

The Patron of Husbandry



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The approaching annual meeting of the National Grange at Canandaigua, New York, will probably be well attended. Worthy Master Darden of this State, will be present, and Past Master A. J. Vaughn, Steward of the National Grange, informs us that he will also attend. We hope all of the Southwestern States will be represented. We will present our readers with full accounts of the proceedings at the earliest moment.

HOW THEY FIGHT THE GRANGE.

The merchants and manufacturing and other corporations are always on the alert to strike the Grange a blow. They have never relented one moment in their war upon the Order. Their most effective weapons are those pretended agricultural papers owned by wealthy corporations and published simply as advertising mediums at low subscription prices. These papers are very earnest advocates of the farmer's clubs in place of the Grange. They know full well that if they could supersede the Grange with the old farmers' clubs, they would soon have the farmers again in their power.

Prominent among these pretended agricultural papers is the *Farm and Home*, published at Louisville, Ky., and owned by a plow manufacturing company—Avery & Co. That paper is an enemy of the Grange. The firm was publicly denounced by a Kentucky Grange in 1877 for refusing to deal with Granges. While the *Farm and Home* is opposed to the Order, it counts its subscribers among the farmers of the South by the tens of thousands. Its columns are filled with the advertisements of other manufacturers, all of whom derive their support mainly from the farmers, yet not one of them would patronize a Grange journal to the extent of a dollar.

Another paper of this class is the *Racine (Wisconsin) Agriculturist*, which is also owned by a wealthy corporation. It urges the farmers to return to the old farmer's club system as the best form of organization for them. That paper is sent out to farmers by the city merchants in immense numbers. The farmer who receives and reads these papers will soon find himself either indifferent to the Order or arrayed with its enemies against it. Indeed, such papers received in a farmer's home are simply badges of slavery to classes that are robbing and oppressing him and his family through his ignorance.

The merchants and manufacturers who publish or sustain such papers as the *Farm and Home* and *Wisconsin Agriculturist*, dread the circulation of sound Grange papers among the farmers for the reason that they are opposed to any change in the business system of the country, and to any organization or paper that seeks to enlighten the farmers upon such matters.

We have made several efforts during the present year to secure advertisements for THE PATRON from manufacturers of farm implements, etc., whose dealings are directly with farmers, but have failed in every instance. These manufacturing companies advertise liberally in agricultural and political papers to catch the patronage of farmers, but they will have nothing to do with Grange journals that honestly and fearlessly advocate the principles and measures of the Order.

The farmers of Georgia seem to be getting very much interested on the subject of establishing "new process" cotton factories. Quite a number of leading farmers of that State have visited the little factories in North and South Carolina, and on their return published glowing accounts of the capacity of the Clement Attachment. We publish two articles from Augusta and Atlanta papers, in this number of THE PATRON, and will publish the report of Mr. Sloan next week.

No organization of any class in this country ever had greater obstacles to overcome than the Grange. At the very outset it was met by the fiercest and most unscrupulous opposition of the merchants, railway companies, and the middlemen of all kinds and degree, who assailed it with ridicule, with abuse, and with the grossest misrepresentation. The great majority of the political newspapers, owned or controlled by the merchants, lawyers and professional politicians, were the ready instruments to push the war upon the new movement—a war in which falsehood and treachery were employed with unprecedented zeal and audacity.

But the most formidable and dangerous opposition came from certain classes that had slipped into the organization who were hostile to the principles and purposes of the Order, and large numbers of planters and editors of agricultural journals who looked with jealousy upon a movement that was bringing out new ideas and calling new men to the front—men who, under the old order of things, had been kept in the background. The object of the merchants and politicians who joined the Order was, to speak the truth in plain language, either to make it subservient to their interests or to destroy it. As a rule, these classes failed to realize any considerable personal advantage, but the evil effects of their connection with the Order was such that it will take years of hard work by the true members to eradicate them.

The agricultural journals and the leading members of the old farmers' clubs regarded the new movement with extreme disfavor. They had controlled the farmers as a class in all agricultural matters, and were not inclined to give way to new men who had quietly submitted to their rule so long. These editors and these farmer's clubs that were made up mainly of wealthy planters, merchants and lawyers, never had any real sympathy with the toiling masses.

But all these hostile classes combined have not been strong enough to destroy the Grange. That they dealt it some telling blows here and there, and greatly retarded its progress in some of the States, is most true. But the organization has been kept intact, and the true men who have been placed in the lead are not only restoring confidence in the movement, but are rapidly regaining lost ground. The simple facts that the revival of dormant Granges is of daily occurrence and the circulation of the leading Grange papers rapidly increasing, are sufficient evidences that the Order is not only a fixed institution in this country, but that its progress in numbers, strength and influence was never so steady and healthful.

When we consider the obstacles that have been overcome and the powerful and dangerous elements that had to be weeded out, the true friends of the Grange may well take courage and engage in the work with renewed zeal.

The *New York World*, an open supporter of the Money Power, and which admits into its columns the advertisements of notorious swindlers whose influence upon the family circle is evil and only, is getting a circulation by the thousands among the farmers of the South. It is probable that few of these farmers are members of the Grange or ever thought of subscribing for and reading a Grange paper. Will farmers never learn to support their own papers and make them strong and efficient, instead of contributing to building up the journals that are conducted in the interest of those classes that rob and oppress them?

Every earnest member of the Order who receives this copy of THE PATRON can easily induce five or more of his friends to subscribe for it. If he will consider that the press devoted exclusively to the interests of the Grange is its strongest support, and that his interests will be directly and beneficially affected by the success of the Grange, he will surely make the effort.

The cheering tone of the Grange press in all parts of the country is exceedingly gratifying and encouraging, and indicates that the farmers are becoming aroused, and are determined to make their organization a complete and glorious success. The country will be surprised at the number of dormant Granges revived during the year and now actively at work, when the Secretary makes his report at the approaching annual meeting of the National Grange. If the Order in other States were in as healthy a condition as it is in Mississippi, it would soon recover lost ground. We think there will now be a decided improvement in all the States—an improvement so marked, indeed, that its most inveterate foes will be forced to acknowledge that the Grange is not a failure.

The members of the Order in those States whose State Granges meet in December, should take immediate steps to secure a full attendance of delegates. The Order is gaining strength in most of the States, and there seems to be a general awakening of farmers to the importance of sustaining the Grange and making it more efficient. Full meetings of the State Granges would have a good moral effect at this time, not only in giving form and force to this sentiment, but greater weight to the measures that will be adopted for the good of the Order. We need able, active, earnest men to devote their time exclusively to a thorough canvass of the States, and where the Masters of State Granges can engage in this work, they are the men that should be called to it. We hope there will be a movement in every county to send delegates to the approaching meetings of the State Granges.

The Tennessee State Grange will meet in February. As officers for the next term will be elected at this meeting and other important business transacted, County and Subordinate Granges should be taking steps to be well represented. We will publish the full proceedings of this meeting immediately after adjournment.

It would be interesting to know which is the strongest Grange in each of the Southwestern States. We would be glad to have the Secretaries of full Granges send us statements of the number of their members and of the co-operative enterprises they are engaged in. In Tennessee, Melrose Grange, Shelby county, probably has the largest number of members, and is, perhaps, one of the best working Granges in the country.

How many Granges in the Southwest have organs, and observe the forms and ceremonies at regular meetings? Such Granges, if they are engaged in some co-operative enterprise, must be strong in numbers, earnest in spirit, and efficient in action.

The letters of Worthy Master Person, of Tipton County Grange, Tenn., are very interesting and suggestive. Many of our correspondents in other States endorse his views warmly.

THE PATRON is now one of the most widely circulated journals in the South. It has subscribers in every Southern State except North Carolina and Kentucky, and one of its largest clubs is at Alafia, Florida. Its circulation is now increasing more rapidly in Tennessee than any other State.

We tender our thanks to the following earnest Patrons for clubs of subscribers: A. G. McGowan, Coryelle county, Tex. L. Moore, Sr., Williamson county, Tex. T. D. Hines, Lampasas, Texas. S. W. Beddingfield, Tipton county, Tenn. W. H. Nelson, Shelby county, Tenn. Frank Walker, Haywood county, Tenn. E. S. Elam, Shelby county, Tenn. I. C. Woodward, Winston county, Miss. W. H. Person, Tipton county, Tenn. G. W. Everett, Cass county, Texas. Dr. J. B. Bailey, Newton county, Miss. L. S. Duncan, Coffee county, Tenn. E. S. Gibson, Coryelle county, Texas. E. Bush, Parker county, Texas.

THE SOUTHWESTERN CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

We cannot too strongly urge upon farmers and Patrons to at least give this Association a trial. Our letters from Patrons in Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and this State, who have entrusted their business with it, strongly endorse the management of its affairs. This Association, with its headquarters at New Orleans, was organized on the plan recommended by the National Grange; its officers are leading members of the Order well known throughout the Southwest, and the stockholders, who are farmers and Patrons, have entrusted their business with it for years with the most satisfactory results.

The following is an extract from a letter which we have just received from a leading Patron in Arkansas—Bro. Samuel N. Barnes, Secretary of Bright Star Grange, Miller county:

Editor Patron: I am proud to see THE PATRON gaining such influence as it is among the toiling classes, and thank you for calling the attention of members of the Order to the Southwestern Co-operative Association at New Orleans. Friends, Patrons, you need have no fears of being swindled by sending your produce to and purchasing your supplies from that house. We have tried it two years, and know what it will do and what we can save by dealing there. In 1878, we saved from 20 to 67 per cent; in 1879, we saved in the purchase of our supplies 25 per cent; this summer, in the purchase of 4 1/2 gross of glass fruit jars, we saved \$1 on the dozen. This season we expect to buy on a much larger scale. Let us build up our house. Our Grange, Bright Star, 623, is gaining ground. More or less applications every meeting. Fraternally, SAM'L N. BARNES, Sec'y.

The defeat of Senator Thurman, of Ohio, is lamented by all true patriots throughout the country. It was a defeat of the cause of the toiling masses, and was brought about by the money of the national banks and rail road companies. The Harrisburg (Penn.) *Patriot* makes the following comments on Senator Thurman's defeat:

But what contributed more than anything else to the defeat of the able and distinguished senator from Ohio is little considered. Senator Thurman had the courage to grapple with the Pacific railroad monopoly in behalf of the people. While charging enormous rates for freights and passengers and sharing enormous profits the monopoly evaded by every artifice its obligations to the people whose money constructed its road. Senator Thurman prepared the bill to bring the monopoly to book and compel it to provide a sinking fund for the liquidation of its obligations to the government. By his energy and perseverance through session after session of congress the bill at last became a law, and the law has been sustained by a decision of the supreme court of the United States.

In estimating the causes of Senator Thurman's defeat this great service to the country should not be neglected. Had he been less faithful to the public cause he would not have brought down upon himself the hostility of the powerful Pacific railroad monopoly. In order to revenge themselves for the future of the presence in the senate of a statesman who has compelled them to make settlement with the people, the managers of the monopoly poured their money into Ohio to corrupt the elections. Their success is shown in the immense increase of the republican vote in the cities of the State by which the democratic majority in the legislature was overthrown. Had Senator Thurman proved himself indifferent or careless in regard to the public interests he would not have been molested by the power of the monopoly. In the return of Sherman or Garfield it has nothing to fear. The defeat of Senator Thurman is intended as a warning to other senators and representatives who may be disposed to imitate his courageous example, for the Pacific railroad monopolists have not yet abandoned the hope of evading their obligations to the government and people. In the defeat of the Ohio senator one serious obstacle to their success has been removed. Before and since the Ohio election the New York organ of Jay Gould has poured upon his head every epithet of abuse that hatred and malignity could suggest. But the real motive of this personal rancor is studiously concealed under a pretence of hostility to the financial views of Senator

Thurman. Jay Gould's savage exultation over the success which has rewarded his efforts in the Ohio election finds expression through his mouth piece.

WHAT IS YOUR GRANGE DOING?

Your Grange is a well organized force of from fifty to one hundred and fifty sturdy Patrons of Husbandry. Let us hear what you are doing. Surely you cannot be letting so much power, that may be used for good, run to waste; you would not go and bury the talents of all those good brothers and sisters who have enlisted in the farmer's cause and who each have a work to do? Are harvest feasts and election of officers the only events worthy of being noted and reported? And must the principal theme on these occasions be the description of one's feelings, immediately after a hearty celebration of the harvest feast? Is not much attention given to the feeding propensities, too animal? Why not strike the higher keys that will "develop a higher manhood and a higher womanhood," in accordance with the expressed Declaration of Purposes of the Patrons of Husbandry?

A hundred, or even fifty, of the best men and women from among the active working farmers, trained as they are in the Grange to act together make a splendid working force, fully capable of achievements worthy of the high aims of the Order. Doubtless most of the Grangers in the State are at this time making arrangements to be well represented at the approaching meeting of the State Grange; to contribute their part to make the Patrons' Mutual Aid Society a strong and well established institution; to aid the State Store if it needs it, and are laying out work for themselves for the coming year the execution of which will give the members increased self-respect and a higher standing as compared with other classes. Though we enumerate it last, perhaps the first thing these active Granges do, in view of the necessity of keeping up a full pitch of enthusiasm and earnestness, is to secure the constant aid of the *Dirigo Rural*, by seeing that every member has it and all others within their jurisdiction who ought to be members, to keep up a steady glow of interest within and bring in recruits from without.

The influence of example is powerful and if those who are doing these things will not hide their light, but make known what they are doing, their good works will be imitated by others and the contagious spirit of emulation will seize the whole and lift them into a higher and better region of thought, action and results. If there are some who are stronger in spirit, higher in purpose and have a wider range of sympathies than others their everyday lives should be made an up-lifting, soul-strengthening influence for the encouragement of those who are weaker.—*Dirigo Rural*.

From the Atlanta Constitution. COTTON FACTORIES IN GEORGIA.

The communication which we recently published from Mr. D. U. Sloan, of Norcross, in regard to the cotton factory at Westminister, S. C., has attracted considerable attention not only at the South but all through the North, and many persons have visited the mill whose testimony induces us to believe that the people of the South now have it in their power to take a long step forward in the direction of that prosperity which must spring from diversified industry. Among those who have recently visited the South Carolina factory is Capt. C. F. Akers, of La Grange, and in an article printed in the *Reporter* of that place he confirms every statement of the correspondent of the *Constitution*. The machinery of the mill is simple and cheap, and by setting it up in the neighborhoods throughout the cotton belt, the value of the staple can be increased fully 100 per cent, particularly when we take into consideration the amount of money saved on bagging, ties, packing, weighing, storing, shipping, etc. The factory now in operation at Westminister, of which we shall speak more at length in another article, spins the cotton direct from the seed by means of a machine known as the Clement Attachment, and is run by seven women and a boy. Its capacity is between four and five hundred pounds of seed cotton per day, and the yarns manufactured sell in New York at an average of 16 1/2 cents. The cotton is taken from the gin and brush and comes out in roll, and New York dealers say that threads made by this process class a great deal higher than threads made from compressed cotton. Not a particle of lint is left on the seed, as in the ordinary gins. We are inclined to believe that this method of preparing the staple for market solves the problem for

the South. It enables the planters of each neighborhood to add the industry of manufacturing to the business of cotton-raising, and at a profit that will more than justify the small investment to be made; and within the course of the next year or two, if we do not mistake the purpose and enterprise of our people, there will be at least one hundred of these factories in operation in Georgia. Wherever there is a grist mill, planing mill or saw mill, a yarn factory can be added without an increase of power, and a very little increase of cost. We have gathered some facts and figures in regard to the Westminister mill which we propose to present to the readers of *The Constitution* as occasion may warrant.

Scarcely have the commercial and industrial interests of the country begun to lift themselves from the depression of years until this upward movement is followed by a rage of speculation which threatens to outdo that which preceded the terrible crash of 1873. In the New York stock market in the course of one week of the present month two million shares of railroad stocks were sold at a nominal worth of \$250,000,000 while not one-fourth of these shares have brought a dollar of dividends. This speculative "boom" has risen to such an extent that according to an estimate of the *New York Times* the value of the capital stock of twenty-six railroads has increased since the 7th of October \$138,540,000. Erie shares have risen in this time from 12 1/2 to 41, an increase in nominal value of the shares to the amount of \$51,840,000. North Pacific (preferred) has gone up from 17 1/2 to 52, or \$15,330,000. The bonds of eleven railroads, some of them second mortgages, have increased in the same time in price \$8,618,000. In a few cases this rise is due to a moderate increase in actual value in consequence of the renewed activity in business, but the greatest portion of this paper has no real value, being the issue of bankrupt and irresponsible companies. The advance in price due chiefly to a sudden revival of the rage for speculation. This rise of nearly \$150,000,000 in railroad paper shows the enormous extent which the bubble has been blown in a few days. The great demand in Europe for wheat and other products of this country and the consequent general activity in business have given the railroad full employment and there has been a large increase of receipts for freights and passengers. At the same time the enormous emigration to the west and the purchase of railroad lands by actual settlers have given to some of the railroad companies of that region greater security. But there is nothing in the actual increase of business that justifies the wild rage for speculation that is witnessed in the stock market of New York and Philadelphia. The "bulls," have things their own way now, but the reaction cannot be long postponed, when the "bears" will have their turn.

A BAD YEAR FOR WHEAT.

If it did not seem like the simple repetition of facts already established, we might quote more largely than we do the estimates that reach us by every succeeding mail of the deficiency in European crops as compared with the probable supply. An annual volume published at Marseilles, France, containing reports on the production of that and other countries, has now appeared for 1879. It is a large quarto of over 300 pages, and fully agrees with previous authorities as regards the short yield of wheat in France. With reference to wheat elsewhere, the following are among the conclusions reached:

In Italy the harvest is decidedly bad; in Switzerland there is a considerable deficit; while Spain, Belgium and Germany are scarcely better off. The favorable anticipations of Russia and Turkey have had to be largely discounted as the season advanced, and at best they will have only half their usual quantity of grain available for export. Hungary which last year grew three million quintals of wheat in excess of her requirements for home consumption, will this year have none to spare; and in Algeria the crops are so deficient that importation will be the order of the day.

PREDICTION.

The increase of membership and real progress in the Grange the coming year will be just what we make it. There is not one earnest Patron who cannot add, at least one more to the Order, or who cannot add to and largely increase the interest by working for the circulation of Grange papers. We hear a good deal about the opposition of other classes, but our own apathy and indifference are our deadliest foes. If we can kill these we need not fear anything else.