

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

VOL. XVI.

SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1884.

NO. 16

OREGON STATE GRANGE.

An Address Delivered by Hon. R. P. Boise, May 27, 1884.—Proceedings, Reception, Etc.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR ENSUING YEAR.

Worthy Master, R. P. Boise; Worthy Overseer, A. Luelling; Worthy Lecturer, H. E. Hayes; Worthy Steward, W. B. Thomas; Worthy Assistant Steward, F. C. Yeomans; Worthy Chaplain, A. Shumway; Worthy Treasurer, B. F. Burch; Worthy Secretary, M. J. Train; Worthy Gatekeeper, Jonn Simpson; Worthy Ceres, Harriet Cooper; Worthy Pomona, M. J. Harris; Worthy Flora, Jennie Miller; Worthy Lady Assistant Steward, Irene L. Hillyary.

DELEGATES TO THE STATE GRANGE.

The following are the delegates to the Eleventh Annual Session of the State Grange of Oregon, Patrons of Husbandry: Lane County—John Simpson, Annie Simpson, Sister A. E. Churchill, J. F. Henry.

Linn County—S. A. Dawson, S. L. Dawson, John Bryant, Lucinda Bryant, F. M. Kizer, Mary Kizer, Martin Miller, M. A. Miller, J. G. Powell and M. A. Powell.

Benton County—Mary Jane Harris. Polk County—McM. Dodson and S. D. Dodson.

Marion County—J. Voorhees, A. Voorhees, John Downing, Jennie Downing, Dan. Clark, and Hettie Clark.

Clackamas County—J. R. White and Mary White.

Multnomah County—C. Buckman, J. B. Buckman, A. Luelling, and M. A. Luelling.

Washington County—A. B. Heath, E. B. Heath, T. R. Bewley and E. A. Bewley.

Clatsop County—W. H. Gray. Douglas County—J. T. Cooper, H. Cooper, D. S. K. Buick and Jane Buick.

Curry County—S. D. Merriman. Baker County—W. H. Bentley.

Clarke County—W. T.—F. C. Yeomans. Walla Walla—W. B. Thomas.

Idaho Ter.—A. Shumway.

WORTHY MASTER'S ADDRESS.

PATRONS.—We have come again to our annual reunion to consider of the past and consult how we may best advance and secure our future prosperity and thereby also promote the general "welfare of our country and mankind," for whatever promotes our prosperity makes our harvests abundant, our farmers and their families more full-handed, intelligent, contented and happy; also, encourages and forwards every other legitimate industry. When genial seasons reward the labor of the husbandman with abundant harvests then general prosperity should fill the land, and will unless somewhere in the conduct of its business affairs, some improper agency is allowed to turn aside the natural streams of prosperity and thwart the common good.

The Grange being, as is enunciated in its declaration of purposes, an association designed and calculated to educate farmers in better methods of doing their business on the farm, and also to teach them the ways of trade and commerce, so that they may have a better and more accurate understanding as to how their products reach the market, and the taxes that are levied on them before they reach the consumers. This kind of knowledge may enable us to cut off unnecessary exactions and afford us better profits for our labor. It is our duty, therefore, to make the most diligent inquiry into all commercial transactions which affect the prices of the things which we buy and sell.

The origin of the Grange is not remote and its honored founders were still living and present at the last session of the National Grange. In whose presence, and after these noble men had welcomed the National Grange to Washington City, the place of its birth, our Worthy Master, J. J. Woodman, said:

"It is fortunate, indeed, that we are honored with their presence and aided by their counsel on this occasion of opening the seventeenth annual session. I congratulate these most worthy brothers that their ranks are yet unbroken and their little band of seven all live to see the order, which they brought into existence, and to which their best thoughts and energies, spreading over the continent and uniting the tillers of the soil into one great brotherhood, devoid of partisan bias and sectional prejudice, but bound together by ties of fraternal unity and pressing forward the work of benefiting and elevating a class from which communities draw their most salutary influence and the nations their very life blood of existence."

The necessities which gave rise to the order and promoted its growth, and which will secure its further develop-

ment and prosperity, and the final triumph of its principles, are fresh in our minds. The tendency to centralize wealth and thereby control the avenues of trade and commerce, gathering into the hands of a few the profits of agriculture and other productive industries, has been gradually but surely sapping the foundations of rural prosperity and respectability and carrying our farmers towards the condition of serfs and peasants. Centralized capital is easily controlled. Those who manage it are intimately and easily associated and can centralize its power to control the country and monopolize the benefits of all its great industries.

Farmers are scattered and disorganized, except those who have come within the influence of our order. Organization, therefore, should be the Shibboleth of farmers, as it is necessary that they may present a united front against those who are now preying on their industries and eating up the profits of their labor. Organized, the farmers will be strong and capable of defending themselves against those who are thus organized against them. Divided they will be the prey of usurers and all manner of selfish extortioners. A warning comes to us across the Atlantic from Europe and the depths of Asia, ringing in our free ears the dismal clank of cost and feudal chains, and the trite old scripture "the borrower is the servant of the lender." And the whole dark record of history teaches us that the tillers of the soil have been from remote ages "the hewers of wood and drawers of water unto other people."

Organized in this order (the only farmers organization in existence) as we should be, and casting aside all selfishness and envy towards one another, we can stand up independent freemen, and cast aside and trample under our feet these unjust burdens now imposed on us by an upstart aristocracy, who, even within our own time, have arisen from the humble walks of society to sudden wealth through fraudulent speculations and from enormous incomes made possible by unjust and careless legislation, exposing the people of this free country to legal robbery.

Seeing these tendencies, and also present and impending evils that now overshadow and darken our future. The farmers have united in this to defend themselves against extortion and degradation, and take into their own hands and keeping the management of their affairs in order to secure to themselves and families the just profits of their labor. Our only safety is in thorough organization. We must gather together in the rural districts, cultivate a more intimate acquaintance with one another and improve our social standing. Social intercourse rubs off the rusticities that naturally gather on and deform a secluded life. In the language of our declaration of purposes, we must meet together, talk together, buy together and sell together.

Our past success affords us much encouragement and promise for the future. Our business co-operation in this jurisdiction has progressed favorably during the past year; old co-operative associations have generally increased their business and some new ones are being established. Besides the large and profitable business transacted by the Linn County Council, there is a Grange store well established and doing a good business in Josephine county, also one at McMinnville, one at Powell's Valley, and others. Most of these are working under the system recommended by the National Grange, and laid down in our digest, and are consequently doing business for cash, which is always recommended by the Grange, for we are admonished to beware of the credit system, and the mortgage system, as tending to prodigality and bankruptcy. Where these co-operative establishments are near the Portland market, it does not require a large capital to do a large business; if an article wanted by a Patron is not on hand in the store it can soon be had from Portland, and may generally be supplied without inconvenient delay, so it is not necessary to keep constantly on hand any large supply of costly articles, and a constant supply is only necessary of such things as are in constant and general use. By a little prudent forethought we may know the things we will need for our persons and households in time to order them from the market. This we should accustom ourselves to do, for it is a principle enjoined on all Patrons to endeavor to make intelligent calculations for future wants. We may therefore so manage a Grange store as to have little idle capital and do as much business on a small capital as a merchant can do on a large capital who has to keep a large assortment, always ready for the trade.

If we shall be able to multiply these Grange stores until their aggregate amount of business is large, by uniting this trade, and buying together in the markets for cash, we will be able to get a more liberal discount for our purchases, and can also establish an agency in Portland, where our surplus products, such as eggs, meats, fruits, dairy products, etc., can be disposed of at great advantage to us through our Grange stores at home.

From what I have learned I am satisfied that there is no obstacle to our complete success in business co-operation, provided we unite in our trade and stand together. If we will observe our creed and buy together and sell together, we will be able to control our business and secure our just rights. We should always remember that in union there is strength and splendid success; in division, weakness, failure and disgrace. And let me say here, that unless farmers of the United States do unite in this or some other organization, and make that organization active and perpetual, they are doomed as a class to inferiority in society; to bear the burden of the rich and see their children made servants and bondmen and bondwomen before another half century shall be added to the history of this boasted land of liberty. The powers that are marching to our conquest and subjugation are the great aggregations of capital, the credit system and the mortgage system, managed and directed by usurers, whose per cents and extortions exhaust annually more than the profits of incumbered farms, and must soon consume the land, close out the owners, and reduce them from the condition of landlords to tenants, divorce them from the land, and destroy both their independent manhood and patriotism.

We may also co-operate to great advantage in the matter of fire insurance. The heavy expenses which attend the operations of the ordinary fire insurance companies which now do business in this State, can be avoided by us. We will need no canvassing agents to do our business; no expensive offices to be kept in commercial cities by salaried agents. Whoever wishes to insure his property in our association can apply to the Secretary of his Subordinate Grange, and the business transacted with very little expense. The saving in expense will be very great; for I am credibly informed that the expenses attending the management of ordinary fire insurance companies equal about one-half of the amount of money paid on premiums for insurance. I call special attention to this important subject.

EDUCATION.

One of the main objects of the Grange is to educate its members, not only in business, but also to cultivate their minds and hearts, in all that pertains to the development of a higher and better manhood. We meet to discuss questions and learn how to express our thoughts with accuracy and ease; to acquire self-possession, proper deportment, and good manners, so we may possess confidence in ourselves, as we associate and deal with our fellow men. We encourage the reading of history and general literature, and especially advise the study of those sciences which tend to develop agriculture. We should learn the use of fertilizers, and thoroughly study how to beautify our homes, and make them more attractive. We must insist that the rudiments of agriculture be taught in common schools. We should look after the management of our Agricultural College, and see that its leading efforts in education tend to the development of agricultural science. We should encourage the circulation of Grange papers. Every farmer should take one and read it, and it will pay for the investment. Agriculture is a profession, and to be successful in it one must learn its principles. If a man is going to plant an orchard, he should know what fruit it will bear. If he would plant a vineyard in this State, he would do well to go to California and visit vineyards that have been trimmed by experts. He would also need to know the grapes that will flourish and ripen in this climate, and would do well to visit Bro. Shipley, take lessons from him, and profit by his experience. That is, we should know our business. Much precious time and hard labor is lost through ignorance of the business that men follow.

NATIONAL GRANGE.

The last session of the National Grange was held at Washington City, and thirty-two States were represented by delegates; also the Dominion Grange of Canada. The reports show that the order is increasing in numbers and influence, and its purposes are becoming better understood by the general public, and many prejudices once existing

against the order have been dissipated. It is now observed and acknowledged by intelligent farmers in all parts of the Union that there is increased intelligence and thrift in those neighborhoods where Granges have been maintained. It was recommended that special attention be given to the educational work of the order.

To insure the best results in persons, scientific knowledge is requisite. In no calling which engages the industries of men is scientific education so essential to great success as in agriculture. The wonderful advance in farming methods in the Eastern States, whereby their lands produce three fold more than formerly, is due to scientific discoveries. Millions of dollars are now annually expended in commercial fertilizers, and worn out fields are redeemed from sterility and made to produce abundant crops. To facilitate the diffusion of information and promote education in the Subordinate Granges, it was resolved by the National Grange to continue the work of the Worthy Lecturer, in distributing for discussion questions to the Subordinate Granges. This causes all the Granges throughout the United States to discuss the same questions at the same time, and is an admirable system tending to create harmony of thought and action in all parts of the country. These questions are accompanied with suggestions written by the Worthy Lecturer, calling attention to the importance of the questions propounded. These questions relate to the use of fertilizers, the planting of trees, the care of animals, matters of domestic economy, methods of work, the use and care of farming machinery, field culture, the dairy, the garden, the ornamentation of the farmer's home, and the cultivation of taste, and refinement in the household.

These questions also sometimes relate to matters of public concern. We are asked to discuss political subjects that relate to and offset our great industry, such as may promote our welfare, and also such as impose burdens on us. But in these political discussions we consider them not as politicians, but as farmers, seeking to find the truth; for if a tariff on wool helps our wool grower, it helps all engaged in this great industry, whatever may be his political affiliations. So also, if the tariff on woolen cloth increases its cost fifty per cent., the burden must be born by all who buy.

The last session of the National Grange offered the most complete assurance of the general prosperity of the order, and of its perpetuity. It grew out of a necessity among farmers to defend themselves from aggressions of speculators, usurers and monopolies, who were preying on their labor and consuming their earnings without just recompense. Fixing the price of what the farmer purchased and the price of what he sold without consulting him or paying any heed to his rights. It is in the country, among the rural population, that the highest sense of justice prevails. Here reforms in church and state have ever originated; from this class comes demand for civil service reform in our country, for control of railroad transportation by Congress and State; for modifying the tariff laws; for the forfeiture of unearned grants of public lands to corporations that they may be occupied by farmers and give homes to the homeless. These things have been discussed in the National and Subordinate granges and public opinion thus developed. By this organization spreading throughout the entire union, the seeds of public opinion can be scattered broadcast and be made to take root in almost every neighborhood, from which will grow like ideas and a common public sentiment favorable to these reforms. And a healthy public opinion is the only safe-guard of the people against mis-rule. Political reforms in the old world never came from the grace of Kings or Princes, or ever suggested by courtiers; and in this country will never come from politicians who make politics a business and seek favor through machine management. In defining the political status of the order the National Grange, defines as follows:

"While we firmly adhere to the cardinal principles enumerated in our declaration of purposes that in the Grange there is and can be no partisan politics, yet as the church teaches pure morals and without partisan bias, seeks to advance Christianity for the good of all, so we, to better conserve those great interests of our class, which if properly guarded and fostered, will bless all mankind, must give heed to those public questions and laws which affect our calling; and we may without just cause or criticism, from any other class or party, seek such political reforms as will promote our interests and relieve our industries from unjust burdens. In heeding the admonitions of our ritual to promote the wel-

fare of our country and mankind, we do not do our duty as Patrons and citizens if we neglect to call public attention to political abuses or cease to strive to correct them. The political reforms we ask for, and the laws we seek to amend or enact are in no wise partisan. The innocent purchaser and user of patented articles who has to pay an unjust royalty, suffers in the same degree, whatever may be his political affiliations. The establishment of a department of agriculture, now so necessary to aid in the proper development of our great industry and raise it up to a higher level of respectability and increase our influence in the affairs of the nation, has no partisan taint. So also is the transportation question—the railroad monopolies levy their unjust exactions alike on citizens of all parties. As they are said to be without souls, so they are without partisan affiliations, except to accomplish their own selfish purposes. In this regard they are most aptly described by Mr. Jay Gould in his testimony before the Hepburn committee when he declared that when seeking to get his friends elected to office, that in a Republican district he was a Republican and in a Democratic district he was a Democrat; and in a doubtful district he was doubtful. As patrons it is our duty to discuss all questions of political economy; to become acquainted with questions of revenue and taxation; to learn the extent and necessity of public burdens and look into the efficiency of every public service; to seek to regulate by proper laws all corporations that do business for the public. To look after the general welfare of agriculture and endeavor to have all unjust burdens imposed on it removed. And when necessary, by legal enactments, to strive to have our principles and measures adopted by old political parties. To strive to secure the election of men to office and places of trust, who believe in our principles and will make them practical. To carefully scrutinize the characters of all men who are candidates for office, and pledge them, as far as may be, to support the measures recommended by the Grange. To insist that those engaged in agricultural pursuits be elected to political offices and places of trust in a ratio commensurate with the interest they represent. To create and maintain a public sentiment that shall ostracize and make infamous or guilty of moral treason, any legislator who shall refuse or neglect to subserve the known interests and wishes of his constituents, or other officers who shall betray a public trust."

TRANSPORTATION.

It is essential to agricultural prosperity, that ample and convenient means exist for the transportation of farm produce to market, and that the charges for such transportation be reasonable. For whatever may be the themes of ideal philosophers asserting that such charges are paid by the consumer. We know that in this State, and in the United States the cost of carriage on all our great staples, such as grain, meat and cotton exported to foreign lands is paid by the producer. If freight on wheat from Salem to Portland is increased three-cents per bushel, the price of wheat declines three-cents in this market. If the railroad corporation, to drive competition off the river, charge three cents per bushel on wheat from Corvallis to Portland, and at the same time charges nine cents from a station ten miles north of Corvallis to Portland (and this thing has been done) then wheat will be worth six cents more at Corvallis than at such station. For the price in Portland is not changed by such local discriminations. It becomes our special concern therefore to secure cheap and uniform transportation. It is the duty of the State to furnish public highways for the people. This duty has always been recognized by civilized nations.

When lands are granted by the government to individuals it reserves the right, a sovereign right, to lay out its public roads over the land granted. And it is by virtue of this sovereign right, of eminent domain, that the right of way is obtained, by law, for the railroad corporations to extend their roads across the lands of private persons. The power of granting the right of way to a private corporation, cannot be lawfully exercised by the State, to vest in such corporations, a simply private right, to be exercised by the corporation for a private purpose; for it is a fundamental principle guaranteed by the Constitution, that private property cannot be taken except for a public use. So these railroads are public highways as much as turnpikes and ferries and are as much subject to control by State laws.

That there is now a necessity for the State to exercise such a control over these corporations and regulate the

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