

An Old Farmer on the Situation.

In response to a request made by us to an old farmer to give us some thoughts on Grange questions, we have the following in substance to which we give as most appropriate the above heading. We hope that every farmer and especially every Patron will give these thoughts a careful reading:

RESOLUTIONS OF FARMERS' CONVENTIONS.

The Northwestern Farmers' Convention by resolution ask Congress to pass laws regulating passenger and freight rates, regulating traffic between States; and the State Legislatures a law regulating it within the States, and against any further subsidies to private corporations of any kind. The Convention also demands that all improvement in the way of railroads and water communication, between the seaboard and the interior, be done under the control and at the expense of the General Government, with the view of affording cheap transportation to the people.

The resolutions below embody the right spirit, and should be regularly read at least once a week, and all the time adopted as a course of action, which if persevered in will render Legislation and Congressional aid unnecessary.

"Resolved, That debt should be held as one of our greatest enemies; that it deprives us of our manliness, and in a measure makes us slaves; that to live within our own means, however small, to pay as we go will contribute to our success. Recognizing the fact that the people are in earnest, we would urge them to free themselves of this curse, so that if a final struggle must come between the people and monopoly, our houses may be in order, and we be the better able to withstand it."

"Resolved, That no one industry can be protected by legislation except at the expense of all other industries, and that we are opposed to all special legislation."

This Convention had representatives from all portions of the country, and the foregoing resolutions answer some of the objections retailed on the streets, by unthinking or interested individuals who wish to bring the efforts of a worthy class of the community into disfavor.

SOME MEN THAT TALK.

There are many who ridicule and oppose the so-called "Farmers' Movement" and the establishment of Granges in furtherance of the interests, not only of farmers, but all others outside the combination of corporations, whose rapacity and selfishness have given cause for this manifestation among those whose welfare depends upon the prosperity of our agricultural interests.

We hear many sneering remarks directed at the farmers and granges by some people whose families would suffer by the failure of our harvests to the extent of half a crop, and that crop bring a reasonable price—who would be out of employment half the time at least, with an abundant harvest and the price of cereals but little below what it is now. They do not think (not unusual for many people) that the prosperity of our State, in the ramifications of cities, towns and country, depends upon the pecuniary well-being of our great agricultural interests.

The varied objections to the organizations are tinted with colorings of the luminary from whom the observer obtains his rays of light. One has it that the

GRANGERS WON'T PAY DEBTS

until he gets a dollar a bushel for his wheat, and affirms stoutly that they have passed a resolution to that effect; this astute individual is the humble assistant of some money lender, whose per cent. per month investments ranged largely over legal interest, and slight losses from his calculations were incurred.

ABOUT SELLING WHEAT.

Another claims that the organization is all wrong, because the poor farmer won't take just now the ruling price for wheat, affirming, which is true, that the price in Milwaukee and Chicago, and the rate of transportation don't even justify the buyer in giving what he does—this man is the buyer or his paid assistant; the latter generally appears to be the most aggrieved thereby showing his extreme absorption in his employer's interest.

These latter cannot ship now but at a loss, yet why buy?—they will hold on, relying on their judgment for a better price—they do not do business to lose money. Why blame the farmer for doing a little speculation in what cost them many days of hard toil to produce?

AFRAID THE GRANGE IS POLITICAL.

Some are fearfully anxious about the organization, asserting that it is a political movement, and will interfere with the status of present organizations of that nature. Are these party fossils entailed upon us by constitutional provisions that they are too sacred to be interfered with by that portion of the community representing two-thirds the votes of the nation? Have our Legislators, including all parties, shown by their action in legislative capacity their fitness for the position, or that honesty and earnestness in the service of their constituents, as should satisfy an honest man, be his occupation what it may, that no necessity exists for another political organization, or that under the old regime, party sanction ensures good men, honest men, men who will not vote the people's money into their own pockets?

The redress of grievances involves political action—the agent employed (the Legislator) may be a farmer, a lawyer, a laborer, mechanic or any other man, but he should be a man, an honest man; thieves and mere political trimmers, will only re-enact the few last years' programme. When your votes are necessary to secure a great public good, vote for no man on account of party antecedents, but for his character for honesty, and ability—let him be in or out of the Grange, which all grangers know is immaterial and has nothing to do with the organization, however much it has influenced the summing up of majorities in some cases in the late political contest.

ABOUT PAYING DEBTS.

But farmers remember, every non-payment of a note, every violation of a promise in the agriculturist, is paraded as a crime, and is adduced as conclusive evidence of their unworthiness as a class, of their unfitness to take a prominent part in business or political interests, or to legislate for the public weal. A merchant may fail to meet his papers, and be "carried" by his creditors, if the latter is satisfied of his prospective solvency; the merchant is deemed an honest man. Does this merchant "do to others as he would have others do unto him"—and does one dishonest (?) merchant brand the whole class as dishonest? We have no objection to any man, or class of men, getting their just dues, considered in the standard of money or morals, but we do object to the one-sided way of putting it, by those objecting so wordily to the institution of the Granges in the State.

"OWE NO MAN ANYTHING."

The resolutions quoted, if acted upon, and persevered in will prove a panacea for many of the farmers' grievances. Get out of debt, and keep out. When a debt is incurred, pay on time—if misfortune prevents do all in your power to satisfy your creditor that you will pay in the future—then profit by the experience. Always mind that credit anywhere means from 8 to 20 per cent. on the cash price of the article bought.

BE NOBODY'S SLAVE.

When you are out of debt, sell your produce at a fair price, or if you wish to speculate on your judgment, hold it until you are ready to sell—it is your own; and those who don't like your action in the matter, can help themselves if they know how. You are in a condition to be nobody's slave.

ANOTHER PLANK—MORAL REFORM.

Your social standing in the world will be the result of your intelligence and moral qualities, but it is important that your appreciation of others should be dictated by correct knowledge of men and manly virtues. We all bow down and worship gold too much—it covers a multitude of sins. Let the fight for the amelioration of pecuniary ills contain one more plank in the platform—the plank of moral reform. Why should not a good man, an intelligent man, have a position in the community in which he lives at least equal to the lawyer, the merchant, the doctor, or the lender of money on contract prices? Were all farmers and operatives true, cultivated men, they would act in a manner which would soon cause universal acknowledgement of the principle, and men would be known by their merits; dishonest men would die out, or seek their proper locations in the institutions provided by law for those who need the watchful care of public officers provided by the State.

ALL IN A NUTSHELL.

Farmers, the fight is not a fitful one. Time will only solve it. Steadiness, good sense and eternal vigilance must be at the helm. First, educate yourselves and your children—be economical, charitable and honest, down to your very shoe leather; be as tenacious of your rights as you should be of your own honor, and respect and protect the rights of others; discountenance iniquity and wrong doing wherever found, be it in a railroad steal, in a contract job, or in a cross-road-horse trade. In short, be intelligent, honest, generous, a man after the design of God.

Mr. E. W. Dike is elected State Treasurer of Minnesota, and Auditor Whitcomb is not happy. He says the Granges did it. We heard him say so. We dislike to take issue with this great man, but we must say the Granges no more elected Mr. Dike than the Masons did. No doubt a great many Grangers voted for him, but they did so simply because his monthly statements for the last seven months have been a little more satisfactory than anything they have ever been accustomed to from that office, and not because he was the candidate of this or that party. No Grange ever took any action upon this or any other political question.

THE GRANGE ADVANCE.—This new paper, published at Red Wing in the interest of the order of Patrons of Husbandry and the laboring classes, is welcome among our exchanges. It is an eight-page five column paper and is well filled with original and selected matter of vital importance to the farmer and the mechanic. It is determined to "favor the cause of the toiling millions against oppression and monopoly." "The Grange Advance" has our sympathies and our best wishes.—Sibley Co. Independent.

ITEMS FOR PATRONS.

OFFICERS OF THE STATE GRANGE OF MINNESOTA P. OF H.

Master, George I. Parsons, Winona.
Lecturer, John A. Jackson, Lake City.
Overseer, George C. Chamberlain, Northfield.
Steward, A. J. Murphy, Lake Crystal.
Asst. Steward, Wm. E. Lee, Rice Lake, Douglas Co.
Chaplain, I. C. Stearns, Zumbrota.
Treasurer, Lorenzo Hoyt, Saint Paul.
Gate Keeper, J. T. Price, Eyota.
Ceres..... Sister Sophia Parsons.
Flora..... " C. P. Chamberlain.
Pomona..... " R. C. Jackson.
Lady Steward..... Mary E. Lee.

DEPUTIES APPOINTED.

The following named persons have been appointed Deputies to organize granges under article 12 of the Constitution of the State Grange, adopted February 20th, 1873.

Faribault county, S. F. Wilkbow, Winnebago City.
Ramsay, Hon. P. Woodruff, Blooming Grove.
Nicollet, J. H. Dunham, Nicollet.
Olmsted, M. C. Fuller, Rochester.
Fillmore, O. E. Rundell, Fairview Gr.
LeSueur, A. B. Swayne, Elysian.
Cottonwood, J. W. Benjamin, Windom.
Dodge, Wm. E. Lee, Rice Lake.
Mower, F. A. Elder, Spring Valley.
Martin, John F. Daniels, Fairmount.
Dakota, D. F. Akin, Farmington.
Steele, E. H. C. Dartt, Owatonna.
Lyon, H. R. Marcy, Lynd.
Brown, R. B. Simmes, Golden Gate.
Freeborn, A. K. Vanderwerker, Moscow.
Kandiyohi, Burroughs Abbott, Kandiyohi.
Yellow Medicine, Gorham Powers, Yellow Medicine.
Ransom, S. C. Goodrich, St. Paul.
Wabasha, John H. Jackson, Lake City.
Rice, George C. Chamberlain, Northfield.
Blue Earth, A. J. Murphy, Lake Crystal.
Goodhue, I. C. Stearns, Zumbrota.
Olmsted, J. T. Price, Eyota.
Nobles, J. H. Cunningham, Hersey.
Todd, J. O. Milne, Snake Centre.
Rock, McCollum, Lucerne.
Wright, William Slaughter, Delano.
State Purchasing Agent—J. S. Denman, Winona.

OFFICERS OF THE WISCONSIN STATE GRANGE, 1873.

Master, J. Cochran, Waupun.
Overseer, J. H. Hubbard, Oxford.
Lecturer, S. W. King, Oshkosh.
Steward, C. W. Foster, Metomen.
Asst. Steward, A. J. Sexton, Kilbourne City.
Chaplain, E. F. Dunham, Clemonsville.
Treasurer, J. Cory, Footville.
Secretary, James Brainard, Oshkosh.
Gate-keeper, E. Abbott, Oshkosh.
Ceres..... Sister E. F. Foster.
Pomona..... " M. A. Brainard.
Flora..... " Flora Crane.
Lady Steward..... " L. M. Hungerford.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

J. Cochran..... Waupun.
J. H. Osborn..... Oshkosh.
O. D. Hinckley..... Ripon.
H. C. Sherwin..... Ladoga.
A. W. Maughlin..... Plainfield.
Purchasing Agent—J. H. Osborn, Oshkosh.

Featherstone Grange No. 52, meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month.
THOMAS FEATHERSTONE, Master.

Belvidere Grange No. 64, meets the first and third Saturdays of each month. All visiting Patrons are cordially invited.
EDWIN E. GAYLORD, Sec.

Ellsworth Grange, No. 162, P. of H., meets Wednesday evening of each week, in Odd Fellows Hall, at 7 o'clock.
J. W. WINN, W. M.
WILSON KINNEY, Secretary.

The regular monthly meeting of Maple Grove Grange, No. 164, of Pierce county, Wis., is the Tuesday evening nearest the full moon.
J. H. CROSSBY.

Red Wing Grange, No. 358, meets at its hall on the second and third Fridays of each month, at 7½ o'clock P. M.
Visiting Patrons cordially invited.
J. F. FINGREY, Master.

Advance Grange, No. 60, Lake City, meets at its hall the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, at 1 o'clock P. M.
Visiting Patrons cordially invited.
Monthly Council meets the second Friday of every month.
JOEL CLARKE, Master.

—The Trenton Grange, P. of H., are to have a Thanksgiving dinner.

—Let all the granges of the State remember the meeting of the State Grange at Faribault, on the 17th of December.

—Diamond Bluff Grange, P. of H., have a picnic supper on the evening of the 4th day of December, the birthday of the Order of Patrons, in commemoration of that event.

—The Grange of Patrons of Husbandry in this place, Ellsworth, is increasing in numbers and we learn that many talk of uniting with the Order here soon.—Pierce Co. Herald.

—The time for holding the annual session of the State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry of Iowa has been changed to Dec. 9. The meetings will be held in the State House.

—C. H. Mero, of Diamond Bluff, gave us a call on Wednesday last. He reports the farmers down that way wide awake to their interests. A Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry has been instituted at Diamond Bluff, with C. H. Grant as Master.

—Mr. O. E. Fanning, of Galt, Ill., Secretary of the Illinois State Grange, has issued a circular to the masters of subordinate Granges, calling the annual meeting of the State Grange to be held at the Durley Hall, Bloomington, Ill., at 10 o'clock A. M., on Tuesday, December 9th, 1873.

—In New York, a society modeled after the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, has been instituted under the name of the "Order of Patrons of Industry." It is composed of mechanics and artisans generally. If the new Order gain headway as rapidly as its prototype, there are bad times for monopolists in the immediate future. The two Orders, whose interests will be identical, will become a vast power.

—The Goodhue County Council, P. of H., meets on the third Friday, which is the 10th day of December. Let every grange in the county be fully represented. Every grange is entitled to send three delegates besides the Master. The Master of each grange is a member of the council. Let the committees get together at once, and do all preparatory work necessary for the complete success of the council. We hope to be able to announce the programme in our next issue.

—Every county in North Missouri contains at least one regularly authorized Grange, and many of them a score or more. There are only twenty counties on the

south side of the Missouri river that remain to be canvassed, and these will shortly be visited by Mr. Allen, the Grand Master. It is expected that, before the next meeting of the State Grange, which occurs in February, every county in the State will have the right of representation, and that there will be 1,500 Granges in Missouri, with a membership of about 75,000 farmers.

—The Livingston Co., Ill., Grange organization has just held its third quarterly meeting, at which were passed resolutions favoring a more systematic purchasing system; that they would appoint a county purchasing agent who should have control of a warehouse where samples of agricultural implements can be found on exhibition; soliciting the co-operation of mechanics in the contest against monopolies; approving the resolution of the Northwestern Farmers' Convention recommending the holding of pork till a remunerative price could be obtained by the producer; and that arrangements be made by which a course of lectures can be delivered to their Granges this Winter upon popular scientific subjects.

We have been rather ashamed of our heading ever since we commenced publishing our paper. We therefore take pleasure in announcing to our readers that we have completed arrangements for engraving a new and beautiful head. It will take about two weeks to have it properly engraved and electrotyped, and then we shall offer our friends a paper that will do their hearts good to look at as well as to read. Now, will our friends encourage and assist us in this work, by rolling up our subscription list at once.

RED WING AND VICINITY.

—Fine week this for locals, but vastly better for clouds and storms, for thaw and freeze.

Prof. Raymond is just the man to make such a convention what it ought to be in every respect.

—We call attention to the advertisement of Drs. Sweney & Shirley, appearing among our new advertisements.

—There are a few shares of Stock yet unsold in the Red Wing Mills. Who will be the lucky man to get them. Speak quick or they will be gone.

—A lively runaway, on Thursday last. Slocum's team did it. Stage horses ought to know better. As a general rule, they do know better, for these horses are not given to running much, if our experience is correct. Damage small.

—The Dakota County Musical Association holds a convention at Hastings, Dec. 16th, 17th and 18th under charge of Prof. Stiles Raymond, of Red Wing. This means a feast and a good time for all lovers of music who can attend.

—We call attention to the new advertisement of Nelson & Peterson in our advertising columns. This is a new firm of young men, active and deserving of patronage. If you do not believe it, call and see. You will find them on Bush St., 3d door from 3d St., in Hoffman's new block.

—The Red Wing Flouring Mill is being hurried to completion. Fifty men, including mechanics, mill-wrights, stonemasons, masons and machinists, are constantly employed. It does one's soul good to go through the building and see them busily at work putting the machinery in place. If you do not believe it go and see.

—We had the pleasure of visiting, on last Saturday evening the Diamond Bluff Grange P. of H. They have been organized but a short time and have a membership of between fifty and sixty. The Grange seems to be in good active working order. We were much pleased with the appearance of the members. C. H. Grant is Master.

—Tickets admitting to the Thanksgiving dinner of the Hay Creek Grange, are to be sold at fifty cents. Patrons are especially urged to be present at the Oration and other exercises at one o'clock P. M. and at the dinner at three. Patrons are also urged to bring, every man, a friend. There is nothing more appropriate than for the Patrons to keep this feast of the seasons with thankful hearts to the Great All Father for a bountiful harvest.

—The farmers on the Wisconsin side are talking over the plan of a wood yard, to which they will take their wood, instead of freezing themselves and their teams standing around on the streets to peddle out. All wood not sold and delivered under contract, is to be taken to the yard and the buyers are to pay fifty cents a cord for re-handling. This will certainly be a mercy to the horses, if it does not prove a good thing for wood merchants.

The Boot and Shoe Pac Business.

Few people are aware of the extensive branches of manufactory that are building up in our State. In a former number we wrote up the oil works at Mankato, and propose, from time to time, inform to our readers of the different manufactories of this State and Wisconsin. It was with a view of carrying out this plan that we recently called on the firms of Foot & Sterling and O. B. Dodge, who are largely engaged in the boot and shoe business and in the

manufacture of boot and shoe pacs in this city, and we must confess, that we were somewhat surprised at the extent of the business that is carried on by them.

Messrs. Foot & Sterling, the older of the two firms, have added about twenty-five per cent. to the capacity of their building during the past season by enlarging under the sidewalks and fitting up their basement, adding, virtually, for their business, one story to their building and making it equal to four stories. The new arrangement is also more convenient, enabling them to drop the new hide through the sidewalk where they are salted and corded up into piles from four to six feet in height. They have also put in, the present season, a new furnace for warming their building. This firm manufactured four hundred dozen boot and shoe pacs during the month of October, and one hundred and twenty-five dozen during the past week, and expect to reach the round number of thirty-five hundred dozen for the present season's work, this being the largest amount of this class of goods ever manufactured by one firm in the West in one season.

In connection with their business the firm also own and operate a tannery, at which they tan ten thousand hides a year, tanning only the heavier hides weighing fifty-five pounds or upwards; they, however, buy all sizes, and select such as they can use in their business, and ship the rest.

They have bought, during the past season, largely at St. Paul and other points in the State.

At the commencement of trade this fall, this firm had on hand twenty-five thousand dollars worth of pacs; by the first of December their stock will be cleaned out. Their business in this one branch alone amounts to about seventy-five thousand dollars a year. They have made arrangements to greatly increase the amount of manufacture the coming season, expecting to manufacture four thousand dozen at least and if times improve five thousand dozen. The firm also manufacture and deal in, at wholesale and retail, boots, shoes, harness and saddles. They have employed during the season fifty hands in their various branches of manufacture, the pacs as yet not having stopped them a day.

We will speak of the firm of O. B. Dodge, who are also doing a large business, in our next issue.

Mrs. Charles has returned from Chicago and New York with a large and elegant stock of Fall and Winter Millinery, and invites the ladies to call at her store in Red Wing and examine.

O. J. Everson of this city has opened a New Millinery and Fancy Goods Store. In order to build up a lively trade he proposes to sell goods as low as can possibly be afforded. Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere.

In our advertising columns will be found the card of E. N. West, Patent Solicitor and model maker, of Winona, Minn. Mr. West is not what is generally known to the people as a patent agent who has Patent Rights for sale; his business is making models of new inventions for inventors and securing their claims in Washington. He is Secretary of the Winona Co. Council P. of H., and Secretary also of the Patrons Co-operative Co. of Winona, which speaks well for his standing and qualifications.

It is a matter of interest to our readers to know the best place to purchase their goods, and there is no place where they can buy their Dry Goods, either at retail by the Patrons or at wholesale by the Granges, than the large wholesale and retail Dry Goods House of H. Choate, Winona, Minn. It is one of the largest stocks in the State, and has become justly popular by keeping the best quantity and largest assortment of goods and always selling at the lowest prices. Granges are sold as low as they can buy in any Eastern Market.

THE ELIXIR OF LIFE is the name of one of the best cough remedies in use; for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough and all diseases of the lungs. Satisfaction is guaranteed or money will be refunded on return of the empty bottle. Ask your druggist for it and if he has none ask him to order some at once. It has never failed to give satisfaction. This medicine is put up and sold at wholesale and retail by Thos. E. Tubbs, River Falls, Wisconsin, to whom all orders should be addressed.

Messrs. Raymond & Wright of this city have just received a patent for an invention for coupling Poles or Thills to a Buggy or Cutter. This coupling is self adjusting, and does away with the necessity of using a wrench, bolts or nuts, and can be changed from Pole to Thills and vice versa in one minute without greasing fingers or causing persons to think profane language. It also saves room as the Pole or Thills can easily be detached and set aside when not in use. All interested are invited to call at their Livery Office and examine it.

On looking through the various stocks of goods kept in Red Wing we find an endless variety, and safely say, that the stocks and stores of Red Wing, are not second to any in this or any other State. In visiting the various institutions we are greatly surprised to find such an endless variety in any one store as we find at A. J. CLARK'S new store corner of Bush and Third streets. It would seem almost impossible to call for anything in the Drug, Grocery, or Fancy Goods line and be disappointed in not getting it. We also found Dr. G. W. Bothwell in charge of the Medical department, with everything on hand to attend to the wants of such as are in need of medicines. We can safely say there is a more complete store in the State than this. It will pay you to go and examine; goods are sold very reasonable.