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THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STATE GRANGE.

Address of the Worthy Master—J. N. LIPSCOMB.

Patrons: Those of you who were at the last session of the State Grange will recollect that the reports of the Worthy Master, Secretary and Treasurer gave a very gloomy aspect as to our condition, both financially and as to the working of the order. It affords me great pleasure to inform you of a very decided change in the financial condition of the order, and to congratulate you upon it. It was supposed that this State Grange was heavily in arrears for dues to the National Grange, and totally unable to pay out. I at once put the Worthy Secretary and Treasurer to work to overhaul the reports, accounts and settlements had by the former Secretary since 1874, with the view of getting the full benefit of the rebate allowed by the National Grange upon all the Granges that should have been marked D. R., S. or C., on the quarterly reports, and upon which the Worthy Treasurer of the National Grange assessed the dues. This required great labor, intense application, and that long continued; but I find the highly efficient officers you had chosen as Secretary and Treasurer fully adequate to the task, willing and zealous in the work, for which I feel it my duty to give them my highest commendation and ask you to add yours.

The results of this labor has entirely relieved us from any indebtedness to the National Grange, and put our treasury, although not full, in a sound and healthy condition. There was a long delay in getting the books belonging to the Secretary's office transferred from the old to the new Secretary, which greatly retarded and embarrassed both the new Secretary and myself in efficiently performing the duties of our respective offices, and answering the numerous calls upon us for aid and information.—There has no yet been a final or formal settlement of the accounts of the Worthy Past Secretary, Brother William Hood, with the Treasurer. He tendered a receipt for what he claims was a balance due him on salary, amounting to \$93.10, and asking the Treasurer to give him a receipt in full. This Treasurer Aiken referred to me and I declined to approve, and it is now for the Grange to take charge of and fairly adjust the whole matter.

In accordance with the action had at the last session to establish Pomona Granges, I have used my utmost endeavors to establish one in each county, and have succeeded far beyond my most sanguine expectations.—Most of the counties of the State are now under the Pomona system, and many deriving great benefit from it. I most earnestly urge upon you the importance of perfecting the Pomona system, by making such changes and additions as the experience of your members have found requisite and beneficial. In some cases, under the pressure of peculiar circumstances, I found that entire failure would ensue from a punctilious adherence to technical rules and provisions, and in such cases I have assumed the responsibility of partially dispensing with mere forms, when I could do so and not violate imperative law or fundamental principles.

While the order has in this State, as in all others, as far as I am informed, decreased in numbers, it has improved in the standard of membership, by improving all those who had any zeal, and got rid of many who joined from curiosity or selfish motives, and were disappointed in their exaggerated expectations.

In accordance with your resolution of last session, a "Summer Meeting" was held at Anderson Court House, which was deeply interesting and highly beneficial to Patrons and the order—and also to those "without the gates" and to the public generally. Essays of high order were read, and discussions had upon many subjects of an agricultural nature, and others upon questions of public policy. The effect of these essays and discussions are to be seen in many points of legislation had and now pending. The Grange and agriculturists of Spartanburg County sent to us at Anderson a most cordial invitation to hold the next "Summer Meeting" with them; this was received and thanks returned, and is now before you for your consideration and action.

The question of representation is one that should have your careful and patient consideration; and if no other change is made, let me impress upon you the almost imperative necessity of making Masters of Pomona Granges ex officio full voting members of the State Grange, regardless of whether they are Masters of subordinate Granges or not. Under the Pomona system all business communications, correspondence and reports should go up and down between the subordinate and State Granges and their respective officers, through the Pomona Grange and their officers, as this is the only way in which the affairs of the order can be efficiently conducted and constant confusion and misunderstanding prevented.

The greatest need of the order in this State now is that there shall be some one, at least, of the officers of the State Grange put on duty in such a way that each county can be visited at least once in each year,

and oftener, if needed, and the entire organization inspected, instructed and disciplined in both the written and unwritten work, at the same time, using every available opportunity for making public addresses to explain the objects, ends, uses and intentions of the order, removing as far as possible the prejudices and misapprehensions that so evidently exist against it, and use all legitimate argument to popularize the order. To do this as it should be, either the Lecturer or Master should be chosen, and to him a per diem paid sufficient to compensate him for the sacrifice. At present only the actual traveling expenses of the Master are paid, and his time and labor is a gratuitous contribution. This is asking too much, if he is expected to go when and where needed, and if he does not, the Order must suffer. I have attended every call made upon me in time, unless prevented by prior engagements or sickness, but it has been at a heavy sacrifice of my individual interests. Long continued sickness prevented my attendance on the recent meeting of the National Grange at Cincinnati, and I have not yet received any copy of its proceedings.

The reports of the Executive Committee, Treasurer, and Secretary, will furnish you with detailed information of the affairs of the order as connected with their respective departments, and I confidently predict that you will find them full and able, and I hope satisfactory.

I call your attention to the State Grange agency in Charleston. From chance information I learn that it is being used very satisfactorily, to a small extent, by some localities, but it stands more as a permission to Brother Felder to do business as an individual doped agent than as a regular State agent. I suppose his report will give you information and suggestions, useful in promoting and extending the usefulness of this very important part of this machinery of our order.

At your last meeting you made the Master ex officio chairman of the executive committee, and it was decided at the first meeting of said committee that your action did not confer upon him a vote, but only to preside. This construction was right as your by-law was worded, but is a useless expense to require the Master to attend the committee meetings merely for the purpose of presiding over a committee of three. I recommend that it be changed, and he be made either a member of the committee, or given concurrent jurisdiction; or, that he be relieved of attendance upon the meetings of the committee. This is not made on account of any difference or disagreements between the members of the committee and the Master; for, upon the contrary, the most cordial and friendly relations exist, and I have to acknowledge the most respectful and courteous treatment upon the part of the members of the committee, collectively and individually.

In conclusion, allow me to impress upon each of you to try to realize the great importance that exists to sustain this order, to revive it, to build it up and rest it upon so secure and firm a foundation that its existence will be no longer a contingency; that the benefits and blessings it was intended to give may spread broadcast over our whole country; that it may meet the approbation and commendation of all, both "within" and "without the gates." To do this effectually, each one of you must fully realize your individual obligation to devote your individual and collective efforts to the work. In no other way can it succeed.—No set of officers you may select can in and of themselves by their unaided efforts conduct the affairs of the order, unless their hands are upheld and supported by the united strength of the united hands, heads and hearts of each and every Patron. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us all and each here and now determine and pledge ourselves to renew our faith in this grand and glorious mission; to revive our zeal and ardor, and to double our efforts to sustain it. If we do this, as sons and daughters of South Carolina should, then we may rest assured that the Grange, with all its advantages and benefits, educational, social and business, will be secured to us and to our children and our children's children, in spite of the prejudice, opposition and misrepresentation of skeptics, sneerers, speculators and middle men. Do this, and your names will go down to posterity honored and respected, and future generations will rise up and bless your memory for the good works that you will have done for them.—Trusting that your deliberations and councils may be governed by dignity, concord and fraternity, held under our cardinal principles of "Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity," and redound to the benefit, promotion and welfare of the cause that called you here, I will close.

The English feed for fattening sheep consists of cotton seed and turnips. They claim that it will put on the most fat, is the safest food, makes the best mutton at a less cost, and produces the best and strongest manure.

There are some things it never pays to doctor. If you have a sick fruit tree of any kind dig it up at once, and in so doing dig a big hole ready for a thrifty tree next spring.

ABOUT CO-OPERATION.

Co-operation must begin in thought. It is of no use to mark it out as engineers do a line of travel, and try to switch this great order into it; at least not until its members have tried the shorter lines leading from their farms to their neighbors. It is amazing that these international co-operative trade schemes should be pressed to the notice of farmers, who have not yet made the slightest effort to co-operate in business affairs at home. Whatever good might attend the successful working of these grand schemes, it is a blind confidence in unproved theory that leads good men to suppose that radical changes may be wrought in the habits of a class of people composed of the most conservative members of society, except by those graduations which permit the ground to be surveyed and carefully tried all along the way. The grange itself is co-operative, but not necessarily for the purpose of business gains. Whenever and wherever it has been used solely for such gain, it has fallen to decay, for it has had shifting foundation. The first needs of the order are the strengthening of social ties, the development of confidence, mental culture, and the consequent elevation of manhood and womanhood, which, after all, is the grand object. As a means for the attainment of these objects, the grange is a worthy institution. When it is diverted from them, to promote any scheme, it must fail of its true purpose. If the National Grange will study the situation, it must see that it will not be wise to step far beyond the people. If it can devise the means to solidify the order so that it will become a power in directing the affairs of the country, that will do more for the general welfare, than to divert all the trade profits of the year into the pockets of men already too mercenary to allow thought to stray from the everlasting theme—material gain—to try its powers in affairs which concern all. Under a form of government that rests on the intelligence of the people as its only security, there must be an obligation on the part of the people to cultivate intelligence. Especially does this obligation rest upon farmers who have property rights at stake. Already, because of their inattention to this plain requirement, they are oppressed by unjust burdens. While they cannot make the grange a political power, they can use it as the means by which to fit themselves for intelligent action in public matters. This will bring more good to them and to all the industrial classes than they can get through grand trade schemes spread over two continents. Meantime, co-operation so begun and faithfully continued, will reach numberless ways by which gratifying profits may come, without disturbing any interests of society; and the grange, by reaching only after what is attainable, and getting it, will come to be regarded as a respectable factor in the public welfare.—*The Husbandman.*

GOOD ADVICE.—Governor Vance, at the Weldon Fair gave his hearers some very sound advice. He said the late war had taught the South several important lessons, which he proceeded to specify. One of them was, that cotton is not king, but that meat and bread are, and he urged the importance not only of producing enough of these for home use, but also of engaging in manufactures. "We must not rely upon the north," he said, "for our wheel hubs and axle handles, our buggy shafts, and every mechanical and domestic article we use, but must get to making those articles for ourselves."

Another lesson was, that the Southern people should not depend altogether upon negro labor, but must go to work for themselves. He drew a picture of half a dozen white men "sitting around a store door, whittling white pine and cursing the negro because he won't work," and in contrast with this he pointed to the happiness and independence of a family "who are not ashamed, nor afraid, nor too lazy to do their own work." This is good wholesome talk, and its utterance by a Democratic Governor of a Southern state shows how great a change the war and its concomitant events have really wrought. Let those good people of the North who feel that the South cannot be trusted to get along without the special supervision of the Federal Government take courage from this evidence of progress. The reform which springs from the midst of a people, and has its origin in their own expanding ideas and improving sentiments, is infinitely more substantial than any which could be imposed by an exterior force.—*Marfreeboro Enquirer.*

BEEF SMOTHERED DOWN.—Two, three, or four hours before dinner, (according to the size of your piece of meat,) put the beef into boiling water, and keep it boiling gently until it is cooked very tender. By this time the water in the kettle should have all boiled away. Season with salt, (and pepper, if you choose,) when the water is mostly boiled away, and turn the meat about in the kettle frequently toward the last. If at any time more water must be added, let it be boiling water. A piece with much bone is not suitable for this method of boiling, as too much water is required to cover it.

The reputation a man gets from his ancestors, wants about as much altering to fit him as their clothes would.

THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

No industry in the United States has made greater progress than farming. There has been not only great advances in the methods and appliances, but there has been very remarked improvement in the intelligence of farmers as a class. Our grand common school system has done much, as also the telegraph and the daily press, in raising the standard of general intelligence among us as a nation. No influence the past 25 years has been more valuable in disseminating information among farmers, than the agricultural press. Valuable improvements in farm machinery, additions of improved seeds, fruits, and the introduction of improved stock, is a great advance due to the continued efforts of the agricultural journals in each State. The discussions which annually take place in our agricultural journals regarding the ravages of insects, the mildew and blight, and the diseases among domestic stock, bring out from all over the country so much practical experience, so many remedies and helps, that the aggregate value from this source is not to be computed. The once common sneer that was made against agricultural papers, viz: that they were useless because they only treated of "book farming," is passing away. Every intelligent farmer must have his paper, because it gives him, from a wide range of observation, the practical hints of the best farmers of the country and enables him to keep pace with the progress and improvement of his own business. The farmer who does not read, in this day and age of the world, is as much behind the times as the merchant or lawyer would be who ignores the best ideas and practices of those with whom he has to compete. No money expended in a farmer's family does more to interest, as well as instruct, the young members of the family, than that paid for their own paper. Every number of a farm and family journal is made to help the mother and the children; the three or four cents per week is returned a thousand fold in many ways, besides the profit gained in information on crops and markets. The agricultural press has prepared the way for organization among the farmers, and it is to the interest of every farmer not only for his own pecuniary benefit and that of his family, but for the profession of which he is a member, to assist to build up strong and able champions and supporters. No class of journals in the country are more ably edited or better printed than the farmer's papers and none deserve more thoroughly cordial support from the people in whose interests they are published.—*Prairie Farmer.*

PAY PROMPTLY.—Credit is a bad thing for everybody. If we could induce every farmer to keep out of debt, we should have done him a greater service than anybody has ever done him. It is the great barrier to the success of the farmer. He spends his harvest before he garners it, and is always at the mercy of the creditor. He cannot hold his produce for better prices for the note was given for what he could easily have done without. But the creditor has some rights which should not be overlooked, and some one has well stated them in the following:

In matters of business the maxim "Time is money" is of great practical value. It is so to the merchant, the mechanic, the farmer. Time squandered, and the very prop of life is swept away. In the business transactions of the world, to save time is a golden secret, and everything that encroaches upon this peculiar treasure inflicts a loss upon the community. And punctuality or delinquency in the payment of debts sustain an intimate relation to this subject. This any eye can see. Much time is lost in collecting debts, especially small debts, which would be saved, and might be devoted to useful business, if men would keep their engagements. And the loss in this case falls just where it ought not to fall—upon the creditor, and not upon the debtor, who is truly the offending party. Many debts, and especially small ones, cost more time in their collection than they are worth. A bill of a few dollars or a few shillings is presented again and again—"it shall be paid soon"—and yet nothing comes but promises. The operation consumes much time, and imposes an unjust and oppressive tax upon creditor, and that, too, in many instances at least, in return for a real favor. Had the clerk, or apprentice, or other agent employed in collecting small debts, applied himself diligently to business, he could in many instances have earned more than he had been able to collect.—This is enough to ruin almost any man whose business is conducted on a small scale in relation to his debtors, and who at the same time sustains heavy responsibilities to his creditors. His stock in trade, or his labor expended upon raw materials, requires large sums at stated periods, in order to the successful prosecution of his business; and if his own time, or the time of his agents, is consumed in collecting a thousand little debts, even should he by the more power of impotently finally succeed, by fraud, and the whole social and business world made to suffer from want of "punctuality in the payment of debts."—*Western Rural.*

How to make a Maltose cross? Tread an her tail.

ORIGINALITY IN FARMING.

There are two ways in which a farmer may manage his business. He may observe definite rules without regard to varying circumstances, or he may be guided by his own judgment and regulate his own operations according to conditions. There is a tendency among a large class of farmers to be guided by maxims which they have received from their fathers. They plant their corn and wheat as nearly as they can on stated days or at stated times of the moon. They hoe and cultivate their corn a given number of times without much regard to the condition of the soil, and in all the routine of farm work they keep as nearly as possible in the old track, believing that to be the only safe one.

When we consider the variety of circumstances under which the same crops are raised in different localities, it is evident that no rules can be given for their management that it will be best to follow in all cases. There are fields of corn that will thrive and produce well with very little culture, while others will be nearly ruined by quack grass and thistles, without very thorough cultivation. Sometimes the weeds are of such a kind that a smoothing harrow is the best implement that can be used for destroying them, while at others the time-honored corn plow is the only instrument that will prove effectual. Unless the farmer uses judgment in the management of his corn he will not always get it at the least cost per bushel.

The same may be said of every department of farm labor. The old rules may be safe, but there is sometimes a better way, and the farmer who can look beyond, and see when his practice—and it may be varied with profit—has an advantage over others. There is as much opportunity for making good results in raising our crops by taking advantage of circumstances, as there is in selling them by taking advantage of the markets. It is often noticed that the farmers who do the most hard work do not always succeed the best.

This is because they do too little thinking. The question should always be: "How can I apply my labor so that it will be most effectual?" Many farmers accomplish more with their heads than with their hands.

There is an opportunity for originality not only in the management of crops, but as well in all the appurtenances of the farm.—*Dirigo Rural.*

SMALL FARMS.

Those farmers who find themselves possessed of more land than they can utilize should now be making arrangements to dispose of their surplus acres to those who are willing and able to bring order out of chaos, to make fertile fields out of deserted plantations and uncultivated wastes. Small farms well tilled make a happy and prosperous people, for the small farmer, if he possesses ordinary intelligence and experience, is always in easy circumstances. He cultivates every foot of his land without exhausting his accumulations. He is constantly reaching out for more, but continues to make the best of what he has.

The owner of a large farm is often crushed by its magnitude. He cannot cultivate its entire area and the useless acres sap his vitality, expend his means and plunge him into debt.

Taxes eat up his sustenance by slow but sure approaches.

The true disposition to make of a large body of land is to sell alternate farms to actual settlers, at moderate rates, and upon easy and accommodating terms. This increases the value of the remaining farms, which, in time, can be sold at very satisfactory prices. While, however, the mania for increasing acre upon acre, for no well defined purpose, exists and is indulged, the man may safely calculate that he takes upon his shoulders a burden which becomes unbearable. The mole hill becomes a mountain—the little ant enlarges to elephantine proportions.—*Ex.*

CHICKEN CHOLERA.—A CURE.—The following is said to be an infallible remedy for the so-called chicken cholera: Make a mixture of two ounces each of red pepper, alum, resin and flour of sulphur, and put it in their food in proportions of one tablespoonful to three pints of scalded meal. In severe cases, give about one-third of a teaspoonful in a meal pellet once a day to each fowl, putting a small lump of alum in their drinking water. The writer says: "I have tried the above ingredients with marked success; have cured fowls in the last stage of the disease. I make it a practice now to give my fowls some of it once or twice a week, and there are no symptoms of any disease among them."—*Bulletin.*

In England they are adopting a horse shoe made of cowhide, and known as the Yates shoe. It is composed of three thicknesses of cowhide compressed into a steel mould, and then subjected to a chemical preparation. It is claimed for it that it lasts longer and weighs only one-fourth as much as the common iron shoe; that it will never cause the hoof to split, nor have the least injurious influence on the foot. It requires no calks; even on asphalt the horse never slips. The shoe is so elastic that the horse's step is lighter and surer. It adheres so closely to the foot that neither dust nor water can penetrate between the shoe and hoof.