

Grange Department.

GRANGE IN LINN COUNTY.

The meeting at Charity Grange Hall convened June 24th, as per appointment, and the attendance was large and much interest was manifested.

The meeting was called to order by F. M. Kizer, W. M., and was opened by some excellent singing by the choir and prayer.

Brother H. E. Hayes, State Lecturer, was introduced and gave a fine lecture, which was closely listened to and highly appreciated. He showed that agriculture is the leading, the paramount interest of the nation; that all trades co-operate, and that it is essential that agriculturalists do the same; their essential work was to encourage education and build up society. He also gave experiences in raising clover, showing that it can be raised here very readily, and how much better it would be to sow and raise a crop of clover, thus getting some immediate returns, than to summer-fallow, where there are no immediate results, and the clover leaves the land in better condition for a crop than does the fallow.

He showed too that we have had the last horses the husbandman to turn his attention to the production of meat rather than the exclusive raising of wheat, and closed up his remarks with some good practical hints about tanning in general. Then followed a song and recess for dinner. After spending two or three hours in eating, drinking and social conversation, the meeting was again called to order, and after the song, "Bird and Bloom," was well sung, Brother R. A. Irvine was introduced and made some telling remarks, showing how co-operation had saved \$75,000 this county in freight; that the influence of the Grange had influenced the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court that States Legislatures have a right to control freight rates, and other matters of business interests carried on by the Linn County Council. After another song Brother Shelton was introduced, and made one of his effective speeches, which was instructive, practical, affecting and laughable. Brother Train was then introduced and made some well-timed remarks, followed by Brother J. Davis in an able manner, and Sister Train with some palpable hits on the temperance question. Brother R. B. closed the meeting with some excellent remarks, and all went away feeling that they had spent a very pleasant day, and partaken of a sumptuous dinner.

Praise for the Grange.

An English farmer traveling in Texas had an opportunity to observe the influence of the Grange, for he was accompanied by a lecturer with whom he attended many meetings. He reports to the London Field a truthful account of observations as follows:

We were much impressed with the great and wide-spread influence of the Grange system. We had good evidence of the successful manner in which it promoted social intercourse and moral culture among the farmers and their families. We saw that through it farmers were obtaining at much lower rates than they could otherwise procure them, not only many varieties of implements and machinery used upon their farms, but also all the household necessities and luxuries, whether in the shape of food or clothing. We had met with the Grange Lecturer, in different parts of the Union, and we invariably found him an intelligent, frank, genial and intelligent man, with a mind well stored with agricultural and general knowledge, and with a readiness, ease and clearness of expression almost peculiar to the class. Through the wilds of Texas we traveled with a Grange Lecturer, who was out upon an organizing as well as an educational tour. He visited all the principal settlements, gave lectures to the settlers on improved farming and other matters interesting to them, explained the objects and advantages of the Grange system, and assisted in forming local branches. He was a middle-aged, frank, genial and intelligent man, with a mind well stored with agricultural and general knowledge, and with a readiness, ease and clearness of expression almost peculiar to the class.

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Stock.

Bots in the Horse.

A late number of the Chico Record contained the following: "John Garner, who resides five miles north of Chico, has recently lost five valuable horses. The horses apparently became crazed before dying. The last one of the five died this morning, and James M. Decker and C. L. Nelson dissected the animal, with the view of ascertaining the cause of its death. Its brain was found all right, but when they came to the stomach, they found it half eaten away, while that and the alimentary canal were filled with bots. The animals had been running out to pasture. The information thus gained may be made available in saving the lives of valuable horses. There is no doubt but that bots was the cause of the death of Mr. Garner's animals. This intelligence is of importance to horse-

men and veterinary surgeons. It has long been a matter of dispute as to whether bots ever cause death. A number of distinguished English veterinary surgeons, notably Mayhew, have held the bots do little injury, and have ridiculed as a popular delusion the belief that the presence of the parasites could ever be attended with fatal results. The death of Mr. Garner's five horses seems to have been unquestionably due to bots, and a vexed question has thus been conclusively settled, it, indeed the annals of equine anatomy had not already disposed of it.

Anatomical preparations, showing portions of the stomach and intestines apparently perforated by bots, are to be found in the veterinary colleges of England. But a number of the most intelligent writers on the disease of the horse have held that bots never eat holes in the viscera of the living horse; that if the bots ever eat holes it is in attempting to escape from the animal after its death, and finally, as a conclusive argument, that the bot has no apparatus by which it can gnaw holes through anything. The natural history of the insect helps to support this view, as it fails to suggest any motive that a bot could have for perforating the stomach of its host.

Bots are the larvae of the bot-fly, a large wasp-like insect commonly found in horse pastures during the grazing season. The female fly deposits her eggs upon the hairs about the lips, shoulders, breast and legs of the horse. These nits are yellow, and adhere to the hair by means of a viscid secretion surrounding them. Hundreds of nits may often be seen on a horse that has been out to pasture for a few weeks. The insect, in the act of depositing the egg, stings or irritates the horse, so that the animal rubs the places of deposit with his lips, or licks it with his tongue. In this way the nits become detached from the hair, and are conveyed to the animal's mouth, whence, with the food, they pass on to the stomach. There they develop into the larva state, somewhat resembling sheep ticks at this stage of their growth. They are now "bots," and by means of two hooks which grow upon the head they take a firm hold upon the lining of the stomach. In this situation they remain a year, feeding upon the blood of their host. At the end of a year they relax their hold and are voided from the body with the excrement. In another month the bots have developed into flies, and their last stage of existence has been reached.

It is evident that the foregoing sketch of the natural history of the bot, that if it ever destroys the stomach of a horse, such a proceeding upon its part is unusual. It is obviously not the mission of the parasite to kill its patron. By destroying the stomach, and so killing the horse, the bot is sure to cut short his own existence, for having no organs of locomotion, and thus no means of escape, it must die with its victim. But it does not follow that bots, which nature evidently intended to be comparatively harmless parasites, may not sometimes cause death by taxing too much the generous hospitality of the horse, and feeding in too great numbers upon the noble animal. The death of Mr. Garner's horses was probably due to the excessive number rather than to the nature of the operations of the bots.

There is no remedy for bots. Many so-called remedies are in use among horsemen and by ignorant horse doctors, but all are worse than the disease. Any remedy powerful enough to cause the parasite to let go its hold upon the stomach is also strong enough to cause the horse to give up his hold upon existence. Bots will live a long time in alcohol and in turpentine. They very seldom do any harm, and in nine cases out of ten the ailment supposed to be "bots" is something else. The fact that bots may cause serious mischief and perhaps death should, however, induce owners of valuable horses to be careful not to expose them too much to the attacks of the bot-fly. "Fresh fields and pastures new" will obviously secure to the horse a comparative immunity from attack. When the nits are noticed upon the hair in considerable numbers they should be shaved or scraped off.

Buying Good Stock.

No man should buy good stock of any kind unless he has good pastures, and fairly comfortable shelter for winter. He buys, of course, with two objects in view: 1st, to replace the common with the improved, for the gratification that accrues from this; 2d, that the profits may be enhanced. Neither object can be attained unless the animals be well kept on abundant grass in summer, and given such feed and protection in winter as will maintain, quite nearly, the summer condition. This is as easy to do with good, healthy thoroughbreds of any breed as with the dairy cow kept in such manner as will guarantee that she yields a profit. It is too commonly the case at sales, that the animals of breeding age that are fat, out-ell the regular breeders and large milkers that are thin. Men sometimes are badly deceived by preferring the animal that gives evidence of being apparently fat, to one that shows evidences of being a regular breeder. It should be borne in mind that it is easier to put flesh upon a thin animal, if bred with a view to flesh, than to get progeny from a shy breeder, reared so by being made overfat through high feeding, or inheriting a strongly fixed tendency to fleshiness, accumulating this from ordinary feed; in other words, from grass alone. -Live Stock Journal.

Obstructed Testis.

The more the udder is stimulated to extra secretion of milk, so much the more is it liable to congestion and inflammation. The pressure, too, of a great quantity of milk in the udder upon the circular muscle (sphincter,) which closes the end of the teat, tends to set up more or less irritation there, and this will sometimes result in excessive thickening of the walls and hard milking, or even complete closure of the orifice. The simplest and best treatment is to slightly dilate the opening of the teat, once or twice a day, with a perfectly smooth probe. A silver milking tube, about a two-fifths of an inch in diameter, will answer, or when this is not available, a probe of the same size made of gutta percha. A small size will be necessary at first, and after a day or two, when that passes easily, a larger one, until finally the orifice is easily dilatable and the milking sufficiently free. In every case the probe should be well oiled, and introduced with caution, so as to avoid injury to the internal parts. A silver tube should be warmed before it is introduced. -Live Stock Journal.

Feeding Cows.

The Live Stock Journal, in regard to feeding cows, well says: There is less excuse for feeding a good milch cow stingily than any other farm animal. She does not ask any credit; she makes prompt daily payment; and her product is a cash article. If he has not the food at hand, prudence and good judgment, as well as humanity, require him to furnish her full rations at all times, without regard to a favorable or unfavorable season. We always counsel dairymen to make an earnest effort to produce all the food for their herds upon their own farms; but the first principle of profitable feeding requires that they give abundant food to keep up an even flow of milk, whether they produce or purchase the food.

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