Grange Department.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

Our exchanges bring information of the assembling the National Grange at Indianapolis, and publish the address of the Master, which occupies so much space that we can only touch the salient points.

Worthy Master Woodman says of the year that it has been one of uncommon prosperity for farmers, and adds: It has also been a propitious year in the work of our organization, as indicated by the reports of the Secretaries of the State Granges, recently received and compiled. There has been a decided increase, not only in the membership, but in the number of subordinate granges. Farmers and their families have been brought together and made to know and understand each other better; light and knowledge have been disseminated through the influence of grange meetings, the press and lectures; and error, distrust and prejudice, supplanted by truth, confidence and fraternal unity.

Agricultural schools have prospered, and agricultural science has taken an advanced step in many departments of husbandry. The principles and teachings of our Order have been more thoroughly and wisely discussed in the granges, at public meetings and by the press; and the interests of agriculture have received more attention and favor in the Legislative departments of the government than ever before.

Concerning the object of the grange he explains as follows: The great purposes which we aim to accomplish, cannot be too often repeated or too well understood. We aim to make the daily lives of men and women better, and nobler, and truer, and holier and happier; to encourage education, social and moral culture, and a better development of the noble faculties of our natures; to provide for ourselves and our families comfortable homes, unincumbered farms, and a fair remuneration for our labor; to beautify our homes, and increase their attraction for our children, and their love for them and our profession, and thereby induce the boys to stay upon the farm; to prevent family jars, dissensions and separations; to lessen neighborhood strifes and disagreements, and prevent litigation, by providing for the settlement of matters of difference between neighbors, by arbitration in the grange; to increase the profits of our farms, by better cultivation, greater diversity of crops, closer study of the market, and better understanding of the laws of trade; to "systematize our labor," and our business, and "practice economy in all things,"—discarding the "credit system, the mortgage system, the fashion system, and every other system tending to prodigality and bankruptcy;" and thus bridge o'er the chasm between labor and its results, with joys and blessings which make labor pleasant, healthful and honorable.

The following paragraph we may respectfully commend to the Oregon State Grange, which has an organ in the WILLAMETTE FARMER that stands ready to do everything to advance the cause; but, though it circulates everywhere, and among thousands who are not patrons, so is able to disseminate good principles widely, is never supplied with Grange matter by the Order, as it should be.

Brother Woodman says: It has been my observation, that in those States which have an organ published in the interests of the State Grange as the medium of communication between the officers of the State Grange and the Subordinate Granges, there a more intimate and fraternal relation exists between these bodies and Patrons generally, and the Order is stronger and more prosperous than in the States, which have no such authorized organ. My convictions are that each State Grange should have an official organ published somewhere, and that the officers and executive committee of that body should keep their departments well filled with such reliable matter and information, as the welfare of our cause demands. And in addition to this, no effort should be wanting to aid and encourage the support and circulation of all good Grange and agricultural papers; for upon a prosperous and faithful press, must we look for the strong arm that is to bear our heaviest burdens and help in every emergency, and for the constant and untiring teacher that instructs, encourages and educates.

The injunction to support and encourage good agricultural and grange journals we should not object to seeing carried out by members of the Order, if they really have its objects at heart.

Co-operation is treated as follows: Business co-operation is better understood and more generally practiced by Patrons than heretofore; and where the business is transacted on true co-operative business principles, either through Grange agents, by individual members, or associated capital, our members have been benefited, not only in profits but in business experience. In the State of Texas, alone, there are nearly one hundred co-operative stores, all in thriving condition and not a single failure where the business has been conducted on the true co-operative plan. The influence of these stores, located in the country villages of the State, together with that of the Supply House, run by the State Co-operative Association in Galveston, have done much to advance the interests of our cause in that young but growing State.

The annual address urges forcibly that the Department of Agriculture shall be made a cabinet position, and agriculture be properly recognized as deserving of the fostering care of the government. The demand of the National Grange for this end is before Congress, and should be again reiterated.

The abuses of the patent laws are treated of whom such abuse is a hardship to honest purchasers of patented goods.

The benefit and importance of general education to the nation for the welfare of the farming class is forcibly presented. He says: I should be distinctly understood that every Grange, in which practical lessons are to be learned upon every question affecting the farmer's calling; and that every member is not only a pupil but an instructor; and in order to make these schools profitable they must be conducted upon practicable and common sense principles. All Grange meetings should be enlivened with singing and music, and time given for social recreation. They should be made so interesting and attractive that no member can afford to be absent from them; and the greetings of brothers and sisters should be so cordial that the humblest members, though poor and burdened with cares, should be made to feel and know that they are not doomed to toil through weary life, isolated and alone, without friends, sympathy, society, or hope of advancement, but that they are members of a great brotherhood.

The condition and prospects of the Order are summed up as follows: Of the thirty reports received twenty-one show an increased membership, six but little variation, and three a decrease. In twenty-six States the reports give a healthy and very much improved condition of the Order. Of the number of subordinate granges eighteen States report an increase, nine about the same and three a decrease. As most of these secretaries have been long in office, and consequently have had long experience in the work of the Order, it occurred to me that an expression of their views relative to what action should be taken by this body to strengthen the Order and increase its usefulness would be of some value; and it is interesting to notice that three-fourths of those reporting ignore all other considerations, but concur in the opinion that the aim of all grange legislation should be to build up the subordinate granges and increase the interest and attractiveness of their meetings. This conclusion is in harmony with the experience of all earnest workers in our cause. Where the meetings of subordinate granges are made interesting and attractive there is no complaint of vacant seats, falling away of members or dying out, but on the contrary a higher appreciation of grange meetings and a growing love for the principles of our Order is the result. But where grange meetings are held as a mere matter of form, with no interesting discussions, literary exercises, and but little social recreation, the work becomes a mere routine, and members failing to be interested or to derive any real benefit from the meetings, cease to attend, and the grange becomes dormant.

Love-Making at the Springs.

The other night (observed Mary Jane, who has been visiting Grayson Springs), I overheard a real pretty piece of love's labor won, and it made my heart beat faster and brought back memories of the past. It happened down on the dark end of the piazza, next to my open window:

"Who do you love?" said he, ungrammatically.

"Papa," said the innocent, with a coo.

"Who else?" said he.

"Mamma," said she.

"Who else?"

"Brother."

"Who else?"

"Sister."

"Who else?"

"Uncle."

"Who else?"

"Aunty?"

"Who else?"

"Oo"—and then I heard a whalebone snap and a peculiar gluggity-glug-glug sound that didn't need a dictionary for translation. Ah, love's young dream! go on; there will be an awakening some morning about 3 o'clock in the future, when a bottle of paregoric and a plaintive wail will recall the hours that have been, but are no more.

Over in the park I heard of another case. One can hear of these generally and promiscuously at these places if she will only try not to. They were sitting on a log near the Rock Spring at their devotions.

"And you love me?" he said.

"Can you ask it?" she answered.

"I like to hear you say the sweet words over and over again," he gurgled.

"Then I do love you and love you," she twittered.

"And I must leave you to-morrow."

"Don't say it, dear heart, don't say it."

"And what will my darling do when I am far away? What will she do in these lonely evening hours without me?"

"Ahem!" said an old bachelor, getting up from the dark end of the log and starting off for the hotel, "I'll tell you what she'll do in these lonely evening hours without you, she'll be sitting out here, on this same log, with another mash, making as big a fool of him as you are." Then he went out in the darkness and came and told me what I have written, and the two young hearts will read of it in these lines.

There is lots of love-making at all the summer resorts, and I have found it prevalent at more places than Grayson. It is usually a harmless species of pastime, and as it only continues during one season, and is killed off by the frost, a very practical friend of mine calls it the grown-up summer complaint.

Cattle should be pastured near or in conjunction with hogs and horses. The action of one upon the other is always beneficial; and the young, playful and sociable, readily make friends with each other, in such a way that much future inconvenience may be spared the owner.

Put sheep and young cattle together, and each will grow in strength a third faster. Put horses and goats, or even young cattle in the same lot, and each will grow the better—will feel easier, and grow with much finer results.

Whenever the natural instincts of domestic animals can have play, they tend to confidence and a general affection for all living forms. A cat is the one thing which loves no other animal; if it endures them, it is a stretch of magnanimity which actually contradicts its honest nature.

Poultry.

Poultry Raising.

There has perhaps been as much money foolishly spent in attempts to make fortunes in the poultry business—we mean in proportion to the amount invested—as in anything that has ever been undertaken by men anxious to get a living without hard work, and the poultry fever of a few years ago has very perceptibly abated. It was rather discouraging for a man to spend $200 or $300 in fixing up fancy poultry quarters, and may be as much more in securing the choicest breeds, to find out that the farmer near by with a dozen dunghill fowls, and no pretentions to science got more eggs than the fancy breeder did from five times their number. And if the latter finally closed out his stock for a song and went out of business to prevent his chickens wholly eating him up, who can blame him?

Still the fault was not in the business, but in the men who went into it more heavily than they could afford, without any accurate knowledge of the conditions of success. If a wise man knows nothing about a business he will enter upon it carefully, if he enters at all and experiments on a small scale until he feels that he is upon safe ground. Rightly managed, the production of eggs and chickens may be made more than ordinarily profitable, as a multitude, both men and women, can prove from their own experience. It certainly should be an important part of all farming operations, both as a source of ready cash or equivalent barter, and as an almost indispensable part of the farmer's table.

Perhaps the hardest problem in poultry raising is to demonstrate in practical experience that inasmuch as ten hens can be easily made to pay a handsome profit on their keep, one hundred will afford ten times that profit. There are men who have been able to secure a satisfactory solution, but they are the exception, and the man who is not well grounded in the work will be wise to keep himself within narrow limits.

By the exercise of judgment and common sense the farmer can greatly improve his native stock here as he can in every other direction. Larger birds can be gained without loss in egg producing qualities, and as the profits of the business depend on both, he will thus make substantial gains.—*Hartford Farmer.*

Poultry on a Large Scale.

There are many persons of moderate means who have had, perhaps, some little experience with breeding poultry, and who get to wondering if it will pay to breed poultry on a large scale, whether it will pay to embark in the breeding of poultry for market purposes as a business, if it is good policy to give up a fair paying clerkship or small business to engage in it. Such questions are very difficult to determine to the satisfaction of all persons concerned, for much more really depends on the person than on the business in nearly every department of human industry, and where one man may make a success of any undertaking, another one may fail, though having started with equally as good chances of success.

Poultry, to be successful on a large scale, must be kept in small colonies of about fifty birds in each, for many more than that number in a single house is apt to cause sickness or disease ere long among them. Small flocks like that can be given better attention than larger ones, and the first approach of disorder can be seen readily and promptly checked, while there is less danger of great loss when thus kept in small flocks, as the trouble can usually be confined to the flock in which it starts, by proper and prompt sanitary measures. When the breeder is not too far away from large retail markets, and especially where the breeder can market them himself, thus saving commission, freight and loss, it pays best to breed and keep poultry for the eggs they produce, as eggs known to be strictly fresh are always in good demand at quite an increase in price over that received for the ordinary "store" eggs. Such breeds as the White and the Brown Leghorns, and birds, bred from them, either pure bred or cross bred or grade, as a basis, are first class egg producers, while a game cock is also valuable to breed to good common hens, producing, as a rule, vigorous, active pullets, which are invariably good layers. Those who wish to raise poultry, principally for the flesh, should raise the Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, Dark Brahmas, or some of the Cochin breeds, the two first named, however, being general favorites, in this respect, and also combining with it good laying qualities under favorable circumstances.

Those who cannot or will give the poultry regular or constant attention, shelter them properly, supply proper food in liberal quantities, and at frequent and regular intervals, and pay a strict attention to cleanliness and thoroughness in all the details of the management, need not expect even to succeed, not to even consider the question of loss or profit, success and profit here means work, work, work.—*Poultry Magazine.*

Preserving Eggs.

Every now and then we read of some new process for preserving eggs for several months, and often the time is extended for a year or more. It is claimed that eggs will keep in lime and water, by greasing with tallow and rosin mixed, by immersion in melted paraffine and through numerous other devices. We do not doubt the fact that eggs will keep, and to all appearances are as good as can be desired but we wish to say this much to our readers about an egg. A newly-laid egg has a freshness about it peculiar to only a newly-laid egg. It cannot be counterfeited or substituted. Let it remain but for only a few days and a difference not only in the tinge of the shell, but its quality can be easily noticed. It is claimed that if eggs are made impervious to air it is all that is necessary, but unfortunately the egg, in the very beginning, is endowed with a large quantity of compressed oxygen, which is stored at the large end, expanding as the several parts of the egg begin to pass through the stages of decay. The insufferable stench which disgusts us when spoiled eggs are broken, is sulphuretted hydrogen gas, and though the process of its formation may be slow when the egg is sealed from the air, yet it is there, and makes its presence known in a few hours after the egg is taken from the preserving vessel. It is true that the time of decomposition may be extended and the process retarded, but that eggs can be kept fresh for months is something beyond the power of man to perform, unless some unknown process comes to aid us in the future, which is not probable.

How to Prevent Chicken Cholera.

Several experiments have been made during the past five years by different parties for the purpose of preventing the spread of chicken cholera by inoculation or vaccination. We had during the past two years vaccinated the fowls in nineteen different yards when the cholera was prevailing badly, and in each yard we left some common fowls not vaccinated, and they all died; but of the 2,000 vaccinated only 11 died, although they were in the same yard with those not vaccinated that were dying daily by the score. We have every reason to believe that this chicken vaccination will be as effective in preventing cholera among fowls as vaccination is in preventing small pox among the human family. Vaccinate a hen and in eight days her system will be thoroughly inoculated, then cut off her head and catch all the blood in some vessel; then pour this blood on paper and let it dry; a half drop of this blood is sufficient to vaccinate a fowl, and the blood of one hen will vaccinate your whole flock. Catch the fowl you wish to vaccinate, and, with a pin or knife, make a little scratch on the thigh—just enough to draw blood—then moisten a little piece of the paper with the dried blood on and stick it on the chicken's leg where you scratched it; then let the fowl run, and you need have no fear of chicken cholera. As the result of my many experiments I have now dried blood enough to vaccinate, I should suppose, 10,000 fowls, for which I have no use, as I do not sell patent medicines. If any of your readers are enough interested in poultry to try this preventive, by writing to me I will send them, free of any charge, enough dried blood to start with. All I ask is that they send immediately before the blood loses its strength, and report the result of their experiment to your many readers.—*W. H. Griffith, in Chicago Tribune.*

Extraordinary Fertility.

Of the fertility of Whatcom county, the *Post-Intelligencer* says: "Seemingly fabulous tales of the of the Whatcom country are floating around. A young gentleman whom we do not think would make a misrepresentation on any subject, assured us not long since that the red clover had been cut three times on a farm in that county with the following results: First cutting, four tons to the acre; second cutting four tons to the acre; third cutting, three tons to the acre; total, eleven tons in one year. In the same vicinity he says that 700 bushels of potatoes per acre was not considered an extraordinary yield. To clinch these statements our informant—who stands over six feet in his boots—said he saw one stool of red clover springing from a seed chance sown, which reached nearly to his chin. The fertility of the lands of the Puget Sound basin, we have always considered something extraordinary, but these statements, while they do not stagger our own credulity, we assure our readers would not have been made public if we did not consider the source from which they came entitled to credence."

How to Arrange Autumn Leaves.

Take piece of bristol-board about 7x9 inches and arrange a group of leaves and ferns upon it; sew them on, neatly covering all the stitches with the leaves; frame in a passe-partout, and you will find it as handsome as a painting. Another way is to take a sheet of bristol-board and cover with black velveteen, get a small brown or black straw basket, such as are used for wax fruit and flowers, cut into and glue one-half on the velveteen, then fill with the brightest leaves, sumac and ferns, grasses and berries; get a few small vines, such as you will find in the woods, and preserve them; twine them around the handle of the basket, and arrange others to slope gracefully over the sides; frame in a deep frame, and I assure you it will win admiration from all who see it. Another ornament that my friends admired last winter, was a cross of black walnut, with a carved base about fourteen inches high, twined with a wreath of autumn leaves, berries and green moss, which you can procure at the florists'. The cross you can get a carpenter to make for you. Then take your smallest leaves—I did not use any over an inch long—take a piece of green thread wire, about three-quarters of a yard long, for the formation of the wreath, then take pieces of the wire about one-a-half inches long, for stems to the leaves; prepare them as already described. When ready, commence by fastening a cluster of the moss on one end of the long wire with a small piece, then arrange the moss on the long wire by twisting their wire stems around the long wire, taking care to bring the leaf near enough to the foundation wire so that when the next is put on it will hide the stem of the first. Continue in this way, arranging the colors with care, and interspersing a little moss here and there to give a good effect. When done, fasten to the cross by means of small black pins, twining the wreath around the cross, and bending the leaves so that they will look graceful. At the base of the cross arrange moss, berries and leaves; also fasten a spray of leaves and moss near the ends of the arms of the cross, so as to slope prettily, and the cross is finished; and I am sure any one will feel amply paid for their trouble if they follow these directions.

The Bad and Worthless

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