

let alone a difference of the length of our Province. Crops and varieties of the same crop are adapted to certain localities, but when tried in other localities are failures, and so farmers are often disappointed in yields obtained from tests of ideas presented by Institute delegates. For instance, I have listened to a delegate spending the afternoon session of an Institute meeting explaining and endeavoring to convince his audience that their clover crop should be cut, cured and stored in the barn in one day. Now, while that man may have experienced the greatest measure of success with this plan, his hearers knew by experience that this plan was not applicable to their conditions. Another delegate proclaims winter dairying equally as profitable as summer dairying, forgetting that while he may have conditions surrounding him that make his winter dairy very profitable, his hearers are so situated that they cannot dispose of their winter dairy products at prices that will compensate them and prove as profitable as summer operations.

And another weakness is the point of attendance. I have heard those who attend the Institute meetings regularly often remark that only the same ones attend each year. This is very true, and in nine cases out of ten these men are the best farmers of the community, and not the ones most in need of the instruction afforded at these meetings. The ones most in need do not come out, and in some instances there is no response from either needy or anyone else, the officers and delegates having the meeting to themselves.

Now, I trust the inference taken on reading this will not be that I am biased or prejudiced against the Farmers' Institute. I have always been and am a staunch supporter of the Institute, and am quite aware of the inestimable good accomplished through the agency of Farmers' Institute meetings, but the point strikes me forcibly, have they not enjoyed their days of greatest good to Ontario Agriculture? With an appropriation from the Provincial Government of \$30,000 for their maintenance, is the greatest good being disseminated among the greatest number. Farmers are ever eager for definite information, and my contention is that the diversity of conditions affecting agricultural operations throughout our Province renders it impossible, in not a few cases, for delegates to give definite information along agricultural lines. This the farmer must find out for himself, or, in at least his own county. Could not the Government aid be more advantageously spent in this direction—helping each county to solve its own particular agricultural problems? CLARK HAMILTON.

Dundas Co., Ont.

### Aims and Objects of the Grange.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The New Grange, as it is called, or the organization formed by the union of the old Grange and the Farmers' Association a year ago, seeks to accomplish two great objects for the farmers of Canada: to educate them, so that they may clearly understand the public questions of the day, more particularly those which affect their own calling, and to give to them an adequate means of expressing and enforcing their views on these matters. The first object is to be accomplished in the working of the Subordinate Granges, and the second through the Dominion Grange, which is composed of delegates from the Subordinate Granges, and which, when the organization is completed, will become a truly representative farmers' meeting, and, with the weight of a powerful organization behind it, cannot fail to accomplish the object we have in view—to impress upon our Governments the needs and rights of the agricultural interest, in such a way that they cannot be disregarded.

The real need of farmers is education along public lines. We are not sufficiently alive to our own interests and rights, and to the needs of our nation. If our people could clearly understand the real facts relating to the public questions of the day—as, for instance, the question as to the need and effect of a protective tariff for our manufacturers, the effects of the bounty system, the question of railway taxation, and many others—we could safely trust the enlightened public opinion thus formed to give a just and reasonable solution to these questions. I am convinced that if the light were thoroughly let in on these and many other questions relating to the life of our nation, many needed reforms would be accomplished without trouble. But we are, for the most part, in darkness as to these vital questions, which have so much to do with our prosperity now, and with the future of our calling and of our nation. Our main sources of information are the papers of the two political parties, our only meetings to discuss these questions are those held in the heat of the campaign, and addressed by the advocates of one or the other political party. It is plain that such sources of information are, at best, partial and unreliable, and may be worse, and so the people generally remain in darkness, and those who would

despoil the nation for their own benefits are able to do their work in peace, unmolested by public opinion.

The Grange does not seek to form a new political party; neither does it seek to change or influence in any way the party leanings of its members. It recognizes these leanings as existing conditions which it has no right or wish to interfere with. But it does seek to clear the minds of its members, and to give to them sane views on public questions. It believes that the people are, after all, the real rulers of this country, and this being the case, that they should have some means of enlightenment, and some place where these questions may be discussed calmly and intelligently, free from the disturbing influences of political factions. That is what the Grange aims to do—to get farmers together, to impart information on these great questions, to promote free and friendly discussion, and thus to teach them to know their own minds on the great public questions affecting them. Then, when they know their own minds, to give to them an adequate means of expressing and enforcing their wishes.

Will it be effective? We believe it will, most assuredly, provided only that we can get farmers generally organized. A third political party, such as that formed by the Patrons of Industry, might be crushed as they were, by the already existing party organizations. An enlightened and awakened public opinion, working through both the present political parties, and expressing itself in a strong organization, would be irresistible. Neither party would dare to oppose it, and whichever party were in power, our wills would be accomplished for our own good, and the good of our country. Of all the plans proposed at any time, I believe the sanest, soundest, most effective, is

ers of his own neighborhood for this purpose. We are firmly convinced that the best hope of our calling, and of our country, is in this movement. Do what you can to help it on.

E. C. DRURY,

Master of the Dominion Grange.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

## HORSES.

### Best Horse for the Farmer.

Throughout Canada farmers are found to be making money out of horses, while neighbors are unable to derive sufficient profit therefrom to induce them to raise more than one colt each year, and frequently none are found. In some cases the difficulty is lack of attention, or lack of knowledge as to how to handle horses, particularly brood mares. In other cases, however, the disappointment lies in the fact that poor judgment was used in the class of horses raised.

"Of the four classes of horses—draft, carriage, road and saddle—I prefer the draft," remarked W. F. Kydd, of Norfolk Co., an experienced horseman and competent judge, to a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate," recently. "The draft horse is most desirable as a money-maker. From the time he has reached the age of two and one-half years he can earn his feed, without danger of injury to his limbs. Then, supposing he is marked from one cause or other, it does not detract much from his actual value. To the average farmer, perhaps, a most important argument in favor of the heavy horse is that very little time is lost in breaking him in or in fitting him for market, whereas, with light horses, much time is required in training and fitting to catch a desirable price.

"At the agricultural shows throughout the Dominion, the brood mares in the light classes; as a whole, are inferior animals. In fact, many are unsound with hereditary unsoundnesses. How can any man expect to raise valuable horses from such dams? Brood mares in the heavy classes, though not as near perfection as they should be, are of higher quality. If, however, the farmer wishes to make money out of raising colts, he must be prepared to keep the best heavy mares on the farm.

"Even at the present, when horses are not as salable or as high-priced as they were a year or two ago, a heavy gelding of quality brings \$200. The mother of that gelding was in condition to do light work every day until the colt was born. Again, after 2 weeks' rest she was

able to do light work, if ordinary intelligence was used in care and feeding. It has been estimated by those in a position to give an opinion that, including the cost of a first-class sire, a colt can be kept on the average farm until three years old at a total cost of not more than one hundred dollars. Under such conditions, is not the rearing of a colt or two ever season as profitable as any branch of farming?"

It stands to reason that it is not good for horses to stand constantly on hard, cement-concrete floors, unless more deeply bedded than the supply of straw on most farms admits. It is well to have the stall platforms filled in with cement, but plank should be placed over it.

Horse stables need not be particularly warm, but they should be free from drafts. Half a dollar's worth of tar or building paper and a few cleats will do much toward keeping the stable comfortable and the horses in condition with a minimum feed.

Wind-sucking, manger-gnawing, stamping and kicking are not the best forms of exercise. A run in a field or paddock, or, failing that, a drive, is much better for either horse or colt.



Ardgowan Commander.

Ayrshire bull, two years old. First, and champion male at Ayr Show, 1908. Owned by James Howie, Kilmarnock.

the one at present being worked out by the Grange. No objections can be raised to it. It does not interfere with party affiliations or religious beliefs. It is not a combine of farmers, seeking to get the better of other classes. It is a broad, intelligent, patriotic movement, worthy of the heartiest support of every farmer citizen, and of the approval of every patriotic citizen, whatever his calling.

There never was a time when the necessity for such a movement was so great in our country; when the faith of the people is shaken in the present political parties; when corporations and combines and favored interests are despoiling the state; when wealth is being rapidly concentrated in the hands of a few, and the equality of our people is threatened by a new aristocracy of wealth, surely it is time something should be done. If we could impress upon every farmer that the solution of these questions meant more to him now, in dollars and cents, than all his municipal taxes put together, and that this would determine, in very large degree, whether his children and children's children should be free, independent, prosperous farmers, or ignorant, oppressed peasants, surely we could shake this lethargy from us, and act.

It is our intention, through these columns, to discuss the public questions outlined in the Grange platform. Meantime, we would call upon every intelligent farmer to take some interest in this great cause, and to organize, if possible, the farm-