

THE GRANGE

Conducted by
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Grange

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Some of the Larger Grange States Are Restive Under Present Rules.

An important resolution passed at the last meeting of the New York state grange was to the effect that the state grange adopt a method of representation in the national grange by which each state shall be represented according to membership. It will be remembered by those who are familiar with the workings of the national grange that two years ago Mr. Kegley, from Washington state, introduced a resolution of similar purport, but it was given a back seat. But it is more than likely that a resolution changing the representation in the national grange will be introduced at the next annual session of the national grange. The matter is being urged in Michigan as well as in New York and other states. There is obvious injustice in the present method of representation in the national grange, considering the paid up membership. New York, with its 77,000 members, has but two votes. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana and Colorado have ten votes, with a combined paid up membership of 4,300. Several other states could be added to these five before a membership equal to New York state alone, and these five states have ten votes for 4,300 members, while New York, with its 77,000 members, has only two votes. New York has three counties, each of which exceeds in membership these five states named. While in some respects the present system should be retained, there are others where the representation according to membership is greatly to be desired, and we anticipate a new discussion of the question when the national grange meets in Washington next November.

NOT ORDINARY FARMING.

State Master Richardson of Massachusetts Raises Wild Animals.

A rather unusual kind of farming is pursued by State Master C. D. Richardson of Massachusetts, but he is certainly a farmer on a large scale. At West Brookfield he has a preserve with deer, elk, buffaloes, bears, foxes, wild geese, pheasants and nearly every other kind of wild animal known to the temperate zone. He has been in this business of breeding animals for about ten years and has sold during that time nearly 800 deer, 40 buffaloes, 200 elk, 50 wild boars, a dozen bears, 100 pheasants and swans and almost innumerable foxes, coons, muskrats and other small game. There is a large number of wild animals in every park in the United States supplied from the West Brookfield preserve. He has made shipments to New Zealand and Germany, the shipment to New Zealand including twenty-four bears and twelve elk. His most extensive foreign trade is with Germany and Denmark. Recently he had a rush order from Germany for 100 muskrats, and the order was filled. The preserve is a fascinating spot covering about fifteen acres of his ninety-four acre farm.

Illinois State Grange.

The Illinois state grange has elected Oliver Wilson master, John Miller overseer, L. B. Eidmann lecturer, Jeannette E. Yates of Dunlap secretary and adopted resolutions condemning ship subsidy, favoring the establishment of a deep waterway from the lakes to the gulf, favoring the election of United States senators by direct vote, favoring the parcels post system, urging each township to comply with the provisions of the local option law, endorsing the movement for the establishment of postal savings banks, favoring the amending of the game laws, making it unlawful to kill quail, tree squirrels, prairie chickens or pheasants for five years; that hunting on private premises without permission of the owner shall be a misdemeanor, that all game killed should be carried in open view and that hunting on Sunday shall void the license of the hunter.

An Interesting Record.

A grange at Carroll, N. H., has recently celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. Five of the twenty-two charter members were present. Mrs. Flora J. Miles, now Pomona of the state grange, has been lecturer of this grange since its organization with the exception of one year. The first master served seven years, and the first woman to hold the office of Pomona did not miss a meeting for ten years. Fifty-five members of this grange have married in the fifteen years, and only three have died.

Educational Railroad Trains.

It is proposed to run agricultural educational trains in West Virginia next fall. There will be two of these trains, and stops will be made at all important stations. Professor T. C. Atkeson, overseer of the national grange, is in charge of the matter.

Columbus Hayford, a member of the executive committee of the Maine state grange, is something of a farmer. He harvested 9,000 bushels of potatoes, 2,000 bushels of grain, 140 tons of hay and one ton of honey. He can pretty surely qualify as a farmer.

Since its organization in 1877 the Bradford County (Pa.) Grange Mutual Fire Insurance company has paid \$100,209.74 for losses. Its membership has been increased to 1,800, and the insurance in force Dec. 31 was \$3,206,712.50.

CROP REPORTS.

The Quantity of Grain Remaining in Farmers' Hands.

The crop reporting board of the bureau of statistics finds from reports of correspondents and agents of the bureau that the quantity of wheat in farmers' hands on March 1 was about 23.5 per cent (equivalent to 148,721,000 bushels) of last year's crop as compared with 28.1 per cent (206,644,000 bushels) of the 1906 crop on hand March 1, 1907, and 24.6 per cent (155,268,000 bushels), the average for the past ten years of the quantity of the crop on hand on March 1. It is estimated that about 58 per cent of the crop will be shipped out of the counties where grown as compared with 58.1 per cent of the 1906 crop and 53.9 per cent the average for the past ten years so shipped out.

The quantity of corn in farmers' hands on March 1 is estimated as 37.1 per cent (equivalent to 962,429,000 bushels) of last year's crop as compared with 44.3 per cent (1,298,000,000 bushels) of the 1906 crop on hand March 1, 1907, and 39.4 per cent (882,707,000 bushels), the average for the past ten years, of the quantity of the crop on hand March 1. It is estimated that about 18 per cent of the crop will be shipped out of counties where grown as compared with 23.2 per cent of the 1906 crop and 19.7 per cent the average for the past ten years so shipped out. The proportion of the total crop which is merchantable is estimated as 77.7 per cent of the 1907 crop, 89.1 per cent of the 1906 crop and 84.2 as the average of the past ten years.

The quantity of oats in farmers' hands on March 1 is estimated as 35.5 per cent (equivalent to 267,476,000 bushels) of last year's crop as compared with 39.8 per cent (384,461,000 bushels) of the 1906 crop on hand March 1, 1907, and 37.3 per cent (311,625,000 bushels), the average of the past ten years, of the quantity of the crop on hand March 1. It is estimated that about 28 per cent of the crop will be shipped out of the counties where grown as compared with 27.6 per cent of the 1906 crop and 27.4 per cent the average for the past ten years so shipped out.

Too Early Testing.

As a consequence of the last poor corn year thousands of farmers who have never tested their seed corn are probably doing so for the next crop. And there is a very natural result to be feared—namely, that of testing too early in the season. This very early testing is by no means sure to prove satisfactory, for, as an exchange suggests, it frequently happens that corn will give a high percentage germination in the middle of winter, while the same seed if kept two months longer may have its vitality greatly impaired. Where corn is placed so that it cannot be frozen there is less danger of this happening, but even then better results will be obtained if seed testing is left until some time during the early spring days.

We have in mind an instance where good dry oats gave 10 per cent better germination in the middle of January than they did on the 1st of April. All seedsmen will tell you that they find it necessary to retest seeds in the spring that have been tested during the winter in order to make sure of their vitality.

Wrinkles in Lettuce Growing.

A combination method of indoor and outdoor lettuce culture that sometimes works nicely is starting head lettuce in the greenhouse, hotbed or cold frame and transplanting to the open as soon as the weather is favorable. Not only do we thus get earlier lettuce, but the development of head lettuce seems to be very fine under these conditions. Deacon, Big Boston, May King, Black Seeded Tennisball, Market Gardener's Private Stock, Iceberg and Improved Hanson are varieties suitable for this



GRAND RAPIDS LETTUCE PLANT. [Grown in pot for transplanting to bench or box.]

combination culture. The last two are curly leaved varieties, but under proper cultural conditions form good heads. The plants are started in the greenhouse, transplanted into flats and hardened off in the cold frames. They are then set in the open ground in rows fifteen inches apart and about ten inches apart in the row.

Another wrinkle in the growing of early lettuce is to grow the plants in pots until about the size of that shown in the figure and then transplant to flats, in which the plants are grown to maturity or at least salable size.

Favorite Figs.

Black Ischia is known as Blue Ischia. This and White Ischia are prime favorites. Fruit is considered as good as the best for Georgia and the south. Skin violet black, pulp rosy red, meat white, soft and melting. Dries on tree. Ripens in August. White Ischia has the same qualities except color. It is greenish yellow.—Farm and Ranch.

Spraying Peach Trees.

One spraying with bordeaux mixture in the spring before the opening of the blossoms continues to prove effective in the prevention of leaf curl. Where fungous diseases only are to be combated the bordeaux mixture is preferred. Where scales are present the sulphur sprays may be relied upon for leaf curl prevention.—A. D. Selby.

GODOWNS OF JAPAN.

Safety Warehouses Made Necessary by the Frequency of Fires.

Fire is one of the terrors that dog the elbow of the Japanese householder all the time, and because he lives in a matchwood dwelling Sakure-san has to take a curious precaution against the sudden loss of all his household goods. This precaution is the godown.

The stranger in Tokyo or Yokohama who sees from his rickshaw a strange iron plated building with doors like turret shutters and pointed roof heavily incrustated with tiles is led to believe that here perhaps is some feudal fort of the old time, ready to house fighting men against the attacks of a street mob. But when the tourist finds one of these black sheeted buildings on every other block he learns from the country dweller that these things are godowns, or storehouses for household goods.

When a fire gets well started in the crowded blocks of dolls' houses in a Japanese city, it is rarely stopped until from ten to fifty houses have been consumed and a black scar has been drawn across the whole face of the district. Because the houses are so flimsy and crowded so closely together that the Japanese firemen even at their best can do little with a well developed blaze certain astute citizens erect these iron sheathed and shuttered two storied storehouses, wherein the householders of the neighborhood and the storekeepers of the district can store away their valuables.

The godowns are so heavily sheathed with iron plate and so weighted with mud tiles that they rarely burn. All day long their windows are kept almost hermetically sealed by heavy swinging shutters that look like the doors of a safe. When a fire comes to a certain district the first thing is to close district the first godown and put it in shape to weather the flames.

To these public fireproof safes the householders take their best furniture, their porcelain and their delicate prints. The wives keep locked up there their best kimonos and their odds and ends of jewelry. Merchants have their excess stock stored away within them.

Whenever there is a fete in any Japanese home or preparations are being made for the entertainment of some special guests the servants are sent to the nearby godown to bring home all the valuables. Pictures are again hung on the wall, the heavy bronze vase is restored to the day to its special taboret, and the wardrobe of madame is replenished.

Then with the passing of the special occasion passes also the household grandeur. All the fleeting prettiness of print and flowered kimono is swallowed up in the black maw of the godown.—New York Sun.

A Practical Rotation.

"I suppose you follow a system of rotation in your agricultural operations," casually observed the high browed graduate of the modern agricultural college.

"Follow what kind of a system?" inquired honest, hard handed Uncle Ezra.

"A scheme of rotation. That is, take that large field there. You put that to one purpose one year, another purpose the next year and still different the third year, and so on."

"Oh, yes, I see your meanin'. Well, sir, last year we used the proceeds of that field to give Elizabeth her musical education; this year the proceeds went to pay boot in a hoss trade that I had the honor of engineering, and next year I intend that field shall give me a trip down to the city and build a new concrete smokehouse. After that I'm countin' on lettin' the youngest boy, Henry Absalom, farm the field on shares to kinder get his hands into the work."—Puck.

How the Oak Will Grow.

There are trees which would seem to substantiate the theory of some scientists that there is no reason why a tree should ever die unless destroyed by unfavorable conditions or accident. The oak, for example, will live as a sapling for ages until given opportunity for growth. There is an old saying to the effect that if a pine forest is cut down an oak forest will grow, and this is said to be literally true. Many of the acorns carried into the pine woods by birds and squirrels are left to sprout in the ground. As the tiny saplings grow browsing natives of the forest shades nibble off their tender leaves. Again and again new leaves are put forth, only to serve as food for hungry deer or moose or other marauding creatures. And so, hidden from sunlight, deprived, as it would appear, of every essential of life, the little plants live on, and when at last the pines are felled and the sunlight reaches them they begin their era of growth.

Woman's World

GRAND OPERA HER GOAL.

Miss Flora Wilson, Who Has Chosen a Musical Career.

Miss Flora Wilson, daughter of the American secretary of agriculture, has been in Paris for the last three years preparing for grand opera under Jean de Reszke. At her first public appearance she rendered a number of difficult operatic selections in such a way that her friends were enthusiastic. Practically every prominent member of the American colony was present. Miss Wilson received an ovation and was also the recipient of about 100 pounds of orchids and roses. Miss Wilson will probably make her debut in grand opera next year.

Since the death of her mother Miss Wilson has presided in her father's home, supervising his domestic interests and welfare and that of her brothers and filling the role of hostess on social occasions.

In addition to these exacting duties, Miss Wilson held the position of



MISS FLORA WILSON.

librarian and taught literature in the Iowa State college, whence she was graduated in 1892.

She is deeply interested in the development and progress of women, a believer in their higher education and an advocate of their rights and is herself a living demonstration of the fact that the currents of a public career and a private life may run side by side in perfect harmony.

The women of her state have already enjoyed the privilege of casting their ballot on some local questions, and Miss Wilson thinks it is only a matter of a very short time before they will be voting in state elections.

The first time they were permitted to exercise this prerogative Miss Wilson was the only woman in her ward who availed herself of the coveted privilege.

Miss Wilson is of medium height, slenderly built, with a delicate, intellectual face, gray eyes, an abundance of dark hair and a broad, well developed brow. She is a woman whose strength is none the less felt because she is gentle and persuasive.

Gentle Art of Making Enemies.

Whistler, the great American painter, may be better known for his pamphlet entitled "The Gentle Art of Making Enemies" than for his wondrous pictures. And it is an art practiced by not a few people, though it is only cynicism that would ever call it gentle. Some are always getting hurt and offended. They seem ever on the lookout for slights and rudeness, and so turn and twist many an unintentional thing into a deadly insult. And it's funny, if we are on bad terms with some folks, whether by their fault or ours, how we are always running up against them.

He that hath a thousand friends Hath not one friend to spare. And he that hath an enemy Will meet him everywhere.

Though true, this is decidedly an unpleasant circumstance, and so, for your own sake, it is best to be as little pugnacious as possible. Having enemies is a luxury none of us can afford if we want to make the best of life and have our friends and relatives make the best of it, too, and, in addition to this, there is the higher side of the question, for we are enjoined in the book to love one another. We must not be too hard on one another nor too critical. If we were weighed in the balance we use for others I am sure we would often be found wanting. But we have a private, a very different, balance for home use as a rule. Let us ponder on what Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "Surely while the Lord can tolerate me I can tolerate my fellow creatures." It is not love, but an excess of self love, that is at the root of all evil. We fancy that we are not treated with proper respect, not as we ought to be. We would all get on a good deal better if we put self in the background and tried to make others happy and enjoy themselves. We wouldn't get offended then. Let us try it.

Cretones in Bedroom.

Of the various materials shown in the shops nothing is daintier than cretonne for a bedroom. There are a freshness and a crispness about the material that give a homelike atmosphere. The first thing to do is to choose a pretty and artistic design, for there are some figures shown that would not

THE BLACK SHADOW.

A Very Curious Superstition of the Tupi Indians.

We had been listening to the stories of an officer recently returned from service in the Philippines about the curious superstitions among the brown races, when one of the party, who had been several years a resident of Brazil, related an experience he had had among the native Indians along the Amazon river at the time of a lunar eclipse. He said: "I noticed that for several days every Indian employed in my hosts' sawmill, ten or twelve in number, spent their entire noon hour in making arrows and testing them by shooting them at a large tree, not less than 100 yards distant, which stood in the clearing around the mill.

"Of course these men are familiar with the use of firearms and use guns in hunting. But for some reason, probably a tradition, superstition or prophecy, still preserved, it is a part of nearly every Indian boy's education to make and use bows and arrows, even though residing in the cities. I was astonished at the skill these men displayed. They rarely missed the target or struck it so high that they could not reach and withdraw the arrows. When asked what so many arrows were made for, their only answer was 'To shoot the black shadow,' which to me was no explanation at all.

"Now, making these arrows is both difficult and delicate work. Both shaft and feathers must be carefully chosen, while fashioning the points, which are made of a separate piece of harder wood and charred and shaped in the fire, requires both skill and patience. Only the wing feathers of a bird possess the spiral twist necessary to give the arrow a rotary motion in flight.

"The night of the eclipse I went to my hammock, as usual, not remembering that one was due. It occurred about midnight. I was sleeping soundly when I was awakened by some one gently shaking my hammock. Rousing myself, I found the oldest man employed in the mill bending over me. The eclipse was on and the room was so dark that I could not distinguish his features, but his voice was very grave as he said in Portuguese, 'Pardon, senhor, but do you not watch the moon to shine again?' 'Moon—what's the matter with it?' I asked, only half awake. 'It has gone out and will not shine again until we shoot the black shadow. Will the senhor let me take his gun to begin driving it away?'

"I gave him my double barrel gun and half a dozen cartridges, and he went out. Greatly mystified, I followed him a moment later. All the Indians were assembled in the open space before the house, and every one had his bow and arrows, watching the moon, which was now entirely obscured. I did not join them, fearing to disconcert them, but watched the strange performance from the door.

"First, the old man, after finding a good rest for his gun, took a long, careful aim at the moon and fired, repeating the shots as fast as he could reload. When the cartridges were all used, the bowmen drew up in line, and, taking an equally careful aim, shot scores of arrows at the offending black shadow. Then they all sat down on the ground, lighted their cigarettes and waited results. I left them watching and went in and was again asleep when the old man awakened me by entering with the gun. He was jubilant at the success of their assault on the black demon and thanked me for my assistance in the ponderously polite phrases characteristic of his race." —Dewey Austin Cobb in Los Angeles Times.

The Gallery Answered Martha.

Of the Dublin gallery boys a famous baritone in his reminiscences tells some good stories—one of "Faust," in which he played Valentine.

After the duel Martha, who rushed in at the head of the crowd, raised Valentine's head and held him in her arms during the first part of the scene and cried out in evident alarm:

"Oh, what shall I do?" There was a deathlike stillness in the house, which was interrupted by a voice from the gallery calling out: "Unbutton his weskit!"

A Knock-turn.

When J. A. MacNeill Whistler lived in Chelsea, England, his peculiarities soon made him a familiar figure even among the bargemen, who got to know him as the artist of their beloved Thames. One afternoon, while sauntering along the embankment, Whistler was confronted by a man who had one eye most effectively blackened. The artist stopped and inquired, "What's the matter, my good fellow?" The man touched his hat. "Oh, nothing, sir—merely a knock-turn in blue and green."

Fruit and Flowers

DWARF APPLE TREES.

An Interesting Account of Two Types Used For Stocks.

Unlike the dwarf pear, which is budded or grafted on quince stock, the apple when grown as a dwarf is worked on dwarf forms of the same species. Dwarf and many other curious forms of any plant may appear where many seedlings are grown. The dwarf or bush lima bean may be mentioned as an example. The bloomless or seedless apple, of which so much has been said of late, has appeared at many places, both in the United States and in Europe, as is shown by the literature of horticulture.

Paradise and the Doucin.

There are two types of these dwarf apples which are used for stocks, known as the Paradise and the Doucin. The exact origin of the Paradise apple is not known, as several ancient writers describe different apples under this name or the apple of Adam. One writer describes a variety as the true Paradise, in which the bite of Adam and Eve can be seen. This notion probably comes from a peculiar blush on one side of the fruit. It is evident that the name has been applied to many different forms, all of which make a tree of about the same height, ranging from six to eight feet.

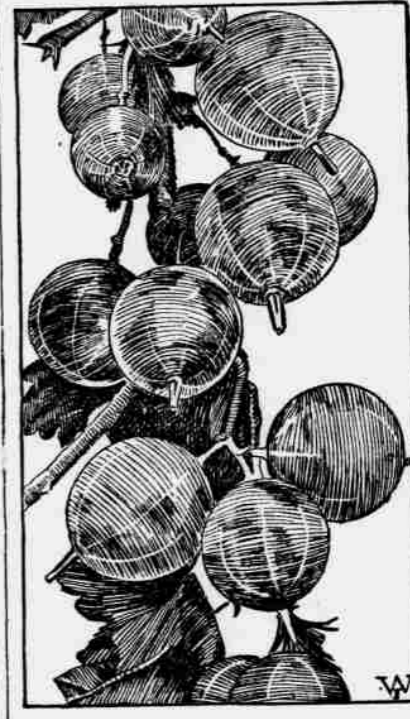
The origin of the Doucin is more certain. It appears to have originated in Italy and was first brought to notice probably in the sixteenth century. This makes a larger tree than the Paradise, being about midway between the latter and a standard tree, states an authority in Country Gentleman. For this reason the Doucin has not been much used as a stock. Nearly all the dwarf apple trees in this country are propagated on the Paradise stock.

Most of the stock is grown in France, where our nurserymen procure their supplies.

THE GOOSEBERRY.

Conditions Under Which a Plantation Lasts Many Years.

The gooseberry is a moisture loving plant; hence a soil should be chosen where there will be a constant supply of water during the growing season. In dry soils gooseberries suffer very much in a dry time, the foliage often falling prematurely and the fruit being scalded by the sun. The soil should be a cool one. Moist soils are usually best, but the surface of a sandy loam soil gets very hot in the sun—



PEARL GOOSEBERRY.

mer; hence it is not the best for this fruit. Well drained, heavy clay loams are the most suitable for gooseberries, as these usually are both cool and moist. The soil should have abundant plant food, easily available. A good application of well rotted manure thoroughly worked into the soil will do much to bring about these favorable conditions.

The Pearl gooseberry is an American variety. The bush is a moderately upright grower and very productive.

Brown Rot of the Lemon.

Brown rot is a certain form of decay of the lemon of an appearance and nature very characteristic to one familiar with it. The orange, pomelo and other citrus fruits are also affected, but not to the extent of the lemon, on account of the methods of handling the latter fruit. Brown rot in the packing house is distinguished most clearly by two features—its rapid spread in the fruit by contact and its characteristic odor. The odor of brown rot in citrus fruit is most characteristic, and to one familiar with it serves to detect even a very small amount of rot in a large amount of fruit.—Ralph E. Smith, California.

Care of Callas.

Callas require plenty of water, with good drainage. The pot may be set in a dish or saucer of lukewarm water and allowed to soak up into the earth at the bottom of the pot, thus reaching the ball of the root.

Shrubs and Climbers.

Shrubs and climbers together, judiciously placed, will often transform a bare and dreary house and grounds into a scene of harmony and beauty.