MASTER OF OREGON GRANGE PLEADS FOR GREATER UNITY

Mr. Spence Charges That Good-Roads Movement Has Suffered Beyond Estimation From Incompetency and Extravagance of Highway Commission.

FOLLOWING is the text of Master C. E. Spence's address at the opening of the 45th annual session of the Oregon State Grange:

"It is is 16 years since the State Grange met in Salem, the capital city of our state, and in looking back to that time we find that this city and our state have made great progress, such as could be accomplished only in a new state and by a progressive, energetic people.

"We are pleased to meet again in this, the original home of the State Grange, and trust that this session will be as pleasant and profitable as was that session 16 years ago.

"In looking over the proceedings of that session I find that some of the problems that were under consideration have been solved, while many more remain to be worked out in a practical way.

"Great progress has been made in our methods and system of farming. With the assistance of the agricultural college and through the experience of intelligent formers natural obstacles have been overcome and we are better able to take advantage of the opportunities and advantages offered in the state.

"On the other hand we find many acres of good agricultural land undeveloped, waiting for some sturdy hand to clear off the stumps, drain the land or prepare it and supply the water for irrigation.

"We find that the population of towns and cities is increasing at a much greater ratio than that of the country and that there is a greater difference in the rate at present than there was 16 years ago.

"In order to carry out our declaration of purposes it is necessary that we make a survey of the conditions which cause this unnatural growth of the cities and the undeveloped conditions in the country.

Farm Products Increase.

"It must be admitted that by the increased use of improved machinery and more scientific methods of farming the production of farm crops per man is greatly increased, but on the other hand we find a condition of gradually decreasing production of farm crops per capita, of all the population, with an increase in the cost of production and in the cost to the consumer.

"Even in this comparatively new state we find farmers, both young and middle aged, moving to the cities for what they claim to be greater social, educational and economic advantages. This situation is more apparent in some Eastern states where good farms are abandoned and are on the market for less than the buildings cost.

"With the coming of good roads and the automobile the social and educational part of our problem will be largely solved if the roads are built so as to connect the farming communities with the marketing and shipping points, while on the other hand if the craze for scenic highways and pleasure boulevards continue to absorb our available funds, the agricultural conditions will only be agravated.

"In Eastern states as well as our own the determining factor which exerts the greatest influence in keeping people on the farm or in driving them to the cities is that of economics, or dollars and cents.

"If 'there is no money in it,' no amount of persuasion will keep people on the land. If other vocations have better incomes and shorter hours and more entertainment, there is where people will go, and who can blame them?

"The fault is not all the farmer's, for he often gets less for a bumper crop than he does for half a crop, and frequently his produce rots on his hands for want of a market, while people not many miles away are suffering for that very product, or the price which they are required to pay is so high that they cannot afford to buy.

Producers' Share Is Low.

"Then a large part of the fault lies in our system of distribution. A Government report shows that when the consumer pays $1 for farm produce on the average, 65 cents goes for distribution and 35 cents to the producer. In other words, it costs nearly twice as much to handle farm produce as the farmer gets for it.

"There is no more important service rendered society by any class of people than that of producing the necessary food and clothing required for the protection and sustenance of mankind. If those who are engaged in that important service are not as well or better paid than any other class there is something wrong with the farm, with the farmer or with the system under which he is working.

"It has been shown above that as a rule it is not the farm nor the farmer as a class, but the marketing system that is to blame for the economic condition of the farmer.

"If this be true, it is the duty of the Grange to do all in its power to find a remedy for existing conditions, claiming as it does to be the oldest and most influential of all farm organizations, or, failing in that, to at least assist any other organization that proposes a practical remedy.

Is Co-operation the Remedy?

"National Master Oliver Wilson, in speaking of co-operation in his address at the last session of the National Grange, said that 'this vital question has been discussed in all its its phases since the organization of the Grange and yet it remains an unsolved problem.'

"We believe the Grange in Oregon has made a good beginning towards a practical system of co-operative buying, but as yet co-operative selling of the diversified crops of the Oregon farmer 'remains an unsolved problem.'

Co-operative Struggle Fails.

"The Grange and other farm organizations have tried time after time, at great sacrifice to individual members, to sell co-operatively, but it has always been an uphill fight with many failures and but few isolated cases of success. Inexperience and sometimes dishonesty contributed to the failures, but more often the true causes were the united opposition of the business and financial world and the fact that the consumer was not taken into consideration.

"The farmers of Denmark have made notable success in co-operative buying and selling, in fact they practically control that business in that country and have agents for their co-operative society in other countries. They are substantially the controlling factor in politics, in fact it was only through politics that they were able to get control of the marketing situation.

"The Australian provinces have accomplished the same results by using the machinery of the state to establish markets, warehouses, cold storage and packing plants.

"The following resolution was passed without a dissenting vote at the 1917 session of the National Grange:

"'Whereas, too large a portion of the agricultural products of the country go to waste at the present time for want of proper means of conservation and distribution;

"'Resolved, That the National Grange in 51st annual session assembled indorse the proposition of the creation of municipal food warehouses, where practicable, to contain a cold storage plant, creamery, dehydrating plants, canning factories and potato evaporators, so that the consumer in the city may receive the necessities of life at a more reasonable cost and the producer be assured a market for his products.'

"The resolution was introduced by Brother Chapman, master of the Massachusetts State Grange.

"The marketing problem, next to that of the war, overshadows all others. It is my opinion that a proper solution of it will do more to promote the general welfare, establish justice and insure domestic tranquillity, and create a united, contented and home owning, home loving, patriotic people than any thing else that can be done at this time.

"Nothing can do more to unite the people in support of the Government and insure domestic tranquillity than an equitable marketing system that will abolish the unnecessary middleman and profiteer.

"This is our opportunity. Will the Grange lead or will it follow?

Co-operation.

"Co-operative buying through a state purchasing agent seems now to be firmly established and it is believed that with proper encouragement from the State Grange for another year the business will be able to take care of itself and pay its way.

"It is gratifying to note the co-operation of the Granges with other organizations in the war work, such as Red Cross, liberty bond and thrift stamp drives, and I would suggest that the Grange take a more active part as an organization in order to get the credit due as a patriotic body.

Agricultural Lime.

"Many people have been disappointed in not getting lime for this year's crops from the State Lime Board, but the board has been sadly handicapped for want of sufficient funds with which to secure a suitable deposit of lime, were compelled to purchase secondhand equipment, and now have no funds available for the operation of the plant.

"This State Grange should adopt a resolution requesting that the unexpended part of the $45,000 appropriated by the last Legislature to advertise the state to tourists be transferred to the lime board, as it is now generally admitted that the corn crop will be more potent in the winning of the war than the tourist crop.

Rural Credits.

"In the matter of state rural credits is another instance where the tourist receives greater consideration in the state of Oregon than the farmer.

"When the Land Board received bids below par for rural credit bonds they decided that the honor and credit of the state would be impaired if state bonds were sold below par.

"But when bids were received as low as 92 cents on the dollar for road bonds, evidently the honor nor credit of the state were not involved, for road bonds were sold at about that price.

Good Roads.

"During the road bond campaign the farmer was told that it was all in his interest and it would get him out of the mud, but when it came to the appointment of a Highway Commission there was no farmer in the state who could be trusted with the expenditure of the highway funds. A timber baron, a banker and a politician were given the job. Again the tourists' interests scored over the farmer.

"Practically every condition predicted by those opposed to the bonds are assured at this date.

"War conditions have caused a scarcity of labor and paving costs are higher than predicted. The patented paving has been favored almost exclusively and the price is high enough to include royalty and profit.

"A second-hand paving plant was purchased at a good price last Fall but as yet has not been used by the Highway Commission.

"The good roads movement has suffered beyond estimation from the incompetency and extravagance of the commission.

"On the other hand, many counties are doing creditable work and at the same time keeping the cost within reasonable bounds. Clackamas and Lane counties deserving special mention.

Hydro Electric Power.

"There are increasing demands for the use of hydro electric power to take the place of coal and oil, so much needed in the war, but much of this cry is made by corporations that already own much undeveloped water power, and desire a monopoly of the hydro electric power of the country.

"It is important that the state and Federal Governments retain control of all water power not already owned by private interests and that ownership and development of water power by municipalities and states be encouraged as an effective means of preventing monopoly and trust prices.

The War.

"No matter what were the direct causes or excuses for this war, no matter what issues were at stake in the beginning, it has developed into a contest for industrial and political freedom on the one side and military slavery on the other side. If one side wins industrial freedom will advance more rapidly that it has for generations, if the other side wins civilization will be turned back centuries.

"In the beginning our revolutionary fathers did not aim at independence, neither did the people of the North aim at the abolition of negro slavery at the beginning of the Civil War, but as President Wilson said: 'This has become a war for freedom. It has become a war for freedom for us too and with nothing but economic freedom will we be content.'

Financing the War.

"The last session of this State Grange passed strong resolutions in favor of paying a large share of the war expenses with taxes levied on incomes and excess war profits.

"A law was passed levying an average of 32 per cent on excess war profits, but now President Wilson favors a measure that will collect 40 per cent of the war expenses from excess profits and the payment of 60 per cent from the sale of bonds.

"Senator McNary, of Oregon, was one of the few Senators who voted for as high as 80 per cent tax on war profits.

"We should support our President and Senator McNary in this matter and urge all other members from Oregon to give their support to this measure.

"This is a war of sacrifice on the part of all the people and that man makes no sacrifice who gives only a part of the profits he receives because of the war. All war profits should be taken by the Government and this Grange should reaffirm its action of last year, that all income and profits over $100,000 should be taken. Or if no profiteering were permitted, the people could pay all the war taxes and be money ahead.

Importance of Grange Work.

"Oregon has been spoken of by those who oppose her political activities as 'the fool of the family.' But Oregon has been the leader and not the fool, and her habit of leading is demonstrated in her war work.

"She is first with volunteers, first in the liberty loan and first in Red Cross subscription. Like the father of our country, 'He was first in peace, first in war and first in the hearts of his countrymen.'

"Much credit is due the Grange for the position occupied by the state in the Nation today and at this important time the Grange should not consider for a moment the proposition of laying aside its work till after the war.

"The farmers of the state cannot afford to allow this organization to cease its activities. This period in the history of our Nation will stand out as one of the most important of its existence.'

"President Wilson has said: 'We must learn, we freemen, to meet as our fathers did, somehow, somewhere, for consultation. There must be discussion and debate, in which all freely participate.

"Where is there more suitable place than in the Grange for consultation and discussion?

"This is a time for calm deliberation and judicious action and not a time for hysterical speech or mob leadership. President Wilson has well said that he who goes into a mob is not fit to live in a democracy.

"Any person or publication that suggests mob rule by word or picture is a worse enemy to the country than the most outspoken pro-Hun in the country.

"It is by this calm deliberation and consultation that the members of the Grange are prepared to assume the leadership in a crisis like the present.

"Every dollar expended and every hour given for the work of the Grange is a good investment for the futire of our state and our country and, like bread cast upon the waters, will return after many days.

After the War.

"When this war is over thousands of our men will come back to us, many of them handicapped in various ways and practically all of them without financial resources. Provision should be made for their employment in useful industries and land should be available for those who wish to engage in agriculture. But it would be the height of folly to give them a lot of stump or sage brush land and expect them to clear it off and make a living while they are doing it.

"Under modern conditions capital and some machinery are necessary, livestock is essential. The men who have fought our battle at the front deserve something better than to be turned loose on a piece of brush land.

"The men who are able to work will need employment. Extensive road building should be delayed till the war is over, then those men should be employed in building roads and in preparing land for agriculture.

"Provision should be made for homes or farms for any who are without, on terms that are reasonable and just. Speculation and profit should be eliminated and our rural credits laws should be amended to meet the conditions.

"The stability of all nations depend upon the home owners and especially upon the proportion of those engaged in agriculture who are shareholders in the commonwealth.

"Steps should be taken and preparations made to meet this emergency now.

"The first patriotic duty of the Grange is to aid the Government to the extent of our ability by raising the crops most needed to supply food and clothing to our soldiers and our allies.

"Red Cross and liberty bonds must be taken care of, but all will fail unless food is provided.

"Second, we should do all in our power to assist the Government in the elimination of speculation and profiteering in the necessities of life and in the tools necessary for their production.

"Third, we should be willing to take any political action necessary to get the desired results.

"President Wilson has said that:

"'The reason that America was set up was that she might be different from all the nations of the world is this: that the strong could not put the weak to the wall, that the strong could not prevent the weak from entering the race. America stands for opportunity. America stands for a free field and no favor. America stands for a Government responsive to the interests of all.'

"We of the Grange owe it to ourselves, to our families and to our posterity to make this country what it was set up to be.

Good of the Order.

"As stated before, Grange work should not be allowed to decline. We should exert every energy to make the organization strong in order to meet the emergencies that are to come. We should support the Grange for the good it can do now and for the good it must do in the future.

"The co-operative work should be brought to every subordinate grange. A dollar saved is as good as a dollar earned and the work of the past year has demonstrated that many times the amount of our dues can be saved in co-operative buying alone. Patronize your own business.

"Subordinate and Pomona Granges should make a special study of economic questions so that they can act intelligently upon important matters that will come to them for solution in the near future.

"These are stirring times and the Grange should be on guard ready to lead out in the establishment of progressive policies that will make this the best country on earth."

Mosier Man Aids Red Cross.

MOSIER, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—Arthur Kuhn, who lives three and one-half miles east of Mosier, reports that he is raising a Red Cross garden. He expects to realize $200 from the produce raised on the one and one-half acres of land employed for this purpose. The garden is totally without weeds, because of Mr. Kuhn's peraistent labors of from 16 to 17 hours daily in the effort to do his "bit."

Burglars Enter Barber Shop.

The Oregonian bar shop, 112 Sixth street, was entered by burglars Friday night and a quantity of cigars, a pair of Army shoes and a suitcase were stolen. Entrance was gained through a door in a restaurant adjoining the shop.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

WELL-KNOWN PRIEST TO CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

—Northup Photo.

Rev. J. H. Black.

Rev. J. H. Black, pastor of St. Francis' Catholic Church, will be honored next Thursday by some of his co-workers in the priesthood and by members of his parish, who will attend a gathering that will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Father Black's ordination. As pastor of the large East Side parish he has had a remarkably successful leadership and the church has grown steadily.

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3.—Dr. De Keyser making an examination for external diseased conditions.

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5.—Latest improved model; it is used to determine the visual sensitiveness of different areas on the retina.

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9.—Grinding Kryptoks and other lenses.

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