

There would necessarily require to be exceptions to this rule, as in case of Deputies having to travel long distances, but with the number of Deputies now in the field it might, in most cases (particularly in Ontario) be managed with good results.

I am also prompted to make a few suggestions in respect to Division Granges. The purpose of these is to unite Subordinate Granges in a county in a more compact, solid body, to enable Patrons to become better acquainted with one another, and to be able to co-operate more successfully. They also serve as a means of communication between the Dominion and Subordinate Granges, and for the purpose of representation. Good Division Granges, well managed, have a salutary influence over the Subordinate Granges in their jurisdiction, and are expected to exercise a general supervision over them. As these duties are thus prescribed, it is found equally necessary to prescribe the limits over which their authority or influence is expected to extend. Our By-Laws, although to a certain extent defining these limits, are not found to be sufficiently definite upon the matter, and require your attention to this end.

While referring to Division Granges, I wish to suggest a change in the ruling concerning the payment of quarterly dues. As at present, a Division Grange formed during a quarter cannot claim dues from Subordinate Granges for that quarter, which leaves the Division, in many cases, a long time without funds, and consequently in a helpless condition. I propose that all Subordinate Granges required to report for the quarter, shall report and pay the usual dues to Divisions, even though said Division be formed during the quarter for which report is made. In connection with the above I wish also to call your attention to the necessity of devising some means to ensure more promptness in quarterly reports. Many Granges are quite dilatory in this respect, causing much trouble and delay in the work of the Secretary's office.

I would not mention this matter here, as I have already referred to it several times in my circulars, did I not feel that duty compelled me to do so, and as I consider promptness in this as well as other respects necessary to our success, and the duty quite as easily accomplished at the proper time as a month or two months after.

In accordance with our present By-Laws, Deputies have been appointed in each Division, and also in counties where no Divisions exist. We have now 96 (ninety-six) Deputies; 84 were recommended by and received their appointments through Division Granges; 42 received their appointments direct from Master of Dominion Grange, upon recommendation of Subordinate Granges. By-Laws, general instructions, blank forms, &c., have been supplied gratuitously to them, and to their credit I am pleased to say that the work is much more satisfactorily done than under the old system.

At the time of our last annual meeting, Oct. 27th, 1875, we had 246 Subordinate Granges and 22 Division Granges, with a membership of about 6,500 (six thousand five hundred); during the winter the increase was very rapid, there being frequently six and seven applications per day, material for which was prepared and sent immediately (except in some instances where irregularities in organization occasioned delay). During the summer, as anticipated, the increase has not been so rapid, yet a steady growth has been going on until we now number 533 Subordinate Granges, 23 Division Granges and a membership of about 17,500, showing an increase of 284 Subordinate Granges, 11 Division Granges, and 11,000 members in about eleven months. Of these new Granges, 4 have been formed in Quebec, 6 in New Brunswick, 3 in Nova Scotia, and 271 in Ontario, which, with those previously formed, make 4 in Nova Scotia, 7 in New Brunswick, 16 in Quebec and 503 in Ontario.

The above record of the progress and condition of the society, shows an amount of prosperity and general good standing that speaks volumes for the real merit of the Grange, and the ability and energy of farmers, which must be alike pleasing and encouraging to us.

Respectfully submitted,
W. PEMBERTON PAGE,
Secretary.

LECTURER'S REPORT.

Bro. Stephen White, Lecturer, reported verbally, and said he did not deem it necessary to make any lengthened statement of his stewardship for the past year; as they all well knew, no money had been appropriated to this office for travelling expenses, &c., the Grange considering at its last meeting in Toronto that local Deputies would perform this work, and thus save a large expense.

The Master at this time notified the members that the regular hour for the election of officers had arrived, and wished to know their pleasure. After various motions and amendments were submitted, and a desultory discussion entered into by nearly all the members, it was concluded to postpone the election until after the Report of the Finance Committee, on Thursday morning.

MEETING OF DEPUTIES.

The evening session was taken up by the Deputies discussing their work during the past year, and being instructed in more uniformity in the secret work of the Order. Worthy Master Hill and Deputy Jno. D. Grow assisted in going through the different degrees.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS—ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1877.

After the Report of the Finance Committee, the election of officers was proceeded with, and resulted as follows:

Worthy Master, S. W. Hill, Ridgeville; 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.

The Grange adjourned at twelve o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Grange convened at two o'clock, and the election of officers was resumed. Mrs. J. T. Gould, Foley, was elected Lady Assistant Steward. The following were elected members of the Executive Committee: Messrs. Daly, Newburg; Hughes, Sharon; G. Ford, Meaford; Cole, Cole's Corners, and Drury, Barrie. Messrs. Cheyney, of Brampton, and Lossee, of Norwich, were elected Auditors.

The following report, by Bro. Drury, of the Committee on Suggestions for the Good of the Order, was considered and adopted:

THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.

Worthy Master and Patrons:

The Committee on Suggestions for the Good of the Order having given the matters brought before them their most careful consideration, beg to report as follows:

The Committee recommend that no change be made in the constitution so as to admit millers as members.

We recommend that the Executive Committee be empowered to procure essays on chemistry and entomology, and other subjects of practical importance to farmers, and that such essays be printed and distributed amongst the different Granges as often as deemed expedient, say once in three or four months.

We recommend the setting apart in each Subordinate Grange of at least one hour at each meeting for social enjoyment and intellectual improvement.

We recommend that the Executive Committee take steps to obtain an expression of opinion from Subordinate Granges as to the advisability of establishing an institution for the higher education of farmers' daughters, where such studies as the practical duties of the household and dairy, also a practical acquaintance with horticulture and floriculture, as well as the ordinary branches of education, could be taught.

During the remainder of the afternoon the report of the Committee on the Constitution was discussed. The discussion was continued during the evening session, and was resumed the following morning.

The Auditing Committee reported a balance in the Dominion treasury, stock and cash, of \$3,155.90.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Bro. Hughes, as chairman of this committee, read the report, suggesting a great number of alterations and amendments. The submitting of the report occupied part of Thursday, and Friday morning. At the conclusion, it was resolved not to adopt the report, but refer it back to the committee for further consideration.

THE STATE OF RURAL SCHOOLS.

Bro. Jos. Ferguson, Birr, said he wished to draw the attention of the members assembled to the state of our rural schools, as he considered the Grange eminently an educational society according to its declaration of principles. He contended that the standard for teachers was too high in certain branches to meet the requirements of country schools. He had taken pains to enumerate the various branches which a child was necessitated in learning, and they amounted to something like 21. He thought this was too much to attempt at once. He maintained that rural schools should be more practical, teaching the great essentials of a farmer's education.

After a short discussion on the subject, the Master appointed a committee on educational interests of the Order.

A report on the Executive Committee's report submitted various questions affecting the welfare of the Order, comprising the advisability of incorporation; they thought there would be no difficulty in obtaining a charter, and that the expense would be of the most trifling character. Some slight objections were made to the usual practice of obtaining the passage of a Bill through Parliament. The report further recommended that in the matter of aid sought by certain members who had suffered by fire, that no relief could constitutionally be given, and insurance was now so cheap that it would be mistaken charity.

RECIPROCAL RELATIONS.

The National Grange of the United States having extended the hand of fellowship to all countries, and advancing the idea of one general Order throughout the world, Bro. Chase, of the United States Grand Lodge, was appointed to represent the Dominion Grange.

It was also remarked that Bro. Wright, the foreign representative of the Order, who had lately attended the international co-operative convention in Glasgow, fully advises that steps be taken for an immediate working connection with kindred societies in England.

INSURANCE.

The report of the Committee on Fire and Life insurance was submitted, and gives the opinion that much more is paid as premium by the farmer than is necessary. The fire department seemed to be of paramount importance—the other being left over. A committee was ordered, subject to the appointment of the Grand Master, to report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

On Friday evening the officers were duly installed, thus winding up a most successful and interesting meeting.

Is the Grange Costing us too Much?

The Grange Visitor says:

The answer to this question will depend very largely upon the sentiments which the person endeavoring to answer it holds with regard to the object and value of money. We shall attempt to answer it by another which will in turn lead to others.

Is it or is it not a wise plan to "place your money where it will do the most good?"

If it is, where will it do the most good? Certainly not in the bank. While a bank deposit is very convenient to have, yet every one knows that money in bank does us no good. It must be drawn out and exchanged for something else before we derive any benefit from it. Money never benefits us in any way while we have it; it leaves its blessing as it takes its flight. No business man of ability, if he can avoid it, ever carries any more money in bank than is necessary to meet present contingencies. All surplus beyond is invested in some other manner, and when we say that money is invested we simply mean that it is spent. The great complaint of capitalists at the present day is the want of safe investments; that is, they have no opportunity for spending their money for anything of greater value, and so the money lays hoarded and the country suffers.

It may seem strange at first, this idea that the country is suffering because capitalists have nothing for which to spend their money, and yet we think some of those who complain that the Grange is costing too much, are troubled in a similar manner; but we have not reached this yet.

A farmer meets with success in farming; at the end of the year, when he has sold his wheat and his stock and his pork, he finds he has a surplus of a few hundred on hand. What shall he do with it? Well, he remembers that neighbor Jones has a "forty" joining his farm which he wishes to sell, so he spends his surplus in a first payment on this "forty," gives notes for the balance, and for the next few years he finds that every dollar he can make above what is required for food and clothes goes to pay the notes and the interest; and yet he calls it money well spent. "For," he reasons to himself, "when I get that 'forty' all paid for, it will be a source of continued revenue to me, while the money brought me nothing, besides which it has finished my farm, and I derive a large amount of pleasurable satisfaction in viewing my fine farm, all my own and all paid for, and beyond all this I am getting something of lasting value to leave my children."

And under some circumstances the farmer will have reasoned justly, but suppose he had taken his few hundred dollars and devoted a portion of it to pay his initiation fee and dues in the Grange, and invested another portion in shares of stock in a co-operative store, and invested about fifteen or twenty dollars in subscriptions to papers and magazines, and the balance in educating his children, what would be the result? What he would save financially through the Grange and the co-operative store would probably amount to more than the income from an extra "forty"; the new ideas, new thoughts, new processes that he would learn through the Grange, and the more extended intercourse with others that it brings about, would be a means of still further financial profit. Very probably he would learn enough to enable him to make as much profit off his old farm as he would otherwise have done on the farm and the new "forty" together. The pleasure of reading, of entering into a fuller knowledge of the world's work and the world's life, the broader views and more elevated subjects for thought, will give to him a degree of pleasurable satisfaction that is not to be obtained by viewing broad acres alone, and to his children he has given an inheritance more valuable than real estate, an inheritance that they can possess while he lives to enjoy it with them, an inheritance that neither time, nor change, nor fortune can take from them.

These are the two ways of investing a few hundred dollars. Not a fancy sketch, but a sketch of things that may be true, a sketch that hundreds and thousands of members of the Order all over the country are proving to be true.

In the light of this, is the Grange costing too much, or is it not financially, socially and intellectually the best investment that has ever been offered to the farmer?

Grange Picnics.

The first annual Picnic of Langstaff Grange took place as announced, on the 14th ult. At noon a large concourse of people had assembled. Several prominent members of the Order were bidden to give addresses. The Thornhill Brass Band added to the enjoyment of the occasion. After due consideration had been rendered the supply of excellent edibles provided by the ladies, the meeting was called to order under Bro. D. James, W. Master, he introducing Bro. Robt. Marsh, who spoke of the principles of the Order. Their objects were to encourage the communication of their thoughts and ideas to one another, and to improve themselves socially. They discussed subjects connected with the farm, and benefited by each other's experience. He spoke of the remarkable growth of the Order; and he advised the young men to stick to the farm.

Mr. A. J. Hughes spoke of the origin of the Order and its objects, and the necessity for concentrating their energies for doing away with the superfluity of agencies. He referred to the evils of the credit system, and spoke of the proposal to form a Grange Insurance Company. He believed they were right in forming a society for their mutual improvement and elevation, without going into politics, a society where they could extend the right hand of fellowship without any reference being made to political questions or private opinions.

Bro. J. G. Bull said that when it was known the farmers composed seven-tenths of the population of this country, it was not very extraordinary that the Order had increased rapidly. The farmers had other societies, such as the Agricultural, but they did not meet all requirements, and it was felt necessary to protect and promote their own interests. It had been said that they ought to have

a greater representation in the Legislature, too. As to the farmers' interests in trade, &c., how was it in the neighboring Republic? They could not send stock over there, or a bushel of grain, but they had to pay duty on them. But the Americans could send their produce here without paying one farthing of duty. There were higher motives than the pecuniary, which actuated the farmer; and one was the desire to elevate themselves in society.

Mr. Lane, M. P. P., said that while the agricultural interests were the greatest, they were not antagonistic to those of any other in the country, but the reverse. The farmers required men to make instruments and implements for their use. Mechanics were just as necessary, in his opinion, to the farmer, as the farmer was to the mechanic or manufacturer. He thought they would advance the country to a state of fruitfulness which was scarcely believed at the present time. He believed they should make an effort to get the best prices possible. He believed the agricultural calling was the best that any young man could enter into. They should say to their sons, learn. If young farmers do not attain to high position, it is for the want of industry or intellect. While he did not wish to pander to the prejudices of the farmer, he wished them to consider that they were members of the body politic; that member was necessary to the welfare of the community.

After some remarks by Messrs. Duncan and McConnell, and an invitation from the Chairman to those who differed from the objects of the Society to come forward and give expression to their opinions, the proceedings were brought to a close by the band playing "God Save the Queen."

VICTORIA SQUARE GRANGE held their Picnic at the Grove of Mr. Jas. Stovenburg, Victoria Square, under agreeable and pleasant weather. A sumptuous repast was provided by the ladies of the Order. The Band of the Tenth Royals from Toronto was present.

The afternoon proceedings were inaugurated by the appointment of Mr. H. B. Crosby to the chair, and after a few introductory remarks, in which he congratulated the Grangers on the success of their gathering, and complimented the ladies in a highly eulogistic manner for the taste and elegance displayed by them in the portion of the programme, he called on Col. W. M. Button, who said the Grangers were introduced into the States on account of various rings, such as the corn ring and others, which ground the farmers down so low that they had to burn their corn for fuel. He did not think it right that the American farmers should send their corn into this country free of duty, and the farmers of Canada, when they shipped barley to the United States, have to pay a duty of 15 per cent. He thought the Grange meetings very beneficial in instructing farmers' sons and daughters. He did wish the Grangers to crush out the retail store-keepers, but he wished to see their business conducted on cash principles.

Mr. Robt. Moss said the objects of the society were to bring farmers together for the purpose of communicating their thoughts and ideas to each other, and to elevate their standards. They also discussed all subjects connected with the farm. Another object was to teach their sons and daughters by example. If the latter saw their parents showing an interest in their calling they would no doubt learn to stick to the farm. The sum of \$60,000 in taxes was raised every year in the County of York, and the agricultural community paid it. They should therefore see that it was properly expended. He advised the young men to stick to the farm. If they did not attain to riches, they could at all events live in comfort. If the sons stuck to their calling they would be able to surpass their fathers.

Mr. James said objections had been raised against the movement by those who said the Grangers would ruin the retail trade, but that was not one of the principles of the Order. They desire that when they paid cash they should be allowed a discount, and not be taxed for the losses incurred on account of the credit system. There were benefits to be derived from belonging to the Grange Society. Farmers, by meeting in the Granges, got into each other's society, and were thereby improved. The movement was claiming the notice of politicians, whom they should judge on their merits, and not by what each party said. In conclusion, he advised them to be cautious in what they did. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. Manning stated that he desired not to have anything to do with the Grange while it was under the protection of a foreign country; but on the establishment of the Dominion Grange he was made a member, the first north of Toronto. The Society gained in members very rapidly, and he was very anxious for the honor of the agricultural class. Look at their relation with, and the position they occupied to the Government. When Dr. Orton brought up a resolution for a committee to be appointed to inquire into the agricultural state of the country, it was laughed at. He did not believe in the opinion that farmers would never be largely represented in the Legislature. He was looking forward with delight, old as he was (seventy years) to see a number of their young men in Parliament to represent them. They (the farmers) had made the country what it was now, building and blossoming as the rose. They did not move from place to place the same as others, but had their property in a settled place, and it was their's to control its destiny. The farmers were the bone and sinew of the land, and the backbone of the country. He knew that the theory of Free Trade was a very pretty one, and it was nice to talk of Free Trade. He thought that as soon as another nation compelled them to pay duties, of a necessity, they must for their own protection compel that nation to pay duties also. If they could get reciprocity from any country, they would give them reciprocity in return. He did not think that the United States did right in imposing a duty of twenty-five cents for a bushel of wheat, and fifteen cents for barley, their being imported into this country free of duty, and he asked his hearers whether they believed it right or not (Cries of no, no). They would compel the Government to give them Protection, because they were able to demand it at the polls. He was astonished that every farmer of the country did not ally himself with the Grange movement. Their interests were identified. The country would be safe in their hands, because they made the country, and it was their interest to preserve it. It could not rise without raising them, or sink without sinking them. The Grange movement was causing a mighty revolution. In conclusion, the speaker referred to the social benefits derived from, and the rapid growth of, the movement.

Mr. Hughes then made a few remarks upon the necessity of concentrating their forces and doing away with a superfluity of agents.