

# THE GRANGE

Conducted by  
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## THE KEYSTONE STATE.

A State Wide Co-operative Society of Grangers to Be Incorporated.

The state grange of Pennsylvania has taken a long step in advance in the matter of co-operative dealing for the benefit of its members. At its recent meeting the grange gave its approval to a plan suggested by a special committee, and more recently this committee has begun to work out the methods for carrying into effect what gives promise of being the most successful state wide grange co-operative system thus far devised. The organization will be incorporated. It will have a central office at Harrisburg. It will establish a crop report system whereby the central office will be in constant touch with the 700 or more subordinate granges in the state, enabling them to supply any demand of other granges or, on the other hand, to purchase the supplies they may need on the farm through the information the central office may give. Thus will the middleman be eliminated, to a large extent at least. Coal, implements, feed, fertilizer, seeds, flour—in fact, anything and everything used on the farm or in the farmhouse will be a proper subject for co-operative purchase and sale.

Another feature of the committee's co-operative effort will be to establish a system for the protection of farmers against deadbeat mining, real estate and other fraudulent or unprofitable schemes whose wily agents too often find the unsuspecting farmer an easy mark. The plan will be to require subordinate granges or their members to submit to the executive committee all propositions and prospectuses received calling for such investments. These will be investigated by competent authorities, and members will be advised as to the actual nature, financial standing and methods pursued by these companies. This protective system carefully worked out in all its details will, it is believed, save thousands of dollars to the farmers.

### National Grange Matters.

The national grange legislative committee, composing as members Professor T. C. Atkinson of West Virginia, N. P. Hall of Michigan and National Master Oliver Wilson of Illinois, met in Washington recently. The national grange executive committee, consisting of F. N. Godfrey of New York, S. H. Messick of Delaware and C. O. Raine of Missouri, also met at the same time and place. It was decided to make an active campaign this year for a parcels post system. This will be the main grange issue this year in congress. It is said, so far as the grange is concerned, although the reduction of the tax on oleomargarine will also have due consideration by the committee and the granges of the country. Senator Bourne is preparing a parcels post bill, and the grange committee was invited to attend a hearing on the bill before the senate committee. Senator Bourne thinks they will be able to get a parcels post bill through the senate this winter. Senator O'Gorman will also probably introduce a similar measure. The committees of the grange met with a committee of the National Dairy union, which is taking steps to oppose the reduction of the tax on oleomargarine.

### Need of a Pure Seed Law.

Concerning a pure seed law, the New York state grange believes a law should be enacted that will require all agricultural seeds to have stamped or printed upon the package a guarantee that the average of such seed shall not fall below the per cent thereon stated and that the purchaser shall have the right to rely on and enforce such guarantee notwithstanding any verbal, written or printed notice not brought to the attention of and consent to in writing of the purchaser at or prior to the time of purchase.

### For a Parcels Post.

The New York grange opposed the Foley milk bill, which proposed to create a commission empowered to change the legal milk standard and to fix the maximum price of milk. In closing the committee recommended that each of the subordinate granges of the state be requested to ask their representatives in congress and the United States senators from this state to support legislation that would establish a general parcels post and also federal aid for good roads.

### Bay State Patrons.

Massachusetts has organized a series of winter field meetings which will be held at convenient centers. A full day's program will be carried out at each place. At the morning session one of the degrees will be exemplified, and the evening will be given to papers and addresses. National Lecturer N. F. Hull was engaged for one week of these meetings.

### Grange Rally Song.

Tune—"We're Coming, Father Abraham."  
We're coming, worthy master,  
One hundred thousand strong,  
From rugged hills and fertile vales  
We come with joy and song.  
  
We rest our plows and workshoes,  
Bring wives and children dear,  
Our hearts are filled with thankfulness,  
We come with pride and cheer.  
  
The grange stands firm for progress,  
To it do we belong,  
We are coming, worthy master,  
One hundred thousand strong.  
—Raymond A. Pearson.

## HIGHWAY ENGINEERING IN GEORGIA UNIVERSITY.

New Department Is of Great Service to Road Builders.

The Athens Banner is highly pleased with the work of the department of highway engineering recently instituted in the University of Georgia. Recently it commented on it as follows:

The trustees of the University of Georgia took a splendid step when they added a member to the civil engineering faculty and made road extension work a part of the work of the civil engineering work of the university.

The selection of Professor John C. Koch for this useful work and placing him practically at the command of the various counties in Georgia doing permanent road work has proved to be most beneficial in every way. Professor Koch is an expert road builder, and his advice is being sought by the counties of Georgia in every section of the state. Already he has been of splendid assistance, although he has been at work but two months. Every day the benefits to flow from his work to every section of the state become more and more apparent.

The counties of the state doing road improvement should not hesitate to call upon the university for assistance. The university stands ready through the department of civil engineering, of which Professor C. M. Strahan is head and Professor Koch assistant, to give expert advice on all questions submitted. Wherever it is necessary Professor Koch will go to a county and hold a conference with those in charge of road improvement. In this way they may avail themselves of the best expert advice before proceeding with the work of road improvement. If this is done in every instance it will be found that money will be saved and better roads secured.

The road extension work that is being done by the University of Georgia will mean the saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the state and the securing of much better roads.

### THE MAN WITH THE DRAG.

Not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many.—1 Corinthians x. 33

Oh, here's to the man with the drag and a team!  
And here's to the genius who thought of the scheme!  
To the man with the drag all his sor is due,  
And glory to him who invented it too.

"Good roads," pleads the traveler.  
"G-d roads" is his cry.  
"Good roads," jeers the farmer,  
"in the sweet by and by."  
But while they are sitting and sighing "Alas!"  
And waiting a road bill legislature to pass

A man up and doing has thought of a way  
To fill in the ruts and to level the clay.  
Not waiting for any slow process of law,  
He gives us a method direct as a saw.

He says: "Get some planks, sir, and hitch to your team  
And drive right ahead! Why, you'll think it a dream  
The way those old roads will straighten out flat  
And wonder why man ne'er before thought of that."

He asks for no patent; no money wants he,  
For good of mankind he is giving it free.  
Just try it (if prone to discredit the plan),  
You'll find it a wonderful blessing to man.

But meanwhile the laggards they laugh in distrust  
And sitting on barrels the thing is discussed.  
"By gosh!" they protest, "Why, this fool of a man  
He thinks he can josh us—but not much he can!"

"Why, who ever heard of a-pavin' with planks  
A-swingin' from hazzard! Guess not, sir—no, thanks!"  
But the live one today is trying to drag  
And soon of his roadway he justly can brag.

To the man with the drag all honor is due!  
And glory to him who invented it too!  
So here's to the man who discovered the way!  
And here's to the farmer who works it—today!  
—Eulalie Andress.

### Road Mileage Approaches Thousand.

The first compilation of the number of miles of road and the number of bridges in Wayne county, Ind., has been completed by County Auditor Bowman. The statistics were gathered for use in his office and for the benefit of the public. The total number of miles of road in Wayne county is 949.25. There are 297 bridges, 946 culverts, 134 concrete arches and 881 sewers across highways. One of the noticeable features of the compilation of the county auditor is that all the streams in Franklin township are bridged and that fully 92 per cent of the roads in Wayne county are bridged. Interest also attaches to the fact that there are only thirty-two miles of unimproved road in the county.

All the tolls resulting from bad roads are a substantial waste of money that could be profitably employed otherwise.

# LAND PLASTER IS IMPORTANT

## EASY TO USE AND TO MISUSE

W. L. Powers, Demonstration Farms Superintendent, Writes of Advantages of Proper Application of Gypsum to the Soil.

By W. L. POWERS.

Gypsum or "land plaster" is calcium sulphate containing about 20 per cent calcium or lime; 45 per cent sulphur and oxygen and the remainder moisture and impurities. It is soluble in 400 parts water. Use of gypsum, where applicable, in the Eastern states, was very common from 1835 to 1865 and in the early years of its use 60 to 120 pounds per acre increased the yield of legumes and especially clover from 20 to 50 per cent. After a few years it failed to produce the old time results and its use has been largely discontinued or other compounds substituted. The old German saying developed is, that plaster, plaster, without manure, makes the father rich but the son poor.

### Effects.

1. RELEASES POTASH:—Experiments in the field and laboratory show that gypsum is active in releasing potash and phosphorus and even nitrogen. Gypsum is not itself a plant food but it is the power it has of making other necessary elements as potash and phosphorus available that is responsible for the use of it. It acts as a stimulus and not as a direct fertilizer but if not used to excess it often makes a profitable fertilizer to use especially on clover. When gypsum fails to produce mark-

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ed results, applications of potash would be beneficial. Where more than 50 or 60 pounds of gypsum is applied per acre per year this stimulating effect may release more potash than the growing crop can take up and the result is, it is leached away by rains and drainage water and lost. It is, therefore, wise to use sparingly until there is certain knowledge that the benefits earned exceed the cost. However, when used about stables, poultry plants and manure heaps, gypsum tends to fix ammonia and prevent its loss and to absorb other

fertiliser substance.

2. ABSORBS MOISTURE:—Not only does gypsum absorb fertility elements, but it has a beneficial effect on soil moisture. Instances of soil retaining one-fourth acre inch more moisture where treated with gypsum are known.

3. CORRECTS SOIL ACIDITY:—When soils are aciduous, some gypsum will correct acidity. It should not be used here for that purpose as about the only acid soils we have are in swales and meadows of the upper Deschutes and Crooked rivers and need draining first. Ground limestone is a much better and safer form of lime to use for correcting acidity.

4. AIDS THE GRANULATION OF HEAVY SOILS:—Any form of lime forms cementing materials in soils and causes particles of heavy soils to stick together into clumps making the soil mellow and friable. Our soils are naturally free working and if they were heavy, ground limestone would be better form to use for this purpose.

5. MAY SUPPLY LIME FOR PLANTS:—Gypsum is about one-third lime and plants use this element as food, but our soils in all probability contain abundantly more lime than necessary to meet plant needs, and if it were needed air slacked, water slacked or ground lime rock would be better to use for this purpose.

6. AIDS BACTERIAL ACTION:—

Bacteria living on roots of legumes and fixing nitrogen from the air into forms useable by plants require the presence of a base such as lime and require a slightly alkaline condition. It is possible in some cases that gypsum stimulates bacterial action though practically all our soils are slightly alkaline in their reaction. Black alkali is chiefly sodium carbonate and is the worst form of alkali, for it causes crusting of soil surface and dissolves the tissues of young plants. One-tenth per cent black alkali is enough to be injurious, while a soil may contain three per cent of white alkali and still be productive. Calcium sulphate (or gypsum) added to sodium carbonate yields calcium carbonate (a harmless compound of lime) and sodium sulphate (a mild form of white alkali). There may be other effects of gypsum not yet understood.

This neutralizing effect of gypsum on black alkali and its stimulating effect are probably responsible for its use here. Use it, but sparingly. If you know it pays. We are securing analyses of soils of this district and comparing the effect of potash and gypsum on the demonstration farm and may be able to find a better substance to use than gypsum. Certainly, well rotted manure which contains all the elements required by plants will be a more permanent benefit than land plaster.

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