

Grange Column.

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membership during the year, 1,205. Two others have gained 1,000 each. In addition to these seven have reported gains, varying from 200 to 605 members. Others report an increase of membership but figures are not given. The reports also show that in nine States there has been a slight diminution in members, but in most cases accounted for, on the ground of tardiness of subordinate Granges in making their September reports. It is thought that the closing up of the year will make a more favorable showing. But a more certain indication of prosperity is presented by that unerring thermometer, the financial condition of the State Grange treasuries. In twenty States there is an improved condition in their finances, in four the condition is the same as one year ago, and only four report a falling off of receipts. GRANGE JOURNALS AND ORGANS. Twenty State Granges have official organs which afford a medium of communication between the State and subordinate Granges. Fifteen of which are published within the State, and five in adjoining and neighboring States. They are doing a valuable work for the Order. It could not prosper without them. Their circulation should be doubled during the coming year, and can be if the proper effort is made. A subordinate Grange can do no act which will benefit its members more, or add more to its prosperity, than to put a good Grange paper into every family connected with it. This subject deserves more consideration from this body, and from the State Granges than it has heretofore received. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS. Eight States are reported as having agricultural experiment stations, four of which have been established through the influence of our organization. Some of these are probably connected with the agricultural colleges, but the number does not include all the farms connected with colleges where experiments are made in connection with the school course of study. The question of establishing these stations in several other States is now being agitated by patrons; and all reliable information in relation to their management, and the results obtained, should be collected and disseminated as widely as possible. THE GRANGE. Whether farmers have graduated in the college, the high school, or the common school, the Grange supplies to them a long-felt want, although their real educational advantages have not yet been fully appreciated or developed, except in isolated cases. They are institutions where the valuable lessons of the school, the farm and the household, can be reviewed, familiarized, and made useful and practical; where men and women can accustom themselves to public reading, reciting, and speaking; where valuable knowledge can be received and imparted by lectures, essays and discussions and in the exchange of views upon important questions; where the higher and noble qualities of human nature can be developed and made more lovely and more lovable; and where the widow and the fatherless, though poor and burdened with care and sore affliction, can feel that they are not doomed, isolated and alone, to toil on through weary life, without friends, sympathy, society or hope of advancement; but know that they are members of a great fraternal brotherhood, united by a common interest and laboring for the good all. Then let us put forth our best efforts to build up our subordinate Granges and make them temples of wisdom, equality and brotherly love. TRANSPORTATION. Mainly through the influence of our organization, the Legislatures of thirteen States have been induced to enact just and wholesome laws regulating the management of railroads within their borders; and it is generally admitted that such action has been beneficial not only to the people at large but to the companies; restoring confidence and a better understanding between them. The right of a State to limit the amount of charges by railroad companies for fares and freights, has again been affirmed in a recent decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, thus establishing beyond all question, and all fear of an adverse ruling, the principle of law enunciated by our Order, in its early history and for which it has so manfully contended; and the way has been made clear not only for preventing unjust discriminations,—by railroad managers, between individuals and localities within the State, but to secure and maintain for the people, benefits from the roads, commensurate with the franchises granted to the companies. This is one of the triumphs of our Order, and demonstrates not only its usefulness and necessity, but its power to accomplish just purposes. He goes on to say that for nine years Congress, with all facts at command, furnished by its own committees, in fact, has given no relief and the colossal despotisms have become stronger and more imperious. CO-OPERATION. After stating the fact that business co-operation was not thought of at the beginning and how it came to be thought of and worked up, he says the National Grange recommended State agencies under sufficient bonds and the motion for a National Business Agency was defeated by a very large majority—35 to 8. The National Grange never has favored business ventures. I call attention to these facts to show that the National Grange has ever been conservative on this question of co-operation, and that all systems recommended, or endorsed by it, have been thoroughly matured and well guarded. Had the advice of a majority of the founders

of our Order and the recommendations of the National Grange been heeded and practiced, these business failures and calamities would have been avoided. The principal cause of failure was in placing business enterprises, backed by the funds of the State Grange, into the hands of agents who were wanting in business experience and qualifications necessary to manage them. Correct business habits and real co-operation among the members of our Order, is as essential to its prosperity and perpetuity as breath is to physical life, and as indissolubly connected with its educational system as household economy, the production of crops, care and management of domestic animals, or beautifying and adorning our homes. It cannot reasonably be expected that persons who have had no practical experience or special training in mercantile business, milling or manufacturing can be qualified to successfully manage such enterprises. Business men do not spring up like mushrooms, but grow like the stately oak, which gradually rises and spreads its roots deeper and more firmly into the earth, when beat upon and swayed by the wind and storm. So men must be educated for any business avocation in life, and be made strong and well grounded by experience derived from successes and losses. Business co-operation should have a place in every subordinate Grange, however small the beginning and limited the means, and if well managed and patronized, it cannot fail to prosper, and not only benefits the members financially but educates them into correct and practical business habits. THE TARIFF. After showing the evils of unlimited free trade, the speaker said: The Government must have revenue, and to obtain it without imposing burdens upon the people will require wiser statesmanship than we are likely to have; and so long as revenue is to be obtained by imposing duties on foreign imports, the system must be one not only of taxation but of protection. The important question then, seems to be how can these benefits and burdens be most equally and justly distributed? The great evil in our present tariff is in its unjust discrimination. A "High Protective Tariff," which builds up monopolies by imposing undue burdens upon the people at large, is high-handed oppression; so a low tariff which cripples home industries and oppresses labor is equally disastrous, not only to individual, but national prosperity. The great objects to be accomplished by our tariff laws should be to furnish revenue, and at the same time give reasonable and impartial encouragement, as far as practicable, to every legitimate industry, and develop every resource of our country. THE TARIFF ON WOOL. He touches the question of Sheep Husbandry and the Tariff on Wool very ably, as follows: Sheep husbandry is one of the most important agricultural interests of this country, and absolutely necessary in many sections to enable farmers to keep up the fertility of the soil. Flocks of sheep are the best and most valuable means accessible to the great mass of farmers of this country, for renovating and increasing the productivity of their farms. They destroy noxious weeds, glean the fields, pack the soil and return much of value to it. This industry has been encouraged and built up, mainly by the tariff acts of Congress, for the reason that wool cannot be produced in this country with our well paid labor and expensive wintering of sheep as cheaply as it can in the warmer countries of South America, Africa and Australia, where cheap labor and perennial pastures abound. The wool production has been nearly doubled since the encouragement it received by the tariff act of 1867; although the interest was greatly demoralized by the act of 1872, which reduced the market price of our wool below the cost of production, but gradually recovered to nearly its former prosperity, after the restoration of the duty by Congress in 1874. And yet the price of wool in this country has ruled too low to pay the producer anything above a moderate profit on the cost of production for the last ten years. There seems to have been no good reason for the reduction of the duty by the last Congress. It reduced the price received by our farmers for this year's clip, on an average, five cents upon every pound produced in this country, amounting in the aggregate to a tax of over \$15,000,000 arbitrarily assessed upon this product alone. As a revenue measure there could have been no necessity for it. In a report made by General Garfield, when a member of Congress in 1880, he said: "As a revenue measure, the tariff of 1867 on wool and woolsens, has been very effective, having produced \$360,000,000 of revenue in the last thirteen years, an average of \$28,000,000 per annum." Whatever difference of opinion may exist among the members of this body on the question of "revenue" and "protection," it does not seem possible that there can be any division upon this question; and I am confident that no one act can be done that will be received with more satisfaction by our members, or inspire more confidence in our Order and among farmers and business men generally, than for this National Grange to unite its influence with that of the National Wool-Growers Convention, which recently assembled in Chicago, and respectfully ask the Congress soon to assemble to restore the duty on wool taken off by the last Congress and thus right this great wrong. GOVERNMENT AID FOR AGRICULTURE. Of the importance which agriculture bears to national prosperity, Dr. Johnson said: "Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own." Washington said: "I know of no pursuit in which more real and important service can be

rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture." Jefferson said: "Agriculture is the highest calling of man and the surest road and safeguard to a nation's prosperity and liberty." And yet, there is scarcely another civilized nation but what does more to aid and encourage its agriculture than the United States. In 1877, France appropriated for support of agriculture and commerce \$20,000,000; Russia for agriculture and public lands nearly \$15,000,000; Austria and Hungary, for agriculture alone, \$5,500,000; Great Britain \$800,000; Sweden \$650,000; the United States for the same year appropriated \$174,686. It will thus be seen that Russia, our greatest competitor in the market of the world for agricultural products spends, for the aid of her agriculture and care of her public lands, seventy times as much as this country, and little Sweden three times as much, as this great nation does for the support of the industry upon which its prosperity and perpetuity depends. These appropriations among the progressive European nations, are used, principally, for the support of National Agricultural Departments, Experiment Stations with model farms attached, Stock farms and Dairy farms, Agricultural Colleges and Farm schools; and for disseminating information relating to practical and scientific agriculture; all aiming to increase the fertility of the soil, and the amount and value of its products; and these results have been fully realized. Both wise political economy and sound financial policy seems to demand that such aid should be given the agriculture of this country, as may be necessary to produce like results. There is one advantage enjoyed by the farmers of Washington Territory which, it seems to us, has not been given the prominence it deserved in presenting the claims of the country to the people who are seeking homes in the new northwest. And the advantage we allude to is that of being able to raise a crop of wheat or other cereals the first season of land breaking. If the settler can get located on his land early enough to break the prairie in April or May, he may raise a good crop of wheat or other grain that very first season, and thus save himself the great expense of purchasing these necessities through an additional twelve month. And this is true of all sorts of garden vegetables. In the prairie countries East of the Mountains the raising of a very meagre crop of "soil-corn" is the very best that a new settler can do the first year, the toughness of the fresh-turned sod making other seeding or cultivating than that by chopping with an axe or heavy hoe utterly impracticable. And in these regions the settler on new prairie land is compelled to wait until the fall of the second season before realizing much of anything in the shape of crops for his labor. Instances are not wanting in this county of Spokane where twenty and twenty-five bushels of wheat to the acre have been realized the first year of settlement and cultivation, and we may say that these instances are so common as to be passed without remark by the old settlers. The season of 1883 has been an extremely dry one for this section, but drouthy and unfavorable as it has been, the yield of wheat on spring turned sod has been fifteen bushels and upward to the acre, a yield not often exceeded on the best tilled lands of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. It is possible that some of our really superior advantages and privileges are so common-place as to cause them to be known and enjoyed without remark, and we sometimes forget to give them the prominence their merit entitles them to.—Spokane Chronicle. A New York divorce lawyer's advertisement reads thus: "Hymenial incompatibilities, as a specialty, carefully adjusted. 'Tis slavery to detain the hand after the heart has fled.'" CONSUMPTION CURED. An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh of the Throat, and all Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility, and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellow-men. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe in German, English or French, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, addressing with stamp and naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 149 Power's Block, Rochester, N.Y. Tired Out. The distressing feeling of weariness, of exhaustion without effort, which makes life a burden to so many people, is due to the fact that the blood is poor, and the vitality consequently feeble. If you are suffering from such feelings, Ayer's Sarsaparilla is just what you need, and will do you incalculable good. No other preparation so concentrates and combines blood-purifying, vitalizing, enriching, and invigorating qualities as AYER'S SARSAPARILLA. PREPARED BY Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Druggists; \$1.50 bottles for \$6. MAKE HENS LAY. An English Veterinary Surgeon and Chemist has discovered a new remedy, consisting of the essence of the Horse and Catnip Plants, which is worth its weight in gold. It is a simple and safe remedy, and is sold by the proprietors, Messrs. J. R. Johnson & Co., Boston, U.S.A. Send for Catalogue and Price. THE ATLAS ENGINE WORKS. INDIANAPOLIS, IND., U.S.A. MANUFACTURERS OF STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS. 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