

The Grange.

In Memoriam.

"Forget not the dead who have loved, who have left us."

Died suddenly, of heart disease, at his residence, Township of Chatham, Ontario, Bro. James Laferty, member of Grange No. 169. He retired to rest at 10 o'clock on the night of the 6th inst., in apparent good health, and was dead in three hours afterwards. Bro. Laferty was a faithful and zealous member of the Order and will be much missed in his locality. He was followed to the grave by a numerous cortege of brethren and friends, and interred with Grange ceremonies.

The following resolution of condolence was passed by his Grange:—

Moved by Bro. C. W. Knight, seconded by Bro. Joseph Black, and resolved—That we, the members of Chatham Centre Grange, hereby tender our heartfelt sympathy to Sister Laferty on this the occasion of her sad bereavement, and express our hope that, although she has been deprived of a husband and a companion, she may realize the consoling promise that the widow and the fatherless have the special care of our Divine Master."

THOS. MCKERRALL,
Sec. Grange 169.

The Grange an Organization for Work.

The Patron's Helper says:—

The Grange should be a compact, well disciplined body. To this end the obligation of the members is important, and the passwords and other means of recognition between Patrons are of great utility. A fund is also necessary, so that all proper expenses may be met promptly. The fund is useful for another purpose, as well; to cultivate the habit of making regular contributions for the public good. There is no freer-hearted people in the world than Americans, and nowhere are such generous contributions made for churches, schools, and all other like institutions as among ourselves. That is right, and the spirit of public enterprise and public improvement is one ever to be encouraged. But all these things can be best done where there is organized effort, and men will contribute most freely when they know that their donations go into the hands of responsible men who will faithfully and wisely use them for the furtherance of the objects designed. The founders of our Order did well when they created a strong bond of union and provided for a perpetual fund to meet the expenses of the organization. A strong, compact body, always ready to foot the bills incurred, is a thing long needed among farmers, and just now, by our Order, for the first time provided. The discipline should be rigorously maintained, the dues all promptly paid and the work before us conscientiously and thoroughly done.

But it is always to be borne in mind that however perfect the machine is, the work it does, and not its perfection or beauty, is the measure of its utility. We wish to call the attention of the National Grange to this matter, to the end that they may not spend all their time praising the machine, or furbishing it up, or exalting the engineers, but may devise work for it and the right men to do that work.

And again we would impress upon the members of Subordinate Granges that with them rests the chief responsibility, and by them must the bulk of the work be done. Not by the office-holders, but by the whole body of Patrons, working together and each laboring in his own place and his own way, can the work be done.

We wish, particularly at this time, just as the National and most of the State Granges are about to hold their annual meetings, and just as the winter's leisure is to give time for the more frequent meetings of the Subordinate Granges, to impress upon the minds of all alike that there is work to do, important, pressing work, and that every Patron, man or woman, ought to have a part in that work. What we can accomplish will depend on our zeal, our wisdom and our fidelity. But we shall be strongly delinquent in our duty if we let these meetings and this winter pass without making our Order a far stronger and more efficient working organization than ever before.

Make the Grange Attractive.

However often a Grange may meet, if its meetings are not entertaining, members will early begin to neglect them. Hence it should be the aim of every Grange to please as well as benefit its members.

There may be here and there a peculiarly endowed individual who can live very comfortably without pleasure. But the majority of mankind, and, therefore, of Patrons, require amusement. Even instruction must come to them in a pleasing shape. They will not often endure something that is not enjoyable, because it may ultimately prove beneficial. Especially is this true where the character and extent of the expected benefit are uncertain. It is therefore especially the case with regard to Grange meetings. The advantages of these meetings are not at once apparent; the good to be derived from ritualistic ceremonies and literary exercises, has to be pointed out to most people, and even after it is pointed out they have but an indistinct conception of it.

Hence, if a Grange is to prosper it must be attractive as well as profitable. The extremely wise and prudent Patrons who realize that the profitable is above the attractive, must cater in some degree to the tastes of the Brothers and Sisters who are less prudent and wise. This latter class, and it is by far the larger, will not attend Grange meetings that are likely to weary them, no matter how much one talks to them of the improvement to be had at those meetings. —Grange Bulletin.

The Grange.

The Grange organization, which I believe to be most imperfectly comprehended by a large portion of the membership, has served to awaken interest on public matters, and has led farmers to think. The Grange in some localities is led into such picaresque bickerings that intelligent men become disgusted with it. But the difficulty is with the men, and not with the Order. There is nothing unreasonable or narrow in the true principles of the organization which you represent. It simply has the general purpose of furnishing the opportunity for co-operation in business matters, for social intercourse, for culture, and for creating a homogeneous sentiment among the great rural population. In many localities the business features receive little or no attention; in other localities they are run into the ground. In a social way, farmers and their families have found much pleasure and profit from the Grange meetings, and by building up a more friendly and independent feeling among the members its work has been especially fruitful. Farmers have been inclined to be jealous and shy of each other. I have often noticed that the farmer who had made a good bargain in purchase or sale would act as if he were afraid his neighbour would find out how and where to do equally well. In the Grange there is a tendency to cultivate such a mutual intercourse as will lead each to impart useful information to the others.

I have noticed, too, that farmers were least inclined to follow their own leadership. Men in other business pursuits and professions stand by each other. For instance, if a lawyer gets into legal trouble his brother lawyers come to his rescue, furnishing their advice and services free or for small reward. There is often sharp rivalry among merchants, but upon questions which affect the business interest of their calling they will be found shoulder to shoulder. Their boards of trade and similar organizations have given them opportunities for serving each other.

The same may be said of doctors, who may not always speak in complimentary terms of each other's professional skill, yet they are found consulting together on questions which concern the welfare of their profession.

Then, in my estimation at least, one of the greatest achievements of the Grange is the work it has accomplished in bringing farmers together for counsel on matters pertaining not only to practical agriculture, but to the public and political questions of the day which concern their business interests. Party politics is, of course, wisely excluded, from the Grange meetings, but questions like taxation, railroad management, &c., which are too imperfectly understood, are suitable subjects of inquiry now for farmers.—Correspondence "Husbandman."

London Division Grange—Education.

The London Division Grange, at its last meeting, entered extensively into the educational interests of the Order. The following delegates were present:—Henry and Frederick Anderson, Wilton Grove; Adam Nichol, late Dominion Treasurer, Westminster; Benjamin Paine, late member of Executive Committee, Dominion Grange; and Bruin Cornell, Delaware; Capt. Wood, Dr. Hanson, and W. L. Brown, Hyde Park; John Stevens, Byron; Joshua Jackson, Arva; Robert McGuffin and Thomas Fitzsimons, Thorndale; William L. Learn, Westminster; James Evans, James Fram, and Robt. Wood, Evelyn; Walter Brett, Strathroy; Jas. Ferguson and John S. Hodgins, Birt; M. Johnston, Bryanston, and a number of visitors.

The main part of the session was occupied in discussing the educational interests of the Order, especially with regard to rural schools, and a more general dissemination of agricultural knowledge amongst the members of the Order.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

Mr. Brown, Hyde Park, considered although the questions with regard to general education were desirable, yet a more vital point was lectures on agricultural chemistry in the various subordinate Granges. He thought this was the essential part of a farmer's education, knowing the composition of his soil. As the Dominion Grange had especially recommended a course of lectures and essays on agricultural chemistry and entomology and the kindred sciences, he thought this Division should avail themselves of the services of Walter Brett, Esq., of 106 Grange, a practical chemist, who had taken the pains to import from England a complete apparatus for analyzing soil, etc., etc., and giving them practical illustrations on the science of chemistry. The way he proposed to do was to form classes in the different Granges and give so many lessons.

On motion, Mr. Brett was highly recommended to the various lodges.

London Division Grange meets on the 6th of January, 1877, in Morrell Temple, Richmond Street, at 10.30 a. m., for the election of officers. Delegates will please take notice.

A Word of Caution.

It frequently happens that men go around among the farmers to establish agencies for the sale of something pertaining to agriculture, or they offer to leave some implement on trial; but then they ask you to sign "a little paper, just to show where the article is." Or if you receive a consignment of something to sell as agent, you may be asked to "sign this little note," to show what has been done.

"It is understood, of course, that all not sold are to be taken back," says the traveling agent; but if you sign such a paper, see that it is only a receipt for the article received; adding, "it is agreed and understood that all not sold by me are to be taken back, paying only for what I sell." These sharpers sometimes get farmers to sign papers without reading them carefully, and they turn out to be valid promissory notes, that are sold in the vicinity, and that is the last you will hear from the traveling agent in that part of the country.

The Grange in England.

We find the following letter from J. P. Shelton, the only patron in England, to the Virginia Patron. It is written from Sheen, in the county of Surrey: "A certain feeling of loneliness of spirit had come over me since I became a member of your Order, for I feel the separation which exists between me and my millions of brothers and sisters on your side of the Atlantic. There is something odd in this relationship, and yet it is a beautiful one. It is a matter of just and generous pride to me to belong to so puissant, and at the same time benevolent an Order as that of the Grange, and therefore so as I am the first English Granger. At present, indeed, I am the only member of the Order in Europe, and I feel more as if I had been sent here from America as a permanent representative of the Order, than an Englishman bred and born. It is needless to say that I am thoroughly in love with the Order; I am so because of its effect on the daily life of farmers and also because of its benign and ennobling influence over the social intercourse of the people. In American papers which are devoted more or less to Grange interests, I have been struck with the moderate tone of justice between man and man which has characterized the utterances of the Granges. This reflects much credit and honor on the Order generally, and on its leaders particularly, who always counsel tolerance and moderation. The admission of women to full membership and to a participation in the highest honors and duties incidental to the Order has also had a powerful effect from the beginning on the success of the Grange as an institution.

In this country there is a great need of combination among farmers. Full of energy, industry and good sense as my countrymen generally are, they are suicidally and strangely blind to the blessings of intelligent co-operation. They are suspicious of each other and jealous, as men always are who take no pains to understand each other's wants. I am inclined to think that the old feudal tyranny to which our forefathers were subjected for many, many generations left on our race a mark of subservience which is not yet fully obliterated. The Grange would soon obliterate it if fair play were given to it and a fair trial. I hope to see the Grange become ere long a flourishing institution in this country. But it will not come yet—not for a time. It is, however, getting to be widely known in England. Some men pooh-pooh it, others say there is some good in it; in any case they are discussing it, and this is what I want. I care not how they regard it for a time, so long as they will talk about it. The great thing at first is to get our farmers familiar with the idea of the Grange. New ideas and innovations of all kinds are an abomination to the average English farmer—while they are new. If the Grange can once start fairly I venture to predict it will succeed well in England."

An American Opinion of the Grange in Canada.

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry has had as healthy a growth in Canada as in the United States. It has grown to be a power in the Dominion. Patrons mean business over the line. Their paper is not filled with urgings to "join the Grange," "to be faithful," to put the "shoulder to the wheel," or anything of the kind—they seem to have too much real solid work on hand for that. "Work!" is the motto there, not "groumble." Ninety-six deputies are in the field, and they, since October 27th, 1875, have increased the Granges from 246 to 530, over 100 per cent. This is not all. Instead of a membership of 6,500, as one year ago, they now have 17,500 in good standing, a growth of 11,000 in eleven months.

Patrons in Canada believe in printer's ink. Within eleven months there have been published 15,000 Constitutions of Dominion Grange, 10,000 Recommended Constitutions of Division and subordinate Granges, 4,000 Manuals, 2,000 Parliamentary Guides (or book of rulings), 2,000 song books, charters for Division and subordinate Granges, besides a quantity of blank forms and miscellaneous matter.

There is much about the movement in Canada we can well study; and we are rather pleased than otherwise that this is so now, as the mere mention of their excelling will be a fresh incentive for Patrons here to work to build up the Order as they have never worked before. Let us show Canada that we propose to emulate her good deeds and signal progress of the past year.

Get Posted in the Ritual.

The ritual could be made not simply attractive, but beautiful and instructive, if care were taken to apprehend its full meaning and then to render it significantly. In special ceremonies, such as the conferring of degrees and the dedication of halls, the charges and responses should be recited, not read. But, if for any sufficient reason it is necessary to read them, the reading should be expressive, not stumbling and destructive of the import of the text. In this respect, there is at present the greatest carelessness; and we believe that to it alone the small attendance at many of the Grange meetings is owing. People are, with few exceptions, fond of imposing ceremonies; and the only reason why many Patrons find nothing attractive in the ceremonies of the Order is that, while these ceremonies might always be, yet they very often are not made imposing. Indeed, they are sometimes performed in so bungling a manner as to appear little less than ridiculous. All officers should be as familiar with the portions of the ritual that pertain to their respective offices as a rector is with the Episcopalian service.—Grange Bulletin.

One of the offices of the Grange as an educator is to inculcate a spirit of benevolence.

Grange Summary.

The Granges of California and Oregon expect to ship this year 6,000,000 tons of wheat and barley.

The Brethren in the vicinity of Napanee have leased a large store house in that town and engaged a reliable agent to receive, sell, and look after the shipping of their grain. Some 5,000 bushels of grain have already been stored.

The first shipment of grain from Glencoe by the Patrons of Husbandry was made on Tuesday of last week. It consisted of three car-loads of barley grown in the township of Mosa, of superior sample. It was consigned to Toronto by Battle Hill Grange.

The Grange has financial, social and educational features, and in the Subordinate Granges these will be more or less marked according to the make-up of the Grange. So, according to the disposition, habits and tastes of the members will the characteristics of the Grange, as a body, be made prominent.

The Grange movement is securing the attention of Germany. America continues to teach the Old World new ideas. Meetings have been held in Berlin and other places in Germany to consider the practicability of organizing an Agricultural Order in Germany similar to the Patrons of Husbandry in the United States.

Our Order has raised the dignity of agricultural labor; it has set bounds to the grasping monopolies; it has engendered the free spirit of enquiry; it has caused the most potent class of our citizens to think and to devise better means for material, intellectual and social advancement; it is reforming not only agriculture, but public sentiment, and shaping towards better ends the course of a nation. The principles of our Order are the safeguard of our people.

The lack of information is the great lack, among farmers especially, but, thanks to the Grange, they are waking up, and eagerly seeking the knowledge which shall place them in the front ranks, and among the leading powers of this age. Farmers, as a class, are acknowledged to be temperate, industrious and economical; let them read good live agricultural and scientific papers, if but a few minutes each day; they will find that it lightens labor in more ways than one, and adds a constantly growing power to the "hand that holds the bread."

Meeting Oftener.

We heard recently of a Grange that, finding its members losing their interest and neglecting its meetings, sought to remedy the evil by making the meetings less frequent. The rule had been to meet once a fortnight, but it was so changed that a meeting was held only once a month. A very brief experience proved, however, that the change, instead of bettering, made matters worse. The attendance at the monthly meetings was smaller than it had been at the fortnightly meetings; and the Grange very soon re-adopted the old rule.

The result in this case was simply such as might reasonably have been anticipated, for attending Grange meetings is much like going to church; the more one stays away, the less inclined one is to go, and the more one goes, the more one likes to go. If, instead of making its meetings less frequent, the Grange had made them more frequent, if, instead of making them monthly, it had made them weekly, the probability is that the activity of its members would have been restored. At any rate, persons who have visited a great many and a great variety of Granges, say that the most flourishing and enterprising are those that meet oftener.

Aim High.

A correspondent of the *Dirigo Rural* says:—Be assured, friends, that a proper attention to the moral, social and intellectual features of the Grange idea will secure all the rest as a natural and legitimate result. But if we lose, or neglect to properly cultivate and develop these, all is lost; we shall at last fail, and a most disastrous failure it will be. Devoted to the business feature of our Order alone, we should soon be eaten up by sordid selfishness, and instead of being characterized by that broad, liberal charity, so necessary to our happiness, and usefulness to others, we should be in danger of becoming one of the greatest of the monopolies.

But if we keep this business feature in true subordination to the sublime features of our Order, future generations will bless our memory, and future historians will record our virtues in prose and verse, to be read by our posterity to the latest generations of the earth.

The Duty of the Hour.

The *New York World*, in its column of Grange news in issue of September 20th, says that "a paragraph wholly unjust or ungenerous is going the rounds of the agricultural press, declaring it to be a disgrace to American civilization that 8,000,000 farmers should have scarcely a representative in Congress, while 95 per cent. of the legislators of the nation are drawn from the numerically small class of lawyers." It says that "such talk as this may win a few subscribers, but it is an insult to the intelligence of those to whom it is addressed, and a libel on the honesty of those who utter it." It goes on and says: "As matters are, if a man desires to enter politics, his best road is through the bar or the editorial room."

Davids' Cough Balsam comes to us highly recommended for the complaint which its name signifies, and is suited to the infant as well as the aged. We advise our subscribers, when in need of such a medicine, to try this preparation, and assure them that, if used in time, a speedy cure will ensue. See advt.