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THE GRANGE

Conducted by
J. W. DARROW, Chairman, N. Y.
Press Correspondent, New York State Grange

A HISTORIC GRANGE HALL.

It is located at Ludlow, Vt., and was once a church.

It was in 1783 that, at a town meeting, it was voted to erect the church building which now is occupied by the Ludlow grange, or more correctly speaking, its lower floor is thus occupied, a second story having been constructed about twenty-five years ago. It was moved to its present site about sixty-five years ago. The plates and cross plates of the building, which is 50 feet long by 40 feet wide, are 8 by 12 and were hewed by hand, as was the entire frame, each timber being hewed from one tree.

The records read that "Oct. 23, 1783, town meeting at the stake, voted that



LUDLOW GRANGE HALL.

the building committee secure a sufficient quantity of rum to raise the meeting house frame." The massive frame, which contains lumber enough for three modern buildings of the same dimensions, was soon ready for the raising. Rev. Antipas Steward was the first pastor of this church, and his salary was \$200 and thirty cords of wood.

On the lower floor, as above stated, the grange has fitted up a pleasant room with ante-rooms and kitchen. The hall is used frequently for socials, entertainments and other gatherings, and the ancient building is highly prized both for its associations and its convenience. The picture of the church is taken from the Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS.

The Grange should and does appreciate the Press.

This is a day of newspapers. Their influence is felt in the remotest part of

the earth. We criticize them as we read them, yet there is no power in our land today which exercises so great an influence in molding public sentiment as the press. Realizing this fact, it behooves the grange to meet fully halfway the offers of the secular papers to bring to the attention of the public the grange. They will advocate our principles because the grange is a model of public sentiment in all agricultural communities. The grange should realize and appreciate the efforts of the press and keep in touch with these great living, breathing machines that are doing so much for the world. Each lecturer should give his local and the state agricultural papers such news as will be of interest and tend to spread abroad the principles of the grange. Brother J. W. Darrow, acting as press correspondent for the New York state grange, has been of immense service to the Order in promoting greater cooperation of the press with the work of the grange. The total circulation of the papers using his grange matter is approximately 675,000 each issue. This includes the American Press Association service and the monthly State Grange News Bulletin.—Fred Sheppard, Lecturer New York State Grange.

Some Noise and a Banquet.

The approval of the Cornell agricultural hall bill by Governor Odell of New York state was made the occasion for a celebration on the part of the students of the university and the friends of the measure. Church bells were rung and whistles blown throughout the city of Ithaca, N. Y., and the student body turned out in full to celebrate the event. It is estimated that there were 5,000 people on the campus in the evening watching an immense bonfire and the display of fireworks which followed. All departments of the university were represented by floats, with farming machinery and live stock much in evidence. It was a novel feature of the programme. A banquet was spread in the armory at a later hour, at which everything served on the table was grown on or taken from the university farm. Covers were spread for 300 guests. Several state grange officers were present, and at the close of the banquet the agricultural students presented Professor L. H. Bailey with a loving cup.

Michigan's Information Bureau.

The state grange information bureau has been very busy since organizing in systematizing and arranging the information received from the various granges enrolled. There are now 325 granges enrolled with the bureau, and the prospects are for a good many more enrollments. The movement is gaining in popularity and will be a

great help to farmers in selling their surplus products.—Michigan Patron.

The executive committee of the New York state grange has decided to hold the next state grange meeting at Ogdensburg, N. Y., beginning Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1905.

We commend the Lecturer's Bulletin, issued by the New York, Michigan and Ohio state granges, as being most helpful to subordinate grange lecturers.

Greed and Graft.

The recent appalling catastrophe in the sinking of the excursion boat General Slocum in East river, New York, was too pitiful and tragic a thing for comment in cold type. But the facts that are being brought out in the investigations of the cause of the horror reveal such a story of greed and graft that they call not only for swift punishment by the law, but for condemnation of the negligent boat owners and officials by every paper in the land. The only way to meet evils like this is by a united and militant public opinion. Avaricious proprietors of fire trap theaters, unsafe boats and the like and corrupt inspectors who are supposed to investigate these agents of death, run for revenue only, will quail before the contempt of their fellow men, even if they do not respect the laws of their country and the demands of common honesty.

The testimony shows that there were absolutely no provisions on the boat for fire or other unusual emergency. The apparatus was worse than useless. As a result, nearly 1,000 human beings, mostly women and children, lost their lives in the most terrible manner. Even so conservative a paper as the New York World says:

It is a fact which ought to disturb our national self complacency that nearly every great disaster involving a terrible loss of human life is due primarily to two connected causes—greed and governmental corruption or inefficiency. "The trail of the serpent is over them all."

The appalling loss of lives in the Iroquois theater at Chicago was due to the fact that the house was opened to make money before it was ready and that official inspection failed to detect—or at least to report and remedy—gross and criminal neglects and defects which exposed the audience to the dreadful fate that overwhelmed them.

In the General Slocum catastrophe it is plain that "money saving" was responsible for imperfect fire protection apparatus, inadequate life saving appliances and an incompetent crew. The fire hose was worthless, the standpipes were useless, a large portion of the life preservers were rotten, the lifeboats were a mockery.

Yet this boat had been inspected, and the official who performed that duty

has refused to testify, on the ground that it might incriminate him. It is a peculiar comment that the law will shield this man from being a witness, but that it offers no protection to the murdered mothers and little ones. On this point the supervising inspector at Washington says:

What is the use of having the laws? They no longer act as a deterrent. We go out, discover a boat with rotten life preservers, bad boilers and a dozen other things, which some one is operating in defiance of the law. This is punished by a heavy fine. That is the limit of our powers.

Now what happens? The violator of the law appeals to a senator or congressman and others high in political authority. The fine is reduced. I know of scores of cases where fines have been reduced from \$1,000 to \$20, and others from \$500 to \$10. The records will show cases where fines of \$1,500 have been reduced to \$25.

Does any one suppose that the owner of a big excursion steamer cares for these fines, especially when to obey the law would mean the outlay of hundreds if not thousands of dollars? Of course not.

Greed and graft! Gains for the few and disregard of the rights and even the lives of the many! Private avarice and public corruption combining to defraud and by negligence to murder mankind! Truly the "trail of the serpent" is too visible.

De Foe's Story About England.

De Foe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe," traveled through the great eastern marshes of England in 1722. He records that in that "damp part of the world" it was common to meet with a man who had had from five to fifteen wives. Indeed he says that some had more. De Foe adds that a merry fellow, who had himself had about a score of wives, told him that the men of the marshes, being seasoned to the damp climate, took little harm from it, but that they went into the "hilly country" for their wives. "When they took the young lasses out of the wholesome and fresh air, they were healthy, fresh and clear and well. But when they came out of their native air into the marshes among the fogs and damp, there they presently changed their complexions, got an ague or two and seldom held it above half a year or a year at the most." One wife was sacrificed, another was procured, and so the process went on. De Foe is careful to state that his merry informer "sibbed a little," at least concerning his own wives, but he declares that the general statement is perfectly true.

A Fish With Hands.

Zoologists have long regarded the fish which remains for days out of water and climbs trees as one of the strangest departures from nature, but the most wonderful of these is the peripatthalmus of the west African coast.

It not only is at much at home on land as in water, but climbs the mangrove roots and takes long journeys about the swamps on them and builds itself mud houses raised above the surface, with an opening at the top, from which its bulging eyes stare out at every alarm. For this life the fish is fitted with long arms, with elbow and wrist, while the fingers are separated and prehensile, instead of being flat and finlike. These hands in the African species hold the mangrove roots in climbing and are the means of propulsion through the mud. The round eyes project from the skull and can be turned in every direction; hence the Greek name, which may be freely translated "rolling eyes."

Gold Sweat.

"These millions will sweat themselves considerably in the hold of the ship," said a mint official as he superintended the stowing of an export of gold.

"Gold sweats," he resumed, "and it sweats particularly hard at sea. When this gold reaches the other side it will be a little lighter than it is now. If an inexperienced hand should weigh it over there he would say that some of it had been stolen. It won't be handled in Europe by the inexperienced though. It will be handled by men who will know just what allowance to make for sweat."

"Gold sweat—the phrase has an attractive sound, eh? If you and I could sneak down into this ship's hold each day of the coming voyage, if we could gather up the sweat from the gold before it evaporated and was lost, would that be stealing?"

"Well, anyway, gold does not sweat visibly. Its sweat is impalpable, and you can't collect it. Attrition is the name given to it by the scientists."

Wives Must Work in Japan.

As an example of the humble attitude of the Japanese wife Mrs. Hugh Fraser relates this incident: "A middle aged man on the upper floor was suffering terribly from heat, and his little wife seemed greatly distressed about him. All the screens had been opened, but it was a breathless day, and no breeze came to ring the little glass bells on the hanging fern wreath on the veranda. The man sat with his head in his hands groaning, while madam, kneeling on the mats behind him, fanned his back and from time to time rubbed him down with a blue towel, an expression of the deepest respect and sympathy on her face. When he seemed a little better she busied herself with preparing tea, which he drank eagerly and of course made himself frightfully hot again, when she went back patiently to her fanning and rubbing."

A Boston paper is discussing the question, "Why have women more temper than men?" The women need more—because of the men.

Kilkenny Cats.

During the rebellion which occurred in Ireland in 1798, or it may be in 1803, Kilkenny was garrisoned by a troop of Hessian soldiers who amused themselves in barracks by tying two cats together by their tails and throwing them across a clothesline to fight. The officer, hearing of the cruel practice, resolved to stop it. As he entered the room one of the troopers, seizing a sword, cut the tails in two as the animals hung across the line. The two cats escaped, minus their tails, through the open window, and when the officer inquired the meaning of the two bleeding tails being left in the room he was coolly told that two cats had been fighting and had devoured each other, all but the tails.

The Balloon Plant.

One of the curious devices of nature for scattering seeds is seen in the balloon plant of California. The fruit is yellow and is a little larger than an egg. It has the appearance of an empty bag, but it contains a watery substance, which evaporates or dries up when the fruit matures, a sort of gas taking its place. This gas is lighter than air, and the fruit flips back and forth in the wind until it finally breaks loose from its slender stem, rises into the air to a height of from seventy-five to a hundred feet, and sails away to fall in some distant spot and thus extend the growth of its kind.

A Cow Superstition.

According to Indo-European folklore, the clouds of the heavens were nothing but cows who were invested with the duties of a psychopomp. At times these clouds descended to the earth and assumed their bovine garb, but their duty remained the same; hence the superstition prevalent in many agricultural countries that a cow breaking into a garden foretells a death in the family. The psychopomp was merely looking for a soul to escort to the here after.

A Rush Order.

An old woman in Cincinnati brought a worn-out Bible to a publishing house, explaining that it had been in her family 200 years. She asked the publisher to make her a new one just like it, adding that she was then going to market and would stop for the new Bible on her way home, winding up with a query as to how much it would be.