1,137.88, an amount equal to that of the previous year. The report was referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

A committee consisting of Bros. George, N. B. Starr, N. S. Gifford, Hilborn, and Glendinning, Ontario, was then appointed to draft an address of welcome to his Excellency the Governor-General.

#### ESSEX DIVISION GRANGE.

We, the press committee of Essex Division Grange, beg to occupy a short space in your valuable paper and inform you of the proceedings of our first quarterly meeting of 1884, held on February 27th, in the town hall, Leamington, which was opened at 10 a. m., with a fair number of delegates and visiting members, from our county, also Bros. Emmery and Metcalf from Romney Division. Our two Provincial delegates were present, Bros. J. C. Shepley, the W. M., and S. G. Wigle, from whom we were favored with a lengthy detail of the proceedings of the Provincial Grange. The W. M. stated that, the