

AGRICULTURAL.

THE GRANGE MOVEMENT.

NEW LIBERTY GRANGE, No. 455, Ohio Co., Ky., July, 1875.

It is a common saying among us that we are blessed with plenty of this world's goods, and a greater prosperity awaits us. But in order to form a correct estimate of the truth of this expression, it is only necessary to state that the homestead is for sale; the owner anxious to move; (not for want of attachment to the old home, but on account of a failure to provide for the household). If the food is scanty and the clothing poor, the proud family, for reasons they well understand, prefer to put up with hardships among strangers.

Consequently, instead of joy and peace which prosperity diffuses, there is a feeling of discontent brooding over our minds. Every farmer seems to be struggling with a feeling of oppression and wrong, without knowing where the wrong is. The Granger himself, though willing to work, and feeling the necessity of some sort of action, seems not to know where the shoe pinches, and is very often indiscreet in stating his own case. He simply knows that if "the hand of the diligent maketh rich," it is not the laborer, the mechanic, the farmer, but the sharper it "maketh rich." Instead of a feeling of security in the possession and use of property, the farmer is moody. The gentle charities, which like the dews of heaven, should minister to the wants of the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, arrest ignorance, and inspire religion, are certainly disturbed; nor does it at all add to the social repose to realize that the farmer hews the wood and draws the water for the poor privilege of looking at the "shrewd bread" that other professions knead out of their labor. It is but reasonable to suppose that there is some great cause which brings about this great wrong. Therefore I inquire.

What is the grievance of the farmer? What is the remedy, and what will be the result if the remedy is applied? In answering the first question, we must pass by the middle man, the commission merchant, etc.

The Grangers must not stop to rail and fret at them. The leaks of the producing classes occasioned by them are present and visible, and they are often presented in a manner well calculated to alienate the confidence in men who feel guilty of no wrong, but whose real interest would be promoted by removing the grievance of the farmer.

To buy a saddle for one dollar less, or a plow for fifty cents less is all legitimate and right enough, and is of some advantage, but is not and will not be of great or lasting advantage to the Granger movement. We must look beyond this. It is only when the money or pay out seeks foreign channels of circulation, and never returns to increase the value of our surplus products, or as a source of revenue to lessen taxation, that or, as a constituency, are injured.

The Kentucky farmer is so situated, that the money he pays out never returns. The remedy must be applied right here. You tell me that the Granger movement enables me to buy a plow in New York for less than I could last year. That is so, and I am glad of it; but my money is gone to New York and will never return to me. Now if I could buy the same plow from some firm or manufacturer in Hartford or Beaver Dam, for the same money, I could trade him some of his supplies in part pay, and if I paid him all in money, he would pay me or my neighbor for supplies, and the value of my products would be increased according to the number of hands employed in the making of plows. That would enable us to control a source of revenue which would lessen taxation and stimulate industry and education. This familiar instance illustrates the whole problem. We complain of hard times, of the low value of property, and of high taxes, while at the same time an immense amount of money is lying idle in our banks.

We have coal, timber, iron ore, and sufficient labor to make in a career of development which would surprise us all, and yet our farms—as fine as any in the world for stock, tobacco, corn, hay, and fruit—are for sale at a sacrifice. Is it that any farmer wants to leave that the farm is for sale? I do not believe that any one accustomed for any length of time to look upon our churches and schoolhouses, eat our fruits, and mingle in our society, would be satisfied at any other place.

We must have an understanding with all classes of trade and professions. If every dollar we make on our farms seeks circulation in foreign parts, we may expect nothing but hard times. The problem for the Grange to solve is, to regulate this division of labor and exchange of commodities on principles that are equitable. It is the duty of the producer whose freight is always bulky to bring about this result. Then the laborer, the middle man, the consumer, and all trades and professions, will have no cause of complaint.

The division of labor ought to be regulated so as to enable every family to exchange at its own door what it has to spare for what it needs. The country belongs to the farmer, and he ought to rule it. He must take his own interest into his own hands, and exchange his surplus for what he is compelled to purchase. He must no longer belong to the middle men and the shippers. They must regulate freights and prices. We must have a healthy currency. That must be provided by the financiers; but a healthy agriculture, well protected, is a sure foundation for a healthy currency. Bonaparte was Emperor of France for about twenty years, and was almost all that time at war, but during it all France had plenty of money. He left abundant labor at home to till the soil. But during the reign of Louis XV. agriculture was neglected, and the ablest financiers could not save the country from destruction. We repeat that a healthy agriculture is the sure foundation for a healthy currency.

We ought to foster and nourish home enterprise, from the fashioning of ax-handles to the construction of locomotives. The twenty-five cents I pay for an ax-handle made by our home manufacturers, remains in circulation to support the family of the manufacturer. Therefore I believe in not going out of Kentucky for anything we can procure in the State.

The people have depended too much on parties and party leaders. The party that outnumbers and outvotes on other questions of common right, will not build churches to worship God in, nor build schoolhouses to educate our children in, nor provide for the common good of us all. The laborer must have employment, and profitable employment, too; and the way to give it to him is to set on foot industrial enterprises close to his home and close to the source of supplies both of labor and of food. The remedy is not in party. Party will never correct the evil. It is a maxim in political science that every party is a unit in interest. It is also true that each party makes its business more interesting and profitable by counsel and concert of action. The farmer's movement is no exception to this rule. The lawyers have their associations; the doctors have theirs; and why not the farmers theirs?

As the farmers prosper, all classes prosper; as they go down, all classes go down. If we have the mines and the manufacturing in operation in this State, that we should have copious streams of wealth to flow in our midst, and ample employment given to every laboring man, we have only to look, to be convinced, upon our broad and almost countless acres of timber, that should be made into useful articles, and upon our inexhaustible coal-fields, that should be mined; but we console ourselves by knowing that though we have no greenbacks in our pockets, we have one fortune that surrounds us, and another under our feet.

The Grangers must not forget that the task that is before them requires prudent counsel and unflinching fidelity. We need information. Wrongs of long-standing are not to be redressed in a day. It requires a joint-stock association, where views are interchanged in a frank, candid way; mutual confidence inspired; and a moral influence consolidated. A common feeling of oppression and unfair-dealing has brought the farmers together. They are now reasoning together in Subordinate Grange, County and District Council, and National Grange. They breathe a spirit of justice to all men. Let us continue to hope that, through them, the farmer will continue to draw his inspiration from a pursuit pre-eminently fitted to keep the heart pure; and therein millions of yeomanry will find a remedy for all their wrongs.

The Grange movement is a grave one. It has to deal with commerce, with finance, with capital and labor, with railroads and monopolies, with salaries, and with an honest administration of public affairs. The redress of our grievances will be necessarily slow; but if we learn to keep our money at home, and live up to habits adapted to an agricultural people, frown down the mere politician, and encourage laborers and mechanics, and to allow no section to be robbed by unfriendly legislation, there will be peace and plenty for every man.

At the present time every party political sheet in the State teems with advice to the Grangers; but, with regard to the bulk of such advice, it is only designed to accomplish party purposes. As Patrons, we do not identify ourselves with any of the political parties of the day, but strong efforts are being made to induce us to do so. The moment this is done discord will creep into our ranks, many of our best friends will turn their backs upon us, and then the Granger star of hope will set to rise no more; our funeral knell will be sounded, and the movement will be associated with disgrace as well as death.

Manures for Tobacco. A correspondent of the Husbandman, who resides near the sea coast in North Carolina, refers to the discussions of the Elmira Farmers' Club on the subject of tobacco, and says: I see in the discussion before your club on the 6th inst., you deprecate the use of stable manure in the production of tobacco. Now, with us, stable manure (by this we mean horse dung, cow dung, compost and potash manures generally.) cause the tobacco to grow too thick, heavy and dark. This is remarkable when we consider that the soil for fine tobacco is not clay, as you say, but coarse sand, or still better, gravelly, such as is found by the disintegration of rotten granite, when felspar abounds in gravel; and I believe 10 per cent. of felspar is potash. So at the risk of appearing paradoxical, I state that fine tobacco requires ammoniated fertilizers and potash soils. But be particular with chemically-prepared ammoniated fertilizers. Some of our fertilizing companies have approximated the "complete" tobacco manure, as Vile would say; but none of them can compete with nature's specific compound, horse dung. You make another mistake in saying our tobacco is cured in open houses. Our barns are some sixteen and some twenty feet square, "chinked and daubed." In the yellowing process not much air should be admitted; in the drying or curing process the more the better, provided it be better.

Save the Combs. The heavy loss of bees the past winter and spring has left an immense amount of empty comb upon the hands of bee-keepers. This will be of great value this season in the rebuilding of our terribly depleted apiaries. It is estimated that the workers have to consume about twenty pounds of honey to be able to construct one pound of comb. This being true, one pound of comb is equal in value to twenty pounds of honey. In my vicinity, the wholesale price of honey is twenty cents per pound; this would make our combs worth four dollars per pound. At these figures we can't afford to melt our comb into wax, and sell it at twenty-five or thirty cents. Every scrap of worker comb, if only two inches square, can with a little skill and a few splinters, be profitably used in patching up unfilled frames. After the frame of scraps is placed in the hive, it will take the workers but a little time to put it in good order for breeding and storing purposes.—Exchange.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS. Valuable Recipes. SURE CURE FOR FELONS.—A salve made by burning one tablespoonful of copperas, then pulverizing it and mixing with the yolk of an egg, will relieve the pain, and cure the felon in twenty-four hours; then heal with cream two parts and soft soap one part. Apply the healing salve daily after soaking the part in warm water.

REMEDY FOR DYSPEPSIA.—Half a teaspoonful of powdered golden seal root, in half a teaspoonful of warm water, taken immediately after eating, when the food distresses one, will give immediate relief.

SPLENDID COUGH SYRUP.—Put one quart of horhound to one quart of water, and boil it down to a pint; add two or three sticks of good licorice and a tablespoonful of the syrup three times a day, or as often as the cough may be troublesome.

SURE CURE FOR DIARRHEA AND DYSENTERY.—Two handfuls of black-berry root, in three pints of milk or water, boiled down to a quart, in the dose of a teaspoonful every two or three hours, has often cured diarrhea and dysentery when other remedies have failed.

HOUSEHOLD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Wheat flour weighs one pound to a quart. Corn meal; one pound two ounces to a quart. Butter, when soft, one pound to a quart. Leaf sugar, broken, one pound to a quart. White sugar, powdered, one pound one ounce to a quart. Eggs, average size, ten to a pound.

TO PREVENT LAMPS SMOKING.—Soak the wick in strong vinegar, and dry it well before using it will then burn both sweet and pleasant, and give much satisfaction for the trifling trouble taken in preparing it.

COOKERY.—FRYING.—This is one of the worst methods of cookery that can be adopted. It cannot be accomplished without the aid of oil or fat, which beyond question tends to render the meat very indigestible. It is no less injurious to vegetables. As an example of this, it may be stated that the potato, when fried, becomes waxy in its texture, and often produces derangement of the stomach in healthy and vigorous persons.

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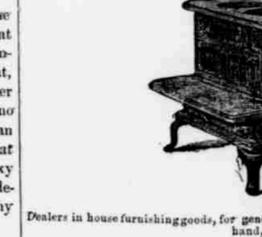
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