

THE GRANGE AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE NATION

By C. H. BAILEY, Editor of the Oregon Grange Bulletin

The recognized historian for the Grange, Prof. T. C. Oleson, of Washington, D. C., says that the greatest achievement of the Grange is the fact that the Order of Patrons of Husbandry has lived and prospered for 56 years.

The Grange was the first organized effort to institute cooperation among farmers, to break down the isolation of farm life, and to inspire the discouraged farmers at the close of the Civil War with hope and courage to face the future in rebuilding this great and reunited country. Ever since that fateful hour in the winter of 1866, when the conception of the great fraternal Order of the Patrons of Husbandry first entered the brain of O. H. Kelley while he was a lonely journeyman in the South, down to this hour, many other "farmer" organizations have come and gone, but like Pennycuik's Brook, the Grange "goes on forever." Its motto, "Este Perpetuum—let it live forever—is indelibly written upon the mind and heart of every true Patron of Husbandry, and the eternal principles of equity, truth, justice and fraternity, upon which the order was founded, can never die.

In the language of Mrs. Southworth, "You can do nothing to bring the dead to life, but you can do much to save the living from death." To the dead farmer organizations we say "Requiescat in pace"—may they rest in peace.

I have said that the biggest achievement of the Grange is that it has lived more than half a century. The Grange in its long life has twined itself around the heart of its members with a silken cord of fraternity, which binds the souls of men and women to a common humanitarianism and helpfulness which never has existed elsewhere in rural life. "United by the strong and faithful tie of agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country, and mankind.

"We heartily endorse the motto, 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.' Among our specific objects we shall endeavor to advance our cause by laboring to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood among ourselves; to enhance the comfort and attractions of our homes and strengthen our attachments to our pursuit; to foster mutual understanding and cooperation."

The Grange was not conceived in a spirit of commercialism, but in its immortal Declaration of Purpose we find embodied the loftiest and noblest aspirations of human life. Having lived through more than half a century of numerous emotional and spectacular efforts to organize the farmers with-

out much permanent success, the fact that the Grange has lived, prospered, achieved and escaped the many pitfalls that beset it along the way, I think may fairly be set down as its biggest achievement.

But I would not have the readers of the News-Review get the idea that the Grange has achieved nothing but life. It certainly has escaped death among the tombstones that mark the last resting place of many noisy and ambitious efforts to supplant it. It ever contained the germs of death as so many other so-called farmer organizations have, they have become enervated and harmless.

It is impossible within the limits of this article to enumerate all the achievements of the Grange during its nearly three score years. Practically every social, educational, economic or betterment question in the interest of agriculture that has attracted attention in all that time has been initiated or promoted by the Grange. I do not mean to claim that the Grange is wholly responsible for all these agricultural achievements, but that it has been an important, and in most instances the dominating, factor in bringing them about, no well informed person will deny. In a democratic government the dominating force is the power of intelligent and well-directed public opinion. Upon all movements for rural betterment the Grange, through its perfect organization and well disciplined leadership, has been an important and often a controlling factor in creating that public opinion which has influenced congress, legislatures and courts, and has shaken to its foundations the old, narrow, circumscribed, aristocratic ideas of education, and greatly broadened our social and economic views. It attempts nothing in a radical or destructive way, but conservatively, constructively, and persistently proceeds in an orderly way to effect reforms.

The Grange is different in structure and form from any other farm organization, and no other has attempted to attain to its perfection of orderly procedure. To realize the truth of this it would be necessary to follow its influence through the regular work of the 8,000 or more subordinate and Pomona Granges, or through the thoughtful and splendid work of the many State Granges, every one of which has its own story to tell and its own need of accomplishment, to its credit, each dealing with the problems of its own environment, and its local, political, social, economic and educational requirements, with all of which the National Grange as the head of this machinery of organization has always been in sympathy and cooperative accord.

It was a widespread opinion among the farmers in the early days of the Grange movement that the farmers were not represented in our law-making bodies as they should be, and that their interests were neglected or discriminated against. The Grange has done all it could without breaking into partisan politics, to stem the tide that has been setting against the farmer as a factor in our governing citizenship. The Grange has also done what it could to hold back the growing evil of non-resident landlordism, which economists agree is of paramount danger in a democratic government.

The Grange did not set out to be a cooperative association, but because of conditions existing in the early seventies, business cooperation was forced upon the Order, and while it failed in a measure, the lessons and experiences gained have been important factors in every cooperative enterprise since, and the theorists, dreamers, doctors and professors who are now having so much to say upon the subject of agricultural cooperation may find every thought or suggestion they advance in the Grange literature of 45 years ago. Cooperation is a two-edged sword and the Grange has learned by experience to handle it carefully.

Provision was made for the establishment of agricultural colleges in 1862, but until the Grange came upon the scene in the early seventies they remained a miserable farce, and for years after the Grange began its heroic fight to compel a decent compromise with the law appropriating funds for such colleges, in many of the states they did as little for agriculture as they could and practically obtained the funds under false pretenses. The Grange wouldn't quit and we now see agriculture coming into its own in all the "land grant" colleges.

The Grange began the agitation for teaching agriculture in the country public schools in the seventies and was laughed at for the suggestion, but it has come to pass. The Grange promoted and fostered farmers' institutes and was an early advocate of county agents and agricultural extension. When the Smith-Lever bill was before the committee of congress, the Grange representative was the only farmer who appeared in support of that measure.

The transportation problems, involving all the abuses of railroad development, was brought into the limelight, and a fight put up by the Grange in the state legislatures, in congress and in the courts which established the principle that the creature cannot be greater than the creator, created the Inter-State Commerce Commission and established the right of the government to control public utilities.

The Grange has succeeded in keeping out of any serious political entanglements, but it has had a wonderful influence in freeing its members from narrow partisan prejudice. Self-seeking demagogues wormed their way into the Order and when they could not use it they

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PURE BRED SHORTHORNS

By C. O. GARRETT
Glendale

The possibilities for the development of the livestock industry in this county have been long overlooked, especially through the exploitation of other lines of agriculture and horticulture, and many good ranches capable of producing live stock on a paying basis have been cut up, divided and platted for other lines of development.

These valley farms in many cases even yet would pay far better if they were once more turned back to that basic part of all agriculture: the keeping of livestock on the farm—thereby returning and preserving the fertility of the land. To prove this statement one has but to visit the many, too many, Willamette valley farms that have been raising grain for years without rotation of crops or any means of restoring the fertility, until the productiveness of these farms has become so low that the ownership has become a liability instead of an asset.

The livestock business has been the means of reclaiming the many abandoned farms of the New England States and has put them back on a paying basis.

The old stock breeding plants in England and Scotland, have been breeding Shorthorn cattle for at least three generations, and yet these places produce just as much as they did one hundred years ago.

The late Wm. H. Nelson, of the Kansas City Star, had a splendid vision of the possibilities of livestock improvement, when in his first year he established the Sals-bar farms of 1800 acres for the purpose of demonstrating the value of purebred sires when used with grade cattle. At the annual field day demonstration this year there gathered 7500 people to visit these breeding farms and to witness the wonderful advancement made in the few years since this work started. What is proven in the Sals-bar demonstration should be of value to every land owner in Oregon and Douglas County who has land suitable for raising cattle.

The early history of Douglas County as a cattle country is well known. Her hills and valleys furnished feed throughout almost the entire year, and the mild winters made the conditions ideal for carrying cattle through at small expense.

The first spring grass in Oregon is found on the sunny slopes of Douglas County, and is very nutritious.

The use of silos is a boon to the livestock man. The fine bottom

lands of this country, capable of producing up to 75 bushels of corn per acre, (and possibly more) help to solve the question of feed. The heavy yields of oats and vetch to put in silos or as hay in addition to clover and alfalfa make a very desirable ration of feed for carrying stock cattle through the winter and for fattening stock for market.

The question of what kind of cattle to stock the average ranch with naturally arises, and in most cases should be answered by the suggestion of a dual purpose breed that takes care of both the dairy and the beef production.

The greatest advance to be made in the improvement of the livestock situation in Douglas County would be the use of purebred sires on every ranch where a bull is kept at all. The statement often made that a man cannot afford a purebred sire in his herd is all wrong. He can better afford to borrow the money to buy one than to own a scrub as a gift. While I would not criticize the men who specialise in dairymaking, that is a business of its own, but my appeal is to the general farm owner who does not dairy as a business, but who does or should raise what cattle his place would carry, (with the use of the silo and crop rotation) that he get out of the scrub business and produce cattle that the market wants and a quality that will net dress out 40 to 45 percent, but 50 to 60 percent on the block.

The fact that a great many of the range men of Oregon going out of the cattle business is lamentable, and is because the business has not in late years paid its way. Close observation leads me to suggest the quality of cattle raised has been largely the reason of the heavy loss in the business, but our land is still producing, and taxes must be met and our people must live and advance, so why not get back to a stable business that our country is so well adapted to and be prepared to share in the better times that are sure to come if we build on such a foundation.

If the range men of Oregon will weed out the undesirable stock and keep the best females and start again with good herd sires, then the present slump will only be a stepping stone to success in the future.

There has not been a time in years when such opportunities prevail as the present offers for farmers to restock, and those who have cattle to weed out and start anew. To the small stock owner who cannot afford a purebred sire, the club plan whereby a few near neighbors go in together and buy a better sire than one or two could afford.

In conclusion I want to say that I can see no better way to add to the economical wealth and prosperity of Douglas County than by reweaving our faith in its soil, its climate, its natural fitness for the production of better livestock and prosperous homes for a contented people.

"THE LOVE OF THE SOIL"

By EARL F. STRONG, Oakland

Among the human emotions are instincts which revert back to heredity. Such is the love instinct: which may be the fervid patriotism of war time, and its lifting enthusiasm. And in some people there sometimes comes an instinct which may be named "the love of the land."

When strong enough this call of the land has drawn men from soft, high paying positions to wild and desolate homesteads. It is a demand for elemental things, for the basis of life is the soil.

Such is the case of a Roseburg man who recently inquired of "how I liked the farm." He has never plowed a furrow; he has never fattened a pig, or butchered a veal. He is a clerk with a family. He has very little capital. But he wants to be on a farm.

He asked my advice on farming in Douglas County.

Of all the town-bred or city raised men who have tried the agricultural life, only one in five have stayed in the country as actual cultivators of the soil, or raisers of stock. I believe that this percentage is good the country over. Four of every five return to the towns or the cities to make their living, more or less disillusioned.

The fundamental conditions of the nation are not right for these untrained and inexperienced men to make good in the first place. The American nation has reached the point where the industrial side of its life and its development has passed the agricultural in consequence and importance. Country boys are going to the city and the towns. City life is increasing in population much faster than the rural.

The profits of agriculture are much less than those of business and industry. As a result wages are often high and alluring. This fact, combined with the conveniences of town, the pleasures of social life, of theater, of church, and of the graded school, make the fundamental conditions such that a town bred man and his family are unlikely to be satisfied in the rural districts.

Conditions in Douglas.

In Douglas county, as anywhere else, farming is really a very intricate business, consisting of numerous kinds of production, and marketing. No longer is it a matter of plowing and sowing and reaping. Douglas agriculturists do not make their living in that fashion. Grain raising, as a rule, would little more than pay their taxes. Most of our soils have been farmed for fifty years, and for straight wheat or oat farming, few soils can stand a drain

of that many years, and yield profitable return.

Fruit raising is undoubtedly now the leading business of this county. It is a specialist business, with experts devoting time and study to experiment—in fact—their lives, to this class of work, as much as a lawyer devotes his time to the study of the law. L. B. Skinner and C. A. Brand are apple growers, who may be cited as examples. Although ninety percent of the apple orchards of this state are alleged to be financial failures, these men are such expert managers that they have made good in this branch of fruit growing as well as with other species.

Of course prunes growing is the greatest fruit industry in Douglas county. There are many expert growers, who have made enormous success with the no longer humble prune. This crop is adapted peculiarly to our county and climate; and in addition may be shined anywhere, when dried, throughout the year.

Stock raising is much less intricate, although any city clerk might find it a matter of a year or so before he assimilated enough experience to make a profit in that line of endeavor. Poultry raising is a matter of considerable knowledge and skill, too. Any one who has raised a band of turkeys or made poultry lay in November profitably realizes that.

So the man without farm experience may find that it takes more than the instinct of the "call to the land," to make a living on a Douglas County farm.

Besides these facts, the land of this section is now rather expensive. High prices are being paid for the land here. I doubt if the average income from the farms of this county pays three percent on the selling value of the land, after depreciation, unknown, and labor bills are paid.

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Roseburg Schools Need Buildings

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eight grades, the cost would not be excessive. But in view of the far greater opportunity for service to young people swept by the fluctuating tide of adolescence, American cities are clearly deciding, as has Rochester, N. Y., that the cost is a secondary consideration.

The Junior High School is undoubtedly the coming plan of organization for schooling pupils during the period of early adolescence.

Big Improvements Planned by Water & Light Co.

In keeping with the progress of this great and prosperous section of Oregon, the Douglas County Light & Water Company, aside from the many thousands of dollars already expended on their plant and equipment, are now planning for greater achievements in the way of extensive improvements to better their service and cope with the constantly increasing patronage accorded the company. Negotiations are now under way whereby the local power company is contemplating connecting up with the big power line of the California & Oregon Power Company's new line east of Roseburg, which will give an added service unequalled in the state. Should this arrangement not be completed, the local water and power company will increase the height of their dam at Winchester and make such other substantial and lasting improvements that will make their plant capable of serving their patrons in a most efficient manner. It will be the purpose of the company to keep fully abreast of the times and growth of Roseburg and Douglas County, anticipating its needs well in advance.

Douglas County Light & Water Co.

HEAD OFFICE: ROSEBURG, OREGON

Light and Power Plant at Winchester, Oregon

Supplies the city of Roseburg and vicinity with its water and electric power

Also furnishes electric power and light to Sutherlin, Oakland, Yoncalla and Drain, covering a distance of 40 miles