

The Gate Keeper

"In Faith, In Hope, In Charity, and with Fidelity."

Conducted by E. L. Thorpe.

Grange National Banks—The Postal Deficit—Grange County Officers—Good of the Order.

A business enterprise which is rapidly crystallizing throughout many of the eastern states is the establishment of grange national banks. The greatest impetus has been given the movement in Pennsylvania where the State Grange has an organizer in the field whose sole duty it is to organize national banks in the most populous centers and get them started on a solid financial footing by means of selling capital stock to farmers who can invest and who will patronize such an institution, thereby making it self-sustaining. Less than one year ago the first grange bank was established in Pennsylvania and it has been a complete success from the first. It has already won the confidence of the public and of the national government, having been a United States depository for government funds. It has over 1000 individual accounts and will share a net earning of about 15 per cent at the close of its first year. This bank has capitalized at \$25,000, the stock selling at \$10 per share and none for sale. The deposits now amount to over \$150,000. This bank is situated in the town of Tioga. Every officer is a granger, but some of the stockholders are not. It was deemed advisable to take in a few outsiders to make grangers of them afterward. The controlling interest is vested in the grange, however, and will remain there. Since the Tioga bank was established there have been several more organized, and all are beginning to pay. Such banks will be a success anywhere for the reason that they develop so much business among a class who have hitherto done very little in the banking line, business which comes from a wide area, from all parts of the county and beyond its lines, that the business of the bank soon assumes a large volume, at the same time not interfering to any degree whatever with the business of any other bank. The grange banks develop so much new business and bring into active circulation so much money that has hitherto been hidden away, that the banks immediately win the good will and respect not only of the business men of the community, but of other bankers and the national government as well. Several other states are taking the matter up and it will probably be discussed at the next national grange meeting. The movement will come westward soon, and there is no doubt but that Oregon will be the first state on the Pacific Coast to have a grange national bank.

A COMMENT OR TWO.

On Methods of Work Employed at National Grange Meetings.

In the importance of questions considered the 1924 session of the national grange will rank well with preceding ones. Measures of much importance to the Order and to the public as well were considered and in most instances acted upon wisely. It is expected that in a body of men representing different and widely separated sections of the country there will be a diversity of opinion upon certain public questions, and it is characteristic of delegates to the national grange. This was particularly noticeable in a discussion which arose on the resolution introduced by the Washington delegate relative to the initiative and ref-



MRS. EVA S. MCDOWELL, TREASURER OF NATIONAL GRANGE.

erendum, direct nominations, direct elections, proportional representation and the right to recall executive officers. The resolution was pressed with great vigor by the gentlemen from Washington and Oregon, but was not especially favored by the eastern delegates, and only one or two from the middle west seemed inclined to receive it very cordially. Probably a resolution favoring the initiative and referendum alone would have been adopted, but this one never. The matter was finally referred to the several state granges for their action, as the delegates did not care to take position on it without instructions from their various states. Several of them expressed their personal views on the question, but refused to allow themselves to be governed by those views solely.

While questions of this nature may properly come before the national grange, it seems to the looker on that there is a tendency to deal with questions that are really without the province of the grange or are at least not particularly its province. I refer particularly to the resolutions introduced by the delegate from West Virginia restricting the amount of land which any man may own or lease and another advocating a progressive tax on all fortunes above a fixed maximum, either given away in life or bequeathed in death, and, strange as it may seem, both of these resolutions prevailed.

I am of the opinion that the closer national and state granges confine themselves to such legislation as most

directly bears upon the interests of the farmer the better will our Order fulfill its mission to the farmer. Furthermore, there is not that general discussion of resolutions offered in these grange meetings that should be for the highest interest. As all who are familiar with the workings of the state and national granges know, resolutions are referred at once to the appropriate committee without discussion. Committees after due consideration present their report to the body either favorably or adversely, as the case may be, and their report is acted upon by the delegates, but scarcely ever with argument or discussion.

As to the future, the outlook is most encouraging. Something like 100,000 have been added to the membership throughout the United States the past year. It will grow in numbers as it grows in results shown for the farmers' benefit.—American Agriculturist.

Juvenile Granges.
Mrs. Elizabeth Phelps Parrish, lecturer of Oswego county (N. Y.) Pomona grange and who has given much attention to juvenile grange work, says that some of the best reasons for organizing juvenile granges were based upon the plan of holding them at the same time as the subordinate grange.

First, many members who would be helpful to the Order and who would find it helpful to them cannot attend unless accompanied by their children; second, the children, in whom all are interested, add greatly to the interest of the lecturer's programme if allowed to enter after the business meeting is over and are asked to recite, read or sing, as the case may be; third, and by no means the least in favor of the meetings occurring at the same time and place, is the grange atmosphere, which the children absorb by attending the meetings with their elders and the confidence they gain at an early age by assisting in the work before them. The juvenile grange is the primary grange school where the grangers of the future are trained for the work of the Order.

MASSACHUSETTS GRANGE.

Meets in Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston, With Large Attendance.

Perhaps one of the most important grange gatherings ever brought together that recently held by the Massachusetts State Grange in old Faneuil Hall, Boston. The old historic hall was profusely decorated for the occasion with flowers, foliage and bunting as well as an abundance of fruits and farming produce. The state grange has not met in the city of Boston since 1881, and since that time the number of granges in the state has doubled. Out of 201 subordinate granges 195 were represented and all the twenty Pomona granges. State Master Richardson in his annual address said that the Order had increased 1,500 within the past year, and he suggested that the grange take favorable action for better laws on taxation calculated to reach personal property. He argued the importance of good roads and the need of legislation to protect them from high speed automobiles, the destruction of the gypsy moth and the need of arousing public interest in losses by insect pests. A large amount of business was transacted, and what was perhaps the most important was the selection of a committee of thirty to carry into effect the vote of the grange for trying a system of co-operative buying of agricultural supplies as well as co-operative selling. The master of each of the twenty Pomona granges will be a member of this committee of thirty. The executive committee of five will also be members of it, and the remaining five were chosen by the grange. The secretary of the Grange Fire Insurance company reported outstanding risks at nearly \$2,000,000. There are now 2,770 policy holders. Secretary Howard reported thirteen new granges organized the past year, the largest number in any one year thus far. There are now 201 subordinate granges with 21,374 members. The sixth degree was conferred on 555 new members. There was a lecturers' conference, attended by 149 lecturers, their expenses being paid by their granges. A notable feature of one of the evening sessions was the exemplification of the third degree by a degree team of twenty-one ladies from Trouton grange.

MAINE'S GOOD WORK.
Grange Halls Worth \$887,000—Big Business of the Grange.
During the past year Maine has organized sixteen new granges and reorganized six, making an increase of twenty-two subordinate granges. They are strong on all departments of grange work. There are 408 subordinate granges, represented by an average membership of 132. They have added 4,301 new members, making a total paid up membership of 53,991 up to Sept. 30. They have erected and dedicated five new grange halls the past year, which cost \$21,000, an average of \$4,200 each. Three hundred and fifty-five of the 408 subordinate granges own and occupy their own halls. The aggregate value of these grange homes, with their furnishings, is \$887,000, which serves to indicate the stability of the Order in this state. Pomona granges have held 220 regular meetings and subordinate granges 15,050 and 700 special meetings during the year.

Houlton grange will do a co-operative business of \$100,000 for the year. The Patrons' Co-operative corporation, controlled by the state grange, will transact a business of \$275,000, and the co-operative financial work among the granges, besides that mentioned, will amount to at least \$100,000 more. They have three Patrons' fire insurance companies, representing a business of \$25,

furnishing a safe and cheap risk from fire at 1/2 cent of one-fourth of 1 per cent. The membership represents one-twelfth of the population of the state. This state grange several years ago erected what is known as the state grange cottage at Good Will farm, which is owned, furnished and cared for by the state grange. In that cottage at the present time there are twenty-four little orphans, for whom the grange furnishes a home and gives the opportunity of schooling. They have just completed arrangements for a scholarship for higher education in a young ladies' classical school. Maine is certainly in the front rank of active grange states.

THE POSTAL DEFICIT.

If All Executive Departments Paid Postage, There Would Be None.

The national grange took strong ground against the increase of second class mail rates in order to make up the deficit in postal revenue. It also opposed the further continuance of the franking privilege. In this the grange is surely on the right track.

Here are some figures recently sent out from Washington showing how great is the expense of carrying the mails of the different executive departments and of congress.

The secretary of the treasury shows that during the last fiscal year 1,257,753 pounds, with a total weight of 960,974 pieces, were carried free, all as first class matter under the penalty privilege, and that if the postoffice department had been paid for carrying it the postage would have amounted to \$311,950. Secretary Wilson says in his report on the subject that it would have cost his department \$143,077 for carrying his department's second, third and fourth class matter. The secretary of war estimates the cost of carrying his share of this sort of mail, had it been paid for, at \$37,785.98. The highest computation is that of the postmaster general, who shows that if the postoffice department had been given credit for carrying its own second, third and fourth class matter it would have received \$1,185,734.

Representative Overstreet, chairman of the house postoffice and post roads committee and a member of the postal commission, said that if the postoffice department was credited with the amount it would otherwise receive for carrying free the mail of the government, including the mail sent out by members of congress under both the penalty and franking privileges, the deficit would be made up two or three times over and the department would show a balance on the credit side of the ledger.

This is strong evidence in support of the national grange contention to abolish the franking privilege and let each department and all congressmen pay their own postage bills.

THE QUESTION OF TAXATION

National Grange For Tariff Revision and Collateral Inheritance Tax.

The committee on taxation of the national grange submitted an extended report at the recent meeting of the national grange at Denver, in which these recommendations were made:

That whenever any of our manufacturers are using the tariff laws to enable them to sell their surplus products in foreign markets at a less price than they are sold at home, thereby making our own people pay more for their goods by reason of competition being prohibited, we demand the revision of those laws along the lines that will prevent such abuses. Under present conditions it is impossible to reach certain classes of property for taxable purposes, and under the laws as they exist today hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of property pay virtually no tax at all; therefore, if it cannot be done otherwise, we favor changing the constitution of the United States in order that a graduated income tax law may be enacted, which we believe to be one of the most just and equitable of laws, as it enables a tax to be placed upon property that entirely escapes at the present time.

We would advocate that all laws for the assessment of taxes in all the



C. M. FREEMAN, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL GRANGE.

states of the Union be made uniform in so far as the manner of assessment and the basis of value are concerned. Then we would be rid of a large amount of tax dodging by reason of property being shifted from one state to another. It would remove the practice of competition among states in securing manufacturers by reason of exemptions so freely made under present conditions and would in no way prevent the development or establishment of manufacturing plants. If it had never been, there would have been as many manufacturers as at present and states would not have towns at auction every day, as at present. With laws enacted along these lines as a basis, we believe it would not be as hard as at present to secure substantially equal and justice in the distribution of the tax burdens. Property is property, and we believe everything that is classed as property should be taxed as such. Therefore we favor a collateral inheritance tax law.

When aerial navigation is working all right Uncle Sam will need a mighty long and close picket line on wings to keep excluded immigrants from swamping the interior.

VERMONT STATE GRANGE.

At the thirty-fifth annual session of the Vermont State Grange, recently held at Burlington, Ex-Gov. Bell, the retiring master, made several suggestions for the benefit of the Order in his annual address and laid much stress on the necessity of reforming tax laws. He remarked that \$41,000,000 worth of personal property in the state was being taxed, while \$24,000,000 worth was not being taxed for one reason or another. He believed that the exemption of so much property was working injury to the state and that it ought to be stopped. He cited lumber as one of



Geo. W. GAULT, LECTURER OF NATIONAL GRANGE.

the products of the state which were taking wealth from it, but seldom, if ever, paying anything to the revenues of the state. While double taxation was wrong, he remarked that he did not consider it so great an injury to the state as to have so much property exempt from taxation. Mr. Bell said that when he was elected master, twelve years ago, the organization of the state numbered 2,200 members and that now there are 11,000. There are 123 subordinate granges and fifteen Pomona granges. The increase in membership the past year was 1,000. Ex-Governor Bell declined reelection as master, and George W. Pierce was chosen as his successor. Resolutions were adopted in recognition of his long service, with expressions of the esteem in which he was held by the grange.

The new roster of grange officers gives the following list of masters, lecturers and secretaries, in their respective order, of the subordinates in Multnomah county:

Evening Star—Meets first Saturday. J. J. Johnson, J. B. Gehr, Mrs. M. M. Eaton.

Multnomah—Meets fourth Saturday. John Sieret, Margaret Dolan, Carl Timmerman.

Columbia—First Saturday. Mrs. Rosa M. Littlepage, Mrs. Anna Anderson, F. N. Lasley.

Gresham—Second Saturday. John F. Roberts, Mrs. Susie Rugg, Mrs. Marie Dinger.

Rockwood—First Wednesday, evening; third Saturday. F. H. Crate, Mrs. Laura Pullen, Mrs. V. A. Lovelag.

Fairview—First Wednesday, third Tuesday, evening. Mrs. Carrie Townsend, Mrs. Alma Hall, Mrs. M. M. Heeslin.

Pleasant Valley—Fourth Saturday. H. W. Snaasall, Jennie Kronenberg, Lillian Richey.

Woodlawn—Second and fourth Saturdays, evenings. Harry A. Starr, Anna M. Staubsberry, N. Garnett.

Lents—Second and fourth Saturday. A. F. Miller, A. F. Hershner, Grace E. Furey.

Russellville—Second and fourth Saturdays. John Welbis, Mrs. Edina Giles, Martha Jensen.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

Rockwood Grange will give an ice cream social on Friday evening next, May 10, preceded by a musical and literary program. The proceeds will go to swell the building fund. All are invited to attend.

From all over the state comes information that the granges are reorganizing against the proposed referendum upon the State University appropriation. The Oregonian predicts that the movement will die out before the petitions are signed.

Oregon has only six Pomona granges and one county council. There is room for more, and they should be organized at once. Subordinate granges do better work where there is a Pomona grange. After the meeting of the State grange there will be a brilliant opportunity for Wasco county to organize a Pomona.

Multnomah Grange met in Cambell's hall at Orient April 27, in an all day session, with an attendance of 20 members. A short business session was held in the forenoon, and then all sat down to a bountiful dinner, which was fully enjoyed. After dinner the third and fourth degrees were conferred on one candidate, after which the Worthy Lecturer, Sister Dolan, furnished a splendid program, which was very instructive as well as enjoyable. The grange decided to build a hall, and a committee was appointed, consisting of Sister Dolan and Brothers Wheeler Griffith to buy a lot and build a hall.

A committee was appointed to circulate the two petitions for referring bills 241 and 118. Multnomah Grange is in a flourishing condition and coming to the front.

Pennsylvania State Grange.

The thirty-fourth annual session of the Pennsylvania state grange, held at Dubois, brought out an attendance of something like 1,200 delegates and visitors. The secretary's report showed an increase of thirty new granges and seventeen reorganized granges during the past year, with a total membership of 5,472. There are about 50,000 members of the Order in the state. A vast amount of business was transacted, and the election of officers took place. There was a lively contest between State Master Hill and Lecturer A. B. Cornell for the office of master. Mr. Hill was re-elected, however.

PARTY BALL

MUSIC BY THE FAMOUS
EVERST ORCHESTRA
OF PORTLAND

SAT. EVE, MAY 4

AT METZGER'S HALL, GRESHAM

DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 7 P. M.

First-Class Management--Superb Floor

Splendid Music. A Good Time Assured
Everybody Invited

ED. METZGER, Manager



NATIVE DRUG PLANT.

The Valuable Cascara Sagrada is Rapidly Disappearing.

An examination of the official list of crude drugs of plant origin develops the fact that a large proportion of the species represented is found growing in the United States. Many of them are weeds, often classed as noxious by the farmers; others are simply wild plants of the fields and forests of different parts of the country.

The domestication and cultivation of those valuable wild plants that are



CASCARA SAGRADA.

most seriously threatened have appeared a necessity to the government bureau of plant industry if the products are not to disappear from the materia medica. One of the most interesting among a number of plants recently reported upon is Cascara sagrada. Dr. True of the bureau mentioned says that the cultivation of the Cascara sagrada tree (Rhamnus purshiana) has been made a subject of study for about two years. The tree producing this useful bark, known as Cascara sagrada, is a native of the upper Pacific coast region, where it chooses most situations in the mountains. This usually small tree grows readily from seed sown in rich wood soil and makes a fair growth the first year. It is under observation both at Washington and at Eugene, S. C. In both places it seems thus far to do well. Professor C. S. Sargent of Harvard university states that at the Arnold arboretum, near Boston, the tree maintains an existence for some years after transplanting, but eventually dies. So far both the seedlings grown at Washington and the transplanted trees sent in from the Pacific coast have made a good growth and look well. It is very desirable that the cultivation of this tree on an experimental scale should be taken up in the country to which it is native. The demand for this bark is great not only in America, but to an increasing degree in foreign lands, and since the amount of available material wherewith to

supply this demand is decreasing rapidly and considerable time is required to grow trees large enough to peel it is apparent that in the not very distant future a shortage is inevitable.

PARISIANS' BALLOON DUEL.

Two aeronauts were talking in Pittsfield of their favorite sport.

"At the international cup race in Paris that Lahm won," said the older man, "a pigeon lighted on the top of one of the balloons before it started up, and when it rose in the air the pigeon was still there. Up it went, stately and slow, and it must have ascended a quarter of a mile before the pigeon, no bigger than a hummingbird, could be seen to fly away.

"I heaved a sigh of relief then. Suppose the pigeon, with its sharp claws or beak, had scratched a hole in that balloon! Death would have followed for the aeronauts.

"And I thought of the balloon duel that was fought on that very spot in 1808 between two Parisians. With guns, they ascended simultaneously from the Tuilleries in separate balloons and began to hang away at each other's gas bag. After some seven shots one man's bag was punctured. The gas rushed out. The collapsing balloon crashed to earth. Its occupant was killed.

"That famous fight was more perilous than the usual French duel, eh?" Philadelphia Bulletin.

A Remarkable Wreck.

An extraordinary and expensive cement advertisement was furnished by a recent shipwreck.

The ship Socca, bound for San Francisco with a cargo of cement for use in the building of the city, was wrecked off the Lizard, on the Cornwal coast.

The ship struck a rock, which tore a large hole in her side and remained fastened as upon a pivot.

When the salvage crew arrived to see about taking the Socca from her perilous position, says the Cement Age, the men found a remarkable condition of affairs. The water had entered the hold, and its action upon the cargo had caused the cement to set. It had accommodately set hard around the rock that pierced the side of the ship, which now remains fastened there permanently in its unique position.

The entire cargo has become as hard as stone, and nothing can be done with the ship except to dismantle as much of the wood as can be removed. The hull will probably remain there for many years as a conspicuous advertisement for the cement manufacturers.

The Grange and the Flag.

At the annual meeting of the New Jersey state grange this resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Grange is composed of a class of people who from the earliest days of our republic have ever been noted for their fidelity to our free institutions and our country's flag, and, whereas, the grange is pledged to all that our flag represents in freedom, equality and fraternity, and it is very appropriately in general use as a decoration for our grange halls and public gatherings; therefore, resolved, that the executive committee is hereby instructed to purchase an American flag at least ten feet long to be displayed at all meetings of the state grange and kept by the worthy steward with the other paraphernalia of the grange.

A live working grange in a community so improves the social conditions that farms for rural homes are actually worth more for its having been in it.

CORN ROOT WORM.

Readily Controlled by Following Crop Rotation.

The beetle may be readily distinguished from the southern corn root worm by its color, which is nearly uniform, pale, but usually distinctly green or greenish yellow. It is about the same size as the striped cucumber beetle, one-fifth of an inch long or a little more. It is a little more slender and less pear shaped. The larvae when fully mature attain lengths of only four-tenths of an inch.

It occurs from Nova Scotia to Kansas and Nebraska, but injurious incursions are limited to Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio and Missouri. Corn is the only known host plant of the larvae. The beetles show a disposition to feed on a variety of plants, but are more choice of the southern species. They are naturally pollen feeders, are partial to the blossoms of this, sunflower and golden rod and are seldom found on cucurbits. Probably they do some damage to corn by eating the pollen and gnawing the silk and tassels, thus preventing cross fertilization and causing a partial blighting of ears.

The species is said to be single brooded. The beetles occur normally in the field until November and in open winter have been noted abroad as late as the middle of December. Eggs so far as known are deposited in cornfields late in the season and hatch the following spring. Larvae have been seen in central Illinois the second week in June, and the beetles have been reported in southeastern Iowa toward the end of June. Eight or nine weeks is required for a generation to mature.

The eggs hatch from about May 15 to July 15 or a little later. Eggs are deposited in the earth in more or less scattered clusters of three to ten at a depth of one to six inches, all being placed about the roots in a space of a few inches around each hill, the larvae feeding on the roots, which they mine. They seem able to travel from one root to another. Pupation takes place underground. When the beetles begin to issue, toward the latter part of August, they are first noticeably abundant on thistle blossoms and afterward on other plants blooming at this season.

This species is readily controlled simply by following crop rotation. Since the insect as far as observed feeds in its larval condition only on corn, the planting of infested land to any other crop leads to the starvation of the young when they hatch in the spring. This is no mere inference, but has been tested time and again. In Illinois it is ordinarily safe to plant corn in fields or meadows in which the beetle has been observed in great abundance on clover and various weeds in late October the previous year. One other measure, to be recommended as a general farm practice, consists in the maintenance of the fertility of the soil by the use of manures and other fertilizers. Although this does not diminish attack, it sometimes enables the plants to withstand injury.—F. H. Chittenden, United States Department of Agriculture.

Delaware is not a large state and is not strong in granges. It is, however, doing a good work and reports a total membership of 1,507 in twenty-nine subordinate granges. There has been an increase of 270 members in the past year.