

Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Brantford, Feb. 2, 1870.—The Executive Committee met in the Kirby House. Members present:—Worthy Master S. W. Hill, and Bros. Manning, Payne, Daly and Page.

The committee appointed at last meeting report that, after due consideration, they would suggest, for the present, that books with music be purchased of R. H. Thomas, Secretary of Pennsylvania State Grange.

On motion, the account of Colcock & Durman for printing, and that of G. H. Burgar for stationery, were ordered to be paid.

At the afternoon session, Bro. Gifford was also present.

On motion, the subject of Manufacturing Co. in connection with McLaughlin & McCormick, was laid upon the table.

Resolved, That the sum of \$10 be allowed deputies for organizing Granges in Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, until Division Granges are formed there; also, that deputies organizing in Ontario, outside the limit of Division Granges, be allowed \$3, and 8 cents per mile, one way, for actual miles travelled.

Resolved, That where Granges have been organized since January 1st, 1870, forwarding \$15 with their application, such Granges being within the limits of Division Granges, the sum of \$3 for each Grange so established be paid to the Division Grange, within the jurisdiction of which such Grange is established, upon application of said Division Grange. Carried.

Resolved, That Granges in Quebec that have not been in working order for some time, be relieved from the payment of back dues, commencing their reports with the present quarter.

Moved and resolved, That the forms for reports from Division Granges not furnished by the Dominion Grange free; also, that reports for Subordinate Granges to Division Granges be furnished Division Granges (for distribution among the Subordinate Granges in their jurisdiction) at cost price. Carried.

On motion, the preparation of blanks for business reports from Division and Subordinate Granges was laid over until next meeting of Executive Committee.

It was resolved to postpone further proceedings, for the present, in the matter of petitions to Parliament asking for a protective tariff on agricultural products.

Resolved, That whereas several Granges have been organized by Masters of Subordinate Granges since the 1st of January, contrary to by-laws which came into effect at that time, placing the work in the hands of deputies, applications thus received be sanctioned by this Committee and laid before the next meeting of the Dominion Grange for ratification. Carried.

Bros. Hill and Manning were appointed a committee to attend to the application to Parliament for incorporation.

The communication from Grange No. 197, asking assistance for a member who lost his buildings by fire, was taken up, and, after due consideration, the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That as fire is a casualty against which all may provide by insurance, this Committee does not feel at liberty to take any action in the matter, unless reasonable cause be shown why such provision by insurance was not taken.

The report of the committee appointed to revise the Parliamentary Guide (a book of instruction for the use of Granges) was read, each section taken up separately and duly considered.

EVENING SESSION.

On motion, the Parliamentary Guide, as revised, was adopted, and the Secretary ordered to have 2,000 copies printed; also, to send one copy to each Grange already organized, and one to each new Grange organized in future.

On motion, the appointment of a committee, with instructions to proceed with the application for incorporation, was reconsidered, and, in view of the expense attached thereto, a resolution was passed, laying the matter over for future consideration.

Moved and seconded, That Bro. Gifford draw up a plan for conducting a manufacturing company in the interests of the Grange, said plan to be laid by the Secretary before the Subordinate Granges, together with blanks to obtain stock for said company. Carried.

The Secretary was instructed to issue disbursements to Division Granges, and also charters, upon application, after sufficient evidence is given that said Granges are in good working order.

The matter of defining boundary lines of Division Granges was laid over until the next meeting of this Committee.

Adjourned, to meet at Napanee, June 13.

The Grange as an Intellectual Society.

We cannot ignore this feature when we remember that to-day hundreds and thousands of farmers, their wives, their daughters and their sons are seeking mental improvement, who three years ago only lived to eat and work. But they have United with the Grange, and by force of circumstances have caught up its life and spirit.

The Grange opens up a way to the farming masses which no other order in this land can do. If we properly consider the intellectual advantages offered to the farmer and his family through this educational avenue, we can say to-day, with cheerful hearts, we have not lived these three years in vain. The educational features of the order appear to be the grandest and most sublime of all its varied objects, and the one which in time is destined to stand forth as the most prominent. There can be no more grand or more sublime work entrusted to us by our great Creator than that which has for its glorious end the elevation of our countrymen to a proper appreciation of their true

manhood. As an illustration of what has been accomplished in this particular, we have but to refer to many officers of Granges who, on first being induced into office, could not write a legible hand or compose an intelligent letter—in a word, could not make out a quarterly report correctly, for the plain reason that they had neglected every opportunity for improvement—yet with correspondence with one another, have so improved their latent gifts as now to correspond and transact their business in a business-like and intelligent manner.

Young Farmers.

At the meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, Manufactures and Mining, at Ludlow, Vt., Dec. 1st, Col. J. B. Mead, of Randolph, read a paper, of which the following is a brief abstract:—

Many sons of farmers, on arriving of age, quit the old home, in hopes of gaining honor and wealth more rapidly in other fields. The father, becoming discouraged, sells the farm and buys in the village. In this state of things there is cause for alarm, for by it agriculture is kept in the background both as an art and a science, and far from the position where it rightfully belongs. Errors in education contribute to this state of things. If the farmer rests or retrogrades; if he is satisfied with old methods and old implements; if he ignores the demands of the age as regards his calling; in short, if he is a shiftless farmer, he must not expect his son to become enamoured with the calling, who, seeing the results upon his father's farm, reasons that the same only can be reached on any farm, and seeks other fields. But a more thorough culture of the soil and mind is now called for. The speaker portrayed in glowing terms the unsettled state of affairs in our country, the condition of things being such that a young man seeking a calling sees but little to invite his ambition or flatter his hopes. The legal profession, with many honorable exceptions, is full of second and third-rate men, who are led by self-interest to do disreputable things to obtain a livelihood. The chief good of man is to make the most of time and talent while we live in doing the most to benefit humanity. The farmer has many ways of doing this. As yet we know but little of the proper breeding of stock or of how plants grow, of the hybridization of plants or entomology. The young farmer cannot become an expert in all these; but he may have a specialty and thoroughly learn some one of them, thus benefiting both himself and his neighborhood. In other callings much study and practice is required to command success; but many suppose that the farmer needs nothing of the kind.

Farmers who live their sons away into many of the professions are in a measure responsible for this state of things. We need more definite knowledge of methods in farming; such careful experiments as will not lead us astray. It is desirable to be able to stand before our fellow-men and speak with ease and fluency. The young farmer who fits himself for this will not lack opportunity. If in regard to public affairs we allow others to do all the thinking for us, we must not complain if we find ourselves at a disadvantage. Much of the legislation adverse to farming interests might be avoided. The farmer should be a good citizen, actuated by a lofty moral purpose, his query being—What is right? that, dying, he may be numbered with those who have not lived in vain.

The Farm.

Non-Rotation.

Fertile virgin soils may be cropped for years with the same plants, and yet but little diminution be observed, still, sooner or later, the ill effects of such a course will be apparent, and the longer the practice is observed of running to particular crops, the more difficult will it be to bring the soil back again to its normal fertility.

Nature has her natural rotation. She succeeds one forest with another, or else grows a variety of trees together that one variety may absorb what another rejects. Thus coniferous trees give place to deciduous ones, and these again, in lapse of time, are succeeded by others adapted to the changed nature of the soil. So with herbaceous plants, a large number will be found growing in a small area, one class of plants accepting what another rejects. The wheat plant delights in a soil containing phosphates; corn requires potash and nitrogen; clover thrives luxuriantly under the application of gypsum; while all cereal plants thrive on well drained soils containing all the elements of fertility in excess. Thus we see that plants require special food just as animals do, and if we exhaust the elements they need, they must languish. Indeed, the elements peculiar to them must be in excess to reach the best results in culture.

Under the old systems of culture, resort was had to fallowing, to allow the soil to recuperate; but more modern experience has shown that naked fallows are not needed, when a judicious system of rotation is practiced. Every farmer must decide what this rotation must be for himself, for no two sections of country are alike, nor are any two farms exactly alike, although the general characteristics may be the same.

Experiments have been made to show that plants not only take from the soil, but also give back to it; and that this exuvia is detrimental to plants of the same kind, until a certain time has elapsed; but that it is exactly what some other plants require. So, on ordinary soils, the farmer finds by continuing the cultivation of certain plants from year to year, the soil becomes sick as he terms it, and he is, perforce, obliged to change. The best system is, so to arrange that the crops are made to follow each other in regular rotation, so far as the seasons and other natural contingencies will allow, returning always to the regular rotation, when broken, as soon thereafter as possible.

Corn is the staple crop, in all that region of the West, where the climate is suited to it. It is also the great fallow crop of the west; for, under good cultivation, the soil is always in proper condition to absorb the gases of the air, the great store-house of fertility in nature. If the grain produced be fed to stock on the farm, and the manure is returned to the soil, corn may continue for generations to be the staple crop. Alternated with grass, and judiciously cropped with other grains, there is no reason why it should wear out—and, it will not. But, if grain is raised from year to year, and exported, the soil is like money kept in a stocking, and used from, without returning anything. It will ultimately be drained, and so will the soil, however rich, under the same system. There is no better time than the winter season to decide on the plan of future operation. In this the value of rotation should not be ignored.

Improvement of Seed Grain.

It certainly is encouraging to see that some agricultural writers on wheat have at last stumbled upon the true theory of plowing and preparing their soil for the proper and profitable culture of it. But I have so far failed to see a single article on selecting and saving the seed. For some yet unaccounted for reason, the average yield of wheat has been growing less and less for years all over the country. No one has yet explained the cause, at least I have seen no satisfactory principles set for it in the matter. In the same localities, on the same soil that once produced an average of 20 bushels, the yield is now but 15. Has the land degenerated, run out, or been exhausted of all its life? Have the seasons so changed that their influence upon the growing crop is destructive, or has the seed so far deteriorated that an average cannot be attained?

To say that the land has degenerated or lost its vitality would condemn the utility of manures, both home made and commercial. Never was there so much labor bestowed and money spent upon the soil to fertilize it as now. Twenty tons are now scattered where but one was used years ago. The most scientifically prepared composts are now put on the soil, and still the averages go down. Has the climate anything to do with lessening the average? But little, when compared with other essentials. I say "but little." When the winter is characterized by long, deep snows, the wheat crop is better. It is better, too, when frozes and thaws do not frequently come and go, and when the rain fall is small. Then, I repeat it, the season has much less to do with making a wheat crop sure and profitable than most people are willing to admit.

Has the seed, used and abused as it now is, anything to do in diminishing the yield? Much, very much, I contend, as I have done in former articles, that a good and profitable wheat crop depends as much, if not more than half, upon carefully selecting and saving the seed. I know it to be a fact in this section from numerous experiments I have made with more than 20 varieties of wheat upon different soils and with different fertilizers. A system of carelessness in selecting and saving seed wheat has characterized almost the entire class of wheat-growers for a long time. This system would ruin any seed it carried to such an extent. Crops are cut in the dough state, before the germ has become matured sufficiently to reproduce even a healthy stalk; it is threshed without any reference to the injurious effects of the heavy, rapid strokes of the thrasher upon the grain; it is put in the garner and made to "sweat."

When reason, common sense and the laws of vegetable physiology are brought to bear upon such treatment of seed, who wonders at the decline in average; who can be astonished that it has run out? Wheat for seed should be selected as carefully, and gathered when as ripe as farmers do their seed corn or flaxseed or their seeds. Corn has not deteriorated, nor have other seeds and grain. Vegetable gardeners, florists and seedsmen exercise the greatest possible care in saving their seeds. It is the only method they can adopt by which they keep up the standard of their products, improve their seed, flowers and fruits, and sustain their reputation. Why not, then, do the same in wheat; why not take the best; why not let it ripen well before cutting? I contend that every farmer should pick by hand a few bushels of seed-ripe heads every year from his choicest soil, and should rub the grain out instead of threshing. It will take time and patience, but by actual experiments I have made for six years, it will pay, pay well, too. Should this system be carried out by all, the former average could be easily attained, and the many enemies and accidents that attack wheat would be, in a great measure, avoided.—S. D. Hunt, in Co. Gen.

Cheap Barn.

"I found that my stock would need a space of about 48x72 feet, and that to be safe in case of protracted storms, there should be storage for at least 50 tons of hay under the same roof. I also made the discovery that I could erect such a barn in a reasonably substantial manner, at a cost of not exceeding \$700. And this is the manner of its construction:—Lay off, on a suitable situation, the required space, and begin by laying down 2x4 pieces flat, so as to enclose a space of 40x60 feet. Divide this again into three spaces lengthwise, the middle one being 24x60 feet, and each of the outside spaces 12x60 feet. On the centre space erect 2x4 studding, 20 feet long, to sustain the main roof, and at each side erect 12 or 14 feet studding for the walls, and the support of what may be called the shed roof. The outside studding may be 2x4 inches.

"At the height of seven feet lay the hay-floor, the joists of which may be 2x3 or 2x10, and three feet distant from each other, supported by seven-foot pieces that are firmly spiked to the

studding. Two rows of stanchions eight feet distant from each other, will serve as supports to the joists through the centre of the building, and the joists may be 12, 16 and 20 feet in length, of each an equal number, and so placed as to firmly tie the barn in the manner of breaking the joints. At one end add a lean-to, or shed, 12x18 feet, then enclose the whole only on the outside—no middle walls—covering with roof of boards, battened, and batten the walls, and you have your barn of 48x72.

"One of the side divisions, 12x72 feet, may be divided into three or four boxes for calves and yearlings; a portion of the other side division may be used for boxes for animals that need better accommodations than the stanchions afford; a few stalls for bulls may be made, and the main space should be filled with stanchions or arranged for ties that will secure the cattle firmly in their places.

"Such a building as this may be made quite permanent by placing it on a suitable foundation. A wall of stone or brick that will support it, a foot or more from the ground, would add very materially to its durability, and not much to its cost. It may be built with cheap labor, as the saw and hammer are all the tools required in its construction. Except the joists, there is not a stick of timber larger than 2x6 inches, and not a mortise in the building. If well built, I see no reason why it may not last for many years—and when it may be necessary to take it down, a great deal of the lumber would be in good condition. A shingled roof would be preferred by many. The cost is not much greater, but as the roof only serves to protect the hay, I find that made of boards to be sufficient for that purpose. I commend this barn as a cheap shelter and of great simplicity in construction."—Progressive Farmer.

Pasture.

At a meeting of a farmer's club in Central New York, January 22nd, Mr. Cheever advocated the use of free seeding. The following indicates the position taken:—

If a pasture is started with one or two kinds of grass only, he said it will not provide a full supply of feed for the season. More feed can be produced from an acre with ten varieties of grass than upon ten acres with one. The coarse varieties grown alone leave many vacant spots, but several grown together will produce all that the land will supply. When a pasture is seeded, sow all kinds of seed obtainable. Thistles can be killed by cutting off the stocks before they bloom. This course followed for several years will obliterate them. Good pasture land may be kept in fine condition for many years if not overstocked, and for all we know, forever. Overstocking a pasture tends to run it out, particularly when there is drouth. The grass then ceases to grow, but the cattle do not cease to eat it. The grass should be fed as it grows, not from the matured and unnutritious product. There is nothing superior for milk to recently grown, fresh leaves of grass. If the pasture is understocked, the grass becomes dry and unnutritious. Nothing should be allowed to run up to seed. A rank, coarse growth is shunned by cattle, while the rich, new growth is cropped close. But little more than half as much feed is gained from a pasture which is not cropped closely as from a pasture which is kept down. Overstocking and understocking, then, will both injure pasture and stock. The balance between over and under growth must be preserved by growing sweet corn. Corn when fed should not be thrown over a fence promiscuously. It should not be fed in the pasture. When the pasture fails, take the stock from the field and feed them upon the ralling system until the feed in the pasture is renewed. The cows will be as contented in the stable during summer as in winter.

Top Dressing.

At a meeting of the New Hampshire Agricultural Society, manures and their application were discussed, and one of the members said when he got hold of his farm it was in such a condition that it was either manure or go to the poor house. He manured. As to the result he said:—

"I have always found that my crops were in direct ratio to the quantity of manure I applied to the land. Last year I seeded down eight acres, and put on 800 loads of manure and 1,000 bushels of leached ashes. I raised twenty-five tons from that land of one crop. The land was a clayey and gravelly loam. I sowed in August, after I cut the sod in the spring, sowing the grain with the grass. In order to get manure I have fed out considerable grain. I am willing to feed out grain if I can get enormous crops that will pay for the feed. The manure from hay has not all the ingredients in it which will help the land, but manure from grain acts in two ways, mechanically and chemically, and where we do not get the mechanical we get the chemical action. The ashes cost twenty-five cents a bushel, delivered at the station. Manure is worth five or six dollars a cord. I believe there is enough wasted on almost every farm to fertilize a hundred acres of land. When I find a man saving everything for manure I know he is on the road to prosperity."

Maxims for Farmers.

It is worth while for all farmers, everywhere, to remember that thorough culture is better than three mortgages on their farms. That good fences always pay better than lawsuits with neighbors. That more stock perish from famine than fodder. That a horse that lays his ears back and looks lightning when any one approaches him is vicious. Don't buy him. That scrimping the feed of fattening hogs is a waste of grain. That over-fed fowls won't lay eggs. That educating children properly is money lost at one hundred per cent. That one evening spent at home in study is more profitable than ten lounging around country taverns.