

# 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. CREECH, M. D., Newport.]

The whole of the copy sent for publication in this column last week, did not appear in print. The omitted portion appearing here will seem disconnected, but we trust that our friends will give the principles that are presented connected and earnest consideration.

We hear comparatively little of late concerning silos and ensilage. Why is this? It was anticipated by the early advocates of ensilage that the preservation of green and succulent fodder in silos would revolutionize our farming in several important respects. No such revolution has, however, occurred, nor is there present prospect of any such revolution taking place. A few, a very few, of our farmers have built silos and fill them with corn, oats, peas and barley, clover, or other suitable material. The ensilage product, although not generally inviting either in appearance or odor, is greedily devoured by stock of all kinds, who take to it like young ladies to sweetmeats, and it seems to agree with them. The cows fed with it even increase in their milk, and the butter is of good quality. The labor connected with the preservation of fodder in silos, and that connected with its preservation by evaporation of the moisture essential to putrefactive changes, *i.e.*, the time-honored hay-making process, cannot vary materially, except in bad hay-making seasons; but in favor of silo saving, is the very important consideration that it is quite independent of old Sol and the weather. Summer before last, we think it was, several of Major-General Laurie's silos were filled with clover and orchard grass, which could not have been saved as hay, for the very good reason, that when it was ready to be harvested, wet weather prevailed for many days. The grass was mowed and stored in the rain. Had it been left until sun drying was possible, it would have been comparatively worthless.

Which of the two methods gives the best results in nutritive or digestible qualities of the fodder preserved can only be decided by carefully conducted experiments. We do not refer to chemical analysis; the chemist or his analysis gives one answer; the animal, when appealed to, quite another, if not a contrary, reply. What the chemist declares *should be* most nutritious of foods analysed, the animal may find to be least nutritious. Farmers are notoriously conservative. They will await developments. Our worthy Brothers C. R. H. and R. W. Starr of Kings Co., Brother Robert Davison, of Woodville; and Nathaniel Spencer, of St. Croix, Maine Co., Brother Major-General Laurie, at Oakfield; and others of whom we know not, are with praiseworthy courage experimenting. Let us hear from them. The Ontario Agricultural College has also been conducting a series of experiments with ensilage. Reliable results will soon be had and published. In the meantime, we illiberal conservatives will make hay when the sun shines. The summarized results in our mind, after wading through the rather confusing and sometimes contradictory reports of tried experiments, comparative analysis, etc., briefly stated, is about this. Ensilaging is applicable to green material that can be easily raised in large quantities, that could not be saved for winter use by drying (desiccation). Ensilage cannot advantageously be used alone, but as a substitute for vegetables. This is also true of dry fodder or hay. There is a loss in the non-nitrogenous constituents of ensilage proportionate to the degree of fermentation. It must also be remembered, that while grass cut in season, and made in the sun without rain, cannot be improved upon, there is frequently very great loss in proportion to extraneous moisture received and to be desiccated.

This subject is worthy of a great deal of careful consideration, but we must leave it for the present.

There is especial need that farmers, who compose the largest proportion of the community, and have, or might, and should have, the largest share in the selection and election of those who make the laws and control the destinies of the country, should remember this great truth. The welfare of our great industry, as far as it may be affected by legislative action, depends upon our own wise or unwise action in the selection of political representatives.

Patrons, as such, may not "call political conventions or nominate candidates," but they may and should see that the political principles inculcated by our constitution should be observed in the selection of candidates.

One of these principles, and a very important one, is that "the office should seek the man, and not the man the office." The man who comes seeking the office, by that very act, almost proves his unfitness to fill it. The knowledge and the qualities required in a political representative cannot be concealed,—their possession implies their employment for the public good; but what this knowledge, and what these qualities are, we venture to indicate only in general terms. Certainly, no one should be chosen to represent or to legislate concerning what he does not himself thoroughly understand; our representative should therefore be a successful farmer.

The man who has been faithful in the less important affairs intrusted to him, is one who should be selected to fill more important positions. Obviously, the man whom we select as our representative should hold the political principles and convictions that we hold. He should also be a man of broad and enlightened views, who, though mindful of the particular interests of his constituency, will "seek the greatest good of the greatest number;" and were the legislature and executive functions of our Dominion

in the hands of such men, the greatest good to the greatest number could not but result from their labors.

While we contend that the political atmosphere of our Dominion needs *ventilating*, that it may have its due proportion of the agricultural element, we claim for agriculture only its fair share of representation. To quote again from our Declaration of Purposes—"We desire proper equality, equity and fairness. \* \* \* In short, justly distributed burdens and justly distributed powers."

The objects of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry are well and concisely presented in the Act of Incorporation as follows:—"Whereas, certain parties have associated themselves together for some time past, under the name of 'The Dominion Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry of Canada,' having for their object the improvement of agriculture and horticulture; the sale and disposal of their productions; and the procuring of their supplies to the best advantage; the systematizing of their work; the discountenancing of a system of credit; the encouragement of frugality, and the intellectual, social and financial improvement and welfare of the members of the Association in the various Provinces of the Dominion," etc.

The objects of the Ritualistic and Degree work of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry are to inculcate the virtues of Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity (which may be regarded as the four pillars of the Order), and their exemplification by the Husbandman in his occupation, and by the Matron in her life and duties. To associate moral precepts and the necessity of moral and intellectual culture and work, or Husbandry, with the Patron's daily toil. And to enjoin kindness to animals, order, "Heaven's first law," honesty in all things; and other cardinal virtues.

As examples of the way in which these objects are sought to be accomplished, we may be held excusable in lifting the mystic veil, and quoting the following language, supposed to be heard only by the initiated or the neophyte:—"The plow is used to break up the ground and prepare it for planting. This should teach us to diligently drive the plowshare of thought through the heavy soil of ignorance, and thus prepare the mind for the growth of knowledge and wisdom. And as a good plowman requires a steady hand and a good eye to lay his lands straight and his furrows smooth, so let your aims in life be true, and your conduct correct, keeping the mind bright by deep thinking and active use.

The domestic animals are committed to our keeping by the great author of our being. Practice mercy and compassion towards them. Never over-work nor over-load them, and guard against haste in reprimanding them. Treat them with kindness and affection, and they will learn to love you. It is one of the objects of our Order to protect dumb animals from abuse; and any member who countenances their ill treatment, is liable to censure, suspension or expulsion.

Have Faith. In the child, where love is instilled by kind parents, its faith in them to protect and provide for its safety and wants, is unbounded. So the Husbandman has faith in the great Provider. He prepares his ground, and puts in his seed, having faith in its resurrection. Draw nigh unto God in your daily labors. Constantly surrounded by and coming in contact with His beautiful creatures, let your life show that you appreciate your honored position."

These extracts might be multiplied indefinitely in illustration of the nature of Grange teachings and the excellence of the Ritual of the Order, but the above will or should be sufficient for the purpose, and will, we trust, induce the eligible to unite with us, and command the hearty approval of all.

ERRATA.—The word "heartfelt" in the 4th line 3rd paragraph of our last issue should be omitted.

PLANTING NUTS.—The *American Garden* offers this advice on the subject: Most nuts will not sprout after they have become thoroughly dry, and should therefore be planted as soon as ripe. If the ground is in proper condition the best plan is to plant the nuts just where the trees are wanted. A mellow, moderately rich soil, covering the nuts two or three inches deep, and packing the earth firmly over them is all that is needed. If it is not practicable to plant in the fall, or where squirrels and field mice abound, which are very apt to steal the nuts, it is better to defer planting until spring. In this case the nuts have to be kept in sand over winter. To preserve nuts over winter take a box—which should not be watertight—cover the bottom with about three inches of fine sand, spread a layer of nuts over it, cover with sand, and so on, finishing off with a three-inch covering of sand; place out doors and cover with soil. In spring, as early as possible, plant in nursery rows, or in the places where the trees are to remain permanently.

FATAL OVERFEEDING.—Mr. B. F. Johnson refers in his Illinois correspondence of the *Country Gentleman* to "something like a new disease," named *azoturia*, or *azotemia*, indicating that the cause of it is a retention of too much nitrogenous matter in the system; says it has taken off more heavy weight draft-horses than breeders would be willing to admit, and adds these suggestive particulars:—

"It invariably results from allowing the animal to stand in the stable for some time, and giving him, as the common custom is, an unlimited amount of nutritious food. The liver and kidneys soon become unable to eliminate the impurities as fast as they are formed; hence a blockade and a partial or complete suspension of the faculties of the excretory organs. The attacks are always sudden, and when severe are fatal in a few days. When taken out of the stable the animal will appear to be in unusual health and spirits, but he has not gone far before he begins to lag, then breaks out into a profuse perspiration, especially upon his hind quarters. Soon weakness and loss of power begin to show themselves, the animal falls down, and in bad cases never rises. Treatment amounts to little or nothing, the patient dying or recovering, according to the mildness or severity of the attack.