

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. CREEK, M. D., Newport.]

In promising to offer hints concerning the treatment of the subject for the Essays to be presented at the Annual Session of the Maritime Provincial Grange, in competition for Past Master W. T. George's prize, we did not propose undertaking the ambitious task of giving lectures on the writing of prize Essays in general, or on the proper treatment of the particular subject selected by the Executive Committee. We merely proposed to offer hints as to the way in which the Executive wish the subject to be treated.

The subject, "Does the occupation of Agriculture in the Maritime Provinces afford sufficient inducements to sons and daughters of farmers to remain at home, and engage in it," was selected and carefully worded in view of the annual, and shall we say *alarming*, exodus of sons and daughters of our farmers, and the committee wishes to direct attention especially to the following important considerations:—

Is this exodus the result of restless desire for change which unmoors our young farmers, male and female, from the home ties and occupations, and leaves them to drift away on the westward setting current of emigration? Or, are the inducements easier or more congenial work, or better or more certain remuneration?

It is possible it would be only what might be reasonably expected, were political considerations factors in this exodus. Our sons and daughters may be exhibiting a preference for republican institutions, or for the political or social institutions of the United States, received from those who in the school room, in the public press, and on our platforms, should inculcate love and appreciation of country and its institutions. This may be, but involving, as it does, *partizan* political considerations, may not be discussed.

Whatever may be the reason or reasons for this exodus, or the inducements for leaving home, it is certain that they are sufficient; that they are more potent than those which the home farms and the land of home offer for resisting the western impulse and remaining at home.

But does not the occupation of farming in our Maritime Provinces, if properly conducted, really afford sufficient inducements for the sons and daughters of our farmers to remain at home and engage in it?

We believe, and the conviction is the result of carefully weighed data, that all things considered, no land offers greater inducements to the farmer. Nevertheless, in the treatment of this question, whether literary or practical, we cannot afford to,—we should not ignore its sentimental aspects. Agricultural education, which would make farming more profitable, would also have a tendency to make it more attractive, and the sentiments of love of home and of country are often found to be independent of practical inducements or foundation, yet strong enough to resist the allurements of more favored but foreign lands.

The subject is a large and important one, but we leave it just here, mindful that we may wish, however hopelessly, to enter the lists, in which case we might regret that we had given away our best thoughts.

Since the adoption by the Executive Committee of the recommendation^s to Division Granges to appoint suitable members to visit Subordinate Granges, explaining and exemplifying the unwritten work; to see that each Grange worked in accordance with the laws and established usages of the Order; to instill, if possible, or when needed an appreciation of and zeal for its principles purposes and objects, and who should be required to report for the information of their Division and of the Provincial Grange, (not quarterly, as printed by mistake in our last issue); also, of the request that Division Deputies furnish the Secretary of the Provincial Grange with quarterly reports of the condition of the Order in their several jurisdictions, we have received the September number of *Our Grange Home*, from which we glean the following rules for "THE GRANGE INSPECTION SERVICE" by State Deputies:—

- 1st. The Deputy will notify Granges of the date of his official visit, that everything may be in readiness for his inspection.
- 2nd. The Grange visited will be opened in the 4th Degree, after which the Deputy shall be admitted and presented to the Grange.
- 3rd. The Deputy, or his duly instructed Assistant, shall examine the Secretary's books; see that all the proceedings, as recorded, have been in conformity to the prescribed rules and regulations of the Order; note the average attendance, and the usual hour of opening and closing the Grange. The Treasurer's accounts should also be examined. Also, the roll book and all the property of the Grange.
- 4th. He shall require the opening and closing ceremonies to be performed, and at the close correct all errors and omissions in the same.
- 5th. He shall witness the conferring of Degrees, either upon regular candidates or substitutes, and correct errors or omissions, if any occur.
- 6th. He shall require the Master to give the lessons and instruction of the unwritten work of the four Degrees, as required in the Ritual, correcting where necessary.
- 7th. He shall address the Grange visited, making such suggestions for the good of the Grange, and of the Order, as in his judgement may be called for or useful.

8th. He shall make out his official reports upon blank forms furnished for that purpose, etc.

9th. He shall keep an itemized account of his necessary travelling expenses while engaged in these duties, and present the same for approval.

Then follows "THE DUTIES OF THE GRANGE," in six sections, which require the Grange visited to afford the Deputy every facility for inspection, etc. The only one of these rules presenting any additional features is, that the visited Grange is required to appoint a committee to retire with the Steward to receive the Deputy, and introduce him to the Grange.

We would recommend that the members appointed by Division Granges in compliance with the suggestion of the Provincial Executive, whether Deputy or not, and the Granges visited, be required to be governed by some such regulations as those quoted above.

The performance of this duty by Deputies is not intended to supercode or conflict with the duties assigned Lecturers by the Constitution and Ritual of the Order.

Want of space precludes further consideration of this very important matter at present.

SUFFOLK PIGS.—Among the small or middle races of English pigs a breed occurs which is close akin to the Essex—somewhat larger in the body and shorter in the leg, better haired and hardier. A standard authority thus describes them: "The Black Suffolks are short on the leg, long in the body, well coated with long, silky hair; the forehead broad, the nose short and slightly turned up; ears rather short but broad, with a tendency to droop forward; splendid shoulders, great jowls, body wonderfully symmetrical. The Suffolk more nearly realizes the theory of the parallelogram than any other animal we know of. The tail is set quite on a level with the hips; the hams are deep and wide." This is high praise. They are also praised for the excellence of their pork, freedom of skin diseases, and general vigor of constitution. They resemble the Essex in many points, and are equally valuable for crossing upon the larger breeds.

The really careful breeding of pigs, and the preservation of pedigrees in England, dates back but comparatively few years. Pigs took their names from the counties in which they were bred, and breeders or exhibitors at shows called their pigs Suffolks or Norfolks perhaps, so it happened that some white pigs that won prizes at the shows, were imported to this country under the name of Suffolks. The pigs were good and had quite a run, but when we wanted more, we found that Suffolks as recognized in England were black, and that the high-bred, small white breed were the small Yorkshire, which were, so to speak, like those we were familiar with as Suffolks, only more so. There have been occasional importations of Black Suffolks, but we know of no herd maintained and bred pure. They probably have been crossed with the Essex, which they resemble, and which have a strong hold upon the regard of our people.

ALL-PURPOSE ANIMALS.—An animal that will yield a profitable amount of milk, and will also put on fat readily, is desired by the general farmer; but the specialist—the beef-grower or the dairyman—desires an animal specially qualified for his purpose. Such animals there are, constituting the Jersey, Polled Angus, and yet other breeds. While the Holstein-Friesian excels as a milk-giver, its butter and beef qualities are such that it may be classed as an all-purpose breed; so the Shorthorn, which, while it excels for beef, is also a very good milk and butter producer. There is just as great a demand for a special beef or dairy breed as for an all-purpose one; and those breeders of special breeds, who claim for them all-purpose qualities, injure the reputation of the breeds. The beef-grower wants an animal that will give no more milk than is absolutely necessary to support its young; for an animal cannot convert food into both milk and beef, and the more milk it yields the less flesh it can put on. It follows that no animal can excel for both milk and beef. The Holstein-Friesian may put on as much flesh as the Shorthorn, but while doing so it cannot yield much milk. If it gives more milk than the Jersey, producing as much butter, and at the same time puts on flesh in considerable quantity, it is because it eats more food. From the same amount of food it cannot make more butter than the Jersey, or more beef than the Shorthorn; for it devotes more food to the formation of milk than the Shorthorn. No animal can be a good special animal, and also a good all-purpose animal. There is a distinct want for each—a distinct place for each; and to seek to make one fill both places, is as useless as to drag it from its own place to fill the other is unavailing.

MECHANICAL POTATO HARVESTERS.—A vast deal of ingenuity has been exercised in the invention, and much money expended in the construction, of potato-digging machines. Digging potatoes with the fork is the most monotonous and back-aching of all kinds of farm work. No doubt that it will in time be made easy by a machine which will be in the potato field what the mower is in the hay field, but it has not yet been done. We have seen the most elaborate potato diggers, which looked as if they ought to work, which, when tried in the field, proved utterly useless, so cumbersome and difficult of draft were they. Thus far the only mechanical aid in potato digging is an exceedingly simple one—a plow which has an attachment like fingers, which lets the earth sift between them and drops the potatoes by the side of the furrow. Still, the most laborious part of the work, the picking up, must be performed by hand. This plow splits open the hills and leaves the potatoes exposed for men, women and boys, to pick up and fill into barrels to be carried to market. Potato vines are rich in fertilizing matters, and the most successful potato growers gather them and cart them away, to be converted into compost for next year's crop. Weeds and brush are gathered into heaps and burned, and their ashes spread upon the land to add to its fertility.—*American Agriculturist*.