

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. CREEN, M. D., Newport.]

In his official report the Master of the Indiana State Grange says that "No order can long exist without an organ to champion its cause." This utterance we purpose making use of as a text, though it bears no closer relation to our remarks than texts usually do, and though we use it to express disagreement perhaps more than agreement.

In assuming that an organ is essential to the existence of an Order, our text we think assumes too much, what indeed is incapable of proof. In assigning the championship of a cause as the purpose of such an organ, or the purpose for which an organ is essential to the existence of an Order, our text we think assumes too little, or takes too limited a view of the work and objects of the organ of an Order.

It may be fairly assumed as the teaching of history that no Order can long exist without a mission, and some hopeful degree of success in its prosecution. It may also be fairly assumed that championship of some kind is essential to the successful prosecution of a mission; and further that an organ, if properly conducted, is the most efficient instrument for the prosecution of a mission, or of such missions as Orders undertake. Therefore, though we do not admit that "no Order can long exist without an organ to champion its cause," we assert that no order can afford to do without an efficiently conducted organ to champion its cause, were this its only purpose. The other purposes of an official organ, and in particular of our official organ, were expressed and defined in our first issue. We shall briefly recapitulate for our present purpose, what we believe to be the relation that should exist between the Order in this jurisdiction, and its acknowledged organ—what each should be to the other—and the latter to the work and the world.

In doing this we shall try to answer the inquiry, "What is the good of an official organ for the Grange?" The comparison between what the *Maritime Patron* is, and what it should and might be, will not, we anticipate, be creditable to the Order or ourselves. Our organ should explain and advocate our objects and our missions. It should proclaim our opinions and our sentiments. It should be the medium of official communication. Besides these, which are its peculiar objects, to be acceptable to Patrons and the public, whom we must reach through it if it is to be an efficient champion and missionary; our grange organ must furnish appropriate agricultural articles, select literature, and "news."

THE CRITIC, in which we have chosen to plant our embryo *Maritime Patron*, fairly well supplies literary attractions, an excellent résumé of news, and commercial and market intelligence. In these respects it is all that we should desire, but while the paper has a good circulation and a good reputation outside our gates, comparatively few granges or grangers take it or see it, because it does not offer the requisite inducements. Is this the fault of Patrons or of the people? or of the Patron who has the editorial management?

We can only claim to have devoted much time and our best judgment and efforts to our one column. To select from a mass of material, from a crowd of thoughts pressing for utterance, and to trim and cut to fit a very limited space, is a task the peculiar nature and difficulties of which, only those few can appreciate who have tried it. Our organ is not a success as such, and will not be as at present situated.

Patrons will not subscribe for the paper because it does not give them for their money what they as Patrons and farmers desire. The manager of the paper promises to add the inducements demanded as soon as subscriptions from Patrons warrant the required addition to the size of the paper. In the meantime, hoping for something better, something more efficient and satisfactory, for the sake of Patrons and granges who have subscribed; for the sake of the little good we may possibly accomplish, we shall continue to work for the good of the Order in our allotted sphere, and to meet the wishes of the Order as we find possible.

The promises Patrons made in the start, to furnish papers on agricultural subjects, reports of sessions, etc., have been more honored in the breach than the observance. This is not fair to the experiment, to the Order, or to ourselves. We again appeal to Patrons to aid in making their organ creditable and successful by pen and pocket contributions.

As the days get longer, the labors of the field more pressing, and the evenings shorter, grange meetings become less interesting, and the attendance smaller. Many granges die down to their roots—a few staunch and zealous members—during the summer, and revive again with the approach of winter. A few granges that we know of never fail to hold their regular weekly meetings, which proves what all might do. If the brothers are so busy, the sisters should assemble at the appointed time and place, elect a *pro tem* Master from among themselves, if neither the Master nor the Overseer are present, open in ample form, and discuss subjects of special interest to themselves, such for instance as relate to the dairy, poultry management, household work, home education, woman's place in the grange and its mission, woman's place and mission in the world, and its work, and in politics, etc., etc. If the sisters adopt this plan they may be quite sure that the brothers will be on hand to share in "the labors of the day" long ere they are "completed." Granges that die down in the summer do so because they do not appreciate

the facilities which grange meetings afford for intercourse, and for intellectual and educational improvement. They have not sufficient vitality and zeal for summer life, they revive slowly in the autumn and rarely attain to full vigor and usefulness.

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