

Grange Department.

ADDRESS OF C. E. MOOR. In Response to Welcoming Address by Gov. Thayer, Delivered Before State Grange, May 24, 1882.

In behalf of the State Grange of Oregon, I accept the kindly welcome to the Capital of our beautiful and prosperous State which has just been extended to us by its honored Governor. We thank you, Governor Thayer, for your words of welcome, of confidence and encouragement. We feel especially proud of these words of congratulation, as they come from the gentleman who stands at the head of one of the best, if not the very best State Administration Oregon ever had.

The mission of the grange is to benefit mankind. It is organized especially as a school for the agricultural classes. It proposes to teach them to think for themselves and to act for themselves, and in so doing we believe they will occupy a higher position in the intellectual and social world. There are a greater number of people employed in the business of agriculture than in all other occupations combined, and not only is this true, but all other branches of business draw their support from the farmer. He is the only producer. We produce the material wealth of the country, and I believe that a greater number of the men and women occupying high positions everywhere have been raised on the farm. We send our children to school and to college, and are glad to know that they have at least an even chance for honor and fame with the children of the more favored classes. Every man in this country must depend entirely upon his ability and conduct for success, and if he thinks his education completed when he graduated at a college commencement, he will sooner or later find his mistake. He must keep on learning something useful every day as long as he lives. Hence the necessity of the grange. It is almost universally the case that the brightest and best of the farmers' sons leave the farm and go into some profession or some mercantile or commercial business, because they find more attraction there and more money. They find also that these people act more in harmony, are better united than the farmer. We are compelled to admit, although very reluctantly, that the best intellect of the country is not on the farm; that the profits of the farm are not as great as they ought to be; that our homes are not as pleasant as they should be made; that farming is not as wisely conducted as we desire; that there is less brain work and more muscle work on the farm than in any other occupation. The farmer does not act together in matters pertaining to their own common interest and well being, but allow men of other occupations to separate them and blindfold them and absorb the legitimate profits of agriculture, leaving the farmer barely enough income, in too many cases, to live. In other words, the products of the farm are taxed and docked all they will bear in the way of freights, commission and other charges. And legislation is not always favorable to the more numerous class, nor have the courts always been able to see that large transportation companies were subject to be controlled by legislation in the matter of discrimination and exorbitant charges. The grange is organized to correct all these things, and relies upon the primary importance of agriculture, when fully understood, to induce the more intelligent classes to engage in the business. We expect to do better farming and raise better stock; to build better homes and fit them with better furniture, more books and works of art; to beautify the whole country and make it more attractive to the eye as well as more profitable to the purse. Agriculture must be a success. In all of the older communities it is a success, and to some extent, it is in Oregon. We must make our homes more beautiful and attractive. The farmer and his sons must be satisfied with their business and make it the best paying as well as the most enjoyable business of the country; and then we shall be in the position which the importance of our places demands—the foremost in the nation. We must have an equal voice in all departments of government. That whatever improves the condition of so large a class as the agriculturists improves the whole country is a proposition so plain that it will not be disputed by anyone. The organization which we represent here to-day is new in the history of the world; nothing like it has ever existed before; and we claim that it is most successful, for it demands not only the greatest good to the greatest number, but the entire country must be advanced by our success. It is the mission of other interests to make us worth as much as possible to ourselves. It is our mission to till the ground, to subdue it, to develop and increase its productiveness, to enhance its value and add to its beauty. Of this we do not complain; we accept the mission, and are willing, if need be, to eat our bread in the sweat of our face, but we claim, and we must insist upon a more equal distribution of the rewards of our labor in the future than in the past. How shall these be accomplished? Great social changes are being brought about at once. We must not only be organized, but we must be educated; we must learn to labor and to wait; we have enlisted for life and are to toil on till the Great Master says, "Well done;" when, like the people of old, we will drop our mantle upon the Elishas who shall succeed us, and they shall complete the work we have so well begun. Revolutions never go backward. A good beginning is the beginning of the end. But we must educate ourselves for the work we are to do. Argument, logic, threatening, coaxing or scolding will never give us our rights; but when our circumstances are talked over by the fireside, by the hearthside, around the sitting-table, by the wayside, in the subordinate grange, read aloud in our newspapers, urged upon our attention by the quarterly issues of our worthy Lecturer, or heard from the living speaker who comes to us with earnest zeal in behalf of the great order, of which we are a part, all of these influences will awaken thought, thought will result in action, and action will be effectual just as soon as we are united; and we must be united for good at once and for all time to come. We cannot depend upon competition among traders for prices of what we wish to buy, or for the prices of what we wish to sell, but by acting together we may regulate these prices to what is reasonable and fair. Nor can we depend upon competition among the great corporations for living rates of transportation to be continued; these must be regulated by law. In Oregon the people are just now the recipients of many favors. The rates, though high, are not exorbitant. Presents and accommodations are dealt out in many localities in the Northwest by the lavish hand of the great manager. Our people are being placed under many obligations to him. These favors will be rewarded.

His cars and his ships will be loaded with freight, and wholesome laws will be made for the protection of his property. But shall the law-making power be placed in the hands of the transportation companies? Is a question that ought to be well considered by the people, and it is hoped that they will act in accordance with sound judgment, so that the result may benefit the whole country. We may well congratulate ourselves with the grand improvements that are going on in Oregon, and indeed everywhere in our whole country. The grange is organized to help the agricultural classes to keep pace with, and, if possible, to outstep the improvements of the present time. We may group together every department of industry as one stupendous whole; to weaken or cripple any one department will endanger the whole structure. Let it be understood that our Order works to better the condition of the agricultural classes, not by pulling others down, but by raising ourselves up. We propose to make a most strenuous effort for advancement, looking towards a higher and better position for ourselves, and consequently for others around us. We ought to be encouraged and helped onward in this great work.

Stock.

Feeding Horses.

In determining the proper feeding of a horse, the character and amount of the work to be performed by the animal are important factors in the problem. It is quite probable that horses are injured as much by injudicious and excessive feeding as by any lack of provender. Many a valuable horse when, perhaps, has been accustomed to an hour or two's drive each day at most, often standing in the stable for days in succession, and fed as though he were doing a full day's work each day, is injured by an unthinking driver, who handles the animal as though there were neither limit to his speed nor endurance. Frequently the reason assigned for such a hard drive is that the horse has been standing idle for a week and needs the exercise, which is the very reason why moderate driving at the commencement should be the rule. An over-fed, under-worked horse is no match either in speed or endurance for the animal that is regularly driven every day and fed with moderation and judgment. The same is true of the draught-horse that is not in regular use, he soon gets out of condition for the hard, laborious work so easily performed by the horse that is in harness every day.

The matter of feeding horses demands the most careful consideration. We are told that the horses of the East are fed mainly upon barley; and it is a popular idea with English officers, who have lived in Persia and Syria that the change of food from barley to oats often, when imported, produces blindness in Arab horses. If it is true that any large percentage of such horses do really lose their eyesight, we should attribute it rather to the change of climate than to change of feed. For great muscular exertion barley is not the best food for horses, since it does not contain the flesh, bone and muscle-producing elements which are so prominent in oats. Englishmen feed their hunting and racing horses, and also those driven upon the road, with a mixed ration of oats and beans, the best food for sustaining the animal under severe tests of speed and endurance. Such feed, however, is apt to heat the blood and produce costiveness, demanding the closest attention of the groom, and necessitating occasional feedings of boiled linseed or bran mash, both of which also combine muscle-producing properties to a large degree. The aim of the feeder is to keep his horses in such condition that they may be ready at all times to exhibit their highest speed or their greatest endurance. For such a desirable condition regular exercise is as necessary as regular feed, and a horse of high spirit should not be allowed to stand in the stable during a whole day without taking a trot or a canter of a few miles that he should pass the day without his customary rations.

Food adapted to the production of bone and muscle is as important to the farm horse and the city dray horse as to the hunter, the rider or the race-horse. The former require as good care as the latter, where the best results are desired. Common usage places the feeding value of Indian meal above that of oats for horses, yet corn gives less muscle than oats and little more than barley, while the heat and fat producing elements in corn are greater than in barley or even in oats. The practice of providing horses with cut feed, so universal a few years ago, is less in vogue at present, long hay and whole grain being considered the more natural food for horses. Whether the one or the other should be fed depends much upon the character of the work in which the animal is to be employed. Where the horse is not taken out of the stable until the middle of the forenoon, and thus given plenty of time for the mastication of his food, the long hay and whole grain would undoubtedly form the most desirable ration, but where the horse is fed at six o'clock in the morning and must go up on the road at seven, cut feed is certainly best. At noon the animal can be fed with oats, which are improved by crushing. At night these hard-worked horses may be fed with oats and hay, unless, when very late and the animals very tired, then a supply of cut feed will permit an earlier completion of their supper and an earlier lying down to rest.

Long hay generally contains more or less dust, and when fed to horses frequently causes them to cough, sometimes seriously affecting their breathing. To remedy this difficulty the hay should be sprinkled a little water an hour or so before the time of feeding, or that which is intended for the morning's feed may be sprinkled the night before, while the evening feed may be slightly wet down the previous morning. Occasionally a little salt may be dissolved in the water to the advantage of the animal. A small quantity of linseed meal mixed with a horse's out-feed has a good effect, generally producing a fine, glossy coat. English jockeys, when putting up a horse for sale after a severe hunting season, add a pound and a half of oil cake to his ordinary food. It helps on the change to the new coat by making him fat. A horse in low condition changes his coat very slowly. Bran is a valuable feed for occasional use when mixed with cut feed. Made into mashes it has a cooling and laxative effect, but used dry, or in excess, it is apt to form stony secretions in the bowels of the horse. Stones produced from the excessive use of bran have been taken from the intestines of horses after death weighing many pounds. When cut open these stones appear to be composed of a hard, crystalline mass, deposited in regular rings, resembling in appearance the concentric annual rings of wood. Upon analysis, they are found to be composed of phosphate of

magnesia and ammonia, most valuable elements in the production of bone and muscle when fed in proper conditions, but the cause of death when fed in too liberal quantities. The value of the horse depends much upon a bestowal of judicious care and intelligent feeding. Horses that have had several days' rest should be put to work gradually at first and regularly afterwards. Farm horses are great sufferers from irregularity in work, sometimes standing idle in the barn for a week, then made to perform two days' work in one, with the fallacious idea that the horse's enforced rest may be made the basis of days of overwork. An intelligent humanity may work wonders in improving the condition and increasing the capacity and usefulness of the noblest animal in the service of man.

Effects of Changing the Diet of Dairy Cows.

It is a fact well established by the experience of dairymen that cows which are regularly fed with grain while they are at pasture, even if the pasture is fresh and plenty, will give more milk and make more butter or cheese than cows equally good but living on grass only, yet, if a liberal ration of meal is given to the cows living on the fresh grass, the first effect is to cause them to shrink in their milk; and if the cows which have been accustomed to have meal with their grass have the meal suddenly taken away, they will also shrink, the pasture in both cases being equally fresh and plenty. The loss of milk in neither case can be charged to the inferiority of the feed, since the changes in feed are the reverse of each other, while the effects are alike. The effect is due to a change in the action of the stomach to adapt its character to the digestion of an established food. The food may change suddenly, but the action of the stomach can only change slowly, and hence defective digestion follows. This change in the quality of the gastric agencies is much more rapid and marked in young than in old or middle-aged animals. Calves and infants often show such a sensitiveness in regard to the action of their stomachs that they are made sick simply by change of milk from one cow to that of another, which differs from the first but slightly. Though such differences are less marked in adult animals, they must not be overlooked in making changes of food. Changes from hay to grass especially need to be guarded and gradual, or serious disturbances may follow.—Live Stock Journal.

Nature's Undertakers.

How often do we hear the query, "What becomes of the dead birds?" The secret of their mysterious disappearance was not just now half told by the buzz of those brown wings, and the other half is welcome to any one who will take the trouble to follow their lead. The beetle is one of man's incalculable benefactors. It is his mission to keep fresh and pure the air we breathe. He is the sexton that takes beneath the mould not only the fallen sparrow, but the mice, the squirrels and even much larger creatures that die in our woods and fields.

Beneath that clump of yarrow I found just what I had expected—a small dead bird—and the grave-diggers were in the midst of their work. Already the rampart of fresh earth was raised around the body, and the cavity was growing deeper every moment as the busy diggers excavated the turf beneath.

Now and then one would emerge on a tour of inspection, even rummaging among the feathers of that silent throat and climbing upon the plummy breast to press down the little body into the deepening grave. These nature-buriers are by no means rare, and where the listless eye fails to discover them the nostril will often indicate the way; and to any one desirous of witnessing their operation, without the trouble of search, it is only necessary to place in some convenient spot of loose earth the carcass of some small animal. The most casual observer could not fail soon to be attracted by the orange-spotted beetles. Entomologists assert that these insects are attracted by the odor of decay, but from my own humble investigations I have never been able to fully reconcile myself to this theory.

If it were the question of odor alone in this dead bird, for instance, it would be difficult to explain the bee-line flight of these humming-beetles, two of which came swiftly towards me even from the direction of the wind, and dropped quickly upon these feathers hidden from sight among the grass. Perhaps in such an instance we might imagine that they had been there before and knew the way; that they had noted this clump of yarrow, may be; but I have observed the fact before when there was every reason to believe that no such previous visit had been made. I am always glad of the opportunity to watch the progress of these mow-luriers. An I had you accompanied me on that morning walk, you would have looked with interest at these little undertakers—ween that feathery mass toss and heave with strange mockery of life as the busy sextons worked beneath it, digging with their spiked thighs, shoveling out the loose earth with their broad heads, and pulling down the body into the deepened cavity.—Harper's Magazine.

Stable Economy.

Barns should be built on high, dry land, so that they can be well drained from surface water. Stagnant water, filled with decaying vegetable matter from filthy stables, is rank poison to the horse. Neither man nor beast can long remain in health shut up in an ill-ventilated stable, surrounded by pools of water, filled with the manure that leaches from the stable, but will contract malarial fevers or contagious diseases of some kind. It follows, as a necessary consequence, that stables should be thoroughly drained. Damp stables cause many diseases, such as bad eyes, coughs, fevered legs, scratches and greasy heels that careful grooming cannot alleviate. Damp, ill-ventilated stables cause inflammation of the throat and lungs, which throw the horse off his feed and out of condition in spite of careful management.—Live Stock Journal.

DIED.

At Oswego, May 24, 1882, Mary Eaton, of hemorrhage of the lungs. She was a graduate of Tuslanti Academy, at Forest Grove, and was the beloved of a circle of brothers and sisters who mourn her death. She had been teaching at Skippanon.

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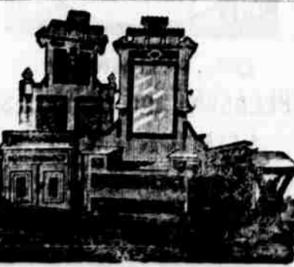
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