

them we leave the putting the question in its proper light.

We also give the following description of the gathering, written by a gentleman well known to all the leading farmers in Canada. It contains good wishes previously expressed by us, and we deem it deserving a careful perusal by all; good may result to those who regard the hints thrown out in it. Plain truths spoken by a friend are more wholesome than the honeyed sayings of flatterers.

As a pleasure excursion and enjoyable holiday, the affair was all that could be wished. The gathering was large, the weather superb, the railway accommodation ample, and all passed off without anything in the way of misfortune or accident. To farmers and their families it was a pleasant episode in the usual monotony of what, with all its advantages, is a toilsome and busy life. If such holidays were taken oftener, they would greatly relieve the sameness and the tameness, the drudgery and the weariness which cling so tenaciously to the pursuits of husbandry. It is well when the hurry of spring work is over, when the rush of harvest is past, when the stores of autumn are housed, and when the reign of winter has set in, that the toil-worn ruralist should "rest and be thankful," put on his holiday attire, take his wife and children to some festive gathering, say "begone dull care," and enjoy a day of wholesome and inspiring recreation. Each of the four seasons at least should have its farmer's holiday, as an offset to its inexorable demand for hard work. Not rest merely, but recreation is needed, as a counterpoise to "the busy toils of the industrious year."

But the occasion in question was not only a gala day, it was the anniversary of the Grange Order, and a demonstration in honor of its principles and aims. As such, candour compels the statement that it was in several respects a failure. But little interest was taken in the most important part of the programme. Not one-tenth of the picnickers gathered around the platform to listen to the addresses. One would have thought that the country folks, whose seldom have an opportunity of hearing speeches, would have been eager to make the most of this excellent chance to do so. It was a poor commentary on the statement made by one of the speakers, that the Grange comprised more intelligence in its ranks than any other equal number of farmers, that so few showed an appetite for "the feast of reason and the flow of soul." If the speakers platform had been a "Cheap Jack" stand, at which stunning bargains in dry goods and groceries were offered, a miniature circus, or a "Punch and Judy" show, it would probably have attracted a large audience. It is hardly possible to conceive of any style of public entertainment that could have drawn more out of proportion to the crowd on the grounds, most of whom, according to the principles of the Grange, profess a supreme anxiety for "the improvement of the soil and the mind."

In the addresses delivered there was a conspicuous absence of reference to objects contemplated by the Grange, the considerations that should induce farmers to join it, proof of its usefulness and the like. The chairman and those of the speakers who were introduced as "live Grangers," might surely have condescended some information on these points. Neglect of this was not caused by the supposition that all present were already Grangers, for distinct allusion was made to the fact that many present were outside the pale of membership; but the only appeal was, "Hurrah, boys, we're a big organization, we're going to sweep the country, we're bound to fill the legislature with farmers, we mean to take possession of business, railroads and politics; come and join us or you'll be left out in the cold." The amount of bombast indulged in was, to say the least, excessive. One "live Granger" affirmed that the Order had gained more converts during the six years of its history than Christianity itself had won during the same space of time, a remark painfully suggestively of the question, "Will it live as long?" A mushroom style of growth is not apt to result in the production of an oak. "Late ripe, late rotten," is usually the law of things.

One "live Granger" complained that outsiders were called on to do the chief part of the speaking, instead of members of the Order. This part of the proceedings would have been a sorry affair but for the "outsiders." The only really good speech was that of Mr. Johnston, ex-President of the Agricultural College. Indeed, he was the only speaker who seemed to have made any preparation, or at all to rise to the dignity and importance of the occasion. It was observable that not a solitary

"outsider" endorsed the Grange, or expressed the least admiration of it. All, of course, were happy to be present on such a festive occasion, but not one patted the Grange on the back as a good institution. The M. P. and M. P. P.'s who spoke would have been stupid indeed not to see that there was a chance to make influence, but they were very chary as to endorsing the Order. Seeing that "outsiders" could not, even under stress of courtesy and the temptation to court political influence, indulge in eulogy of the Order, why did not some "live Granger" explain its principles and aims, point out the good it is doing, and bring forth strong reasons why "everybody and his wife" should join it?

There was also a lamentable deficiency of practical talk about agriculture. Mr. Johnston's able address was chiefly taken up with the political economy aspects of farming, and though the matter was simplified perhaps as much as the nature of the subject admits, it may be seriously questioned whether any considerable proportion of the audience understood "the law of diminishing return" and things of that sort. Why did not some "live Granger" say something on the thousand and one topics of pressing and practical interest connected with the business of the farm? Irrespective of Grangerism, had no one the gumption to give the assembly a few hints in the direction of better farming? Or, if it was desirable to forget for "one glad, oblivious day" the hard work of the farm, would not something on rendering moral homes more beautiful and attractive, or family and neighborhood libraries, on making Grange meetings interesting and profitable, on raising the mental and social status of the farming community, and so forth, have been eminently in order? So far as these and other subjects of the highest importance to the agricultural class were concerned, the opportunity of making useful impressions was completely thrown away.

One of the "live Grangers" was a little sarcastic in view of the compliments paid to farmers as to their being the bone and sinew of the country, while it was notorious that scarcely any of them got into Parliaments or obtained civil service appointments. Why this is so is a good conundrum to consider at Grange meetings, when time can be spared from the more important business of parcelling out tea and sugar, making up wholesale orders and going through forms and ceremonies. Ambition is well, but qualification is better. There is nothing in our institutions to repress farmers if they will fit themselves for the high places of the land. "A man's gift maketh room for him," and there is always room up-stairs for the man who has the energy to work his way there. It was quite evident that some of the "live Grangers" who speechified at the picnic felt maltreated that they were not in Parliament, but whether any one of them could have been elected had the crowd present been a body of voters empowered to appoint "a fit and proper person" as their representative, is a point on which it might be hazardous to express an opinion. It is, indeed, desirable that farmers take their proportionate place in our legislative halls, and if they use the means adopted by other classes they will undoubtedly do so. There is no shorter or easier road to place and power for them than for others. "Who would be free themselves must strike the blow."

It is the great fault of the Grange that its actual working does not harmonize with its professed principles. Nominally organized for broad, patriotic purposes, its energies are too much directed into narrow and selfish channels. It has done something in the way of cheapening certain articles that farmers have to buy, but it has been mainly by substituting the cash principle for the system of credit. Any man can do that on his own hook. It has created a lot of offices, about which there is no end of scrambling and contention. It has started some local business enterprises, none of which are or can be very flourishing, because the laws of trade are dead set against them. It is dabbling in certain financial schemes, the upshot of which is sure to be that somebody will be hurt. But what has it done or is it doing for the main object of its existence? In what way have the agricultural interests of Canada, properly so called, been helped on the road to prosperity by it? It is surely not unreasonable to demand on its sixth birthday some record of achievement beyond the mere enrolling of members.

These criticisms are penned in no unfriendly spirit. Agriculture has no truer friend than the writer of them. So far as the Grange is concerned, he has not been an "outsider," but a member, ready to work, not indeed for the petty, selfish schemes that have occupied the chief attention of Grangers, but for that great national interest whose promotion was professedly the grand object contemplated

by the Order. It has been with pain and regret that he has felt called upon, from time to time, to raise the warning voice and point out whither things are drifting. Taking a survey of the country at large, which he is in a position to do, it is but too evident to his mind that the Grange must either take a "new departure," and attend to its own proper business, or go to the wall. There never was a more empty boast than that made at the recent picnic, to the effect that the Grange is drawing around it the intelligence and wealth of the country. The reverse of this is the fact. It may be as well to inform those who indulge in this kind of vaunt, that stock has been taken of the Grange throughout Ontario, and that with the exception of the county of Elgin, and one or two other lake counties, very few of the leading agriculturists of the Province are found to be in connection with the Order. Lists of the best farmers in the various localities of the Province have been made on the basis of information furnished by competent residents, such as township and county officials, and with the exceptions named, nineteen-twentieths of the best farmers of Ontario stand aloof from the Grange. Now, are our leading farmers fools, or is there that about the actual working of the Grange which fails to commend itself to their better judgment? Here is a second conundrum for Grange meetings to solve, and it would be well if the Dominion Grange would devote special attention to it.

All true friends of agriculture desire to see farmers unite in a solid phalanx for the promotion of that great interest on which the prosperity of the country is mainly dependent. No one is small-minded enough not to wish that the Grange might be that organization, were it so managed as to meet the public want. Nobody has murderous designs on it, but it is only the part of kindness, when it is plainly to be seen that it is taking slow poison, to warn it against the folly and sin of suicide.

The Agricultural Commission.

The commissioners especially appointed to the department of forest, fruit, insectivorous insects and bees, have had their first meeting. Several fruit growers were present by invitation to state their experience in the matters to be enquired into. The questions were principally put by Mr. Saunders, who has an intimate knowledge of the subjects of the department. From their proceedings we glean a few notes:

The Niagara district is the greatest fruit-growing district in Canada; in it are grown all fruits suitable to the temperate zone. Apples are most generally raised, and the trees come into bearing at an average of six years after being planted. They are usually planted from 30 to 35 feet apart. The planting of more pear trees is recommended. In the Niagara district the pear crop is considered to be quite as reliable as the apple crop, and pear trees are more regular in their bearing than the apple trees. The conditions which appear to be most favorable to check the ravages of blight, to which pear trees have become subject throughout the country, are great atmospheric humidity, and vicinity to the lakes, where the extreme cold is tempered by the water.

Peaches require a warm, light soil. If the people would take pains to raise seedling peaches, they would gradually get a race of trees much hardier than those brought from a more southern country.

Planting of Forest Trees.—The seeds of trees should be gathered as soon as ripe, and planted immediately in drills, and at a depth varying according to the size of the seed. Evergreens form the best shelter for orchards, as they form shelter in the winter, when it is most needed.

CABBAGE WORMS.—Water heated to about 160° is reported to be a very effective remedy for the cabbage worm. It should be applied to the plants as soon as the worms appear. The cabbage worms are hatched from eggs deposited by a medium-sized butterfly, which is white with a few black spots. These appear early in the season, and should be destroyed whenever possible. You thus reduce the number of parents, and thereby reduce the number of worms.